

Government aims to ensure all eligible voters can cast ballots

Ethnic rights and political demands requiring constitutional amendments will be addressed through the framework of the existing Constitution.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo alongside SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win, internal and international dignitaries at yesterday's Peace Forum 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE opening ceremony of the Peace Forum 2025: Towards the New Nation of Peace and Prosperity through the Integration of Peace, Elections and Development took place at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Senior General and attendees watched a presentation of songs and performances by artistes from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture with the title of peace in aspiration.

The Senior General delivered an opening speech. (The opening speech delivered by the Senior General is reported separately on page 4.)

In his additional speech, the Senior General said that the ongoing armed

conflicts are rooted in political issues and peace-related concerns. At the core of these political issues lie two key components: democracy and federal rights. After gaining independence, our country practised a parliamentary democratic system. Even during that time, Myanmar already had aspirations to adopt a socialist system. This was clearly stated in the independence speech of Myanmar's first President, Sao Shwe Thaik, who expressed a commitment to practis-

ing socialism. Therefore, starting from 1962, the country began implementing a socialist system. After 1988, Tatmadaw initiated preparations to move towards a multiparty democratic path. However, due to the presence of internal armed conflicts, the transition had to be managed cautiously. The current situation has emerged because those armed conflicts have not yet been resolved or ended to this day.

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Myanmar, Thailand to boost cooperation on environment, haze control

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Humanitarian aid, medical supplies distributed to quake survivors

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Eligible buyers must draw lots in person for Yoma apartment location

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and entourage arrives in Belarus to attend 4th Eurasian Economic Forum (EAEF 2025)



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus, yesterday.

AT the invitation of Rotating Chair of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko, a Myanmar high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport by special aircraft yesterday morning to

attend the 4th Eurasian Economic Forum (EAEF 2025) to be held in Minsk.

The Myanmar high-level delegation led by the Senior General was seen off at the airport by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, council members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from

the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar and officials.

The Senior General was accompanied by Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, SAC member General Nyo Saw, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic

Relations Dr Kan Zaw, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, and military and civilian officials.

During the visit, the Senior General will attend the 4th Eurasian Economic Forum (EEF 2025), hold a separate meeting with the Rotating Chair of the EAEU President of the Republic of Belarus, discuss with the

Chair of the Board, the Eurasian Economic Commission, and visit factories and industries. Moreover, the Prime Minister will seek strategic cooperation in friendship, economic and security measures and all sectors between the governments and people of both countries, and further strengthen economic development with Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member countries.

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister arrived yesterday evening at the international airport in Minsk. They were warmly welcomed by Mr Yuri Shuleiko, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Mr Lukashevich Sergey Vladimirovich, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other officials, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation and Belarus U Thit Linn Ohn, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy, and Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Soe Oo, and Myanmar Consul-General in Minsk U Moe Kyaw Thu.

At the airport, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a formal welcome, including a guard of honour, in line with traditional state protocol for visiting heads of state. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Russia, heads to Belarus

AT the invitation of Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko, President of Belarus and Rotating Chairman of the EAEU, a high-level Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing departed Myanmar yesterday morning by special plane to attend the

4th Europe-Asia Economic Forum (EEF 2025) in Minsk, and was warmly welcomed in the evening at Tolmachevo Airport in Novosibirsk by Governor Mr Travnikov Andrey Aleksandrovich and other officials.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister and the Governor of

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SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Russia before proceeding to Belarus.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Government aims to ensure all eligible ...

FROM PAGE 1

He pledged that the election will be held in December this year and January next year, adding that the government will create opportunities for all eligible voters to cast their votes. Preparations are being made to hold a free and fair election.

The Senior General underscored that ethnic rights and political demands that require amendments to the Constitution will be addressed under the Constitution.

He continued that the outcomes of the peace conferences held under previous governments were compiled into the Union Accord and submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Once the new Hluttaw emerge after elections, this process must be resumed, he noted.

The Senior General explained that outcomes from the Peace Forum will be submitted to the Hluttaw to make decisions. Primarily, individuals need to serve the interest of the State as best as possible with the aspiration for peace.

The Senior General presented gifts to international scholars who are participating in the peace forum and enjoyed a video clip on peace efforts together with attendees.

After the opening ceremony,



The Peace Forum 2025 - Towards a New Nation of Peace and Prosperity through the Integration of Peace, Elections, and Development – kicks off yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ny, the Senior General visited the exhibitions to mark the peace forum.

Also, present at the forum were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief, members of the National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee, retired senior Tatmadaw officers, representatives from Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC, political parties, NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations, stakeholders of peace process, internal and international intellectuals and intelligentsia, de-

partmental officials, professors from universities, NGOs and INGOs, diplomats and representatives from organizations.

The Peace Forum is being held from 25 to 27 June to support the country's peace, stability, rule of law, and the successful holding of elections. At the forum, local and international scholars, experts,

and participants from various sectors are sharing their perspectives and experiences openly and extensively. The suggestions and recommendations resulting from these discussions will be carried forward and implemented to contribute to peace, elections, and national economic development. — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

EAOs urged to pursue demands through dialogue and negotiation

Resorting to arms to demand one's desires, or using armed struggle based on ethnicity or regionalism to prioritize one's own interests, is contrary to democracy.

State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an opening address at the opening ceremony of the Peace Forum 2025 on 25 June 2025. The full text of the translated speech is as follows: —

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mingalaba.

First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings and best wishes for physical and mental well-being, prosperity, and happiness to all those attending today's opening ceremony of the Peace Forum 2025, including officials from the State, distinguished international guests, diplomats from various foreign embassies, both local and international experts participating in the forum discussions, representatives from political parties, individuals from civil society organizations, and delegates from various organizations.

Starting today, the Peace Forum being held is a significant milestone in the ongoing peace process, as it is an event where international scholars, officials from relevant organizations, and individuals are personally participating and engaging in discussions.

Through this ongoing discussion, we aim to engage in dialogue, coordination, and the search for solutions regarding the peace that our country primarily needs. Therefore, I believe that this forum will contribute meaningfully toward achieving long-lasting and sustainable peace in our nation.

Esteemed guests

In our country, it is known to all that with independence came internal armed conflicts. This issue has been addressed by successive governments using their own approaches as much as they could. Although a parliamentary democracy system was practised after regaining independence, due to the country's historical and political circumstances, in 1962, the Revolutionary Council took over national responsibilities and transitioned to a socialist system, essentially a centralized form of government, which continued until 1988. Responding to the people's demand for a transition to a multiparty democracy,

Tatmadaw in 1988 undertook this transformation gradually under the State Law and Order Restoration Council and later the State Peace and Development Council. Administrative and economic systems were progressively reformed, and a constitution aligned with the country's conditions was drafted and approved through a referendum to facilitate the implementation of a multiparty democratic system. The transition to the desired multiparty democracy was successfully and peacefully completed in 2011. Everyone has to remember that this reflects the fact that Tatmadaw has long given importance to and worked towards establishing a democratic system.

Tatmadaw, upon the emergence of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in 2015, established the six peace principles policy, which it has continued to uphold and implement to this day. These peace policies that we have adopted and are following not only reflect the essence of the NCA but also embody the "awareness" gained through successive eras of peace efforts. They represent the "realities" that must be adhered to build a lasting and stable peace.

During the term of the second democratic government, efforts were made to rename the peace conference as the "21st Century Panglong Conference". However, there were suggestions that this change posed historical challenges. During that time, Tatmadaw cooperated as much as possible to align with the process. We tried to strengthen civil-military relations. However, at that time, the Hluttaw and the government endorsed statements and directives that were not in line with the law and carried out many actions that violated legal frameworks. As a result, it is widely acknowledged that the second democratic government veered off the democratic path, leading to the current

situation.

