Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Saturday, 21 June 2025

Draft of three key sections in Myanmar's continuous history completed

These advancements pave the way for compiling a more comprehensive and uninterrupted timeline of Myanmar's rich historical legacy.

he Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture reported that the draft compilation of three sections of Myanmar's uninterrupted historical timeline has been completed.

As part of the effort to document Myanmar's connected and continuous



အကသမား လင်းကွင်းတီးသူ လူရွှင်တော် ပလွေမှုတ်သူ ဗုံတီးသူ (Dancer) (Cymbal Clapper) (Clown) (Flutist) (Drummer)

This photo showcases selected ancient sculptural works from Myanmar's early civilization.

This photo captures the main entrance to the ancient cultural site of Beikthano.

history, drafts covering the prehistoric transitional period associated with Palaeolithic artefacts, the Stone Age, the Bronze and Iron Ages, and the early historic Pyu period have now reached completion.

Previously, only the "Basic Myanmar History", written over 50 years ago, served as the primary reference. However, recent archaeological findings by local and international scholars, combined with scientific age-dating results from foreign

laboratories, have enabled a more comprehensive and structured understanding of the Pyu period. Consequently, these advances support the feasibility of compiling a more complete and uninterrupted Myanmar historical timeline.

National-level discussions on the timeline took place at the National Museum (Yangon) on four occasions: the first on 20-22 June 2022, the second on 28-29 August 2023, the third on 7-8 August 2024, and the fourth in June 2025. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar businesses join India International Mega Trade Fair

MYANMAR businesspeople are invited to participate in the India International Mega Trade Fair 2025-2026, which is scheduled to take place from 5 to 25 December 2025 at Science City, Kolkata, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry – BCCI and GS Marketing Association will jointly host this 21-day trade fair that will act as a hub of opportunities, connecting entrepreneurs, manufactur-

ers, traders and consumers from various sectors. $\,$

It will cost US\$2,000 with 18 per cent of Goods and Services Tax per nine-square -metre booth. The organizer will offer a 10 to 20 per cent discount depending on the number of booths purchased. They will arrange for B2B matchmaking for those who inform them in advance. They will arrange accommodation at the nearest place to the trade fair venue for convenience, yet they

cannot bear the cost.

Those who want to register and rent the booth can contact Mr Utpal Roy, President (Sales), GS Marketing Associates at +91 7003178250, +91 9433012988, and +91 9830080180 (WhatsApp) and email utpalroy.28@gmail.com and Utpal.roy@gsmktg.com. Myanmar business entities can also contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408623 or by email. — NN/KK

NATIONAL PAGE 6

YGH successfully replants severed palm

BUSINESS PAGE 7



1,755 companies, factories seek GACC certification

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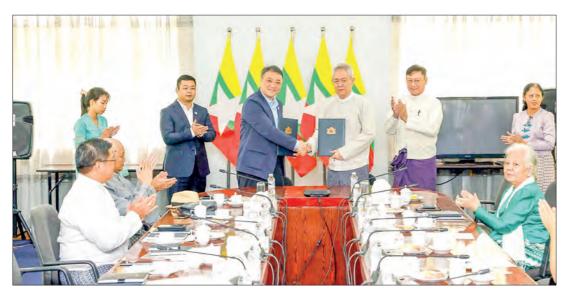
NATIONAL

Everyone must work together in unity to combat corruption

TO ensure that our country is free from corruption, everyone must work together in unity to combat corruption as a national duty.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2024)

MISIS, Xinhua sign MoU for Global South Think Tank Alliance



This photo captures an MoU signing event between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and Xinhua.

FOR the establishment of cooperation on the Global South Think Tank Alliance, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and Xinhua News Agency signed a memorandum of understanding on 19 June at the MISIS office in Yangon.

Based on their cooperation, seminars and dialogues will be organized with the help of the media network, in order to promote the importance of the Global South countries.

The signing ceremony

was attended by MISIS's chair, senior consultant and executive members and Xinhua's Asia-Pacific Head Ms Chen Huijun, general manager Mr Zhao Yue, Yangon office head Mr Zhang Dongqiang and officials. — Htun Htun/ZS

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.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday 20 June 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 21 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin, northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan States

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 June 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 June 2025: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region. — DMH

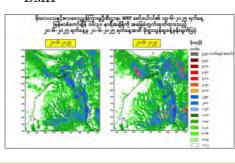
Special Weather News

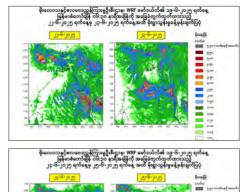
Issued at 7 pm MST on 20 June 2025

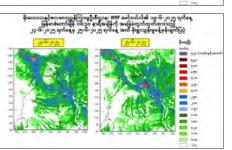
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the well-marked low-pressure over Gangetic West Bengal (India), monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread 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 tonight to 25 June 2025. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. **Advisory**

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall 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.







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 attends 9th China-South Asia Exposition, 29th China Kunming Import-Export Fair

THE Myanmar delegation led by State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San left Yangon for Kunming to attend the 9th China-South Asia Exposition and the 29th China Kunming Import and Export Fair in Kunming, Yunnan Province, at the invitation of Yunnan Provincial Government on 17 June.

On arrival in Kunming, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial People's Congress Mr Yang Yalin and the Myanmar Consul-General of Kunming welcomed the delegates.

On 19 June, the Myanmar delegation attended the opening ceremony of the 9th China-South Asia Exposition and the 29th China Kunming Import and Export Fair at the Dian Chi International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Kunming and observed the booths displaying electric vehicles.

The Deputy Prime Minis-



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San is pictured at the Expo and EXIM Fair in Kunming, China.

ter made an opening speech together with Standing Committee Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress Mr Wang Dongming and the leaders of other countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister met Mr Wang Dongming and

discussed matters related to the electricity and energy sector, agriculture and the support of China in Chinese projects being implemented in Myanmar.

The Deputy Prime Minister and delegation also viewed the booths of Myanmar, met the

entrepreneurs and instructed them to use the platform of the event to export local products to the international market.

On 18 June, the Myanmar delegates received the officials of Union Resources and Engineering Co Ltd at the Green Lake Hotel.

At noon, they visited Yunnan Energy Investment Group and State Power Investment Yunnan International Co Ltd and discussed the ongoing work plans and investment in the electricity and energy sectors of the country.

In the evening, the Deputy Prime Minister-led delegation met Mr Wang Ning, secretary of the Communist Party of China Yunnan Provincial Committee at Hai Geng Garden Hotel. They discussed further cooperation and investment in electricity, energy and agricultural sectors in Myanmar. They attended the dinner event hosted by Mr Wang Ning.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party arrived back in Myanmar on 20 June.

The 9th China-South Asia Exposition and the 29th China Kunming Import and Export Fair attracted entrepreneurs from 53 countries, including Myanmar, with 4,800 stalls at 13 pavilions. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and Myanmar delegates join the photo session of the AMMSTI 21 in Indonesia.

Myanmar participates in AMMSTI 21

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 18 June to attend the 21st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting of Science, Technology and Innovation (21st AMMSTI).

