

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This image features one of the tourist attraction sites in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

Rainy Season Rush Fills Hpa-an's Famous Hotels

In a push for sustainable tourism, authorities are advising visitors to opt for eco-friendly local goods over plastic bags while avoiding any behaviour that threatens regional wildlife, environment, or historic sites.

MONSOONS are fuelling a major travel boom in Hpa-an, leaving the town's premier hotels completely sold out as travellers rush to experience the rainy season, reported industry sources.

Local tourism in Hpa-an continues to hit record highs each year as travellers flock to the region to witness its scenic landscapes during the monsoon season.

"As you know, the Hpa-an monsoon tour is



A scenic beauty of Kayin State.

currently our best-seller. Due to a massive influx of visitors, rooms in famous hotels are now unavailable.

Some have even booked for July," said a visitor.

Famous tourist attraction sites in Hpa-an include

the Kawgun Cave, Rath-epyan Cave, Kyaukkalat, Mount Zwegabin, Mount KyaInn, Sadan Cave, Kawkathaung Cave, Mount Taungwine, Loonnya Blue Lake, Naungkhaline Blue Lake, Bayinnyi Cave, Naunglone Valley and Night Market.

With the rise of tourist arrivals, tourism-related businesses such as Oway taxis, car rental services, food sellers and souvenir shops have been doing well.

SEE PAGE 2

Myitkyina-Mohnyin Railway Tracks July Reopening

ACCORDING to the Kachin State government, railway tracks and stations are under repair to enable the resumption of the Myitkyina-Mohnyin train service in July.

As part of the rehabilitation work, repairs are being carried out at the Nanma Station,

Mohnyin Township. At Bridge 611, located between mileposts 642/17 and 642/18 on the section between Nanma and Myothitkalay stations, steel girders are being installed, bridge supports are being constructed and fitted,

SEE PAGE 3

New DEMU Express Trains to Link Yangon and Mawlamyine on 1 July

MYANMA Railways, under the Ministry of Transport, will launch air-conditioned DEMU express trains on the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon railway from 1 July 2026, introducing Train 83Up and 84Down.

Train 83 will depart Yangon at 5 am and arrive in Mawlamyine at 11 am, while Train 84 will leave Mawlamyine at noon and reach Yangon at 6 pm, with a journey time of around six hours.

SEE PAGE 3



A DEMU train is pictured crossing the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) over the Thanlwin River, Mon State, on the Yangon-Mawlamyine railway.

10th World MSME Day convenes 27-28 June

THE 10th World MSME Day Commemorative Event will take place on a grand scale on 27-28 June at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event will feature booths on the MSME development from region and state MSME agencies, along with sectoral panel discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions for

entrepreneurs.

World MSME Day, which will fall on 27 June, will be observed under the theme "The Future Generation of MSMEs" this year. The theme centres on transitioning to a sustainable, human-centred economic model in this rapidly advancing technological era,

SEE PAGE 5



The photo displays an MSME exhibition held in Nay Pyi Taw.

ARTICLE

Pauk-Phaw tie in the new era modernized with global strategic vision

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

Rainy Season Rush Fills Hpa-an's Famous Hotels

FROM PAGE 1

Local tourism authorities are urging visitors to protect the state's pristine landscapes and rich cultural heritage by refraining

from littering or engaging in behaviour that harms wildlife, historical sites, and the environment.

Visitors are also advised to stop using

plastic bags and use environmentally friendly local products to protect the environment and establish sustainable living, authorities added. — MT/ZS

MHTC to host Tourism and Culture Colour Photo Contest



This photo shows the World Tourism Day colour photo competition in progress in 2023.

THE Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture will hold a colour photo contest themed Tourism and Culture with an aim to promoting Myanmar's scenic destinations, cultural heritage sites, tradition and customs of ethnic groups, and traditional cultural festivals to international tourists.

The contest will help position Myanmar as an attractive destination on the global tourism map

and boost global visibility, contributing to the sustainable long-term development of Myanmar's tourism industry. Winning photographs from the contest will be displayed at the World Tourism Day 2026 commemoration ceremony to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 September. The contest prizes – first prize (K1 million), second prize (K800,000), third prize

(K600,000), fourth prize (K400,000), fifth prize (K300,000) and 20 consolation prizes (K200,000 each) will be awarded. Entries must be submitted to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Yangon Region, located at 58/60, corner of Strand Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region at 3:30 pm on 14 August. Interested individuals can enquire about rules, regulations, and further details of the contest through the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism at 09 5054654 and 09 409606495. Entry forms and rules can also be downloaded via the QR link: <https://qr.tourism.gov.mm/qrcodes/pdf/photo> or from the website: www.tourism.gov.mm. — NN/KK



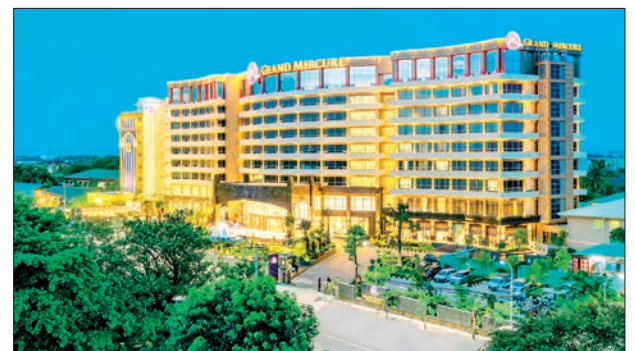
World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses

စိန်ခေါ်မှု(အသစ်တွေ)ကြားက မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးပြဿနာ၊ ဆန်းသစ်တီထွင်နည်းလမ်းရှာ၊ စုပေါင်းကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက်ပါ။

Yangon hosts service contests to lift standards

THE Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism will hold competitions to promote and improve service standards at hotels, motels and guesthouses in Yangon Region.

The inspections will be conducted jointly with the Myanmar Hotelier Association (Yangon Zone), and winners will receive awards at the association's annual meeting. Temporarily closed establishments and those operating for less than two years will not be eligible.



This photo depicts a hotel in the Yangon zone.

Officials said efforts are under way to raise hotels, motels and guesthouses to three- and four-star standards, with service quality, health and safety systems, and cooperation among relevant ministries, private associations and industry operators being essential for the sector's long-term development. — ASH/MKKS

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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Dawbon IPRD rallies youth with contests to mark International Anti-Drug Day



Students read books at the Community Centre of the Department of Information and Public Relations (IPRD) in Dawbon Township on 23 June.

AN educational talk, exhibition, and various competitions were held on 23 June at the Community

Centre of the Department of Information and Public Relations (IPRD) in Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, to mark the upcoming International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June.

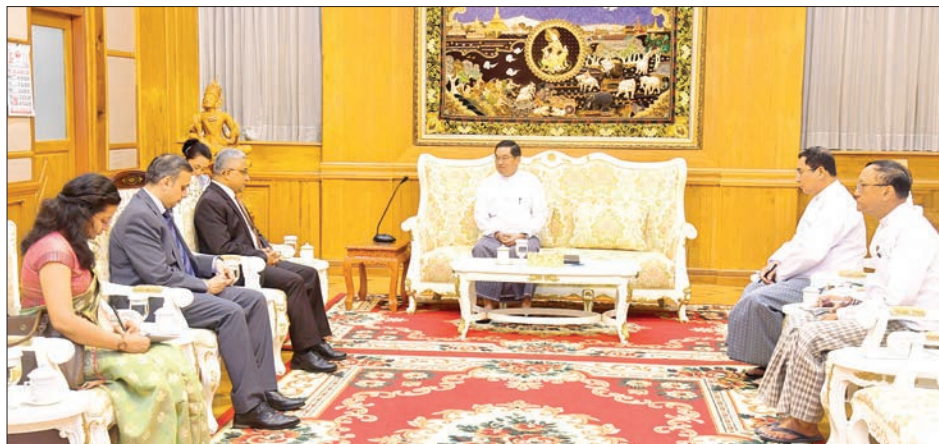
The event commenced with an informative lecture by Information and Public Relations Department Staff Officer Daw

Chit Su Wai, who shed light on the historical arrival of narcotics in Myanmar and educated the audience on the severe consequences of drug abuse. The talk was followed by a "Steer Clear of Drugs" poetry competition and an educational quiz designed to raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. Officials later presented awards to the winners of

each contest. Later in the afternoon, informative "Information" pamphlets published by the IPRD were distributed to the attending students. Educational wall posters and a book exhibition were also put on display, drawing keen interest from the students who enthusiastically explored the exhibits. — Chit Su Wai (IPRD)/ST

NATIONAL

Vice-President U Nyo Saw receives Indian Ambassador



Vice-President U Nyo Saw meets Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw received a delegation led by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially and openly exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral friendship following the President of the Republic

of the Union of Myanmar's visit to India, maintaining stability and peace along the shared border, and expanding bilateral trade. They also discussed potential investments by Indian investors, the successful implementation of projects that support not only bilateral trade but also the ASEAN-India Economic Corridor, the development of banking systems be-

tween the two countries, and opportunities for broad-based cooperation across multiple sectors.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Khin Latt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, and other relevant officials, as well as officials from the Embassy of India. — MNA/TH

Myitkyina-Mohnyin Railway Tracks July Reopening

FROM PAGE 1
sleepers are being replaced, and railway tracks are being laid.

