

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



## Myanmar to pour K19B into transforming rural infrastructure

The Mandalay earthquake damaged five production and village roads as well as six bridges across three regions and states, with full repairs set for completion within the current financial year.

**T**HE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development plans to allocate K19 billion for the construction of 116 miles of production roads and 305 bridges during the 2025-2026 financial year, according to an official from the Rural Development Department under the ministry.

“In the 2025-2026 financial year, 116 miles of roads and 305 bridges will be constructed using Union government funds. The project, with an estimated cost of K19 billion, will be implemented across 115 villages. If we were to address all the needs, there are many more requirements. How-

ever, due to the large number of projects, we must allocate resources according to the annual plans,” the official explained.

He stated that the project will be implemented in all regions and states except Kachin, Kayah, Chin, and Rakhine states, as well as Shan State (North). He also

mentioned that the department is currently in the process of inviting tenders for the works.

In the previous financial year (2024-2025), 203 miles and five furlongs of production roads, village roads, and bridges were reportedly constructed using K21.36 billion.

In addition, the Mandalay earthquake damaged a total of five production roads, village roads, and six bridges across three regions and states, with repairs expected to be completed during the current financial year. — ASH/TH

## Myanmar startups invited to ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2025

**T**HE MSMEs Development Department in Yangon informed Myanmar startups of joining the ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2025 that will take place on 20-24 October 2025 in the Republic of Korea.

The ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2025 will be held in Seoul for three days and in other provinces for two days in order to recruit promising ASEAN startups to network with counterparts in Korea, **SEE PAGE 7**

### OPINION

Equip students with critical thinking ability

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### BUSINESS



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# NATIONAL

## Act of training essential for building strength and skill

TRAINING and good health have a reciprocal relationship: only by exercising can one maintain good health, and only with good health can one fully engage in training with both physical and mental capability. The act of training is essential for building strength and skill.

*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the passing out parade of the 66<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Academy on 6 December 2024)*

## Appointment of Brunei Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Captain (Navy Retired) Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Captain (Navy Retired) Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin was born on 26 December 1972 in Brunei Darussalam. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the University of Hertfordshire in 1996 and a Master's Degree in Science in Military Studies from the Bangladesh University of Professionals in 2010.

Captain (Navy Retired) Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin has held several command and staff appointments throughout his career in Royal Brunei Navy from Officer Cadet in 1997 to Acting Commander in 2024. He also served as Defence Attaché at the office of the Defence Attaché of Brunei Darussalam in Beijing, People's Republic of China (PRC) from 2014 until 2017. — MNA

## Appointment of DPRK's Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Kim Chong IL as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Yangon.

Mr Kim Chong IL was born on 9 November 1963. He graduated from the University of International Relations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1984 and from the National University of Modern Languages in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in 1987. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an officer in the Asia Department in 1987 and served in various capacities at headquarters and abroad.

From 1991 to 1996, he served as a Third Secretary at the Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. From 1996 to 2001, he was an officer in the Department responsible for Southeast, Southwest and Oceania countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He then served as a First Secretary at the Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 2001 to 2004, after which he returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the same department, working there until 2011.

From 2011 to 2014, Mr Kim Chong IL served as a national staff member at the UNICEF office in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He then served as a Counsellor at the Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 2014 to 2018. From 2018 to 2020, he worked as a Senior Officer in the Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2020 to 2022, he served as a Senior Officer in the Asia Department II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2022, he has been serving as Deputy Director-General of Asia Department II in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Kim Chong IL is married and has two children. — MNA

### Myanmar Gazette

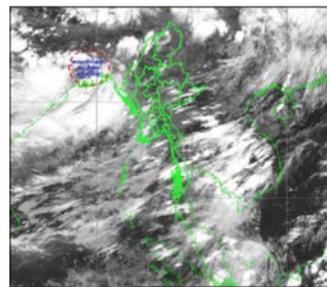
## Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Than Zaw Oo, Rector of West Yangon University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, after the one-year probationary period.
2. The State Administration Council has appointed Dr Khin Kay Khaing, Pro-Rector of Magway University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as Rector of the same University on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

## Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 18 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the well-marked low-pressure over Gangetic West Bengal (India) still persists. It is likely to move north-westwards slowly and across Jharkhand during next 24 hours and weaken gradually. — DMH



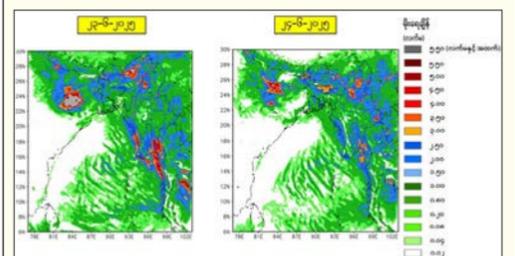
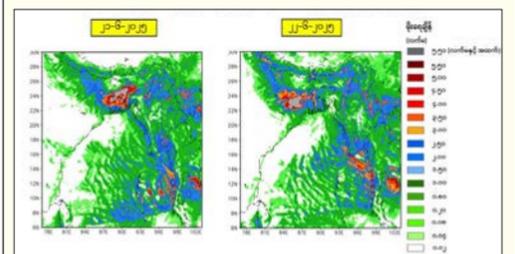
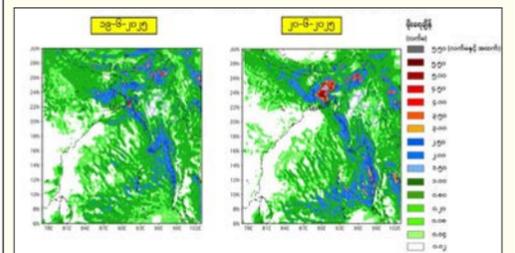
## Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 18 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, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during tonight to 24 June 2025. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-13 feet in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi 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. — DMH



# 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)*

## MoBA holds first monsoon tree-planting event

THE Ministry of Border Affairs organized its first monsoon tree-planting ceremony in the compound of the temporary staff housing yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae remarked at the event and planted the ironwood.

He then inspected the tree-planting processes of Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Phyo Thant,

the permanent secretary, departmental officials and staff.

Similar tree-planting activities were held at the universities, colleges, offices and schools under the ministry, and the ministry planted a total of 8,621 trees yesterday. — MNA/KTZH



State Administration Council Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae encourages participants at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony of the Ministry of Border Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Book launch marks 75 years of Myanmar-China ties

THE book launch and prize awarding ceremony for “Voices from the Paukphaw Heart,” a collection of stories commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, symbolizing the enduring Paukphaw friendship between the two nations, was held at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and regional ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia and embassy staff, officials from Chinese-Myanmar organizations, award winners, and invitees.

The Union Minister and guests viewed the books, records, and DVDs of the story collection commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations displayed and distributed in the hall. Then, a



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia present the first prize to the winner at the event in Yangon yesterday.

documentary video showcasing the mutual friendship between Myanmar and China was screened.

Ms Ma Jia, the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar, said that the story collection records the deep

friendship between the people of both countries and is intended for widespread distribution to the public and to be passed on to future generations.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn remarked that the collection of literary works ex-

pressing the friendly exchanges between the peoples of the two countries, in honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, is a very commendable initiative. He noted that many Myanmar literary giants have translated and pub-

lished Chinese classic novels and poems. He expressed hope that experts from both countries would further promote and develop exchanges in the field of Myanmar-China literary translation, and also wished for the everlasting strength and stability of Myanmar-China relations, which have been intertwined and friendly through the generations.

The Union minister and the Chinese Ambassador launched “Voices from the Paukphaw Heart,” a book published in both Myanmar and Chinese, by pressing a button.

Writer Tekkatho Mya Min-zu, author of “Yangtze, Ayeyarwady Enduring Forever” for the 75<sup>th</sup>-anniversary story collection of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, and Ms Li Lili, author of a manuscript dedicated to all volunteers proficient in both Chinese and Myanmar languages, delivered words of gratitude.

