

Govt Urged to Listen to Public

While the government must design policies that precisely achieve its strategic objectives, it must ultimately align those initiatives with the public will to maintain civic trust.



President U Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union Government meeting at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

AS the country already possesses abundant above-ground and underground natural resources, people should have the ability and willingness to work. They must also actually put in the effort and work, stated President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting at the President's

Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, the President stressed that Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of Regions and States, and officials at different levels are required to maintain good relations with their respective departmental staff and to ensure a fair and balanced style of governance. **SEE PAGE 2**

Key points from the speech delivered by the President at the Union government meeting

1. It is necessary to invite local entrepreneurs to participate in the production of solar power.
2. Efforts should also be made to construct coal-fired power plants capable of generating adequate electricity to ensure sufficient electricity supply for the country's needs.
3. Upgrading schools needs to calculate the proportion of school-age children in the area attending the school.
4. Boosting internal and external investment can contribute to generating employment as well as production.

Five MRF Firms Sign 11 Landmark Pacts at MCITP-2026

FIVE member companies of the Myanmar Rice Federation inked 11 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 11 Chinese companies and associations at the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Summit (MCITP-2026) held on 18 June at the Radisson Collection Lingang Shanghai Hotel in Shanghai, according to MRF's recent announcement. President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inaugurated the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Summit (MCITP-2026) in Shanghai and observed the expo booths of Myanmar and Chinese companies. — NN/KK

MTF clears runway for direct Yangon-Phnom Penh flights

MYANMAR Tourism Federation is endeavouring to operate direct flights between Yangon and Phnom Penh in collaboration with Cambodia, President U Yan Win said. Through such bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Cambodia, making the Mekong region a single destination **SEE PAGE 7**



Visitors observing the exhibition booth at the Mekong Tourism Forum 2026 in Yangon, Myanmar, on 17 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



A glimpse of the Mawlamyine Railway Station.

Online booking launches for Yangon-Mawlamyine DEMU trains

TICKETS for the Yangon-Mawlamyine DEMU train service will be available for purchase online from 24 June, according to the Mawlamyine Railway Station. At present, the Online Railways Ticketing and Payment System (ORTP) is being used only for Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon and Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon DEMU train services. "The DEMU train service will begin operating on 1 July. Tickets will go on sale seven days in advance, starting on 24 June. They will be sold exclusively online and will not be available at railway stations. Tickets for both trains based in Mawlamyine will be sold through the online system," an official from the Mawlamyine Railway Station said. Ticket prices for the DEMU services are expected to be approximately K16,000 for First Class and K22,000 for Upper Class. — MNA/KNN

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette
Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed
THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following Heads of Service Organizations on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Kyi Kyi Than Aung	Director-General Legal Advice Department Ministry of Legal Affairs
(2) U Zaw Zaw Aye	Director-General Department of Buildings Ministry of Construction

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 46/2026
9th Waxing of First Waso, 1388 ME
23 June 2026
Official Appointment of Replacement State Hluttaw Representatives
IT is hereby announced that the representatives elected in the constituencies under the proportional representation system for the Region or State Hluttaw in the multiparty democratic general election held in phases starting from 28 December 2025 have already been duly announced.
Under Rule 132 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Rules, it is hereby announced that the vacant seats of representatives from the proportional representation constituencies of the Region or State Hluttaw shall be replaced from among the candidates submitted by the respective political party in order of priority, as follows:

Shan State Hluttaw (Proportional Representation System) Constituency 1	
Sao Thar Oo — replaces	U Tun Myint Oo
13/TakaNa (C) 018897	13/TakaNa (C) 048027
Mongpan Township	Mongpan Township
Representative 2	Representative 2
Shan and Nationalities	Shan and Nationalities
Democratic Party	Democratic Party
(White Tiger Party)	(White Tiger Party)

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

WORLD DRUG PROBLEM:
PERSISTING ISSUES,
NEW CHALLENGES,
INNOVATIVE RESPONSES
#WorldDrugDay
World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses
စိန်ခေါ်မှု(အသစ်တွေ)ကြားက မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးပြဿနာ၊ ဆန်းသစ်တီထွင်နည်းလမ်းရှာ၊
စုပေါင်းကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက်ပါ။

Thai Festival 2026 returns to Yangon with food, celebrities, T-Pop and exciting prizes
THE Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon invites the public to experience Thai Festival 2026 in Yangon on 27-28 June 2026 at Novotel Yangon Max.
The festival will feature 65 booths showcasing authentic Thai food and beverages, health and wellness products, cosmetics, fashion items, tourism services, and GMMTV artistes' merchandise. Admission to the exhibition area is completely free.
Visitors can also enjoy a wide range of entertainment and cultural activities throughout the two-day event, including live cooking demonstrations, cultural performances, and special appearances by popular Myanmar celebrities Pyi Nyein Han, Poe Mahme Thar, and Oak Soe Khant.
One of the festival's biggest highlights is the live Semi-Final and Final Round of T-Pop Star Challenge, Myanmar Season 3, where eight finalists from across Myanmar will compete for the championship title and a grand prize of US\$3,200. Audiences who have stage activities tickets will also have the opportunity to meet renowned Thai artistes and celebrities, including Ice Sarunyu, Kang Korn, Prae Chanaa, Diamond Narakorn, Surf-Java, and fan-favourite duo Boun-Prem.
Festival-goers can also participate in the Lucky Draw campaign to win exciting prizes such as Yangon-Bangkok round-trip air tickets, hotel staycation vouchers, televisions, Thai artiste merchandise, and premium Thai products.
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Govt Urged to Listen to Public

FROM PAGE 1

He emphasized the importance of addressing both work-related and personal challenges faced by the staff and their families as much as possible. He underlined the need for efforts to resolve public issues, enabling people to live and earn their livelihoods in peace and comfort.
The President highlighted that understanding people's needs and aspirations is essential for providing appropriate solutions;

therefore, effective public relations must be upheld. He noted that while the government is obliged to implement policies based on its own priorities, it is also necessary not to disregard the will of the people.
He underscored that since needs and expectations vary across sectors and social groups, including education, health, and social affairs, it is important to ensure alignment between public demands and policy directions by consistently and correctly

listening to public voices. Ultimately, efforts should be made to promote the socioeconomic development of the country and its citizens.
The President recounted that he paid State visits to India and China in early June and held meetings with businesspeople to increase foreign trade and investment in Myanmar. He emphasized that both internal and external investment can help create jobs and boost production.
He vowed that since

employment opportunities are essential for people, the State will create and implement job opportunities. Furthermore, the President urged all to prioritize the development of the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors.
Regarding the upgrading of schools, he stated that it is necessary to carry out the work by calculating in relation to the proportion of school-age children in the area who can attend and receive education.
The President encour-

aged all meeting participants to support athletes who can bring honour to the State and take measures to ensure their long-term livelihood security.
In the electricity sector, the President pointed out that generating electricity from solar energy is the most suitable business for the country. Therefore, it is essential to invite local entrepreneurs to participate in solar power production. In addition, to ensure sufficient electricity supply for the country's needs, ef-

forts should also be made to construct coal-fired power plants capable of generating adequate electricity.
Union ministers and chief ministers of regions and states reported on necessary measures in their relevant sectors.
Also present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Union ministers and the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, together with region and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing Breaks Silence on Key National Issues

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing responded to the queries raised by local media from Myanmar on his State Visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping. The full text of the translated interview with local media is as follows:

U Kyaw Zaw Lin, Chief Editor of Eleven Media Group: Within 100 days of assuming office as President, the President had already met the leaders of two major countries, India and now China. Before that, foreign ministers from five countries also came to Nay Pyi Taw to meet the President. According to available information, more foreign ministers and other diplomats are also expected to meet the President. In that context, how do you think this shift, from the diplomatic isolation of the past five years to the current situation, could bring positive outcomes for Myanmar and its people?

President: International



Myanmar journalists interview President U Min Aung Hlaing during his State Visit to China.

diplomatic relations among countries are an important sector for the respective states. This includes diplomatic relations in general – relations between leaders, relations between governments, diplomatic engagements, and economic ties. There are many dimensions to it. So, re-

garding the five-year period you mentioned earlier, it was said that the country was isolated. In fact, we have been making efforts – real efforts. However, various political actions were taken against us. It is fundamentally political in nature. Therefore, we decided to firmly implement the

political system we have chosen. Because we have been carrying out that system properly, such conditions have emerged. We have already successfully made the change. We will continue to strengthen this. If so, I believe Myanmar's participation in international relations can im-

prove beyond its previous level. In response to your earlier question about whether other countries will participate, the answer is yes – they will be coming. Invitations have been sent out, and there are also countries that have invited me to visit them. Additionally, the Foreign Minister and their counterparts from relevant ministries are engaging in similar activities. Organizations, including youth groups and other institutions, are extending invitations in various forms, and we are also welcoming visits from them. This means these are all opportunities for the country. If we make good use of them, we must use them properly and sincerely. We cannot use them for exploitation or self-interest. If there is an intention to exploit, then nothing will ever become stable. If we act sincerely and correctly, then stability will be achieved. Both our current political system and economic system are genuinely aimed at working for the good of the country with sincerity.

