

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Myanmar-China Trade Expo Draws Crowds in Yangon

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Myanmar pockets US\$240,000 from honey exports in 2 months

Myanmar Urged to Scale Up as Major International Food Supplier

As the State prioritizes agricultural welfare, farmers are urged to maximize their cultivated acreage, boost overall productivity, and drive higher crop yields.

A policy must be implemented to promote the cultivation of fruits and crops suitable for and can thrive in each state and region, in order to achieve domestic self-sufficiency, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who chairs the Food Policy Commission, at the meeting hall of the President’s Office yesterday morning.

In his speech, the President underscored that food security is a key national policy. Food refers to all necessary food supplies, which should be sufficiently produced within the country itself at the respective state and region levels in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

He explained that there are over 33 million acres of cultivated land in Myanmar. Agricultural activities are being carried out on approximately 15 million acres for paddy, 1.9 million acres for maize,



President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the Food Policy Commission meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

2.7 million acres for pulses and beans, and four million acres for sesame.

He unveiled his vision that Myanmar must become a major

supplier and exporter of food to the international community.

He outlined that as oil crops are cultivated in the country, a policy must be formulated to

produce sufficient cooking oil at home. Moreover, efforts must be made to increase cultivation and production of wheat.

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New Fuel Reserve System Deployed to Shield Prices and Supply

TO ensure that the public can access energy at fair and reasonable prices and to prevent domestic fuel shortages, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is managing operations, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Naing Win stated.

He stated on the 14th day of the second regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw, held on 25 June, in response to a starred question regarding fuel raised by U Ko Ko Thin, the representative for the Kamayut constituency. The



This photo captures a fuel bowser refilling at a fuel storage depot.

question was about a robust strategic petroleum reserve system.

The deputy minister noted that domestic fuel

prices are systematically calculated and announced weekly. To combat rising costs, the State stabilizes the market by allocat-

ing foreign currency for high-demand fuel types and granting import tax exemptions.

The ministry is adopting policies to ensure economic security for both importers and end-users.

“We are implementing a robust strategic fuel reserve system to ensure no domestic fuel shortages and price stability, and we are also coordinating with relevant departments to regulate the import and distribution supply chains,” he said. — TWA/ZN

Pathein Lighthouse Awaits Historic Facelift via Open Tender

THE Myanma Port Authority invited companies to submit a tender for the major renovation of the Pathein Lighthouse, located on the Alguator Reef, approximately 15 nautical miles southwest of Mawtinsun Pagoda, Hainggyikyun sub-township, Ngaputaw District, Ayeyawady Region.

Time and weather have deteriorated the lighthouse’s internal staircases, pillars, doors, windows, reinforced concrete flooring and connecting 200-foot bridge. Consequently, ma-

ior restoration work will be executed through an open tender.

Interested companies can purchase tender applications by 14 July at the Myanma Port Authority (Head Office). The deadline for submitting applications is 1 pm on 16 July.

Businesspeople can enquire for further details through the Tender Committee of the Myanma Port Authority at 01 8246380, 01 8387117 (extension 211), 09 444714377, and 09 252710118. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Myanmar-China Trade Expo Draws Crowds in Yangon



This image features the opening ceremony of the Myanmar-China Trade and Investment Expo 2026.

WITH opportunities for trade and investment networking, the Myanmar-China Trade and Investment Expo 2026 is still in progress at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) on the campus of the Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon, from 26 to 28 June.

The opening ceremony of the 10th Agritech Myanmar, the 4th Food and Beverage, Horeca Myan-

mar 2026 and the Myanmar-China Trade and Investment Expo was held on the morning of 26 June. The event has been ongoing from 9 am to 5 pm.

At the expo, MSME products and services of more than 100 local Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), booths of Chinese businesses and industrial, agricultural, trade, technology and

other sectors have been exhibited. The event has offered opportunities for business matching and networking in the Myanmar-China trade and investment sector.

“More than 100 booths have been on display, the majority of which are Myanmar MSME products. China has brought technologies and networking opportunities, and we will share them with them. This expo is mainly purposed to establish networks between potential Chinese investors and Myanmar exporters. It is not only an expo, but it is a business gathering on knowledge sharing and networking,” said the vice-chair of the Union of Myanmar Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (UMBEEA). — MT/ZS

XtraSure launches digital skills drive for visually impaired

XTRASURE, a leading Apple Authorized Reseller in Myanmar, launched its first corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, a digital awareness course for visually impaired people.

The programme, titled Towards Better Days, was held on 24 June at the Pan Pacific Yangon in collaboration with the Yangon Education Centre for the Blind (Khawechan). Thirty students took part in practical training led by expert trainer Ma Wai Phu.

Participants learnt essential skills for using Apple devices, including Voice Over and Siri, cus-

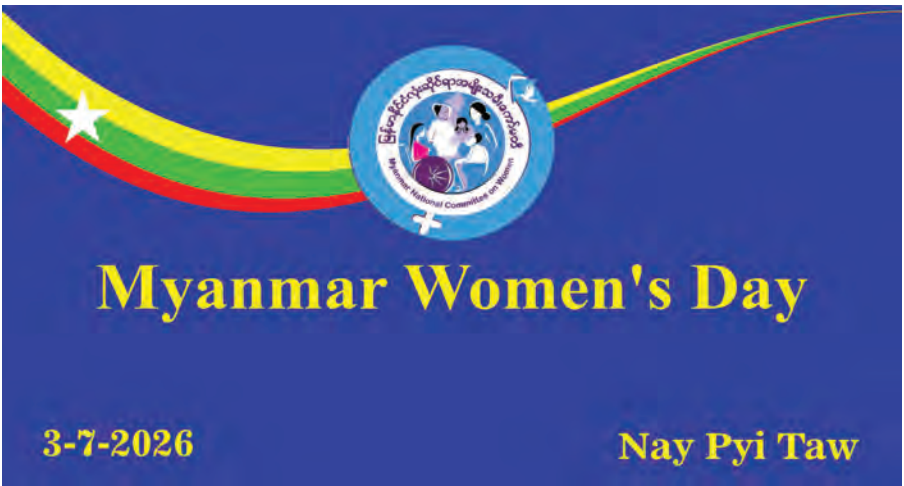


This photo depicts the programme titled “Towards Better Days”.

tomizing Accessibility Shortcuts and Control Centre, using AI-assisted navigation, and creating and editing videos with iMovie, helping them use modern technology more independently.

Through the Towards Better Days CSR programme, XtraSure aims to improve digital accessibility for visually impaired people and will continue supporting meaningful community initiatives across Myanmar. — TWA/MKKS

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



Premium Myanmar rice, avocado oil wow buyers at KIE 2026



The ASEAN-Korea Centre Secretary-General, the Cambodian Ambassador, and the Brunei Ambassador are pictured visiting the Myanmar Pavilion.

THE Myanmar Embassy organized a “Myanmar Pavilion” at the Korea Import Expo (KIE 2026), held from 23 to 25 June at COEX (Hall B) in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, to promote trade, investment, and tourism.

The expo was hosted by the Korea Importers Association (KOIMA) in collaboration with South Korea’s Ministry of Trade,

Industry and Energy, KOTRA, and various foreign embassies.

On 23 June, U Myo Myint Maung, Chargé d’Affaires/Ambassador of the Myanmar Embassy, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition that featured 166 booths from over 30 countries.

At Booth F06, led by Commercial Attaché Daw Win Pa Pa Thu,

products, including rice, avocado oil, and lacquerware, were displayed, with a digital display of Myanmar’s tourism attractions.

Visitors showed particular interest in avocado oil, Pawsan rice, butter beans, and ready-to-eat food items. Discussions and inquiries were also held regarding the import of Sakata chilli varieties, obtaining samples of Pawsan, and collaboration on golf tourism.

The Myanmar Embassy and the Commercial Attaché will continue to coordinate with relevant ministries and organizations to implement the business cooperation opportunities arising from this specialized B2B import exhibition. — TWA/ZN

Public Notice

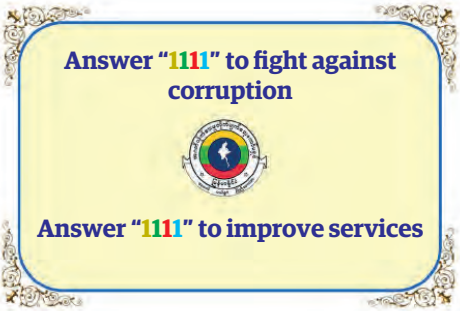
THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission