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# NATIONAL

## Relief and recovery efforts continue in Myanmar's quake-hit areas

COORDINATED efforts involving various organizations and local communities continue at full strength across affected regions following the powerful Mandalay earthquake that caused widespread destruction. Emergency relief and rehabilitation work is carried out with momentum, according to local sources.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and responsible officials visited several religious buildings in Sagaing that had sustained damage yesterday. The team inspected damage to residential buildings and roadside debris in Sagaing, coordinating with relevant authorities to ensure a clean and orderly urban environment. They gave refreshments to the workers and discussed necessary support with responsible personnel.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon and officials also paid a courtesy call to the presiding Sayadaw of the Shwehintha Monastery in Sagaing, offering words of en-



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) observes the debris removal at Sky Villa in Mandalay.

couragement. To aid in the reconstruction of quake-damaged religious buildings, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and donors contributed K10 million to the Sayadaw.

They also inspected health-care services provided by the Tatmadaw mobile medical team

to monks, nuns and civilians affected by the disaster in Sagaing. At damaged religious buildings on Sagaing Hill, machinery is used to clear land for future reconstruction. They also visited waste disposal sites and coordinated with responsible authori-

ties to ensure systematic disposal practices.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and his team visited the Sky Villa area in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, where quake-dam-

aged structures remained. They observed the use of heavy machinery to clear Building A and inspected the process of sorting and returning recovered materials to their rightful owners through official channels.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing and officials also visited high-risk damaged buildings in Mawra Giwha ward and Aung Nan East ward in Chanayethazan Township. They observed ongoing debris removal efforts using heavy machinery. Military personnel and machinery were clearing remains of the collapsed Tampawati Monastery building and its central hall at the Dakkhinayama Monastery in Kyun Lone Oat Shaung ward of Chanmyathazi Township.

He encouraged teams working on the ground and instructed relevant officials to ensure safety measures were strictly followed. Necessary coordination was also made based on reports submitted by responsible personnel. — MNA/KZL

### Ongoing updates on earthquake relief donations to follow

AS of 18 June, 3,756 people were confirmed dead, 5,104 injured, and 50 still missing in the six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake which struck on 28 March.

Members of the Myanmar Fire Services Department, both local and international search and rescue teams, have been conducting relief operations in the affected areas without delay. So far, they have successfully rescued 653 people who were trapped inside buildings and have recovered the bodies of 834 deceased individuals.

Local and overseas donors continue to provide financial aid and relief supplies for the victims, and further updates on these contributions will be released in due course. — MNA/MKKS

### Book launch marks 75 years of Myanmar-China ties

#### FROM PAGE 3

The students from Yunnan Province University and students from a school for deaf children performed a poem expressing the friendship between Myanmar and China, and a song titled “Everlasting Friendship”.

The Chinese Ambassador presented awards to the recipients of the outstanding, third, and second prizes. The Union minister and the Ambassador presented the first prize to writer Tekkatho Mya Minzu, author of “Yangtze, Ayeyawady

Enduring Forever”.

The book “Voices from the Paukphaw Heart” was compiled by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations and showcase the friendly exchanges between the people of the two countries. The embassy invited submissions on 18 March 2025 and collected essays, poems, and short stories from participants. Prizes awarded included one first prize, three-second prizes, two third prizes, and other awards.

The book is divided into five chapters: Mutual Assistance, Unforgettable Golden Moments, Bilateral Cooperation, Literary Culture, Mutual Connection, and People-to-People Ties. It features numerous exciting and heartwarming stories of friendship between the people of the two countries, historical tales that will perpetuate the China-Myanmar Paukphaw friendship, and stories of goodwill of various organizations in China and Myanmar, in both Chinese and Myanmar languages. — MNA/KTZH

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# NATIONAL

## MCEF to host Myanmar-Vietnam construction meet

MYANMAR-VIETNAM Construction Business Matching has been planned to be hosted at the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) office on 23 June.

It is a business matching between the Vietnam Business Club, which comprises more than 20 kinds of businesses owned by 22 companies, and Myanmar's construction companies, engineers, producers and importers.

A preliminary meeting for the event was held on 17 June at MCEF head office at 1:30 pm and attended by Mr Nguyen Van Bay and team from the Embassy of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, MCEF's internal and external relations committee chair U Thurein Aung, secretary general U Ko

Ko Lay, associate general secretary Daw Yi Wyne Oo and CEC members Daw Mya Thaung Wai, U Kyaw Htoo Aung and U Ye Htut and youth affairs committee member U Kyaw Soe.

Those who wish to join the business matching on 23 June can register at the MCEF office located at the corner of Waizayanta Road and Thuwunna junction in Thingangyun Township, and the contact numbers are 09 893217109 and 09 660282000. — MT/ZS

A preliminary meeting for the Myanmar-Vietnam Construction Business Matching is in progress.



## COVID-19 cases on the rise

THERE were just 0.04 per cent of COVID-19 cases identified in May first week but it rose to 2.28 per cent in June second week, according to the Ministry of Health.

Of 2285 laboratory tests from 8 to 15 June, 52 were identified as new confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Of these cases, 17 are from Yangon Region, 7 are from Magway Region's Gan-

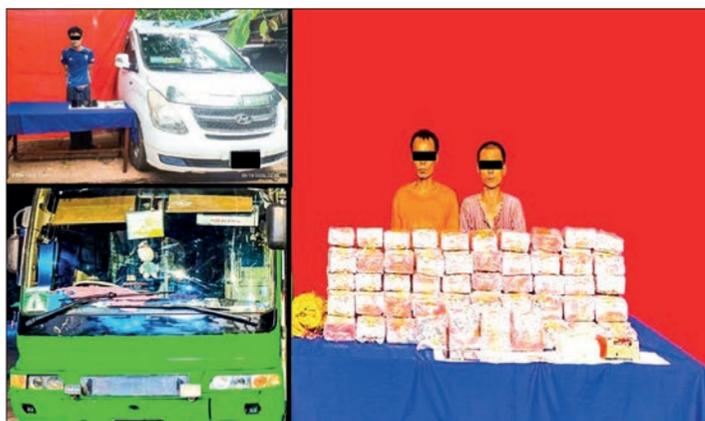
gaw Township, each one from Mandalay Region's Pyigyidagun Township and TadaU Township, one from Nay Pyi Taw's Zabuthiri Township, one from Shan State's Kengtung Township and recorded the highest in Mon State with 24 cases and of which 23 are from Bilin Township and one from Kyaukto Township.

So far, there is no concern over COVID-19 spread and fa-

tality rate; however, the public will need to follow personal protective health guidelines, said the Ministry of Health.

Additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been prioritized for vulnerable groups such as older people aged 60 years and above, people with diabetes, chronic lung disease, cancers and pregnant women, it said. — Htun Htun/ZS

## Three arrested for trafficking 125 kg of meth



Seized drugs found in suspects' possession at the time of arrest.

A combined team, including members of the Anti-drug Police Force, conducted a search based on a tip-off at around 1 am on 10 June near Nyaungkhashay Village in Waw Township.

They stopped a vehicle travelling from Yangon to Hpa-an. The vehicle was driven by

Yan Naing Soe, Thiha Soe (a) Maung Soe on board. During the search, police discovered 125 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine) hidden inside a toolbox beneath the driver's seat.

Further investigation revealed that the drugs were be-

ing transported from Yangon to Hpa-an under the instructions of a man named Soe Min. Acting on this information, police arrested Soe Min at around 11 am the same day near Khanando Village in Hpa-an Township. He was caught on the Hpa-an-Myawady road in possession of a Grand Starex vehicle.

According to ongoing investigations, the seized methamphetamine was intended to be trafficked from Yangon to Myawady for sale.

All three individuals have been taken into custody and legal action has been initiated under existing laws. Authorities continue to investigate to uncover others involved in the drug trafficking network. — MNA/MKKS

## MAJA opens applications for Asahi Shimbun journalism scholarship in Japan

THE MAJA Education Centre announced that it is now accepting applications for the Asahi Shimbun Scholarship, which will allow students to study in Japan while delivering newspapers in April 2026.

The scholarship is open to applicants who have passed the Japanese language proficiency test (JLPT) (N4) or above (JLPT certificate must be submitted), are 18-25 years old as of April 2026, have passed the new 12th grade or the old first year of university, are healthy and single, have no tattoos at all, and hold a Passport (PV/PE) or have received a QR code for recent application or renewal.

