

Government implements the mission to possess 50 per cent of forest coverage of the nation as a national duty in order to ensure more forest ecosystem services.

# Myanmar currently retains 42.15% of forest coverage



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing encourages participants at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony in 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that the current government in its tenure has been supervising tree growing and conservation of forests in order to notably minimize deforestation impacts yearly.

The first monsoon tree-growing ceremony in 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory took place at Yanaungmyin Forest Reserve in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who planted a Gangaw tree (*Mesua ferrea*).

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General highlighted that the forest coverage reached 42.92 per cent of the country in 2015 compared to 42.19 per cent in 2020 but the preliminary report in 2025 stated 42.15 per cent forest coverage of the nation, showing some deforestations.

In its tenure, he continued that the current government has been supervising tree growing and conservation of forests in order to notably minimize deforestation impacts yearly.

The Senior General stressed the need for relevant departments, local authorities and organizations to set their missions to have 50 per cent of forest coverage of the nation as a national duty in order to ensure more forest ecosystem services.

According to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, he recounted that

the UN has set a target to increase the global forest area — estimated at 10 billion acres in the year 2000 — by approximately 300 million acres (around 3 per cent) by the year 2030.

He emphasized that forests supply various forest products such as timber, firewood, bamboo, rattan and herbal plants to rural people. Conservation of forests can create favourable weather as well as produce raw materials and inputs for agriculture, livestock, industrial and service sectors. **SEE PAGE 3**

## Salient points in the speech delivered by the Senior General in monsoon tree-growing ceremony

1. The Senior General led nine-time tree-growing ceremonies in Nay Pyi Taw to grow 3,209,703 saplings, more than 3.032 million of which are thriving, accounting for 94 per cent.
2. A total of 20.59 million of trees above two feet high will be distributed across the nation for cultivation in monsoon this year.
3. The government prioritizes forest conservation, management and reestablishment and expansion of forests under the long-term plans.

### NATIONAL PAGE 2



Temporary power outage in Htaukkyaant and Mingaladon on 16 June due to power cable works

### NATIONAL PAGE 4



Yoga session celebrates 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga

### NATIONAL PAGE 10



Kyaikto COVID-19 patient discharged after full recovery

# NATIONAL

## Reading literature essential nourishment for youth

- Youth, who are the strength of the future, must be nurtured and developed in terms of their character, abilities, and capacities.
- Reading the literature is essential nourishment for youth. They must study the valuable works of great literary scholars and authors.

*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the awarding winners in the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest for 2023 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) National Literary Ward celebration on 1 December 2024)*

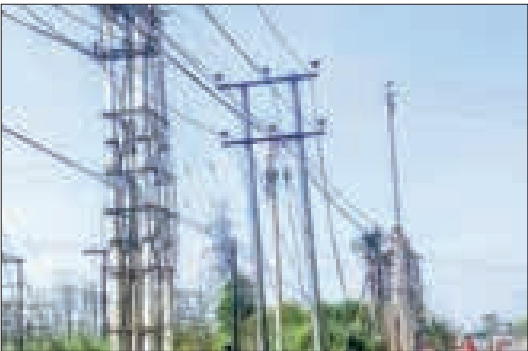
## Temporary power outage in Htaukkyant and Mingaladon on 16 June due to power cable works

ACCORDING to a statement released by the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC), there will be a temporary power outage in certain areas of Htaukkyant and Mingaladon Township between 10 am and 3 pm on 16 June 2025.

The outage is due to ongoing work involving the installation of ACSR (Aluminium Conductor Steel Reinforced) cables on the 230kV East Dagon-Hlawga power line. Specifically, cables are being strung between towers No 85 and 87, including rough sagging and final sagging procedures.

As this work involves crossing over the 33kV Hlawga-Pale (1 and 2) power lines, which do not have adequate clearance, those lines will need to be shut down during the process. As a result, electricity supply will be temporarily interrupted from 10 am to 3 pm on 16 June 2025 in affected zones.

During the works, some neighbourhoods and parts of the industrial zones in Htaukkyant and Mingaladon Township will experience inter-



A section of the 230kV East Dagon-Hlawga power line as seen during the ongoing works.

mittent and temporary power outages. YESC has stated that all necessary measures will be taken to minimize both the duration and coverage area of the outages.

It is also noted that on 12 June, similar cable-laying work on the same 230kV East Dagon-Hlawga power line had caused temporary power disruptions in parts of Htaukkyant and Mingaladon. — Htun Htun/KNN

## Special Weather News

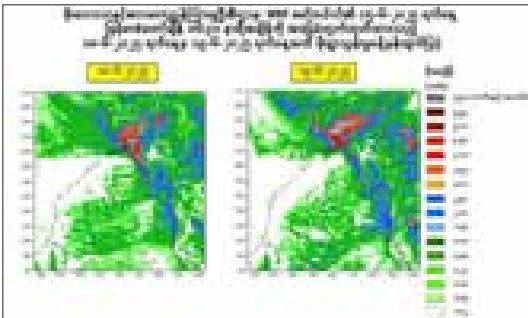
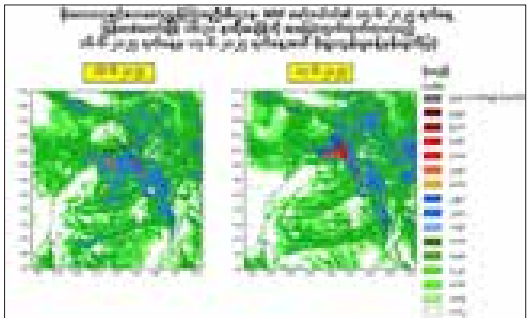
Issued at 6 pm MST on 15 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during today evening to 19 June 2025. Occasional squall with rough seas will be experienced in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind

speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

### Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rain fall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strikes, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH



## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 15 June 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 16 JUNE 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kachin, Kayah and northern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightnings and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squall with rough seas will be experienced in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated heavy falls rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 JUNE 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 JUNE 2025:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 JUNE 2025:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

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.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Myanmar currently retains 42.15% of forest coverage

FROM PAGE 1

He explained that the government prioritizes forest conservation, management and reestablishment and expansion of forests under the long-term plans.

The Senior General retold that the government distributed more than 90.55 million of saplings to the people from 2021 to 2024 monsoon.

He recounted that he led nine-time tree-growing ceremonies in Nay Pyi Taw to grow 3,209,703 saplings, more than 3.032 million of which are thriving, accounting for 94 per cent.

In monsoon this year, he added that a total of 20.59 million of trees above two feet high will be distributed across the nation for cultivation.

Currently, the Senior General spotted that the government is implementing the green development plan with establishment of forest plantations along both sides of roads and along banks of rivers and creeks, conservation of mangrove forests, establishment of the two-acre forest per village in greening 13 arid zone districts, setting up of multipurpose plantations and village firewood plantations, growing



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants a Gangaw tree (Mesua ferrea) at monsoon tree-growing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

trees in Bagan ancient cultural region and planting trees in the Typhoon Yagi-affected areas.

The Senior General planted a Gangaw tree (Mesua ferrea)

in the designated place.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Council Secretary, the Joint Secretary,

council members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, guests, students and service personnel also grew saplings.

The Senior General viewed

round participation of attendees to the ceremony in growing trees.

At the ceremony, a total of 3,000 saplings in 15 species were planted at the monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2025.