Esteemed guests

Our nation's ultimate aspiration is to establish a "Union State" based on democracy and a federal system. Democracy means a system of governance chosen by the people, while federalism refers to the sharing and enjoyment of powers and rights. In other words, federalism is a principle where different regions, states, ethnic groups, and communities come together and exercise shared authority, emphasizing unity in coexistence and the equitable sharing of powers.

Therefore, to ensure broader representation of diverse groups, such as various parties and ethnic groups, I have stated that in the upcoming election at the end of this year, in addition to the currently used First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system, a Proportional Representation (PR) system will also be applied in a mixed format.

As we have taken responsibility for the State under the 2008 Constitution, we are committed to implementing the multiparty democratic system that the people aspire to. From the beginning of our assumption of duties, we have included this commitment in the fifth point of the Five-Point Roadmap. Therefore, our government will hold elections as originally planned.

When it comes to holding general elections, it is ideal if they can be conducted nationwide. However, during the elections in 2010, 2015, and 2020, we also witnessed that it was not possible to conduct fully inclusive multiparty democratic general elections. Even during the era of the AFPFL, elections were carried out amid various difficulties. Likewise, we are currently making the necessary preparations to hold the elections as widely and extensively as possible. Most importantly, the elections must be free and fair.

Under the current circumstances, it has been observed that elections and the convening of respective Hluttaws can be carried out under the 2008 Constitution and the respective election laws of the parliaments. The Constitution stipulates that holding elections must be carried out with the decision of the National Defence and Security Council. Therefore, as originally intended, elections will be held in accordance with the provisions of the law, and power will be transferred to the government elected by the people.

The ability to hold elections largely depends on the country's internal stability, peace, and security progress. Once elections are held, respective parliaments will emerge according to the law, and they will be able to engage in nationbuilding activities and long-term peacebuilding processes. For this reason, we all must collectively strive to successfully hold free and fair elections. When the Hluttaw is formed and the time comes to proceed along the democratic path that we aim for, we want to emphasize that resorting to arms to demand one's desires, or using armed struggle based on ethnicity or regionalism to prioritize one's own interests, is contrary to democracy and is not the right path. Aspirations must be discussed, decided, and implemented through the respective parliaments.

Esteemed guests

When practising and implementing democracy, it is important to learn lessons from the experiences of some countries around the world and apply them appropriately. Across the globe, although many countries adopt democratic systems, the way they practise democracy differs from one country to another. Even among Western European nations, no two countries follow the same model exactly.

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NATIONAL

EAOs urged to pursue demands through ...

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Similarly, in our Asian countries, there is no uniform approach either. In our case, we will not simply copy and paste other countries' systems in practising a democratic system. Instead, we will take the lead in building and practising democracy in our own way, as our own identity aligns with our own country's history, lifestyle, cultural characteristics, and traditional customs.

In carrying out this process, if the interests of the State and the people are placed at the forefront and everyone works together in unity, it will lead to effective success. We are not starting to practise this democratic system for the first time in our country. Since gaining independence, we have already begun implementing a parliamentary democracy system. Even then, the country faced many difficulties. Under the 2008 Constitution, when the first democratic government took office in 2011, although it was able to carry out reforms and changes in democracy, politics, economy, society, international relations, and other sectors, it also encountered numerous challenges. Learning from these lessons, it is necessary to develop and implement a democratic system that fits our own country's context.

Esteemed guests

It is necessary to have educated people for the future of the nation. When education is weak, it leads to misunderstandings and incorrect beliefs. Only when there are educated people in every state and region can the nation's future be assured and prosperous. Therefore, we must review and study the education systems that have been practised over time, and continue to support and implement the necessary reforms and improvements.

According to current conditions, it has been found that young people today need to complete at least up to the KG+9 level of education.

"Stability and peace" are essential requirements to realize democracy. Our shared desire is primarily to ensure unity, equality, and secure socioeconomic rights for all ethnic peoples. By living peacefully and working well, we can achieve progress in our own lives. For such conditions to exist, it is truly necessary for us to meet face to face, honestly and openly exchange our views, and engage in sincere dialogue.

We are pursuing peace primarily based on the 2008 Constitution and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) framework. The negotiation of peace needs to be free of foreign interference and internal instigation and harassment. I fully believe that only when national brethren come together with a spirit of Union and engage in political dialogue to find solutions can genuine and sustainable peace be successfully achieved.

Regarding international relations, while it is necessary to be in solidarity with countries around the world, special care must be taken not to become dominated or influenced by others. Based on our historical background, our country practises an independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy, maintaining friendly and unbroken relations with other nations, and peacefully coexisting according to the five principles of peaceful coexistence. It is also necessary to have cooperative relations with neighboring countries that cannot be divided from us, and to respect and uphold our existing laws.

Esteemed guests

Right after the State Administration Council took office, the very first priority

was negotiating a durable peace. Therefore, committees for peace were also established. From February 2021 until now, the door has always been open for peace talks, with no preconditions, and invitations and meetings for discussions have been conducted, as everyone is already aware.

I earnestly urge ethnic armed organizations to sincerely and genuinely consider striking a balance between their own wishes and organizational interests and the interests of the Union and all ethnic peoples, and work with foresight and vision toward achieving peace in the Union.

When we pursue a multiparty democratic system, differences of opinion between individuals can arise. However, demanding one's desires through armed struggle line is the wrong path. Political problems must be resolved by political methods — that is the most correct way. Therefore, I urge ethnic armed organizations to actively work towards finding solutions to their demands through political dialogue and negotiation. Only then can all of us ethnic peoples unite, cooperate, and firmly build the Union based on the democracy and federal system we aspire to.

Resolving internal conflict and achieving lasting, durable peace is absolutely crucial in our efforts to build the Union we aspire to. In light of the losses and sufferings caused by armed conflict and violent acts in the country, it is necessary to work hand in hand with the people to achieve lasting peace and development. Therefore, ethnic armed organizations opposing the State, violent insurgent groups, and PDF terrorist groups are repeatedly invited and encouraged to abandon the path of armed struggle and acts of terrorism and instead resolve political issues through political

means via political parties and electoral processes. Since political solutions can only be found through dialogue around the negotiating table, this forum reiterates its continuous welcome and openness to peace talks.

Esteemed guests

In today's forum, individuals from various sectors and diverse organizations are participating. We have invited all stakeholders involved in peace to make this forum an inclusive national dialogue. However, some were unable to attend due to various reasons. We remain always open and welcoming for meetings and discussions, keeping the interests of the country and its people in mind. It would be better for the country if all relevant parties could participate and engage in dialogue as early as possible. Therefore, we extend further invitations for such meetings and discussions.

Peace is not something that can be clearly defined or fixed. It must be achieved and realized through positive results that arise out of meetings, discussions, and negotiations. Therefore, all of us must first and foremost come together and engage in dialogue without fail. It is each of our responsibilities to make such meetings and discussions possible.

We have always kept the door to peace open and welcoming. Therefore, we encourage all armed groups to actively work toward finding solutions to their legitimate demands through political dialogue and close negotiation.

We conclude by saying, "Let us walk together hand in hand on the path of dialogue to end armed conflicts and achieve lasting and sustainable peace in our country".

Thank you all.

Peace Forum 2025 kicks off

THE Peace Forum 2025, themed "Towards a new nation of peace and prosperity through the integration of peace, elections and development", was held at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, re-

tired Tatmadaw officers, representatives of JMC, political parties, NCA-signatories and non-signatories, participants in peace processes, technicians, intellectuals, directors-general of ministries concerned and organizations, rectors of universities, representatives of international and local NGOs and other observers, totalling 259 participants.