Applicants must have a motorcycle licence A, and those who have applied for a student visa or other visas to Japan, or those who have had their COE rejected, are not eligible to apply. After passing the interview, candidates will be required to pay

K2.5 million to the centre, which includes fees for the Japanese language course, traffic rules and newspaper delivery courses, daily conversation courses with Japanese teachers, and US\$1,000 to the newspaper office upon receiving the COE.

Benefits provided by the company include air tickets, tuition fees for two years, accommodation by the relevant branch, and a 150,000 yen or more salary with a 10,000 yen deduction per month. Vacation rules are four days per month and 10 days for the first year, starting six months after joining, and 11 days for the second year, starting 18 months after joining.

Applications will be accepted from 18 June to 12 July in the Google Form <https://forms.gle/hGCSNr332KtQ56jk7>, and applicants will be contacted only through the Gmail addresses filled in the form, the centre announced. — MT/ZN



Students are seen working newspaper delivery jobs.

# NATIONAL



Cyclists are seen competing in the previous event.

## Yangon to host Olympic Day 2025 cycling event

THE 2025 Olympic Day commemorative individual cycling race for men and women (4,800 metres) will be held on 22 June at 7 am at the cycling track of Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, according to the Yangon Region Department of Sports and Physical Education. The event is organised by

the Yangon Region Department of Sports and Physical Education to mark Olympic Day 2025. In the men's competition, prizes will be awarded to the first through fifth-place winners, each receiving cash awards and medals. In the women's competition, the top three finishers will also be awarded cash prizes and medals.

Both cogwheel and free-wheel bicycles are allowed in the race. All participants are required to wear helmets, and bicycles must not be equipped with sharp objects or potentially dangerous accessories. Interested individuals can also register on the day of the event, 22 June, and directly participate in the race. — ASH/KZL

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday 18 June 2025

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the North Andaman Sea, North Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and strong over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**Special Features:** According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the well marked low pressure over Gangetic West Bengal (India) still persists. It is likely to move slowly northwestwards and across Jharkhand (India) during 24 hours and weaken gradually.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 18 June 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, (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 of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-13 feet in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 June 2025:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 June 2025:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 June 2025:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

## Premiere of 'Aung Si Aung Maung' wows audiences before nationwide release

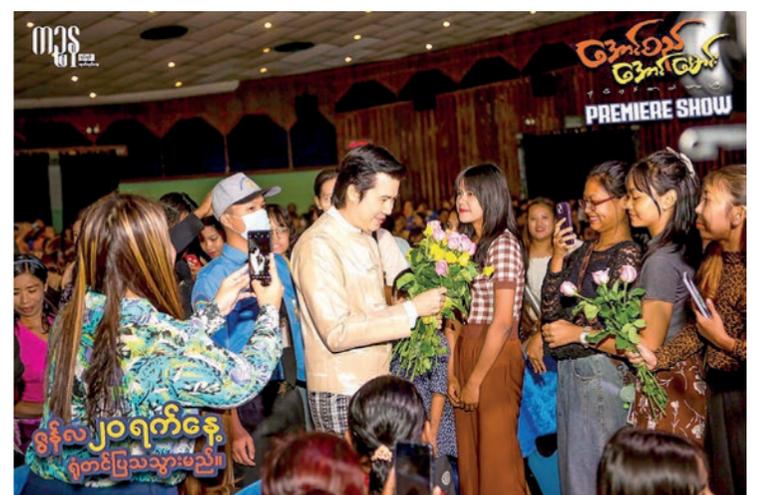
THE premiere of the Myanmar feature film 'Aung Si Aung Maung', which is set to be screened across cinemas nationwide on 20 June, was held in the afternoon of 17 June at the President Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

Speaking at the premiere, Director Khin Hlaing (Nyan Gyi Shin) said, "We filmed this movie near Tagondaing Village in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw. One memorable moment during the shooting was encountering flooding. We've done our best to make this film as good as possible. It's a platonic love story – nothing

overly dramatic. I'd just like to say: come and enjoy how the plot unfolds on the big screen."

The screenplay of the film was adapted by K Seven from a story written by Seven Day, and the film was co-directed by Khin Hlaing (Nyan Gyi Shin) and Moe Moe under Kinsana Film Production.

The cast includes Academy Award winners Nay Toe and Tekkatho Gon Pon, along with Phyo Ngwe Soe, Tyron, Phyo Lay, Khin Hlaing, Min Hein, Naw Phaw Elhtar, Nay Chi Shunlet, Sin Ma, Si Si, Super Lin, and many others. — ASH/KNN



Scene showing actors and film crew members attending the premiere show of the film 'Aung Si Aung Maung'.

## Myanmar film 'Slaves of Cupid' to air on CANAL+ Zat Lenn on 22 June

THE Myanmar film 'Slaves of Cupid' is set to be broadcast on the subscription-based television channel CANAL+ Zat Lenn at 8 pm on 22 June, according to film sources. The film's original story was adapted by Khu Khu, and the screenplay was written by Ingyin Han, while Academy Award

winner Wyne directed the production under Lu Swan Kaung Film Production.

Originally released in cinemas in August 2015, the film was a major success. It is going to be re-aired on the CANAL+ Thukhuma channel for fans who wish to watch it again. The film stars Academy Award winners Nay Toe, Sai Sai Kham Leng, and Phway Phway, alongside Soe Nanda Kyaw and other experienced performers. — ASH/MKKS



A poster advertising the Slaves of Cupid.

## Myanmar startups invited to ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2025

### FROM PAGE 1

penetrate Korean markets and expand businesses.

Startups engaging in artificial intelligence (AI), mobility tech, fintech, healthcare platforms and human-centred technologies with work experience of one to five years and 30 workers

at maximum should attend this.

ASEAN Korea Centre will cover flight tickets and accommodation. Those interested startups need to submit the registration form by 4 July 2025 to email [ksy@aseankorea.org](mailto:ksy@aseankorea.org) and [mkhwang37@aseankorea.org](mailto:mkhwang37@aseankorea.org). — NN/KK

## MPIE conducts food testing in Yangon and PyinOoLwin

THE Research Department (Yangon) and Research Division (PyinOoLwin branch) of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry have been supervising food sample testing to ensure food safety, quality and compliance.

Food testing includes a wide range of food products, beverage

es, sugar, cooking oil, and microbiology tests of food samples.

Those who want to enquire about details can contact the Research Department in Insein Township, Yangon, via contact numbers at 09 5187571 and 09 261327404, the branch at 39 miles on the Mandalay-Lashio Road in PyinOoLwin Township via 09 785064519. — NN/KK

## Bridges Department seeks bids for construction materials



This image showcases labourers working at the construction site.

THE Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction invited suppliers and companies to submit a proposal for the supply of construction materials required in the Seikkyi Khanaungto new bridge project, according to the tendering committee.

Construction Task Force 4 of the Bridge Department supervises this project with

the Union Budget for the 2025-2026 Financial Year and seeks bids to purchase construction materials required for the project and procure services and rent machinery in local currency (Kyat).

Those interested suppliers and companies can buy the tender form at the director's office of the department located in the Bayintnaung No

2 project complex, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, and submission will be closed on 25 June 2025. The tender opening will be held at 10 am on 27 June 2025 at the same complex.

Those individuals can enquire about details of tendering procedures through the director's office (urban) at 09 422486087. — NN/KK

## CBM to inject US \$33M into fuel oil industry

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 17 June that it would sell US\$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 the companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis to edible oil importing companies and over \$1.126 million to importers of other goods.

CBM would sell US\$10 million 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



Vehicles queue at one of the petrol stations in the city of Yangon.

countries.

CBM sold \$1.3 million that were 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 mil-

lion, 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, over 610,000 yuan and 2.4 million baht on 30 May, after the sale of 4.3 million baht on 28 May into the financial market.

CBM announced on 27 May that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil importers.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. 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

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# OPINION

## Equip students with critical thinking ability

BEING a student in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is vastly different from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When we examine each decade within the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we can see that many changes have taken place in Myanmar's education sector. Rather than simply acquiring a broad knowledge base, the ability to think critically and thoughtfully has become more important.

Critical thinking is of great importance as a basic factor in the education sector. In fact, the ability of critical thinking is the capability of systematically analyzing any event or item without immediately believing in any factors, and it emphasizes exposing the root causes and potential effects on a wider scale. The ability is composed of discernment, the capacity to present comparisons, and the freedom to express one's views independently.

