

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

President U Min Aung Hlaing Interviews with Doordarshan (DD India News) on Official State Visit

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Myanmar Vital Land Bridge for Regional Trade Integration: VP U Nyo Saw



The 29th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) is underway yesterday, attended by Vice-President U Nyo Saw.

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw attended the opening ceremony of the 29th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) at the EXPOFORUM Convention and Exhibition Centre in Russia yesterday afternoon, Myanmar Standard Time.

Also attending the ceremony were the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Union ministers, heads and delegates from more than 130 countries around the world, the Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation, the Myanmar Consul-General in Saint Petersburg and officials, heads of invited countries and officials, and business people. At the event, the documentary video of the 29th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2026) was shown, followed by a welcome address by the Governor of Saint Petersburg.

In his discussion, Vice-President U Nyo Saw said that Myanmar possesses significant potential for long-term development and enjoys a strategically unique

geographical location at the crossroads of East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia. He continued that Myanmar, situated between the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, serves as a natural land bridge connecting regional markets and facilitating trade, transportation and economic integration. He added that, to fully utilize on these advantages, the Myanmar government sets policies aiming at facilitating trade and improving the business environment.

Moreover, the government modernizes its agriculture and livestock sectors to enhance productivity, strengthen food security and support sustainable development, and welcomes greater international cooperation and investment in these sectors. In particular, he invited investments in transport, communications, digital infrastructure, logistics, export-oriented manufacturing industries, technology and digital services sectors.

In the same morning, the Vice-President-led delegation attended the EAEU-ASEAN. During the meeting, Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U

Aung Kyaw Hoe discussed the importance of digital transformation and resilience against resource and climate-related risks in medium-and-long-term economic cooperation between the EAEU and ASEAN, and cooperation in innovative business sectors that could bring mutual economic benefits to business communities from both regions.

The Vice-President received delegations led by Leningrad Region Governor Mr Alexander Drozdenko and Russian Economic Development Minister Mr Maksim Reshetnikov separately at the centre.

They discussed enhancing not only government-to-government relations between Myanmar and the Leningrad Region but also people-to-people connections, promoting trade and investment, expanding tourism opportunities following the signing of the visa exemption agreement, the ongoing cooperation under the Myanmar-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, progress in jointly implemented projects and future cooperation prospects, and collaboration in the industrial, mineral, labour and energy sectors. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar aims to boost maize exports

MYANMAR'S maize is primarily conveyed to Thailand and the Philippines, and India also imports it as per the market's demand. Myanmar shipped about 100,000 tonnes of maize to foreign trade partners this financial year 2026-2027, said Dr Phyo Ko Ko Naing, General Secretary of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Myanmar aims to meet a 1.3 million tonnes maize export target in the current FY.

"Myanmar's maize is also exported to the region beyond the leading importing country, Thailand. Thailand also offers a good price. Myanmar will try to scale export volume to other countries," he added.

The prevailing maize price is higher than that of last year. At present, maize fetches 11.7 baht per kilogramme, up from 10 baht registered in the corresponding period last year. Myanmar delivered 1.3 million tonnes of maize last FY 2025-2026, the association stated. — ASH/KK



Myanmar's maize.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office Order 56/2026

5th Waning of Nayon 1388 ME
4 June 2026

Appointment and Duty Assignment for Chin State High Court Judge

DAW Hnin Kaythi Win has been appointed and assigned to the duties of Judge of the Chin State High Court under Clause (4) of Subsection (b) of the Section 308 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Subsection (d) of Section 82 of the Union Government Law, Section 45 of Union Judiciary Law and Subsection (d) of Section 18 of Region or State Government Law.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Historic Letpadan, Thayawady Railway Stations to be Restored

THE Ministry of Transport has announced that Letpadan and Thayawady railway stations, both historic stations with a history of more than 149 years, will be restored and preserved while maintaining their original architectural character.

Letpadan Station, which was constructed when Myanmar Railways first began operations along the Yangon-Pyay railway line, is more than 149 years old and is regarded as a historic station. As such, it will be carefully restored and preserved without altering its original design, in recognition of its historical value and her-

itage significance.

Similarly, Thayawady Station, which is also more than 149 years old, is recognized as a historic heritage station. Restoration and conservation work aimed at preserving its original features is expected to begin in

the near future.

The Yangon-Pyay railway line is a metre-gauge railway (with a distance of one metre between the two rails) linking Yangon with Pyay in the western part of Bago Region. It is recognized as the first railway



line ever constructed in Myanmar.

Construction of the Yangon-Pyay railway line began in September 1874, and the line was officially opened on 1 May 1877. It was the first railway line on which train services commenced in Myanmar. — ASH/MKKS

9th Myanmar Coffee Cupping Competition to be held in PyinOoLwin, the United States



Coffee samples are seen during the 8th Myanmar Coffee Cupping Competition.

THE 9th Myanmar Coffee Cupping Competition will be held in June in PyinOoLwin (Local Round) and the United States (International Round).

The entry fee is K200,000 per sample, and participants can send an unlimited number of samples. Green coffee bean samples must be delivered to U Myint Soe Aung at the Myanmar Coffee Association in PyinOoLwin via 09 422234133 and 09 963681895 no later than 12 June.

Sample requirements are as follows: must have export-quality coffee beans weighing at least 200 kilogrammes; a representative sample weighing

two kilogrammes; screen size must be 15 and above; must be sorted and free of defects; moisture content must be between 10 per cent and 12 per cent; and sample bags must include producer/farmer name, coffee variety, region of origin, elevation, processing method, lot size and contact information.

Five awards are arranged for the Fully Washed process and the Natural Dry process, and three for other process categories. The judge panel will consist of five international judges and five local judges. For further details, interested parties can contact U Myint Soe Aung at the aforesaid numbers. — MT/ZN

MCEF and WYTU to jointly hold 2026 monsoon tree planting festival

MYANMAR Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) and the West Yangon Technological University (WYTU) will jointly hold the monsoon tree-planting festival 2026 on 21 June at WYTU, said MCEF.

The monsoon tree-planting festival 2026 will be celebrated with WYTU students, businesses, banks and engineers who are in the construction field and partner organizations which are interested in environmental conservation.

Businesses that wish to collaborate with MCEF in the tree-planting festival can contact the MCEF head office at the corner of Thanthuma Road and Waizayanta Road in



This image captures the monsoon tree planting festival 2026 to be held by MCEF and WYTU.

Thingangyun Township, or its phone numbers: 09 893217109, 09 660282000, Viber 09 893217109 or email mcef1996@gmail.com, and 09 254454656, MCEF Nay Pyi Taw office. — MT/ZS

President U Min Aung Hlaing Interviews with Doordarshan (DD India News) on Official State Visit

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing responded to questions raised by Doordarshan (DD India News) during his official visit to India. The full text of the translated interview is as follows:

Q: Your Excellency, after becoming President, you chose India for your first visit. Now, India and Myanmar share significant cultural ties. How significant relations between India and Myanmar to you?

A: My initial plan was to attend an international conference on large feline species hosted by India. However, that conference was postponed due to the Ebola outbreak in an African country. In connection with that meeting, it has also been a long time since I last visited India – the last time was in 2019. Therefore, it was mutually agreed that I would attend the meeting in India while also undertaking an official visit. Although the conference was cancelled, I did not cancel this official goodwill visit and instead proceeded with my trip to India.

India is a country that has a long-standing history of friendly relations and cooperation with Myanmar. There are extensive ties between the peoples of both countries as well as between the two governments. Personally, I first visited India in 2010 and have been there many times since then. So, I consider India to be a neighbouring country that is appropriate and important for me to visit, and that is why I made arrangements to ensure this visit could take place.

Q: Mr President, how about the visit to the sacred Mahabodhi in Bodh Gaya? You spoke about significant ties in Buddhism. This highlights a significant cultural link between India and Myanmar.

A: Yes, I think so. Buddhism in our country was introduced through India. Bodh Gaya is the place where the Buddha attained enlightenment. Myanmar is also one of the countries with the largest Buddhist populations, so Buddhism is held in very high regard. The people of Myanmar also deeply revere Buddhism, and Bodh Gaya in particular is a place that Myanmar people greatly respect and hold in high esteem. Personally, I have visited Bodh Gaya four times. Whenever



DD India News correspondent interviews Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing.

I travel to India, I always make arrangements to visit Bodh Gaya if possible. During this recent trip on 30 May, when we travelled from Nay Pyi Taw, Bodh Gaya is located along the way, so we specifically arranged to stop there. What is even more remarkable is that that day coincided with the full moon day of Nayon according to the Myanmar calendar – a highly significant full moon day. Because of this, being able to pay homage at Bodh Gaya on such a special day was regarded by our delegation as a particularly meritorious and meaningful experience. So, in terms of Buddhism, I would say that Bodh Gaya is also an important venue in the relations between our two countries.