In addition, the installation of steel girders and railway tracks is underway at Bridge 615, located between mile-posts 645/10 and 645/11 on the section between Nanma and Myothitkay stations. Repairs to bridge piers and the installation of steel girders are also being undertaken at Bridge 627 between Hopin and Nankhwin stations.

Similarly, maintenance work is ongoing at the Hsamaw Station,

including the addition of ballast to tracks at station entrances and exits, and the upgrading of sleepers.

Of the 89-mile Mohnyin-Myitkyina railway, the 36.75-mile sec-

tion between Mogaung and Myitkyina remains in regular operation. Repair work on the 52.25-mile section between Mohnyin and Mogaung began on 23 March. — ASH/KNN



Railway tracks in Kachin State are currently repaired around the clock to enable the resumption of the Myitkyina-Mohnyin train service in July.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker arrives back in Myanmar

THE Myanmar parliamentary delegation, led by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi, returned from attending the 2nd International Forum of the Union State, 'Great Heritage Common Future', held in Brest, Belarus. The delegation departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand, at 7:15 pm local time on 24 June and arrived at Yangon International Airport at 8:15 pm.

They were welcomed back at the air-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi is seen on his arrival back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

port by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung, Deputy Speaker U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, and

officials from the Union Solidarity and Development Party. — MNA/TH

MoE UM attends Global Sustainable Development Congress in Jakarta



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein participates in the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 (GSDC 2026) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein departed from Yangon on 22 June to attend the Global Sustainable Development Con-

gress 2026 (GSDC 2026) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The congress featured panel discussions, while international universities and educational institutions showcased

their activities through exhibition booths.

During the congress, Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein participated in a discussion on the theme "Building Future Development by Cultivating Skilled Educators". She emphasized that Myanmar is striving to provide quality, skills-based education and that, as education is the foundation of national development, the education budget is being increased to cultivate highly skilled and qualified educators. — MNA/MKKS

New DEMU Express Trains to Link Yangon and Mawlamyine on 1 July

FROM PAGE 1
Each train will have two upper-class and four first-class coaches, carrying 312 passengers in total (72 upper-class and

240 first-class). Fares are set at K22,000 and K16,000 respectively.

Tickets for both the existing 81Up and 82Down and the new

83Up and 84Down services will be available via the Online Railways Ticketing and Payment (ORTP) system. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Indian Ambassador

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur yesterday at the guest hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two sides cordially and openly discussed further strengthening the friendship and cooperative relations between the two countries, maintaining the momentum of bilateral cooperation, sending Hluttaw representatives and staff to India for capacity-building training,



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe meets Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

cooperation in the diplomatic and legal sectors, enhancing collaboration between the two parliaments, and exchanging legislative experiences.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, the chairperson and secretary of the International

Relations Committee, responsible officials from the Office of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and officials from the Embassy of India. — MNA/TH

Journalist, National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement recipient, Alinka Kyawswa Sithu Tekkatho Myat Thu passes away

ONE of Myanmar's most distinguished journalists, National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement recipient Tekkatho Myat Thu, passed away at 6:13 pm on 24 June at the No 2 500-Bed General Hospital in Yangon.

Sayagyi Tekkatho Myat Thu (U Myat Thu) was born in Myingyan in 1931. He entered the literary field in 1946 and went on to write numerous works of poetry, novels, non-fiction books, and journalism-related publications.

In newspaper field, he served as journalist to chief editor position at Pyi Taw Soe, Khit Thit, Ohway, Amyotha, Botahtaung, Myanma Alinn, Hanthawady and Kyemon.

Over more than seven decades of dedication to literature, he received numerous prestigious honours and awards, including the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement 2021, Alinka Kyawswa Title in 2022, 2018 Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award, 2021 Sithu Title, 2007 Social Outstanding Award (second level), 1995 National Literary Award (Poem Collection).

"Sayagyi was a guiding light for our journalism community. His journey from reporter to editor-in-chief and books such as "Comprehensive Journalism" have become invaluable references for future generations of journalists. The loss of such an intellectual giant is not only a great loss for the media



industry but also for the entire nation," a writer posted on social media.

In addition to writing, Sayagyi contested the 2010 General Election as a candidate of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) for Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 4 in Yangon Region.

His collection of rare books, medals, and historical records is preserved and displayed at the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw under the "Tekkatho Myat Thu Collection Room".

"Sayagyi loved literature deeply. By donating his rare books, medals, and cherished musical instruments to the National Library, he left behind a valuable legacy for future generations. Everyone who visits the 'Tekkatho Myat Thu Collection Room' will remember his devotion to literature. Although he has passed away, his literary works will continue to live on," said U Zaw Aung, a literature enthusiast from Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, who recently visited the library. Sayagyi Tekkatho Myat Thu was 95 years old at the time of his demise. — TWA/KTZH

Mya Sein Yaung funds disbursed via MFP system in Tatkon

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, in cooperation with Myanmar Citizens Bank, disbursed revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung

Village Project through the Mobile Financial Payment (MFP) system to rural residents of Gwaypin Village, Tatkon Township, yesterday.

Tatkon Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Zin



Mya Sein Yaung Village Project members from Gwaypin Village receives the project funds at yesterday's event.

Lin Htet and responsible officials first explained the objectives and benefits of implementing the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project through the Mobile Financial Payment system. Project staff and officials from Myanmar Citizens Bank then explained the interest rates, loan terms and conditions, and regulations to be followed in the disbursement of project funds. Officials from Myanmar Citizens Bank then explained the procedures for opening Mobile Financial Payment accounts and methods of making payments through the system.

Subsequently, under

the supervision of the Township Head, members of the village-level Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee disbursed the fourth round of revolving funds through the Mobile Financial Payment system. Out of a total of 144 project members in Gwaypin Village, 129 engaged in agricultural activities and 15 engaged in livestock breeding received a total revolving fund of K42.9 million at low interest rates to expand their businesses. The funds were transferred directly to individual members through the Mobile Financial Payment system. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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NATIONAL

Defence Services Dy C-in-C meets officers, other ranks, families in Myeik

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, met officers, other ranks and their families of Myeik garrison and Kyunsu station at the station halls separately yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that members of the different units of Army, Navy and Air are all serving the nation with the spirit of brotherhood. Referring to political developments since 2021, he stated that while the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities, some groups chose armed violence instead of political solutions, and therefore Tatmadaw has been cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force and peace-loving citizens



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin inspects duck breeding projects operated by military units in the Coastal Region Command.

to maintain State stability and security in accordance with the law.

He also noted that following the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections held in December 2025 and January 2026, a new government elected by the people

emerged and was now accelerating national development efforts whereas the Tatmadaw continues to faithfully perform its duties under the leadership of the government.

He continued that Tatmadaw members must uphold and live in

accordance with the Four Oaths and take pride in their duty of safeguarding the Three Main National Causes. They are responsible for protecting the nation's sovereignty and valuable natural resources.

SEE PAGE 6

Monghsat's rural water supply task inspected

THE Monghsat District Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development carried out a field inspection on the completion of rural water supply work implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) fund in Huaykhee Village, Monghsat Township, yesterday. The project was aimed at ensuring year-round access to safe drinking water for rural residents, and the inspection was conducted in the morning by responsible officials in Huay Khee Village.

Monghsat Township Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Htay and engineering staff, together with responsible officials, inspected the completed water pipeline

installation extending one mile and two furlongs from the water source to the village. He also met village elders and residents and urged them to form a village water supply committee and jointly maintain the system for long-term sustainability and the protection and conservation of water sources.

The rural water supply works were built for the 2026-2027 financial year Village Development Project (VDP) with K15 million VDP fund and K2.5 million community contribution. The project was implemented with technical assistance from staff of the Department of Rural Development, starting from the third week of May, and all project activities have now been completed successfully. — Karan (Rural)

10th World MSME Day convenes 27-28 June

FROM PAGE 1

emphasizing empowerment for the next generation of entrepreneurs in an AI-driven future.

The Ministry of Industry and MSME Development is organizing this event as MSMEs are a primary source of quality jobs worldwide and play

a crucial role in poverty reduction. Furthermore, MSMEs unlock the innovation and creativity of youth and entrepreneurs, enabling them to expand from small-scale operations to regional and international markets, to promote sustainable business practices and

responsible investment policies that do not harm the environment among global entrepreneurs and to raise public awareness of the importance of MSMEs in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World MSME Day is annually celebrated

on 27 June around the world since 2017 in recognition of the vital role of MSMEs as a key driver of job creation, poverty reduction, and economic development worldwide, according to the decision made by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). — TWA/KK



This photo shows water tanks for drinking water for residents in a village in Monghsat, Shan State.