Such ability is based on several factors, including the capacity to consider multiple perspectives, a preference for asking reciprocal questions, understanding meaning and relevance, presenting answers with strong reasoning, and having independent viewpoints.

To enhance students' learning abilities, teachers must act like mentors, guiding students to analyze, assess, and study independently. They should provide clear direction regarding students' learning paths. As the field of study is broad, teachers need to support students in discovering useful knowledge that can be directly applied in society. Moreover, teachers should continuously encourage students to stay updated and engaged with modern technologies.

the perspectives of others and politely responding to them.

Research findings show that critical thinking skills have a significant impact on education. If students are trained to develop these skills, their learning abilities will improve, and they will be able to evaluate and accept a wide range of perspectives. To achieve this, many reforms must be implemented in the education sector. In teaching, it is not enough for a teacher to simply explain and write formulas on the board—teachers must also equip students with practical skills that they can apply in real-life situations.

To enhance students' learning abilities, teachers must act like mentors, guiding students to analyze, assess, and study independently. They should provide clear direction regarding students' learning paths. As the field of study is broad, teachers need to support students in discovering useful knowledge that can be directly applied in society. Moreover, teachers should continuously encourage students to stay updated and engaged with modern technologies.

One of these abilities is the capacity to analyze problems and create constructive solutions. Critical thinkers are always individuals who solve problems positively. They can distinguish perspectives objectively and analyze from multiple viewpoints before making decisions, allowing them to reason logically and appropriately.

The ability of critical thinking is important in the education system, changing youths to be responsible people. In this regard, youth must be capable of making decisions with precision and confidence, enhancing the capacity to resolve problems and systematically considering and responding to any actions by analyzing all situations. In addition, those youth have a habit of carefully listening to

ON 20 March 2025, Penn Orthopaedics at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States hosted the annual San Baw, MD, GM '58 Honorary Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation featuring Dr Arnold-Peter C Weiss from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), who was the honorary speaker.

**A brief bio-data of Dr San Baw and the youngest person (at the age of 13) to be inserted with an ivory hip prosthesis: Daw Than Htay**

Dr San Baw (29 June 1922-7 December 1984) was my late father.

In January 1960, my late father first used an ivory prosthesis to replace the fractured thigh bone of an 83-year-old Burmese Buddhist nun, Daw Punya. He had to go to an ivory carver in the city of Mandalay to sculpt an ivory hip prosthesis. After his return from the University of Pennsylvania, doing his post-graduate studies for 3 1/2 years, my father was posted as Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Mandalay General Hospital from November 1958 to June 1975. And he was posted as chief of orthopaedic surgery at Rangoon (now Yangon) General Hospital from June 1975 until his retirement in October 1980. From 1960 to 1980, Dr San Baw and his junior colleagues operated upon and inserted ivory hip prostheses to replace the fractured thigh bones of patients whose ages ranged from 13 to 87. Definitely one, if not two, persons who Dr San Baw inserted ivory hip prostheses are still alive as of mid-April 2025. On or about December 1969, a person from a village near Mandalay at the age of about thirteen was inserted with an ivory hip prosthesis by my late father and his junior colleagues in an operation which lasted for about four hours (as told to me by the patient herself). The patient's name is Daw Than Htay (born around November 1956). Up till about mid-2021, she lived in a village about a hundred and fifty miles from Mandalay. She currently lives in a monastery in Mandalay. Sometime in 2024, an X Ray was taken of her left hip (about 55 years after her insertion of the ivory prosthesis), and even though the prosthesis was broken, there has been a creeping substitution or 'biological bonding' between bone and ivory, the 2024

X-rays show.

Abstract of Presentation at British Orthopaedic Conference in 1969 and Master of Medical Science thesis at the University of Pennsylvania in 1957

My late father was invited by the British Orthopaedic Association to deliver his research on ivory hip prostheses at the annual conference of the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA) in London, which was held from September 23 to 27, 1969. But only an abstract of my father's presentation was published in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* (British volume), Volume 59 B. When I wrote to the BOA sometime around 2019, they stated that they do not have the full paper any more with them. It is ironic that a paper that was presented to the BOA in 1969 is not on record with the BOA but a Master of Medical Science (Orthopaedics) thesis presented to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the then Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania by my late father in late 1957 is in the repository of the University of Pennsylvania library.

# Thoughts Relating to the San Baw Lecture on Orthopaedic Innovation at the University of Pennsylvania

X-rays show.

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**No killing of elephants in Burma when ivory prostheses were being used for the non-reunion of the femoral head**

In the context of Burma from the 1960s to the early 1990s, ivory was a cheaper material to use as implants or prostheses to replace fractured thigh bones. Starting from 1959 in Mandalay, Dr San Baw studied the physical, mechanical, chemical and biological properties of ivory for about a year before he inserted it as a replacement on the 83-year-old Burmese Buddhist nun Daw Punya in January 1960. He consulted a physics professor and a zoology professor when investigating the physical, mechanical and biological properties of ivory. It must be emphasized that when my father was using ivory to replace

hip fractures from the 1960s to early 1980s, there was no (no) killing of elephants. Only when elephants died say carrying logs after living their natural lives, was the ivory extracted from the elephants. Indeed, about ten years after Dr San Baw passed away in December 1984, his junior colleagues continued to use ivory prostheses as hip implants. One such patient, now deceased, Daw (Mrs, honorific) Than Than (May 1923-May 2023) (a different person from Daw Than Htay mentioned above) had a fall and fractured her left hip sometime



X-ray taken from the hip of Daw Than Htay in 2024. Ivory prosthesis was inserted in December 1969. Daw Than Htay can walk, albeit with a limp, and squat with an ivory prosthesis in her hip for over 55 years. (L) A sample of ivory prostheses. The prosthesis is on display at Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital and also at the Museum of Surgery in Edinburgh, in the United Kingdom. (R)

after 1990. Professor U Meik, a junior colleague of Dr San Baw, an orthopaedic surgeon in Mandalay, used an ivory hip prosthesis in the early 1990s as a hip replacement for Daw Than Than. In October 2014, the elderly lady broke her right hip, and another orthopaedic surgeon replaced it with a metal hip prosthesis

**Cover Story in Clinical Orthopaedics Journal of Dr San Baw's work and Inaugural San Baw Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation**

In August 2017, *Clinical Orthopaedics Journal* published the case of the only person in the world then over the age of nine-

ty years who had an ivory prosthesis in her left hip and metal prostheses in her right hip, with photos of X-rays. On the cover of the *Journal*, the photos of ivory hip prostheses that yours truly sent to the *Journal* were 'touched up' and displayed.

In December 2017, I contributed funds to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania to establish an annual Lecture in perpetuity in my father's name: 'San Baw, MD, GM'58 Honorary Lecture in Orthopaedic



X-ray taken from the hip of Daw Than Htay in 2024. Ivory prosthesis was inserted in December 1969. Daw Than Htay can walk, albeit with a limp, and squat with an ivory prosthesis in her hip for over 55 years. (L) A sample of ivory prostheses. The prosthesis is on display at Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital and also at the Museum of Surgery in Edinburgh, in the United Kingdom. (R)

Innovation'.

On 29 November 2018, Dr Bartek Szostakowski, a Polish orthopaedic surgeon at the Maria Sklodowska Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland, gave the inaugural 'San Baw, Honorary Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation' titled 'Dr San Baw, a forgotten innovator in orthopaedic biological reconstruction'. I also gave a presentation, 'Dr San Baw: A Son's Tribute to an Ivory Prince'. From 2022 to 2025, there have been four San Baw Lectures in Orthopaedic innovation that were held at the University of Pennsylvania in honour of Dr San Baw. After the

two inaugural Lectures by me and Dr Bartek, Dr L Scott Levin, Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Penn, stated that 'San Baw was an innovative, compassionate physician who pioneered techniques in hip arthroplasty ... We are delighted to perpetuate the legacy of this remarkable orthopaedic surgeon'.