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NSA holds talks with BIMSTEC SG on regional cooperation

NATIONAL Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry of the President's Office U Tin Aung San received BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey yesterday morning at the reception hall of the Ministry of the President's Office.

During the meeting, the two sides openly exchanged views on matters relating to food and energy security among BIMSTEC member states, maritime security and joint training exercises,



National Security Adviser and President's Office Union Minister U Tin Aung San receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey yesterday.

and the expansion of multi-sectoral cooperation for development.

Officials from the

Ministry of the President's Office and the BIMSTEC Secretariat also attended the meeting. — MNA

MALI Union Minister receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey at the Union Minister's guest room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they held a cordial and open discussion on Myanmar's activities as the lead country in the agriculture and food security sector under BIMSTEC cooperation, as well as accelerating regional cooperation with greater emphasis on food security among BIMSTEC member states. They also discussed the implementa-



The BIMSTEC Secretary-General calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

tion of work plans already drawn up for BIMSTEC agriculture and livestock cooperation, systematic monitoring of progress, and the strengthening of information and tech-

nology exchange among member countries, including cooperation in research, technology transfer, capacity building, trade, and investment. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Lawmakers Debate Infrastructure Deficits

THE 13th-day of the third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, presided over by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

During the session, Hluttaw representatives raised eight questions concerning road upgrades and bridge construction in their constituencies, with deputy ministers from the relevant ministries providing responses.

U Aung Myo Than from the Kawhmu Constituency asked about upgrading the 4,620-foot Taluthtaw-Kayinzu-Okkyin village road. Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe said concreting the road would cost an estimated K1.23 billion and benefit more than 2,700 residents. Funding will be proposed for the 2027-2028 financial year, subject to development priorities and



The 13th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

budget availability.

Daw Kyu Kyu Maw from the Thazi Constituency inquired about upgrading the Wantha-Hanzar-Thagara road. The deputy minister said part of the road would be upgraded to gravel in 2026-2027 using regional funds, while further improvements are planned for the following financial year if funding is approved.

U Hla Myint from the Madaya Constituency highlighted difficulties faced by residents using the Shwetachaung canal embankment road during the rainy season. The deputy minister answered that upgrading the road to concrete standard would cost K1.36 billion and benefit nearly 5,800 residents. The project has been proposed for 2027-2028.

U Myint Tun from the Kyain-seikkyi Constituency asked about building a bridge across the Zami River. Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint said feasibility studies, including route selection and soil testing, cannot yet be carried out because of the area's security situation. Such work will proceed when conditions become stable.

U Sai Seng Sein from the Tangyan Constituency raised concerns over dangerous bends and road widening needs on the Hoya-Tangyan Road in Mongyai Township. The deputy minister said resurfacing, repairs and maintenance would be carried out in 2026-2027 using Shan State funds, while widening and concreting works would be proposed for future budgets.

U Naing Win from the Kyauktan Constituency asked about constructing the Hmawwun creek bridge. The deputy minister said priority is currently being given to repairing bridges damaged by the Mandalay earthquake and terrorist attacks. The proposed bridge will be considered in the future based on traffic demand and feasibility studies.

Daw Zarchi Lwin from the Monyo Constituency sought information on com-

pleting the remaining section of the Shantaw-Minhla-Innbokkon-Monyo road. The ministry stated maintenance and concreting works would begin in 2026-2027, with full upgrading dependent on funding approval from the Bago Region government.

U Myo Myint Thein from the Wundwin Constituency raised concerns over the narrow left Kintar canal road and the deteriorating Wundwin-Pintale road. Deputy Minister U Myo Myint said the road widening would require coordination with local authorities and landowners before cost estimates could be prepared. Asphalt repairs and upgrades have been proposed for 2027-2028, subject to regional funding.

The session concluded after ministers answered the questions. The next sitting is scheduled for 25 June. — MNA/ST

Thai Festival 2026 returns to Yangon with food, celebrities, T-Pop and exciting prizes

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Shoppers will additionally have a chance to win exclusive Lucky Seat front-row tickets for the T-Pop Star Challenge performances.

Thai Festival 2026 in Yangon will take place on 27-28 June 2026 from 9 am to 6 pm at Novotel Yangon Max.

Everyone is welcome to join this unique celebration of Thai culture, entertainment, food, and lifestyle.

For further information, individuals can surf on Facebook: T-Pop Star Challenge, Myanmar/TikTok: @thaiemb-yangon. — (Royal Thailand Embassy sources)

CBM Governor meets Indian Ambassador

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Khin Naing Oo received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur and his team at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They held cordial discussions on issues relating to the further development and benefits of the Indian rupee-Myanmar kyat direct payment system for trade and investment. They also discussed ongoing

collaboration to develop interoperability between UPI QR and RuPay systems and Myanmar's MMQR infrastructure, involving the Reserve Bank of India, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Central Bank of Myanmar MMQR Consortium, and the Myanmar Payment Union (MPU), as well as the draft agreement on the establishment of a bilateral currency arrangement between the Indian Rupee and Myan-



The Indian ambassador calls on Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo yesterday.

mar Kyat, and measures to further strengthen mutually beneficial banking cooperation.

The meeting was at-

tended by Deputy Governors and departmental officials from the Central Bank of Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

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

President U Min Aung Hlaing Breaks Silence on Key ...

FROM PAGE 3

In international relations as well, we engage with sincerity. I do not distinguish based on who has strengths or weaknesses; we pursue an independent and active foreign policy with all countries. This is truly the most solid approach. We are engaging with India and China based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Therefore, if we proceed on this basis, I would say Myanmar's future is very promising.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank Chairman U Ko Ko (Ko Ko - Sethmu Tekkatho): If we look at China's Belt and Road Initiative and Myanmar's potential for regional connectivity together, it is said that Myanmar could serve as a strategic land bridge connecting China, ASEAN, and the Indian Ocean. As a land-bridge country, what plans do you have

to enhance Myanmar's role in this regard?

President: In fact, Myanmar is not only a land-bridge country; it is also a true choke point country. A real junction of this kind has a very large impact. For example, if we look toward the Indian Ocean side, there are India, Bangladesh, and countries from the western region. Now, with emerging prospects for peace in the Middle East, many opportunities are opening up, and we can make use of them. That is one point. In addition, for China as well, and similarly for India, if conditions allow on their side, there will be connectivity towards China. Myanmar has areas that border other countries. However, if these countries move towards China, they will have space to operate in areas where competition is possible. Likewise, ASEAN countries can also move

through Myanmar. It is not only India and China; other countries can also use Myanmar as a base to move toward India, China, or ASEAN. It is essential for us to take advantage of this opportunity. For this to happen, both political stability and security are crucial. The lives of the people also need stability and peace; life stability is necessary. Politics is one part, and the lives of the people are another part. They are not the same; they must be separated. If we can do this, there are many positive conditions for the country to benefit from and make use of. That is what I would like to emphasize – that there are many favourable conditions for Myanmar to utilize.

U Kyaw Zaw Lin: During this period, you met with two major countries – China and India. In terms of purchasing power parity, China is ranked first in the

world, while India is ranked third. These countries with strong purchasing power are important partners. India, for example, places strong emphasis on the India-Myanmar-Thailand corridor. China, on the other hand, focuses on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). So, what plans do you have as President to accelerate the realization of these routes? In connection with this, during your meetings with President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi, it was observed that both India and China emphasized the importance of these major projects and security. Therefore, as a new government, how do you plan to address and manage the security aspects of these matters?

President: Security management means ensuring the rule of law in the country. If there is a rule of law, security will nat-

urally follow. However, while the rule of law and security are closely connected, political stability is also important. If the political direction is correct and stable, the rule of law and security will naturally come along as well. If there is a lack of political stability, or if conditions are unfair and unstable, security problems will arise. Looking back at history, there have been problems caused by politics – issues and “escape routes”, so to speak. We are currently in a period of practising a multiparty democratic system. If we utilize this effectively, it will create opportunities for cooperation with the two major countries I mentioned earlier. This can be achieved through Myanmar as a hub for cross-border connectivity, similar to the three-country linkages we discussed previously.