NATIONAL

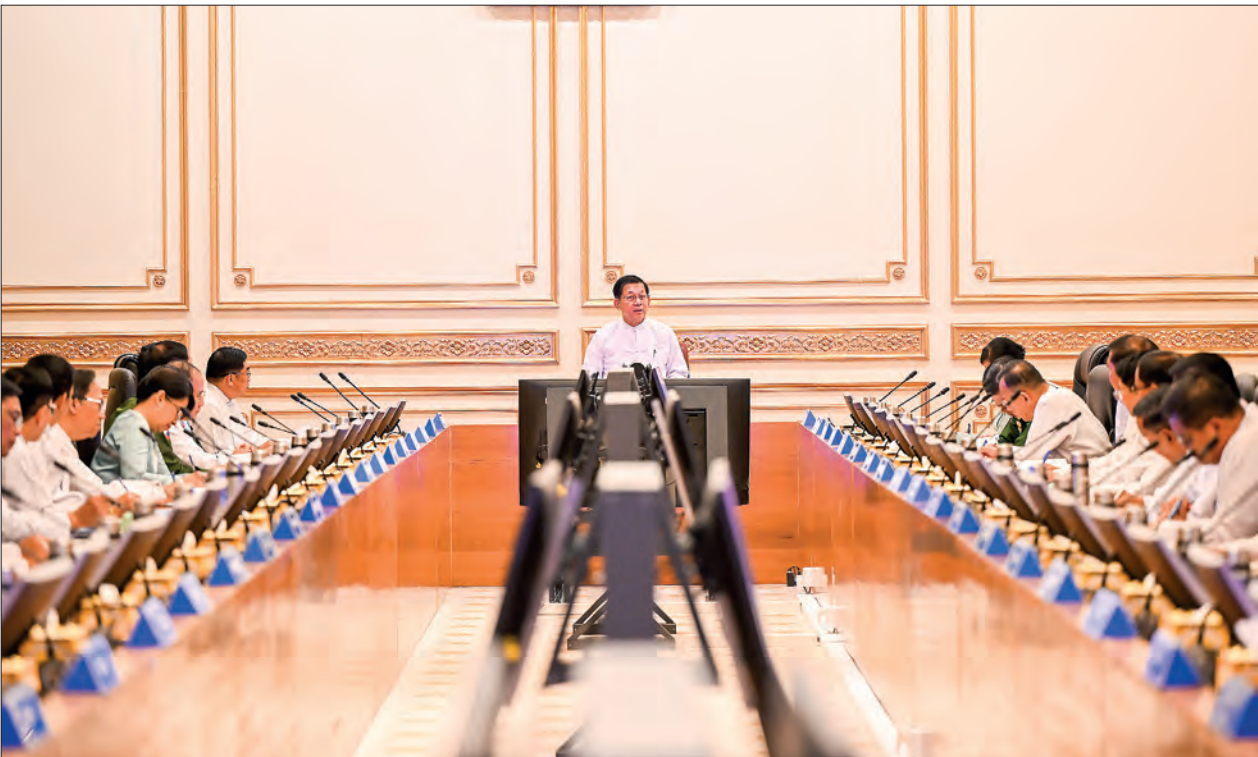
President Reaffirms Unconditional Peace Talks Offer to EAOs

President U Min Aung Hlaing has reiterated the government's unconditional invitation to all ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to participate in peace talks, emphasizing that sustainable peace is the key to accelerating development in Myanmar's border and ethnic regions.

The President made the remarks while chairing a meeting of the Central Committee on the Implementation of Progress of Border Areas and National Races at the President's Office yesterday afternoon.

In his opening address, the President reviewed the history of border development programmes, explaining that the Central Committee was first established in 1989 following peace agreements with several ethnic armed groups. He said the initiative was created to address the long-standing lack of development in border and ethnic areas, many of

Immediate peace is attainable if all conflicting factions genuinely commit to ending hostilities.



President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the meeting of the Central Committee on the Implementation of Progress of Border Areas and National Races yesterday.

which had been left behind because of armed conflict, geographical isolation and poor infrastructure. Although successive gov-

ernments had undertaken development projects over the years, he acknowledged that some had succeeded while others had fallen

short of expectations. The President also reflected on Myanmar's political history, stating that political disagreements and

constitutional disputes following independence eventually contributed to armed conflicts that continued to affect the country's stabil-

ity and development. He said prolonged fighting had delayed socioeconomic progress in many ethnic regions, where difficult terrain, poor transport links, limited communications and inadequate access to government services had resulted in weaker education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

Reaffirming the government's political vision, the President said it remained committed to building a peaceful, stable democratic nation founded on a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and a Union based on democracy and federalism. He stressed that reducing the development gap between border regions and the rest of the country was essential to achieving those goals. He noted that not only remote border areas but also some regions closer to urban centres still lagged in development and required greater government attention.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds work coord meeting with committees' chairpersons, secretaries

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U Khin Yi presided over the first work coordination meeting with the chairpersons and secretaries of committees formed under the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Speaker highlighted the formation of four standing committees of Pyithu Hluttaw, 22 committees to communicate the government ministries, plan to organize a commission, duties of Hluttaw, roles of committees in amending or adding further duties of Hluttaw through the proper study on recommendations of international Hluttaws and experts.

He also mentioned the



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets chairpersons and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees.

need to amend and add to the laws as there are over 100 laws enacted in English languages in addition to Myanmar language. Regarding the anti-online scam bill, he said it should be enacted as soon as possible. He reiterated that legislation is one of the most important and fundamental responsibilities of the Hluttaw. By submitting questions and proposals,

Hluttaw gives voice to the aspirations of the people. During the current second parliamentary session, members have been raising questions related to their constituencies. In future sessions, they should also raise broader issues concerning national and regional development.

He added that Hluttaw is an institution capable of

making wide-ranging contributions to the benefit of the country and its people. Therefore, committees should serve as key pillars supporting the Hluttaw. After carefully studying their responsibilities and examining international Hluttaw standards, committee functions will be gradually revised to ensure they are consistent with modern practices. He also warned the representatives that when submitting parliamentary questions, they should use only officially recognized terminology in their written and spoken expressions. The Hluttaw is striving to strengthen cooperation with international Hluttaws

SEE PAGE 4

MoC Dy Minister inspects reconstruction of Tiddim hospital

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, accompanied by members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in Chin State yesterday.

During the visit, he met the medical superintendent and staff of the 100-bed hospital in Tiddim, discussed the hospital's operational needs, and coordinated assistance where required.

The hospital is currently staffed by 80 healthcare personnel, including the medical superintendent, and provides surgi-



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint is pictured during his inspection tour in Tiddim, Chin State.

cal and medical services. At the time of the visit, 43 patients were receiving treatment, including 17 surgical patients, 14 maternity patients, and 11 general medical patients. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Hluttaw Debates Overhaul of ASEAN Five-Point Statement

THE second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the fourth day at its convention hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Hluttaw representatives.

At the Hluttaw session, Dr Nanda Hla Myint from the Kalaw Constituency submitted a motion, urging the Union government to review the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, which undermines Myanmar's equality within ASEAN and is inconsistent with ASEAN's fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a member state in addition to the non-alignment with ASEAN's fundamental



The fourth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is underway yesterday.

principles and Myanmar's current actual political situation.

He said that since its membership to date, Myanmar signed the ASEAN Charter as a responsible member state, and has been actively adhering to and implementing the fundamental principles set out in the Charter in order to promote regional peace, stability, development, and cooperation.

He added that ASEAN and its member states have further reaffirmed and agreed that, in implementing the objectives of the ASEAN Charter, they must adhere to the principles contained in ASEAN declarations, treaties, conventions, agreements, and other legal instruments.

He continued that due to electoral fraud in the 2020 general election, a state of

emergency was declared nationwide in February 2021 under the Constitution, and the three branches of state power were assumed by Tatmadaw in accordance with the 2008 Constitution. About Myanmar's situation, during the period when the State Administration Council assumed national responsibilities with a view to national politics, most countries in the United Na-

tions imposed sanctions on Myanmar, and the ASEAN community likewise exerted pressure on Myanmar. ASEAN is an organization honoured worldwide for establishing and maintaining good traditions among regional countries in the political, security, economic, social, and cultural sectors. However, at a time when strategic competition in the region has increased, ASEAN, instead of upholding its long-standing tradition of unity in diversity and its spirit of consensus on shared values, has been applying pressure on Myanmar.

The representative recounted that on 24 April 2021, following the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, ASEAN issued the "Five-Point Consensus" as an annex to the Chairman's Statement. These were: immediate cessation of violence; con-

structive dialogue to seek a peaceful solution; a Special Envoy of ASEAN will facilitate mediation of the dialogue process; ASEAN shall provide humanitarian assistance; and the Special Envoy shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned.

He noted that although these five points are referred to as a "Five-Point Consensus" in the Chairman's Statement, they were not an ASEAN statement that was first circulated as a draft to all ASEAN Member States and issued only after reaching collective agreement. Rather, they were issued as an annex to the ASEAN Chair's Statement. It is also observed that Myanmar responded by informing that it would only implement the statement in accordance with its own political culture and within the ASEAN framework.

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MoFA Union Minister holds meeting with UN Agencies in Myanmar

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe held a meeting with the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim and representatives of United Nations agencies in Myanmar yesterday at the Saturanga Bala Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union minister briefed on recent domestic political developments in Myanmar, the Government's future priorities, and invitation extended for peace dialogue.

He also stressed that the Government assures all available assistance reaches to the needy population without any discrimination. The Government is cooperating closely with United Nations agencies and international organi-

zations in the provision of humanitarian assistance and allows access to all secured areas while taking into consideration of the safety and security of their humanitarian workers. He also reaffirmed that the Government of Myanmar will continue its cooperation with United Nations agencies based in Myanmar. He encouraged the UN agencies to maintain close and continuous coordination with the relevant ministries in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to cooperate in a constructive and neutral manner, without political interference, in order to ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to the needy people.

Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe also highlighted the need to provide sustainable development



Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe meets the UN Coordinator ad interim and UN Agencies' representatives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

assistance to support the people of Myanmar and to help build a resilient economy.

Afterwards, representatives of the United Nations agencies explained and discussed their ongoing cooperation with the respective ministries in Myanmar.

The briefing was attended by the deputy minister and respective officials of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs; the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim; Country Representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR and UN Women; the Heads of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, IOM and UNOCHA; Deputy Representatives and Officers-in-Charge from WHO, UNFPA, UNOPS, WFP, FAO and UNDP. — MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds work coord meeting with ...

FROM PAGE 3

and has already established joint committees to facilitate engagement with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and other international parliamentary bodies. These committees should also review and improve their mandates and responsibilities where necessary.