**Scant domestic and international recognition in relation to Dr San Baw's contributions**

Sir John Charnley (29 August 1911-5 August 1982), a British orthopaedic surgeon, was recognised as the founder of modern hip



X-ray taken from the hip of Daw Than Htay in 2024. Ivory prosthesis was inserted in December 1969. Daw Than Htay can walk, albeit with a limp, and squat with an ivory prosthesis in her hip for over 55 years. (L) A sample of ivory prostheses. The prosthesis is on display at Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital and also at the Museum of Surgery in Edinburgh, in the United Kingdom. (R)

replacement (total hip arthroplasty) and, in layperson's terms, one of the leading pioneers of metal hip prostheses. When he passed away in 1982, there was a short obituary of him in the *New York Times*. (26 August 1982, Section B, page 12). In 1990, British orthopaedic surgeon William Waugh (17 February 1922-21 May 1998) published a biography of Sir John, titled *John Charnley [:] The Man and the Hip* (Springer-Verlag).

The next year in 1983, another pioneer of vitallium hip prostheses, an American orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Frederick Thompson (1907-April 12, 1983), passed away. The *New York Times* also published a longer obituary on its 15

April 1983 issue (Section D at page 18). But when Dr San Baw passed away just over 1 1/2 years after Dr Frederick Thompson and just over 2 years after Sir John Charnley did, forget the *New York Times*, not even local Burmese and English language newspapers carried the news.

But I should say that about 10 of the newspapers in the United States did carry a news item under various headings, including 'Ivory replaces metal in bone transplants' written by journalist Albert E Kaff (1920-October 2011) in January and February 1970 issues. After my father passed away, I saw three handwritten letters addressed to my father, 'Dr San Baw, Mandalay General Hospital, Mandalay, Burma'. The letters all came from the United States asking my father's advice for their orthopaedic problems. One of the correspondents attached a cutting of a news item under the above title from the *San Bernardino County Sun* newspaper of 31 January 1970. Albert E Kaff was reporting on the 'Lecture Dr San Baw at the British Orthopaedic Association in London in September 1969', the UPI report by Albert E Kaff might have reached the Editors' desk of the *New York Times* in early 1970, they might not have published it.

**Ivory prostheses sample and prosthetic work being done 'in Malaysia': A correction**

Still, smidgens (so to speak) of recognition somewhat belatedly came. There is a display (since when I do not know) of a sample of ivory prosthesis in the Museum of Surgery in Edinburgh, Scotland, Great Britain. I was not aware of the display at the museum until a former student wrote to me in 2017 about it. Ms Teo Ju-li, a Malaysian student, was then studying for her Master of Laws (LLM) at the University of Edinburgh, and she visited the Museum. She saw the ivory prosthesis on display and wrote to me about it. At my request, an official of the Museum sent me a

photo of the ivory hip prosthesis on display at the Museum of Surgery. It wrongly and briefly stated that it was from 'Malaysia'. I sent a few documents concerning my late father, and the museum personnel kindly changed it to QUOTE 'Burma (1970)'. Dr San Baw first used an ivory prosthesis on a Burmese Buddhist nun in 1960. Over 300 prostheses were used in 20 years with 90 per cent success, where patients were able to walk, squat and play football.' UNQUOTE

The 'mistake' of Malaysia for Burma/Myanmar is made not only by the Museum of Surgery in Edinburgh. In a 90-second brief introduction of my late father in the 5<sup>th</sup> San Baw Honorary Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation on March 20, 2025 (as indicated above), the introducer correctly stated that Dr San Baw worked at MGH (Mandalay General Hospital) and RGH (Rangoon General Hospital). But in the video link provided to me, where the Lecture was recorded, it was stated that these were the two medical hospitals in 'Malaysia' (not Burma) or Myanmar. I should say, though, that in the pamphlet distributed before and during the Lecture, the information regarding my father and Burmese background is correctly stated.

**A Malaysian patient and Australian colleagues of Dr San Baw**

As it was, Dr San Baw has had some Malaysian and Australian connections as well. From January to June 1976, on a World Health Organization (WHO) Fellowship, he visited orthopaedic centres in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong. He was in Malaysia in January 1976, visiting the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Malaya Hospital. The then Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Malaya (UM) Hospital, the late Professor Dr Subramaniam, personally told me in 1990 that Dr San Baw treated the then Malaysian kid who had extra shin bone (infantile pseudarthrosis of

# ARTICLE

By Myint Zan

the tibia) with his own technique. Incidentally even though BOA only published a 311-word abstract of my father's presentation in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* (British volume) (JBJS) in 1970 it did publish in full Dr San Baw's article 'The Transarticular graft for infantile pseudarthrosis of the tibia: A New Technique' in Volume 57 (1975) of the above journal. Again, it is ironic that 14 case studies over a period of eight years on infantile pseudarthrosis were published in full in JBJS in 1975, but 100-plus studies on the insertion of ivory prostheses over a period of nine years were published only in abstract form five years earlier in 1970. But as the late Dr Subramaniam told me, a non-Burmese Malaysian boy (as he then was) in 1976 was also the beneficiary of my father's innovative technique and compassion.

During his 1976 visit, Dr San Baw spent about two to three months in Australia visiting orthopaedic centres in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. I am in contact with only one Australian orthopaedic surgeon whom my father met in Australia and who, between 1976 and 2018, has visited Burma/Myanmar about 16 times. He is Emeritus Clinical Professor in Orthopaedics, Dr Robert Bauze of the University of Adelaide. It was in Australia, I understand, that Dr San Baw was called 'ivory prince'.

**Expression of thanks to Australian Colleagues, to Dr Bartek and Dr San Baw's junior colleagues**

I am grateful to Professor Bauze for his many visits to Burma/Myanmar and his assistance in facilitating Burmese orthopaedists and other medical doctors to get their training in Australia and for the Australian health aid projects in Myanmar. I am also grateful to Dr Bartek, as stated above, for re-introducing, reviving the 'forgotten innovator' Dr San Baw's contributions to orthopaedics. Also, my thanks to former junior colleagues of Dr San Baw, Dr (Bobby) Sein Lwin (Florida), Professor Dr Kyaw Myint Naing (Yangon) My father Dr San Baw had in a small corner of the world assiduously and devotedly worked for the welfare of several hundred patients and had trained Burmese orthopaedic surgeons with dedication and compassion.

## SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

# New Zealand approves medicinal use of 'magic mushrooms'



Psilocybin is a naturally occurring psychedelic compound found in some species of mushroom and can cause hallucinations and an altered state of mind. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEW Zealand on Wednesday approved the medicinal use of psilocybin, a hallucinogenic compound notably found in so-called "magic mushrooms".

Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour said rules had been relaxed so psilocybin could be used to treat certain types of depression.

Psilocybin is a naturally occurring psychedelic compound found in some species

of mushroom and can cause hallucinations and an altered state of mind.

"Psilocybin remains an unapproved medicine, but a highly experienced psychiatrist has been granted authority to prescribe it to patients with treatment-resistant depression," Seymour said.

"This is huge for people with depression who've tried everything else and are still

suffering.

"If a doctor believes psilocybin can help, they should have the tools to try."

There will be tight rules for prescribing the drug.

Only psychiatrists who have been involved in psilocybin clinical trials will be allowed to prescribe it, and they must strictly report its use and keep detailed records. — AFP

# Bali flights cancelled after Indonesia volcano eruption

DOZENS of flights to and from Bali were cancelled Wednesday after Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted, spewing a 10-kilometre ash cloud and prompting the highest alert level as authorities warned of ongoing volcanic activity.

Dozens of flights to and from Indonesia's resort island of Bali were cancelled on Wednesday, according to authorities and the island's airport, after a volcano in the archipelago's east erupted, shooting an ash tower 10 kilo-

metres into the sky.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a 1,584-metre (5,197-foot) volcano on the tourist island of Flores, erupted on Tuesday, with authorities raising its alert status to the highest level of a four-tiered system.

"Due to volcano activity of Lewotobi Laki-Laki in East Nusa Tenggara, several flights at I Gusti Ngurah Rai Airport are cancelled," airport operator Angkasa Pura Indonesia told AFP in a statement. — AFP

# Laos warns of flood risk amid ongoing rainfall

THE weather bureau of Laos has warned that continued rainfall in many parts of the country may cause floods and landslides, while water levels in rivers keep rising.

Heavy and light rains are forecast across Laos from 16 to 22 June. Residents, especially in the northern and central provinces, are advised to remain on high alert and take precautionary measures, as persistent rainfall over several days could trigger severe weather-related hazards.