Q: Your Excellency, Let's talk about your meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. What would you say is the key takeaway?

A: We emphasized many main topics in our discussions. The purpose of my visit included enhancing bilateral economic cooperation and promoting trade between the two countries. We discussed these matters extensively. We also talked about opportunities for investment from India in Myanmar, as well as how Myanmar could benefit from certain aspects of India's development that are suitable for us. In addition, we discussed

education, health, defence cooperation, maritime security issues, border-related matters, and sectors such as agriculture and livestock breeding. In short, the discussions were very broad and covered multiple sectors. Our meeting lasted for more than two hours, and I would say that we achieved successful outcomes from the discussions.

Q: Mr President, we spoke about the economic ties. Now, we understand the volume of trade between India and Myanmar stands at around US\$2 billion at the moment. Also, India is Myanmar's largest trading partners. How would that be the India-Myanmar Business Forum meet what you looked for?

A: That is correct in what you are saying. India is a major trading partner for Myanmar. The annual bilateral trade is over US\$2 billion. Myanmar's exports are higher, while India's imports are relatively lower. I explained how Indian imports could be facilitated. For example, there are iron and steel products, pharmaceuticals, and textiles. These are the kinds of goods we are discussing in terms of expanding exports to Myanmar. We would import these items as well. We also explained this to Indian businesspeople: they could come to Myanmar, invest, and carry out manufacturing.

Then they could sell not only to the Myanmar market but also to neighbouring countries such as Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. It is not limited to the Myanmar market alone. Myanmar's population is only about 50 million, but if we combine it with neighbouring countries, it could create a regional market of nearly 200 million people. Therefore, we encouraged efforts to access and sell to this broader market. Many have shown interest. The main point is to promote trade. You mentioned earlier that trade volume is about US\$2 billion. We are targeting US\$3 billion as a first step. In the next phase, in the near future, it will be expanded to \$5 billion. From there, we will gradually continue to expand step by step. Myanmar's exports to India are substantial. For example, there are pulses, forest products, and mineral-related exports. There are also other agricultural and livestock-related export products. Rubber, for instance, is one example. In the textile sector as well, we can cooperate in cotton-related industries. There are areas where both sides can cooperate. The main point is that people are interested when mutual benefits can be achieved. Interaction and trade are also based on mutual interests. However, as I said yesterday, the focus should not be

only on profit, but on increasing the volume of trade. We should aim to sell more with lower profit margins. Myanmar will also try to sell more with lower profit margins. India will also try to do the same. This is necessary. Of course, traders naturally consider profit. But I emphasized not to prioritize it too much and take reasonable profit. The main goal is to increase value and expand trade volume. That is the direction we want to move in.

Q: India follows the "Act East" policy and the "Neighbourhood First" policy. The 2025 devastating earthquake struck Myanmar, and India was one of the first responders. These are different capacity-building initiatives that are being implemented in Myanmar. How would you look at New Delhi as a development partner?

A: In terms of development, there are many sectors. In addition to what I mentioned earlier, there are also areas such as education and health. Then there is the cultural sector as well – for example, the preservation of ancient heritage sites. In industry as well, if we want long-term development, we need significant industrial growth. There is also the IT sector. India is one of the leading countries in IT. Therefore, if we cooperate with India in IT, there will be many opportunities for us. In Myanmar, we are also implementing an IT-related city development project called Yadanabon Cyber City in Upper Myanmar. It is located in Pyin Oo Lwin, which was formerly called Maymyo. During the colonial period, it was well known as a resort town. We are now redeveloping it as an IT city. If Indian IT companies and professionals come and operate there, there will be many opportunities. The scope is quite broad – it is a large-scale undertaking. India is also a country with extensive experience in this field. Therefore, if we work together, I believe India can provide substantial support to us.

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Q: Your Excellency, the major connectivity project, for example, the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway project, has been in place for many years. And, what about your visions for the project, your vision for connectivity in the region?

A: This India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway project, which connects Myanmar, Thailand, and India, is over 800 miles long. The Thailand-Myanmar sections are already largely open and operational, with traffic already moving along them. The Indian side, however, is the most important part. In India, the connection from the Northeast region linking Tamu and Moreh is a key gateway route. This corridor is particularly important for India, first for enabling Indian products to enter Myanmar through border trade, and second for allowing Indian citizens to travel and engage with Myanmar via the border crossing. These two aspects are the main priorities. However, due to the security situation, there have been some difficulties in certain areas, and the project has been temporarily stalled. We are now working to improve the security situation.

Following the developments in Myanmar in 2021, instability emerged in those areas. At present, Tatmadaw is working to stabilize those regions. Very soon, we are also making efforts to reopen the key route connecting Kalay and Tamu, which is an important border-adjacent city. Once that is completed and the border gate is reopened, it will become possible to travel from central Myanmar through to Thailand. Overall, restoring normal conditions in the Myanmar-India border areas is the most important priority. We are giving this top priority. I would also like to emphasize that this is a project we regard with very high importance.

Q: Your Excellency, Let's talk about some areas of concern. India and Myanmar share a long, porous border, I think an over 1,600-kilometre-long porous border. Now this border

is also exploited by insurgents, by transnational narcotics networks. What can the two countries do better to control such challenges? And can you assure India that Myanmar's soil will not be used for anti-India activities?

A: These armed conflicts and drug-related problems are largely rooted in politics. In the past, our political system was a centralized, government-led system. Later, there were disagreements and divisions. There were also ethnic armed organizations, as well as groups demanding ethnic rights. These factors led to the emergence of armed conflicts. From these conflicts, drug production expanded significantly as a means for them to sustain themselves. However, around 2020, we had reached a situation where we were able to control it to a considerable extent. But in 2021, due to political instability, drug production grew further. We are now carrying out strong crackdowns and enforcement actions against this as well. We have been sharing intelligence from India, and arrests have also been made in India, so to a certain extent, drug suppression efforts on both the India-Myanmar side have been relatively under control. However, there is still work to be completed. To achieve that, Myanmar needs to ensure political stability. Since we are moving toward a democratic system, our government will continue to strengthen democracy. In doing so, issues arising from democratic and political demands, as well as ethnic-related demands, need to be addressed through systematic democratic negotiations and solutions. If we proceed in this way, armed insurgencies will be reduced to some extent, and this will also place significant restrictions on drug production. Therefore, we need to proceed in parallel; only then can we achieve results. Because there are armed insurgent groups, those who oppose India for various reasons are also taking advantage of them and creating disruptions along the India-Myanmar border. I believe that if we address all of these

simultaneously, the situation will be resolved. To some extent, we have already made progress in resolving it.

This morning as well, during discussions with the Prime Minister of India, I explained this matter. The areas along the India-Myanmar border are densely forested regions, making travel extremely difficult. During the rainy season, it becomes even more difficult. I have personally visited these areas many times. I also served as a commanding officer of the battalion in that region, so I know it very well. Therefore, regarding this region, we are currently making efforts to improve the security situation before the rainy season begins. If the security situation improves, then, in relation to the question raised earlier—issues related to ethnic groups, armed conflicts, and disturbances to peace and stability, as well as drug-related issues—will significantly decrease, I believe. I am confident that we will be able to fully resolve these matters in the near future.

Q: If you talk about the internal challenges facing the country over the past five years, we understand have been turbulent. How do you reflect on issues of democracy, peace, and stability? What do you think are the biggest hurdles facing the country at the moment?

A: Peace is the most important condition. The next is security. The reason there is no peace is because of differences in viewpoints and disagreements. To reduce these differences, we will work to achieve peace. On the day I assumed responsibility, I told both the Hluttaw and the nation that I would strive to achieve peace within 100 days and to bring peace to the country within five years. We have extended invitations for peace and will proceed through negotiations. After discussions, we must move forward together. At the same time, we also need to work on security and the rule of law. Groups are opposing us through terrorist acts. These can be divided into two categories: one is EAO, and the other is PDF.

EAO stands for Ethnic Armed Organizations, and PDF stands for People's Defence Forces. PDFs are groups that emerged after 2021 due to political disagreements. EAOs are armed organizations that have existed since independence, arising from various ethnic-related issues. Therefore, if we look at these two categories separately, we will first prioritize addressing the PDFs in terms of both peace and security.