On 19 June, the Union minister attended the dinner that was celebrated for the ASEAN

Ministers of Science and Technology.

On 20 June, the Union minister attended the opening ceremony of AMMSTI 21.

At noon, the Union minister joined the meeting and discussed the topic of "Empowering ASE-AN's Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem: National Commitments for Regional Im-

pact through APASTI 2026-2035".

Myanmar delegates: Ministry's Permanent Secretary
Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo and Director-General of the Research
and Innovation Department Dr
Phyu Phyu Win attended the 87th
ASEAN Science, Technology and
Innovation Committee meeting
and its related meetings. —
MNA/KTZH

11th International Day of Yoga celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE collective Yoga session marking the 11th International Day of Yoga was organized at the Maravijaya Buddha Park compound in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council Member General Nyo Saw, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, officials from the Indian Embassy, departmental officials and those interested in Yoga.

Speaking at the event, SAC Member General Nyo Saw high-

lighted the holding of the 10th International Day of Yoga under the guidance of the SAC Chairman at the Maravijaya Buddha Park compound and the successful holding of the 11th event.

He also stated the theme of Yoga, "Yoga for Harmony and Peace", and the important role of Yoga for all ages to ensure a long, healthy life.

A Yoga instructor from the Indian Embassy then demonstrated the Yoga session, and attendees participated in it.

The SAC Member and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr



The 11th International Day of Yoga in action yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by SAC Member General Nyo Saw and dignitaries.

Shri Abhay Thakur, exchanged gifts, and the ambassador donated cash for all-around renovations of the pagoda.

They all posed for a documentary photo, offered alms food, flowers and water to the Buddha Image, and planted ironwood in the park compound marking the 11th International Day of Yoga and a collective Yoga session. — MNA/KTZH

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters of strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe receives Bangladeshi Ambassador Dr Md Monwar Hossain yesterday.

Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,757

AS of 20 June, 3,757 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 49 remain missing across six regions and states in Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, in collaboration with local and international rescue organizations, have been conducting emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. Thus far, 653 individuals have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 835 deceased persons have been recovered.

Updates regarding monetary and material donations from both local and foreign donors to support the affected people will continue to be provided. — MNA/MKKS

Approval sought to recruit 10+ private security staff



The Central Supervisory Committee on Private Security Services Meeting 1/2025 in progress.

BUSINESSPEOPLE must apply for a permit if they intend to employ more than 10 private security personnel, said Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Chairman of the Central Supervisory Committee on Private Security Service, at the 1/2025 meeting held at the Myanmar Police Headquarters on 20 June.

Companies that wish to operate private security services and those seeking to employ private security personnel within their businesses and branches must obtain a permit from the relevant committees at the union territory, regional, and state levels

These committees will examine the applications for com-

pliance with the requirements and submit the compliant applications to the central committee with a recommendation, which will issue a licence or permit as per the meeting resolution.

The Private Security Services Law, consisting of 13 chapters and 55 sections, stipulates requirements of licence and permit application, responsibilities and rights of the licensee and private security personnel, prohibitions, and penalties for companies and entrepreneurs who wish to operate these services. In the Central Committee's Notification 16/2025 issued on 18 June 2025, application forms and 59 complete instructions are fully described. — Htun Htun/ZN

UEC discusses electoral processes

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko presided over a meeting on the successful holding of the election in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Commission Chairman said that in order to ensure that voters can cast their votes correctly and easily and to prevent electoral fraud, efforts are being made to implement the use of voting machines nationwide in the upcoming election. Voting machines necessary for the election are currently being produced, and

the machines that have already been produced are being systematically transported, stored, and maintained to prevent damage, and are being sent to the respective regions and states. As the election will be held in phases, arrangements are being made to systematically transfer the voting machines between townships within the designated timeframe.

The commission vice-chairman and members, the Nay Pyi Taw Council members, regional and state chief ministers and ex-



UEC Chair U Ko Ko presides over the meeting on the successful holding of the upcoming election.

perts discussed training courses for poll staff who will use the voting machines, usage and transfer of MEVM.

The person in charge of MEVM clarified the MEVM,

and the Commission Chairman concluded the meeting. — MNA/

Committee reviews progress on anti-money laundering efforts

THE coordination meeting of the Working Committee on Countering Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing was held yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the CBM Governor emphasized the importance of accurately and comprehensively preparing Myanmar's 15th Mutual Evaluation Progress Report, in line with the recommendations made by assessors from the Asia-Pacific Joint Group (APJG). She urged responsible departments to provide detailed and verifiable data on implementation progress to support the report and highlighted key aspects that must be included in the document.



The coordination meeting of the Working Committee on Countering Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in progress yesterday, attended by CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe.

Subsequently, the CBM Deputy Governor discussed the linkages between strategic action plans under Domain 3 and

practical implementations. A member of the Anti-Corruption Commission also elaborated on the requirements to be fulfilled in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary decisions and outlined critical considerations.

Following that, the Secretary of the Working Committee briefed attendees on the outcomes and decisions of the recent FATF plenary meeting, as well as key points raised during discussions. He provided guidance on how the report should incorporate relevant case data and statistical indicators to demonstrate tangible results in Myanmar's continued implementation efforts, in order to meet remaining benchmarks.

During the discussions, attendees also exchanged views on the type of information and cooperation required from relevant departments, sector-specific vulnerabilities, and the review process necessary for submitting a comprehensive and credible progress report to the committee. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Post-quake rehab efforts in full swing

VARIOUS organizations, in coordination with local communities, continue implementing vigorous rehabilitation operations in areas affected by the recent major earthquake in Mandalay Region.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), accompanied by officials, inspected recovery efforts in Sagaing Region. They visited Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin Pagoda and Laykyun Mhan Aung Pagoda, which sustained significant damage during the earthquake. Local communities and organizations worked together to completely clear debris from the religious sites. Soil testing for structural stability is being carried out in preparation for the expansion of the pagoda platform, and comprehensive reconstruction of the pagoda compound is underway. Restoration work also includes

beautification and rebuilding in line with traditional religious standards.

The inspection team also observed the removal of earth-quake debris from monastic schools and religious buildings, including monasteries and nunneries in Sagaing, and assessed the ongoing reconstruction of damaged residential buildings. Heavy machinery is being used to accelerate clearing operations. Energy drinks were distributed to workers on site, and necessary coordination was made with responsible personnel.

Later, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and officials visited Sagaing Education College, where they inspected the demolition and clearance of school buildings damaged by the earthquake and coordinated required measures with relevant authorities.

Likewise, Lt-Gen Soe

Tint Naing and officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) conducted field inspections in Mandalay. In Chanmyathazi Township, they observed the clearance of earthquake-damaged structures at Shansu Seebabi Monastery and the main prayer hall of the Sasana Jotikaron Monastery in Kyunlon Ooshaung Ward. Tatmadaw members and operators used heavy machinery to ensure the swift removal of debris.