He stressed that the Hluttaw must become a meaningful institution that provides substantial support to the country. Referring to his recent visit to Belarus at the invitation of that country's parliament to attend the forum, he said that preliminary discussions had been held on expanding inter-parliamentary cooperation. By studying the practices of international Hluttaws, he said, Hluttaw committees should be a capable one that contributes to national development, the advancement of the race, religion, and culture, and the welfare of the people.

Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn highlighted the duties of Hluttaw Rights Committee, plans to conduct capacity building trainings for Hluttaw representatives, and the participants coordinated the discussion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also received the tour group of Myanmar Seafarers Federation who came and study the processes of Hluttaw session at the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw on the same morning.

During the meeting, the Speaker talked about the formation of Hluttaw and legislation, amendment and enactment of laws, and asked about the difficulties of Myanmar seafarers. The participants reported on the healthcare, social welfare of seafarers, dispute between seafarers and employers, protection for the rights of seafarers, and the Speaker explained the law protection for the seafarers. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar Urged to Scale Up as Major International Food Supplier

FROM PAGE 1

In the agriculture sector, the President continued that a policy has been adopted to meet the target cultivation per acre. Rather than expanding cultivated acreage, it is necessary to make efficient use of land and increase productivity. In efforts to ensure food security, it is essential to strive to meet the target of per-acre yield, and to enhance cropping intensity and improve multiple cropping systems.

He stressed the need to formulate and implement policies to convert croplands into irrigated farmland through river water pumping projects. Efforts should be made step by step to increase cropping intensity to as high as 300 per cent in areas where sufficient irrigation water is available.

He noted that it is also necessary to work towards the domestic production of chemical fertilizers, and to systematically manage the proper use of chemical and organic fertilizers. In particular, in remote and difficult-to-access border areas, efforts should be made to enable the local production and use of organic fertilizers. In order to further develop agricultural activities, the State will provide for the issuance of additional agricultural loans to farmers.

The President stated that as animal feeds can be produced from agricultural products, it is necessary to effectively utilize them in livestock breeding activities.

He gave guidance that it is necessary to implement modern agricultural systems in sectors where it

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President at the Food Policy Commission meeting

1. Efforts should be made to increase cropping intensity to as high as 300 per cent in areas where sufficient irrigation water is available.
2. It is essential to strive to meet the target of per-acre yield, and to enhance cropping intensity and improve multiple cropping systems in efforts to ensure food security.
3. As oil crops are cultivated in the country, a policy must be formulated to produce cooking oil at home sufficiently.

is feasible. Likewise, efforts should also be made to develop mechanized farming systems.

He emphasized that it is necessary to continuously conduct research, study, and systematic efforts to further increase the production of rice, pulses, and other food products as well as fishery products.

Commission Secretary Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung reported on the formation of the region and state level and the Nay Pyi Taw Council food security and agriculture and livestock sector promotion implementation committees.

Commission members discussed the plans to expand the livestock zones, feedstuff production and distribution, efforts to meet

the target production of oil crops, supply of water to agriculture and livestock farms, systematic arrangements to prevent loss and damage to agriculture and livestock farms in disasters, storage of reserved deeds and animal vaccines, implementation of the mechanized farming and integrated farms, sufficient production of quality seeds, export of agriculture and livestock products, prioritized plans of private sector, and collaborative efforts of scholars to receive internationally recognized certificates.

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye and Union ministers reported on the formation of the agricultural product management body, supervision for efficient utilization of agricultural lands under the laws in regions and states, and control of

water volume in rivers and creeks and their quality under the law.

In conclusion, the President pointed out that it is necessary to protect the interests of farmers. Just as the State considers and plans for the welfare of farmers, farmers themselves are also required to fully cultivate their sown acreage and to work towards increasing productivity and improving yields.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-President U Nyo Saw, chief ministers of regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, chairs from UMFCCI, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Livestock Federation and Myanmar Fisheries Federation. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar burns over K2T worth of seized narcotic drugs



Authorities torch seized narcotics and illicit chemicals in Yangon to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

AUTHORITIES destroyed large quantities of seized narcotics and precursor chemicals in ceremonies held in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi marking the 39th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking yesterday.

The destroyed narcotics included 23 kinds of drugs and eight precursor chemicals worth K1,176

billion (over US\$321 million) in Yangon, whereas 27 kinds worth K416 billion (more than US\$113 million) in Mandalay, and 93 kinds worth K617 billion (over US\$168 million) in Taunggyi.

This year, the narcotic drugs and precursors seized nationwide, worth about K2,210 billion (\$603 million), were destroyed

during the events.

The destroyed narcotic drugs and precursors included heroin, opium, stimulant tablets, methamphetamine, cannabis, ketamine, speciose, happy water and ecstasy, among others, seized in Shan State, Kayah State, Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region, Taninthayi Region, Mon State, Kayin State and Rakhine State.

In pursuit of guidance of the President, Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department and Drug Enforcement Division accelerated the measures to combat drug abuse.

Between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026, drugs and precursor chemicals worth about K2,210 billion were seized in the country, according to the MPF. — MNA/KTZH

90,000 additional border passes despatched for Muse residents

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing stated that additional Border Pass (BP) booklets will be sent to facilitate smoother travel to Ruili, China, for residents of Muse District in Shan State (North).

The Union minister made the statement in response to a starred question raised by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Zaw Moe (aka) U Aung Zaw Moe Tun from the Muse Constituency during the 14th day of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw held on 25 June, in which the representative asked whether there were plans to ensure that Muse residents could quickly and easily obtain Border Pass (BP)



This photo features people queuing in line to enter Ruili, China.

booklets for entry into Ruili, China.

Regarding the enquiry, Union Minister U Myint Kyaing informed the Hluttaw that as of 23 June, more than 80,000 Border Pass (BP) booklets remained in stock in Muse District, and added that plans are underway to send an additional 90,000 booklets to prevent any delays if local demand increases, with

coordination being carried out across relevant sectors to ensure timely delivery.

According to the Union minister, Border Pass (BP) booklets are issued in accordance with regulations only to civil servants stationed in border areas and to local residents who are genuinely and permanently residing within Muse District. — TWA/TH

NATIONAL

President Reaffirms Unconditional Peace...

FROM PAGE 3

Addressing the government's peace initiative, the President recounted that he will strive to restore peace across the nation within five years. He renewed his appeal to every ethnic armed organization to engage in dialogue without any preconditions. He said the invitation remained open to all groups and rejected suggestions that the peace process was restricted by the government's 100-day action plan. According to the President, peace could be achieved immediately if all parties genuinely wished to end the conflict, whereas those unwilling to negotiate would continue to delay the process with various excuses. He added that the government was prepared to use every available channel to achieve lasting peace

because continued political and armed conflicts remained the greatest obstacles to national progress. In particular, he welcomed EAO participation in peace talks without any preconditions.

The President stressed that peace and development must advance together. He said improving living standards in border and ethnic areas would create more employment opportunities locally, reducing migration while narrowing socioeconomic disparities. He called for greater investment in education, healthcare, transport, communications and human resource development to ensure that residents of remote areas could enjoy opportunities comparable to those elsewhere in the country.

Highlighting the gov-

ernment's commitment to regional development, the President announced that K1.397 trillion had been allocated to seven border development sub-committees and K643.68 billion to nine regional working committees for the 2026-2027 financial year. He urged committee members to ensure the funds were used efficiently and in accordance with established standards so that development projects would deliver lasting benefits to local communities.

During the meeting, committee secretary Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat presented updates on the implementation of border development programmes. Committee members also reported on measures to strengthen the rule of law, improve local administration, combat

online fraud and drug trafficking, expand development projects under five strategic programmes, and ensure education and healthcare services reached border communities. Reports also covered scholarship programmes for students, teachers recruitment, agricultural assistance, environmental conservation, road and bridge construction, drinking water projects, electricity expansion and future development plans.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, who is also a committee member, highlighted ongoing efforts to maintain security, restore border trade routes and expand territorial control, stating that peace and development were directly linked. Meanwhile, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye stressed the importance of appointing

local ethnic teachers in schools to help overcome language barriers and improve education in ethnic communities. Vice-President U Nyo Saw called for border development projects to meet quality standards and contribute to long-term socio-economic progress and stability.

In his closing remarks, the President instructed committee members to review the achievements of border development programmes since their establishment and place greater emphasis on improving education, healthcare and livelihoods in ethnic regions. He reiterated that hospitals must have adequate medical personnel, development funds should be used effectively, and more skilled workers should be trained in the agriculture and livestock

sectors. He also urged officials to promote crops suited to local conditions, improve food security in remote areas, ensure civil servants assigned to distant regions received adequate support, and listen closely to the needs of local ethnic communities when implementing development projects.

The meeting was attended by committee vice-chairpersons Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of states and regions, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers and other officials. — MNA/ST

Mon State minister vows crackdown on profiteering linked to People's Military Service Law

MON State Minister for Social Affairs U Tin Zaw Tun stated that effective action will be taken against individuals and organizations that profit from illegal practices, extort money, or carry out forced recruitment during the military service summons process instead of complying with the laws and rules under the People's Military Service Law.

U Tin Zaw Tun made the remarks in response to a question raised by State Hluttaw Representative U Thant Zaw from the Kyaukse Constituency 2 on the fifth day of the second regular session of the Third Mon State Hluttaw on 19 June, asking whether there were plans to effectively expose and take action against individuals exploiting the People's



This photo features the Mon State Hluttaw building.

Military Service Law for unlawful gain within the state and to reform implementation procedures in accordance with the rules under the law to build public trust and acceptance.

In response, U Tin Zaw Tun stated that if an investigation finds that civil servants or individuals assigned duties under an organized body have committed acts of dishonesty or negligence, action will

be taken against them under Section 25 of the People's Military Service Law. He added that if such acts are committed by individuals who are neither civil servants nor members of an assigned organization, effective action will be taken under both the People's Military Service Law and other applicable laws.