Also, present at the ceremony were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, faculty members and students from Naypyitaw State Academy, Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University, Government Technical Institute (Nay Pyi Taw) and University for Forestry and Environmental Conservation.

The Senior General inspected repairing of Uttarathiri Dam over infiltration of water from its cracked parts. Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials reported to the Senior General on inlet channels of water into the dam, geological measures for repairing the dam, and soil test measures.

The Senior General stressed the need to systematically conduct inspection measures before repairing process and urged them to emphasize long-term strengthening of the dam. — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

# NATIONAL

## MoTC holds rainy season tree-planting ceremonies

THE 2025 rainy season tree-growing ceremony of the Ministry of Transport and Communications was held at two plots beside the railways lines between the Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station and Ywataw Station in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 14 June.

Member of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo and his wife, deputy ministers, the permanent secretary and employees and their families attended the event.

Gen Mya Tun Oo and wife led the ceremony to grow 1,500 shade trees including teak, gum-kino, ironwood and Cassia with participation of attendees.

Similarly, the tree-planting events were held at the same time, by departments and organizations from the ministry in the states and regions. — MNA/KZL

The 2025 rainy season tree-growing ceremony of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in progress at the both sides of the railways lines in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 June.



## Yoga session celebrates 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga



DPM Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, deputy ministers from MoFA, officials, Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur, diplomats, staff from the Embassy of India and invitees participate in the Yoga Session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, participated in the Yoga Session organized by the Embassy of the Republic of India stationed in Yangon in collaboration with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of Myanmar to observe the 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga yesterday morning at the Thatta Thattaha Maha

Bawdi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Lwin Oo and U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the office of Nay Pyi Taw Council and Ambassador of India Mr Abhay Thakur, diplomats and staff from the Embassy of India as well as other invitees also

participated in the Yoga session and celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga altogether.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs then planted a sapling of Mesua Ferrea along with the Ambassador of India in commemoration of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga in the precinct of the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

## Yangon hosts major Buddhist Ceremony: Vinaya recitation, alms for 20,000 monastics, and 10,000 oil lamp donation

DONORS from Vietnam will hold a ceremony in the Yangon Region to recite five Vinaya treatises, offer alms to 20,000 monks and nuns, and illuminate 10,000 oil lamps, according to the Rekhitta Swan-ah Philanthropic Organization.

The events will take place on 18 and 20 June at the Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung Township, the ShweOoMin Dhammathukha Meditation Centre in Mingaladon Township, and the Shwedagon Pagoda in Bahan Township, all located in the Yangon Region.

At 8:30 am on 18 June, a ceremony will be held at the

Botahtaung Pagoda following the 144-hour recitation of five Vinaya treatises from Tri Pitakat treatises donated by Vietnamese donors. Alms and offerings will be presented to 227 monks who will take the Tipitaka Selection Examination.

Similarly, at 2 pm on 20 June, alms will be offered to 20,000 monks and nuns from 220 monasteries in Yangon Region at ShweOoMin Dhammathukha Meditation Centre in Mingaladon Township.

At 6:30 pm on 20 June, Vietnamese donors will offer 10,000 oil lamps to the Shwedagon Pagoda at its terrace. — ASH/TH

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NATIONAL

Union Information Minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister inspect Film City Project, join tree-planting ceremony in Hlegu Township

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein visited the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization's Film City Project in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

They inspected the progress of the project and also attended a monsoon season collective tree-planting ceremony.

The event was also attended by regional ministers, Patron of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization U Aung Lwin, Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun, artistes, departmental officials, and representatives from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association.

The ceremony began with the screening of a video presentation on the progress of the Film City Project. Then, U Zaw Myint Oo, Secretary of MMPO, clarified the current status of the project and the plans for its continuation.

The Union Minister remarked that although the Film City Project had been initiated some time ago, it was only during the tenure of the State Administration Council that of-



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, artistes and departmental officials take part in monsoon season collective tree-planting ceremony at the Film City Project in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

icial approval was granted for its implementation. He emphasized that the project is not only important for those in the film industry, but also for the nation and its people.

He stated that the project could be implemented through one of the three possible approaches: using the organiza-

tion's own funding; securing necessary government investment loans following official procedures; or adopting a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The most suitable option should be selected, he said.

If the project succeeds, film production activities could be conducted mainly in Yangon

and its surrounding areas, bringing great convenience to artistes and filmmakers. The Union Minister also noted that the Ministry of Information and MMPO had worked together to revive cinema screenings, which had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to these efforts, the

industry has now returned to normal operations.

He urged that basic infrastructure related to the film industry should be prioritized in the implementation of the project, while ensuring that leisure and recreation-related components do not take precedence, which could derail the original purpose. He earnestly requested all artistes to work together for the success of the project.

He stressed that the film industry is a sector that deserves national recognition and support, and therefore, efforts must be made to produce high-quality films and to establish a proper system for their screening in cinemas.

Following this, the Yangon Region Chief Minister said that the Head of State had given guidance that during the monsoon season, suitable tree species should be planted across the country to help preserve the environment. So, around 600 trees should be planted as part of this Film City Project, he said.

They all planted trees at designated locations as part of the ceremony. — MNA/KNN

MoST Dy Minister attends closing ceremony of 5<sup>th</sup> Sochi Biosecurity Conference



DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya attended the second day of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Scientific and Practical Conference, "Global Biosecurity Challenges, Problems, and Solutions," held on 11 June at the Novotel Hotel in Sochi, Russian Federation.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya shakes hands with Russian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Sergey Ryabkov.

The Deputy minister participated in a seminar titled "New Opportunities and Emerging Risks of Technology in the Context of Biosecurity: Artificial Intelligence and Synthetic Biology," alongside experts from the Institute of Virology, the Department of Bioorganic Research, the Department of Microorganisms, the Department of Molecular Mechanisms, and the Central Research Institute for the Prevention and Control of Chemical and Biological Hazards.

He also attended Session 6 of the conference, titled "International and Regional Co-

operation under Article X of the BTWC," which featured a panel discussion with officials from various BTWC-related organizations in Russia, China, the Asia-Pacific region, and Africa. Additionally, he joined Plenary Session II, held in the Amphitheatre, titled "Innovations for Regional and Global Biosecurity".

At the closing ceremony, coordinators of the six sessions summarized the discussion outcomes, and Mr Sergey Ryabkov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, delivered the closing speech. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Exam centre  
readiness checked  
for 2024-2025 AC

LT-GEN Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the readiness of examination centres for the 2024-2025 academic year matriculation examination, which will be held at basic education schools in Myothit Wards 2, 3 and 4, and Aungpinle Ward of Chanmyathazi Township in Mahlaingmyay District, Mandalay Region, yesterday morning.

He viewed round preparations for the exam, the security of question and answer papers,

measures for ensuring a safe and peaceful environment for exam candidates, and arrangements for healthcare services. He presented foodstuffs to teachers.

Likewise, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) oversaw the preparation for examination centres and supervisory offices.

His inspection covered the schools in Ngwetaw Kyikon Ward, Ward (I) in Pyigyidagun Township, as well as Chanmyath-



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing inspects the preparation of Basic Education High School No 34 in Chanmyathazi Township for matriculation examination.

azi South and Tampawady Wards in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. The visit included

verification of secure and systematic handling of question and answer papers and coordination

was carried out with relevant officials based on their reports. — MNA/KZL

PDF terrorists kill headmistress and husband, abduct teacher



Photos show Daw Nilar Win (L) headmistress of the Basic Education High School (branch) and her husband U Zaw Latt (R).