They also inspected the demolition of unsafe buildings in Kanthaya Ward and Myothit Ward 3 in Chanmyathazi Township, where clearing operations are progressing with the use of heavy machinery. Coordination was made to meet further requirements, and safety measures at the sites were discussed with relevant officials. — MNA/KZL

YGH successfully replants severed palm

YANGON General Hospital (YGH) has successfully performed a replantation surgery on a 27-year-old male patient from Hpa-an who sustained a complete palm amputation on the left hand following a knife injury on 24 May at approximately 11 am.

The patient was initially provided emergency care at Hpa-an General Hospital and was subsequently transferred to Yangon General Hospital for further treatment. After conducting necessary diagnostic procedures at the Emergency Department, a replantation surgery was carried out beginning at 10:30 pm on 24 May and concluded successfully at 5:30 am on 25 May.

The patient remained in stable health following the operation, and the blood circulation to the reattached palm was reported as satisfactory. He was discharged from the hospital on 11 June and returned for a follow-up consultation on 16 June, during which his hand condition remained good.

The surgical team com-





Photos reveal the severed condition of the patient's left palm and the successfully replanted result.

prised Dr Ye Naing Oo and Dr Aung Hlaing Phone, both second-year orthopaedic hand surgery doctoral trainees; Dr Khaing May Oo, a third-year doctoral trainee; Assistant Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr Yaza Aung Saw Win; and second-year postgraduate trainee Dr Sai Thiha. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Anaesthetist Dr Delia Soe Win and a team of anaesthesia specialists, with nursing support led by Sister Daw Moh Moh Aung, along with laboratory technicians, radiographers and other supporting departments.

Yangon General Hospital has previously conducted successful replantation surgeries: one palm replantation in 2022, one forearm replantation in 2023, one thumb replantation in 2024 and now this palm replantation in 2025.

For patients who require replantation procedures, it is advised that the severed limb be washed with clean water or normal saline (or Ringer Lactate), wrapped in sterile gauze soaked with the same solution and placed inside a clean plastic bag or container. This should then be sealed and placed inside an ice-filled cooler to ensure the severed part reaches the referral hospital in a viable condition for surgery, according to medical experts. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 6/2025

- 1. At the commencement of the 2025–2026 academic year, we are deeply saddened to learn of a series of unexpected and disturbing acts of violence. These incidents include the killing of a school principal and her husband from the Basic Education High School (Branch) in Gonphaya (Nyaungpinkan) Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region; the abduction of a high school teacher and female education college students by terrorists at the jetty in Pwinttauk Village, Sedoktara Township, Magway Region; the abduction and killing of a basic education post-primary school principal in Kuni Village, Natmauk Township; and the killing of a middle school teacher and her husband in Wetchoat Village. These acts of violence seriously undermine fundamental human rights, including the right to life, personal security, the right to education, and the right to live in peace and stability.
- 2. The acts of violence, including killings, abductions, threats, harassment and destruction in various forms, targeted toward school teachers, who bear key responsibilities for ensuring access to education, as well as students and educational institutions, directly violate the right to life and security of person as outlined in Article 3 and the right to education as outlined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). According to the 2014 National Education Law, education is recognized as an inherent right of every citizen. Therefore, it is essential to collectively protect and safeguard all individuals involved in the education sector, including teachers and students, so that they may be free from harm.
- 3. Furthermore, the destruction of public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, communication towers, residential buildings, and hospitals, severely affects the socioeconomic lives of the people across the country. These violent acts result in significant losses for both the nation and its people and constitute grave threats to peace and security. As universally recognized by the United Nations and the international community, all forms of terrorism are considered criminal acts and violations of justice. In line with this, the Government of Myanmar enacted the 2014 Counter-Terrorism Law to actively prevent, combat, and suppress such acts of violence within the country.
- 4. To ensure that all learners across the country can enjoy their right to education in a peaceful environment, the promotion of domestic peace and the rule of law is essential. The development of a stable, peaceful, and accountable society is vital, not only to support the needs of victims affected by acts of violence through rehabilitation and recovery, but also for fostering mutual understanding and dialogue across ethnic, religious, and political differences. From a human rights perspective, we urge all relevant stakeholders, organizations, and the general public to collectively endeavour towards eliminating acts of violence through the rule of law, reconciliation, and inclusive engagement.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Date: 20 June 2025

NATIONAL BUSINESS

1,755 companies, factories seek GACC certification

A total of 1,755 Myanmar food processing companies and factories have submitted 3,654 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) as of 13 June 2025, according to the Domestic Trade Division (GACC team) of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decrees 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC licence to place their goods in China's market.



Workers diligently operate along the seafood processing line at the cold storage facility.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration Department.

Exporters can directly access the China International Trade Single Window through https://cifer.singlewindow.cn by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on the aforementioned 18 groups.

Between 1 December 2021 and 13 June 2025, 3,654 applications by 1,755 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (3,480 applications), the Fisheries Department (151), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains (unroasted coffee beans, cocoa beans, fresh

and dehydrated vegetables, plant seasonings (plant spices), edible grain, dried beans, oil seeds (oil plant) and herbal animal products and plant for their origins.

The companies cannot directly proceed with registration, and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending an email via dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or the Myanmar Embassy to China.

As of 13 June 2025, a total of 1,106 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority. Additionally, a manual registration list of overseas manufacturers of imported foods with the GACC as of 25 September 2024 has been uploaded on http://dzs.customs. gov.cn/. Individuals can enquire further information through the contact numbers of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 3408605 and 067 3408617, and email myantrade. domestic@gmail.com. — NN/

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped over US\$577,000 out of its designated \$10 million injection to commodity-importing companies on 19 June.

Moreover, CBM sold \$1.524 million from the companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis to edible oil importing companies on the same day.

CBM sold over \$1 million out of the designated \$10 million injection to commodity-importing companies on 18 June 2025. Furthermore, CBM also sold \$1.68 million from CMP companies to edible oil importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 17 June that it would sell \$33 million to fuel oil importers. Furthermore, CBM injected over 376,400 yuan and 500,000 baht into the financial market on 17 June after sales of over \$913,000 from CMP companies to edible oil importing companies and over \$1.126 million to importers of other goods.

CBM would sell \$10 million

CBM intervenes in forex market again on 19 June



to importers as well, according to its notification dated 16 June. CBM sold \$1.37 million from CMP companies to edible oil importing companies and over 1.05 million to importers of other goods on that day.

CBM injected over 1.7 million baht into the financial market on 13 June, in addition to sales of over \$1 million from CMP companies to fuel oil importing countries.

CBM sold \$1.3 million worth

of fuel oil bought from CMP companies to fuel oil importing companies on 12 June 2025.

CBM sold over 290,000 yuan and one million baht on 11 June. Moreover, CBM sold \$1.096 million, which was bought from CMP companies, to fuel oil importing companies on that day.

CBM pumped over 400,000 yuan on 9 June, over \$501,000 on 6 June and 364,400 yuan on 5 June into the foreign exchange market. CBM announced on 4 June that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM pumped \$422,000, 345,850 yuan and over 2.1 million baht on that day into the foreign exchange market.