Furthermore, the minister said that to build public trust and acceptance

of the People's Military Service Law, authorities have conducted 622 public awareness activities attended by 26,106 people since the law was enacted and distributed 44,994 pamphlets at 152 locations. He also urged Hluttaw representatives to cooperate in the awareness campaigns, noting that administrative bodies and relevant departments are working together to promote public understanding that military service is a national duty.

During the Hluttaw session, Hluttaw Representative U Thant Zaw said that public understanding of the rules governing exemptions and deferments under the People's Military Service Law remains limited.

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Myanmar pockets US\$240,000 from honey exports in 2 months

MYANMAR earned more than US\$ 240,000 from honey exports during April and May of the current financial year, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

During the two-month period, the private sector exported 162.8 metric tonnes of honey, with Japan re-

maintaining the largest export market for Myanmar honey.

Myanmar mainly produces sesame, jujube, niger, sunflower, rubber and lychee honey. In addition to its widespread domestic use as a medicinal product, Myanmar honey is regularly exported to Japan, South Korea, Thailand and China, making it a valuable source of foreign exchange earnings. — TWA/KZL



This image features beekeeping and honey produced for export.

NATIONAL

Public Urged to Report Immigration Misconduct Over Citizenship Cards

THE public can file complaints if they encounter staff members who demand money, repeatedly postpone appointments, or treat them rudely while seeking citizenship services, stated Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing.

The Union minister made these remarks on 25 June while responding to a starred question raised by Daw Nan Tin Oo, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative from the Kehsi constituency, during the 14th day of the second regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw. The question was about the difficulties faced



This image illustrates the Ministry of Immigration and Population (Head Office).

by the public in Kehsi and Mongkai townships when applying for citizenship registration.

Regarding this enquiry, the Union minister explained that specific instructions have already been issued to local offic-

es to ensure there are no delays in the citizenship registration process.

According to the procedures issued by the ministry, cards must be issued on the same day for natural-born citizens who have complete sup-

porting documentation. For those with incomplete information, such as license photos or blood group details, the process must be completed within 14 days. For matters regarding citizenship status, case files must be compiled within seven days, and District Administrators must verify and sign them within 30 days.

“If individuals applying for these services face forced demands for money, repeated appointments, or rude behaviour, they can file complaints with the relevant authorities,” said the Union Minister. — TWA/ZN

Monghsat disburses K32.5M under Mya Sein Yaung Village Project



The fund disbursement ceremony is in progress in Monghsat Township yesterday.

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Bahtan Village, Monghsat Township, yesterday. The funds were provided with the aim of helping rural residents in Bahtan and Loihsawng villages increase household incomes through the expansion of systematic agricultural and livestock-breeding activities, and implementing village development projects using the growing revolving fund. Project staff then explained the project, the interest rate, loan terms and conditions, and regulations to be followed in the disbursement of project funds. Afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K32.5 million was handed over to members of the village-level Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committees.

The committee members disbursed K32.5 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to 34 project members under the disbursement process. Of the total amount, K19.3 million was provided to 23 members engaged in livestock breeding, and K13.2 million to 11 members engaged in trading. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

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Officials inspect Taunggyi’s Mya Sein Yaung Project activities

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection to observe the progress of income-generating activities being expanded through revolving funds provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Htiaw Village, Taunggyi Township, yesterday.



Officials oversee the implementation of proper farming culture in Taunggyi Township.

Taunggyi Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Win and officials inspected the implementation of systematic agricultural and livestock-breeding activities being carried out

with the project’s revolving funds. He met members of the village-level Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee, reviewed the completeness and accuracy of monthly financial records, and

urged them to systematically manage the revolving funds to prevent losses and ensure long-term sustainability.

The project was first implemented for the 2014-2015 financial year, utiliz-

ing a total revolving fund of K59 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project fund. Jointly executed by township DRD staff and local villagers, the funds benefit 67 project members under the ongoing disbursement process. Of the total amount, K59 million was provided to members of Htiaw Village, including 63 members engaged in agriculture and four members engaged in livestock breeding, all of whom are successfully operating income-generating businesses with support from the project funds. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Mon State minister vows ...

FROM PAGE 6

He added that, in practice, young people continue to experience anxiety because of the lack

of clarity in the selection and recruitment process, the lack of transparency in the lottery system, and reports of individuals be-

ing stopped and rounded up on the streets and even at their homes in some areas.

He told the Hluttaw

that the public is facing severe hardship, alleging that in some areas people are being forced to provide substitute recruits, pay money to obtain exemptions, and contribute between K10,000

and K30,000 per household each month within wards. He also said he had received reports that authorities or intermediaries were demanding payments ranging from tens of millions of kyats

to secure the release of people detained on the roads, as well as reports that underage and medically unfit individuals had been detained and sold to fishing trawlers. — MNA/TH

Make utmost efforts to boost MSMEs

MICRO-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) play a key role in promoting a country’s economic development. Therefore, all countries are striving to achieve national economic growth through the success of MSME businesses. Regardless of whether they are rich or poor, large or small, countries around the world have relied on MSMEs as the foundation for improving their economies.

For MSME businesses as well as any type of economic enterprise, the basic requirements include technology, financial capital, market access, raw materials, machinery, and land. In order to increase the contribution of MSME businesses to the country’s GDP and to create more employment opportunities, MSME enterprises should be collectively discussed and developed by MSME agencies in the states and regions under the close leadership and guidance of the respective regional and state chief ministers.

Solutions should be identified and implemented to ensure the rapid success of MSME businesses through the “One Region, One Product” scheme. If each region can produce a marketable product, such MSMEs will occupy the domestic market shares. Moreover, they can step up their efforts to export quality products to the international market. Hence, it is also necessary for relevant departments and state and regional agencies to fulfil the requirements for access to technology, as well as the availability of skilled and basic-level workers.

MSME businesses need to make strategic investments by properly allocating inputs such as human resources and financial capital to the right areas. A key requirement for “Selective Intervention” and “Adaptive Service Provision” is the ability to obtain and utilize accurate and timely information. In terms of training, agencies should provide updated training courses based on business needs. At the same time, in factories and workshops within industrial zones where MSME activities

are being carried out, both basic and skilled workers should be continuously provided with job-relevant training programs. This is necessary for the ongoing development of human resources.

Today’s global challenges – like political tensions, climate change, and digital shifts – make it even harder for them to survive. Supply chain issues, higher costs, and uncertain markets have left many at risk. A huge global funding gap remains, despite clear opportunities to grow. As such, businesspeople have to strive for booming MSME businesses so as to contribute to the State economy as well as to survive themselves in line with the theme for MSME Day 2026, “The Future Generation of MSMEs”, with a primary focus on the AI-driven economy and Human-Centred Entrepreneurship.

MICRO, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are widely recognized as a fundamental pillar of national and global economic development. MSMEs contribute significantly to employment creation, innovation, industrial development, and poverty reduction, while also addressing the challenges they face, particularly access to finance and market integration.

In fact, MSMEs play a crucial role in shaping the economic structure of nations. They contribute significantly to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment generation, innovation, and inclusive development. In both developed and developing countries, MSMEs serve as the backbone of economic activity by supporting local production, strengthening supply chains, and promoting balanced regional development.

Historical Evolution of MSMEs

The origin of MSMEs can be traced back to the First Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century, when economies transitioned from handicraft-based production and agriculture to machine-based manufacturing systems. This transformation led to the emergence of small-scale industrial enterprises, particularly in textiles, printing, and metal production.

During the Second Industrial Revolution (1870-1914), mass production systems expanded rapidly. Although large industries dominated the global economy, small enterprises continued to play an important role as suppliers and supporting units within industrial production networks.

MSMEs: A Vital Engine for Sustainable National Economic Development

A major milestone in SME development was the Bolton Report (1971) in the United Kingdom. The Committee of Inquiry on Small Firms, chaired by Mr J E Bolton, was established in 1969 to study the role of small businesses. The report concluded that SMEs are essential for innovation, competition, employment creation, and balanced economic development. It also highlighted key challenges, such as limited access to finance and recommended stronger government support to ensure their sustainability.

Myanmar’s Role in MSME Development

In Myanmar, MSMEs play a central role in national economic development, accounting for approximately 99 per cent of all enterprises. These businesses operate across manufacturing, trade, services, and other sectors, contributing significantly to employment generation, income creation, and regional development.

The government has implemented various policies and institutional reforms to support MSME growth, including the establishment of dedicated agencies, legal frameworks, and development committees. Efforts have also focused on improving access to finance, technology adoption, and market expansion through digitalization and e-commerce initiatives.

Despite these efforts,



MSMEs in Myanmar continue to face challenges such as limited access to finance, technology gaps, and market constraints. Strengthening public-private partnerships and enhancing institutional support remain key priorities for improving competitiveness and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Evolution of MSMEs Development in Myanmar

Myanmar’s efforts to promote MSMEs development can be traced back to the period between 1997 and 2011, when the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises was formally recognized as part of national economic development strategies. During this period, Myanmar also engaged with regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (ASEAN SMEWG), aligning its policies with broader ASEAN economic

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

markets for MSMEs, while creating a more enabling business environment.

Expansion and Strategic Development (2018-2020)

Between 2018 and 2020, Myanmar implemented region-specific MSME Development Action Plans, recognizing that different regions have varying economic strengths and development priorities. During this period, technical and financial support mechanisms were expanded to strengthen enterprise capacity. In addition, nationwide MSME expos were launched to promote local products, expand market access, and attract investment. These platforms provided opportunities for small businesses to showcase their products and connect with domestic and international markets.