Yaksawk's village concrete road construction inspected

THE Yaksawk Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the progress of paving the village concrete road implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) fund in Samyayoo Village, Yaksawk Township, yesterday.

Yaksawk Township Department of Rural Development Head U Ye Min



This image captures the completed status of the village concrete road in Yaksawk.

Aung and project staff, together with members of the village development committee, inspected the completed village entrance concrete road to Samyayoo Village, measuring 400 feet in length, 12 feet in width and seven inches in thickness. He also met village elders and locals and urged them to form a village road committee and jointly maintain the road for long-term sustainability.

The concrete road was built under the 2026-2027 financial year Village Development Project (VDP) with K15 million VDP fund and K9 million community contribution. The project was implemented with technical assistance and close supervision from departmental engineers, starting from the first week of May, and has now been fully completed. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

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NATIONAL

Thanlyin's Mya Sein Yaung Project inspected



Officials inspect agricultural activities being implemented with the fund of the Mya Sein Yaung Project in Thanlyin Township.

THE Thanlyin Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Yangon Region, Thanlyin District, conducted a field inspection yesterday of agricultural activities being implemented with the revolving fund of the

Mya Sein Yaung Project in Kyaungkankwin Village, Thanlyin Township.

Thanlyin District Department of Rural Development Director Daw Aye Aye Kyu, accompanied by the Thanlyin Township Department of Rural Development Head and departmental staff,

inspected seasonal crops, including ridge gourd and roselle, cultivated with loans from the Mya Sein Yaung Project, as well as other income-generating agricultural activities. She met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Project Committee to review the monthly financial records,

discussing the project's implementation and emphasizing the importance of systematically managing the revolving fund while expanding income-generating activities to improve the livelihoods of local residents.

The Mya Sein Yaung Project was launched in the village with an initial revolving fund of MMK 30 million, and to date, a total of MMK 43.5 million has been disbursed to 102 members under the sixth loan cycle at a low interest rate, enabling beneficiaries to successfully carry out agriculture, livestock breeding, and small-scale trading activities to increase their household incomes. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Yangon launches mushroom farming course to boost livelihoods

A mushroom cultivation course aimed at creating livelihood opportunities opened yesterday morning at the 9-Mile Department of Agriculture's Mushroom Research and Technology Development Farm in Yangon.

It is designed to provide knowledge and practical skills in mushroom cultivation, support in-

come generation, improve household nutrition and make use of agricultural waste.

A total of 41 participants, including township government staff and trainees from Thanlyin, Hlegu, Hmawbi, Kyauktan, North Okkalapa, Bahan and Mayangon, will attend the three-day training programme. — Oktha/MKKS



Officials observe mushrooms and mushroom spawn on display at the mushroom cultivation course in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:KO LWIN**

Defence Services Dy C-in-C meets officers, other ranks, families in Myeik

FROM PAGE 5

To fulfil these responsibilities effectively, all officers and soldiers must continuously enhance their individual capabilities, study modern military knowledge and tactics, and make effective use of military equipment and technology. By doing so, they can build a capable military that earns the trust and confidence of both the nation and its people.

He also highlighted the importance of leadership, saying that commanders must provide sound guidance and leadership to their subordinates in order to achieve organizational objectives successfully.

He added that external-backed groups seeking their own interests continue attempts

to weaken Tatmadaw through various means. He called on Tatmadaw personnel to remain disciplined, united, and committed to protecting national resources, strategic projects such as the Dawei Deep-Sea Port, and major transportation routes including the Ye-Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung highway. He also stressed the need to counter threats posed by the insurgent groups disrupting public security.

He stated that Tatmadaw is taking effective action against drug trafficking, illegal online gambling operations, smuggling, and other unlawful activities, and that those involved would face legal action in accordance with the law. Preventive measures are

also being conducted by Tatmadaw as the illegally imported goods and illegal trading cause losses to the State budgets and revenues.

He also spoke about the welfare of Tatmadaw families, encouraging them to manage household finances responsibly, maintain healthy lifestyles, and prioritize the education of their children. He emphasized the Head of the State's focus on improving educational standards and encouraged parents to support their children in becoming a better-educated generation.

Regarding the organizational measures, he stressed the importance of strong internal and external cohesion, mutual respect, and effective administration.

He called on the Tatmadaw members and their families to remain united and faithfully carry out their respective responsibilities.

In administrative sector, he highlighted the proper operation of general staff, adjutant and quarter master measures, and stated the need of responsible persons to perform with full of interest as they are normal procedures.

After the meeting, the General presented foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and families of respective military stations to officials. Similarly, wife of the General presented cash prizes for Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Associations of respective stations through officials.

After the meeting,

the General and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.

They proceeded to the local training school and naval station of Kyunsu station. The General met the trainees and encouraged them to take pride in their training, diligently acquire military skills, and use their knowledge and abilities for the interests of the country and Tatmadaw.

They cordially greeted the trainees, and inspected the dormitories and dining facilities, and gave necessary instructions to responsible officials.

The General and party then toured the Marine Biological Museum and Library at the Kyunsu naval station, plantations at farms and poultry farms.

They also inspected duck and pig breeding projects, mushroom farms, and seasonal crop plantations operated by military units in the com-

mand area.

At noon, the General and his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, accompanied by Tatmadaw senior officials of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office and their wives, the commander of Coastal Region Command and relevant officials, went to the Tatmadaw Hospital in Myeik.

The General and party warmly asked about the health conditions of injured Tatmadaw members in individuals, treatment, progress in condition, and presented cash awards and foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

Moreover, Daw Nang Kue Ku, the wife of the General, and the party visited the Maternal and Child Care Ward, where they comforted the patients receiving medical treatment and presented foodstuffs. — MNA/KTZH

CBM injects US\$2.5M to edible oil import sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped over US\$2.59 million into edible oil-importing companies on 23 June.

CBM sold \$890,500 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$130,000 to CMP companies on 22 June, over \$2.88 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$84,000 to CMP companies on 19 June, over \$26,000 to CMP companies on 18 June, \$1.13 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$170,000 to CMP companies on 17 June, over \$24,600 to CMP companies on 16 June and \$3.37 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$6,300 to CMP companies on 15 June, along with over \$10,200 worth of non-trade transactions.



Logo of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

CBM has been injecting US dollars to the edible oil-importing companies, with \$1.62 million on 12 June, \$286,000 on 11 June, \$1.38 million on 10 June, \$2.6 million on 9 June, \$3.6 million on 8 June, over \$2.9 million on 4 June, over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sectors to curb instability in the foreign exchange market, prevent currency devaluation, and maintain market stability. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. Starting from 5 December 2023, the CBM permitted authorized dealers, which are private banks, to freely engage in online foreign exchange trading at market rates based on supply and demand. — NN/KK

Applications open for women's mushroom startup scholarships



Images show straw mushrooms in both their blossomed "flower" stage and young "ball" stage.

LOCAL agricultural group My Nature Produce is accepting scholarship applications to fund women-led mushroom startups, aiming to boost sustainable farming initiatives.

Women in both urban and rural areas across Myanmar who want to improve their family income and establish their own small-scale businesses are invited. This programme is designed to empower women with practical skills, technical knowledge, financial support opportunities and business development

assistance to establish successful mushroom businesses.

Applicants do not need prior experience in mushroom farming. Additionally, they do not need to own land, a yard, or a dedicated mushroom-growing structure. The most important requirements are a strong desire to improve their family's life, a willingness to learn, and a motivated work ethic.

All women are eligible to apply. Women-led households and women who are heads of house-

holds, those who are the primary earners for their families, single mothers and women in vulnerable situations, those from low-income households, those who lack suitable space, resources, or opportunities to start mushroom farming, and those who show a strong commitment to improve family income will be given priority.

Selected participants will receive practical technical training on mushroom cultivation and value-added product production, ongoing technical

advice and business guidance from experienced professionals, startup support for small-scale mushroom businesses, business planning, market linkages, financial support opportunities based on participation, performance, and commitment and access to networks of women entrepreneurs and mushroom producers.

Mushroom cultivation is a low-cost enterprise that requires limited space and can thrive. Mushrooms can be harvested within 30 to 45 days. The business can generate income within one to two months.

The initiative drives women's economic empowerment, strengthens family financial resilience, and builds sustainable income streams through mushroom cultivation.

Interested individuals can submit their applications by 26 June via the My Nature Produce Facebook page (comments or messages), by dialling 09 963690005, or by email to admin@mynatureproduce.info. — NN/KK

Ayeyawady seeks applicants to farm 66,000+ acres of bamboo

APPLICATIONS may be submitted to cultivate bamboo on more than 66,000 acres of vacant, fallow, and virgin land across six districts in the Ayeyawady Region, according to Daw May Than Oo, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Daw May Than Oo stated that applicants seeking to cultivate bamboo in the Ayeyawady Region may apply for permits on 29,000 acres of vacant, fallow, and virgin land in Patheingyi District, 10,996 acres in Kyaukse District, 4,850 acres in

Myanaung District, 12,721 acres in Maubin District, 1,661 acres in Pyaw Oon District, and 6,771 acres in Labutta District, totalling 66,671 acres across the region. She added that the Forest Department is granting permits for bamboo cultivation on these lands and that applications for the designated areas may be processed in accordance with the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law.