CBM injected over 600,000 yuan and 2.6 million baht on 3 June, 579,900 yuan and 4.7 million baht on 2 June into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devalua-

tion. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, 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

OPINION

Create a lush and green society with thriving trees

YANMAR is a nation abundant in forest resources, with forests covering 42.15 per cent of its total land area. The country's diverse ecosystems support a wide array of forest types. From the northern to the southern regions, Myanmar hosts a full spectrum of forests, including temperate, deciduous, mixed, tropical, evergreen, and mangrove forests.

Myanmar's forests are home to a rich diversity of ecologically vital plant species that play a key role in the nation's economic growth. Since more than 80 per cent of Myanmar's land falls within watershed regions, there is a strong focus on conserving and restoring these watersheds and forest catchment areas. Forest plantations are being developed to improve the natural environment and support climate regulation across the country.

Manageable-scale Forest plantations are being established

If trees are planted with wholehearted effort, kindness, and compassion, Myanmar's forest coverage will grow and improve in the future. This will also help reduce natural disasters and hazards. In tropical areas especially, planting more trees leads to increased rainfall, which benefits farmers greatly. With the rainy season approaching, everyone is encouraged to raise awareness and plant trees. This message

serves as a call to action.

along roadsides to preserve greenery. Additionally, village firewood plantations are developed to supply local firewood needs. Moreover, within 13 arid zone greening projects in central Myanmar, two-acre multi-purpose plantations per village are being created to promote lush greenery and environmental sustainability.

Deforestation and forest degradation cause not only the loss of timber and forest products but also the damage to vital environmental services that sustain important wildlife and ecosystems. Restoring degraded natural forests and bringing back their original biodiversity-rich ecosystems takes many years. For this reason, it is essential to manage and use natural resources, including forests, sustainably and systematically.

hancing the accuracy of interpreting blood pressure measurements taken at the The United Nations' 17 ankle may be critical for patients who are unable to have their arm Sustainable Development Goals emphasize protecting and sustainably managing forests blood pressure monitored. worldwide. They focus on preventing forest degradation, desertifi-New research from the Uni

encourage the conservation of forests, biodiversity, and ecosystems. A stable ecosystem with a balanced climate and diverse biodiversity is essential for the survival and protection of all living beings against natural disasters. Trees are crucial in sustaining a healthy climate and supporting human life. They provide food, shelter, fuel, and medicine, while also producing oxygen, helping to reduce climate change, and shielding us from weather-related hazards. Green plants perform vital functions such as converting sunlight into energy and

cation, land deterioration, and biodiversity loss to ensure long-term

ecosystem preservation. These goals seek to increase awareness and

If trees are planted with wholehearted effort, kindness, and compassion, Myanmar's forest coverage will grow and improve in the future. This will also help reduce natural disasters and hazards. In tropical areas especially, planting more trees leads to increased rainfall, which benefits farmers greatly. With the rainy season approaching, everyone is encouraged to raise awareness and plant trees. This message serves as a call to action.

absorbing harmful greenhouse gases from the air.

ASEAN-GCC-China Summit: A New Chapter in Global South Cooperation

21 JUNE 2025

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Amid growing trade tensions and a rise in protectionist policies in the international landscape, the inaugural ASEAN-GCC-China Summit, hosted under Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship for 2025, has drawn significant international attention. This gathering marks yet another step forward in Global South cooperation, with implications for both regional development and global growth.

Foundations for Partnership

The three parties share deep historical and economic ties. Centuries ago, the Silk Road facilitated cultural and commercial exchanges among their peoples. Today, China remains a pivotal trade partner for both ASEAN and the GCC. Recent advancements, such as the full conclusion of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 negotiations, underscore ongoing efforts to deepen economic integration. These longstanding relationships, nurtured through bilateral and multilateral frameworks, provide a robust foundation for expanded cooperation.

Shared Vision for Inclusive Growth

As advocates for open markets,

NEW method for en-

hancing the accuracy of

versity of Exeter Medical School,

analyzed data from over 33,000

people to create a personalized

predictive model for more ac-

curately estimating arm blood

pressure from ankle readings

— when compared to previously

available methods. The team has

developed an online calculator

for healthcare professionals and

patients to interpret these read-

over one billion people globally,

increasing the risk of serious

health issues like heart, brain,

and kidney diseases. It's there-

fore very important to measure

High blood pressure affects

ings effectively.

the three parties reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism during the summit. The event highlighted a shift in Global South nations from passive participants to proactive contributors in shaping international economic frameworks. Discussions underscored the importance of a rules-based global trading system, one that prioritizes equitable development over zero-sum competition. This vision aligns with broader calls for inclusive globalization that benefits all.

Complementary Strengths

Each region brings unique advantages to the table: ASEAN's youthful demographics and natural resources, the GCC's energy resources and financial capital, and China's vast consumer market and manufacturing prowess. By leveraging these complementary strengths, the partners will benefit from reduced energy and resource costs, accelerated logistics, and more efficient financial services. These synergies will enhance all three parties' competitiveness and resilience while enabling more secure and sustainable development, which is indispensable for navigating challenges in today's volatile global markets and

By Hui Fan

maintaining growth amidst trade uncertainties

Synergy in Scale: 1+1+1>3

The trilateral cooperation has already registered positive progress. Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced at the Summit that China has decided to offer five-year multiple-entry visas to eligible applicants from Southeast Asian countries for business and other purposes, and to effectively give all GCC countries visa-free status. And with a regional business council in conception, the three parties have charted a united course for cooperation in areas including economic integration, connectivity, energy security and sustainability, digital transformation and innovation, food and agriculture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Collectively, ASEAN, China, and the GCC account for nearly a quarter of the world's population and global GDP. Their collaboration signals a growing preference for cooperative and open regionalism in addressing shared challenges, such as trade disputes and supply chain

disruptions. By improving infrastructure connectivity and streamlining trade, this partnership could foster synergies that multiply rather than simply add their A Powerful Boost to Globalization individual strengths.

A Model for South-South Cooper-

Amid ongoing tariffs and trade wars, the best way to navigate the current difficulties is to seek strength through unity. Through the practice of cross-regional cooperation, the three parties have demonstrated that the Global South can collectively counteract the adverse impact of unilateral tariffs by exploring new trade and investment opportunities, diversifying trade partners, and reducing reliance on traditional markets.

The three parties' connected market, one of the world's largest intra-regional markets, will also allow other countries to share more benefits and iniect much-needed certainty into the global economy. By pooling together, the three important forces in the world, this innovative, inclusive and pragmatic model represents a shared commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and

marks a concrete step toward a peaceful prosperous and equitable future.

In an era of interconnected economies and shared global challenges. globalization retains its transformative potential-but only if nations choose collaboration over isolation. As an innovative cooperation mechanism among Global South partners, the ASE-AN-GCC-China Summit demonstrates how diverse regions can align interests to strengthen multilateral frameworks and advance equitable trade.