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The Peace Forum 2025 underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL

The message sent by Chairman of the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung to 2025 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2025

I extend my greetings with best wishes for all people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to enjoy auspiciousness.

Since the United Nations General Assembly set 26 June as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (the World Drug Day), all countries worldwide have been observing the ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to eradicate drug abuse and enhance cooperation, and this year's ceremony is the 38th time.

The issue of narcotic drugs is not limited to a single country, region, or ethnic group; rather, it is a serious threat facing all of humanity around the world. Drug production, use and trafficking are deeply connected with transnational crimes, corruption, money laundering, arms smuggling and terror acts, undermining peace and stability, the rule of law and security of the State. Drug addictions seriously harm physical and mental health, as well as cause the number of criminal cases rise.

Growing poppy and heroin production were a major issue for Myanmar in the past. Currently, the country has been facing challenges of synthetic drug production, trafficking and trading similar to other countries across the world. On the other hand, the number of sown acres of poppy rises in the areas controlled by ethnic armed groups again. As synthetic drugs can be produced anywhere, the 2024 United Nations World Drug Report mentioned that production of these drugs is increasingly taking place in regions with administrative challenges and instability.

In Myanmar, it is visible that some ethnic armed organizations engage in drug production and trafficking to easily earn income by taking advantage of the lack of peace and stability. Although precursor chemicals and related accessories used in drug production cannot be produced in Myanmar, they can enter Myanmar easily and illegally through the border regions. As the majority of produced drugs are trafficked to regional countries and highly-demanded countries through border regions, Myanmar is facing challenges in conducting prevention and suppression against drug trafficking.

Systematic operation of administrative machinery, the rule of law and peace and stability play key roles in resolving

drug problems. In this regard, the co-operation and participation of residents and ethnic organizations are of great importance in this issue. Currently, the government has signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) with ethnic armed organizations to ensure peace and stability, and the development of the nation by holding political dialogues with utmost efforts to restore durable peace.

Myanmar is combatting the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty. So, the country officially issued the National Drug Control Policy, which includes a comprehensive and balanced approach in accord with the recommendations of the 30th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, on 20 February 2018. Moreover, the National Drug Control Strategic Plan has been released to implement this policy. In addition, relevant regions and states have formulated and are implementing the action plan suitable for their regions.

Drug Laws of Myanmar have been reviewed to ensure these must conform to the current era, and the amendment to the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was enacted on 14 February 2018. Similarly, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rule was amended on 30 December 2024.

Myanmar initially formed the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control in 1976, and it was reconstituted with 19 members to implement 21 work functions under Notification 37/2024 issued by the State Administration Council. In order to accelerate prevention and control measures, the Drug Enforcement Division under the Myanmar Police Force was extended with 11 subdivisions and 71 task forces equipped with modern searching accessories.

The government has been carrying out development undertakings in poppy-cultivating areas by spending a large sum of budget yearly. The Management Committee for the Implementation of Alternative Development is separately carrying out the second phase of a five-year pilot project from 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 in 65 villages in Hopong and Hsihseng townships, Shan State (South). The project covers various sectors including agriculture, livestock breeding, education, healthcare, access to water, roads and bridges, electricity

supply, livelihood development, religious affairs, communications, public awareness, trade, and microfinance activities.

In collaboration with the UNODC, special development projects are being implemented in Hopong and Loilem townships in Shan State (South), including the establishment of alternative forest plantations to replace poppy plantations, as well as the cultivation of coffee and tea. The coffee produced from these regions is being exported internationally — a total of 156.72 tonnes in 2023 and 153.36 tonnes in 2024 were successfully exported to France. Likewise, in cooperation with Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), alternative development projects are also being implemented in the Taungtaya area of Pinlaung Township in Shan State (South). Starting this year, 9.7 tonnes of dried coffee beans have already been harvested from that region.

The Crop Substitution Cultivation Committee, utilizing the annual allocated budget from the government, implemented yearly distribution of seeds, distribution and cultivation of perennial saplings, provision of fertilizers and pesticides, cultivation of crops on annual model plots, expansion of sown acreage for crops, and conducting agricultural technique training in 56 townships where drug eradication projects are being carried out. During the 2024-2025 financial year, the government spent K47,350.28 million on these activities.

In the 2024-25 financial year, K51.734 million from the Union budget allocated to the projects of the livestock sector was spent on providing chickens and pigs to the drug-eradicated project townships in Sagaing Region with holding talk shows supporting the livestock sector and conducting training courses and apiculture courses. Moreover, K14.6 million of Shan State budget was spent on staging the talks to raise public awareness about livestock breeding, conducting livelihood courses and distributing animals to villages of Hopong Township in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), in 2024-25 financial year as part of implementing the second phase of the pilot project.

Myanmar regards drug addiction as a public health issue and has been providing services such as HIV testing, screening for Hepatitis B and C, and diagnosis and treatment of sexually

transmitted infections. In 2024, a total of 26,964 drug-dependent patients received treatment at 29 major drug treatment centres, 56 sub-centres, 36 methadone clinics, and three buprenorphine clinics.

A total of 14 camp-based and community-based rehabilitation stations have been established for already treated drug addicts to rejoin a better social life. These camps provide physical and mental rehabilitation, vocational training and follow-up healthcare services to the former drug addicts.

As a proactive measure to prevent drug abuse among students, comprehensive programmes have been carried out widely across universities, degree colleges, education degree colleges, basic education schools, and boarding schools. These activities included drug-awareness seminars, exhibitions, competitions, and youth forums, as well as the distribution of pamphlets and the installation of billboards to establish drug-free zones. In addition, the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association, various non-governmental organizations, and members of the Drug Enforcement Division of MPF have been working in conducting drug-risk prevention talks, distributing educational leaflets at basic education schools and universities at the regional and state levels.

To enable entire people to widely know and avoid danger of narcotic drugs, five organizations such as the Department of Information and Public Relations, the Myanmar Radio and Television, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Department of Printing and Publishing and the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare are raising public awareness about danger of narcotic drugs through information programmes of media — radio and TV, talk shows, short dramas, newspapers, journals, articles, paintings, cartoons and posters.

The government managed 40 special operations eradicating narcotic drugs from 2013 to 2024. In 2024, a total of 7,828 suspects from 5,593 drug-related cases were seized along with narcotic drugs worth more than K1,163 billion. Poppy planted areas were exposed, and poppy plantations were destroyed. In the 2024-25 poppy cultivation season, a total of 4,734.5 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed.

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To reduce drug production, 43 types of chemical substances used in drug manufacturing have been strictly regulated. The Supervisory Committee for Prohibited Chemicals is actively overseeing measures to prevent these prohibited chemicals from being illegally imported into the country or diverted to drug production sites. The Committee is supervising the import of prohibited chemicals through the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system and non-prohibited chemicals, the PEN Online Light system, in order to prevent abuse of these materials.

Although enforcement operations have achieved success, effective penalties must be imposed on key offend-

ers who are apprehended. Moreover, to prevent reoffending after release, assets gained from criminal activities are being further investigated under the Anti-Money Laundering Law and confiscated as public property, with decisive actions being taken accordingly.

Seized narcotic drugs, chemical substances, and related materials are destroyed annually on 26 June, when the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed. On 26 June 2024, narcotic drugs, precursor chemicals, and related materials worth over K1,163 billion (equivalent to more than US\$349 million) were successfully destroyed in Yangon, Mandalay, and Taunggyi.

Myanmar is cooperating with

ASEAN member States, Greater Mekong Sub-Region countries, BIMSTEC member States, and neighbouring countries in preventive activities against narcotic drugs. Moreover, Myanmar enhances close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China, and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand.