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MoFA Dy Minister receives Indian Ambassador



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur meet in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on matters relating to the promotion of the existing friendly relations between the two countries in particular on the implementation of the outcomes of the Myanmar President's recent Official Visit to India.

They also discussed

the progress of ongoing development projects including the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project as well as co-operation on matters of mutual interest at both regional and international arena. Furthermore, their discussion covered the provision of capacity-building programmes to Myanmar including Members of Parliament and on further enhancing cooperation in Myanmar's peace process. — MNA

MPA meets MIFFA CEC members

THE managing director of the Myanma Port Authority (MPA) met the newly elected Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association (MIFFA) to discuss port digitalization and future areas of cooperation.

Members of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of MIFFA for the 2025-2028 term met U Zaw Tun Lwin, Managing Director of the Myanma Port Authority, at the MPA office on 19 June



Myanma Port Authority chief and MIFFA CEC members meet.

to coordinate and discuss future work plans.

During the meeting, officials from the Myanma

Port Authority explained the fully digitalization system currently being implemented, port elec-

tronic data interchange (EDI) processes, and smart port technologies.

The MPA managing director urged to work together for the interests of country and people in transport and logistics sectors, and the MIFFA chairperson also pledged to fully cooperate in various sector in line with the department.

The managing director guided the attending MIFFA CEC members on a tour to the historic Myanma Port Authority Museum. —TWA/KTZH

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 23 June 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,664.80~3,665.00	558.20~558.30	125.50~125.60	43.60
Trading amount in the market	24,943,795.64	25,742,620.41	137,782,325.96	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

The foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, packaging materials, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, telecommunications equipment, construction equipment, and paper. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$2.60 million to the edible oil sector. —MNA

NATIONAL

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These connections extend from India to Myanmar and from Myanmar to Thailand. But it is not limited to that. From India, one can also go to China, and China can also connect in the same way. From our country, routes can extend to South-East Asian and ASEAN countries. Then, through the Indian Ocean outlet, access is also possible to countries in the western region. This is not a small opportunity – it is a very large one. If we look only at the two countries, it is a huge market of over 1.2 billion people. For them, Myanmar is a small market. But for Myanmar, it is a truly large market in itself. It is like the difference between a lake and an ocean. We need to be able to make use of this. And what role do stability and peace play here, as mentioned earlier? Stability and peace are essential for that support. Without

stability and peace, we cannot benefit from these opportunities. Therefore, to achieve stability and peace, politics is the most important factor. We need to make our political system truly strong. We must ensure trust and cooperation. However, no matter how much we build political trust, what ultimately matters is the mindset of the people – the concept held by the public. We must work to ensure that their way of thinking can align with and support this direction. There are many reform processes involved here. This cannot be achieved in one or two years, and not even in four or five years. It may take around 10 or even 15 years of sustained effort. However, what is most important is the mindset of citizens who genuinely want what is good for their country. Every citizen who wants to improve the country – all of them, includ-

ing the entire population – must be included. You cannot pick and choose and leave some people out. Everyone must be included. If some people feel dissatisfied or have grievances, they will continue to create problems. It is these kinds of issues that have led to political instability. To prevent such problems, we must proceed in accordance with the law and regulations. People will naturally have different opinions and diverse wishes; they cannot all be the same. Therefore, everything must be guided by rules and laws. However, when we talk about this, it should not be rigid. It should not be enforced in an overly strict or inflexible way. It should be relaxed and balanced. What we must do is ensure that the people are satisfied and at peace. That is the key point. In simple terms, the answer is this: we must ensure the well-being

and satisfaction of the people.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank Chairman U Ko Ko: If we look at the current global situation, we can see more clearly the emergence of what is called a multipolar world, meaning a world with multiple centres of power. Because of this multipolar world, smaller countries also have greater opportunities to expand partnerships and cooperation with other countries. So what we would like to ask you, Mr President, is this: Myanmar has recently received a friendship visit from the People's Republic of China, and bilateral relations between the two countries are also improving and being elevated. Based on this friendship and strengthened relationship, how can Myanmar take advantage of the opportunities arising in this emerging multipolar world?

President: There is a lot.

In a multipolar world, countries globally have unique aspirations. So, in the past, things moved towards a unipolar or bipolar system. It became unipolar. We were the ones who suffered from it. Even under unipolarity, we suffered, and under bipolarity, with competing rivals, the pressure became even greater. There is this problem. Multipolarity, if achievable, would mean that all countries, regions, and groups coexist and compete with one another. If things develop in this way, then all countries will benefit equally. There will be no discrimination – no discrimination based on race, skin colour, religion, or region. We must work to eliminate these. If we can achieve this, the world will become more stable, peaceful, and developed. This is an opportunity we need to utilize.

Maubin's village concrete road construction inspected

THE Maubin Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ayeyawady Region, held meetings with local residents on the village concrete road projects completed under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Yaykyaw Village and Kanyinthonepin Village, Maubin Township, yesterday.

Maubin Township Department of Rural Development head U Tang Gyi and responsible officials explained to villagers in Yaykyaw Village and Kanyinthonepin Village the completion status of the development works, the utilization of project funds and the quality of the works, and received and discussed the views and suggestions of those in attendance.



Officials oversee the ongoing village concrete road construction in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region.

The concrete roads constructed in the two villages are 430 feet in length, eight feet in width and six inches in thickness. Each village project was implemented by local residents themselves with the participation of the community, using VDP support funds of K15 million per village, and the projects have now been complet-

ed 100 per cent and are expected to improve transport for 304 households with a population of 1,270 in Yaykyaw Village and 189 households with a population of 745 in Kanyinthonepin Village, thereby contributing significantly to their socioeconomic development. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Authorities ban motorcycle sidecars, limiting registration to factory three-wheelers

NO plan to register over 80,000 motorcycle sidecars in Yangon, but to be licensed after replacement with three-wheeled motorcycles.

More than 80,000 motorcycle sidecars currently operating in the Yangon Region cannot be officially registered or licensed because they were not legally imported into the country. If legally imported three-wheeled motorcycles are used as replacements, permits and licences will be issued in compliance with the laws of the Road Transport Administration Department. This was stated by Colonel Win Tint, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

He replied to the questions raised by U Min Thein Tun, representative 1 of Mayangon Township, during the sixth day of the second regular meeting of the Third Yangon Region

Hluttaw held on 22 June.

There are an estimated 82,354 sidecar motorcycles in Yangon Region. However, since all of them were illegally imported and subsequently modified within the country, there are no plans to grant them official registration. On the other hand, there are currently 7,260 legally imported three-wheeled motorcycles, including brands such as Baja and Dongfeng. These vehicles are permitted to operate with a Class-B driving licence, and licences have already been issued to 1,739 drivers.

The Road Transport Administration Department has been registering imported motorcycles and motorcycles assembled domestically under the Semi Knocked Down (SKD) system. As of April 2026, a total of 118,988 motorcycles and 7,260 three-wheeled vehi-



This photo shows licensed three-wheeled bikes.

cles had been registered in Yangon Region.

Although motorcycle sidecars are prohibited within the municipal areas of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), they are allowed to operate throughout the country. Their use first emerged around 2013 in Mon State and Taninthayi Region, which share borders with Thailand, primarily for transporting goods. They later spread to suburban areas of Bago Region and Yangon Region, where they gradually replaced traditional passenger trishaws and hand-pulled cargo carts after being modified for local use. — TWA/KTZH

MTF clears runway for direct Yangon-Phnom Penh flights

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under the six-country Mekong cooperation framework will enhance tourist arrivals to the member countries.
“First of all, we are trying to operate direct flights with Cambodia. It

is because Cambodia receives a large number of tourists annually. Angkor Wat alone attracts about four to five million tourists a year. So, the direct flight connectivity with Cambodia is expected to boost tourist arrivals

in Myanmar. Bilateral to multilateral initiatives in the Mekong Region will bring about tourism development,” said U Yan Win.
Furthermore, direct flights connecting Myanmar, Cambodia and

Thailand will enable triangular tourism. It is expected that domestic and foreign tourists will flock to Myanmar’s destinations in the upcoming peak season. The federation is observing the tourism promotion plans

of other countries, how they are implementing them, and how they are sourcing funding.
Myanmar hosted the Mekong Tourism Forum for the six Mekong countries on 14-19 June. Industry leaders

and representatives from the national tourism authorities of Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as international tourism professionals, attended the discussions.
— ASH/KK

CBM sells US\$1M to edible oil, CMP companies on 22 June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$890,500 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$130,000 to CMP companies on 22 June.
CBM sold over \$2.88 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$84,000 to CMP companies on 19 June.
CBM sold over \$26,000 to CMP companies on 18 June and \$1.13 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$170,000 to CMP companies on 17 June.
CBM sold 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.
CBM sold over \$1.62 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$8,617 to CMP companies on 12 June, along with over \$2,600 in non-trade transactions.
CBM has been injecting US dollars to the edible oil-importing companies,

with \$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 sector, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining 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. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



A facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Clean Tourism Sectors Vital for Investor Trust



Attendees are seen at the anti-corruption awareness talk.