According to a report from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Lao Ministry of Natural Resources

and Environment on Wednesday, the river level in southern Laos' Savannakhet province reached 15.70 metres on Tuesday, surpassing the danger level of 15 metres.

Lao authorities are advising people in low-lying areas to prepare to move their belongings to a safer place.

In northern Laos' Phongsaly province, heavy rain over the past few days caused rivers to burst their banks and flood houses and farmland on 16 June.

The weather bureau has urged the public to stay prepared for extreme weather conditions and to closely monitor official forecasts. — Xinhua

# Longer exposure, more pollen: climate change worsens allergies

CLIMATE change is triggering an "explosion" of allergies, experts warn, as longer, more intense pollen seasons driven by warmer weather and rising CO2 levels worsen hay fever and asthma symptoms across Europe and beyond.

Runny nose, itching eyes, worsening asthma symptoms -- the effects of hay fever are nothing to sneeze at, experts

say, warning of an "explosion" of allergies as climate change lengthens and intensifies pollen seasons. The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has found that a shifting climate has already begun altering the production and distribution of pollen and spores.

As winter frost thaws earlier and spring weather gets warmer, plants and trees flower earlier,

extending the pollen season, numerous studies have shown.

Air pollution can also increase people's sensitivity to allergens, while invasive species are spreading into new regions and causing fresh waves of allergies. More and more people, particularly in industrialized nations, have reported developing allergy symptoms in recent decades. — AFP



Warmer winter and spring weather encourages plants and trees to flower earlier. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Amsterdam honours its own Golden Age sculpture master

*Born in Antwerp in 1606, Quellinus worked with various materials, including marble, ivory, and clay.*

IMPOSING but delicate marble sculptures of Graeco-Roman-style figures grace the vaulted corridors of a huge palace. But this isn't Florence or Rome. This is Amsterdam.

As part of celebrations to mark 750 years since the founding of the Dutch capital, the city is unveiling from Wednesday an ex-

hibition dedicated to Artus Quellinus, the 17<sup>th</sup> century "sculptor of Amsterdam".

Virtually unknown outside Flanders in present-day Belgium where he made his name, the city has Quellinus to thank for the decorations on the Royal Palace that dominates the city's iconic Dam Square.



Amsterdam hopes to raise awareness of its 17<sup>th</sup> century sculptor Artus Quellinus. PHOTO: ANP/AFP

Quellinus "lifted our sculpture to a new level" with a fresh style, Dutch art historian Bieke van der Mark told AFP.

Born in Antwerp in 1606, Quellinus sculpted with marble,

as well as ivory and clay.

His style, heavily influenced by Flemish baroque painter Rubens, was a complete novelty for the Protestant Netherlands, used to a more sober style at the time.

His subjects -- mythological figures, chubby angels, and animals -- are perhaps a nod to the great masters he would have seen while an apprentice in Rome. — AFP

## Dutch suggest social media ban for under-15s



Smartphone use should not be allowed before 12, said the report. PHOTO: AFP

THE Dutch government Tuesday advised parents to forbid children under 15 from using social media apps like TikTok and Snapchat, the latest country to propose curbs over mental health con-

cerns. The advice, which is non-binding, comes after Australia and New Zealand proposed social media bans for under-16s, and several European countries have issued similar guidelines.

"Intensive screen and social media use can be bad for the (mental) health and development of children," said the Dutch ministry for health, wellbeing and sport. "Think of sleeping problems, panic attacks, depressive symptoms, reduced concentration and a negative self-image."

The ministry distinguished between smartphone use, messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Signal, and social media apps like TikTok.

Children younger than their last year of primary school (typically 11 or 12) should not be allowed a smartphone, the government advised. — AFP

## R Kelly hospitalized after alleged drug overdose

R&B singer R Kelly, convicted of racketeering and sex trafficking in 2021, has found himself at the centre of a dramatic new legal dispute after he was rushed to a hospital following an apparent drug overdose.

The 58-year-old singer, who is currently serving time

at the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, North Carolina, is now back in solitary confinement after being treated for what his attorney claims was a lethal overdose administered by prison officials, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

According to a court filing by Kelly's lawyer, Beau Brindley, the singer was hospitalized at Duke University Hospital in Durham on 13 June after suffering serious health complications, including black spots in his vision and a loss of consciousness. — ANI

## Tom Cruise to receive honorary Oscar in career first

TOM Cruise will receive his first-ever Oscar as an honorary award at the 2026 Governors Awards, where the Academy will also recognize Dolly Parton, Debbie Allen, and Wynn Thomas for their contributions to film and humanitarian work.

US actor and film producer Tom Cruise will receive an honorary Oscar ahead of the 2026 Academy Awards, the organizers said Tuesday, marking a career first for the Hollywood veteran.

Cruise was selected to receive a statuette for his contributions to cinema, along with choreographer Debbie Allen and production designer Wynn Thomas.

Dolly Parton will also be awarded the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her decades-long humanitarian work, with the trophies presented at the Academy's 16<sup>th</sup> Governors Awards event in November. — AFP



Tom Cruise, 62, has received four Oscar nominations but has never won the prestigious prize. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# ECONOMY WORLD

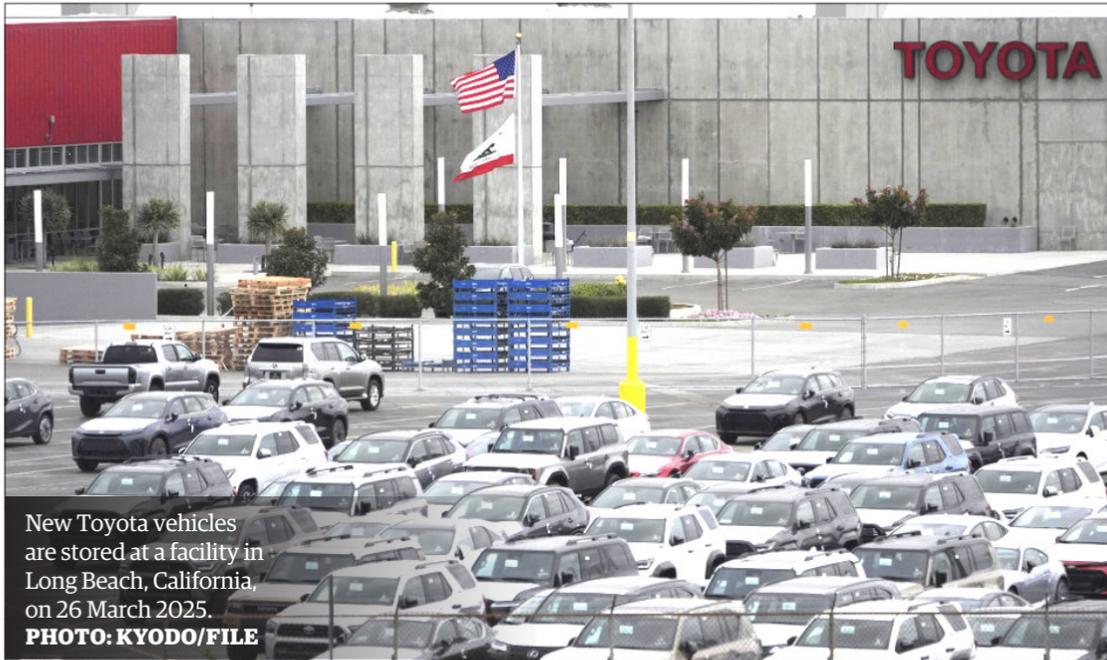
## Japan logs 637.6 bln yen trade deficit in May on weak US exports

*This decline was largely attributed to a significant drop in auto-related shipments to the United States.*

JAPAN logged a 637.61 billion yen (\$4.38 billion) trade deficit in May, with auto-related shipments to the United States plunging, possibly affected by higher tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump, government data showed Wednesday.

The trade balance remained in the red for the second straight month, as overall exports fell 1.7 per cent from a year earlier to 8.13 trillion yen, marking the first drop in eight months, weighed down by an 11.1 per cent fall in shipments to the United States.