Institutional Strengthening and Recent Developments (2021-Present)

Since 2021, Myanmar has further strengthened its institutional framework for MSME development. A Central Committee for MSME Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, was formed to guide national-level policy formulation. In parallel, an Implementation Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister was established to oversee execution

integration efforts.

A major institutional milestone was achieved in 2012 with the establishment of the SME Development Centre under the Ministry of Industry. This marked the formal creation of a dedicated focal institution responsible for MSME development. In 2014, the centre was upgraded to the Department of SME Development under the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, expanding its operational network across the country.

Legal and Policy Framework

To strengthen the sector, the government enacted the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Law on 9 April 2015, followed by the MSME Development Policy in December 2015 and supporting regulations in October 2016. These frameworks were designed to improve access to finance, technology, human resources, infrastructure, and

and coordination. Supporting institutions, including an MSME Development Agency, a Business Review and Reporting Team, and a Fund Management Team, have also been reorganized to improve efficiency and service delivery.

In recent years, greater emphasis has been placed on digital transformation, including the promotion of e-commerce platforms and digital tools to enhance market access and international trade competitiveness. The government has also strengthened collaboration with the private sector to improve access to finance, technology, and business development services. High-level engagements with MSME entrepreneurs have been conducted across the country, with government leaders holding regular consultation meetings in multiple regions to identify challenges and provide practical solutions. These efforts aim to ensure that MSME development policies are aligned with real sector needs. A revised MSME Development Law is also being drafted to replace the 2015 legislation, to further support micro-enterprises and adapt to current economic conditions.

Current Situation of Myanmar’s MSME Sector

Today, MSMEs remain a vital component of Myanmar’s economy. The sector not only dom-

inates the business landscape but also plays a crucial role in employment creation and income generation. MSMEs contribute significantly to rural and urban development, helping to improve living standards and reduce poverty.

MSMEs in Myanmar are broadly categorized into manufacturing, trading, services, and other sectors. Across all categories, they serve as an essential engine of economic activity.

Strengthening these enterprises is therefore directly linked to regional development and national economic resilience.

The government continues to implement policies aimed at enhancing the sector’s competitiveness, including expanded access to finance, improved technical assistance, and increased adoption of digital technologies. Efforts are also underway to promote stronger integration into regional and global markets.

Conclusion and Outlook

The continued development of MSMEs requires strong collaboration among government institutions, the private sector, and development partners. Strategic investments in technology, finance, skills development, and market access are essential to ensure sustainable growth. As Myanmar continues to strengthen its MSME ecosystem, the sector is expected to play an even greater role in driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and improving the socioeconomic well-being of the population.

In Myanmar, MSMEs play a central role in national economic development, accounting for approximately 99 per cent of all

enterprises. These businesses operate across manufacturing, trade, services, and other sectors, contributing significantly to employment generation, income creation, and regional development.

The government has implemented various policies and institutional reforms to support MSME growth, including the establishment of dedicated agencies, legal frameworks, and development committees. Efforts have also focused on improving access to finance, technology adoption, and market expansion through digitalization and e-commerce initiatives.

Despite these efforts, MSMEs in Myanmar continue to face challenges such as limited access to finance, technology gaps, and market constraints. Strengthening public-private partnerships and enhancing institutional support remain key priorities for improving competitiveness and ensuring long-term sustainability.

In the 21st Century, digitalization and technological innovation have further strengthened MSMEs. Today, they contribute approximately 50-60 per cent of global GDP and remain a key driver of employment, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.

Thus, MSMEs represent a vital engine of sustainable national economic development. Their evolution from small-scale industrial units to globally integrated economic actors demonstrates their enduring importance. Strengthening MSMEs through supportive policies, financial access, and technological advancement is essential for achieving balanced, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth across nations.

IF IT is said that reading takes a long time, someone will be shocked to hear it all of a sudden. But it is natural. If it takes 15 minutes to read, these 15 minutes will have been spent in any way. Similarly, reading may last for 30 minutes, 1 hour and so on. This is just time-consuming, not time-wasting, I should believe. However, unless time spent on reading is time well spent, such reading will certainly waste time. In other words, if we have not got anything after reading, this reading can be time-wasting. Thus, we

So As Not to Be Time-wasting Reading

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)

must be able to read so as not to be time-wasting.

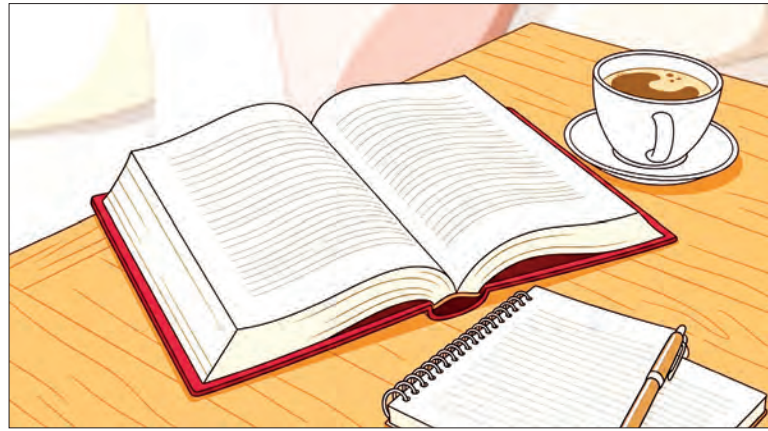
Sometimes reading can take time because of the subject matter. Some subject matter of books seems difficult for readers to understand well, especially old-fashioned language and ancient literature. In the language

and literature, archaisms, which are very old words or phrases that are no longer used, are often seen. Readers like to look up these archaisms in the dictionary quite industriously while reading, yet many of the readers usually get fed up with finding such words very quickly, as far as I can expe-

rience, except for some readers who find it enjoyable to see those words. Additionally, readers look confused about colloquialisms and slang written in a book. Not only that, but some writers’ knowledge is unclear sometimes. At such a time, their thoughts are scattered here and there, that is to say, deliberately ambiguous. If so, readers cannot follow writers, which means that readers will

be unable to catch what writers want to say. That may happen if the way writers think and see is totally different and more advanced than the readers’ educational level. Nevertheless, readers will be able to get the message writers would like to give when they can overcome the difficulty of the subject matter in reading.

Sometimes reading can take too long due to the writing style.



As Saya Aung Thin once stated, only if an author’s knowledge

about something he desires to write is comprehensible will

his thought be clear; only if the thought is like this as well will his writing be obvious to a certain extent. This statement is pointing out the importance of the writing style of an author in a book. Some authors’ writing is understandable because their choice of words, sentence structure, paragraph organization, text unity and description power are so excellent that even normal readers can absorb it from beginning to end. If not so, an author’s writing will be misleading.

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NATIONAL

Hluttaw Debates Overhaul of ASEAN Five-Point Statement

FROM PAGE 4

He stated that the ASEAN Five-Point Statement was made with the positive intention of helping to resolve armed conflicts in Myanmar and to achieve internal peace. However, it is not an approach based on sincerity and mutual assistance among ASEAN Member States. Rather, it is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia (TAC) signed in 1976, which include mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations; the right of each state to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion, and coercion; and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. It is therefore observed that it deviates from ASEAN's core principles.

At the present time, he stated that Myanmar has already held elections in accordance with the 2008 Constitution and an elected civilian government has emerged. When the ASEAN Five-Point State-

ment is compared with the country's current actual situation, it is found to be inconsistent. It is also observed that ASEAN, in implementing the Five-Point Statement, is acting in line with pressure and guidance from certain Western countries, thereby weakening ASEAN centrality. Furthermore, it appears that the ASEAN Charter is being selectively interpreted and applied. Therefore, it is necessary to review the ASEAN Five-Point Statement.

He revealed that although ASEAN is committed to enhancing regional peace, security, and prosperity, and the ASEAN Charter stipulates respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of each state, as well as collective responsibility and non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States, some ASEAN countries are found to be unwilling to recognize the Myanmar Government.

He stressed that the exclusion of responsible heads of government from being invited and allowed to attend ASEAN meetings is inconsistent with

the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter. In particular, it contradicts paragraph 2 (f) of Article 2 of Chapter I, which states that member states shall respect the right of every Member State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion and coercion. It also contradicts Article 5 of Chapter III, which provides that Member States shall have equal rights and obligations under this Charter. Such actions, including exerting pressure on Myanmar and failing to grant equal rights, are found to be inconsistent with the ASEAN Charter.

During the previous period under the State Administration Council government, there were also pressures and demands from some ASEAN Member States to implement the ASEAN Five-Point Statement. At that time, the National Defence and Security Council responded that it was cooperating without harming the country's national interests and sovereignty, and that ASEAN does not have the authority to make decisions on or interfere in the internal affairs of a member

state without the consent of the respective country.

In implementing the unilaterally issued ASEAN Five-Point Statement, Myanmar's national interests, sovereignty, and the actual realities on the ground are carefully taken into consideration. In engaging with ASEAN, priority should be given to Myanmar's national interests in order to further enhance regional cooperation. Increasing humanitarian assistance, confidence-building measures, and mutual dialogue can contribute to regional stability and peace. As the right of a sovereign state, it is now necessary to re-negotiate and re-engage through more practical and balanced approaches that prioritize national interests.

Nan Yi Yi Win from the Pinlaung Constituency seconded the motion.