After that, as for the EAO groups, we will approach them through the peace process. We have already been holding discussions for quite some time. Their demands are quite diverse, so these issues need to be addressed carefully. There are many things they want, of course. But instead of talking about everything one wishes for, it is better to focus only on what is possible and what is appropriate. You may also have many desires – you may want this or that – but if you try to pursue what is not possible, it will not work. In our country, there are many ethnic groups; there are over 130 ethnic groups, with eight major ones. Your country has even more. Therefore, since viewpoints differ in many ways, how do we resolve this? We resolve it through law. We will resolve it according to the Constitution, and we will work to ensure that within the Constitution. We must focus on what is acceptable to the majority and what is feasible; we cannot insist on what is not possible. That is why I emphasize that peace is the most important issue. After that, we must move towards development. It is the government's responsibility to develop the country. When carrying out development, it must include all the people – not only ethnic groups but the entire population. We must implement inclusive development that covers everyone. Only by proceeding in this way can we move forward. Therefore, the most important thing is peace – number one. The second is stability and security, which must continue to be maintained. At the same time, development

work must also proceed in parallel. This is the approach we intend to take. This is my position.

A: ASEAN is an organization that holds significant influence both in the region and globally. We would like to know your views regarding the current relationship between Myanmar and ASEAN.

A: The relationship is generally good with most ASEAN member countries. However, ASEAN's policy of "consensus" – meaning all members must agree upon decisions – is what has created difficulties. One or two ASEAN member states hold rather firm or tough positions towards Myanmar. But most ASEAN countries have positive views towards us. In the past, ASEAN's approach towards us changed based on our actions following the election results. However, we have now held the general elections in December 2025 in a fair and free manner. This cannot be denied. A total of 54.22 per cent of eligible voters participated. Among them, nearly 50 per cent were young people between the ages of 18 and 40. Nearly half of the voters were youths. We cannot force these young people to vote—they would simply run away if pressured. But they came and voted voluntarily. If you look at election reports and images, you can see that they participated actively on their own initiative. As for the voting system itself, we implemented a system that makes electoral fraud virtually impossible. We also ensured that everything related to the voter list and the election process was conducted in a way that is free and fair. That is why we invited international representatives to observe the elections and results. When they came, they all accepted the process; none rejected it. So far, no party or candidate has filed any complaint regarding the election results. ASEAN is also aware of this. Furthermore, if ASEAN recognizes that we have corrected the issues related to the election and improved the process, there are member countries that are willing to accept this.

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Therefore, we maintain friendly and respectful relations with ASEAN. However, because ASEAN decisions are based on consensus, when one or two countries take a hardline position, it becomes difficult for other countries to engage with us in a normal way as well.

However, at present, we do have good relations. On an individual level as well, I maintain good relations with them. When I was elected President,

many ASEAN countries sent congratulatory messages. From this, it can be said that we have good relations. We also have a positive view towards ASEAN.

Q: Your Excellency, as we conclude our conversation, what is the key message you wish to communicate to the global audience about Myanmar's future?

A: Myanmar, our country, is now steadily moving along the path that our citizens aspire to. Myanmar is also ready to

work together with the world. Therefore, we would like others to come and observe our reform efforts. We would like them to come and see the current situation on the ground. Then, it would be better to engage in cooperation with us regarding the country's development. If cooperation is carried out with us, opportunities will arise to improve the current living conditions of the people of Myanmar and to enhance their livelihoods in all aspects. Therefore,

we would like the world to come and observe this and to cooperate with us. Myanmar is truly, correctly, and firmly moving forward on the right path chosen by the people.

However, the term "standard" itself has many different meanings. Standards differ from country to country. Just as India's standards are different from those of other Asian countries, they are also different from Western standards. Even within democracy, bench-

marks are not the same everywhere. Myanmar is also pursuing a democratic system that is suitable for its own context. In politics, we have two main goals: first, to firmly establish a genuine multiparty democratic system; and second, to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system. These are our objectives. We are working accordingly. I would like to tell the world that we will continue to pursue this course steadily and without deviation. ■

Co-Chairs' Meeting of Myanmar-Eurasian Economic Commission Joint Working Group held



The Co-Chairs' Meeting of Myanmar-Eurasian Economic Commission Joint Working Group is in progress, attended by Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

THE co-chairs' meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission was held yesterday. Led by the co-chairs – U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Union Minister for National Planning,

Investment, and Foreign Economic Relations, and Mr Danilar Imanaliev, Minister for Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission – the two sides discussed matters regarding the convening of the third meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation and the development of cooperation within the ASEAN framework.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, along with members of the Myanmar delegation and officials from the Eurasian Economic Commission. — MNA/TH

MNREC Union Minister receives delegation led by Fund RC-Investment Director

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo received a delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of the Roscongress Investment Fund (Fund RC-Investment) at the EXPOFORUM

Convention and Exhibition Centre in Saint Petersburg yesterday afternoon local time.

During the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on issues related to cooperation between the mining sector and other sectors. — MNA



Union Minister U Hsan Oo holds talks with RC-Investment Fund Director Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov yesterday.

MYANWEN Women-Led MSMEs Forum 2026 Set for 9 June

THE MYANWEN Women-Led MSMEs Forum 2026 will take place on 9 June at the Jasmine Taunggyi Hotel, with a view to enhancing the capacity of women entrepreneurs to thrive in the digital economy, sharing actionable know-how to enable women through digital transformation and integrating AI into entrepreneurial workflow.

Organized by the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network

(MYANWEN), KBZ Bank is the main financial partner and City Trust and Royal D are supporting partners.

Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) act as a strategic engine for MSMEs, driving the sustainable growth of MSMEs and their competitiveness. AI will help women entrepreneurs to optimize women-led MSMEs and home-based businesses, automate routine tasks

and streamline operations. AI will transform marketing and customer communications, enabling businesses to work smart and efficiently.

Nonetheless, the women entrepreneurs are still facing challenges in exploring networking opportunities.

Forum Highlights will raise topics related to the development of MSMEs and business opportunities in the digital economy

and AI advancements and insights by the business leaders and the related organizations in the Morning Session, AI & Business Transformation Workshop featuring applicable methods of AI in MSMEs, free AI tools, leveraging AI in digital marketing and customer communication, achieving operational efficiency through GenAI to increase worker productivity and exploring hands-on activities in the

Afternoon Session, in addition to supporting networking and experience sharing.

Those women entrepreneurs who wish to transform their businesses and boost operational efficiency through technology integration, increase competitiveness between MSMEs, unlock future business opportunities and connect with a wider network of female-led businesses are invited to attend the forum. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Second regular session of Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences on first day

CARE must be taken to avoid any form of interference or attempts at domination that could lead to friction between the different parties or institutions, said Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe at the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which commenced for the first day at its convention hall at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The first-day session was attended by 558 out of 560 Hluttaw representatives, accounting for 99.64 per cent.

At the outset, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe extended greetings, saying that Hluttaw representatives have to enact the law to protect fundamental rights of the people and justice, representing the voice of the people. They need to promulgate new laws aligned with the time and system and conduct amendments, supplements and revocation of the laws. Moreover, they have to verify and approve the State budget, national planning and revenue measures.

All their activities must actually benefit the interests of the State and the people. They need to collect the requirements and aspirations of the people to fulfil their needs through the legislative sector.

Currently, the government is beefing up efforts to ensure peace and stability of the nation, national reconciliation, national development and improvement of the socioeconomic life of the people under the adopted primary policies. The first 100-day plan is being implemented to effectively fulfil the needs of the people in a short time.

He said that, for the policies, strategies, and programmes adopted by the executive branch of the State Government to be implemented successfully, the mutual checks and balances, guidance, and cooperation of the legislatures, which constitute the legislative pillar of the State, play a vital role. He urged Hluttaw representatives to continuously monitor and assess whether planned projects and programmes in their respective constituencies are being imple-



The second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

mented effectively on the ground and whether they are delivering direct benefits to the public. He also called on them to further support and encourage the positive initiatives of the executive branch and, where necessary, to provide constructive cooperation and assistance through parliamentary mechanisms to help address needs and challenges.

He stated that, in discussing every legislative matter, it is essential to always give foremost consideration to how it will affect the daily social and economic lives of the people. The activities and performance of the executive branch should be effectively scrutinized and guided within the framework of the Constitution and the relevant Hluttaw laws and rules, and that constructive criticism and recommendations should be made impartially to ensure that public funds are not wasted or lost. They have to discuss all submissions with a positive attitude and adopt important decisions in unison to ensure peace, stability and long-term development of the State.

He said that the needs, difficulties, and views of the people who genuinely require assistance on the ground should be systematically assessed, and that these should be effectively discussed through the relevant Hluttaw committees and commissions so that they can contribute meaningfully to policymaking and national affairs at the State level.

He expressed his full expectation that, with due consider-

ation of international developments and trends, members would put forward modern and innovative legislative ideas that can look ahead to the long-term interests of the future State.