THE so-called PDF groups under the NUG are illegally engaging in acts of intimidation, coercion, abduction, and murder of students, teachers, and parents. They are burning down educational buildings, setting off mines, destroying infrastructure, and targeting innocent people with the aim of depriving future generations of their right to education and learning opportunities, thereby creating an illiterate class.

At approximately 8 am yesterday, Daw Nilar Win, 42, the headmistress of the Basic Ed-

ucation High School (branch) in Konphaya (Nyaungpinkan) Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, was in the school's staff housing with her husband, U Zaw Latt, 45, and her sister, Ma Shweyi Win, 19, when seven PDF terrorists arrived there on four motorbikes. Due to the family's refusal to support the PDF's violent actions, Daw Nilar Win and U Zaw Latt were forcibly taken from their apartment and brutally executed in the open area outside their residence.

Similarly, at around 11:20 am on 14 June, Daw Zin Mie

Hlaing, 28, an assistant primary teacher at No 17 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Ward 3, Pakokku, Magway Region, was at home when five armed PDF terrorists arrived on motorcycles. They tied her hands behind her back and abducted her.

Security forces are actively collaborating with local residents to identify and apprehend the extremist terrorists responsible for the brutal murder of the headmistress and her husband, as well as the abduction of a school teacher. — MNA/TTA

PDF armed terrorist groups  
disrupt education through  
threats and violence

ARMED terrorist groups continue to commit acts of violence aimed at disrupting the provision of education and undermining efforts to improve the learning opportunities of the country's younger generation. Their deliberate actions include robbing and destroying school textbooks and writing materials, sending threatening letters to education personnel, parents and students, issuing abduction threats, committing murders, and planting landmines to destroy school infrastructure.

In one such incident, a group of Grade-12 students who were to re-take the matriculation examination were temporarily staying in Thiri Mingala Ward, Ward 1, NyaungU, Mandalay Region, at around 9 am on 14 June 2025. They were from the Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kalate Village, NyaungU Township. Of the

nine students, six – Khin Thet Htar, Ju Ju Su Hlaing, Toe Ei Wai, Yamin Thu, Mya Mya Thet, and Chan Myae Aung – were withdrawn from the accommodation by their parents after receiving threats from the PDF terrorist group.

The remaining three students – Arkar Chan Myay Kyaw, Tun Naing Lin, and Tin Oo Hlaing – would also soon be collected by their parents. In response, security personnel are coordinating with the relevant authorities to make arrangements for the students to retake the examination safely and without disruption.

Regarding this incident, it has been confirmed that security forces are taking steps, in accordance with security procedures, to arrest those responsible for intimidating the students' parents and to ensure peace and stability in the area. — MNA/KNN

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NATIONAL

Three-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K2.55B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 11 and 12 June, the combined teams impounded illegal teaks weighing 0.478 tonne, other illegal timbers weighing 1.490 tonnes, charcoal weighing 9.6 tonnes, 45 logs with a power-tiller worth K4.637 million in Myanaung, Myaungmya and Pathein districts, three vehicles (approximately K163 million), heading to Mandalay from Muse, carrying industrial materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs valued at K588.244 million without official documents on the Hanmyitmo-Ywangan Road. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

On 12 June, the combined on-duty teams seized industrial materials valued at K5.323 million without official documents from a container at the Asia World Port, a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head with a trailer (es-



Confiscated illegal materials at Asia World Port in Yangon.



Confiscated illegal bicycles in Indakaw, on Yangon-Mandalay highway.

timated value of K67.5 million), travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon, carrying industrial materials valued at K21.168 million on the Bago detour and Isuzu Giga tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K75 million), travelling from Hpa-an to Mandalay, carrying consumer goods worth K20.287 million without official documents near Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. The action was conducted per

Customs procedures. Similarly, on 13 June, the combined teams seized a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K30 million), heading to Yangon from Myawady, carrying consumer goods worth K5.966 million without official documents on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Indagaw, the MV Sein Min Thar (estimated value of K1.5 million), travelling from Kawthoung to Yangon, at the Shwe

Mé Jetty, carrying two kinds of industrial materials worth K61.791 million and illegal teak weighing 2.832 tonnes worth K1.608 million in Toungoo and Pyay districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures. Furthermore, combined teams nabbed foodstuffs worth K5.76 million that were smuggled and piled up by the Mongzin village detour near the Nawng-

non checkpoint in Kengtung Township and 11 unregistered vehicles and 67 unregistered motorbikes, according to the Myanmar Police Force. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures. The Steering Committee reported 32 arrests on three consecutive days from 11 to 13 June, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K2.55 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Road to Pro 2025-One Day Intensive Film Workshop to be held

AES Myanmar-Creative Media Institute will hold the Road to Pro 2025 - One Day Intensive Workshop - Film for film lovers and those who want to make creative films.

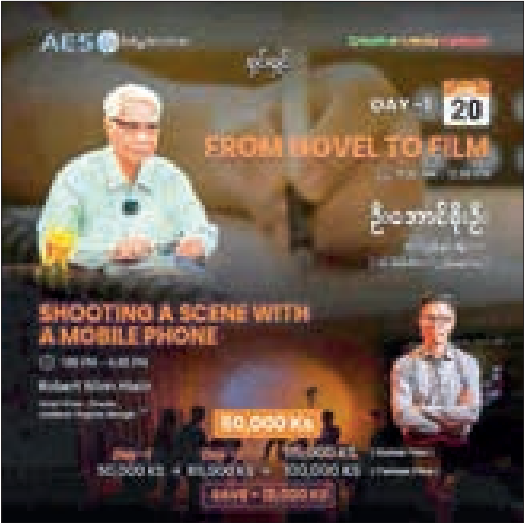
The one-day workshop is for those who are just starting to learn filmmaking, those who are currently working in the industry and those who want to gain more knowledge, according to its official page.

On Day 1, 20 June, in the Road To Pro 2025-Series 2-Film, U Aung Soe Oo will share the artistic work that he tried to create “Naw Yin Hmwe” as From Novel to Film-Part 1.

Part 2, titled Shooting a Scene with a Mobile Phone, will be taught by Robert Win Htain about the camera and lighting they need to know to create a beautiful scene when shooting a movie, and participants can practice using their phone to create beautiful scenes.

On Day 2, 21 June, Creative Director Moe Thit will present How to make Creative Video with Cinematography, a workshop where beginners will have the opportunity to effectively learn the basic essential concepts, combining theory and practice.

It will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on 20-



Writer and Director Academy U Aung Soe Oo and Robert Win Htain, who will be giving lectures on Day 1.

21 June. Those who want to know more about the workshop can contact Road To Pro 2025 - Series 2 - Film at 09-973 079 408.

Those who want to attend this certificate-giving workshop will have to pay K50,000 for the first day and K65,000 for the second day, and only K100,000 for both days. — Htun Htun/ZN

Dvi Pitakadhara Sayadaw honoured for his excellent performances

A ceremony to honour Ashin Paññasami Lankara, who has secured Samanekyaw title, Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya, Vinayadhara, Vinayakovidā, Dighabhanaka (Dvi Pitakadhara) from Ngahtetkyee Monastery in Bahan Township of Yangon took place at the prayer hall of Ngahtetkyee Pagoda on the morning of 14 June.