Imports shed 7.7 per cent to 8.77 trillion yen, down for the second straight month, reflecting lower prices of crude oil from the



New Toyota vehicles are stored at a facility in Long Beach, California, on 26 March 2025.  
**PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

United Arab Emirates and coal from Australia, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

By region, Japan had a 451.7 billion yen trade surplus with the United States, down 4.7 per cent from the previous year, as exports dropped for the second consecutive month to 1.51 trillion yen, while imports fell 13.5 per cent to 1.06 trillion yen.

U.S.-bound shipments of automobiles tumbled 24.7 per cent and those of auto parts plunged 19.0 per cent, both in value terms. In volume, shipments of automobiles fell 3.9 per cent, showing that export unit prices declined by over 20 per cent. — Kyodo

## Swiss insurers estimate glacier damage at \$393 mln

AFTER a glacier collapsed into a Swiss Alpine village last month, insurers now estimate damage at hundreds of millions, leaving residents facing the long-term aftermath of one of the country's most destructive natural events.

Swiss insurers on Tuesday put the damage caused by last month's glacier collapse, which largely destroyed the

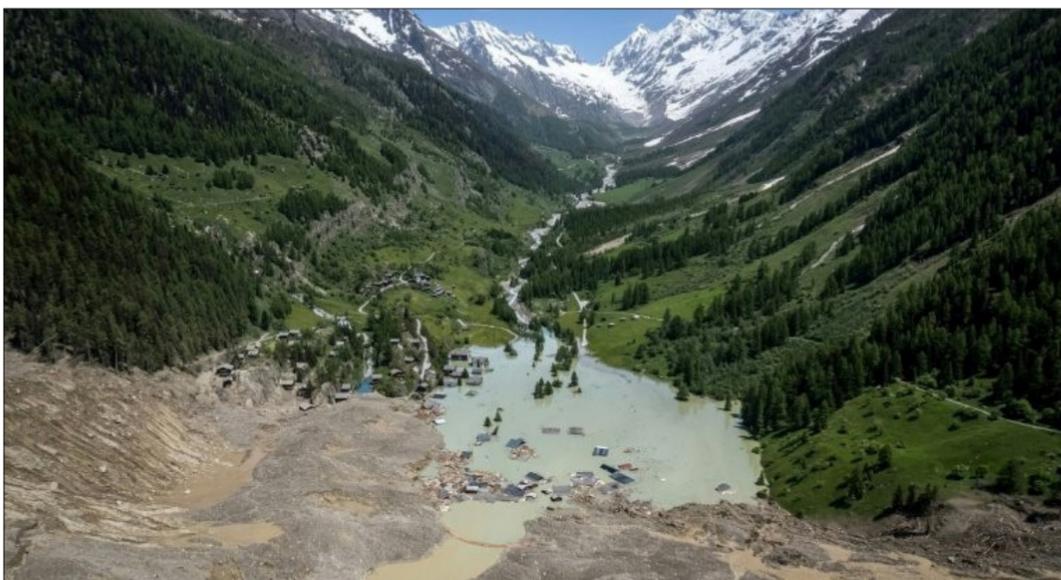
Alpine village of Blatten, at 320 million Swiss francs (\$393 million).

The Swiss Insurance Association (SIA) said it was "already certain that 2025 will go down in history" of the region with the year to date marked by "above-average claims" related to natural damage.

The SIA had said two weeks ago that the collapse,

a "major disaster that is virtually unprecedented in its scale and impact on the affected population", would cost hundreds of millions in claims.

The collapse three weeks ago of the Birch Glacier, located in the Loetschental Valley, renowned for wild and unique landscapes, made headlines across the world. — AFP



The debris from the collapsed glacier dammed a river, submerging the village of Blatten.  
**PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Spain says 'overvoltage' caused huge April blackout



A nationwide power outage in Spain in April halted trains, shut businesses and plunged cities into darkness. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A major power outage that paralyzed the Iberian Peninsula in April was caused by "overvoltage" on the grid that triggered "a chain reaction", according to a government report released Tuesday.

The April 28 blackout had "multiple" causes, Ecological Transition Minister Sara Aagesen told reporters, adding that the system "lacked sufficient voltage control capacity" that day.

Overvoltage is when there is too much electrical voltage in a network, overloading equipment. Potential causes include surges in networks due to oversupply or lightning strikes, or when protective equipment is insufficient or fails.

When faced with overvoltage, protective systems shut down parts of the grid, potentially leading to widespread power outages. — AFP

## Japan: Yamaha Motor's sustainable and Versatile EV Solutions for diverse global markets

DIAPASON serves as Yamaha's innovative platform for developing four highly versatile and user-friendly vehicles.

The company's core technological strengths motors, batteries, and

control systems form the foundation of this initiative.

Among the showcased models, the C580 stands out for its exceptional performance in off-grid and rugged terrains

powered entirely by electricity.

Its development was the result of close collaboration with various partners from the agricultural machinery and industrial production sectors, ensuring the vehicle meets the practical demands of these industries.

Jun Daito, Senior Strategy Lead of New Business Development, Yamaha Motor, said "Our first focus is the agricultural sector. From there, we plan to expand the vehicle's applications to airports, factories, and resort areas. Many industries are in need of compact EVs, and Yamaha is committed to fulfilling these demands". — ANI



DIAPASON serves as Yamaha's innovative platform for developing four highly versatile and user-friendly vehicles. **PHOTO: ANI**

## India launches FASTag annual pass for seamless highway travel

UNION Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday announced that the government has decided to introduce a FASTag-based Annual Pass to ensure seamless and cost-effective travel across the country's national highways.

The FASTag-based Annual Pass will be priced at Rs3,000 and valid for one year from the date of activation or for a maximum of up to 200 trips. It will be launched on Independence Day this year. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the annual FASTag will be valid only for non-commercial private vehicles such



The Annual Pass will be priced at Rs3,000, valid for one year or up to 200 trips, and will launch on Independence Day this year. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

as cars, jeeps, and vans. "A dedicated link for activation and renewal will soon be made available on the Rasmarg Yatra App as well as on the official websites of NHAI and MoRTH," said Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on the Social media platform 'X'. — ANI

### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of **New Maykha Agrochemical Co., Ltd.** for the following pesticide by **Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-Science Co., Ltd.**

Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
Sunger baton	OD 20	Cyhalopop-butyf 20% OD	Prov.	P2023-6038

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Office, Plant Protect Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within the period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned about shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Office.

**Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-Science Co., Ltd.**  
Chuangye Avenue #9, Jixian Industrial Park,  
Zhouzhi, Xi'an Shaanxi, China.

### Name Clarification Notice

I, **HNIN EI THU**, holder of Myanmar Passport No. MF554054, hereby declare that the name **HNIN EI THU @ Reshma Zahid**, as used during my academic period at **Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)**, and **HNIN EI THU**, as in my current passport, refer to the same person.

The name **Reshma** is my informal/family name and **Zahid** is my husband's name (Zahid Hussain), which I used during my academic period at UKM.

This declaration is made to clarify my name for official purposes.

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (362N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (362N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2025** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM4YS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM4YS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SAMAL VOY.NO. (0UVDUS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SAMAL VOY. NO. (0UVDUS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Putin confirms to UAE leader Russia's readiness to mediate Iran-Israel conflict

*Both leaders expressed serious concern over the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel, emphasizing the need for an early cessation of hostilities and increased diplomatic efforts regarding the Iranian nuclear programme.*

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin in a phone conversation with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Wednesday confirmed Russia's readiness to mediate in pro-

moting dialogue between Iran and Israel, the Kremlin said. "Vladimir Putin confirmed Russia's readiness to provide mediation assistance in promoting dialogue between the

parties to the conflict, informing about contacts with a number of foreign leaders in this regard," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Both leaders expressed deep concern over the continuing escalation of the conflict between Iran and Israel, the statement added.

"The imperative of an early cessation of hostilities and the intensification of political and diplomatic efforts in the interests of resolving controversial issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme was emphasized," the statement read. Vladimir Putin and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a telephone conversation and discussed bilateral relations, as well as the situation in the Middle East, the Kremlin said. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed Russia's willingness to mediate dialogue between Iran and Israel during a phone conversation with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

## PM Modi arrives in Croatia on last leg of his three-nation visit

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived in Croatia in the final leg of his three-nation visit. PM Modi arrived in Zagreb after concluding his visit to Canada, where he participated in the G7 Summit. The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome on his

arrival in Croatia. This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Croatia, marking an important milestone in the bilateral relationship with the visit opening new avenues for bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister will

hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and meet the President of Croatia, Zoran Milanovic.