This year, marking the 38th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, all countries have to emphasize taking serious action guided by the slogans provided by the Unit-

ed Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which are: “The evidence is clear: invest in prevention” and “Break the cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime”.

The government is striving to ensure equitable development of education, healthcare, social and economic sectors and overall development for the people, in addition to preventing the danger of narcotic drugs, which threaten socioeconomic security and peace and tranquillity of the entire people. The entire ethnic people have to participate in this measure in unison to effectively eradicate the danger of narcotic drugs for ensuring the safety of public life under situations of peace and stability and the rule of law, while joining hands with one another in building the future State.

Myanmar, Thailand to boost cooperation on environment, haze control



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi meets Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitsump at the Union Minister's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Union Minister's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, both sides held cordial and open discussions on potential coop-

eration between Myanmar and Thailand in reducing trans-boundary haze pollution and in environmental conservation.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Min Thu, departmental officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and officials from the Thai Embassy in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

Peace Forum 2025 kicks off

FROM PAGE 5

Speaking at the event, State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, said that recognizing the real situation of the nation, every citizen must participate in the nation-building process with unity and cooperation. Challenges encountered must be addressed through mutual discussion and coordination among the citizens, combining efforts on matters that are agreeable and negotiating solutions for those that differ. The national interest must be regarded as a common goal.

The participation of international friends who can offer valuable advice and as-

sistance in the peace process is also a significant support for the process. To hold a free and fair election by the end of this year and to implement the national solidarity and peace-making processes before and after the election, the forum will bring trust-building processes, practical strategies and positive suggestions.

He continued that the people-centred pathways should be created by reviewing the proper ways to strengthen the foundations for a united and developing Myanmar through free, fair and transparent elections as per the theme of the forum. He also mentioned the four objectives of the Peace Forum to enhance peace dialogues, to build trust and cooperation, to address humanitarian assistance and socio-economic challenges and to strengthen

international collaboration for State stability and development.

Committee Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed on the intention and agenda of the forum.

Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Jaideep Mazumdar, Indian Ambassador (Retd), Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeo, Vice-Foreign Minister of Thailand (Retd) and Russian Professor Aleksandr Gelyevich Dugin made remarks.

The eight foreign guests discussed different topics: “Opportunities for Peace-making during and after Elections” and “Processes for Addressing Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Natural Disaster Recovery”. — MNA/KTZH

MoTC Dy Minister receives Qatari Chargé d’Affaires

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun received Chargé d’Affaires Dr Rashid Abdulla Al-Kuwari of the Embassy of Qatar to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed cooperation in the water and air transport sectors between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2005 and further support among interna-

tional organizations. — MNA/KTZH

Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun receives Qatari Chargé d’Affaires Dr Rashid Abdulla Al-Kuwari in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

TODAY'S world is facing serious threats and challenges from narcotic drugs. Young people, who represent the vital human resources of respective countries, are becoming victims of drug abuse. Drug producers and traffickers prioritize their own personal interests, turning a blind eye to the fact that youth around the world are being led astray and losing their futures. Many have died or had their lives destroyed due to drugs, and their families also suffer greatly as a result. The trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs have caused immeasurable losses to humanity across the globe.

Drug production and trafficking are often linked to transnational crimes such as money laundering, arms smuggling, and terrorism, posing serious threats to national security, stability, and

Due to narcotic drugs, lives are lost in territorial disputes and violent struggles. Drug abuse has ruined countless lives, leading people to destruction. Generations have fallen behind, morally degraded, and become victims of crime. Under the shadow of narcotic drugs, various crimes occur. Therefore, as a national responsibility, all citizens of Myanmar must work together to completely eradicate narcotic drugs at their roots.

dollars are destroyed in the presence of diplomats, officials from national and international organizations, and representatives of UN agencies, as part of Myanmar's effort to demonstrate its commitment to eradicating narcotic drugs.

The Drug Enforcement Division of the Myanmar Police Force manages its sub-divisions and task forces as primary bodies in combating the drug producing and trafficking, as well as growing poppy plantations. On one hand, to provide treatment for individuals addicted to drugs and to reduce associated risks, Myanmar has established 29 major drug treatment centres, 56 sub-centres, 36 methadone clinics, and three buprenorphine clinics. Moreover, the Ministry of Relief and Resettlement has established 14 rehabilitation centres and continues to expand and develop them.

Due to narcotic drugs, lives are lost in territorial disputes and violent struggles. Drug abuse has ruined countless lives, leading people to destruction. Generations have fallen behind, morally degraded, and become victims of crime. Under the shadow of narcotic drugs, various crimes occur. Therefore, as a national responsibility, all citizens of Myanmar must work together to completely eradicate narcotic drugs at their roots.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and Its Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE: 63

JADEITE FROM BURMA

This article is a continuation of Episode 62, featuring jadeite from Burma, contributed by HL Chhibber in 1934.

3. Jadeite workings in the Tertiary Conglomerates. B. In the neighbourhood of Lonkin (29° 39', 96° 22').

- (1) Kademaw: The workings of Kademaw (25° 39'17", 96° 20' 23") lie near the unimportant Kachin village of Namayang near the 34th mile marked on the Kamaing -Tawmaw road. The mining is carried on along the banks and in the vicinity of the Namayang Hka. At the top, there is generally an overburden of alluvium that is underlain by the Boulder Conglomerate, which is mined for boulders of jadeite. In 1929, the Chinese carried out some underground mining by driving tunnels.
- (2) Mawmaik-ak: The workings of Mawmaik-ak are situated on both sides of the Namayang Chaung between Kademaw and Masamaw, just before the schists crop out in the stream.
- (3) Masamaw: the workings of Masamaw (25° 39'33", 96° 19'58") are to be seen adjoining the left bank of the Masa hka, which is an important tributary of the Ningma hka. As usual, there is an overburden consisting of red earth capping the conglomerate. From the deposition of the Tertiary jade-bearing conglomerate in the neighbourhood of Masamaw and elsewhere, it is apparent that the great bulk of it must have been deposited by torrential streams from the adjoining hills flowing into Uru Chaung. Similarly, the torrential streams with the Uru Chaung must have played an important part in the deposition of the Uru Boulder Conglomerate.
- (4) Maraw-maw: This is a new locality

worked in 1929 and lies about 150 yards north-north-west of the Kachin village of Marawgahtaung (25° 38'49", 96° 19'36"). The workings lie on the hill slope adjoining the right bank of the Ningma Hka. At the time of the author's visit in November 1928, not a single pit was to be seen, but on his return at the beginning of May 1929, he found at least one thousand deserted pits. A few Kachins and Shan-Burmans were still working. During the 1929 season, four stones of the value of a few thousand rupees were found besides several others of smaller value. The thickness of the Tertiary boulder conglomerate here is rather small, and the bedrock, viz., the schists, appears close to the surface. The material for jadeite-bearing boulder conglomerate came from the serpentine deposits of Tawmaw, and the epidiorites and quartz boulders, which constitute the rocks immediately adjacent to the conglomerate, are predominant in its constitution.

(5) Maw-sisa: The workings of Maw-sisa mostly lie in the bed of the stream of this name, which joins the Uru River about ¼ mile south of Warong village (25° 39'13", 96° 21'15"). These workings start from the junction of the Uru and the Maw-sisa chaung and continue for about a mile inwards. The pits are rather shallow since the hard, consolidated conglomerate makes its appearance very near the surface. Old deserted mayaws (water channels) are to be seen in places.

(6) Saung Chein-maw: Some old pits are to be seen at the confluence of the Saung Chein and the Uru Chaungs.

(7) Ngopinmaw: The workings of Ngopinmaw are seen about a quarter of a mile northeast of Kademaw on the way to Sanhka (25° 41' 8", 96° 20'57").