TO gain the trust of investors in the international tourism sector, hotel and tourism businesses must be free from corruption, stated Daw Myat Su Thin, director of the Anti-Corruption Commission Office (Yangon).

She made these remarks during an anti-corruption awareness talk held on 22 June at Yatha Condominium in Pabedan Township, Yangon, which was intended to help hotel business owners better understand the nature of

corruption.
The event was jointly organized by the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and the Anti-Corruption Commission Office (Yangon).
Director Daw Myat Su Thin explained that an-

ti-corruption efforts are of vital importance, and U Thein Win, Chairman of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Yangon Zone), urged that collaborative efforts are required.
The ceremony was attended by U Nay Min Tun, minister of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs of the Yangon Region Government, officials, as well as business owners from approximately 100 hotels.
Currently, there are over 500 hotel businesses in the Yangon Zone, and anti-corruption awareness sessions will continue to be held for those who have not yet attended. — TWA/ZN

Thailand extends zero-tariff maize import for 2 months

THAILAND extended the zero-tariff maize import deadline for two months, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.
Thailand earlier gave the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form D), between 1 February and 30 June. Thailand imposes the maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of its growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand. At present, Thailand has extended the deadline up

to the end of August.
Maize is the second most important crop after rice in Myanmar’s agricultural sector and is a potential cash crop. Maize is commonly grown in Shan State, Kayah State, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. Monsoon maize is cultivated in May and June, while winter maize is grown in October and November.
Maize is an essential raw material in the feed processing industry. It is a crop with steady international demand. Maize is utilized in producing

corn starch, oil and sugar-substitute sweeteners. Furthermore, some countries convert maize into biofuel (ethanol) for automobiles.
Myanmar’s maize is highly in demand by Thailand, China, Vietnam and the Philippines due to its premium quality. It is also purchased by India and Bangladesh. Millions of tonnes are delivered to neighbouring countries through border checkpoints, generating a foreign income for the country. As maize is easy to cultivate and has a strong

market, the crop will contribute to farmers and the nation’s economy upon systematic cultivation.
Myanmar expects to export 1.3 million tonnes of maize in the 2026-2027 financial year beginning 1 April. Maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three maize seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. Myanmar’s annual maize output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK

OPINION

Pay taxes to the State as responsible citizens

FOR the functioning of a government's administrative machinery, the financial resources that need to be allocated and spent are operated through tax revenues collected from various sources. In order to run such operations, taxes are collected from taxpayers who have a specified level of income, and these revenues are then used for development activities, thereby contributing to the advancement of the country.

Under the current tax system, and in order to ensure the collection of tax revenues and the receipt of rightful tax income, Myanmar's taxation system under the 2008 Constitution is structured into three levels: taxes collected at the Union level, taxes collected at the regional and state government level, and taxes collected at the municipal level. The State and the respective levels of organizations are also required to use the tax revenues collected effectively for the benefit of the State and the people.

Taxpayers, therefore, are responsible for paying the various taxes collected by the State accurately and on time. By fulfilling this obligation, they are contributing to national development as responsible citizens. Likewise, government officials responsible for tax collection must ensure proper assessment and collection of taxes, accurate remittance to the State, identification of new taxpayers without imposing undue burden on existing taxpayers, and adherence to anti-corruption principles.

i-Banking, Mobile Payment, IRD's Tax Payment Hub, and other mobile payment options. Likewise, the Customs Department uses the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System, and arrangements have been made to enable the payment of customs duties and other taxes through Internet Banking and Mobile Banking.

Taxpayers, therefore, are responsible for paying the various taxes collected by the State accurately and on time. By fulfilling this obligation, they are contributing to national development as responsible citizens. Likewise, government officials responsible for tax collection must ensure proper assessment and collection of taxes, accurate remittance to the State, identification of new taxpayers without imposing undue burden on existing taxpayers, and adherence to anti-corruption principles.

SOME experts writing about international developments come to the conclusion that multipolarity has emerged sooner than many were ready for it. The speed of change is so high that even the boldest forecasts often materialize in real time.

President Vladimir Putin said at the plenary session of the 22nd annual meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in October 2025 that "multipolarity has in fact already emerged." The pillars of a polycentric world are already in place, but the structure itself remains flexible. There are several independent centres where systemically significant decisions are made. The most important of these are the United States, China and Russia. India is developing its overall capacity. Brazil, Indonesia, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and several other major countries are strengthening their international standing, and their influence is acquiring a transregional scope. Continental Europe has placed its bets on fighting Russia, and as a result, it is losing its chance to be independent in global affairs.

The increasing Western pressure has faced all independent states with a choice between staying on course towards sovereignty and consolidation, and becoming the territory of the external forces' "game" and settlement of scores. The unique geopolitical community of South-East Asian nations is facing this dilemma as well.

South-East Asia

Southeast Asia is a diverse region with a complex cultural and religious landscape. There are four major language families and three world religions here. Ancestral religious practices, such as the cult of ancestors, spirits defending communities, and animism, intertwined and became woven into the fabric of external religious systems and other cultures, including the Chinese Confucian, Indian Buddhist, and Arab Muslim cultures. This offered people a broader vision and promoted tolerance towards people of other faiths and persuasions. A distinct identity gradually took shape. Instead of replacing and erasing the traditional views people held there, it supplemented and

South-East Asia in the Multipolar World

An excerpt from the article "South-East Asia in the Multipolar World" by Russian Foreign Ministry's Foreign Policy Planning Department Director Alexey Drobinin and Deputy Director Maria Khodynskaya-Golenishcheva for the journal "Russia in Global Affairs", 3 April 2026

enriched them.

South-East Asia presents a patchwork of state systems, including elective and hereditary monarchies.

During the colonial period, five powers carved up South-East Asia, preventing it from developing a common identity across this space and a feeling of belonging together.

At first sight, bringing all these different states within a single community should have been a major challenge. However, as aptly noted by Russian scholars, "despite all the differences setting Southeast Asian countries apart from one another, anyone travelling there cannot fail to notice their common denominator, which includes their everyday lives, their social networks, including patron-client relationships, the role of the family, mutual assistance within groups, and collective decision-making, as well as art and behavioural culture." Recognizing a South-East Asian in a crowd of foreigners is just as easy as spotting a Russian.

ASEAN as the political and economic linchpin of South-East Asia

The region's intellectual elites constructed a pan-regional identity consciously, taking into account existing differences and aiming to create a foundation for joint development and resistance to external challenges.

This latter aspect resonates with the thesis of Arnold Toynbee, a pioneer of the civilizational approach to historical study, who posited that civilizations emerge in response to historical challenges. Indeed, the events of the Cold War provided impetus for the political and economic consolidation of South-East Asia. Unwilling to be drawn into the rivalry of superpowers, Indonesia and Burma (now Myanmar) were among the initiators of the 1955 Bandung Conference, which paved the way



The 22nd ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials Meeting held in Kazan, Russia, on 21 April 2026, under the banner of the 35th anniversary of Russia-ASEAN relations, with a Commemorative Summit scheduled for 17-19 June 2026 in Kazan. **SOURCE: RUSSIAN MFA**

for the Non-Aligned Movement. The necessity of survival in a bipolar confrontation spurred the realization of the importance of pooling resources within a regional framework. Thus, the idea of establishing the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), founded in 1967, was born.

The philosophical foundation of cooperation within the Association was the concept of Asian values. These values include the rejection of extreme individualism, respect for leadership, the elevated role of the family, thrift, diligence, and teamwork. The state's key function is to ensure stability, while the primary goal of economic modernization is to improve the welfare of the population. These non-confrontational approaches align closely with Russian political and societal mentality.

After the Cold War, the ruling circles of ASEAN nations faced the challenge of preserving their geopolitical identity. This served as a catalyst for enhancing the community's resilience, which was impossible without establishing common principles of interaction within ASEAN. Over time, the Association's hallmark became its rules of coexistence, which include decision-making by consensus, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, the use of informal dialogue channels to resolve disputes, and shared responsibility for regional issues. A distinctive format of discussions emerged – the ASEAN Way – devoid of protocol formalities and binding decisions, instead fostering gradual alignment on a wide range of developmental and security issues. Terms such as the "ASEAN Spirit" and the "ASEAN Path" entered the lexicon. Local experts argue that this pragmatic approach has been instrumental in overcoming challenges and achieving solidarity.