He noted that, in order to ensure the correct and proper practice of democracy, mutual checks and balances must be maintained among one another. He also noted that care must be taken to avoid any form of interference or attempts at domination that could lead to friction between the different parties or institutions.

The Speaker submitted the congratulatory messages sent by Heads of State and Heads of Government as well as leaders from China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Algeria, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei, Thailand, Nicaragua, Bhutan, the Republic of Buryatia, the Republic of Kalmykia, the Republic of Tatarstan, Novosibirsk and Saint Petersburg to the Hluttaw and set them on record.

Dr Khaing Khaing Hsu from the Rakhine State Constituency 10 of Amyotha Hluttaw tabled a motion that, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing paid an official visit to the Republic of India. She expressed her belief that the visit would yield significant benefits for the long-lasting friendship between Myanmar and India, and extended her heartfelt congratulations

on the official visit of President U Min Aung Hlaing to the Republic of India. She also wished for the enduring stability and strength of bilateral friendship, and expressed his hope that closer economic, religious, cultural, and social cooperation between the governments and peoples of the two countries would be further strengthened.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed to the motion and put it on record.

U Win Zaw Moe, who has been appointed as a member of the Anti-Corruption Commission, took an oath in the presence of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

The Speaker submitted appointments of Chairman of the Union Consultative Council U Soe Win, Secretary U Maung Maung Aye and Councillors, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board U Tin Maung Win and members, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Myint Than and council members to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and announced the recording of them.

The Speaker also presented appointments of regional and state chief ministers, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chair U Thit Linn Ohn, and members, deputy ministers at Union ministries, and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and put them on record.

He also submitted the appointment of Deputy Audi-

tor-General Daw Khaing Khaing Aung at the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, and the chief justices of region and state high courts to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and recorded them.

About a motion on the announcement of the State of Emergency under the Ordinance 1/2026 and the release of martial law under the Ordinance 2/2026 issued by the President's Office, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo said that in accordance with the constitutional provisions relating to the state of emergency, elections have been held step by step and democratically elected Hluttaws and a government have emerged. However, she noted that in some areas, it remains necessary to continue efforts to ensure the rule of law, regional stability and peace, and the eradication of violent and terror activities.

Hence, she added that the President coordinated the National Defence and Security Council under Section 412 (a) of the Constitution and released Ordinance 1/2026 to declare the 90-day state of emergency for 60 townships starting from 23 April.

Moreover, the President issued the Ordinance 2/2026 on 23 April to entrust administrative and judicial responsibilities to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services at these townships to have administration, peace and tranquillity and rule of law to reach the original status.

Section 212 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that, if the President has not revoked the ordinance promulgated, he shall submit the ordinance for approval to the nearest session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw within 60 days after the promulgation of the ordinance.

In accordance with that provision, she, on behalf of the President, submitted the proposal that Ordinance 1/2026 and Ordinance 2/2026, which have the force of law, be approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and that approval also be granted for the 90-day period during which those orders have been declared to remain in effect.

SEE PAGE 7

NATIONAL

Second regular session of Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences on...

FROM PAGE 6

The Speaker announced that the Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the motion can list at the Director-General of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Concerning the granting of an exemption from special commodity tax and commercial tax on diesel (HSD 500 ppm)

forwarded by the President, Deputy Minister of Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung stated that the government must regulate and maintain stability in the prices of basic foodstuffs and commodities. Therefore, arrangements will be made to grant exemptions from the special commodity tax and commercial tax previously levied on

diesel (HSD 500 ppm).

He continued that as diesel is important for a primary energy source in commodity transport and production, granting exemptions for diesel HSD (500 ppm) will help stabilize the prices of basic foodstuffs for the people. Moreover, the revenue, which may decline due to exemptions of special com-

modity tax and commercial tax for diesel HSD (500 ppm), will be filled from the collection of tax from appropriate taxpayers on the ground without raising the tariffs.

The deputy minister tabled the motion that he would like to seek the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to grant exemptions for the special com-

modity tax and commercial tax over diesel HSD (500 ppm).

The Speaker announced that the Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss such a motion can list at the Director-General of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its second-day session on 9 June. — MNA/TTA

Dala completes concrete road construction for rural development

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Dala Township, inspected the completion of a concrete road construction project in Bophyuchaung Village, yesterday. Implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) for the 2026-2027 financial year, the project was undertaken to improve transport and contribute to the socioeconomic development of rural communities.

Daw San Chaw Chaw Khin, Head of the Dala Township Department of Rural Development, and engineers inspected the completed concrete road in the village. The road, constructed on the village school road, measures 380 feet in length, eight feet in width and six inches in thickness.

Officials also met members of the village development com-

mittee and local elders and discussed the need for community participation in ensuring the long-term durability, maintenance and systematic use of the road.

The concrete road construction project was implemented with K15 million from the Village Development Project (VDP) fund and K3 million contributed by residents, bringing the total project cost to K18 million. With technical assistance and close supervision provided by the staff of the Dala Township Department of Rural Development, villagers themselves carried out the work starting from the second week of May this year. The project has now been completed in full and is expected to provide year-round transportation access for residents while also supporting the education sector in the village. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



Officials inspect the completion of the concrete road construction project in Dala Township, Yangon Region.

UEC Chair inspects MEVM storage in Taninthayi Region



UEC Chairman U Than Soe meets MEVM supervisory committee in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region.

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe inspected the storage of Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs) used in the 2025 General Election in Dawei and Myeik districts yesterday.

He also held separate meetings with MEVM supervisory committees in the respective districts and reviewed preparations and voter list accuracy measures for future elections.

The chairman later checked the storage condition of the machines and instructed officials to strictly follow maintenance guidelines to prevent damage, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

New YBS bus route launched between Sule and Cherry Jetty (Dala)

FOLLOWING the opening of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala), public transport services in Dala have continued to expand. The Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC) announced that a new YBS bus route has now been introduced between Sule and Dala.

The newly added route departs from Sule and travels along Anawrahta Road before crossing the bridge. After crossing the bridge, the bus turns left and terminates at Cherry Jetty (Dala). On the return trip, it follows the same route back from Dala, passes through the YGH Emergency Department and continues along Maha Bandoola Road before terminating at Sule.

The detailed route is Sule (Anawrahta Road) – 30th Street-Konzaytan Street-Latha-YGH Emergency Department-Dala-Twantay Road Junction-Saya San-Bogyoke Park-Dala Post Office-Cherry Jetty (Dala)-Dala Post Of-

ice-Bogyoke Park-Saya San-Dala-Twantay Road Junction-YGH Emergency Department-Maha Bandoola Road-Latha-Theingyi Zay-Sule.

According to YRTC, the new route has been introduced to provide more convenient transportation for passengers travelling between Cherry Jetty, Sule and Twantay.

Including this new service, there are now four routes connecting Sule and Dala: Dala (Welcome Sign), Dala (Staff Housing), Dala (Cherry Jetty), and Botahtaung Pagoda-Pyawbwegyi. Altogether, five routes now operate in Dala, linking the township with Sule, Twantay and Botahtaung Pagoda.

Passengers can view information on all Dala routes through the YBS GO application. Fares on the Dala-Sule routes are K350 when using a YPS card and K400 when paying in cash. Services operate daily from 6 am until around 5 pm. — ASH/KZL

OPINION

ARTICLE

Conserve environment for a safer, healthier world

FOR years, we have said that limiting global warming to 1.5°C is essential to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. Today, that threshold is dangerously close to being exceeded—and every fraction of a degree matters. Climate change is no longer a future threat: it is reshaping life across the planet. Hence, all global people have to emphasize the environment of the world to shape the world to be safe, healthy, peaceful and stable.

Currently, due to global warming, sea levels are expected to rise significantly in the coming decades. By the late 2090s, sea levels could rise by approximately 25.6 centimetres compared to current levels. Countries in equatorial regions are particularly at high risk of being affected. As ocean temperatures increase, the sea surface expands, and waters in the equatorial regions are likely to become even warmer.

In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly designated 5 June each year as World Environment Day, and the observance has been held since 1974. It is intended to raise awareness of the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change, as well as issues related to sustainable food production and the protection of wildlife.

Under the 2026 World Environment Day theme “Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future,” the initiatives emphasize that nature is not optional and is central to climate resilience and the collective future. Climate action is not just about reducing carbon emissions – it is about rethinking the systems that power economies and repairing relationships with the climate. By doing so, everyone needs to secure a safer, healthier, and more just future for all.

improve air quality, restore greenery and shade, reduce global warming, provide cooler conditions during summer, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to combating climate change and maintaining the ecosystem necessary for the survival of all living beings.