To develop the country's bamboo-based industry, a continuous supply of quality bamboo raw materials is required. As it

has become necessary to establish bamboo plantations and harvest bamboo systematically in addition to sourcing it from natural forests, the Forest Department has been permitting the establishment of private bamboo plantations in reserved forests and protected public forests across Nay Pyi Taw and various regions and states since 2017. The department has established step-by-step procedures for reviewing and approving applications for private bamboo plantations. As of July 2022, a total of 136 entrepreneurs in seven states and re-



This photo features bamboo plants found in a local region of the country.

gions had been granted permission to establish private bamboo plantations. Of the 6,081.5 acres approved, 4,191.5 acres had been planted, 1,240 acres remained to be planted, and contracts had been

signed for 3,128.5 acres.

To ensure the long-term sustainability and continued utilization of Myanmar's bamboo resources and natural bamboo forests, more bamboo plantations need to be

established so that bamboo raw materials can be sourced from plantations and natural forests. Myanmar's bamboo-based industries can develop and thrive through the coordinated efforts of relevant government departments providing technical support, private entrepreneurs and companies making investments, and bamboo farmers' groups participating in the establishment of bamboo plantations. Such cooperation would also contribute to increased production of finished bamboo products. — ASH/TH

OPINION

ARTICLE POEM

Crack down on power theft to save National Grid

ALTHOUGH Myanmar has been increasing electricity generation annually from various domestic sources, and despite the target of achieving 100 per cent nationwide electricity coverage by 2030, many components of the country's overall electricity generation and distribution system, including power plants, transmission lines, and substations, continue to face damage caused by various acts of destructive attacks.

In Myanmar, the average daily electricity demand is around 3,400 to 4,400 megawatts. In addition, daily electricity consumption demand has been increasing annually by approximately 9-15 per cent. At present, the country is only able to generate and distribute around 55 per cent of the required electricity demand. Due to the imbalance between electricity demand and generation capacity, electricity distribution nationwide is being carried out on a rotational basis for approximately 1,100-2,000 megawatts.

The use of electricity, which is shared and distributed nationwide, through illegal means, and those who, in one way or another, encourage, assist, or support such practices are tantamount to insulting the public who are lawfully using electricity. Such individuals are also those who obstruct and disrupt all efforts for national development. As such, effective and strict legal action must be taken against them.

Electricity is lost for various reasons during transmission from the generation areas to the different consumption areas through power lines. Power losses can mainly be divided into two types: technical losses and non-technical losses. Technical losses refer to the loss of electrical energy caused by factors such as weak or deteriorated transmission lines, overheating of transformers and related equipment, excessive transmission distances, and voltage drops.

Non-technical losses refer to the loss of electricity caused by illegal activities such as theft and mistakes in meter readings. Electricity theft through improper means affects many members of the public, resulting in a daily loss of access to electricity for some users. In order to reduce such power losses, the government is replacing old transmission lines and transformers with new ones, upgrading the electricity distribution system, and inspecting, identifying, and taking legal action against illegal electricity usage and meter tampering.

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Only when electricity is accessible and available for use will it be possible to focus on carrying out development-related activities. At present, the Yangon Region consumes around 50 per cent of the country's total electricity consumption and, with around 30 industrial zones located there, it is the area with the highest electricity demand. The Mandalay Region accounts for 17 per cent of the country's total electricity consumption, while the remaining regions and states consume around 31 per cent of the electricity.

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ON the morning of 16 June 2026, a 21-gun salute took place in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China's capital. This event marked the beginning of a new chapter in the Pauk-Phaw relations between Myanmar and China on the modern world stage. The Pauk-Phaw relationship in the new era entails closer engagement at all levels, deeper exchanges, and enhanced cooperation among governments, businesses, and individuals for mutual benefits.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing conducted a State Visit to China from 15 to 19 June 2026 at the invitation of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping. The two presidents engaged in discussions on 16 and 17 June, covering various global topics. The talks were more than exchanges; they reached strategically important consensus.

President U Min Aung Hlaing also held talks with Chinese Premier of the State Council Mr Li Qiang separately and with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Mr Zhao Leji.

A very productive trip

This historic five-day visit seized not only international eyes but also the domestic media's spotlights. Headlines were stunning. People from various backgrounds in Myanmar are eager to see the development projects that will result from the Myanmar-China bilateral collaboration.

President U Min Aung Hlaing outlined the main objectives of his visit: to promote a comprehensive bilateral partnership across multiple sectors for Myanmar's development; to support efforts for establishing lasting peace in Myanmar; and to encourage Chinese investments while boosting bilateral trade.

Obviously, sincere, deeper cooperation was extended. The two sides signed many cooperation documents in various fields such as mining, the digital economy, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, education, cultural tourism, health, youth, media, and human resources training. Furthermore, reports suggested that Myanmar plans to initiate aerospace works with Chinese technology.

Along with the presidential high-level delegation, research-

Pauk-Phaw tie in the new era modernized with global strategic vision



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing receives a warm and distinguished welcome during his State Visit to China, at the invitation of President Mr Xi Jinping.

ers, think-tanks, business and media personnel, and many intellectual personnel from different fields were involved in different forums and workshops. In fact, a total of over 70 business agreements for multiple key economic sectors were signed during the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Summit (MCITP 2026) in Shanghai on 18 June.

About recovering the economy, Amyotha Hluttaw parliamentarian from Arakan Front Party, Daw Khaing Khaing Hsu, shared her expectations with the writer as follows:

"We've learned that Myanmar and Chinese business enterprises signed more than 70 agreements in Shanghai. I believe that it will help a lot in skyrocketing our economy. What is more, Myanmar is expected to be an economic hub of tripartite cooperation of major countries like China, Russia and India in global power shifting into Asia."

The masterclass in diplomacy

In the face of the fluid and turbulent international landscape, Chinese leaders consistently advocate for and make efforts for global peace, prosperity and sovereign equality. Lately, the world

leaders have come to acknowledge Chinese wisdom in resolving global conflicts. Leaders and high officials from both the East and West hemispheres paid a massive wave of high-level diplomatic visits to China in recent months.

As a matter of fact, President U Min Aung Hlaing's visit is the third state visit that China hosted within a month following President Mr Donald Trump's three-day visit on 13-15 May and President Mr Vladimir Putin's

This historic five-day visit seized not only international eyes but also the domestic media's spotlights.

two-day visit on 19-20 May.

Meanwhile, the 52nd G7 Summit took place in Évian-les-Bains, France, from 15 to 17 June 2026 and the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit was held from 17 to 18 June 2026, in Kazan, Russia.

Myanmar and China were the pioneer nations in signing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, dating back to 1954.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is a blueprint of the international law in the post-World War II global order.

The two presidents discussed promoting peace and prosperity and rejecting any form of neocolonialism and militarism during their talks. Both sides agreed to firmly uphold the victory of World War II and the international system with the United Nations at its core; promote equal and orderly multipolar world; oppose all forms

of unilateralism, protectionism, bloc confrontation, and the back of militarism.

In addition, Myanmar reiterated its full support for the propositions proposed by Chinese philosophy, such as the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative, Global Governance Initiative, and International Organization for Mediation. Chinese

side also repeated its support for the full, equal, and constructive participation of Myanmar in all ASEAN mechanisms and processes, as well as at the United Nations, to safeguard Myanmar's legitimate rights and interests.

"China's full support on Myanmar's legitimate and equal rights in the United Nations and ASEAN is expected to have a prominent impact on those blocs' interactions with Myanmar," U Ko Ko, chairman of the Myanmar Narrative think-tank group, remarked.

The joint statement issued by the leaders of the two countries – which covers the building of a Myanmar-China community with a shared future, each country's domestic affairs, bilateral affairs, regional affairs, sub-regional affairs, and global issues – truly reflects the firm, precise, and strategically important stance of these two Asian and South-East Asian nations in global peace and equality.

No one can deny that the strategic collaboration of the two countries with the world's second-largest economy and a geostrategic South East Asian power plays a major role in enhancing multipolarity.

From long-standing good neighbourliness to an everlasting tie

President U Min Aung Hlaing's State Visit to China coincided with the 76th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China.

History has already witnessed that Myanmar and China have always been all-weather friends with mutual support on the international stage in successive eras. Both countries' steadfast commitment to good neighbourliness in accordance with a profound ideology – "Interests should be shared; friends should be permanent" – has been an enduring catalyst in maintaining the bilateral Pauk-Phaw friendship.

The Pauk-Phaw bond has been growing stronger than ever, unprecedentedly. This Myanmar-Chinese's Pauk-Phaw bond is unbreakable. Both sides have stood shoulder to shoulder and shared weal and woe. China's continuous support and togetherness towards Myanmar, especially in the hardship, deserve earnest recognition.

Ms Zhao Jin, Myanmar language teacher and associate professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University, remarked: "China-Myanmar bilateral ties have been

By Thet Mon Tun

transformation. Both Chinese leaders and Myanmar leaders are very wise and prudent."