It is pertinent to address the related question of how regional strategists envision the emerging world order. Looking ahead, some South-East Asian experts lean towards a triumvirate model – a tri-polar construct where Russia, China, and the United States would serve as the central powers. This scenario is met with apprehension by regional political analysts, who warn that such an arrangement

of interstate relations could be inherently confrontational, potentially spurring the formation of competing alliances.

Expanding on this theme, analysts conclude that in a context where major powers fail to agree on how to uphold the stability of the international system, "middle powers – those with sufficient economic and financial firepower – may be candidates to take over the role of great powers. And middle powers that are not on the front lines of great rivalries." It is posited that these middle states will create a safety net of cooperation to shield the world from geopolitical upheavals. This thesis resonates at the official level as well. Reflecting on the transition to a "post-American multipolar world order," Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong emphasized the growing significance of small and medium-sized states and implied that the aggressive tariff policies of the United States under Donald Trump had spurred ASEAN leaders to reinforce the Association's unity more vigorously.

Allow us to express the view that, in a multipolar world, the most effective way for small and medium-sized states to advance their external interests is through a unified centre of power. In this regard, South-East Asian nations can rely on ASEAN. The Association exemplifies a geopolitical community of countries and peoples coexisting in a shared space and united by developmental interests. Despite the inevitable disagreements within this "big family", it strives to act as a subject of world politics on the international stage, recognizing the imperative of consolidation to counter both external and internal challenges.

From past problems to new challenges

ASEAN is once again facing serious challenges, many of which stem from long-term trends that we had long forecast. The multipolar world order that is taking shape right before our eyes is being rejected by countries accustomed to thinking in terms of global dominance and neocolonialism, and they are making deliberate attempts to contain their geopolitical competitors and limit their growth opportunities by pushing them out of global and regional markets and exerting pressure on them.

Such behaviour has become systemic and echoes in developments across the world, including Southeast Asia. We can see how certain external forces are now trying to reshape the region to serve their own interests, with the aim of weakening China and sideline Russia.

In practice, this policy is being implemented through attempts to divide ASEAN and fragment it militarily and politically. Efforts are being made to draw some member states into limited-format arrangements to work on the agenda of deterrence rather than regional security. In place of ASEAN's established inclusive mecha-

nisms, selective alliances such as AUKUS, the Quad, and various groups of three or four countries are being promoted. All of this creates risks for ASEAN's role as the geopolitical backbone of the region and, in the longer term and under unfavourable developments, could even threaten the emergence of Southeast Asia as a centre of power in the new global system.

The deployment of US intermediate-range missile systems and large-scale military exercises in the region are a serious destabilizing factor. Additional tensions are fuelled by NATO's claims to a leading role far beyond its area of responsibility. The NATO summit in Madrid in 2022 declared "cooperative security" in the Euro-Atlantic and in what they refer to as the Indo-Pacific region. The alliance is using this disingenuous slogan to expand into South-East and North-East Asia thus increasing the potential for conflict in the South China Sea, the Taiwan Strait, and the East China Sea, as well as on the Korean Peninsula.

ASEAN also remains under significant political pressure from the West over the Ukraine crisis. Since 2022, persistent efforts have been made to persuade it to take a side on this issue. Most ASEAN members, however, have maintained friendly or neutral positions and do not participate in anti-Russia geopolitical gamesmanship.

Unscrupulous external actors view South-East Asia as a strategic region that, if properly controlled, could provide significant advantages amid intensifying competition for global economic and technological leadership. Instead, all parties should be working to build equal and mutually beneficial partnerships with ASEAN countries, which is precisely the approach pursued by Russian diplomacy.

In addition to external challenges, ASEAN faces internal ones as well. The domestic political situation in Myanmar is one such challenge that attracts attention. The Association has established the position of Special Envoy for Myanmar. There is also ASEAN's Five-Point Statement of 2021. Much has been done to address the issue during Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN chairmanship. Some local analysts

caution against excessive reliance on the region's own efforts to resolve conflicts, suggesting instead that such matters be referred to the United Nations.

We cannot agree with such an approach, because the role of the UN in addressing domestic political issues is, at the very least, highly questionable. Moreover, the posts of the relevant UN Secretary-General's special representatives are, as a rule, taken by Western nationals or individuals with dual citizenship (one of which is Western). In an era of regionalisation of world politics, civilizational communities must be capable of independently finding workable solutions to conflicts within their respective spheres. In this regard, we can only welcome ASEAN's desire to address the crisis around Myanmar without external dictat on the basis of constructive dialogue with that country's authorities.

Another necessary attribute of a civilization aspiring to the status of a pole in a multipolar world is the ability to maintain inter-civilizational contacts. ASEAN has mastered this instrument well. A system of dialogue formats has formed around the Association, with the East Asia summits serving as its core. Direct contacts with influential regional organizations are expanding. Relations have been established with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. For us, it is important that ASEAN-SCO cooperation is viewed by South-East Asian experts through the prism of building bridges between ASEAN and the integration associations from continental Eurasia.

ASEAN places great emphasis on strengthening ties with BRICS. One member of the Association – Indonesia – is a full participant, while Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia hold partner status. Analysts in South-East Asia note that, as intensifying US-China differences narrow ASEAN's room for neutrality, BRICS helps it avoid being caught between a rock and a hard place. Strengthening the fabric of inter-civilizational contacts is undoubtedly a key element in the process of building a polycentric world.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

Yangon public buildings set for July earthquake resilience blitz



This general view shows the Yangon General Hospital, which was built in 1899 during the British colonial period.

INSPECTIONS to assess the earthquake and disaster resilience of schools, hospitals, and office buildings in Yangon Region will begin on 1 July to categorize them by risk level, according to Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Myo Myint Aung.

The minister provided this update on the sixth day of the second regular session of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 22 June, in response to a question from U Kyaw Min Htet, the representative for the Kyauktada Township Constituency 2. The project will be

implemented by the Yangon City Development Committee’s Engineering Department (Buildings), in collaboration with the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Myanmar Earthquake Committee. “We have planned to start the earthquake

and natural disaster inspection and testing processes on 1 July to systematically inspect schools, hospitals, and office buildings and categorize them by their risk levels,” he said. Furthermore, discussions are underway with the relevant engineering departments to prioritize reconstruction efforts based on the structures’ risk level.

Section 51 of the Yangon City Development Law stipulates that a building is considered hazardous if it is deemed unfit for use. Despite their buildings not being classified as hazardous, owners have been instructed to carry out repairs to visibly deteriorating ones as soon as possible, under the close supervision of Registered Construction Engineers, the minister added. — TWA/ZN

Mandalay Thein Zaw’s Golden Jubilee Thabin Festival set for 2-day run

IN commemoration of the 50th anniversary of his career in Myanmar theatrical industry, a legendary Thabin artiste Mandalay Thein Zaw will celebrate a unique theatrical festival which has been planned to hold for two days on 27 and 28 June at the National Theatre in Yangon.

Senior and junior artists from Thabin, music and film industries—Sithu Daw Tin Tin Mya, Academy Daw Cho Pyone, Mandalay Sein Tint Lwin, Director Nyein Min, Than Myat Soe and Maung Thein Win, as well as Soe Sandar Tun, May

Thet Htar Swe, Wint Theingi, Khine Thazin Thin, Moe Pyae Pyae Maung, O Pyae Shin, Ei Ei Chon, Aye Aye Myint Aung, Thet Hmue Hay Thi, Khine Zar Thway, Nan Win (Nan Thabin), Chan Thar (Shwe Mahn Thabin), Moe Win (San Pya Thabin) and Aung Zabu Thabin will perform at the festival.

Fans can order tickets online at <https://theinzaw-goldenjubilee.com/> and Viber at 09 941144500 and 09 968683555. Tickets are sold through a QR code system and can only be used once, so the event organizers recommend not sharing the tickets with anyone. The event will start at 6 pm while the performance will last 5 hours. The ticket prices are set at K100,000, K200,000 and K300,000. Tickets will be sold until the start of the event on 27 June. — Oktha/MKKS



PHOTO - KO LWIN

Dekkhinathiri’s pipe culvert structures inspected

THE Dekkhinathiri Township Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area conducted a field inspection yesterday morning to review the completion status of pipe culvert structures constructed along the rural product transport road in Shwepyi Village.

Lewe District Department of Rural Development Head U Myo Tint, accompanied by the Dekkhinathiri Township Department of Rural Development Head and project staff, observed the progress of two pipe culvert structures along the rural product transport road in Shwepyi Village. The district head also met members of



This image captures the completed status of the pipe culvert structure along the rural product transport road in Dekkhinathiri Township.

the rural product transport road development committee to check the implementation, urged villagers to ensure the long-term sustainability of the constructed culverts, and systematically managed the necessary requirements to prevent losses.