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ON A recent public holiday, the weather was pleasantly cool. The sky was soft and clear blue. I decided to take a short drive from my home in Nay Pyi Taw. I went to pay homage to the Maravijaya Buddha image. There is something deeply calming about starting a day with a visit to a sacred place. This particular morning turned out to be one of the most memorable ones.

I drove my car through the quiet, tree lined roads of the capital. The morning sun cast a golden glow over everything. The air was fresh. The peaceful atmosphere was a welcome break from my usual office routine. Within about fifteen minutes, I reached the sprawling Buddha Garden in Dekkhinathiri Township. There, the magnificent Maravijaya Buddha image stands.

The Meaning of “Maravijaya”

The name “Maravijaya” (မာရဝိဇယ) comes from the Pali language. “Mara” (မာရ) means the evil one or spiritual defilements. “Vi” (ဝိ) means special or supreme. “Jaya” (ဇယ) means victory (အောင်ခြင်း). Together, it means “Victory over the Five Maras” (မာရ်ငါးပါးကို အောင်ခြင်း). The Five Maras are: desire (တဏှာ), death (ရေဏ), defilements (ကိလေသာ), fear (ဘေး), and the five aggregates (ဓန္ဓာငါးပါး). People believe that paying homage to this image brings protection from all dangers and bestows success and prosperity upon devotees.

Arriving at the Site - A Scene of Devotion

As I approached the main gateway, I was struck by the number of pilgrims. People of all ages, from young children to elderly grandparents, had come from different parts of the country. Some were in family groups, others wore monastic robes, and many walked slowly with their hands in prayer. The atmosphere was one of quiet reverence and shared faith.

The Grandeur of the Image and the Epic Journey of the Marble

I walked through the main gateway. The moment I stepped inside, I saw the great Buddha image for the first time. My breath stopped for a second. A deep feeling of reverence filled my heart. I could not move my eyes away. I immediately started

A Pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw



walking straight toward the image. My feet moved on their own. I forgot everything around me. As I got closer, I stood at the foot of the lotus throne (ကြာပလ္လင်တော်). I slowly looked up. A deep sense of awe washed over me. The Maravijaya Buddha image is not just any statue. It is the world’s tallest marble carved seated Buddha image. The image itself rises 63 feet. The throne adds another 18 feet. The total height is 81 feet — roughly the height of an eight storey building. The statue weighs 1,782 tonnes. The throne weighs 3,510 tonnes. Together, they tip the scales at 5,292 tonnes. To put that into perspective, this sacred image weighs even more than a space shuttle. I stood there and could not help but marvel. Such an enormous weight was calculated with great precision. The image was set perfectly upright — a truly remarkable engineering achievement. I had also read about the journey of the marble in an article. The massive raw blocks were quarried from

Sagyin Hill, near Mandalay. Because they were so enormous, the image had to be cut into four sections and the throne into five sections. The transport began by water. The first stage went from Sagyin Hill to Semikhon Port in Myingyan Township. That trip took 105 days, from 11 June 2020 to 23 September 2020. The second stage was by land. The blocks moved from Semikhon Port to the Buddha Garden site in Nay Pyi Taw. That took only five days — from 25 January 2021 to 29 January 2021. Thousands of tons of marble were handled. Every section was delivered successfully. It is an astonishing logistical achievement that truly deserves to be recorded in history. Standing there, looking up at the finished image, I felt both awe and gratitude.

Noticed something thoughtful. For the elderly, the unwell, or those who have difficulty walking, there is a short, roofed flight escalator. It helps them ascend to the main terrace. I watched an

old grandfather use it slowly. This ensures that everyone can pay their respects without hardship. I felt grateful for this kindness.

The Buddha Garden - A Complete Sacred Landscape

After paying homage to the main image, I started exploring the Buddha Garden (ဗုဒ္ဓဥယျာဉ်တော်). The area around the main image is not just an open field. It has been carefully designed as a sacred landscape. I decided to visit each place one by one.

First, I walked to the Sudhamma Rest Houses (သုဗ္ဗမ္မာစေတီ). These beautifully built rest houses use traditional teak pillars. They have Myanmar style carvings. I sat down for a moment. The shade was cool. Pilgrims rested around me. The ancient architectural spirit is still alive here.

Next, I went to Mucalinda Lake (မုခလိန္ဒာအိုင်). This lake was built exactly according to historical accounts. Senior monks gave their advice on it. The lake repre-

sents the story of the Mucalinda serpent king. He protected the Buddha from a storm. I stood by the water. It was calm and clear. The serene environment made my mind peaceful.

for a long time. It was moving to behold.

After that, I walked to the Stone Inscription Halls (ကျောက်စာရုံစေတီများ). This is one of the most extraordinary features of the gar-

truly special is that the texts are inscribed not only in Pali but also in Romanized script. A council of five State Ovadacariya Sayadaws (နိုင်ငံတော်ဩဝါဒစရိယ ဆရာတော်ကြီး ၅ ပါး) supervised the work. They made the Dhamma accessible to the wider world. This was inspired by the UNESCO recognized stone inscription library at the Maha Loka Marazein Buddha in Mandalay. Then I saw a charming sight. Three young women dressed in traditional Myanmar costumes were standing with the stone inscription hall as their background. They were taking photos with their mobile phones and smiling together. When I saw that scene, I could not help but smile.

Next, I entered the Ordination Hall (သိမ်တော်ကြီး / သာသနာဗိမာန်တော်). It is modelled after the Great Cave Ordination Hall at Kaba Aye in Yangon. That was where the Sixth Buddhist Council was held. This majestic building can accommodate 900 monks and 1,200 lay devotees. That is a total of 2,100 people. Inside, I saw a large image of the Venerable Ananda (နောင်တော်ကြီး ရုပ်ပွားတော်). I learned something interesting. Before carving the final statue, craftsmen first made

also saw Sal trees (အင်ကြင်းပင်) from Lumbini — the Buddha’s birthplace. There are groves of Lint Lun bamboo (လင်းလွန်းတောအုပ်). Nearly 1,000 Kaday (ကုတ်တီ) ironwood trees stand tall. A natural stream has been straightened. A bridge was built in the style of the Mandalay Yadanabon era’s “Mingala Bridge” (မင်္ဂလာဝိတံဇာ). Walking along the paths, I felt coolness from the white marble. The shade of the trees refreshed my mind. It was a true mental refreshment.

A Prayer for Peace and Gratitude

As the morning sun rose higher, I found a quiet spot near the front of the main image – right in the direction the Buddha faces (south to north). The stone inscription halls stand directly in front of the Buddha’s face, symbolizing that the Word of the Dhamma is always under the Buddha’s watchful eye. This arrangement filled my heart with joy. I then offered my sincere thanks. I am deeply grateful to the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for having this magnificent Buddha image built in Nay Pyi Taw, allowing all citizens and visitors to come and worship freely. Following the very meaning of the name “Maravijaya” — Victory over all enemies and obstacles — I prayed:

May our entire country be free from all dangers and conflicts. May peace and calmness prevail throughout the land. May the nation prosper in economy and well being. May the Sasana shine brightly for a long time.

Conclusion - A Journey to Remember

Driving back home that late morning, I felt a deep sense of inner peace. The Maravijaya Buddha image is more than a tourist attraction or a religious monument. It is a symbol of Myanmar’s faith, engineering brilliance, architectural heritage, and literary preservation all in one place. If you ever have the chance to visit Nay Pyi Taw, do not miss the opportunity to see this glorious image. Whether you are a devout Buddhist or simply a lover of art and history, the Maravijaya Buddha Garden will leave you humbled, inspired, and refreshed.

By Kyaw Zay Ya

“The name “Maravijaya” (မာရဝိဇယ) comes from the Pali language. “Mara” (မာရ) means the evil one or spiritual defilements. “Vi” (ဝိ) means special or supreme. “Jaya” (ဇယ) means victory (အောင်ခြင်း). Together, it means “Victory over the Five Maras” (မာရ်ငါးပါးကို အောင်ခြင်း).”

Then, I visited the Nagaron Shrine (နဂါးရုံဘုရား). This shrine is based on Buddhist scriptures. It shows the great Naga king wrapping his coils seven times around the Buddha. He spread his hood as a canopy. He protected the Enlightened One from wind and rain. The stone carving here is exceptionally fine. I stood there

den. There are 1,444 stone slabs in total. 1,440 slabs contain the Tipitaka (ပိဋကတ်သုံးစုံ) from the Sixth Buddhist Council. Four additional slabs hold the commemorative chronicle of the site. Each slab measures three feet nine inches by six feet three inches. The thickness is 7.2 inches. I touched one slab gently. What makes this

a 9 foot prototype. They sought guidance from the monks. That is a mark of deep respect for tradition.