Phyo Wai, editor-in-charge of the Myanmar Transparency News, is one of the renowned journalists in Myanmar. He was involved in the visit as a media personnel and shared his experiences and expectations as follows:

"It was a highly fruitful trip. Chinese people are very polite and respectful, demonstrating great care for our entire delegation. The exchanges were honest and visionary. In my opinion, this marks an essential first step in our country's development process, paving the way for more sophisticated bilateral projects in the future."

Last but not least, reports also suggested that President U Min Aung Hlaing requested to convey the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic from China for the fifth time for public obeisance in Myanmar. Since Theravada Buddhism is the heart of Myanmar's culture, Buddhist devotees wish to pay homage to the Buddha Tooth Relic for the fifth time in Myanmar. Also, the people of Myanmar are looking forward to extending our warm and heartfelt welcome to Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping to visit Myanmar.

strengthened and deepened into a solid trust from observation status. It is a systematic and vivid



A Poem for My Mom

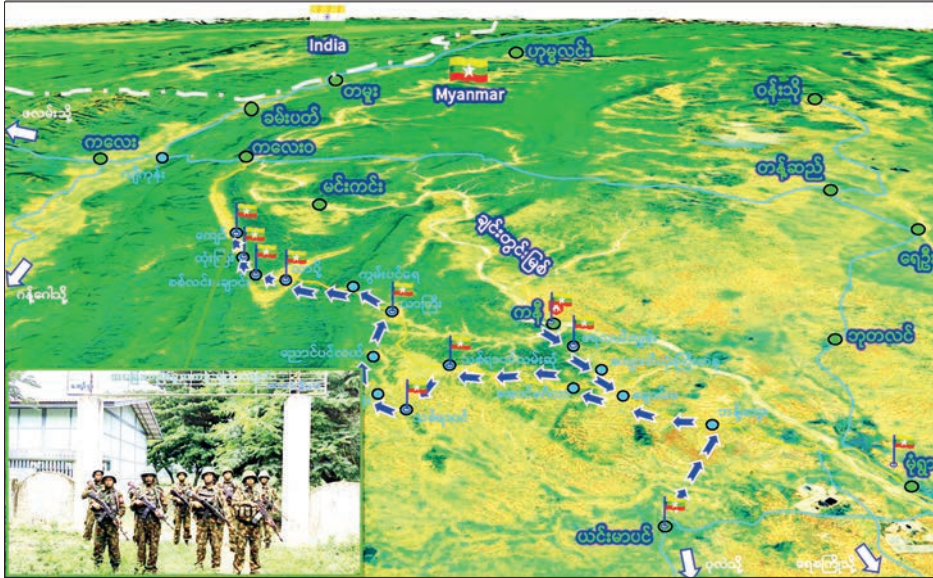
By Ms Monn

No matter how I try each day,
I know you cannot come and stay.
The day you left, my heart was torn,
And life felt empty from that morn.

I asked, "Why now?" through tears and pain,
While sorrow fell like endless rain.
Yet I will stand and find my way,
And grow much stronger day by day.

You cared for me from my life's start,
And still you live within my heart.
Though heaven keeps you safe above,
We'll meet again, my dearest love.

NATIONAL



The map shows the reopening of the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa road.

Tatmadaw columns advance to reopen key Myanmar-India Highway

TATMADAW columns have recaptured a series of villages along the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa road as part of ongoing operations to reopen the strategically important Myanmar-India Friendship Highway, according to official reports.

Tatmadaw launched security operations on 2 June to regain control of the route, which had been under the temporary control of joint terrorist insurgent groups. Since then, troops have progressively secured more than a dozen locations, including Yelekkyun, Yagyi, Lapote and Htonegyi villages. On 23 June, military columns reportedly reached Kyaw village and are continuing security operations

in co-operation with local security forces.

Clashes occurred during clearance operations along the route, with security forces reporting the seizure of weapons, ammunition, equipment and makeshift insurgent bases. They also claimed that insurgent forces suffered heavy casualties and retreated from the area.

To ensure safe travel for local residents, Tatmadaw columns have been conducting mine-clearance operations along sections of the road between Lapote and Kyaw villages, removing landmines allegedly planted by insurgent groups.

PDF terrorists had reportedly blocked the

route and used it to extort money from cargo trucks and passenger vehicles, carry out kidnappings and killings, burn vehicles, and engage in illegal timber extraction and the transport of restricted goods. These activities had disrupted local livelihoods and created insecurity for residents.

The Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa road is a vital transport corridor linking Myanmar and India and plays a key role in regional trade and logistics. Tatmadaw said counter-terrorism operations would continue to fully reopen the highway, restore security, and support the safe movement of people and goods in the region.

— MNA/ST

Overnight stay provided at Danyingon Market for truck drivers

EITHER short or long-distance freight trucks can stay overnight at the Danyingon Market only with K3,000, said Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX).

Truck drivers no longer need to sleep by the roadside and they can now safely rest at the market with a cheapest price for a night, said MAEX.

With clean bathrooms and hygiene food court, parking lot is also being provided with full security arrangement. So, truck drivers can take rest safely at the market for a while or for a night when the truck stops for loading and unloading. The Danyingon Market is located at the corner of the Shwepyitha Bridge Road and Pearl



MAEX provides accommodation at the Danyingon Market for truck drivers.

Road in Insein Township, Yangon and contact can be made through 09 775435975, 09 261289462, and 01-3618938. — MT/ZS

Local Entrepreneurs Urged to Join Solar Sector

PRESIDENT U Min Aung Hlaing stated that solar power generation is the most suitable industry for Myanmar, and therefore, local entrepreneurs should be invited to participate in generating electricity during the Union Government meeting on 23 June held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The President also remarked during a meeting with departmental officials and MSME entrepreneurs in Meiktila on 10 January 2025, that: "Since Meiktila is a region with fewer rainy days, entrepreneurs can implement solar projects depending on their own business requirements."

According to released data, Myanmar is currently generating 3,400 megawatts from 32 hydropower plants, 24



40-megawatt Thazi and Thabyaywa solar power plants, which were inaugurated in April 2026.

natural gas-fired plants, two coal-fired plants, and 12 solar plants, with an additional 500 megawatts being generated from LNG projects.

On 29 April, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy commissioned two 40-megawatt solar power plants: the Thazi plant, built by Leader Power Co Ltd, and the Thabyaywa plant by Hanzar Solar Energy Co Ltd.

Furthermore, the

President added that there is a need to build coal-fired power plants.

On 5 June, Vice-President U Nyo Saw attended the International Economic Forum in Russia, where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Inter RAO and Launglon Economic Development Co Ltd to construct a coal power plant in the Dawei Special Economic Zone.

— Htun Htun/ZN

Minbu's completed concrete road inspected



Officials inspect the completed status of the village concrete road in Minbu Township, Magway Region.

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday morning to review the completion of the in-village concrete road construction project in Kamni Village, Minbu Township, Magway Region. The project was implemented, jointly funded by the Village Development Project (VDP) grant of the Department of Rural Development and contributions from the local community.

U Kyaw Zaw Hein, Head of the Magway Region Department of Rural Development, along with relevant officials and members of the Village Project Committee, inspected the completed concrete road. The regional director discussed and urged the committee members and local villagers to collaboratively maintain the concrete road to ensure its long-term durability.

The in-village concrete road measures

500 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and six inches in thickness. It was constructed with a total budget of K27 million, consisting of a K15 million grant allocated from the 2026-2027 financial year Village Development Project (VDP) and a K12 million contribution from the village community. Local villagers themselves started the construction work in the second week of May, utilizing technical assistance from engineers of the Department of Rural Development. Now that the project is 100 per cent completed, it is successfully facilitating better transport and accessibility for 740 residents from 157 households in the village, according to U Kyaw Zaw Hein, Head of the Magway Region Department of Rural Development. — Nyein Thu

NATIONAL

4 Chinese nationals linked to online scams detained in Muse

MYANMAR authorities detained four Chinese nationals involved in online scam and gambling operations. They seized 34 mobile phones of various types, eight all-in-one computers, and one

inverter from a house in Homon Ward, Muse Township, Shan State (North), yesterday.

Those involved in the case will face legal action following a thorough investigation. — MNA/MKKS



This photo shows the building related to online scams in Homon Ward, Muse Township, Shan State (North).

Lewe's rural production road construction inspected

THE Lewe Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, carried out a field inspection on the completion of the rural production road implemented in Kyaungyay Village, Lewe Township, yesterday. The project aims at enabling farmers to transport agricultural produce from their farmlands to markets in a timely and cost-effective manner, and the inspection was conducted in the morning by responsible officials in Kyaungyay Village.

Lewe District Department of Rural Development Head U Myo Tint, Lewe Township De-



This image displays the completion of the rural production road in Lewe.

partment of Rural Development Head U San Yu Hlaing and engineering staff, together with responsible officials, inspected the completed gravel road construction in Kyaungyay Village, measuring 2,500 feet in length, 12 feet in width

and nine inches in thickness. He met village elders and residents and advised them to establish village road committees to ensure the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the rural production road.