Abbot of Yekyaw Monastery of Yekyaw Village in Hmawby Township Bhaddanta Atapa recited the religious verse to usher the monk to the seat. Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kavidhaja from Tipitaka Mahagandayon Monastery of Kaba Aye in Yangon Region

administered the Five Precepts. Four venerable monks recited religious verses to honour the Dvi Pitakadhara Sayadaw. Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Tipitakakovidā Kanbawza Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viriyananda and Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidā YeU Sayadaw Bhaddanta Setthañāna Lankara delivered Ovadakhatha to honour the Dvi Pitakadhara Sayadaw. Well-wishers donated alms to members of the Sangha. Officials offered titles of Dighabhana Dvi Pitkatadhara, Vinayadhara and Vinayakovidā to Ashin Paññasami Lankara. — ASH/TTA

OPINION

Combat desertification and drought to shape a livable society

ALL living beings, including humans, need sufficient water to survive. Water availability depends on favourable weather and a healthy natural environment. Unfavourable weather conditions make it difficult to alleviate the hardships faced by people in society. Therefore, it is essential to address the negative consequences affecting ecosystems worldwide in order to build a sustainable and supportive society for future generations.

Desertification, land degradation, and drought are among today's most urgent environmental issues, with nearly 40 per cent of the world's land already degraded. As all countries reach the midpoint of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), it is critical to step up efforts to reverse this trend through large-scale land restoration.

If current degradation continues, restoring 1.5 billion hectares and building a trillion-dollar restoration economy will be necessary by 2030. In this context, the 2025 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, held under the theme “Restore the land. Unlock the opportunities”, highlights how restoring land can generate jobs, enhance food and water security, drive climate action, and strengthen economic resilience. Deforestation is one of the primary factors of desertification. Excessive timber extraction, unplanned urbanization, and careless use of water resources all contribute to the onset of desertification, land degradation, and drought. Indeed, the consequences of unregulated human activities, such as desertification, land degradation, and the resulting drought and water scarcity, are challenges that humanity must inevitably face.

Relevant authorities must regulate extreme actions globally. People should prioritize improving their livelihoods and contributing to the development of their societies without harming the natural environment. If unfair actions driven by selfish interests go unchecked, it is certain that humanity will face the consequences of a degrading environment. To mitigate the impacts of desertification and drought, everyone needs to take responsibility for preventing environmental degradation. Adopting sustainable practices, using natural resources responsibly, and reducing carbon emissions are critical steps toward this goal. By doing so, everyone can help shape both relevant societies and the planet into a lush, greener, and more resilient environment for future generations.

If the desertification process can be reduced and impacts of droughts mitigated, every community around the world can become more livable for all people. This would be a valuable legacy for future generations. Therefore, everyone must make continuous efforts to support the 2025 theme of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

To mitigate the impacts of desertification and drought, everyone needs to take responsibility for preventing environmental degradation. Adopting sustainable practices, using natural resources responsibly, and reducing carbon emissions are critical steps toward this goal. By doing so, everyone can help shape both relevant societies and the planet into a lush, greener, and more resilient environment for future generations.

Empty Chambers, Empty Words

By Kyaw Myint Htoon (Paris)



THE great envoy gave a speech in New York last week.

The speech was “high and mighty”, righteous!” After all, it is about a small, least developed country somewhere in Asia, those types feel automatically superior! It was a usual hollowed speech, the ones these self-absorbed people (SAPs) in Geneva and New York are so capable of. His speech also included comments about the upcoming elections in Myanmar. Seriously! Just one thing. The speech was given in an empty hall. There

was hardly anyone in attendance. Out of 193 country members, it could be counted on two hands how many souls are in the room. People should go on YouTube to watch it. Please! Audience, enjoy the empty room! It’s nicely decorated.

No one has an interest except these SAPs. There are other, more urgent issues going on. Only the SAPs, who are desperate for attention and to feel “righteous”. It’s in their DNA to interfere. That’s all they do. Prolong mandates. Let’s not solve the crisis so that it goes

on and on. The fact that the room was empty, only the SAPs could be so oblivious to it. Empty room or not, it gave them a chance to travel to New York. Catch up with friends. From New York to other destinations. Maybe do some personal businesses in the mix, since it has come to light that there are some private businesses. The position allows them to make a few trips a year to New York. To give an update on this. To give an update on that. To update the big master! If not for this position, it’s unlikely

the higher-education institution way in the South Pacific would have the budget to foot the fine airfare and accommodation. 30 years on, not a single one of them has achieved a single thing. Politics have changed. The mandate remains the same. No review! No realistic reassessment of whether it still makes sense or not. Why bother? It was not for the people of Myanmar from the beginning. Every single appointment has been wrong, especially the current one. Just look at the country of origin. Is there a need to say more?

No one is listening to them. All kinds of things are going on in the world. Wars! Bombings! Etc., etc. Has anyone paid any attention to these SAPs? Not a single thing they can do. One of their agencies recently said forcibly displaced people around the world grew sharply by 6.3 million to 73.5 million at the end of 2024. So, the question is, what have they been doing? The world is falling apart under their watch, not getting safer or better. The doomsday clock is getting closer and closer to midnight! Don’t let them come and preach. Keep them away. Oh yes, the speech also mentioned “self-destruction”. The reality is that destruction would be inevitable only if these SAPs were allowed to have their way. They have done it in other countries. History is littered with their failures. Let’s ask them a question. What conflict have they solved in recent memory? Can they name one? (The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author.)

Pedal Your Way to Better Health

By Junior Thin

Regular cyclists often maintain a healthier body composition, which refers to the balance between fat, muscle, bone, and water in the body. Cycling burns calories, builds muscle, and boosts metabolism – all of which are essential for weight control.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week. Cycling is a great way to meet that recommendation. Whether you bike for 30 minutes five days a week or do three 50-minute sessions, you’ll be helping your body stay fit and active.

Want to lose weight? Increase your intensity by riding uphill, speeding up your pace, or extending your cycling sessions. These adjustments will boost your calorie burn and help you reach your goals faster.

**Boost Your Mood, Beat the Blues**

Exercise doesn’t just make your body stronger – it lifts your spirits, too. Physical activities like cycling release endorphins, the “feel-good” chemicals that improve mood and reduce stress.

People who cycle regularly often report better sleep, lower levels of anxiety and depression,

and an overall improved sense of well-being. Whether it’s the rhythmic motion of pedalling or the calming effect of fresh air and sunshine, biking can be a great mental escape.

Cycling outdoors adds another layer of benefits. Being in nature, enjoying the scenery, and soaking in sunlight can help fight seasonal mood disorders and brighten your day, even after just a short ride.

**Preventing Type 2 Diabetes Through Pedal Power**

Cycling can play a key role in preventing chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes. This condition is often linked to poor lifestyle habits, including a lack of physical activity and unhealthy weight gain. By promoting weight control and improving insulin sensitivity, cycling helps your body better regulate blood sugar levels. Studies have shown that people who bike to work or use cycling as a form of exercise have a significantly lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Making cycling a part of your daily or weekly routine could be one of the simplest ways to protect your long-term health.