Regarding the motion, the Speaker sought the decision of the Hluttaw, and as there were more votes in favour, it was announced that the motion was approved for discussion. He announced that any Hluttaw representatives wishing to speak could list the director-general of the

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Moreover, the Hluttaw recorded the appointment of a regional minister, the formation of the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU), the Joint Committee on ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (JCAIPA), and the Joint Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Union (JCIPU), the agreement on tax between Myanmar and Belarus, and a one-month exemption of special goods tax and the commercial tax over diesel and LNG.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung said that the conclusion of the agreement on the avoidance of double taxation on income and the prevention of tax evasion will provide various benefits, including enabling businesses to avoid double taxation, thereby promoting increased investment and trade between the two countries; enhancing information exchange between tax authorities and improving tax compliance through joint efforts to prevent tax evasion; and contributing to the improvement and strengthening of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He added that the agreement applies solely to income tax. It will affect individuals, businesses, and companies that are residents of the two countries. As the agreement includes provisions allowing the exchange of information between the tax authorities of both countries, it will enable joint efforts to prevent tax evasion. In order to bring the agreement into force, the deputy minister sought approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to transmit Myanmar's notification letter to the Republic of Belarus in accordance with the Constitution.

He also sought the approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the additional one-month exemption from 1 to 31 May 2026 of special goods tax and the commercial tax over diesel HSD (500 ppm).

The Speaker urged Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the aforesaid two issues to list with the director-general of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw adjourned its fourth-day session, and the fifth-day session will be held on 2 July. — MNA/TTA

Yangon specialists deploy to Mawlamyine General Hospital

BASED at the 500-bed Mawlamyine General Hospital in Mon State, a specialist team from Yangon will carry out a field trip and provide free medical services.

By offering more effective healthcare, which is essential for the public, Yangon's specialist team will visit the hospital from 11 to 12 June.

Among specialists, neurologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists, pulmonologists, orthopedists, endocrinologists, nephrologists and paediatricians plus professors from New Yangon General Hospital, Yangon General Hospital, 500-bed Speciality Hospital Yangon and Yangon Children's Hospital are included. — MT/ZS



This image features the Mawlamyine General Hospital.

Kengtung disburses K39M under Mya Sein Yaung Village Project

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Yanglaw Model Village, Kengtung Township, yesterday. The funds were provided with the aim of enabling rural households to expand family income-generating activities and to implement village development projects through the increased revolving fund accumulated under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project.

Kengtung Township Department of



A fund disbursement ceremony is in progress yesterday in Kengtung Township.

Rural Development Head U Sai Aung Kham explained that the revolving fund was being provided to enable rural households to expand family income-generating activities and to implement village development projects through the increased

revolving fund accumulated under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Project staff then briefed participants on the objectives of the project, interest rates, loan repayment periods, and regulations governing the disbursement of the revolving fund, and

afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K39 million was handed over to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

The committee members disbursed K39 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to 31 project members as the fifth cycle of low-interest revolving loans. Of the total amount, K22 million was provided to 19 members engaged in agriculture and K17 million to 12 livestock breeders in Yanglaw Model Village. — Karan (Rural)

NATIONAL

MNHRC inspects Insein Central Prison

AN inspection team led by Chairman U Thit Linn Ohn of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission accompanied by Commission Members U Than Win, U Ohn Khaing, Dr Nu Nu Yi, and Dr Swe Swe Aung, conducted an inspection visit to the Insein Central Prison in Insein Township, Yangon Region, on 25 and 26 June 2026 in accordance with the provisions of Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission's Law.

During the inspection of the Insein Central Prison, the team visited and inspected the prisoners' dormitories, the dormitories for prisoners with diverse sexual orientations, the ward for elderly prisoners with disabilities in the prison hospital, medical treatment wards, medicine warehouse, X-ray room, the dental treatment unit, the tuberculosis (TB) treatment unit, the library, vocational training workshop, Dhamma Hall, the kitchen, gas stoves, the food warehouse, water purifiers, and water storage tanks, and additionally



The MNHRC Chairman and members are pictured during their inspection tours in the Insein Central Prison on 25-26 June.

checked the cleanliness of the internal and external sewage systems. In addition, the team observed the educational programs provided within the prison, which included basic literacy education covering for read and write as well as classes from Grade 9 to Grade 12, and university-level courses according to academic years.

The team inspected whether the fundamental rights entitled to prisoners are enjoyable or not, including the matters relating to an adequate food supply, access to healthcare services, the

availability of sufficient purified drinking water and water for domestic use, the situation of allowing family visits, the receipt of items issued by the prison and those sent by family members, the provision of physical exercise and sports activities for health and fitness, the provision of formal education and vocational training. Additionally, the team enquired whether there were instances of human rights violations or torture by prison officials and fellow inmates, the right to practise religion in accordance with their faith. Moreover, the

team conducted private and confidential interviews with prisoners who requested to meet separately, and recorded their statements. The Commission donated knowledgeable books for prisoners to read and study, to the prison authorities. The team also followed up and checked the implementation of the previous recommendation made by the Commission.

The findings and recommendations from the inspection visits will be sent to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission's law. — MNHRC

Myanmar joins Mekong meeting to tackle transboundary haze crisis

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo and his team attended the 14th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution, in the Mekong Sub-region held in Vientiane, Laos, on 25 June.

At the opening ceremony, Mr Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Laos, delivered the opening speech. The meeting was chaired by Dr Sai Nakhong Inthaboun, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Laos, and co-chaired by Deputy Min-

ister Dr Thaung Naing Oo. Dr Thaung Naing Oo emphasized that Myanmar, together with Thailand and Laos, is jointly implementing the CLEAR Sky Strategy (2024-2030) to address transboundary haze pollution.

The meeting was attended by more than 30 ministers, deputy ministers, high-level representatives, and subject matter experts from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC). — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing Oo poses for the group photo session.

Kungyangon disburses K45M under Mya Sein Yaung Village Project



A village representative receives the fund disbursement in Kungyangon Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Zeegon Village, Kungyangon Township, yesterday.

Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Su Thida Lin explained that the revolving fund was being provided to enable rural households to expand fam-

ily income-generating activities and to implement village development projects through the increased revolving fund accumulated under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Project staff then briefed participants on the objectives of the project, interest rates, loan repayment periods, and regulations governing the disbursement of the revolving fund. Afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K45 million was handed over to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

The committee members disbursed K45 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to 124 project members as the ninth cycle of low-interest revolving loans. Of the total amount, K45 million was provided to members of Zeegon Village who will engage in agriculture, livestock breeding, and trading. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Pantanaw's completed VDP village electrification project inspected

OFFICIALS made a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of the 400V power line installation, aimed at providing electricity to Wetchaung Village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. The initiative is being implemented under the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Township Head Daw Aye Aye Hlaing of the Pantanaw Township Department of



Officials inspect the completed installation of the 400V power line in Pantanaw Township.

Rural Development, along with relevant officials and village committee members, inspected the completed power line installation work. The township head urged the community to work together to maintain the system for long-term sustainability and to use electricity systematically and safely. The project involved installing an 1,100-foot-long 400V village power line to provide electricity to the area. It commenced in the second week of May during the 2026-2027 financial year, funded by a K15 million budget allocation from the Village Development Project (VDP) and a K3 million contribution from the local community, totalling K18 million. Daw Aye Aye Hlaing stated that the project is now 100 per cent complete and is currently benefiting 411 residents from 98 households in the village by providing them with access to electricity. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

CBM injects foreign currencies to edible oil, CMP companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$379,500 to edible oil-importing companies and \$952 to CMP companies on 25 June.

CBM pumped over \$909,000 on 24 June and \$2.59 million to edible oil-importing companies on 23 June.

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

CBM has been injecting US dollars to the edible oil-importing com-



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

panies, with \$1.62 million on 12 June, \$286,000 on 11 June, \$1.38 million on 10 June, \$2.6 million on 9 June, \$3.6 million on 8 June, over \$2.9 million on 4 June, over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import 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

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set at K7,255 per viss



The edible oil shelf at a shopping centre.

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market decreased to K7,255 per viss this week ending 2 July, which is down from K7,285 last week ending 25 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Ministry of Commerce's Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution monitors weekly FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia. By factoring in transport costs, tariffs, and banking fees, the committee estab-

lishes the weekly wholesale market reference rate for edible oil.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To prevent overcharging, the Ministry of Commerce's Consumer Affairs Department urged consumers in late August to report price gouging through its hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The committee announced that anyone engaging in price gouging or hoarding oil to manipulate the market will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is collaborating with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and cooking oil importers to provide consumers with affordable palm oil.

Complaints regarding overcharging can be lodged via the Consumer Affairs Department hotline (1535) or submitted through the official Facebook pages of the national, regional, or state departments.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. Myanmar annually imports approximately 700,000 tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demand. — NN/KK

Naungtayar greenlights new potato cold storage

POTATO cold storage facilities that can hold up to 10,000 tonnes will be constructed in Naungtayar, Pinlaung Township, southern Shan State, said Chairman Khun San Oo of the Naungtayar Potato Association.

"At present, about 4,000 tonnes of potato cold storage facilities have been set up. The construction of the remaining facilities is scheduled to complete by the end of this year. Seed potatoes selected to be replanted for new potato crops were



stored under traditional storage methods, causing disease, fungal rots and losses and pushing import tonnes of seed potatoes," he added.

The potato growers collectively build these potato cold storage facilities to reduce the post-harvest loss, under State Economic Promotion Fund and local investment. — ASH/KK

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FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.
News and Periodicals Enterprise

So As Not to Be Time-wasting Reading

FROM PAGE 9

Actually, not only great authors but also student writers tend to commit three careless writer's faults, namely content misconceptions, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. All these faults may be served by the single writing style of an author. Among them, grammatical errors are supposed to be the worst

fault in writing simply because although the first two faults are unmistakable for a clever and intelligent reader, a grammatical error is hard to correct for a regular reader will correct and read it for sure.