The Summit's success sends a clear message: Solidarity doesn't require uniformity. It thrives when nations bridge divergences through structured cooperation. By prioritizing dialogue and economic interdependence, countries can transform differences into opportunities while fostering shared progress. In an uncertain world, such collaboration isn't just idealistic — it's the cornerstone of collective resilience and a more equi-

(The author is a Beijing-based observer of international affairs.)

The Essence of the World

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

By ancient customs with variances, Seeking education at early ages, Since your youth, through great diligence, From a true teacher, you genuflect Wait on him with awe, love and respect. So, as always, to get educated, Bear with his words of scolding. Day by day, learning and studying, The more memorization, the more knowledge, In its great and varied advantage, Acquired and seen to be rich.

လောကသာရ

ထုံးတီးနည်းနာ၊ အဖြာဖြာ၌ ပညာရှာမှီး၊ မကြီးသက်ရွယ် အငယ်သော်က၊ ကြိုးလုံ့လလျက် တုပ်ကွပုဆစ်၊ ဆရာစစ်၌ ကြောက်ချစ်ရှိသေ၊ လုပ်ကျွေးထွေဖြင့် စာပေတတ်ကြောင်း၊ တချောင်းချောင်းလျှင် ချိမ်းမောင်းသည်းခံ၊ ဆရာ့ထံ၌ သင်အံကျက်လေ့၊ တစ်နေ့တစ်ပါး မှတ်သားလေလေ၊ ဝမ်းထဲခွေ၍

ကန်တော်မင်းကျောင်းဆရာတော်

New way of measuring blood pressure could be a lifeline for thousands of people

Blood pressure is typically measured at the arm, but this may not be possible for patients with disabilities, missing limbs, or conditions like stroke.



Standard treatment guidelines are based on arm readings, which can lead to misdiagnoses when relying on ankle measurements. **PHOTO: ANI**

and interpret blood pressure measurements, potentially leadreadings as accurately as possible. While blood pressure is sometimes this is not possible due to disability, missing limbs, or problems caused by conditions such as stroke. Blood pressure can be measured at the ankle instead, but these readings are generally higher than arm values. Standard guidelines for treating blood pressure are based on

ing to misdiagnoses.

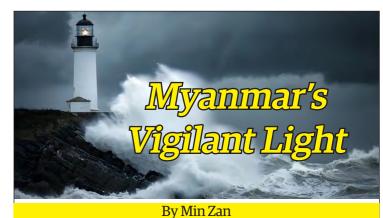
Professor Chris Clark from typically measured on the arm, the University of Exeter Medical School led the study and said: "Our new method will give a more accurate blood pressure reading kle blood pressure readings. for around two percent more people. This doesn't sound a big number but remember, around a third of adults have high blood pressure and once you get into your 60s it's more than half of the arm readings only, which creates adults. The NHS Health Check complications in making accu- Programme diagnoses 38,000 arm. rate estimations based on ankle new cases annually in England

alone, so two per cent equates to 750 fewer potential misdiagnoses per year in England, and tens of thousands globally."

Researchers used statistical modelling on arm and ankle blood pressure readings from 33,710 people (mean age 58 years, 45 per cent female) across the world to help describe the relationship between arm and ankle blood pressures, predict arm blood pressure using ankle blood pressure readings, and predict important health outcomes (such as risk of heart attacks) from an-

This research could help address a health inequality by providing accurate and personalized blood pressure measurements for people who previously could not have their blood pressure measured accurately from their

Source: ANI



Through storm and wave, the nation stood With leaders strong and hearts so good. Doctors, workers, side by side, Turned back the tide with love and pride.

No deaths since May, no fear in sight, Yet still we guard with wisdom bright. Masks secure and vaccines bold, Defend our homes from winter's cold.

New strains may rise, the winds may call, But we stand firm and will not fall. Stay sharp, stay wise - the fight stays strong, Till dawn's pure light breaks through the wrong!

(Saluting Myanmar's healthcare warriors giving their all to protect us from COVID-19.)

Magway Health Dept, Ananda Cetana to offer eye surgery for 525 patients

THE Magway Department of Public Health and Cetana Foundation have planned to offer free eye surgery to 525 eye patients in need.

The free eye surgery programme started on 17 June at Minbu People's Hospital and Teaching Hospital (Magway).

"Magway Region Department of Public Health and Ananda Cetana Foundation will jointly provide eye surgery to 525 eye patients, with 30 people in need every day," said Dr Aung Myint Oo, head of the Department of Public Health in Magway Region.

The Magway Region govern-





Images depict eye patients who will undergo surgery and personnel from the Magway Public Health Department and Ananda Cetana Foundation provide healthcare to patients.

ment also contributed some donations and glasses for those eye patients in need at the health donation drive event for eyes, teeth and oral care for those in need from Myothit and Taungdwingyi

gon Region, from 21 to 25 June,

according to Nang (Tiger Nang).

The exhibition will feature

paintings by the late artist My-

eik Win Htein, as well as over 70

artworks by artist Nang (Tiger Nang) in various media, including

nity to view the works of the late

Saya Myeik Win Htein. Many of

his paintings are rare and difficult to encounter again. In addition

to his paintings, we will also dis-

play the covers of his success-

ful Maung Nyein Chan Sai Veda

"We will have the opportu-

watercolour, oil, and acrylic.

townships, Magway Region. — ASH/KK

2025 JLPT bans mobile phones



A notice for the prohibition of using handphones.

UNDER the rule changed for this year's JLPT exam, carrying a handphone has a high chance of misconduct; therefore, it is prohibited, said the JLPT organizing committee.

From the 2025 JLPT exam, handphones and all other communication devices are prohibited from being used in the exam room and break time, said the JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan

Alumni (MAJA).

If candidates are found using their handphone in the exam room or during break time inside the campus, they will be defined as misconduct and if they need to use their handphone in an emergency, they will have to report the exam room teacher and when only the approval of the exam station's leader is received, they can use handphone inside the office.

If it is necessary to carry a handphone, make sure the alarm setting is turned off and the power is off (vibration, silent and aeroplane modes are not allowed). Candidates will have to give their phones to the exam administrator by showing the test voucher.

Handphones can be taken back when all exam sessions conclude, and it will take no responsibility for damaged or lost phones, said MAJA.

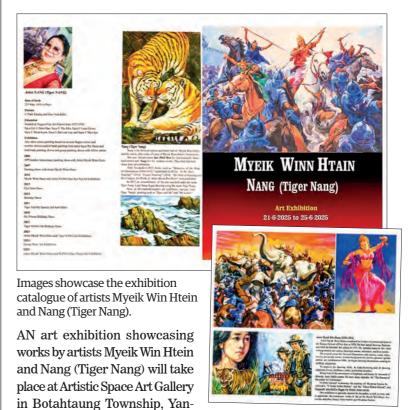
This is an announcement, according to the notification from the Japan Foundation and the JLPT Test Centre, it said. — MT/ZS

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- 1. Office of the State Administration Council https://sacoffice.gov.mm
- 2. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm
- 3. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm

- 4. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm
- 5. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm
- 6. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm

Art exhibition to be held featuring two artists



comic books," said Nang (Tiger Nang).