**More Than Exercise: A Lifestyle Choice with Real-World Benefits**

Cycling isn’t just a workout –

it’s also a practical and sustainable way to live. When used as a mode of transportation, biking helps you save money on gas, parking, and public transport. It also reduces wear and tear on your vehicle and minimizes your carbon footprint. Each time you choose a bike over a car, you’re reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This is a powerful way to combat climate change and improve air quality in your community. Cleaner air leads to better public health and fewer respiratory issues, especially for children and the elderly.

Cycling can also strengthen family bonds. Parents can encourage children to be more active by going on bike rides together. It’s a fun and healthy way to spend time as a family while developing good habits.

**Stronger Muscles, Healthier Ageing**

Cycling doesn’t just benefit your heart and lungs – it also strengthens muscles throughout your body, particularly in your legs, hips, and core. Each pedal stroke works your quadriceps, hamstrings, calves, and glutes. These muscle groups are essential for balance, walking, climbing stairs, and other daily activities.

As we age, maintaining muscle mass becomes increasingly important. Loss of muscle can lead to falls, injuries, and reduced independence. Cycling provides a low-impact, effective way to slow muscle loss and preserve strength, especially for older adults.

**Indoor versus Outdoor: Which Ride Is Right for You?**

One of the great things about cycling is that it can be done indoors or outdoors, each with its advantages.

Outdoor cycling is perfect for exploring new places, commuting, or getting on a longer endurance ride. It’s also a great social activity, whether you join a group ride or take a leisurely cruise with friends.

Indoor cycling, on the other hand, offers predictability and control. Whether you’re in a spin class or using a stationary bike at home, indoor cycling allows you to adjust intensity easily and stick to a consistent workout schedule, rain or shine.

For those with limited time or living in urban areas with traffic and safety concerns, indoor cycling may be a better option. Plus, many modern stationary bikes offer built-in workout programs,



virtual classes, and tracking features to help keep you motivated. **Who Should Be Cautious About Cycling?**

While cycling is safe for most people, there are a few exceptions. Individuals prone to falls or those with severe balance problems should avoid traditional outdoor biking. For these individuals, recumbent bikes are a great alternative. These bikes have a reclined seat and are lower to the ground, providing better stability and comfort. However, they can be more expensive and take up more space.

If you’re unsure whether cycling is right for you, talk to your healthcare provider, especially if you have chronic health conditions or are recovering from surgery.

**How to Start and Stick With Cycling**

Getting started is easier than

you might think. All you need is a bike and a little motivation.

**Start small:** Begin with 10–15 minutes a day and gradually build up to longer rides.

**Be consistent:** Aim for 150 minutes per week. That’s just 30 minutes a day for five days.

**Choose your style:** Try different types of cycling – commuting, spin class, indoor biking, or scenic weekend rides.

**Stay safe:** Always wear a helmet, follow traffic rules, and use lights or reflectors if cycling outdoors at night.

If you’re cycling indoors, experiment with different virtual classes or programs to find what keeps you engaged. From high-energy spin sessions to scenic virtual rides, there’s something for everyone.

**Final Thoughts: Just Keep Pedalling**

Cycling is one of the most adaptable and rewarding exercises you can choose. It offers a long list of physical, mental, and lifestyle benefits – from reducing your risk of disease to saving money and improving the planet.

Whether you’re an athlete looking for a new challenge, a busy professional needing a flexible workout, or a senior aiming to stay active and mobile, cycling has something to offer you. So, grab a helmet, hop on a bike, and start pedalling your way to better health. The journey might just be your best ride yet.

# NATIONAL



Myanmar Press Council Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo is seen delivering the opening speech at the Journalism Training Course 3/2025 inauguration ceremony.

## MPC launches third journalism training course

THE Myanmar Press Council's Press and Media Development Committee has launched its third journalism training course for 2025, which began on 13 June and is held weekly on Fridays at the council's office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

At the opening ceremony, Myanmar Press Council Chair-

man Dr Tin Tun Oo and Second Vice-Chairman and Head of the Media Development Committee U Khin Maung Kyaw Din delivered speeches. A total of 20 trainees are participating in the course.

The training is conducted by volunteer instructors: U Khin Maung Zaw on International Re-

lations, U Thaik Tun on Broadcasting Media, U Min Myat Soe Moe on App.Monetization, and Dr Tin Aung on Media Counter.

The Myanmar Press Council plans to continue organizing such training courses, incorporating both internal and external journalism experts as instructors. — ASH/TH

## Kyaikto COVID-19 patient discharged after full recovery

A young man who tested positive for COVID-19 in Mon State's Kyaikto Township could make a full recovery, and he was allowed to be discharged from the hospital, according to the Kyaikto Township Public Health Department.

The 25-year-old man who moved to Kyaikto from Yangon about three months ago was tested for infection with COVID-19 when he had a health test for a job on 6 June.

He hasn't received any dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and was put under observation at the hospital, although his health was fine. Now he was allowed to be discharged from the hospital.

"We permitted a young COVID-19 patient to be discharged because he could make a complete recovery. This is great news for all of us. With this joyful message, we are going to take care of our health more than before," said the township health department. — MT/ZS



This photo captures a man found with a COVID-19 infection being discharged from the hospital after a full recovery.

## Electrifying live show lights up The Strip Yangon

SINGER Chaw Su Khin held a live music performance at The Strip Yangon Rooftop Bar in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, on the night of 14 June, according to sources.

"It was held at The Strip Yangon – a rooftop bar of the Hotel Grand Vista on the night of 14 June. I performed together with the Dream Band, delivering some of the best songs to the audience," said singer Chaw Su Khin.

At the live show, Chaw Su Khin performed alongside the Dream Band, who provided full musical support. Vocalists from the Dream Band also joined in and supported Chaw Su Khin in delivering songs to the audience. — ASH/KZL



This photo shows an advertisement for singer Chaw Su Khin's live performance.

## KTCG invites visitors to record and enjoy beauty of nature and bird species

THE Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Wildlife Conservation Group (KTCG) announced that visitors are welcomed to record the natural beauty and bird species in their conservation area.

The Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Wildlife Conservation area is home to many rare species including sarus crane, yellow-breasted bunting, Cinnyris asiaticus, Asian Openbill and Great Cormorant.

In this area, there are various types of birds that migrate according to the weather, including Myanmar indigenous species, migratory birds in the rainy season to breed, those only visible in winter and some rare birds.

The Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Wildlife Conservation area is

located in Shwelaung Station, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region. Visitors are invited to come and enjoy recording the bird species in a comprehensive manner. The KTCG is involved in educational activities such as erecting boards to spread awareness about wetland conservation and connecting with schools to raise awareness. — MT/ZN



Sarus cranes seen in the Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Wildlife Conservation area.

# ‘Hidden treasure’: Rare Gandhi portrait up for UK sale

*The painting is considered a “likely hidden treasure” and will be auctioned for the first time next month.*

A rare oil painting of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, which is believed to have been damaged by a Hindu nationalist activist, is to be auctioned in London in July.

Gandhi, one of the most influential figures in India’s history, led a non-violent movement against British rule and inspired similar resistance campaigns across the world.

He is the subject of tens of thousands of artworks, books and films.

But a 1931 painting by British-American artist Clare Leighton is believed to be the only oil portrait he sat for, ac-

cording to the painter’s family and Bonhams, where it will be auctioned online from 7 to 15 July.

“Not only is this a rare work by Clare Leighton, who is mainly known for her wood engravings, it is also thought to be the only oil painting of Mahatma Gandhi which he sat for,” said Rhyanon Demery, Bonhams Head of Sale for Travel and Exploration.