Hence, in order not to be time-wasting reading, readers must get something after reading — no matter whether it is gen-

eral knowledge, diverse thoughts, different opinions, soothing pleasure, intrapersonal feelings, moral lessons or practical ways. Of course, readers have to take advantage of reading as much as they can. Reading indeed takes a very long time, as often as possible. Nonetheless, readers need to have a purpose or aim for reading first. After reading, a reader's behaviour should change in one way or another. And most importantly, choose the book right!

EU says Amazon, Microsoft cloud services should face stricter rules

THE EU said Thursday that the cloud services of Amazon and Microsoft should face tougher digital competition rules in Europe because of their dominant position in the sector.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft's Azure are the largest and second-largest cloud computing services in the European Union respectively.

"These services will only continue to grow in importance, which is why it is essential that we ensure a well-functioning and competitive market," EU antitrust commissioner Teresa Ribera said.

The EU opened a probe in November into whether AWS and Azure should come under the scope of the Digital Markets Act (DMA). — AFP



The cloud services of Amazon and Microsoft should face tougher digital competition rules in Europe. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China home to 381 unicorn firms: Hurun index

CHINA'S tally of unicorn companies stood at 381 as of 1 January this year, according to the Global Unicorn Index 2026 by Hurun Research Institute.

The number was 38 more than the previous year, according to the index, released on Thursday in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

According to the index, the number of unicorn companies worldwide hit a record high of 1,603, up 5.3 per cent

from the previous year's tally, with a combined valuation of 54 trillion yuan (about US\$7.92 trillion).

The United States led the world with 806 unicorns, an increase of 48 from a year earlier, accounting for 50.3 per cent of the global total. China ranked second globally with 381 unicorn companies, and its unicorn companies are primarily concentrated in the semiconductor, artificial intelligence (AI), life sciences and new energy sectors. — Xinhua

Sony to end sales of aibo dog robot in Japan

SONY Group Corp said Thursday it will stop selling its iconic aibo dog robot in Japan once stocks run out, as part of a "review" to optimize the company's future business services.

Sony will continue to offer necessary services, including providing replacement parts and repairs, while continuing to market the interactive, artificial intelligence-equipped pet robot in the United States.



Sony Group Corp said Thursday it will stop selling its iconic aibo dog robot in Japan once stocks run out. PHOTO: KYODO

The current aibo can be connected to a cloud service. It was launched in 2018, reviving the robot that debuted in 1999 and was later discontinued. Sony has not disclosed how many units have been sold so far.

The dog robot has won the hearts of people who cannot keep pets as well as seniors in Japan, one of the world's fastest-aging societies. — Kyodo

IBM unveils chip technology

IBM unveiled new semiconductor technology Thursday that the company says could deliver computer chips with 50 per cent better performance while dramatically lowering power consumption.

The technology developed by IBM is not yet ready for industrial use, but the Armonk, New York-based company said it "sees a path to production in as early as the next five years".

The breakthrough could mean a major leap forward as the industry races to cram more computing power into smaller devices, but as worries grow over the tech industry's huge energy needs.

Taiwan's TSMC, the world's leading chip manufacturer, has recently begun mass-producing "2-nanometre" chips, the current cutting edge of the industry.

IBM's new "0.7-nanometre" technology would represent a dramatic step beyond that.

The nanometre, an atomic-scale unit of measurement, doesn't refer to the literal size of chips or their components, but to how densely transistors — the tiny electronic switches that

make up processors — can be packed together.

The smaller the number, the more transistors can fit on a chip the size of a fingernail.

IBM's breakthrough packs nearly 100 billion transistors onto a chip that size — nearly twice the density of the 2-nanometre chip. More transistors mean faster and more powerful computing and can help drive advances like faster smartphones and laptops, more efficient data centres, better self-driving cars, and more capable artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT. — AFP

Chipmaker Kioxia mulls US listing in FY 2027

JAPANESE chipmaker Kioxia Holdings Corp said Thursday it is considering a US listing through American depositary receipts in the first half of fiscal 2027 starting next April to enable large-scale fundraising amid booming demand for artificial intelligence.

Kioxia President and CEO Hiroo Ota expressed a bullish outlook for the memory chip market at its annual shareholders' meeting held in Tokyo, saying, "The strong demand still has a long way to run." — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (364W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (364W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-6-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0398W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0398W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-6-2026** 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.

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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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Mexico's Sheinbaum and Spanish king use World Cup to mend diplomatic rift

Then-president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador wrote a letter to the Spanish crown requesting the recognition of "crimes" committed in the 16th century.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and King Felipe VI of Spain met at the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City. **PHOTO: AFP**

AGAINST a backdrop of World Cup good vibes, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Spanish King Felipe VI on Thursday eased diplomatic tensions following Mexico's demand for an apology over the colonial-era conquest.

Diplomacy between

the two countries chilled in 2019 when Sheinbaum's political mentor, then-president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, wrote a letter to the Spanish crown requesting the recognition of "crimes" committed in the 16th century.

Felipe VI never re-

sponded, and the Spanish foreign minister defended the history shared by both countries, rejecting the idea of an apology.

The move was the opening salvo to years of diplomatic tensions.

On Thursday, the king visited Sheinbaum in Mexico City while en route to

Guadalajara, where Spain will play against Uruguay in the group phase of the World Cup.

The king and the president were photographed shaking hands warmly, and chatted about football and expressed solidarity with Venezuela after two powerful earthquakes killed at least 235 people.

Writing on X after the meeting, Sheinbaum said: "We discussed the importance of Indigenous peoples throughout history and the ties between Mexico and Spain. We agreed to strengthen bilateral relations for the benefit of our nations."

Her government announced on Thursday that Mexico and Spain will organize exhibitions and cultural activities that highlight "Spanish exile in Mexico and Mexico's Indigenous cultures". — AFP

America's doors are closed fully to asylum seekers

WHITE House adviser Stephen Miller reacted to Supreme Court decisions on immigration, saying the US is completely closed to asylum seekers and Haitian refugees who received temporary protected status should leave the country. The comments come as the US Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that government officials can turn away asylum seekers at the southern border with Mexico if they have not yet set foot on US soil. The ruling on Thursday clears the way for the administration of President Donald Trump to revive a controversial policy known as "metering", in which immigration agents physically block those seeking asylum from crossing the border, Al Jazeera

reported. Miller, while speaking to reporters, as quoted by PBS News, said that Haiti is a safe country for Haitians and some pockets of the country may have high crime rates, just as the US has in Chicago.

"For Haitians? Absolutely. Yeah, so for, I mean, yes, Haitians live in Haiti. It's not our position that Haitians should leave Haiti. I mean it would be it would be crazy for us to say that Haitians couldn't live in Haiti. It's their country. Of course Haitians should live in Haiti. The, there's no viable asylum or to use a technical term here CAT claim or withholding claim for any Haitian seeking relief from going back to Haiti, to their homeland," he said. — ANI



Haiti's residents are prey to regular armed violence, forcing many to look for safer areas in the impoverished country. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

IAEA intends to start inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities soon



The memorandum stipulates that Iran's nuclear programme will be once again placed under IAEA monitoring and oversight. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE IAEA intends to begin inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities in the near future, Director General Rafael Grossi said on Friday.

"We have not started this process of verification ... We have barely initiated conversations with Iran so as to determine what are the modalities. And by modalities, we refer to frequency, places to be visited, and so on. The process, as you know, last weekend, we were in

Burgenstock in Switzerland, where initial conversations have taken place. So I expect this work to pick up soon," Grossi said during a press conference in Tokyo.

The memorandum signed by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stipulates that Iran's nuclear programme will be once again placed under IAEA monitoring and oversight, Grossi added. — SPUTNIK

Samsung unveils \$650 billion AI investment

SOUTH Korea's Samsung Electronics is expected to announce a record domestic investment plan next week, according to local media reports, in a massive bet on AI-driven semiconductor demand.

The 1,000 trillion won (\$650 billion) package, to be announced by the chip giant and the government,

is in line with President Lee Jae Myung's agenda for development in regions outside of the capital Seoul.

Lee will host a "National Mega Project" briefing on Monday, where Samsung will unveil major long-term investment plans, the reports said. — AFP

SPORTS

Dutch march into World Cup knockouts as group winners

THE Netherlands beat hapless Tunisia 3-1 on Thursday to top World Cup Group F and avoid a last-32 clash with Brazil, setting up a meeting with Morocco instead.

Ronald Koeman's men flew into a two-goal lead in soggy Kansas City thanks to some shoddy defending from the North African side.

Ellyes Skhiri sliced Denzel Dumfries' cross into his own net and minutes later Sunderland forward Brian Brobbey lashed home from close range.

That apparently sealed the deal for the Netherlands, whose orange-clad fans were entertaining themselves with Mexican waves midway through the first half at Arrowhead Stadium.

Tunisia pulled a goal back in the second half but the Dutch restored their two-goal lead courtesy of a Jan Paul van Hecke header shortly after the hour mark.

The Netherlands, who finished their group fixtures with seven points, pipped Japan to top spot in Group F, and will face Morocco in the second round in Monterrey on Monday.

Japan drew 1-1 with Sweden in Arlington, Texas, to confirm second spot though the Scandinavian side also advanced as one of the eight best third-placed teams.

Netherlands coach Koeman warned against thinking too far ahead, with a potential last-16 tie against South Africa or co-hosts Canada. — AFP



Dutch forward Brian Brobbey (left) celebrates scoring against Tunisia in their World Cup Group F match in Kansas City. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar women win gold and bronze at China Sepak Takraw Open

THE China International Sepak Takraw Open featured 11 teams from China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Hong Kong SAR competing in the men's and women's events.

