

Restoration planned for Sri Kshetra religious sites with original architecture intact



This photo showcases the Bawbawgyi Pagoda, the oldest pagoda in the ancient Pyu City of Sri Ksetra.

In June 2014, the three ancient Pyu cities of Beikthano, Halin, and Sri Ksetra in Myanmar were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites for their historical and cultural significance.

RELIGIOUS buildings in the Sri Ksetra Cultural Zone, a World Heritage Site in Pyay Township, Bago Region, will be renovated while preserving their original features, according to U Tun Tun Aye, head of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Sri

Ksetra Branch).

Cracks appeared in the Bawbawgyi Pagoda and the Lemyethna Pagoda within the zone due to the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March, and the damaged areas will reportedly be repaired without compromising the original structures.

“When the Mandalay earthquake struck, the Sri Ksetra Cultural Zone was also affected. Most of the pagodas here were not very tall and therefore did not sustain serious damage. However, the slightly taller Bawbawgyi Pagoda and

SEE PAGE 6

OPINION

Strive to equip society with legal knowledge

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 3

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UAE's Ambassador to Myanmar

NATIONAL

PAGE 5



Over 64 Asian elephants spotted in Taninthayi Nature Reserve

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



Palm oil reference prices drop to six-month low

60 golden deer conserved at Mann Shwesettaw Sanctuary

AT the Mann Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, 60 golden deer, native and rare species, have been conserved, according to U Aye Ko, Mann Shwesettaw's trustee board chair.

Formerly, the sanctuary

began with five male deer and seven female deer and new fawns were born again about four months ago. “There were 52 deer formerly, and now new fawns increase — four males and four females, and they are already listed in,” he said.

The sanctuary feeds them watercress, water hyacinth and supplements and visitors are invited to watch deer. A golden deer camp was initially planned to be set up, though it has been delayed for some reason. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



The Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary with a fleet of golden deer.

NATIONAL

Everybody stays away from corruption

EACH individual and group must reject corruption and, starting with themselves and their surroundings, collectively work towards the development and prosperity of the nation.

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Third Amendment to the Union Election Commission Law
State Administration Council Law No 40/2025

9th Waning of Nayon 1387 ME
19 June 2025

THE State Administration Council hereby enacts this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

1. This law shall be called the Third Amendment to the Union Election Commission Law.
2. Section 14 of the Union Election Commission Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“14. The commission shall form commissions at different levels, with at least three members comprising trustworthy persons or government employees. Among them, an appropriate person shall be appointed as the Chairperson. The respective election staff officer shall be appointed as the secretary.”

I hereby sign this under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service
Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Kyaw Soe Moe, Director-General of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, after the one-year probationary period.

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 19 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the well-marked low-pressure over Gangetic West Bengal (India) has moved northwestwards and reached over West Bengal (India) and adjoining Jharkhand and has weakened. — DMH

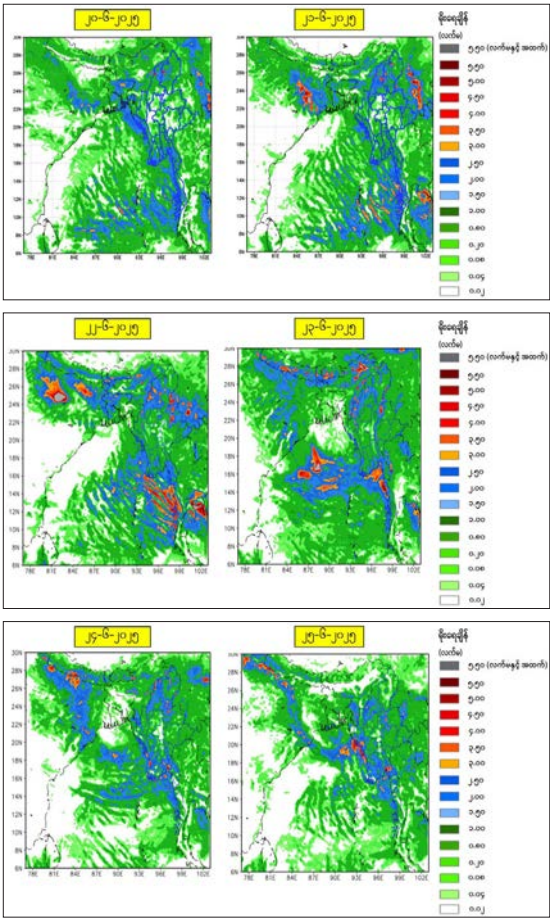
Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 19 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the well-marked low-pressure over Gangetic West Bengal(India), monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during tonight to 25 June 2025. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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



Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday 19 June 2025

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

Special Features: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over Jharkhand and adjoining West Bengal(India) still persists.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 20 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway Regions and northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Mon, and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 June 2025: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 June 2025: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UAE’s Ambassador to Myanmar

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Mutaz Abdullah Abduljaleel Mohamed Al Faheem, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on further strengthening the existing

bilateral ties, including the establishment of diplomatic missions in each country, enhancing economic cooperation and promoting trade and investment opportunities in all areas of mutual benefits between the two countries, including the energy sector.