Artist Myeik Win Htein (1956–2013) was a renowned artist and comic book illustrator. He began exhibiting his works alongside Nang (Tiger Nang) in 2006, and this marks their 10th joint exhibition.

The paintings showcased at the exhibition will vary in size, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. Prices will range from K500,000 to K1 million. — ASH/MKKS

LIFESTYLE

"Jeremy Allen White was very tolerant of me": Bruce Springsteen on his biopic set visits

Jeremy Allen White, known for his role in "The Bear", plays a younger version of Bruce Springsteen.

SINGER Bruce Springsteen opened up about watching the shoot of his biopic 'Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere', revealing that he sometimes avoided "deeply personal" scenes when he would visit the set, reported Variety.

"Deliver Me From Nowhere," in which "The Bear" star Jeremy Allen White plays Springsteen, chronicles the making of his 1982 album 'Nebraska'. The record would go on to become one of his most popular works and was made at a time when Springsteen was reconciling his newfound success with the ghosts of his past.

In a new interview with

Rolling Stone, as quoted by Variety, Springsteen was asked what it's been like to watch someone else play a younger version of him.

"I'm sure it's much worse for the actor than for me. Jeremy Allen White was very, very tolerant of me on the days that I would appear on the set," as quoted by Variety.

To avoid the problems on sets, Springsteen told White, "Look, anytime I'm in the way, just give me the look and I'm on my way home." He added, "The days that I got out there, he was wonderfully tolerant with me being there. And it was just fun. It was enjoyable," as quoted by Variety. — ANI



Jeremy Allen White portrays Bruce Springsteen, capturing the essence of the musician during a transformative period. **PHOTO: ANI**

Netherlands returns over 100 Benin Bronzes looted from Nigeria

NIGERIA has taken delivery from the Netherlands of 119 pieces of priceless "Benin Bronze" artefacts looted more than 120 years ago, the country's museum commission and the Dutch embassy said Wednesday.

It is the latest return of artefacts to Africa, as pressure mounts on Western governments and institutions to hand back the spoils of colonial oppression.

"On this historic occasion it

gives us great joy to finally welcome the return of 119 Benin Bronzes from the Netherlands," said Olugbile Holloway, director-general of Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments.

"This represents the largest physical return to Nigeria and the people of Benin since the looting of the Benin Royal Palace by the British in 1897," he said in a statement jointly issued with the Dutch embassy in Nigeria. — AFP

Australian population growth falls to 3-year low

Net migration to Australia fell by over 30 per cent in 2024, driving the country's population growth to a three-year low.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Thursday released official figures showing that Australia's national population grew by 1.7 per cent, or 445,900 people, in 2024 to 27.4 million.

It represents a fall from 2023 when Australia's population grewby 2.4 per cent and the lowest growth rate for a calendar year since 2021 when Australia's international borders were closed. According to ABS figures, the fall in population growth between 2023 and 2024 was entirely driven by a sharp decline in Australia's net migrant intake. — Xinhua

Restoration rejuvenates iconic Gaudi house in Barcelona

BARCELONA'S UNESCO-listed Casa Batllo, a modernist architectural masterpiece by Sagrada Familia designer Antoni Gaudi, unveiled a multimillion-euro restoration Thursday that brings its rear facade and courtyard back to life.

Previous refurbishments, changes of owner and the

turbulent period marked by Spain's 1936-1939 civil war had taken their toll on the unique building completed in 1906.

A team of architects, historians and artisans spent more than a year repairing the bright mosaics and restoring the original cream-coloured hue to the blackened curvy balcony bars.



Visitors admire the newly restored rear facade of Casa Batllo on 19 June 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

The result is "the most similar to 1906 that we have been able to achieve with today's technology", Xavier Villanueva, the chief architect and official in charge of the works, told AFP.

In the courtyard, the pergola replicates a parabola shape and more than 85,000 pieces make up the paving, "hand made one by one, as it was originally", Villanueva said. The painstaking task meant the team "carried out a lot of analyses in several university laboratories, many prospections, we have lots of documentary information", he said. The restoration cost 3.5 million euros (\$4 million), according to Casa Batllo, which is in a fashionable neighbourhood of Barcelona frequented by the city's bourgeoisie and wealthy industrialists in the early 20th century. — AFP

ECONOMYWORLD

S Korean govt proposes US\$14.7B supplementary budget



Private consumption slid 0.1 per cent in the first quarter on a quarterly basis. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

This budget will be submitted to the Democratic Party-controlled National Assembly for approval.

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae-myung's administration on Thursday proposed 20.2 trillion won (\$14.7 billion) for its first supplementary budget to bolster the Asian economy, weighed down by the US tariffs imposition and the sagging domestic demand.

President Lee, who took office in June, presided over a cabinet meeting and approved the extra budget bill that will be submitted to the Democratic Party-controlled National Assembly early next week for final approval.

Lee advocated an expansionary fiscal policy amid a dimmer growth outlook. The country's central bank slashed this year's economic growth forecast by 0.7 percentage points to 0.8 per cent in May compared to three months earlier.

The seasonally-adjusted real gross domestic product (GDP), modified for inflation, contracted 0.2 per cent in the first quarter from three months earlier after inching up 0.1 per cent in the third and fourth quarters of last year. — AFP

ASEAN strengthens regional trade in services

REPRESENTATIVES from the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered to advance negotiations on trade in services, alongside discussions on trade in goods and other sectors.

Representatives gathered in Lao capital

Vientiane for the 110th meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS) and related meetings, held from Monday to Friday, according to a report from the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce on Thursday.

— Xinhua

'Turkish salmon': the Black Sea's new rose-coloured gold



Some local fishermen say the intensive trout farming is driving away other Black Sea species. **PHOTO: AFP**

TAYFUN Denizer, general manager of Polifish, is thriving in Türkiye's booming trout farming industry, which has seen exports soar from \$500,000 in 2017 to \$86 million last year.

This growth is driven by rising global demand for salm-

on, with Türkiye exporting over 78,000 tonnes of trout in the past year, significantly increasing from 2018. The country generated nearly \$498 million from these exports, although it still lags behind Norway's \$12.8 billion in salmon revenue.

Russia, which banned Norwegian salmon in 2014, is the primary market for "Turkish salmon", accounting for 74.1 per cent of exports. The success of trout farming in Türkiye is attributed to advanced aquaculture technology and the country's numerous reservoirs, which allow fish to grow in optimal conditions. — AFP

Tourism contributes 8.9% to Philippines' GDP in 2024



Tourists are seen at a resort in Batangas Province, the Philippines, on 18 November 2021. **PHOTO: ROUELLE UMALI/XINHUA /FILE**

THE tourism sector contributed 8.9 per cent to the Philippines' gross domestic product in 2024, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Thursday. "The tourism direct gross value added amounted to 2.35 trillion pesos (roughly US\$41 billion) in 2024, 11.2 per cent higher than the 2.12 trillion pesos (about \$36.9 billion) in 2023," PSA head Dennis Mapa said in a report.