The project was implemented in the village

with an initial funding of K8.18 million for the 2026-2027 financial year, enabling village project members to successfully transport agricultural products to markets more efficiently and at lower cost with a total revolving fund allocation of K8.18 million at low interest rates, according to reports. — Karan (Rural)

Tachilek’s village concrete road construction inspected

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

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

Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Thinn first explained the implementation of the village concrete road project in Huaykhaik Village. The village administrator then delivered words of appreciation before State

Hluttaw representatives and district and township officials formally opened the new concrete road by cutting the ceremonial ribbon at the entrance arch and inspected the road.

The project was implemented for the 2026-2027 financial year, using VDP support funds of K15 million together with public contributions, and village residents them-

selves began implementation in the first week of May this year with technical support and close supervision from the department, which has now been completed 100 per cent and will enable rural residents to travel conveniently in all seasons while contributing to the socioeconomic development of the community. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



The opening ceremony of a new concrete village road in Tachilek Township.

NATIONAL

Raging waters splinter
Pathein Riverwalk
with 130-foot crack



A view of the pedestrian platform and square near Strand Road on the Pathein Riverside, part of which the Ngawun River damaged.

THE force of the river current caused a 130-foot-long fissure in the promenade and public square area along the Ngawun River near Strand Road, a popular recreational spot in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.

Due to the area’s frequent use by local residents for relaxation and daily exercise, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw directed officials on 22 June to take immediate action to ensure public safety. He also instructed them to expedite repairs to the damaged section of the area.

Temporary barriers and warning signs have been installed around the affected area. In addition, the Ayeyawady Region Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department, in coordination with nearby engineering teams, is expediting the necessary protective works to prevent further damage to the riverbanks and retaining walls caused by the Ngawun River. — TWA/MKKS

Frontline troops welcomed home
in Kayah after operations

FRONTLINE soldiers returning after carrying out security and operational duties in the Pru-hso-Bawlakhe-Pasawng areas were warmly welcomed at a ceremony held yesterday afternoon at a local battalion in Pru-hso Township, Kayah State.

The event honoured servicemen described as “victorious frontline returnees” who had served in operations aimed at maintaining national stability, territorial security, and local peace in the region. The welcoming ceremony was attended



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are seen being warmly welcomed back in Kayah State.

by military officers, soldiers and their families, local officials, teachers, students, and ethnic cultural troupes.

Attendees greeted the returning troops with

traditional Myanmar symbols of honour such as Aungthabyay (Eugenia sprig) branches and flower garlands, along with traditional music, dance, and performanc-

es. The celebration highlighted appreciation for their service in ensuring safety, stability, and the protection of local livelihoods and property. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar deports 3 Indian entrants

MYANMAR deported three Indians involved in telecom fraud, gambling and other criminal activities in Kay-in State, via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge 2 yesterday.

The relevant officials facilitated the repatriation processes of illegal infiltrators.

Between 30 January 2025 and 23 June 2026, a total of 14,718 illegal

immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,553 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries.

Among the remaining 1,165 individuals to be deported, there are 662 who were charged under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1)

and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 503 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

Shwe Kokko blitz: Controlled blasts
flatten scam, gambling dens

An illicit scam-related seven-storey structure is seen following the demolition.



ILLEGAL structures used for online scams and gambling activities in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas of Myawady Township, Kayin State, have been continuously demolished, and related equipment has been systematically destroyed by combined departmental teams.

A seven-storey illegal residential building in the Shwe Kokko area was reportedly demolished yesterday using controlled blasting.

Of a total of 77 buildings identified for demolition in the Shwe Kokko area, 57 were des-

ignated for mechanical demolition and 20 for controlled blasting. Of the 20 buildings scheduled for blasting, one seven-storey building was demolished yesterday using controlled explosives.

To date, a total of 63 illegal buildings used for online scam and gambling activities have been systematically demolished. The remaining 14 buildings will continue to be dismantled in accordance with established procedures. — MNA/KZL

MOHA launches 24/7 social
media hunt for fake news

THE Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) announced that authorities are conducting 24-hour monitoring and surveillance of social media platforms to address the posting of fake news, misinformation, inappropriate content, and politically motivated attacks. This statement was made by Home Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Min Thu.

The response was given on the 10th day of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw held on 18 June, addressing a starred question raised by Daw Than Than Aye, the Hluttaw representative from the Thingangyun constituency. The question was whether there were measures to take action

against them. Maj-Gen Min Thu stated, “The posting of fake news, misinformation, inappropriate content, and politically motivated attacks online is already prohibited by law. Currently, we are performing 24-hour monitoring and surveillance, and are actively identifying and taking legal action against offenders.”

According to the deputy minister’s remarks, individuals who use social media to incite violence or spread misinformation are being investigated and prosecuted under existing laws, including Sections 50 and 52 of the 2014 Counter-Terrorism Law and Section 505 (a) of the Penal Code. — TWA/ZN

ARTICLE/ECONOMY
WORLD

Iranian envoy says Strait of Hormuz fully open without charges

ALI Bahreini, Iranian ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) Office at Geneva, announced on Tuesday that the Strait of Hormuz is fully open to commercial vessels without tolls.

Bahreini said that the situation will be reviewed after 60 days, depending on negotiations between Iran and the United States (US).

Iranian and US negotiators have concluded a first round of talks on implementing the Islam-

abad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by the two sides in Switzerland last week. Under the MoU, Iranian assets will be unfrozen by the US, said Bahreini.



This photo taken on 20 June 2026 shows the Strait of Hormuz near Khasab, a small town in northern Oman. PHOTO: XINHUA

Indonesia prepares vocational training for 50,000 laid-off workers

THE Indonesian government is preparing a vocational training programme for 50,000 laid-off workers and 220,000 high school graduates in the second half of this year, according to the Ministry of Manpower.

“The internship and vocational training programmes are important to improve workforce skills so workers are better prepared to meet industry needs,” Minister of Manpower Yassierli said on Monday.

— Xinhua

ECB warns euro area outlook remains uncertain despite Mideast peace deal

THE euro area economic outlook remains uncertain, with inflation facing upside risks and economic growth tilted to the downside, despite a recent peace agreement in the Middle East, European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde warned on Monday.

Speaking at a hearing of the European Parliament’s Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs in Brussels, Lagarde said the Middle East conflict has already pushed up energy prices, lifted inflation

and weighed on economic activity in the euro area.

“The outlook remains uncertain, with upside risks for inflation and downside risks for economic growth,” Lagarde said.

She welcomed the peace agreement in the Middle East, but cautioned that the situation remains fragile, with risks of setbacks or renewed escalation.

The full implications of the war for medium-term inflation and growth, she said, will de-

pend on the intensity and duration of the energy price shock, as well as the scale of its indirect and second-round effects.

Euro area inflation rose to 3.2 per cent in May from 3.0 per cent in April, driven mainly by higher energy inflation, which exceeded 10 per cent in both April and May.

Meanwhile, inflation excluding energy and food also increased to 2.6 per cent in May, partly reflecting the initial indirect effects of higher energy prices. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 17 April 2025 shows flags of the European Union in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. PHOTO: XINHUA

South-East Asia in the Multipolar World

FROM PAGE 9

Russia and South-East Asia

Our country and the states of South-East Asia share a rich history of bilateral cooperation. This includes the visit of the King of Siam to Saint Petersburg in the late 19th century; the Soviet Union’s large-scale assistance to the national liberation movements of Vietnam, Laos, and Indonesia in the

second half of the 20th century, the construction of major industrial facilities across South-East Asia, and the creation of entirely new economic sectors in some of its states.

In 2005, over 20 years ago, the first Russia-ASEAN summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, elevating our dialogue to a fundamentally new level and cementing its comprehensive nature. In 2018, the partnership was officially

granted strategic status.

Today, Russia remains a reliable friend to the countries of South-East Asia. Our relations are unburdened by either a colonial past or long-standing disagreements. Our country is perceived not only as a centre of power but also as a time-tested provider of security: energy security through projects in the hydrocarbon, hydropower, and nuclear sectors;

food security through agricultural supplies; information security through the provision of information and communications technology solutions; and physical security through military-technical cooperation. This list, of course, is far from exhaustive.

Russia, in turn, views ASEAN as a like-minded partner, united by a shared commitment to broad international cooperation grounded in the

UN Charter in its entirety and interrelated integrity.

For our part, we are committed to preserving an ASEAN-centric security architecture in South-East Asia. In this context, we view the Association as a partner in implementing the initiative to create a Eurasian security architecture, put forward by the Russian President in 2024. A constructive bilateral political dialogue on this topic has been established with virtually all ASEAN countries, and representatives of individual member states participated in the

3rd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security (28-29 October 2025), organized by our Belarusian friends.