The painting is a “likely hidden treasure”, Caspar Leighton, the artist’s great-nephew, told AFP.

Going under the hammer for the first time next month, the painting is estimated to sell



Caspar Leighton with a portrait by his great-aunt of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi.  
**PHOTO: AFP**

for between £50,000 and £70,000 (\$68,000 and \$95,000).

Clare Leighton met Gandhi in 1931, when he was in Lon-

don for talks with the British government on India’s political future.

She was part of London’s

left-wing artistic circles and was introduced to Gandhi by her partner, journalist Henry Noel Brailsford. — AFP

## Locals bitter over Jeff Bezos’s upcoming Venice wedding

AS Jeff Bezos prepares to tie the knot in Venice, locals are pushing back against the billionaire’s high-profile wedding, decrying it as a symbol of the city’s growing commercialisation.

Residents of Venice, a ready fed up with crowds of tourists cramming into their canal city, now have one more gripe: Jeff Bezos.

The billionaire Amazon founder is due to marry journalist Lauren Sanchez in a celebration in Venice from 24 to 26 June that is expected to attract countless VIPs.

Not everyone is feeling the love though, with some residents hanging a huge banner with an X over Bezos’s name on a

belltower overlooking the Venice lagoon before the sign was removed on Thursday.

“He’s not welcome, not in Venice, not anywhere!” wrote the “No Space for Bezos” collective on Facebook, which was responsible for the banner.

Bezos is also the owner of space travel company Blue Origin, whose all-female flight in April carrying Sanchez, pop star Katy Perry and four others met with a public backlash for its high cost and environmental impact. — AFP

Some residents hung a huge banner with an X over Jeff Bezos’s name on a belltower overlooking the Venice lagoon. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Kylie Minogue postpones four European Shows on World Tour due to illness

POP singer Kylie Minogue has announced the cancellation of four of her upcoming shows after being struck down with illness.

The Australian perennial chart-topper has been performing on her ‘Tension’ tour to sell-out crowds in the UK, but has been forced to abort four imminent European dates after coming down with laryngitis, inflammation of the vocal chords and voice box, reported Deadline.

The Tension Tour



Marks her first global tour in seven years and is her 16<sup>th</sup> tour overall. **PHOTO: ANI**

is her first global one in seven years, and the 16<sup>th</sup> in her long career. She was due to perform in Berlin on Monday, followed by concerts in Poland, Lithuania and Estonia. However, the pop singer announced the postponement on her X handle.

She wrote, “Hi Lovers, as some of you may know, a week ago we finished the UK leg of the Tension Tour. I made it over the finish line (yay) but unfortunately have succumbed to a viral infection (Hello laryngitis). I’ve tried my best to recover fast to start our next run on Monday but I’m afraid it will take me some days to be well enough to get back on stage and perform the best for you. I’m so, SO sorry! I have no choice but to postpone the shows in Berlin, Lodz, Kaunas and Tallinn as scheduled”. — ANI

# Convenient logistics brings more intimate China-Chile ties

*The route's effectiveness is underscored by the completion of over 40 voyages and the arrival of approximately 30,000 tonnes of cherries in January alone, demonstrating the importance of this logistics channel for Chilean exports.*

CHILEAN cherries are ubiquitous in most supermarkets in north China's port city of Tianjin. The transcontinental "Cherry Express" linking Tianjin and Chile was launched in January 2024.

Upon arrival at Tianjin Port, it took just five hours for Chilean cherries to be delivered to major markets in Tianjin and neighboring Beijing and Hebei Province. According to the Tianjin Port Group, in 2024 alone, the route completed over 40 voyages. In January this year, approximately 30,000 tonnes of Chilean cherries arrived in Tianjin via this route.

This logistics channel has been essential in ensuring Chile's products arrive fresh and in optimal condition to northern Chinese markets.



People visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tianjin International Shipping Industry Expo in Tianjin, north China, 12 June 2025. PHOTO: ZHAO ZISHUO/XINHUA

Cherries are delicate and sensitive to temperature and humidity changes. To maintain their quality, refrigeration should run continuously during transportation.

Tianjin Dongjiang Customs coordinated closely with the shipping line in advance. They obtained the vessel schedule and container details, developed a detailed unloading plan, and held meetings with importers, agents, terminals, and inspection sites. From late November to late February every year, abundant Chilean cherries can be seen at Tianjin's largest agricultural market. "After Tianjin Port clearance, fresh Chilean cherries reach our market in about 2 hours. Over 30 merchants here sell them, with a daily sales volume of 200 to 300 tonnes, greatly enriching fruit supply for customers in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region," said a staff member of the Haijixing agricultural market. — Xinhua

## Japan pushes preemptive cyber defence, calls on firms to act

WITH a national election nearing, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's minority government rushed to enact cyber defense legislation in May, aiming to show leadership after a series of serious attacks exposed major digital vulnerabilities. The legislation marks a bold shift from a reactive to a preemptive cyber defense posture. As threats from hackers grow, the private sector is being urged to take more proactive steps to protect key systems and sensitive industrial data. Most of Japan's infrastructure — such as energy, transport and communications— is run by private firms, where safety risks remain. As the assets are targets for cyberattacks, the government stresses that private-sector cooperation is vital. The government is expected to continue working on cybersecurity regardless of the outcome of the upcoming House of Councillors election, as it plans to draw up a new strategy by the end of this year in a bid to introduce a full-fledged preemptive defense system by 2027. — Kyodo

## US Fed set to hold rates steady in the face of Trump pressure

THE US central bank is expected to keep interest rates unchanged for a fourth straight policy meeting this week, despite President Donald Trump's push for rate cuts, as officials contend with uncertainty sparked by the Republican's tariffs. While the independent Federal Reserve has started lowering rates from recent highs, officials have held the level steady this year as Trump's tariffs began rippling through the world's biggest economy. The Fed has kept interest rates between 4.25 per cent and 4.50 per cent since December, while it monitors the health of the jobs market and inflation. — AFP

## EU struggles for trade deal with US by 9 July amid tariff tensions



The photo of Ursula von der Leyen and Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum was taken on 21 January 2020, at the Davos Congress Centre in Davos, Switzerland. PHOTO: JIM WATSON /AFP/FILE

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reiterated on Saturday the European Union's (EU) commitment to reach a "good" trade deal with the US before 9 July during a phone call with US President Donald Trump. In a post on social media platform X, von der Leyen said that she had a "good call with President Trump ahead of the G7 Summit." The US government's decision to raise tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to 50 per cent took effect earlier this month, escalating a trade dispute that has drawn sharp concern from European producers, who warn the steep new duties could cause significant harm to the sector. On 26 May, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic made similar comments after Trump said talks with the 27-member bloc were "going nowhere" and threatened to impose a 50 per cent tariff on all EU imports from 1 June. Following a call from von der Leyen, Trump then agreed to delay the planned tariff hike until 9 July. According to von der Leyen's post on Saturday, she and Trump also discussed the situations in the Middle East as well as in Ukraine during the phone call. — Xinhua

# Household savings in India drop to 18.1% of GDP in FY24: CareEdge Ratings

INDIA'S household savings continued their downward trajectory for the third straight year, slipping to 18.1 per cent of GDP in financial year 2024 (FY24), as per CareEdge Ratings.