The rural production

road was built for the 2026-2027 financial year, using Union Government allocated funds of K30.97 million. The project was implemented with technical assistance and close supervision from the Department of Rural Development engineering staff, starting from the first week of May, and has now been completed in full. The completed rural production road will benefit 160 acres of farmland cultivated by 50 farmers in Kyaungyay Village, facilitating faster and easier transportation of agricultural products while contributing to the socioeconomic development of local farming communities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Yangon to penalize road and parking lot barriers



A file photo shows barriers being placed for parking in downtown Yangon.

TO ensure no barriers are placed on roads and parking areas, which are under the management of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), township and ward administrators, and the public will need to work together so that it can succeed, said U Myo Myint Aung, Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs, on 23 June.

Responding to an enquiry from U San Kyaw, regional Hlut-taw representative for Hline Constituency 2, the minister noted that security forces erected the barriers due to safety concerns in 2021. However, nearly half have since

been removed in areas deemed secure, while others remain in place for ongoing security reasons.

The 2018 Yangon City Development Law's section 315 strictly restricts parking or placing any barriers which can disrupt traffic on public roads, he said.

Currently, YCDC township heads conduct regular field inspections, run public awareness campaigns, and remove illegal barriers. However, the minister noted that barriers frequently reappear in certain areas, warning that YCDC will prosecute repeat offenders under existing laws. — TWA/ZS

Mild Earthquake Rattles Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing

A slight earthquake measuring 4.0 magnitude hit Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions on the morning of 24 June, according to residents.

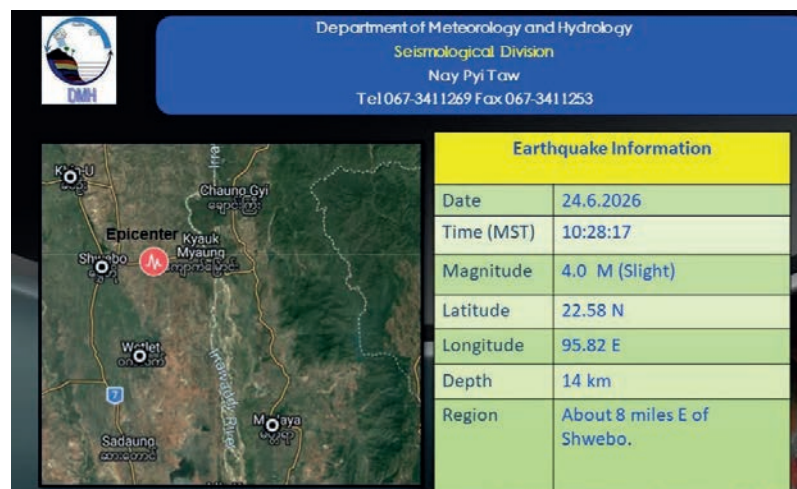
Yangon residents say they felt it twice in an interval of minutes.

It hit most of Yangon townships at around 10:30 am, and residents of high-rise buildings in Thingangyun, Thuwunna, South Okkalapa, Tamway and Thakayta townships felt it visibly.

"It struck twice. We live on a higher floor, so we felt it visibly. First one happened at around 10:30 am, and the next one came just a few minutes later," said a Yangon resident.

The quake was also felt in Shwebo and nearby villages.

"I heard a loud



DMH released a picture showing a moderate earthquake that hit on 24 June 2026.

noise when I was cleaning indoors. The house was shaken, and so I rushed outside," said a woman, 45, from Ward 3 in Shwebo.

"It only lasted seconds, but the shallow depth made it feel powerful. The furniture shook, so we rushed outside with the kids. We haven't heard of any damage yet," said a Kyaukmyaung resident.

"I heard a loud

Recently, frequent small quakes occurred in some areas of central Myanmar, which is linked to the Sagaing Fault, and just last week, small quakes of around 3.5 magnitude hit near Sagaing and Mandalay Region.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology released the earthquake information, and according to it, a 4.0 magnitude

earthquake struck about 8 miles east of Shwebo on 24 June.

As a disaster response plan, assessment of structural strength to resist earthquakes and natural disasters will be carried out at hospitals, schools and office buildings on 1 July, said Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Myo Myint Aung. — MT/TWA

ECONOMY WORLD

China's appeal grows at Summer Davos with innovation, green development surging

This year marks the 17th Summer Davos forum, also known as the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions.

STARTING Tuesday, the focus of the world economic dialogue is on conference halls located on the northeastern coast of China.

More than 1,700 representatives from political, business, academic and media circles of over 90 countries and regions have gathered in the port city of Dalian in northeast China's Liaoning Province to attend the 2026 Summer Davos forum. Many there believe that China's growing influence in sci-tech progress and green development may add impetus to the sluggish world economy.

For the participants, China is a major part of the answer to where the



Participants are pictured during the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 23 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

next wave of growth and innovation will come from. Being held just months after the launch of the country's outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), the forum in Dalian serves as the first major global economic showcase

of this new planning cycle. This year marks the 17th Summer Davos forum, also known as the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions. The first forum was held in Dalian in 2007, aiming to bring

together global growth enterprises and industry leaders, and promote growth and innovation in emerging markets, while boosting participation in cooperation with China, the world's rapidly developing second-largest economy.

The theme for 2026 is "Innovating at Scale". Participants will encounter a wide range of topics such as artificial intelligence (AI), humanoid robots, green industries, quantum technology, biomedicine and advanced manufacturing. China is in a leading position in many fields and enjoys extensive cooperation with the international community. — Xinhua

World unlikely to return to pre-crisis energy situation

THE world is unlikely to return to the pre-crisis energy situation as countries respond to recent disruptions by reassessing energy security strategies, diversifying supplies and making new

investment decisions, according to Jim Burkhard, Vice President and Head of Research for Oil Markets, Energy and Mobility, S&P Global Energy.

"Well, the world's changed, and I don't think

we'll get back to a pre-war situation because, one, the countries are going to react to this crisis. You're not simply going to go back to, OK, it's over. We're going to go back to how everything was," Burkhard told ANI on the sidelines of S&P Global Energy's New Delhi Energy Briefing.

He further added that there will be countries looking in the Middle East to expand pipeline capacity to get around Hormuz. There'll be other countries looking to diversify, maybe try to produce more oil and gas, maybe use more electricity and transportation.

Burkhard said the recent energy disruption would have a long-term impact on energy policy and investment decisions, particularly in Asia. "So we're not going to go back to the way things were. The world never does. It always changes. And this crisis will reverberate in energy policy and investment decisions around the world, particularly in Asia, for a long time to come," he said.

He said the disruption was largely an Asia-centred crisis, affecting economies across South Asia, South-East Asia and North-East Asia. — ANI



This file photo shows a section of the gas pipeline system in Ungheni, about 105 kilometres west of Chisinau, Moldova. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Argentina's economy grew 2.3% in first quarter

ARGENTINA'S economy grew 2.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2026 from the same period last year, with exports driving the increase, the national statistics institute said Tuesday.

Figures released by INDEC show that while some sectors including agriculture, fishing, mining and finance are growing, others such as manufacturing and retail trade are on the decline.

Gross domestic product (GDP) increased 0.7 per cent compared with the fourth quarter of the previous year, it added.

President Javier Milei's government used 30-year tax exemptions to attract millions in capital that was then funnelled

into the South American country's mining and hydrocarbons sectors.

"The sectors that are growing, such as mining, are not hiring people and their activity depends more on exports," Florencia Fiorentin, chief economist at Epyca Consultores, told AFP.

The number of households defaulting with banks has meanwhile reached a two-decade high, according to Argentina's central bank, climbing from 3.7 per cent in April 2025 to 12.1 per cent a year later.

And unemployment rose to 7.8 per cent during the first quarter, as compared to 5.7 per cent when Milei took office in 2023, INDEC said. — AFP



Aerial view of new cars unloaded from the BYD Changzhou ship at the Zarate Port on the Parana River in Zarate, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina taken on 19 January 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

German naval ambitions suffer setback as warship order axed

GERMANY on Wednesday pulled the plug on its largest naval order in decades after the anti-submarine warship project suffered delays, a setback for the country's ambitions to overhaul its military.

The multi-billion-euro project to build six new-generation frigates, set to be the biggest in the German navy, was being abandoned in favour of purchasing eight smaller warships, the defence ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement that it had "decided not to pursue the construction of a total of six frigates of the F126 class any further. — AFP

Airbus to inspect 16 A380s after cracks found on plane wings

AIRBUS has announced it will inspect 16 of its A380 superjumbos, five of them immediately, after cracks were found in a key wing component on some of the jets used by the Emirates and Qantas airlines.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) ordered urgent inspections requiring airlines to examine the wing-spar structure on the affected jets after inspectors found cracks during routine maintenance checks, the plane maker said late Tuesday.

The cracks appeared in a structural beam that runs along the wing and carries much of the aerodynamic load of the massive double-decker planes during flight.