The visit to Croatia will also underscore India's commitment to further strengthening its engagement with partners in the European Union. — ANI

## Japan lower house removes panel chief for 1<sup>st</sup> time in postwar era

JAPAN'S House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a resolution, proposed by several opposition parties, to dismiss a committee chairman amid a standoff over a tax,

marking the first such case in the chamber's postwar history.

The resolution, backed by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and five other opposition parties, called

for the removal of Tatsunori Ibayashi, a lawmaker from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who chaired the Committee on Financial Affairs. — Kyodo



Russian security chief Sergei Shoigu (L) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (R) met on the one-year anniversary of the sweeping military pact between their two countries. **PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS/AFP**

## Top DPRK leader meets visiting senior Russian official

KIM Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), met visiting Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Wednesday.

Kim welcomed Shoigu, who visited Pyongyang at the time marking the first anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, said the report.

Both sides discussed "the items of immediate cooperation and long-term plans arising in implementing the important matters agreed by the heads of state of the two countries through the exchanges of per-

sonal letters for several weeks", it added.

"Proceeding from a correct understanding of the current situation in the special military operations and Kursk Region," Kim confirmed the contents of cooperation within the range of the treaty between the two countries, accepted the relevant plans and discussed in detail the necessary cooperation plans, according to the report.

The two sides exchanged the views and opinions of the leaderships of the two countries on the issues of mutual concern, including the complicated international and regional situation, and reached a consensus of view, said the KCNA report. — Xinhua

## French ex-PM Fillon given suspended sentence over wife's fake job

FORMER French prime minister Francois Fillon was on Tuesday given a four-year suspended prison sentence over a fake jobs scandal that wrecked his 2017 presidential bid.

Fillon, 71, had been found guilty in 2022 on appeal of embezzlement for providing a fake parliamentary assistant job to his wife, Penelope Fillon, that saw her being paid from public funds although the court found that she

never did any work in the National Assembly.

The Paris appeals court also ordered him to pay a fine of 375,000 euros (\$433,000) and barred him from seeking elected office for five years.

The sentence was milder than the one handed down in 2022, when he had been ordered to spend one year behind bars without any suspension. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Liverpool face Bournemouth in Premier League opener, Man Utd host Arsenal

LIVERPOOL will kick off their Premier League title defence at home to Bournemouth on Friday, 15 August while Arsenal head to Manchester United in a blockbuster clash on the opening weekend.

Arne Slot's champions have the chance to secure the first points of the new season at Anfield as they launch the 2025/26 campaign, bidding for a record 21<sup>st</sup> English top-flight crown.

Following the Bournemouth game Liverpool have tricky fixtures at Newcastle and at home to Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, run-

ners-up for the past three seasons.

Thomas Frank's first match as Tottenham boss will come on 16 August at home against newly promoted Burnley, while Sunderland make their return to the Premier League against West Ham.

The third newcomers, Leeds, play Everton on Monday, 18 August. Pep Guardiola's Manchester City, who ended last season empty-handed, will be desperate to get off to a winning start against Wolves at Molineux. — AFP



Liverpool celebrate winning the 2024/25 Premier League. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Iqraam Rayners celebrates with Brazilian teammate Arthur Sales after scoring for Mamelodi Sundowns against Ulsan HD at the Club World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

## Sundowns edge Ulsan in front of empty stands at Club World Cup

MAMELODI Sundowns got off to a winning start at the Club World Cup with a 1-0 victory over South Korean side Ulsan HD on Tuesday in a match delayed by a weather warning and played before largely empty stands.

The South African side went top of Group F in front of a crowd given as 3,412 after Borussia Dortmund and Fluminense drew 0-0 earlier.

A weather warning pushed back kick-off by just over an

hour for one of the less enticing group clashes in the expanded FIFA tournament, which has so far not succeeded in filling grounds for every match.

However, those who were in attendance were party to an engaging battle.

Portuguese coach Miguel Cardoso's Mamelodi have won the South African top flight for eight consecutive seasons but finished as runners-up in the CAF Champions League final earlier in June. — AFP

## Mbappe a doubt for Real's Club World Cup opener

REAL Madrid could be without striker Kylian Mbappe for their Club World Cup opener against Saudi Pro League side Al Hilal after the Frenchman missed training due to illness.

New head coach Xabi Alonso will make his debut on the Real bench for the Group H match at Hard Rock Stadium and could be without several regulars. Defender Antonio Rudiger and the versatile Eduardo Camavinga are also likely to miss out against the Saudi team. "Kylian was feeling a little better this morning, but not enough. It's very hot and it was better that he didn't train. But we will wait until the last moment. Tomorrow morning we will decide," said Alonso.

"Rudiger made a brutal effort this season and I don't know if he will be called up tomorrow, but he is progressing well

and will be the first to return. Camavinga is also improving quickly, but he needs time," he added. — AFP



Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso is waiting on the fitness of Kylian Mbappe for his team's Club World Cup opener against Al Hilal. PHOTO: AFP

## Judo: Dominant Murao, Tanaka capture maiden golds at worlds

SANSHIRO Murao won his maiden judo world championships title in an all-Japanese final on Tuesday, with Shiho Tanaka joining her compatriot in also triumphing for the first time.

Paris Olympics silver medalist Murao stormed

to the men's 90-kilogramme final with four straight ippon wins in Budapest. He drew three shido penalties in overtime in the final from compatriot and last year's world champion Goki Tajima to secure the title. — Kyodo



## PM Modi highlights India's 4A approach to energy security, hails AI as "critical tool" to boost efficiency, stresses need for green initiatives

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the G7 Outreach Session, highlighting India's 4A approach—availability, accessibility, affordability, and acceptability—as the pillars of its energy security strategy.*

**P**RIME Minister Narendra Modi addressed the G7 Outreach Session on the theme 'Energy Security: diversification, technology and infrastructure to ensure access and affordability in a changing world'. He brought to attention India's novel approach of being human-centric towards technology and highlighted the 4As, which form the pillars of India's approach towards energy security, the Ministry of External Affairs noted in a statement on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney for the invitation and congratulated the G7 on marking 50 years of its journey. In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted that energy security was among the leading challenges facing future generations.

Bringing attention to the 4As, MEA noted in its statement that elaborating on India's commitment to inclusive growth, PM Modi noted that availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability were the principles that underpinned India's approach to energy security. — ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is greeted by members of the Canadian Indigenous community, as he arrives for the G7 Leaders' Summit held at the Rocky Mountain resort village of Kananaskis. **PHOTO: PRIME MINISTER OFFICE**

## China to set up international operation centre for digital RMB

CHINA'S central bank governor Pan Gongsheng said on Wednesday that the country will establish an international operation centre

for the digital RMB.

The centre aims to promote the internationalization of the digital currency and the develop-

ment of financial market services while supporting innovation in digital finance, Pan said at the Lujiazui Forum held in east China's Shanghai.

The initiative is part of a package of eight new measures announced by Pan that will be implemented in Shanghai, China's financial hub. Pan said a transaction reporting repository for the interbank market will also be established to collect transaction data and analyze activity across sub-markets such as bonds, currencies and derivatives, supporting macroeconomic policymaking and financial market supervision. — Xinhua



This aerial panoramic photo taken on 10 January 2023 shows a view of Lujiazui area in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: FANG ZHE/XINHUA/FILE**

### ACCESS TO TF1'S CHANNELS

## Netflix to stream French TV content in world first

NETFLIX announced Wednesday a livestreaming and on-demand content agreement with French television group TF1, its first such deal with a major traditional broadcaster anywhere in the world.

The service will launch in summer 2026, Netflix's co-chief-executive Greg Peters told AFP, while declining to name any of the financial or other details of the tie-up with TF1. Netflix subscribers in France will get access to TF1's five TV channels and

content from the group's own TF1+ streaming platform -- all "without ever having to leave the Netflix environment" on their smart TV or other device, the US company said in a statement. On offer will be sporting events, soap operas and reality shows such as the "Survivor"-style "Koh-Lanta".

TF1 and Netflix have for years collaborated on productions like 2019's historical drama "Le Bazar de la Charite" ("The Bonfire of Destiny"). —AFP