The report added that Gross domestic savings declined to 30.7 per cent of GDP in FY24 from 32.2 per cent in FY15.

On the other hand, household financial liabilities surged to 6.2 per cent of GDP, nearly doubling over the past decade, reflecting growing reliance on credit amid consumption needs, the report observed.

It highlights that despite the concerning savings trend, rural India offers a silver lining. Wage growth for rural male workers rose by 6.1 per cent year-on-year in February, outpacing ru-

ral inflation for the fourth consecutive month. This, along with easing food inflation and favourable agricultural prospects, is supporting rural demand recovery, the report added.

Rural consumer confidence, hovering around the neutral 100 mark, reflects a cautious optimism. In contrast, urban consumer confidence remains in pessimistic territory, though expectations for the year ahead remain upbeat across both segments, the report added.

In the broader economy, labour cost growth for major IT firms has slowed significantly from a peak of 26 per cent in Q3 FY23 to just 4 per cent in Q3 FY25, highlighting a broader trend of cost rationalisation in the corporate sector, as per the observations of the report. — ANI



The report added that Gross domestic savings declined to 30.7 per cent of GDP in FY24 from 32.2 per cent in FY15. PHOTO: ANI

# Nippon Steel faces challenges despite historic merger with US Steel

NIPPON Steel has announced a “historic partnership” with US Steel following President Donald Trump’s approval of a multi-billion-dollar merger, which includes a commitment to invest approximately \$11 billion by 2028.

However, the Japa-

nese steel giant is confronted with significant challenges. The merger is subject to a National Security Agreement with the US government, which imposes conditions such as a “golden share” for the government, granting it increased control over the company. — AFP

# Japan firms push for individual investment options for aircraft, cars



Aircraft featured in new investment product targeting individual investors. (Photo not for sale)(A portion of this image has been obscured by the provider. PHOTO: FPG SECURITIES CO./KYODO

SOME Japanese firms are looking to provide individuals with opportunities to invest in commercial vehicles such as aircraft and rental cars for island tourism, hoping such products will help investors to broaden their portfolios beyond traditional stockholdings.

In what it calls Japan’s first publicly offered aircraft investment product tailored for individual investors, FPG Securities Co. will start soliciting funds for an Airbus A320-200 from late June, with the minimum investment amount set at 1 million yen (\$7,000) per unit.

The small-lot product will make it accessible for individuals to “own” aircraft, which can cost more than 10 billion yen when brand new and are usually targets for investment by major trading houses and institutional investors.

As the Airbus aircraft will be leased to Spain’s flagship airline Iberia, investors will be paid annual dividends from the leasing revenues and may also earn returns from the capital gain on its eventual sale.

With the investment term set for two years and 10 months, the company is projecting a first-year return rate of around 6 per cent. The product carries the risk of falling below its initial value at redemption, such as in the case of a decline in air travel demand due to conflicts and pandemics. Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corp, meanwhile, is preparing to launch an investment product for retail investors in collaboration with a rental car business affiliated with Idom Inc, operator of used-car chain Gulliver. — Kyodo

# Rotterdam Port aims for sustainability, eyes closer China ties

HANNA Stelzel, director of containers at the Port of Rotterdam Authority, the Netherlands, has reaffirmed the port’s ambition to become the world’s most sustainable port by 2050 and highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation with China in green shipping and energy transition initiatives.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Stelzel emphasized that the Port of Rotterdam is undergoing a profound transformation in response to global shifts.

“Just like in other ports, we’re in the midst of the biggest transitions in decades — geopolitical transitions and social cultural transitions, technological transitions,” she noted.

Recognizing the evolving role of ports, she said: “In the future and probably already today, our performance will no longer be measured by volume profitability or share price only, but by the impact that we create for our societies.” — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (521W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (521W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB522A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB522A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-6-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

TÜRKIYE has increased the transit fees for international vessels navigating through the strategic Turkish Straits, which connect the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea, authorities announced on Sunday.

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu said in a statement that the toll increased by 15 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching US\$5.83 per tonne. The new rate will take effect on 1 July.

The updated fees will apply to vessels transiting the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul and the Dardanelles Strait in northwestern Türkiye, with charges based on their net tonnage, the minister noted.

“This increase is highly valuable in terms of supporting the sustainability of the public services we provide in the

Türkiye increases passage fee for int’l ships through straits by 15%



*In 2024, 51,058 transit vessels passed through the straits, generating \$227.4 million in revenue.*

The updated fees apply to vessels transiting the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul and the Dardanelles Strait in northwestern Türkiye. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Turkish Straits,” the minister pointed out. “With the fees we collect, we continue to constantly improve our infrastructure and vessel traffic monitoring systems to enhance maritime

safety and security, as well as environmental protection, in our straits — among the world’s most challenging and risky narrow waterways.”

A total of 51,058 transit vessels subject to the tolls passed through the two straits in 2024, generating \$227.4 million in revenue, according to the minister.

Crossing through Türkiye’s largest city, Istanbul, the Bosphorus Strait stretches nearly 30 kilometres and narrows to about 700 metres at its tightest points, serving as a vital corridor linking the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.

Meanwhile, the Dardanelles Strait in the Canakkale province is another key waterway, extending 61 kilometres and connecting the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean and Mediterranean seas. — Xinhua

US police hunt gunman after state lawmaker killed, another hurt

MINNESOTA police are hunting a suspect in two shootings that left one lawmaker dead and another injured, in attacks that officials believe were politically motivated amid deep national tensions.

A manhunt was underway Sunday for a gunman who shot two Democratic state lawmakers in Minnesota, killing Melissa Hortman and her husband and wounding the other, in what the northern US state’s governor said were politically motivated attacks.

The shootings Saturday came as deep political divisions have riven the United States, the same day that hundreds of thousands of protesters across the country took to the streets to rally against the policies of Republican President Donald



Minnesota state representative Melissa Hortman (L) and state senator John Hoffman (R), both Democrats, were shot in a targeted attack. **PHOTO: MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATURE/AFP**

Trump. Democratic State Representative Hortman — a former speaker of the House — and her husband Mark were killed at their home in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Park, Governor Tim Walz announced in a news conference. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear facilities must never be attacked: IAEA

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Friday called for an end of attacks on nuclear facilities after Israel attacked nuclear facilities in Iran early in the morning.

“Nuclear facilities must never be attacked, regardless of the context or circumstances, as it could harm both people and the environment,” IAEA director general Rafael Grossi said at its Board of Governors meeting. “Such attacks have serious implications for nuclear safety, security and safeguards, as well as regional and international peace and security.” — Xinhua

Ishiba Cabinet support rate rises to 37%, most back rice policy shift

THE approval rating for Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba’s Cabinet rose to 37.0 per cent from 31.7 per cent in May, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday, with most expressing support for a shift away from the government’s long-standing policy of curbing rice production.

In the two-day telephone poll conducted from Saturday, 88.5 per cent of respondents said they support revising the government’s farming policy on the country’s staple to boost production, as rice prices remain near record highs amid ongoing shortages. Only 7.6 per cent were opposed. — Kyodo

Cambodia, Thailand start talks over border issues after recent skirmish

A Cambodia-Thailand Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) meeting was held here in the capital of Cambodia on Saturday to talk over border issues following a recent military clash.

The meeting was co-chaired

by Lam Chea, minister in charge of Cambodia’s State Secretariat of Border Affairs, and Prasas Prasasvinitchai, a former Thai ambassador to Cambodia and border affairs advisor to Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs.