Viewing the Association as an integral part of Greater Eurasia, Russia is open to cooperation with ASEAN in the interests of resolving and preventing regional conflicts and ensuring comprehensive protection of national and regional security.

(Views and opinions expressed in this article solely belong to the author).

Tokyo stocks plunge, Nikkei ends below 70,000, on overheating concerns

TOKYO stocks plunged Tuesday, with the Nikkei stock index ending below the 70,000 line after snapping an eight-day winning streak as early gains were erased amid concerns about market overheating.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 2,565.58 points, or 3.55 per cent, from Monday at 69,788.38. The broader Topix index finished 104.67 points, or 2.56 per cent, lower at 3,990.38.

On the top-tier Prime Market, the main decliners were nonferrous metal, electric appliance and information and communication issues.

The US dollar briefly hit 161.93 yen in New York overnight, nearing a level last seen in December 1986, before retreating to the lower 161 yen range on caution over possible intervention by Japanese authorities after Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent held an online meeting.

The dollar gained strength in Tokyo, trading in the upper 161 yen zone in the afternoon.

The Nikkei stock index opened higher but soon erased its gains and turned lower as investors locked in profits after it had gained more than 8,100 points during its eight-day winning streak. — Kyodo

China unveils measures to boost auto consumption

CHINA on Tuesday rolled out a package of new measures aimed at expanding automobile consumption across the industrial chain, with a particular focus on reforms in auto circulation and steps to boost the auto aftermarket.

According to a circular jointly issued by eight departments, including the Ministry of Commerce, 40 cities nationwide have been designated as pilot areas for auto circulation reforms, each with priorities tailored to their local conditions.

The cities, including Tianjin, Shenyang and Yangzhou, are tasked with addressing bottlenecks such as unreasonable restrictions in auto circulation and consumption, improving reform and innovation measures, and cultivating new consumption scenarios, business forms and models, the



Visitors experience an AITO M9 SUV on display during the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Auto Show 2026 in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on 29 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

circular said.

Separately, another circular jointly issued by nine departments rolled out multiple measures to boost the auto aftermarket, covering areas such as the orderly regulation of vehicle modification, support for the recreational vehicle (RV) camping sector, new business models for classic cars, and the promotion of motorsports.

The country will promote vehicle modi-

fication through graded and category-based management, the circular said, adding that it will support the RV camping sector by optimizing road access policies and streamlining land-use approvals for campsites.

Official data showed that China's auto sales totalled 12.207 million units in the first five months of 2026, with NEV sales reaching 5.802 million units, up 3.5 per cent year on year. —Xinhua

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by Zhejiang E-Tong Chemical Co.,Ltd and distributed by Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Pawn One	Shwe Lin Yone	F2018-1489

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

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

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below pesticides, registered by Bayer AG, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from Marga Min Co., Ltd. to Coral Agri Trading Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1	Movento 240 SC	Spirotetramat 240 g/L SC	Full	F2024-2349
2	Ronstar 250 EC	Oxadiazon 250 g/L EC	Full	FF2024-353
3	Antracol 70 WP	Propineb 70% WP	Full	FF2020-488

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)- PH : 01-8382710

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below fungicide, registered by Bayer AG, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch) to Coral Agri Trading Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1	Moon Experience	Fluopyram 200g/l + Tebuconazole 200g/l SC	Full	F2023-2343

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)- PH : 01-8382710

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B81RS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B81RS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0051N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0051N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2026** 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: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3611S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3611S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2026** 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: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Red Cross sounds European heatwave health alarm

THE intense heat gripping Europe can quickly become be a matter of life and death for the most vulnerable in society, the Red Cross warned Tuesday.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the world's largest humanitarian network, said that besides the sweltering outdoor temperatures, indoor heat was also a serious health risk.

"The coming days pose serious health risks," Mary Friel, the IFRC's senior climate policy officer, told a press conference in Geneva.

"For thousands of people across Europe, extreme temperatures,



This photograph taken through a window shows the Eiffel Tower with a giant screen announcing its early closing due to heatwave in Paris on 23 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

without action, can quickly become a matter of life and death.

"IFRC is urging people to take this heatwave seriously and to look out for those most at risk to save lives."

The network urged

people to stay connected to heat alerts, follow advice from local authorities and check in on those who may be at higher risk.

Friel said the "most extreme impacts" were felt by vulnerable groups including the elderly,

children, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses, outdoor workers and the homeless.

National Red Cross societies were carrying out house calls, setting up cooling stations in cities, providing first aid and sharing practical advice, she said.

"Early action saves lives and we encourage everyone to act," said Friel.

"Indoor heat is often a hidden threat, especially for people with limited mobility and underlying health conditions," she added.

Heat stress, especially for such groups, was a "deadly, often a silent killer, invisible".

— AFP

Iran, Oman affirm sovereignty over Hormuz Strait arrangements, to discuss navigation management via joint team

IRAN and Oman issued a joint statement on Tuesday affirming their commitment to ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, stressing that all arrangements relating to the waterway "must fully respect their sovereignty and sovereign rights".

The two countries agreed to continue discussions through a joint working team between their foreign ministries to reach an understanding on the future management of navigation in the strait and the related charging service "costs," read the statement.

The statement followed talks in Oman's Muscat between Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, and senior Omani officials.

— Xinhua

Sri Lanka bans junk food in schools due to health concerns

SRI Lanka began enforcing a ban on fast food and sweets in schools on Tuesday to tackle what the government says are rising cases of diabetes and heart disease in children.

Much of Sri Lanka's population lives below the poverty line, and many children still do not receive enough to eat.

But the island nation increasingly faces the opposite problem, with officials warning that more and more children are becoming overweight or obese.

Public health inspectors said on Tuesday they had started to implement guidelines issued by the education ministry this week prohibiting schools from providing food containing high levels of sugar, salt and fat.

— AFP

Canada unveils strategy to boost nuclear energy development

CANADA on Monday released a new strategy to boost its nuclear energy development, according to Natural Resources Canada, the federal department responsible for the development and use of the country's natural resources.

According to the strategy, Canada plans to enable the construction of up to 10 new large-scale nuclear reactors across the country. Among them, two reactors are scheduled to be under construction by 2035, with an additional five either planned or under development by 2040.

The strategy also outlines plans to advance the deployment of small modular reactors and demonstrate a Canadian microreactor by 2035 for deployment to remote communities in the late 2030s.

— Xinhua

Indonesia, Russia begin moving to expand settlements in national currencies

RUSSIA and Indonesia have already begun moving towards expanding the use of national currencies in mutual trade to reduce risks from global financial pressure, Indonesian Industry Minister Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita said in an interview with Sputnik and RT.

"To reduce the risks of global financial pressure, we have already begun moving toward trade between Russia and Indonesia using

local currencies or our Indonesian Local Currency Settlement scheme," the minister said. Expanding



The 200 and 2,000 rouble banknotes. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

settlements in national currencies could give additional impetus to bilateral cooperation, the minister said. The development of national currency settlement mechanisms could be part of broader agreements between Moscow and Jakarta, he added.

"Ultimately, all of this will lead to broader arrangements between Russia and Indonesia," the minister said.

— SPUTNIK

Confirmed Ebola cases in DR Congo rise to 1,048

THE number of confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has risen to 1,048, including 267 deaths, according to the latest report released Monday by the country's

health authorities.

According to the report, covering data as of Sunday, 371 patients were in isolation or hospitalized, while 112 people had recovered. A total of 202 suspected cases, in-

cluding 60 deaths, were identified as of Sunday. The overall case fatality rate stood at 25.5 per cent.

The report said the number of confirmed cases has continued to rise

week by week, indicating ongoing community transmission. It warned that a rapid geographic spread remains possible if public health measures are not implemented promptly.

— Xinhua

SPORTS

8 teams advance from MFF-Royal D U15 Mandalay qualifiers



Photos show teams that took part in the Mandalay Zone qualifiers.

THE Mandalay Zone qualifiers of the MFF-Royal D U15 League 2026, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation with Royal-D as the main sponsor, concluded successfully after three days of competition from 19 to 21 June, producing the eight teams that will compete in the second-round group stage.

In the final qualifying round, Bawgabala FC, Warm FC, Naypyitaw United FC and GE Mahar FC battled for the remaining place, with Bawgabala FC emerging as the successful side to secure progression.

Following the completion of the qualifiers, eight Mandalay Zone teams have confirmed their places in the sec-

ond round: STNM FC, Shwe Pay Leik FC, Sparrow FC, Anisakhan FC, Youth Soccer Future FC, Sagaing United FC, MFF Academy (Mandalay) U-14 and Bawgabala FC.