After the buildings, I strolled through the gardens. The garden is a delight throughout the year. I saw Kyee trees (ကျည်းပင်). There is a sacred Bodhi tree (ဗောဓိညောင်ပင်) brought from India. I

NATIONAL

SNSO joins NSPNC peace talks, pledges national solidarity

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, chaired by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, believes that the peace process requires an end to armed conflict and the resolution of political issues through political means. To advance the peace process for national development, peace, and stability, the committee issued Announcement 1/2026 on 21 April 2026, inviting all relevant stakeholders to participate in dialogue without pre-conditions.

As the Shanni Nationalities Solidarity Organization (SNSO) expressed its desire to participate in discussions on national solidarity and peacebuilding, a meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Shanni Nationalities Solidarity Organization was held yesterday morning at the Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The dialogue was attended by Chairman of the NSPNC Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, and members of the committee, as well as representatives of the SNSO led by First Vice-Chairman Sao Sai Kam.

During the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said that the SNSO



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Shanni Nationalities Solidarity Organization (SNSO) meet yesterday.

was cooperating with the Tatmadaw on matters related to regional stability and working to ensure the security of local communities. He expressed his desire for the organization to openly discuss its plans concerning political affairs and regional peace and stability, adding that both sides would coordinate on regional development initiatives and continue implementing necessary measures.

After the discussion, the SNSO first vice-chairman stated that he was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the dialogue and affirmed that the

organization would continue to cooperate with the Tatmadaw in promoting regional peace and stability. He added that the organization would also work together with the Tatmadaw to support local development.

Following that, the attendees held discussions on the future course of action for regional peace and stability, the residence of Shanni (Tai Leng, Tai Lai) ethnic people in Kachin State and Sagaing Region and their desire to obtain a self-administered zone in accordance with the law, the challeng-

es encountered in efforts to maintain regional peace and stability in Kachin State and Sagaing Region, cooperation with the Union Government in fostering unity and coexistence within the Union, the provision of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the status of regional cooperation.

Subsequently, the NSPNC provided a detailed explanation and held discussions on the historical distribution of the Shanni (Tai Leng, Tai Lai) people, the official designation of their ethnic identity on citizenship scrutiny cards, their aspirations for regional recognition, and the procedures through which these matters could be submitted to and considered by the Hluttaw in accordance with the Constitution. Following this, Secretary of the NSPNC Lt-Gen Min Naing reviewed and discussed future peace processes and regional development initiatives that could be pursued based on the issues raised during the discussions.

Afterwards, the first vice-chairman and head of the SNSO delegation expressed his gratitude, and the NSPNC chairman delivered the closing remarks. The meeting then concluded with the exchange of commemorative gifts. — MNA/TH

MSWRR Deputy Minister inspects damaged offices in Tiddim and Falam

THE team led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe inspected detailed assessments of damage to the Training School for Development of Nationalities Youth from Border Areas, Women's Vocational Training School buildings, the office building of the township Immigration and Population Department and school buildings of No 3 BEHS in Tid-

dim and Falam townships in Chin State, caused by terrorist attacks. — District IPRD/KTZH

Deputy Minister Dr Than Soe oversees the damage assessments in Tiddim and Falam townships in Chin State.



Ethnic cultural troupes tour Nay Pyi Taw landmarks



Members of Ethnic Literature and Cultural Associations are pictured during their observation tours in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG MIN TUN

MEMBERS of Ethnic Literature and Cultural Associations, alongside administrators and officials from various Regions and States, visited landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, and visited the Gandakuti building, stone plaque pagodas, and other religious buildings, where they donated cash for the comprehensive renovation of the statue.

They also attended and observed the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which is being held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Conference Hall. They studied the large lacquerware alms-bowl and

92 types of wood displayed in the reception hall, commemorating Myanmar's traditional culture.

They then visited the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw buildings, touring the meeting halls and Hluttaw support facilities, where officials explained the working procedures of the parliaments and shared knowledge of Hluttaw affairs.

In the afternoon, the study group visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) in Zeyathiri Township and paid tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country.

They finished their tour by visiting the Hlay Kwin Taung Recreation Area. — Min Kyaw Swa/MKKS

NATIONAL

Commander meets trainees of People's Military Service Training 25



Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han meets trainees from the People's Military Service Training 25 yesterday.

COASTAL Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han met trainees of People's Military Service Training 25 at a local training depot in Kyaungsu Township yesterday morning.

He delivered guidance to the trainees, encouraging discipline and commitment throughout the training period.

The Commander and officials later inspected accom-

modation and dining facilities, coordinating for requirements.

They also shared lunch with the trainees and offered encouragement and friendly remarks, according to reports.

— MNA/KZL

Yamethin VDP-funded water pipeline project undergoes inspection

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, inspected the ongoing water pipeline installation project in Chaungphya Village, yesterday. Implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) for the 2026-2027 financial year, the project aims to ensure year-round access to safe drinking and domestic water for rural communities.

Daw Aye Aye Win, Head of the Yamethin Township Department of Rural Development, and responsible engineers inspected the installation of a 3,350-foot water pipeline from the water source to the village. She also met village elders and members of the village development committee and discussed the need to complete the project on schedule and in accordance with pre-



Officials inspect the ongoing water pipeline installation project in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region.

scribed standards to ensure long-term sustainability of the water supply system.

The water pipeline project is being implemented with K15 million from the Village Development Project (VDP) fund and K0.252 million contributed by residents, bringing the total project cost to K15.252 million. With tech-

nical assistance from the staff of the Township Department of Rural Development, villagers began the project in the first week of May this year. The project has now reached about 90 per cent completion and, once finished, will benefit 220 households with a population of 912 in the village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Mandalay-Myitkyina supply convoy returns after second delivery mission



Return convoy heads to Mandalay from Myitkyina.

VEHICLES that transported essential development supplies along the Mandalay-Myitkyina route have returned to Mandalay after completing their second delivery mission, according to reports.

The Mandalay-Myitkyina communication route, linking Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Kachin State via Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsi Aung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina, was fully reopened on 6 May after being brought under full control in areas previously affected by terrorist insurgents.

Following the reopening, the state government and Tatmadaw coordinated the transport of essential goods, including foodstuffs, consumer products, construction materials, medicines and medical supplies, school stationery and fuel from Mandalay to Myitkyina under a second supply mission,

which reached Myitkyina on 31 May.

The returning convoy left Myitkyina on 3 June carrying local products from towns and villages along the route destined for Mandalay markets, along with government staff being transferred to new duty stations, their family members, and personnel travelling for training. The vehicles arrived back in Mandalay on the morning of 4 June.

Officials noted that with the route reopened, rehabilitation work ongoing, and damaged roads and bridges repaired, transport and trade along the corridor have returned to normal. Passenger and freight vehicles are now operating regularly, so local communities can resume travel and commercial activities smoothly, with continued coordination between security forces, departments and residents in regional recovery efforts. — MNA/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals
Enterprise



NATIONAL

Crackdown: 3 online scam buildings destroyed



Images reveal the update before and after the demolition.

AUTHORITIES have continued dismantling illegal buildings used for online fraud and illegal gambling activities in Shwe Kokko.

The government said that joint departmental teams are carrying out clearance operations in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas to prevent the continued use of illegal structures for online scam activities. Equipment used in such operations has also been systematically destroyed, and the illegal

buildings are being completely demolished.

During the latest phase of the operation, three three-storey residential buildings used for online scam activities were demolished using heavy machinery. The structures were among 77 buildings identified for removal, including 57 scheduled to be demolished using machinery and 33 designated for demolition by explosive means.

Officials confirmed that

three buildings have been demolished so far. The remaining illegal structures will continue to be dismantled in subsequent phases.

The authorities also stated that efforts to combat online scam networks are being undertaken as a national responsibility, in cooperation with neighbouring countries and international partners, to prevent such activities from becoming re-established in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

Student injured in PDF drone-dropped bomb attack

THE Government has been making every effort to ensure that the country's future generations do not fall behind in education by providing children with opportunities to continue their studies. Schools reopened on 1 June, and classes have been conducted since then.

However, PDF terrorists, with the malicious intention of disrupting educational opportunities for future generations and creating an uneducated population that can be controlled through fear, have been carrying out various acts of violence. These include threatening and intimidating students, teachers and parents; abducting and killing civilians; setting fire to educational facilities; planting and detonating mines; destroying educational materials, textbooks and schoolbooks; and forcibly looting educational supplies, thereby undermining the development of the education sector.

As part of these terrorist activities, PDF terrorists launched an attack on the afternoon of 3 June using two drones from a

location approximately 3,300 metres southeast of Wetlet Town in the Sagaing Region. The drones dropped four bombs near the Basic Education High School in Shwe Oh Kwin Area, Ward 3.