Open-cut jadeite mining in the Hpakan region. PHOTO: THAN HTUN (2014)

- (8) Sanhkamaw: The numerous old jadeite workings of Sanhkamaw are situated near the Kachin village of Sanhka (25° 41' 8", 96° 20'57"), in the area enclosed by the U-shaped bend of the Sanhka chaung near its mouth. They also extend along the Sanhka Hka for a distance of about one mile from its confluence with the Uru River. Old workings also occur in the lower course of the Wage hka, which joins the Sanhka chaung about a quarter of a mile south-west of Sanhka.

C. In the neighbourhood of Hwehka.

Tertiary jadeite workings exist in the neighbourhood of Hwehka within a radius of about two miles. As stated above, bands of conglomerate embedded in the Tertiary sandstones and shales are mined for jadeite, in several places, the names of which are given below: D. In the neighbourhood of Kadonyat (25° 3'20", 96° 15'46").

- 1. Mabumaw (north-west of Kadonyat) in the Mabu chaung.
- 2. Sawbwagyaungmaw (deserted). These old workings lie in a small tributary stream of the Kadonyat chaung, about one-third mile north of Kadonyat.

E. In the neighbourhood of Hwehka (25° 29'3", 96° 16'43").

- 3. Hwehkamaw, situated in the neighbourhood of Hwehka village.
- 4. Hmawlugyaung-maw. These workings are situated in a small dry stream, west of Hwehka village.
- 5. Sanimaw.
- 6. Hmowtaung. These quarries have a working face about 30 feet high and near the crest of the hill, about half a mile north of the present Rest House of Hwehka. One old underground worker was seen, who had fallen in.
- 7. Mawnanhka (deserted). The workings Nos 6, 7 and 8 are situated on the hill north

of Hwehka.

- 8. Natyedwin is situated a little north-west of Hpaokang village, close to the time of the author's visit.
- 9. Ohminwa-maw (deserted), situated in the stream of the same name.

F. In the neighbourhood of Makapin (25° 28'53", 96° 18'4")

- 10. Zibyugon (25° 28'45", 96° 17'41") about a mile east of Hwehka on the right bank of Hwehka chaung; worked throughout the year. A very interesting section of Tertiaries is exposed in these workings. At the top, there is a wash from the Tertiaries, mostly of conglomeratic nature, about 22 feet thick, which is underlain by weathered sandstone, yellowish in colour; having a thickness of two feet two inches. Below this comes a clay which is pebbly in places, while pieces and small stumps of lignite are

arranged in rows in it. It overlies the main jadeite-bearing conglomerate, which has a thickness of about 3 feet and is succeeded by hard coarse sandstones, locally called "Phah" (meaning bedrock). This is too hard for the miners to quarry.

11. Mawgyaungwa (deserted). These old workings exist in the Mogyaung Chaung, a tributary of the Hwehka Chaung, which joins the latter from the south, a little west of Makapin.

12. Makapin. These workings are said to be the oldest, and according to local inhabitants, the best jadeite comes from them.

13. Namlanmaw comprises a few pits in a small dry stream east of Makapin, which forms the Makapin-Namlan footpath. They only worked during the dry season.

14. Satpya-maw (deserted), situated close to the confluence of the Satpya and Hwehka

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

- Chaungs.
- 15. Mawnantee, situated between Mawkalon and Satpyawa, worked only during the dry season.

G. In the neighbourhood of Mawkalom (25° 29'55", 96° 18')

- 16. Nankatmaw, near Mawkalon, worked throughout the year.
- 17. Metlinwa-maw (deserted), near Mawkalon.
- 18. Mawkalon. This is the biggest centre of mining activity in the vicinity of Hwehka at the present day, and the industry continues all year round.
- 19. Uke-maw. These workings lie in the Uye chaung, which meets the Hwehka chaung from the west near Mawkalon. They work throughout the year, but more especially during the rainy season.
- 20. Patit-maw, north of Mawalon in the Hwehka Chaung is worked only during the dry season. In the vicinity of Hwehka, the slopes of the hill north of the village are being worked. It appears that quarrying commenced at the base of the hill and has gradually proceeded upwards until the present day, the Kachins are working almost at the top, about 550 feet above the bed of the Hwehka Chaung. The bands of jadeite-bearing conglomerate, as remarked already, are intercalated in the sandstones and shales. Sometimes, a number of these bands are present, for example, at Sani-maw, there are three bearing distinctive local names. The lowest layer is the most productive. The thickness of the conglomerate bed varies from 1 ½ to 6 feet. Sometimes the boulders forming the conglomerate are huge, a few feet in diameter. Remarkably, the Tertiary conglomerate is very rich in serpentine, and the name ser-

pentine-conglomerate would not be a misnomer.

Methods of mining.

The methods of mining in this area are almost the same as in the case of the Uru Boulder Conglomerate workings. Here too, both the hillside and riverbed workings exist, but the former are more numerous.

Mining, as usual, is done with crowbars and mamooties. In some claims, four men work together: one of them does the digging with a crowbar, the second fills up the baskets, and the remaining two dump the debris. For bailing water, bamboo pumps are used, but at Sanimaw, the tedious process of removing water in kerosene cans still prevails. In places, a sort of lever lift is used for hauling up the debris from the pits.

About the source of the jadeite found in the Tertiary conglomerates of Hwehka, the author has concluded that the stone cannot possibly have come from the Tawmaw dyke and that there must have been another primary occurrence of the mineral association with peridotites and serpentines of the south, which has either been denuded away or lies concealed in the impenetrable jungle.

4. The Uru Boulder Conglomerate Jadeite-Workings.

The Uru Boulder Conglomerate has worked for jadeite in numerous places, and these workings can be classified as follows:

- 1. Stream-bed workings, where mining is possible throughout the year.
 - 2. Hill-said workings, where the rock is quarried during the rains, help in sluicing away the overburden and the matrix of the conglomerate. These hillside workings exist in the neighbourhood of Balakha (25° 37'30", 96° 17'1"), the deserted village of Manna (25° 36'43", 96° 16'15"), Nam-maw (25° 38'20", 96° 15'), etc.
- Stream-bed workings for jadeite are really too numerous to mention and are situated on the banks or in the bed of the Uru Chaung and its tributaries. They commence from near Kansi (25° 46' 54", 96° 22'47") and continue intermittently right down to Haungpa.

References: Chhibber, HL, 1934: *The Mineral Resources of Burma, Macmillan and Co Limited, St Martin's Street, London.*

NATIONAL

Humanitarian aid, medical supplies distributed to quake survivors



DUE to the Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025, damage was reported in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State, and Bago Region. Domestic and international donors and philanthropists have provided humanitarian assistance, including essential supplies and medicines, and an official announcement regarding these support activities from 4 to 10 June was released on 10 June.

During the two weeks from 11 to 23 June, the tents, sleeping bags, food, commodities and household utensil donated by China, Singapore Lotus Light Charity Society, Singapore Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society and Love and Care Charity Groups and donors from Thailand were distributed to Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region and Shan State depending on the numbers of quake survivors.

To date, 66 vehicles loaded with relief materials have been distributed to Mandalay Region, while 33 to Sagaing Region and 13 to Shan State (South), totalling 112 vehicles with about 2,435 tonnes of load.

The distribution processes will be released once every two weeks. — MNA/KTZH

Officials receive the donation from Lotus Light Charity Society from Singapore.

Myanmar-Vietnam construction business event held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) and a delegation of Vietnamese businesspeople jointly held the Myanmar-Vietnam Construction Business Matching event on the morning of 23 June at 9:30 am. The event took place at the MCEF office, located at the corner of Thanthuma Road and Waizayanta Road in Thingangyun Township, Yangon.