The Mandalay Zone group stage will be held from the first week of August until December on a home-and-away basis. After all zonal competitions conclude, the top eight teams nationwide with the highest points will qualify for the Grand Final tournament to compete for the championship title.

The Myanmar Football Federation said competition schedules and further details for the remaining Taunggyi and Mawlamyine zones will be announced in due course. — TWA/KZL

Nearly 100 gymnasts leap into action for Yangon Olympic Day

NEARLY 100 athletes took part in the 2026 International Olympic Day commemorative gymnastics competition, organized by the Myanmar Gymnastics Federation under the leadership of the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports, at the federation's training gym inside Kyaik-kasan Sports Ground, Tam-way Township, Yangon, on

21 June.

The event opened with remarks by Myanmar Gymnastics Federation President U Kaung Zaw, followed by musical performances by popular singer Ni Ni Khin Zaw.

After a demonstration performance by youth national gymnasts, competitions were held across men's and women's age-group categories. Around

100 gymnasts participated in various events showcasing strength, flexibility and technical skills.

At the conclusion of the competition, the federation chairman, Ni Ni Khin Zaw, along with other officials from the Myanmar Gymnastics Federation, awarded prizes to the winners of first, second, and joint third places. — Bala/KZL



Female gymnasts compete in the junior women's category.

Shan United, PUBG MOBILE forge official partnership

MYANMAR football powerhouse Shan United FC has announced an official partnership with the global mobile gaming title PUBG MOBILE under the slogan "Two Worlds, One Goal!", marking a notable collaboration between traditional football and the rapidly growing esports sector.

According to the club, the partnership aims to unite the competitive spirit and determination found on the football pitch



Shan United FC and PUBG MOBILE mark their official partnership with a commemorative photo.

with the excitement and innovation of esports, creating a shared platform for supporters of both communities. Shan United said the collaboration will introduce a series of unique programmes, fan engagement activities, and special crossover projects designed to offer fresh experiences to foot-

ball and gaming enthusiasts.

The club described the tie-up as a significant step towards bridging conventional sport and digital entertainment in Myanmar, adding that more details on upcoming campaigns and collaborative events will be announced in due course. Sports and gaming fans are closely watching to see what new initiatives will emerge from the partnership. — TWA/KZL

Itakura, teammates not getting ahead of themselves as Sweden game looms

JAPAN captain Ko Itakura appeared unconcerned Monday about who the Samurai Blue could face should they reach the World Cup knockout stage, with teammates Daizen Maeda and Kaishu Sano firmly focused on their final Group F match against Sweden.

Handed the captain's armband just three days before their opening match following the shock departure of Wataru Endo, Itakura was kept on the bench

for the 2-2 draw with the Netherlands but had a commanding outing in their 4-0 hammering of Tunisia on Saturday.

"There's no easy game whoever we face. While I personally want to play the (traditionally) strong nations at the World Cup, any teams we end up facing would be strong and I want us to overcome them each time," said Itakura, who is happy with the state of his team. — Kyodo



Japan captain Ko Itakura (3rd from R) trains with his teammates near Nashville, Tennessee, on 22 June 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Messi, Mbappe and Haaland set up Golden Boot showdown

LIONEL Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland all scored twice on Monday, turning the World Cup Golden Boot race into a showdown among three of football's biggest stars.

Messi, two days shy of his 39th birthday, struck both goals in Argentina's 2-0 victory over Austria at Dallas Stadium, taking his career World Cup tally to a record 18. The Argentina captain now leads the

tournament scoring chart with five goals from two matches. Hours later in Philadelphia, Mbappe followed suit, scoring twice as France beat Iraq 3-0 despite a nearly two-hour thunderstorm delay at halftime. The France captain, making his 100th international appearance, moved to 16 World Cup goals across three tournaments, drawing level with former record holder Miroslav Klose.

At New York New Jersey Stadium, Haaland scored twice as Norway defeated Senegal 3-2 to secure a place in the round of 32. Playing in his first World Cup, the 25-year-old now has four goals in two matches, level with Mbappe and one behind Messi in the Golden Boot standings. Mbappe, however, played down comparisons with Messi after France's victory over Iraq. — Xinhua



WORLD

India monsoon sweeps north but brings less rain than usual

LONG-AWAITED monsoon rains arrived in India's financial capital Mumbai on Tuesday, cooling weeks of blazing heat despite persistent fears of water shortages with total rainfall so far staying below the long-term average.

Hundreds of millions of people in India rely on the annual monsoon winds to bring vital rains that sustain agriculture and industry.

But climate change is making the country hotter and shifting weather patterns, and the presence of the El Nino weather phenomenon this year has brought warnings of lower rainfall.

As of Monday, India had received 60.6 millimetres (2.4 inches) of rainfall, 43 per cent less than the normal amount for this point in the season, according to weather department figures.

But there was some



A child enjoys during rainfall while going to school in Mumbai on 23 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

relief for Mumbai on Tuesday when the first downpours finally swept in, delighting many of the city's 22 million inhabitants even as some suburbs had to make do with light drizzle.

"The Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into remaining parts of central Arabian Sea, (and) some more parts of Maharashtra including Mumbai," the weather department said.

Warnings of a poten-

tially insufficient monsoon have raised alarm among farmers and policymakers.

Last week, authorities in Mumbai imposed restrictions on water use, cutting supplies to swimming pools and construction sites.

Some residents slept on beaches to gain respite from the sweltering nighttime conditions, in a dense city where many live without air conditioning.

The monsoon is a

colossal sea breeze that brings South Asia 70 to 80 per cent of its annual rainfall between June and September.

It sweeps north over several weeks, providing rain for farmers to plant their crops — a crucial lifeline for a sector that supports 45 per cent of people in the world's most populous country.

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Chouhan said this month that India would prepare contingency plans to help farmers endure potentially low rainfall linked to El Nino.

The naturally occurring climate phenomenon brings worldwide changes in winds, air pressure and rainfall patterns. In India and Southeast Asia, it typically causes drier conditions.

The last El Nino helped make 2023 and 2024 the two hottest years on record. — AFP

Iranian president says US talks hinge on full commitment to agreed obligations

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tuesday that the effectiveness of talks with the United States on a final agreement depends on "full commitment" to agreed obligations and their "precise" implementation.

In a post on social media platform X, Pezeshkian stressed the need to implement provisions of a recently-signed peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) rather than making statements beyond its scope.

"Statements outside the agreed text do not help advance the nego-

tiations," he said.

His remarks came after Iranian and US delegations held high-level consultations on the implementation of the MoU in Switzerland on Sunday, mediated by Pakistan and Qatar. Technical talks followed on Monday. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, who led the Iranian delegation in the technical talks, said early Tuesday that the parties agreed on arrangements for future negotiations, including the establishment of a High Level Committee to provide political oversight. — Xinhua

2026 Summer Davos Forum opens in NE China's Dalian

SCHEDULED from Tuesday to Thursday, the 2026 Summer Davos forum, officially known as the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, is expected to bring together over 1,700 participants from more than 90 countries and regions to explore how the world can navigate

global challenges while creating new opportunities for growth.

Under the theme of "Innovating at Scale", this year's meeting features discussions on topics including the next phase of China's economic trajectory and how to translate technological advances into real economic benefits. — Xinhua



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**

Chinese top diplomat highlights strengthening counterterrorism, cybersecurity cooperation at BRICS national security meeting

CHINESE top diplomat Wang Yi on Tuesday emphasized the role of BRICS countries in countering terrorism and safeguarding cybersecurity at a high-level BRICS meeting on national security held in New Delhi, India.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, is in New Delhi for the 16th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisers and High Representatives on National Security.

At present, the world is witnessing a new wave of international terrorist activities, said Wang. He noted that the root cause of this is the intensifying confrontation caused by unilateral actions and the increase in inter-civilization and inter-religion tensions. All BRICS countries are victims of terrorism, said Wang. He said that the bloc should focus on addressing both the symptoms and root causes, adopt comprehensive measures, strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, make good use of the working group

mechanism, and deepen intelligence sharing, coordination of operations, and experience exchange. It is also necessary to advance the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Chinese side will continue to organize training sessions, seminars and other activities under the framework of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group, said Wang.

Speaking of cybersecurity, Wang pointed out that new technologies, including artificial intelligence, are profoundly reshaping the cyberspace

landscape. Cybersecurity has become a global concern, and the global digital governance deficit is increasing.

BRICS countries should jointly safeguard international rules in cyberspace, oppose the deliberate creation of division and confrontation, promote the signing and ratification of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime by all countries as soon as possible, and actively participate in the international alliance against telecommunications and internet fraud, he said. — Xinhua