As a result of the attack, an eighth-grade student, Maung Thura Naing, aged 14, the son of U Yan Naing Aye, who was attending Grade 8 at the school, sustained shrapnel injuries to his right arm. Security personnel transported the injured student to Wetlet Township Hospital, where he is receiving the necessary medical treatment.

Residents strongly condemned the attack, noting that the school was not a military target but a place where the nation's future generations receive education. The bombing of a school by drone has been described as a senseless act of terrorism.

Security forces, in cooperation with residents, are conducting investigations to identify and apprehend those responsible for the attack as quickly as possible. — MNA/KZL

Public Notice for Filing Complaints

- If a citizen's fundamental rights and legal rights enshrined in the Constitution, or the human rights provided under international and regional human rights treaties to which the State is a party, are violated, he or she may file a complaint with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) under Section 30 of the MNHRC Law whether on their behalf, on behalf of another person, or behalf of a group of persons.
- Complaints can be submitted by addressing the Chairperson, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, 27, 6½ Mile, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, or to any of the Commission's branch offices located in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway, and Patheingyi either by post, in person, via fax at 01 8654678 or through the Commission's email info@mnhrc.org.mm.
- The following particulars must be included in the complaint:
 - Full name of the complainant; permanent address, and full contact details (telephone number, fax, and email if available);
 - A detailed description of how the complainant's human rights were violated and what harm or loss was suffered, including supporting documents or photographic evidence, if available;
 - A copy of the complainant's Citizenship Scrutiny Card must be attached;
 - The complaint must be signed by the complainant to certify the correctness of the particulars of the complaint.
- The Commission will review complaints and conduct investigations under the Commission's law and its procedures, and will coordinate with the relevant departments and organizations accordingly.



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Tachilek reviews Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to boost efficiency

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Tachilek Township, Tachilek District, Shan State (East), held a township-level review meeting on the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project at its meeting hall yesterday. The meeting was aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of project implementation and sharing experiences gained during project activities in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Deputy Township Administrator U Chit Ko Ko Win of the Tachilek Township General Administration Department and District Head Daw Amar Lwin delivered remarks. Daw Lei Lei Thein, Head of the Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives of the review meeting and clarified matters related to



A township-level review meeting on the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project takes place yesterday.

the implementation of project activities.

Members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committees attending the meeting formed groups and presented reviews on strengths, weaknesses and challenges encountered during the financial year. Members of the district and township-level project imple-

mentation teams coordinated and provided necessary guidance on the issues discussed.

The review meeting was attended by district and township-level departmental officials, members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project from 77 villages under 57 village units, and invitees. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Myitkyina agro-livestock event drives MSME value-added growth

THE Small-Scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kachin State, organized a discussion and experience-sharing event aimed at promoting value-added production of local agricultural and livestock products and enabling MSME entrepreneurs to exchange experiences yesterday afternoon.

Kachin State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Ye Yint Swe stated that agricultural and livestock

products from Kachin State should be combined with technologies provided by the Small-Scale Industries Department to produce value-added products for domestic and international markets.

MSME entrepreneurs attending the event then introduced themselves individually and presented the challenges they are facing in their businesses. The state minister coordinated and facilitated the necessary support measures and viewed the locally produced value-added products



Officials view value-added products on display at yesterday's event.

displayed at the venue. Entrepreneurs also exchanged experiences from trade fairs and competitions and discussed production technologies. — Karan (Rural)

CBM continues to inject US dollars into edible oil import sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been injecting US dollars into the edible oil-importing companies, with over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

Moreover, CBM sold \$3,003 to CMP companies on 3 June after making a \$48,250 valued non-trade transaction. CBM also sold over 26,400 on 2 June and over \$46,000 to CMP companies on 1 June, along with \$33,255 worth of non-trade transactions.

CBM pumped over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign exchange market in May. CBM transacted over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April and over \$44.84 million, 61 million baht and 700,000 yuan in March 2026.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over



Cooking oil bottles are neatly arranged for sale.

four million yuan in January 2026. CBM has injected foreign currencies into the forex market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sector, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining market stability. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with

law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MPA puts 3 tugboats up for sale through open tender

THE Myanmar Port Authority announced sales of three tugboats individually through an open tender system.

Tug Cathay-3 (steel hull), IMO 9447500, has a registered tonnage of 153 tonnes, a length of 21.96 metres, a beam of 7.32 metres and a draft of 3.20 metres, while Tug Cathay-7 (steel hull), IMO 9489132, has a registered tonnage of 144 tonnes, a length of 21.96 metres, a beam of 7.32 metres and a draft of 3.20 metres. Meanwhile, Tug Cathay-21 (steel hull), IMO 9311933, has a registered tonnage of 122 tonnes, a length of 21.81 metres, a beam of 7.00 metres and a draft of 2.90 metres. Tender applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Directive of the Office of the President 1/2017, Paragraphs 23/24. These three vessels are currently maintained within the Patheingyi Port yard in Ayeyawady Region. Interested domestic and international companies can inspect the vessels in person. If foreign companies want to compete, they must have the endorsement of the relevant Myanmar embassies in their country.

Tender application forms can be purchased at the Central Store Depot in Botahtaung until 23 June. Tender applications must be submitted to the MPA by 1 pm on 25 June. The preliminary opening and acceptance of tenders are slated to be held at 2 pm on 7 May.

This tender is an auction sale conducted under Section 11 of the Ports Act 1908 and Section 66(b) of the Myanmar Port Authority Law 2015. Therefore, MPA has the right to cancel the tender in whole or in part if any cause arises under the provisions of these laws. Such cancellation will be publicly notified. Individuals can enquire about details from the Maritime Department by dialling 01 8246380, 01 8387117, extension 211, or the Central Store Depot at 081610230, the Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee stated. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 4 June 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,648.00~3,669.00	555.30~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	20,579,460.74	1,410,980.29	15,126,247.06	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, fertilizers, consumer goods, construction materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, electronic equipment, and agricultural equipment. From the revenue of the CMP, US\$2.91 million was sold to the edible oil sector, US\$0.11 million to the CMP sector, US\$3.00 million to the LNG sector, and US\$1,650 to the non-trade sector. — MNA

ROLLING UPDATES/BIZ

WORLD/AD

SpaceX seeks a record \$75 bln in stock market debut

SPACEX, the rockets-to-AI behemoth led by Elon Musk, aims to raise \$75 billion in the biggest initial share sale ever, as the world's richest person pursues data centres in space and a trip to Mars. SpaceX said in a regulatory filing Wednesday that it would offer exactly 555,555,555 shares — Musk has shown a penchant for idiosyncratic numbers in his businesses — at \$135 each. That would value the company at a whopping \$1.8 trillion.

Analysts say Musk is aiming to capitalize on investor enthusiasm for his satellite internet plans as well as artificial intelligence, after he folded his

xAI and its Grok chatbot into SpaceX earlier this year.

His plan is to use SpaceX's rockets to launch solar-powered, satellite-based data centres to develop and run future AI models.

And last month, SpaceX announced plans to invest \$55 billion to build a "Terafab" semiconductor factory in Texas, producing chips for artificial intelligence as well as robotics.

"The AI trade continues to roar, just in time for SpaceX's IPO next week," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at the brokerage firm XTB in London. — AFP



SpaceX is preparing its stock market debut — and everyone wants a piece of the action. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

India and Venezuela perfect complements for long-term energy cooperation: MEA



Photo taken on 23 December 2025 shows an oil tanker anchored in Lake Maracaibo, in the state of Zulia, Venezuela. **PHOTO: STR/XINHUA**

INDIA and Venezuela on Thursday held high-level discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation, with a strong focus on energy security and expanding economic

ties across multiple sectors.

Speaking at a special MEA briefing on the visit of the Acting President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, Secretary (East)

Rudrendra Tandon said that the visiting leader was accompanied by a "large delegation of ministers" and held official talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which included

a working lunch. Highlighting the core focus of the engagement, Tandon noted that Venezuela has "already emerged as the third largest supplier" of crude oil this month. — ANI

India to become self-sufficient in solar cells within a year

UNION Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said India is likely to become self-sufficient in solar cell manufacturing within a year, highlighting the rapid growth of the coun-

try's renewable energy and domestic manufacturing capacities.