MCEF Chairman U Shane Win delivered welcoming remarks, followed by a speech from Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar. The ambassador and the chairman also exchanged commemorative gifts as part of the event.

During the session, representatives from 22 Vietnamese companies in the construction sector showcased their products and services. Following the presentations, more than 20 types of business discussions were held, with participation from Myanmar construction entrepreneurs, engineers, and suppliers. — Myo Min Thura/KZL



Myanmar-Vietnam Construction Business Matching event in progress in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, on 23 June 2025.

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MSF marks Seafarers' Day, aids 300+ cases since 2020



International Seafarers' Day ceremony in progress at the National Museum in Dagon Township, Yangon, on 25 June 2025.

NEARLY 40,000 seafarers from Myanmar leave the country each year to serve on international vessels, and around 20,000 are officially certified to work abroad, according to Captain Soe Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Seafarers' Federation (MSF). He remarked at the International Seafarers' Day ceremony held yesterday morning at the National Museum in Dagon Township, Yangon.

“Since 2020, MSF has handled over 300 complaints related to workplace injuries and other issues. For those who are injured, we provide medical treatment, salary entitlements, and insurance benefits. We also address problems such as unpaid wages and difficulties in the workplace,” said Captain Soe Min Aung. “MSF is committed to supporting seafarers by addressing their concerns and helping to improve their quality of life”.

The event was attended by Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Department of Maritime Transport, along with the MSF president, executive officers, and members of the Myanmar Seafarers' Federation. — Arkar Lin/MKKS

Rescue & relief operations ongoing for quake-hit communities

AS of 25 June, the death toll has risen to 3,768, with 5,104 injured and 38 people still missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake which struck on 28 March.

Members of the Myanmar Fire Services Department, along with local and international search and rescue teams, have been continuously conducting timely operations in affected areas. Up to now, 653 survivors have been rescued from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 846 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Further announcements will be made regarding the ongoing donations of cash and relief items from generous donors both locally and abroad to support those affected by the disaster. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Russia, heads to Belarus

FROM PAGE 2
the Novosibirsk Region held a friendly exchange of views on enhancing economic cooperation between Myanmar and the Novosibirsk Region of the Russian Federation, fostering ties with ASEAN countries, expanding air travel services, and developing the tourism sector.
Following the meeting, the State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister and the Governor of the Novosibirsk Region exchanged souvenirs.
Afterwards, the Myanmar high-level delegation led by the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister departed from the Tolmachevo Airport in Novosibirsk to the Republic of Belarus, where they were greeted at the airport by the Governor of the Novosibirsk Region and officials. — MNA/TH

Myanmar Music Day to celebrate with concert



This photo showcases a performance celebrating Myanmar Music Day held in the previous year.

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) is set to host a grand Myanmar Music Day ceremony and concert, according to Chairman U Lwin Myint of the association.
The Myanmar Music Day ceremony and concert, held annually by the association to commemorate the Myanmar Music Day, are broadcast on the Myanmar Radio and Television.
“This year, the Myanmar Music Day celebrations will be held on a grand scale, organized by the Myanmar Music Association (Central). The event will bring together people from all sectors of the music industry. Meanwhile, the music associations in Sangyoung and Kamayut townships are already hosting pre-Myanmar Music Day ceremonies,” said U Lwin Myint.
The Myanmar Music Day was established in 2013 to commemorate the designation of the song ‘Doh Bamar’ as the national anthem during the second conference of the Doh Burma Asiayone, held on 27 June 1936, in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region. Since 2013, the Myanmar Music Day ceremony and concert have been held annually on 27 June. — ASH/TH

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

MPT holds second TeamFit yoga event for International Yoga Day



MPT staff in action in the “TeamFit: Unite and Move” yoga activity.

TO mark International Yoga Day, over 300 MPT staff from across the country participated in the second annual “TeamFit: Unite and Move” yoga wellness activity. The event was held online during the third week of June 2025 and included staff from various regions and states.
This yoga event aims to promote collaboration within the organization, foster a positive work-life balance and encourage healthy and active lifestyles. As part of the broader “TeamFit: Unite and Move” programme, which began in 2024, MPT has also organized activities such as yoga, Zumba, and futsal competitions for its employees. These efforts are intended to support the physical and mental well-being of staff.
Mr Naoki Shimane, from the Operations Department of MPT-KSGM Joint Operations, stated, “Our employees’ well-being is essential to a healthy working environment and efficient day-to-day operations. That is why we launched the “TeamFit: Unite and Move” programme in 2024, encouraging active participation nationwide. Following the positive response to our first yoga event, we continued with the second edition to further support our staff’s physical and mental health”.
MPT remains committed to promoting the importance of health and wellness among its employees and continues to implement staff wellness and social responsibility programmes to build a unified and strong organization. — Oktha/KZL

Yangon hosts ‘Akal Ywayt’ film production launching ceremony

THE launching ceremony for the new Myanmar film titled ‘Akal Ywayt’ (If), produced by Kumudra Production, was held on the morning of 24 June at the Kyaikkasan Pagoda compound in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, according to film director Pyae Phyo Naing (PPN), who is directing the film.
The story of the film was written by Wai Myo Thit, with the screenplay adapted by Academy Aye Thiri Ko. Director Pyae Phyo Naing (PPN) will lead the production on behalf of Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Production.
Director Pyae Phyo Naing said, “The film we are making offerings for today is Akal Ywayt, a story by writer Ma Wai Myo Thit. Many artistes are taking part in this production. It’s based on a true story and aims to be a major drama film. The storyline revolves around themes of regret and family life. Filming will start on 25 June in Yangon”.



Artistes and film crew seen at the production launching ceremony.

The film will feature a star-studded cast including Academy Soe Pyae Thazin, Academy May Myint Mo, Sai Si Tuankham, Nay Htut, May Pachi, Academy Khinzar Kyi Kyaw, Su Myat Noe Zin and many other artistes. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL BUSINESS

CBM sells over CNY700K, US\$870K on 24 June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 700,000 yuan on 24 June. Furthermore, CBM sold US\$870,000, which was purchased from the CMP companies, to edible oil importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 23 June to pump \$30 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold \$464,500 to edible oil importing companies and over \$496,000 to commodity importing companies on that day after injection of over 16,540 yuan into the market.

CBM sold over \$600,000 and 387,000 yuan on 20 June. Furthermore, it sold \$800,000 to edible oil importing companies and over \$503,000 from its designated injection to commodity importing companies.

CBM pumped over \$577,000 out of its designated \$10 million injection to commodity-importing companies on 19 June.

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

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

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



This picture captures apartment units of Yoma low-cost housing to be sold.

ELIGIBLE applicants to purchase Yoma low-cost housing apartment units must draw lots to decide the apartment unit's location in person, according to the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) under the Ministry of Construction.

Under the guidance of the Yangon

Region government, a committee scrutinized the applications and discarded the incomplete applications. Those 22,246 eligible buyers were selected at the meeting hall 3 of the Yangon Region government on 20 June 2025. They are entitled to draw lots in person for the apartment unit's location. Each will be

informed starting from 24 June.

Drawing lots for the apartment unit's location will take place at the meeting hall on the second floor of the DUHU in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, scheduled at 9:30 am on 26 June for retirees, 1 pm on 26 June for the public and 9:30 am on 28 June 2025. — NN/KK

Bids invited for agro-textile industrial complex in Pyay

THE No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry called for interested developers to submit a proposal for the construction of an agro-based textile industrial complex on the plot of land owned by the No 1 Textile Factory (Shwedaung) in Pyay Township, Bago Region.