Of the 16 planes to be inspected, 15 are operated by Emirates and one by Qantas. The five aircraft to be inspected immediately are flown by Emirates, and they were to undergo the process as soon as Wednesday.

Airlines using the A380 include Emirates, Singapore Airlines, British Airways, Qantas, Lufthansa, Qatar Airways, Korean Air, Etihad Airways, ANA and Asiana Airlines.

Emirates operates the largest A380 fleet in the world, flying more than half of all active superjumbos, which Airbus quit making in 2021.

“The inspections will begin in the coming 48 hours and all necessary works will be undertaken before the planes return to service,” Emirates said Wednesday.

It said it would work closely with Airbus and the relevant authorities “to minimise any disruption to operating schedules”. Cracks on an aircraft that “could reduce the structural integrity of the wing” were discovered during inspections ordered by EASA in a directive issued in December 2025, the European planemaker said. — AFP

India becomes world's top ship recycling nation in 2025

INDIA has emerged as the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, ranking first globally. India's share of global ship recycling increased to 35.4 per cent in 2025 from 30.1 per cent in 2024, according to the latest report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Ship recycling in India rose significantly to 2.99 million gross tons (GT) in 2025, up nearly 60 per cent from 1.86 million GT in 2024. With this achievement, the target set under Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 to become the world's leading ship recycling nation has been achieved well ahead of schedule.

This achievement reflects the impact of maritime policy reforms and ease-of-doing-business initiatives undertaken by the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On this occasion, the



The Alang Ship Breaking Yard in India, which is recognized as the world's largest ship recycling facility. **PHOTO: ALANG WORLD**

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal, said, “India's emergence as world's top ship recycling nation reflects the success of sustained policy reforms,

industry efforts and adherence to international environmental and safety standards under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It reinforces India's position as a global hub for

responsible and sustainable ship recycling.”

The Government of India enacted the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, to develop a ship recycling ecosystem aligned with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC), which India ratified in 2019.

The government has provided financial assistance of 53.5 crore to support the modernisation of ship recycling yards, helping 115 facilities become HKC-compliant.

MoPSW launched the Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme, under which ship owners receive a credit note equivalent to 40 per cent of the scrap value of a recycled ship. The credit note can be utilised toward payment of up to five per cent of the value of a new vessel built at an Indian shipyard, thereby promoting both ship recycling and domestic shipbuilding. — ANI

PNG suspends imports of Australian poultry

PAPUA New Guinea (PNG) has suspended imports of Australian poultry and eggs after two cases of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza were detected in Western Australia (WA).

Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) said in a notice on Tuesday that PNG's National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority imposed an import suspension on all poultry meat and poultry products, including eggs,

effective from Monday.

The DAFF said that Australia remains free from the H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry in accordance with the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) international standards. Julie Collins, Australia's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Wednesday that the federal government is directly engaging with PNG to lift the trade restrictions. — Xinhua

United Airlines expands Starlink Wi-Fi rollout

UNITED Airlines, a major US airline, is accelerating the rollout of fast, free Star-

link Wi-Fi for MileagePlus members as United flight 14 departs Newark/New

York for London on Monday aboard a Boeing 777-200. This milestone marks the airline's first transatlantic widebody customer flight equipped with Starlink.

It represents the first of nearly 60 United widebody aircraft expected to have Starlink this year. The airline expects to have its entire widebody fleet outfitted by next summer as it expands high-speed, reliable internet across its fleet, according to United.

As the world's largest airline across both the Atlantic and Pacific, United will leverage Starlink's low-Earth orbit satellites to deliver reliable internet around the world. This

includes coverage when flying over oceans, polar regions, and other remote locations previously unreachable by traditional cell or Wi-Fi signals.

More than 400 United planes have Starlink today, and the airline expects to outfit close to 1,000 aircraft before the end of this year. International travellers can expect to see Starlink-enabled 777-200 aircraft on routes between United's hub airports in Newark/New York, Washington DC, Houston, and San Francisco and popular international destinations like London, Frankfurt, Zurich, Paris, Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, and more. — ANI



United Airlines, a major US airline, is accelerating the rollout of fast, free Starlink Wi-Fi for MileagePlus members. **PHOTO: ANI**

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Only nuclear weapons safeguard planet from world war: Kremlin

There are currently no levers in the world to negotiate something in the field of security.

NUCLEAR weapons alone are holding back a global war, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

“Now it [world security] is pretty eroded, in many ways, in fact. Apart from nuclear deterrence, we have nothing left in the world. This is the only thing that protects the world from global war,” Peskov said during the Primakov Readings forum.

The overall potential of regional conflicts



A Yars mobile ground-based missile system during a strategic nuclear forces exercise at the Plesetsk State Test Cosmodrome, Russia in 2025. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

is mounting, the official are currently no levers in the world to negotiate

something in the field of security.

“Once again, technologies are advancing in such a way that it is already clear that new types of weapons will emerge that are not nuclear, but will be capable of matching the destructive power of nuclear weapons in the future,” Peskov predicted. That said, the spokesman noted that nuclear deterrence is working, something that Russia acknowledges. — SPUTNIK

N Korea commissions new destroyer

NORTH Korea has commissioned a new 5,000-tonne destroyer, with leader Kim Jong Un calling for the annual building of two large warships under the five-year national defense development plan through 2030, state-run media said Wednesday.

At a commissioning ceremony held Tuesday in the western port city of Nampho for the multi-purpose destroyer Choe Hyon, which was launched in April last year, Kim said the combat capability of the country’s navy will “grow to be admirable

beyond imagination”, the official Korean Central News Agency said.

It was “the weakest of all the services of our armed forces,” but “things have changed obviously now”, the leader said, adding that it has “clearly become a thing of the past”

for the navy to exist only as a force “defending the sea off our land”.

A programme of equipping the navy with nuclear weapons is “following its planned course unerringly”, Kim was quoted by KCNA as saying. — Kyodo

Afghan-EU talks conclude in Brussels

TALKS between a delegation of the Afghan government and European Union officials in Brussels have concluded, the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Tuesday evening.

The engagements, held at the invitation of the European Union, included a series of multilateral and bilateral meetings with representatives of EU member states, according to Abdul Qahar Balkhi, spokesperson for the ministry of foreign

affairs.

Discussions centered on what Balkhi described as “the resumption of consular services for Afghans

residing in Europe, confidence-building measures, the establishment of a more effective presence, and potential solutions to

the challenges faced by Afghan nationals whose asylum applications have not been accepted and who continue to encounter numerous difficulties across Europe.”

He expressed hope that the visit would open new avenues for constructive engagement, strengthen efforts to address the concerns of the Afghan diaspora, and expand cooperation based on mutual respect and shared interests. — Xinhua



Afghan refugees are processed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, 8 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump threatens to end talks if Iran charges ships

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that Iran had assured Washington it is not seeking tolls, insurance fees or other charges from ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz, warning that negotiations between the two sides would end immediately if the information proved false.

“Iran has informed the US that, despite troublemaking Fake News reporting to the contrary, there are ‘NO TOLLS, NO INSURANCE COSTS, & NO OTHER CHARGES OF ANY KIND BEING SOUGHT OR RECEIVED BY IRAN ON SHIPS TRAVELING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ,’” Trump wrote on his Truth Social.

“If this is false information, negotiations would end, immediately!” Trump warned. — Xinhua

Iran calls for new ME security architecture

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday called for the establishment of a new regional security architecture in Western Asia and the Persian Gulf based on dialogue, mutual respect and cooperative engagement among regional states.

At a joint press conference with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Iranian president praised Pakistan’s role in supporting de-escalation efforts and regional consultations, describing it as a “responsible and visionary” contribution to stability. — Xinhua

Rail services across Germany suspended

ALL rail services in Germany were suspended on Tuesday evening following a disruption to train radio communications, German newspaper Tagesspiegel reported.

“Due to a nationwide disruption of the GSM-R digital rail radio system, all trains are currently being held at stations,” German rail operator Deutsche Bahn was quoted by the newspaper as saying. “Our technicians are working diligently to resolve the issue,” Deutsche Bahn added. — Xinhua

Mexico to seek 16-year USMCA extension: minister

THE Mexican government will formally propose extending the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, for another 16 years during a virtual trilateral meeting scheduled for 1 July, Mexican Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said Tuesday. Ebrard said 1 July marks the start of the trade agreement’s review process, not the end of it. He acknowledged that the negotiations are highly complex, citing as an example a discussion on steel-derived products that took several hours to determine how components used in technologies such as robots and drones should be classified because of the large number of parts and transformation processes involved.

Regarding the review mechanism, Ebrard said the governments of Mexico, the United States and Canada must state on 1 July whether they want to extend the agreement for another 16 years. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Ayeyawady top Myanmar Women's League after Matchday 2 wins

THE 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League with main sponsorship from Max Energy continued matchday 2 from 22 to 24 June, where defending champions Ayeyawady maintained the top position on goal difference.