Press members were allowed to take photos and videos of the meeting for a few minutes before being asked to leave the room.

The meeting was convened

after soldiers of both countries briefly exchanged gunfire at the Mom Bei area, or the Emerald Triangle, on 28 May, resulting in the death of a Cambodian soldier.

Mom Bei, or the Emerald Triangle, is an area sharing

the border among Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said in a post on his official Facebook page Friday night that it was the first JBC meeting after a 12-year hiatus. — Xinhua

SPORTS

MNL League Cup: Rakhine United advance to quarterfinals as Group C winner

IN the final Group C match of the 2025 MNL League Cup, Rakhine United faced ISPE FC on 15 June at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, with the contest ending in a 2-2 draw.

The result was enough for Rakhine United to advance to the quarterfinals as a group winner. They finished level on points with Hanthawady United but edged ahead on goal difference. ISPE FC, who would have needed a win to qualify for the next round were eliminated despite a strong effort.

ISPE FC fielded a full-strength squad including Zin Ye Naung, Khine Ye Win, Win Pyae Maung and Saw Sae Kapaw Say. Rakhine United also played most of their regular starters. Needing a must-win result, ISPE went on the offensive from the start and in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute Win Pyae

Maung gave them the lead. They went into halftime 1-0 ahead.

Rakhine United responded strongly in the second half, with Aung Hlaing Win equalizing in the 48<sup>th</sup> minute, followed by a go-ahead goal from Than Kyaw Htay in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute. ISPE managed to level the score with a penalty by Khine Ye Win in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute.

At the conclusion of Group C, both Rakhine United and Hanthawady United had eight points, but Rakhine took the top spot on goal difference, with Hanthawady finishing second. ISPE FC and Chinland FC ended with five points each and were eliminated, while Glory Goal FC exited the group stage without earning a point.

The quarterfinals will be held on 18 and 19 June. On 18 June, Myawady FC will face de-



Rakhine United and ISPE FC in action during the Group C encounter. PHOTO:MNL

fending champions Shan United at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, while Dagon Port FC take on Yadanabon FC at Yangon

United Sport Complex. On 19 June, Yangon United will play Hanthawady United at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre,

and Rakhine United will meet Ayeyawady United at Yangon United Sport Complex. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Myanmar Fight event to mark Olympic Day



TO mark International Olympic Day, the Department of Sports and Physical Education, in collaboration with the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and the Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG), will hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Fight new generation traditional Lethwei event at 1 pm on 22 June in Yangon.

The event will feature bouts between Pana El (Yoya Kya) vs Mike Khae Lay (Ray); Min Myat Ko (Taw Win Ayeaya

versus Khun Min Min (MFC); Aung Khant Min (555Mix Sport) versus Min Htet Kyaw (Aphyuy-aung Thwe Thit); Aung Gyi (Yan Gyi Aung) versus Aung Thaik (Yoya/Nay Pyi Taw); Htet Myat (Holy Power) versus Phone Myat Thar (Titanium); Chit Ya Aung (Ray) versus Thet Maung (Insein); Naw San (Thongwa) versus Kya Marn Hein (Smar Fight); and Ye Mike Tee (MKI) versus Htet Yan Naing (Hanthawady) in a series of three-round

traditional Lethwei fights.

Moreover, two female qualifying kickboxing bouts will take place for the upcoming XXXIII Southeast Asian Games, and the event is open to the public free of charge.

These events are held monthly with primary support from Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Co Ltd with assistance of the Yangon Region Government. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Thailand to face Myanmar in semifinals of ASEAN U-19 Women’s Championship today

THE semifinals of the 2025 ASEAN U-19 Women’s Championship will take place today with Myanmar scheduled to play defending champions Thailand at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, while hosts Vietnam will take on Indonesia at 6 pm.

Myanmar reached the semifinals as Group B runners-up after a 2-0 loss to Vietnam in the opener, followed by a dominant 6-0 victory over Laos and a 7-0 win over Timor-Leste. Thailand, on the other hand, advanced as Group A winners with nine points from three wins — 6-1 over Indonesia, 7-1 over Malaysia, and 4-0 over Cambodia.

At a pre-match press conference held on 15 June, Myanmar head coach Daw Thet Thet Win said, “Since this is a semi-final, it will be a tightly contested match. We have worked on motivating our players mentally and studied our opponents’ strengths and weaknesses. We will do our best to secure a good result.” — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

The Myanmar U-19 women’s squad during a training session. PHOTO:MFF



# India among top global destinations for cross-border investment in land and development sites: Report

The report highlighted that India attracted USD 735 million in cross-border capital in the 12-month rolling period ending Q1 2025, ranking it seventh among the top 10 global markets in this segment.

INDIA has emerged as one of the leading global destinations for cross-border capital investment in land and development sites, according to a recent report released by Colliers. The report highlighted that India attracted USD 735 million in cross-border capital in the 12-month rolling period ending Q1 2025, ranking it seventh among the top 10 global markets in this segment. Of the total amount, USD 332 million came from global sources, while the remaining was contributed through regional capital flows.

India's share in total cross-border investment activity stood at 1.5 per cent, which is slightly on declining mode however it is more than its five-year average of 1.2 per cent. Despite this, India continues to be seen as a key investment destination, especially when compared to other markets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. Notably, seven out of the top ten countries for cross-border land and development site investments are in the APAC region. This shows the growing strength and attractiveness of the region for global investors. — ANI



India's share in total cross-border investment activity is 1.5 per cent, slightly declining but above the five-year average of 1.2 per cent. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

## Egypt postpones Grand Egyptian Museum inauguration amid Israel-Iran tensions



Tourists visit the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt, on 12 June 2025. PHOTO: AHMED GOMMA/XINHUA

EGYPT has postponed the long-anticipated grand opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) due to the escalating military confrontation between Israel and Iran, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly announced on Saturday. Speaking during a press conference while touring the northern

Beheira province, Madbouly said the current regional climate was not conducive to hosting a major international event. The museum's opening, originally scheduled for 3 July will now be delayed until the fourth quarter of the year. He added that a new date for the opening will be announced based on

future regional developments. Located near the iconic Giza pyramids and spanning nearly 500,000 square meters, the GEM is billed as the world's largest archaeological museum dedicated to a single civilization. It will house approximately 57,000 artifacts, according to Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. — Xinhua

### HIGH LUMINOUS EFFICIENCY

## Chinese scientists develop ultra-stable perovskite LEDs

CHINESE researchers have achieved a major breakthrough in extending the lifespan of perovskite light-emitting diodes (LEDs), according to the University of Science and Technology of China. A team from the university, led by Professor Xiao Zhengguo, has developed a novel approach to fabricating all-inorganic perovskite films featuring larger crystal grains and enhanced heat resistance. This successfully increased the LED brightness to over 1.16 million nits and extended the operational lifespan beyond 180,000 hours. This breakthrough technology not only successfully overcomes the long-standing technical bottleneck where perovskite LEDs struggled to simultaneously achieve high efficiency and stability, but also holds significant promise for future widespread application in high-end displays and ultra-high-brightness lighting, according to Xiao. The research findings have been published in the journal Nature. Perovskite is a high-performance novel material prized for its high luminous efficiency, low cost, and processing flexibility, holding broad application potential in solar cells, LEDs, and photodetectors. — Xinhua