Myanmar's women won the gold medal in the Women's Quadrant event and the bronze medal in the Women's Regu event.

In the Women's Quadrant competition, Myanmar defeated host China, Thailand, Laos and Guizhou Province (China) to win all four round-robin matches and secure the



Myanmar's Women's Sepak Takraw team pose after winning one gold and one bronze medal at the China International Sepak Takraw Open 2026.

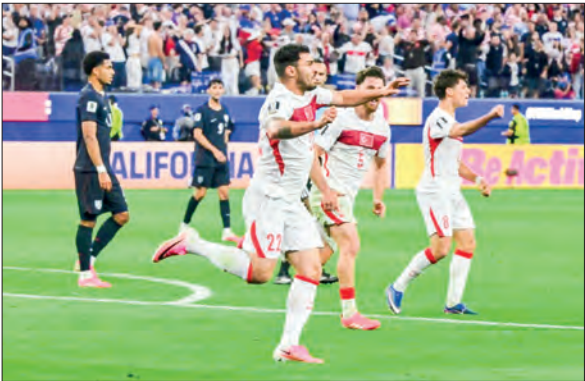
gold medal. The team finished third in the Women's Regu event after competing against the same opponents. First held in 2020, the China International Sepak Takraw Open staged its sixth edition this year. — ASH/KZL

Already-eliminated Türkiye stuns Group D winner US in last second

ALREADY-ELIMINATED Türkiye stunned co-host United States, which had already secured top spot in Group D, 3-2 here on Thursday in their World Cup group finale.

Türkiye snatched the winner in the final seconds of stoppage time through veteran defender Kaan Ayhan, who finished from close range after a scramble in the penalty area.

It was the first time the two sides had met at a World Cup. US coach



Türkiye's defender Kaan Ayhan scored a last-gasp winner against the USA. PHOTO: AFP

Mauricio Pochettino made nine changes, resting forward Folarin Balogun, center-back Chris Richards and left-back

Antonee Robinson, all of whom were one yellow card away from suspension.

Türkiye also rotated heavily, making seven changes to its starting lineup. The Americans made a flying start through defender Auston Trusty after only three minutes. Assisted by midfielder Sebastian Berhalter following a corner, Trusty fired a powerful shot from a tight angle into the bottom right corner. — Xinhua

World Cup roundup: Japan, Australia, Cote d'Ivoire reach last 32

JAPAN, Cote d'Ivoire and Australia progressed to the round of 32 while Ecuador and Sweden also advanced after finishing among the tournament's eight best third-placed teams following Thursday's final group-stage matches.

Gonzalo Plata scored in the 77th minute as Ecuador recovered from a goal down to beat Germany 2-1. Leroy Sane gave the European side an early lead with a first-time effort that beat Hernan Galindez at his near post. Nilson Angulo equalized by drilling a 20-yard shot into the far corner.

The game looked headed for a draw

when Plata combined with Kevin Rodriguez before poking the ball past Manuel Neuer. "We came to life here," Ecuador manager Sebastian Beccacece told a post-match news conference. "Sometimes we feel the pain of defeat but sometimes also the satisfaction of a victory. What is important is to strike a balance. This will not change my life but we want to enjoy the moment."

Plata (up) of Ecuador celebrates after winning the Group E match against Germany at the 2026 FIFA World Cup at New York New Jersey Stadium in New Jersey, the United States, 25 June 2026. — Xinhua

Mbappe-Haaland clash makes headlines as France, Norway meet in Group I finale

THE final World Cup Group I match between France and Norway has generated headlines as Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland prepare to go head-to-head on Friday. The two star forwards are already among the leading contenders for the World Cup Golden Boot, having both scored twice in each of their first two games.

France and Norway are level on six points after two matches and have both already qualified. France has a superior goal difference and will advance as group winner with a draw.

Haaland had played down the im-

portance of the match after Norway's win over Senegal, saying that simply qualifying had already met the team's goal.

"Honestly I don't care too much [about the France game]," the Manchester City striker said. "We're through, we managed to get through, which is incredible. So I couldn't care too much about that game now. They [France] are probably going to win against us, they're probably going to win the whole tournament." But French midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni joked about Haaland's comments at Thursday's pre-match press conference. — Xinhua

Mexico's Sheinbaum and Spanish king use World Cup to mend diplomatic rift

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WORLD

Vietnam launches 1st national chip prototyping centre

VIETNAM'S Ministry of Science and Technology launched the Vietnam National Multi-Project Wafer Coordination Center in Hanoi on Friday, marking the country's first national facility dedicated to supporting semiconductor chip prototyping, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

The centre links domestic chip research and design with the global semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, while strengthening technological self-reliance and Vietnam's position in the global supply chain, according to

the report.

It seeks to address major bottlenecks in the semiconductor industry, where most chip designs rely on overseas prototyping, resulting in higher costs, longer development timelines and limited commercialization.

The facility will be developed in three phases from 2026 to beyond 2030, starting with full state support for prototyping, followed by partial support and infrastructure improvement, and ultimately aiming to master advanced technologies. — Xinhua



This image shows a semiconductor technician wearing a cleanroom suit and inspecting a silicon wafer near a microscope. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE ONLY/ SHUTTERSTOCK**

Italian airbases were never used for actions against Iran

ITALY'S Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani held a telephonic conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and clarified that Italy has never taken part in any military initiative and has never authorized the use of bases for war actions against Iran.

Tajani requested a return to full opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

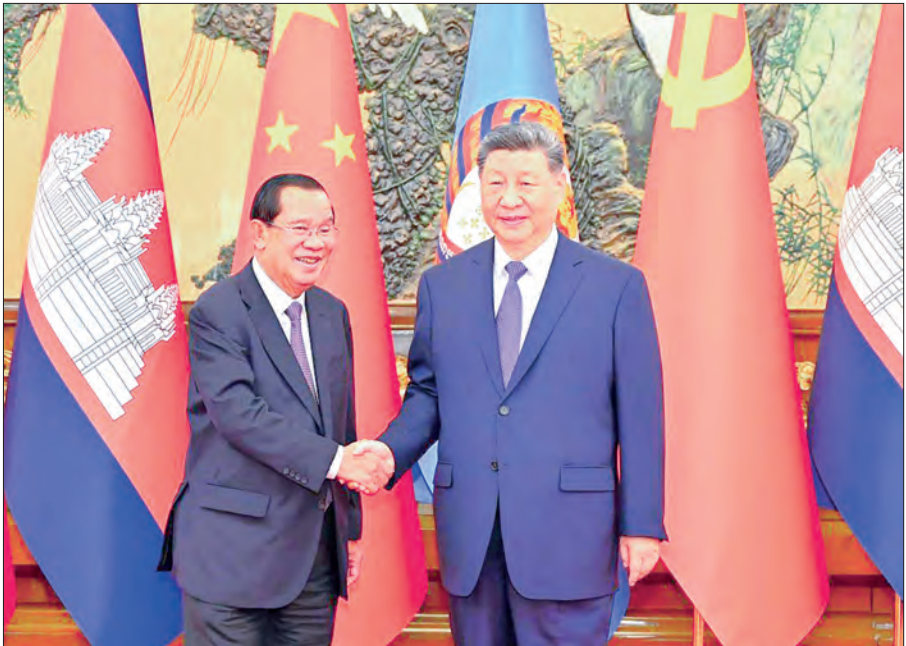
In a post on X, he said, "I spoke with the Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi. Italy has never taken part in any military initiative and has never authorized the use of bases for war actions against Iran, in the strictest respect of the treaties with the United States. I requested a return to full opening of the Strait of Hormuz, facilitating the passage of all Italian cargo ships still blocked. The reopening of the Italian embassy in Tehran is a strong signal of dialogue, also in view of the resumption of economic and cultural relations." — ANI

Xi says China ready to establish security partnership with Cambodia

Xi vows security partnership with Cambodia to root out telecom fraud.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Friday said China is willing to establish a security partnership with Cambodia, and work with Cambodia to make sustained efforts to root out the chronic problem of telecom fraud.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Cambodian People's Party (CPP) President and Senate President Samdech Techo Hun Sen in Beijing, adding China highly commends Cambodia's determination and actions to crack down on telecom and online fraud. — Xinhua



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, meets Cambodian People's Party President and Senate President Samdech Techo Hun Sen at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Global aid rushes to Venezuela as earthquake death toll surges to 589

Venezuela earthquakes toll more than doubles to 589: president

The official death toll from twin earthquakes in Venezuela more than doubled Friday to 589, interim president Delcy Rodriguez said, as rescuers raced to find survivors beneath collapsed buildings.

"Regrettably, we now have 589 people who died," Rodriguez told a televised meeting with military and civilian officials. The previous official toll had been 235.

Venezuela announces fund for reconstruction after earthquakes

Venezuela's acting

president Delcy Rodriguez on Thursday announced a US\$200 million fund for reconstruction after twin powerful earthquakes struck the country on Wednesday. "I would like to announce the creation of an initial fund of

\$200 million using resources we have at the International Monetary Fund, which will allow us to rebuild infrastructure and hospitals, and to construct housing for those who lost their homes," Rodriguez said in a phone interview

with state-run Venezolana de Televisión.

Venezuela's National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said Thursday that the death toll from the two powerful earthquakes has risen to 188, with 1,520 injured and about 200 people trapped under rubble.

China to provide emergency humanitarian aid to Venezuela

The Chinese government and the Red Cross Society of China will provide emergency humanitarian aid to Venezuela respectively, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a regular press briefing on Friday.

Agencies



This photo taken on 25 June 2026 shows damaged buildings in La Guaira State, Venezuela. **PHOTO: XINHUA**