In matchday 2 fixtures, Ayeyawady defeated Young Lionesses 3-0, ISPE FC beat Zwegapin United 3-0, Yadanabon won 6-0 against Yangon City, Yangon United defeated Myawady 2-1, while Thitsa Arman and Shan United played out a 1-1 draw.

Player of the match awards (AYA Pay Player of the match) were given

to San Thaw Thaw (Ayeyawady), Mimi Zin (ISPE), Zin Moe Pyae (Yangon United), Win Theingi Tun (Yadanabon), and Win Win (Thitsa Arman), each receiving a trophy and K500,000 in prize money.

After matchday 2, Ayeyawady, ISPE, and Yangon United all have six points each. Ayeyawady lead the table on goal difference. They are followed by Yadanabon, Zwegapin United, and Young Lionesses with three points each, Shan United and Thitsa Arman with one point each, while Myawady and Yangon City remain without points after losing both matches. — Ko San/KZL



Images capture players in action and the Player of the Match award. PHOTO: MWL

MFF marks Olympic Day with women's futsal event



Teams are seen together participating in the women's futsal tournament at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Yangon.

A women's futsal tournament marking International Olympic Day (Olympic Day Movement 2026) was held on 24 June at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Yangon, organized by the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee of the Myanmar Football Federation.

At the commemorative event, players from the My-

anmar women's national futsal team and the preliminary U19 women's squad were divided into three balanced teams and competed in friendly matches.

The tournament aimed to promote the key objectives of Olympic Day, including the development of sport at all levels, the encouragement of healthier

lifestyles among the public, and the increase of youth participation in sport.

Organizers noted that holding such Olympic Day events helps to raise the profile of women's futsal in Myanmar and supports the development of skills and experience for the next generation of female athletes. — TWA/KZL

Panama out of World Cup after defeat to Croatia

PANAMA were eliminated from World Cup contention after Croatia kept their hopes of progressing to the last 32 alive with a hard-fought 1-0 win on Tuesday.

Croatia, who made it to the last four of the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, were looking to bounce back after a 4-2 defeat to England in their opening

Group L game.

In the end, Ante Budimir's 54th minute goal proved enough to see off the spirited Central Americans.

"You cannot win a match if you don't score," said Panama's Danish-born coach Thomas Christiansen.

But he told reporters he was "super proud" of

his players for how they battled against the higher-ranked Croatian side.

Despite being eliminated from the tournament, Christiansen said Panama had taken strides forward.

"These players, after these two World Cup matches, won't be where they are today."

Croatia's most celebrated player, Luka Modric, was making his 200th international appearance, but his early headed effort on goal sailed over the bar.

Under Christiansen, Panama have implemented a tight defensive structure that helped them secure their second-ever World Cup appearance. — AFP

Myanmar e-sports team to compete in Asian Games

THE Myanmar national e-sports team will compete in the e-sports events of the 20th Asian Games, which will be held in Japan.

The Myanmar national e-sports squad is preparing to participate in five game titles: Honour of Kings, PUBG MOBILE, Mobile Legends: Bang Bang, eFootball Mobile, and eFootball (including the console version).

The team has already achieved strong results. It has directly qualified for the main event in Honor

of Kings, eFootball Mobile, and eFootball. In PUBG MOBILE, the team successfully progressed through the qualifiers to reach the final stage. In the highly competitive Mobile Legends: Bang Bang event, Myanmar placed fourth in the qualifiers and also secured a place in the final round.

The e-sports competitions, along with the other events of the 20th Asian Games, will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 19 September to 14 October. — TWA/KZL

Martial arts competitions mark International Olympic Day



A performance of Myanmar Thaing.

MARTIAL arts competitions in Pencak Silat, Vovinam and Myanmar Thaing (traditional martial arts) were held from 21 to 23 June at the Myanmar Thaing Training School in Dagon Myothit (North) Township to mark International Olympic Day 2026.

Pencak Silat on 21 June featured men's and

women's combat weight classes and artistic performance events, with 41 athletes from 15 teams. Vovinam included similar categories, with 29 athletes from 14 teams. Myanmar Thaing was held on 22-23 June, with 141 athletes from 34 teams competing in combat and artistic events. — Bala/KZL



The official emblem of the 20th Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.



US Senate limits Trump's war powers

THE US Senate on Tuesday approved a resolution directing US President Donald Trump to remove American military forces from the conflict with Iran, marking a rare bipartisan rebuke of the administration's military authority and signalling concerns in Congress over potential escalation in the region.

According to CNN, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 50-48, with Republican Senators Rand Paul, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Bill Cassidy joining Democrats in support of the measure.

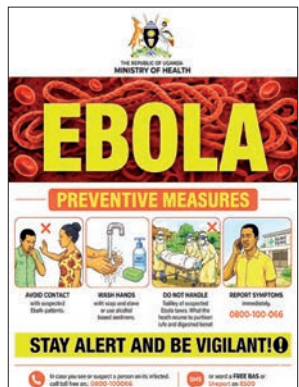
Democratic Senator John Fetterman voted

against the resolution.

The absence of Republican Senators Mitch McConnell and Dave McCormick, who had previously opposed advancing similar war powers measures, contributed to its passage, CNN reported.

The vote comes amid continued efforts by Democrats in both chambers of Congress to limit the president's authority to engage in military action against Iran without congressional approval. CNN reported that support for such efforts has gradually expanded among some Republicans in recent weeks. — ANI

France detects first Ebola case outside Africa



The Ministry of Health of Uganda has shared an official advisory outlining key preventive measures to curb the spread of Ebola. **PHOTO: INSTAGRAM**

FRANCE on Wednesday announced its first confirmed case of Ebola identified on its territory, a doctor back from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is fighting a major outbreak.

The case is the first of the deadly haemorrhagic fever identified outside the African continent during the current outbreak, which has also affected Uganda.

It's also the first time

Ebola has been detected in France.

In 2014, during a major outbreak in West Africa, two patients were transported to France, but they had been diagnosed abroad.

The health ministry "confirms today the identification of a first positive case of Ebola virus disease on national territory", said a statement.

Contacted by AFP, the ministry specified that the case had been identified in mainland France.

The doctor was isolated on arrival in France, even before the disease was officially identified, the ministry added.

Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu is monitoring the situation "very closely", his office said.

The DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak was declared on 15 May after several unexplained deaths in the mineral-rich but volatile eastern Ituri province. — AFP

Iran's missile programme not part of agreement with US: President Pezeshkian

Pezeshkian made the remarks while speaking at a news conference in Pakistan during his visit to Islamabad.

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday said that the missile programme of the Islamic Republic is not included in the 14-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States and will not be part of any such arrangement in the future.

According to a video shared by the Iranian state media Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Pezeshkian made the remarks while speaking at a news conference in Pakistan during his visit to Islamabad.

"The discussion over our missiles does not exist in the MoU, and it never will," Pezeshkian said, firmly rejecting any linkage between Iran's missile capabilities and the agreement with the United States.

He further defended Iran's missile programme,



Pezeshkian's comments came during discussions with Pakistani leadership on bilateral relations and regional developments. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE**

describing it as a critical element of the country's defence strategy. "If we did not have the missiles we use for our defence, Israel and the United States would have devastated Iran," he said.

Pezeshkian's comments came during discussions with Pakistani leadership on bilateral relations and regional developments, following the

conclusion of the technical talks in Switzerland as part of the 14-point MoU aimed at ending the hostilities in the region.

Last week, the United States released the official text of the MoU reached with Iran. According to CNN, a senior US administration official read out the 14-point document, which reportedly includes provisions relat-

ed to reopening the Strait of Hormuz, easing certain financial restrictions on Iran, and outlining expectations for future technical talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

However, the published text does not include any reference to restrictions on Iran's missile programme or wider defence capabilities. The only weapons-related provision explicitly mentioned is Iran's commitment not to "procure or develop nuclear weapons".

While US President Donald Trump had earlier made curbing Iran's missile programme a key justification for military operations, his position has since shifted during diplomatic negotiations. He said at last week's G7 summit in France that "missiles aren't the problem". — ANI

Race for robotaxi market arrives in London

BRISTLING with sensors and electronic eyes, robotaxis are appearing on London's streets, slipping silently between red buses and black cabs, as companies battle to lead Europe's emerging autonomous vehicle market.

British start-up Wayve, in partnership with Uber, is racing to beat US rival Waymo, owned by Google-parent Alphabet.

China's Baidu is also to launch in the British capital, where winding streets, roadworks and

pedestrian traffic bring unique challenges.

"London has 20 times the amount of road construction than San Fran-

cisco and 10 times the amount of vulnerable road users," said Kaity Fischer, head of business development at Wayve.

"We've had 2,000-year-old roads, certainly no perfect grid system," she told AFP ahead of a ride in the company's Ford Mustang Mach-E.

On the road, every pedestrian and intersection presents a test. The car responded smoothly though, braking where necessary.

Passengers tend to spend the first few minutes of the ride "marvelling, videoing the steering wheel moving on its own, taking selfies", Fischer said. — AFP



Londoners will be able to start taking robotaxis this summer, though initially with human operators on board for safety. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**