Among the forms of tourism expenditures, the PSA said outbound tourism expenditure post-

ed the highest annual growth of 37.5 per cent, amounting to 345.68 billion pesos (about \$6 billion) in 2024. Domestic tourism expenditure, which grew by 16.4 per cent, came next from 2.71 trillion pesos (\$47 billion) in 2023 to 3.16 trillion pesos (\$55 billion) in 2024. Meanwhile, the PSA said inbound tourism expenditure posted a 0.4 per cent growth, from 697.49 billion pesos (about \$12.14 billion) in 2023 to 699.98 billion pesos (about \$12.18 billion) in 2024. — Xinhua

BIZ WORLD/AD

French champagne makers face prison in human trafficking trial

FRENCH prosecutors have requested two years behind bars for an employer in the champagne sector accused of human trafficking, exploiting seasonal workers and housing them in appalling conditions during the 2023 grape harvest.

More than 50 mostly undocumented migrant harvesters lived in accommodation that harmed their "security, health and dignity", according to the prosecution.

A prosecutor at the Chalons-en-Champagne criminal court in eastern France late Thursday requested a four-year prison sentence, including at least two behind bars, for a director of the vine-growing servicing company Anavim on charges including human trafficking.

The director, a Kyrgyz woman in her forties, has also been accused of concealed labour, submitting vulnerable or dependent persons to undignified housing conditions, and employing foreign nationals without authorisation.

"We cannot accept any champagne bottle concealing unregulated subcontracting and blatant mistreatment," the prosecutor said. — AFP



More than 50 migrant harvesters lived in accommodation that posed a danger to their 'security, health and dignity', according to investigators. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rice prices double in Japan as inflation accelerates

RICE prices doubled last month in Japan as core inflation accelerated, official data showed Friday, posing a threat to Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba ahead of July elections.

The vote for parliament's upper house, due next month, is crucial for Ishiba after public support for his government tumbled to its lowest level since he took office in October, partly due to

frustration over the cost of living.

In May, Japan's core inflation rate, which excludes volatile fresh food prices, hit 3.7 per cent — its highest level since January 2023 — interior ministry data showed.

The figure narrowly beat market expectations and was up from a 3.5 per cent year-on-year rise logged in April.

— AFP

Turkiye wants to expand trade with Russia

TURKIYE is looking for opportunities to increase trade with Russia, including the investment in Russian tourism market, Turkish Deputy Trade Minister Mustafa Tuzcu told Sputnik at the 2025 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

"We see that besides trading in commodities, our trade is in good condition. Nevertheless, we are trying to expand the ties between our companies in different sectors. We are trying to see what other means we can use to increase trade between our countries," Tuzcu said.

Citing the decrease in bilateral trade by 6.8 per cent in 2024, the Turkish official opined that it was pri-



The Travel & Tourism market in Russia is expected to see a rise in revenue as it is projected to reach US\$18.07 billion by 2025. This photo taken on 10 March 2023 shows the scenery along the Moscow River in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

marily due to a decrease in world commodity prices as there were otherwise no structural problems in bilateral trade. "You know, energy carriers are an important source of our trade. And you know that last year the prices of commodities and energy resources fell. This affected the trading figures. And in metallurgy, we also see that prices have fallen. — SPUTNIK

Swiss central bank cuts interest rates to zero%

THE Swiss National Bank cut interest rates to zero per cent on Thursday as inflation cools and the franc strengthens, while the economic outlook has deteriorated.

The SNB, however, held off a decision to return to its era of negative rates — a policy that helped to curb the Swiss franc's rise but was unpopular among pension funds and other investors.

The franc's movement is also under scrutiny in the United States, as the US Treasury Department added Switzerland to its watch list of countries likely to manipulate their currencies earlier this month.

The Bank of England kept its key interest rate at 4.25 per cent on Thursday and Norway's central bank announced a surprise cut by a quarter point to 4.25 per cent.

The decisions came a day after the US Federal Reserve maintained its benchmark borrowing costs unchanged, citing concerns over high inflation and slowing growth in the world's biggest economy.

The SNB said its interventions in the foreign exchange market were not aimed at increasing the Swiss economy's competitiveness, but rather were attempts to ensure price stability. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (216N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (216N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-6-2025 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YA HUSSEIN VOY.NO. (03/2025)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YA HUSSEIN VOY.NO. (03/2025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-6-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILSELMSEN PORT SERVICES(S) PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: 69 FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK

India, Croatia express willingness to facilitate joint research and development: **MEA**

Both leaders emphasized the importance of collaboration between universities for joint research and development.

RIME Minister Narendra Modi and his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic have noted the importance of cooperation between universities of both countries for joint research and development, as per a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs. The two leaders also noted the importance of cooperation in digital technology and cultural ties. "In the area of science, technology and innovation, the two Prime Ministers high-

lighted the importance of connecting scientific institutions and universities of both countries for joint research and development. Both sides expressed their willingness to facilitate exchanges of young researchers for long-term

research collaborations and encouraged networking within the scientific community to share best practices and develop applied technologies," the MEA statement said.

"The two Prime Ministers noted the signing of the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation and agreed to advancing defence ties. Further emphasis will be placed on seeking opportunities for cooperation between national



Both sides agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation between national defence industries through regular interactions. **PHOTO: ANI**

defence industries through collaboration and regular interactions," the statement added. As per the statement, both sides recognized several areas of cooperation in the gamut of digital technology and promotion of start-up culture. — ANI

European, Iranian diplomats to meet as US mulls joining Israel campaign



This image shows the flags of Israel (L), and Iran. $\,$ PHOTO: AFP/FILE

EUROPEAN foreign ministers will hold talks Friday with their Iranian counterpart, hoping to reach a diplomatic solution to the war with Israel as US President Donald Trump mulls the prospect of US involvement.

European leaders urging de-escalation have scrambled to hold talks with Iran, as Trump said he would decide "within the next two weeks" whether to involve the United States in Israel's bombing campaign.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will meet his French, German, British and EU counterparts in Geneva on Friday to discuss Iran's nuclear programme. Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy said "a window now exists within the next two weeks to achieve a diplomatic solution", after meeting senior US officials in Washington on Thursday.

Lammy and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio "agreed Iran can never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon", according to the State Department.

The UN Security Council is also due to convene on Friday for a second session on the conflict.

Iran imposed a "nation-wide internet shutdown" on Thursday — the most extensive blackout since widespread anti-government protests in 2019 — internet watchdog NetBlocks said. —

Czechs sign record nuclear deal but questions remain

THE Czech Republic signed a contract earlier this month with South Korea's KHNP to build two nuclear reactors, but experts question its future over complaints raised by KHNP's French rival EDF.

The deal is crucial for the EU member country of 10.9 million people, relying on nuclear power produced by the southern Dukovany and Temelin plants for 40 per cent of its electricity consumption. KHNP beat EDF in a tender last year to supply

the two units for Dukovany, and Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala insisted its bid was "better in all criteria assessed".

Prague expects construction to begin in 2029 and the first new reactor launched in trial operation in 2036. But the biggest contract signed by a Czech state company since the country became independent in 1993 is currently under the scrutiny of both a Czech court and the European Commission.