The developer is responsible for funding the construction of the Agro-based Textile Industrial Complex pro-

ject on 250 acres of land owned by the No 1 Textile Factory (Shwedaung). The project includes textile training schools, industrial meeting hall, product display room and laboratories under Phase I, paint remover, dyeing and printing factories under Phase II and textile factories, weaving factories, warehouses, logistics department, industrial zone management committee office, fire-fighting system, clinic,

industrial solid waste management, recreation center and dormitory for trainees and staff under Phase III.

Tender form along with proposal, company documents and company registration must be submitted by 3 pm on 25 July to the Administration Department of the No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise, the Ministry of Industry at 067 408070 and 067 408185. — NN/KK



Turkiye Education Fair 2025 to be held at Lotte Hotel on 29 June

TURKIYE Education Fair 2025 will be held at the Lotte Hotel on 29 June 2025.

The fair will feature top-ranking universities such as Istanbul Okan University, Özyeğin University, BAU Başakşehir University, Beykoz University, Altinbas University, Istanbul Topkapi University, Istanbul Arel University,

Istanbul Gelisim University, İbn Haldun University, Biruni University, Istanbul Nisantasi University and Atlas University.

Additionally, an interview with more than 20 top-ranking universities of Türkiye with eligible subjects including Science, Business, Arts, Technology and other majors, scholarship opportunities and ex-

clusive benefits of a K1.3 million discount for instant walk-in application process.

Those interested can register through <https://shorturl.at/qTRl9> and enquire about details at the Yangon office located at 275/C on Pyay Road, Dhammagaha (self-help road), Sangyoung Township, Yangon, at 09 664 125 941. — NN/KK

Adani Total Gas, Jio-bp partner to enhance quality fuel offerings

ADANI Total Gas and Jio-bp (the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility) announced on Wednesday that they have signed an agreement to redefine the auto fuel retail experience for Indian consumers, according to a joint statement.

Under this partnership, select Adani Total Gas fuel outlets will offer Jio-bp's high-performance liquid fuels (petrol and diesel), while select Jio-bp fuel outlets will integrate Adani Total Gas' CNG dispensing units, with-

in Adani Total Gas' authorized Geographical Areas (GA), thus enhancing the supply of high-quality fuels to transport consumers.

Adani Total Gas, a joint venture of Adani and TotalEnergies, is India's leading city gas distribution (CGD) player, serving natural gas to households, industries, commercial customers, and motorists.

Adani Total Gas also offers Compressed Biogas (CBG), EV Charging, and LNG for the transport segment. — ANI

China's lottery sales surge in May via sports events boom

CHINA'S lottery ticket sales soared 19.8 per cent year on year to around 57 billion yuan (about US\$7.95 billion) in May, data from the Ministry of Finance showed on Wednesday.

The ministry credited this surge to two factors — a low comparison base in the same period last year and an increase in sports events in May, which boosted sports lottery ticket sales.

Sales of lottery tickets that support the country's welfare system reached about 18.53 billion yuan last month, marking an increase of 8.6 per cent from a year earlier.



A sales office of China Welfare Lottery in Yichang city, Central China's Hubei province. PHOTO: IC/CHINA DAILY

Sports lottery ticket sales jumped 26 per cent year on year to 38.51 billion yuan in May. From January to May, lottery tickets worth 263.37 billion yuan were sold nationwide — up 4.3 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

New Zealand sets up new agency to attract foreign investment

NEW Zealand's parliament on Wednesday passed legislation establishing Invest New Zealand, a new investment attraction agency set to launch operations on 1 July.

The move is a central part of the government's strategy to boost economic growth by drawing international capital, businesses, and talent to the country, according to Trade and

Investment Minister Todd McClay. Invest New Zealand will operate with a strong commercial focus, working directly with global investors to unlock opportunities that create jobs, foster innovation, and enhance long-term productivity, McClay said. The agency has been allocated 85 million NZ dollars (US\$51 million) over four years in the 2025 budget. — Xinhua



Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay stated that Invest New Zealand will focus on working directly with global investors to create jobs, foster innovation, and enhance long-term productivity. PHOTO: PIXABAY

<h3>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</h3> <p>M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2508S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2508S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-6-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD</p>	<h3>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</h3> <p>M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1507S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1507S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-6-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINES</p>
<h3>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</h3> <p>M.V ARIONAS VOY.NO. (0UVE2S1NC)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ARIONAS VOY.NO. (0UVE2S1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-6-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S CMA-CGM SHPPING LINE PTE LTD</p>	<h3>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</h3> <p>M.V BAO YU VOY.NO. (2505)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BAO YU VOY. NO. (2505) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-6-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE., LTD</p>

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Indian Cabinet approves Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-2

This strategic proposal is a logical extension of the existing Corridor-2 and aligns with the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP).

THE Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-2: Vanaz to Chandani Chowk (Corridor 2A) and Ramwadi to Wagholi/Vitthalwadi (Corridor 2B), as extensions of the existing Vanaz-Ramwadi corridor under Phase-1.

According to Cabinet press release, these two elevated corridors will span 12.75 kilometres and include 13 stations, connecting fast-developing suburbs such as Chandani Chowk, Bavdhan, Kothrud, Kharadi, and Wagholi.

The project is scheduled for completion within four years.

The estimated project cost is Rs3626.24 crore, to be equally shared by the Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, and external bilateral/multilateral agencies.

This strategic proposal is a logical extension of the existing Corridor-2 and aligns with the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), which envisions a continuous Chandani Chowk to Wagholi Metro corridor to strengthen East-West mass transit in Pune.

— ANI



The project is scheduled for completion within four years. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

Israel lifts emergency restrictions after ceasefire

NETANYAHU said Israel accepts a ceasefire proposed by Trump and has achieved its war goals against Iran.

Later, Trump told Israel “do not drop those bombs” on Iran, saying that this would be a “major violation” of the ceasefire. Iran’s Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarghandi the death toll from Israeli strikes across Iran over the past 12 days has reached 606, with 5,332 others injured.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian announced the “end of the 12-day war” and urged all government bodies and revolutionary institutions to focus all their efforts on reconstruction. — Xinhua

Blockage of Hormuz Strait to cause global ‘oil shock’

THE closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran will significantly affect oil production and cause an “oil shock” in the region, Yemeni Ambassador to Egypt Khaled Mahfouz Bahah told Sputnik in an interview. “Twenty per cent of the global oil supplies go through the strait, so its blockage would cause an oil shock, especially if it is combined with the blockage of the Bab al-Mandab Strait,” Bahah said.

Yemen will be the first country to feel the effects of the closure, especially since the Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, controls a significant part of its territory and is able to block the strait as well, the ambassador said. — SPUTNIK

EU Foreign Policy Chief Kallas on Israel-Iran ceasefire

The ceasefire announcement between Israel and Iran has been described as “good news” by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, who noted that this was the moment that all parties related to the matter “return to the negotiating table”.

In a series of posts on X on Tuesday, the EU Foreign Policy Chief urged all sides who were involved in the conflict in the region to refrain from further violence and avoid escalation. — ANI

Finland completes second section of border fence with Russia

FINLAND has completed the second section of its border fence along the eastern frontier with Russia, the national broadcaster Yle quoted the Finnish Border Guard as saying on Tuesday.

The newly constructed stretch is located in the north-central region of Kainuu and consists of eight segments spanning approximately 18 kilometres, Yle said. This follows the completion of the first 35-kilometre section. — Xinhua

Libramont nursery temporarily shut after 14-month-old baby dies

A 14-month-old girl has died under unclear circumstances at a nursery in Libramont, Belgium, prompting its temporary closure and a police investigation.