Speaking during a fireside chat at an event marking two years of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, Joshi said In-

dia's solar manufacturing ecosystem has expanded significantly over the past decade. Referring to the growth in solar installations, the minister said, "The 2.65 gigawatt was the total installed capacity in

India. Now it is 150 plus gigawatt as far as solar alone, I am speaking." He said the expansion in renewable energy capacity prompted the government to focus on domestic manufacturing. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (286N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (286N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (363W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (363W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (27N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (27N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

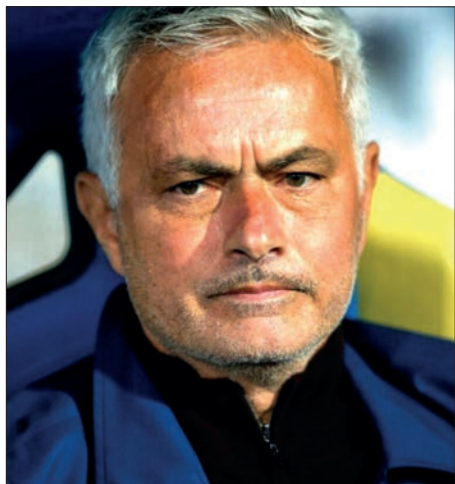
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS
COMPANY LIMITED

SPORTS

Mourinho takes Türkiye to top Europe rights court over sanctions



Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho.
PHOTO: AFP

JOSE Mourinho has filed suit at Europe's top rights court on grounds his right to freedom of expression was violated while managing Turkish football club Fenerbahce.

The lawsuit at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) was filed in March 2025, nearly six months before he was fired by the Super Lig club after it failed to qualify for the Champions League. Court documents seen by AFP on Thursday show the Portuguese coach filed suit over the "disciplinary sanctions" imposed on him by the Turkish Football Federation for "unsportsmanlike conduct".

At issue were remarks he made about supporters of a rival team and about Turkish referees in November 2024, which resulted in a match ban and two fines of some \$21,000.

Under Article 6 of the European Convention "the applicant complains that the dispute in question had not been determined by an independent and impartial tribunal", said an ECHR document dated 13 May. — AFP

Korea Embassy in Yangon opens free Taekwondo training course

A free Taekwondo training course will be opened at the Booyoung Taekwondo Training Centre in Yangon, said the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar.

The embassy said the Taekwondo course, which was scheduled to start on 13 June, has drawn more attention than expected.

The embassy said it hopes that the free Taekwondo course will be a memorable moment to feel together the attraction of the Korean culture, and through learning Taekwondo, trainees

can possess the fitness to face challenges. Showing appreciation for trainees' enthusiasm, the application will be closed on 3 June so that the training course can run smoothly.

After the application process ends, the course timetable, requirements, rules and other details will be conveyed to each individual by email. — MT/ZS

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea's free Taekwondo training course.

2026 주미얀마 대사관 태권도 무료 교실

참가대상: 미얀마 청년

접수기간: 2026년 6월 6일 까지

장소: 양곤 부영 태권도 체육관

일시: 2026년 6월 13일 (토) 시작 / 매주 토요일 오후 2시 (주 1회)

신청방법: QR 코드를 통해서 신청

문의: iwjung08@korea.kr

주미얀마 대한민국대사관
Embassy of the Republic of Korea

태권도진흥재단



Japan work up sweat in readiness for sweltering World Cup venues

JAPAN'S World Cup squad focused on acclimatizing to high temperatures Wednesday as they practiced at their pre-tournament camp in Monterrey, Mexico.

With the mercury around 30 C, the Samurai Blue were forced to start their session late because of problems with the condition of the pitch at their training ground.

Werder Bremen fullback Yukinari Sugawara and some other squad members trained

in long sleeves to help work up a sweat in readiness for their group-stage matches in North Texas and Monterrey.

Winger Junya Ito said the coaching staff had been advising players on preparing for venues that are expected to be hot and humid into the evening.

"We've been told not to immediately enter the ice bath after training," Ito said. "They say it's not good for heat acclimatization."

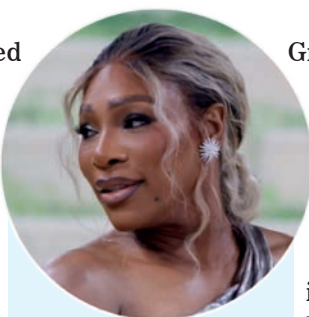
Veteran fullback Yuto Nagatomo, getting set for his fifth World Cup, stressed the importance of adapting to local conditions. — Kyodo

Japan World Cup squad members Yuto Nagatomo (L) and Yukinari Sugawara train in Monterrey, Mexico, on 3 June 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Mboko hails 'Queen' Serena ahead of tennis legend's return

SERENA Williams started preparations for her sensational return from retirement as she took to the Queen's Club practice courts with doubles partner Victoria Mboko on Thursday.

Mboko posted a photo on Instagram standing next to Williams on one of Queen's Club's grass courts ahead of next week's tournament. Williams, a 23-time



Serena Williams is set to end her retirement by playing in the doubles tournament at Queen's Club. **PHOTO: AFP**

Grand Slam singles champion, this week revealed she will make her unexpected comeback at the Wimbledon warm-up event in west London. Confirming she is Williams' partner in the women's doubles, Mboko wrote: "The Queen is back! An honour to share the court with one of the greatest athletes of all time this week. — AFP

Spain, England renew rivalry with World Cup place up for grabs

SPAIN and England will renew their growing rivalry on Friday in a decisive qualifier that will determine which side seals direct passage to next summer's Women's World Cup and which is pushed into the playoffs.

England currently leads Group A3 with 12 points, three ahead of Spain, and with Iceland and Ukraine already out of contention, the two heavyweights are also level on goal difference.

With both almost certain to win their final group games on 9 June, England at home to struggling Ukraine

and Spain away to Iceland, Friday's meeting at Son Moix in Mallorca is crucial. Spain realistically needs to win to keep automatic qualification in its own hands. England travels to Mallorca knowing that a win would guarantee a place at the World Cup, while even a draw would almost certainly be enough for direct qualification. A victory for Spain would leave the two teams level on points and set up a tense final day in which scoring as many goals as possible could prove vital. — Xinhua



THE Turkish authorities are in talks with Saudi Arabia over the route of a railroad largely following the Hejaz Railway, with plans for the new line potentially to extend to Oman and serve as an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, Turkish Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloglu said on Wednesday.

“At the first stage, it is necessary to build a road from the Turkish border to Aleppo in Syria. There is already a built section from there to Damascus ... There is no railway on the section from the border of Jordan and Saudi Arabia; we are currently discussing the route with the Saudi side – whether the road will turn to Riyadh or bring it to Hijaz, as a result, the final goal – build a road to Oman.

“In fact, we are talking about bypassing the Strait of Hormuz,” Uraloglu told the Anadolu news agency.

The Hijaz region in western Saudi Arabia already has a high-speed line between Mecca and Medina.

In March, Uraloglu said Ankara was discussing with Damascus the restoration of the Hejaz Railway section that once connected the countries.

The Hejaz Railway was constructed by the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century. — SPUTNIK

Turkiye and Saudi Arabia discuss rail link to bypass Strait of Hormuz

In March 2026, Turkish Transport Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu confirmed that Ankara was negotiating with Damascus to restore the historic Hejaz Railway section.



The Hijaz region in western Saudi Arabia already has a high-speed line between Mecca and Medina. A high-speed train, that will link Mecca to Medina, parked at a station in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

India remains a top-growing global economy

MINISTER of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada on Thursday

said India continues to remain one of the world's fastest-growing major

economies despite prevailing global uncertainties, highlighting the country's progress in trade, manufacturing, innovation and technology, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry press release.

Prasada made the remarks while inaugurating the Global Business Research Conference (GBRC) 2026 at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), where academicians, policy-makers, researchers and industry experts gathered to discuss challenges and opportunities shaping the global business environment.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has adopted a long-term vision focused on strengthening trade, manufacturing, innovation and technological capabilities.

He noted that “India's progress in areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and global trade partnerships reflects its growing role in the international economy.” — ANI



India's progress in areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and global trade partnerships reflects its growing role in the international economy.

A high-tech semiconductor fabrication facility in India. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE**

US House votes to curb Trump on Iran war as talks stall

THE US House of Representatives has backed a resolution seeking to halt American military action in Iran – a symbolic move that deals a political blow to President Donald Trump as efforts to find a deal with Tehran stagnate.

Weeks of complicated talks marked by sharp rhetoric and flare-ups of violence have not managed to reach a deal to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which is essential to oil supplies.

Washington and Tehran have sent divergent messages in recent days, with Iran saying Wednesday “no tangible progress” was made, while Trump again voiced optimism by telling reporters at the White House “it could happen... over the weekend”.

But in the latest episode of violence, Kuwaiti officials said renewed hostilities on Wednesday included an Iranian drone strike on a passenger terminal at Kuwait international airport that killed one person and wounded 63. — AFP