A contract between Prague and South Korea's KHNP to build two nuclear units is shrouded by uncertainty following a complaint by France's EDF. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS



Liverpool's Egyptian star Mohamed Salah. PHOTO: AFP

Salah among nominees for PFA Player of the Year award

LIVERPOOL forward Mohamed Salah was among six players nominated for the Professional Footballers' Association Men's Player of the Year award on Friday.

The 33-year-old played a key role in Liverpool's Premier League title triumph last season with 29 goals and 18 assists.

The Egypt star was voted Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association -- securing almost 90 per cent of the votes, marking the biggest winning margin this century -- and is the firm favourite to land the PFA prize.

Salah is joined on the shortlist by Liverpool team-mate Alexis Mac Allister, Arsenal's Declan Rice, Cole Palmer of Chelsea, Newcastle striker Alexander Isak and Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes.

Palmer, who won the PFA Young Player of the Year award for 2023-24, was a surprise choice for the list given his struggles for Chelsea last season.

Rice starred in midfield for Arsenal, hitting a career-high nine goals while adding 10 assists in 52 appearances in all competitions. Sweden striker Isak scored 23 goals for Newcastle as they qualified for the Champions League and ended a 56-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup. — AFP

Liverpool agree deal for Bournemouth's Kerkez: reports

LIVERPOOL have agreed to sign Bournemouth left-back Milos Kerkez in a deal worth a reported £40 million (\$54 million), according to reports on Friday.

Kerkez is due to travel to Merseyside for a medical before completing his move to the Premier League champions.

The 21-year-old caught Liverpool's eye last season with

his fine form for Bournemouth, including two goals and five assists in 38 Premier League appearances.

Liverpool sporting director Richard Hughes brought Kerkez to Bournemouth from AZ Alkmaar during his time at the Vitality Stadium.

Serbia-born Kerkez began his career at Hungarian outfit Gyor before moving to AC Milan, where he failed to make an appearance for the Serie A club.

He joined Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in 2022, arriving in the Premier League with Bournemouth a year later.

Kerkez's impending arrival at Anfield raises questions about the future of Liverpool left-back Andrew Robertson, who has been linked with Atletico Madrid. — AFP



Bournemouth's Hungarian defender Milos Kerkez (R) is set to join Liverpool. **PHOTO: AFP**

Botafogo stuns European champions PSG in FIFA Club World Cup

IGOR Jesus scored the winning goal as reigning South American champions Botafogo stunned newly crowned UEFA Champions League winners Paris Saint-Germain in FIFA Club World Cup Group B on Thursday.

Paris Saint-Germain, one of the favourites in the 32-team tournament, had cruised past Atletico Madrid 4-0 in the first round last Sunday, while Botafogo defeated the Seattle Sounders 2-1. Jesus netted a solo goal in 36 minutes, capitalizing on a deflection off a defender. The Brazilian club then held firm through a wave of second-half attacks from the French powerhouse, handing Paris Saint-Germain its first loss since 3 May. Paris Saint-Germain registered 16 shots but only two on target, while all four of Botafogo's attempts were on goal.

"A lot of people wondered, but we showed how strong Botafogo is," Jesus said. "It was a difficult game, and we had to defend well, and we did our job and scored a goal. — Xinhua

Jeeno Thitikul edges clear as heat takes toll at Women's PGA

THAILAND'S Jeeno Thitikul fired a four-underpar 68 to edge into a slender lead as searing heat and humidity tested players in the opening round of the KPMG US Women's PGA Championship in Texas on Thursday.

The 22-year-old, who is chasing her first major victory after seven top-10 finishes, reeled off six birdies to move into a one-shot lead.

Jeeno's only blemish on an otherwise flawless opening round was a double-bogey six at the par-four fourth hole of PGA Frisco's 6,404-yard Fields Ranch East layout.

The rising Thai star, who has already amassed 18 wins as a professional including five on the LPGA Tour, said she had taken a patient approach after shrugging off her early double-bogey disappointment. — AFP



Jeeno Thitikul of Thailand shot a four-under-par 68 to take an early one-shot lead at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship in Frisco, Texas.

PHOTO: AFP

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK

India, Croatia express willingness to facilitate joint research and development: MEA

DACE 1/



WORLD

China ready to advance high-level energy cooperation partnership with Russia: vice-premier

HINESE Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang said Thursday that China stands ready to work with Russia to continue fully leveraging mechanisms such as the China-Russia Energy Cooperation Committee and promote the building of a high-level energy cooperation partnership.

Ding, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak on the sidelines of the 28th St Petersburg International Economic Forum.

Ding said that China-Russia relations have maintained stable, healthy and high-level development in recent years. Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Russia and attended the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War in May, during which the two heads of state reached a series of important consensus on advancing the development of China-Russia relations and expanding high-level mutually beneficial cooperation, he added.

China-Russia energy cooperation serves as an important cornerstone of practical cooperation between the two countries and a positive force in safeguarding global energy security, Ding said, noting that China is willing to work Ding made these remarks during a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak at the 28th St Petersburg International Economic Forum.



Two Chinese technicians inspect a compressor station of the China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline in Qinhuangdao City, North China's Hebei Province, on 1 May 2024. **PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES**

with Russia to fully implement the important consensus reached by the two

heads of state, and strengthen integrated cooperation in the upstream, midstream

and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. — Xinhua

Key updates on Iran-Israel conflict

ISRAEL and Iran have continued to trade strikes for the eighth day as part of the IDF-launched

operation "Rising Lion" and the Islamic Republic's retaliatory "Operation True Promise 3".



People are seen at Larnaca Airport in Larnaca, Cyprus, on 18 June 2025. Cyprus has activated its emergency response plan to help evacuate foreign nationals amid the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Here's what has happened in the Iran-Israel conflict as of 20 June:

An attempt to assassinate Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was foiled, according to his adviser Mohammad Hossein Ranjbaran. Israel struck building of SPND (Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research) in Tehran, part of Iran's nuclear weapons project. Iran has transferred all its enriched nuclear materials to secure locations in advance, according to Mohsen Rezai, a member of the Expediency Discernment Council.

Israel geographically expanded its air raids, striking Iranian facilities in the north for the first time. — SPUTNIK

INCLUSIVE MOBILITY FOCUS

Pakistan launches EV policy to promote clean transport

PAKISTAN on Thursday launched its National Electric Vehicle Policy 2025-30, aiming to promote clean transport, reduce fuel imports, and boost local manufacturing, the Ministry of Industries and Production said.

Speaking at the launch event, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan called the policy a "historic and transformative step" towards environmental, energy, and industrial reforms. Under the new policy, Pakistan targets 30 per cent of all new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030. This shift is expected to save 2.07 billion litres of fuel annually, reduce carbon emissions by US\$4.5 million tonnes, and save nearly US\$1 billion in foreign exchange, according to government estimates. To support this transition, the government has allocated an initial subsidy of 9 billion Pakistani rupees (approximately \$32 million) for the financial year 2025-26, benefiting over 116,000 electric bikes and more than 3,000 electric rickshaws. — Xinhua