A 14-month-old baby girl died under unclear circumstances at a nursery in Libramont, Belgium, prompting the temporary closure of the facility and an outpouring of support for the grieving family. The tragic news was confirmed by the town’s mayor, Laurence Crucifix, who stated that the entire staff was in shock. — AFP



A woman walks on a street after a ceasefire between Iran and Israel took effect in Tehran, Iran, on 24 June 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

SPORTS

Chelsea through to Club World Cup knockouts, Benfica beat Bayern

CHELSEA beat Esperance of Tunisia 3-0 on Tuesday to set up a Club World Cup last-16 tie against Benfica, who defeated Bayern Munich 1-0 earlier in searing heat.

Elsewhere minnows Auckland City claimed a memorable draw against Boca Juniors while Los Angeles FC bowed out of the tournament with a stalemate against Flamengo.

In Charlotte, Andreas Schjelderup scored the only goal for Benfica in their Group C clash with Bayern in front of 33,287 fans, finishing first-time from a cutback by his fellow Norwegian Fredrik Aursnes in 13 minutes.

The German champions, who left the likes of Harry Kane and Michael Olise on the bench at kick-off, were unable to come back in sweltering afternoon conditions in heatwave-hit North Carolina.

Kane and Olise came on at half-time and Bayern did then look more dangerous, but Leroy Sane was denied when clean through by Benfica's Ukrainian goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin.

A draw would have allowed Bayern to top the section but a Kimmich effort that found the net was ruled out for offside and Trubin denied Sane again while Kane mistimed a header late on.

It was Benfica's first ever win in 14 competitive meetings with Bayern and it meant they finished first and will next play Group D runners-up Chelsea in Charlotte in the last 16 on Saturday.

"I think this was a very fair and important win, historic really," said Benfica coach Bruno Lage.

"We were as straightforward and assertive as we should be and I think we were very effective in delivering our strategy today." — AFP

Myanmar confirms women's squad for AFC qualifiers

THE Myanmar women's national football team has announced its final 23-player squad for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers.

Head coach Yuki Tatsuro of Japan recently released the list, which includes goalkeeper Myo Myo Myint (Thitsar Arman), defender Yu Yu Naing (Yangon United), midfielders Naw Htet Htet Wai (Ayeyawady FC) and Moe Moe Than (ISPE), and forwards Win Theingi (Sabah, Malaysia), San Thaw Thaw (Ayeyawady), Myat Noe Khin (ISPE), and May Htet Luu (Los Angeles Pierce College, USA).

Group C matches will be held from 29 June to 5 July at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon, with Myanmar, Bahrain, Bangladesh, and Turkmenistan competing. Two matches will be played daily. Myanmar will face Turkmenistan at 4 pm, and Bahrain will meet

Bangladesh at 7 pm on 29 June. On 2 July, Myanmar will play Bangladesh at 4 pm, followed by Turkmenistan versus Bahrain at 7 pm. On 5 July, Myanmar will take on Bahrain at 4 pm, and Bangladesh will face Turkmenistan at 7 pm. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar women's national team seen during training. PHOTO: MFF

Extreme heat, storms take toll at Club World Cup



Benfica and Auckland City's Club World Cup game is one of five matches at the tournament halted due to bad weather. PHOTO: AFP

FURNACE-LIKE heat and the threat of thunder and lightning are wreaking havoc at the Club World Cup — and more of the same is likely at the 2026 World Cup.

With a brutal heatwave blanketing swathes of the eastern United States, adapting to the weather has become a key focus for coaches and players.

Borussia Dortmund took the unusual step of leaving their substitutes in the dressing room for the first half of their game against Mamelodi Sundowns in Cincinnati, rather than have them sitting on the bench in blazing sunshine.

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca meanwhile cut short his team's training session in Philadelphia on Monday as the City of Brotherly Love baked in temperatures of 99 degrees Fahrenheit (37.2 degrees Celsius). Dortmund coach Niko Kovac, meanwhile, said the weather could ultimately shape the destiny of the tournament.

"I think that this tournament will be decided not by the best team, but the team that can adapt to these weather conditions the best. They will probably win this tournament," Kovac said.

While cooling breaks midway through each half have become standard during the tournament, Dortmund, like other teams, are taking extra steps to mitigate the brutal heat and humidity. — AFP



A general view shows the construction site of the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona on 23 May 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona announce Camp Nou return for 10 Aug

BARCELONA announced on Wednesday their long-awaited return to the new Camp Nou for a 10 August friendly after years of work to expand and modernise the iconic stadium.

The traditional pre-season Joan Gamper Trophy match will only mark the stadium's partial reopening, with construction work continuing in various areas, the current Spanish champions said in a statement.

This includes the completion of the new third tier, the dual VIP ring, the roof installation, interior spaces and development of the

stadium's surrounding area.

The Catalan giants have not confirmed the initial capacity, but local media reported that the available stands can hold 35,000 fans.

"Barcelona takes a symbolic and emotional step into the future, reclaiming its home in a new era that will culminate with the complete inauguration of the new stadium," the club said.

Barca will have another month to continue work on the stadium after requesting to play their first three La Liga games of the upcoming season away from home. — AFP



BRICS calls for WMD-free zone in Middle East

THE BRICS countries have called for the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, a joint communique published by Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

"Guided by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, BRICS remains committed to promoting international peace and security and to fostering diplomacy and peaceful dialogue as the only sustainable path towards long-term stability in the region.

In this regard, we also reaffirm the necessity of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in line with relevant international resolutions," the Tuesday statement said.

"In the face of rising tensions with unpredictable consequences for international peace and security, as well as for the world economy, we underscore the urgent need to break the cycle of violence and restore peace. We call on all parties to engage through existing channels of dialogue and diplomacy, with a view to de-escalating the situation and resolving their differences through peaceful means," the joint statement said. — SPUTNIK

The call for a weapons-free zone aligns with relevant international resolutions aimed at enhancing regional security.



The statement reflects the BRICS nations' focus on fostering stability in the Middle East through disarmament and adherence to international law. PHOTO: MARCELO CAMARGO/AGÊNCIA BRASIL VIA SPUTNIK

Exhibition promoting tourism in Mekong countries begins in Laos

A sustainable tourism exhibition showcasing products from the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries, including Laos, Cambodia, China, Myanmar,

Thailand, and Vietnam, opened in northern Laos' Luang Prabang province, alongside the Mekong Tourism Forum.

The exhibition, running

from Tuesday to Friday, aims to promote Lao tourism to target visitors from the GMS countries, which are key markets for Laos.

In his speech, Phouthone Dalalom, deputy director general of the Tourism Marketing Department at the Lao Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, emphasized that these neighbouring countries are vital sources of tourists for Laos, and the event is expected to attract more visitors.

The fair also seeks to strengthen regional and international tourism cooperation, supporting the industry's recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The exhibition allows tourism operators to showcase their products, provide tourism information, showcase souvenirs and their unique national cuisine, among others. — Xinhua



Luang Prabang province, some 220 kilometres north of the capital Vientiane, is a top tourist draw because of its old temples, scenic attractions and rural landscapes. Miss Songkran parade is held during the Songkran Festival in Luang Prabang, Laos, 16 April 2025. PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA/FILE

A CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT

US judge backs using copyrighted books to train AI

A US federal judge has ruled in favour of Anthropic, allowing the company to train its AI models, including Claude, on copyrighted books without authors' permission under the "fair use" doctrine.

District Court Judge William Alsup stated that the use of these books was transformative and essential for AI development, comparing it to human learning through reading.

However, the ruling also rejected Anthropic's request for blanket protection, determining that downloading

millions of pirated books to create a permanent digital library constituted copyright infringement.

The case arose from a class-action lawsuit by authors who accused Anthropic of illegally copying their works.

While the judge's decision supports AI innovation, it also sets the stage for a trial regarding damages related to the pirated content. Anthropic, valued at \$61.5 billion and backed by Amazon, is now evaluating its legal options following the mixed ruling. — AFP