Also, present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe meets the ambassador of the UAE to Myanmar yesterday.

MoC Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant received the Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Mr Abhay Thakur, in the reception hall of the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides held cordial and open discussions on ongoing collaborative efforts to develop the transport sector under the friendly relations between Myanmar and India. They exchanged views on the enhancement of border trade and smoother flow of goods to boost the socioeconomic development of local communities, as well as the advancement of tourism.

They also discussed topics related to road and bridge



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur calls on Union Minister U Myo Thant yesterday.

upgrades carried out with India’s grant aid, which are considered vital for regional development. In addition, they explored the potential of road

infrastructure projects that would improve links between the two countries and serve mutual interests. — MNA/MKKS

Chinese, Singaporean donors send quake relief aid

SIX regions and states in Myanmar severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March continue to report serious human loss. As of 19 June, 3,756 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 50 remain missing.

Search and rescue operations are carried out promptly and continuously by members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade and both domestic and international rescue teams in the affected areas. As a result, 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 834 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Humanitarian assistance continues to arrive from generous donors both inside the country and abroad. Cash donations and relief items are provided by

local philanthropists. Likewise, international governments, organizations, and donors also contribute financial aid and essential supplies.

Between 5 pm on 18 June and 5 pm on 19 June, relief items donated by Chinese citizens and Myanmar nationals living in China, weighing a total of 0.962 tonne, arrived at Yangon International Airport as part of ongoing humanitarian support. In addition, 0.18 tonne of biscuits, instant noodles, and household supplies donated by Singapore’s Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society and Love and Care Charity Group also arrived during this period.

These relief supplies are distributed as quickly as possible to the hands of the people affected by the disaster. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

SWRR Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

They discussed the humanitarian aid provided by Bangladesh in response to the recent Mandalay earthquake, the extent of destruction and losses caused by the earthquake, and the government's ongoing efforts in post-disaster recovery

and reconstruction.

The discussion also covered existing national social protection systems, as well as opportunities for future collaboration between the two countries based on mutual goodwill. Both sides engaged in a frank and cordial exchange of views.

— MNA/MKKS

Bangladeshi Ambassador Dr Md Monwar Hossain calls on Union Minister Dr Soe Win yesterday.



Active recovery efforts ongoing in quake-hit areas

VARIOUS organizations, in coordination with local communities, are carrying out rescue and reconstruction efforts in areas affected by the recent earthquake in Mandalay Region.

According to reports, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), along with responsible officials, inspected restoration works at religious structures in Sagaing, including the Rajamani Sula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda, SunU Ponnyashin Pagoda and Yatana Zaydi Sinmyashin Pagoda. These sites sustained damage due to the earthquake, and organizations, together with residents, cleared the debris and proceeded with reconstruction activities. Energy drinks were distributed to workers, and coordination took place with relevant departments to fulfil additional requirements.

The officials also inspected progress at Thakyadita Nunery, Zabu Mingala Pagoda,



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing and officials inspect the rubble removal work using machinery in Mandalay.

Sein Yadana Monastery and Yatana Aungmyay Monastery. Organizations used heavy machinery to clear debris and carry out rebuilding work. At the Maha Sekongyi Pagoda compound, modular hous-

es are under construction to provide temporary shelter for displaced individuals. Also, damaged buildings, roadside debris and unsafe structures across Sagaing are now being cleaned and cleared by Tatmad-

aw members, staff and machinery operators to ensure public safety and urban cleanliness.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing and officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) visited the Mahamuni

Pagoda in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. They offered a golden robe to the sacred Buddha image and inspected cleared areas to ensure safe access for pilgrims. Repair work at the central prayer halls continues, and structural strengthening measures are in progress at Gandakuti Monastery. Preparations for rebuilding collapsed rear columns are underway, and the umbrella and jewelled finial of the Mahamuni Buddha Image now remain enshrined in the jade museum.

Afterwards, the team inspected heavy machinery operations in Maha Aungmyay and Chanayethazan Townships, including western and central wards, where earthquake-damaged buildings collapsed. Officials at the sites received instructions to ensure safety, and coordination took place to address operational requirements, according to reports.

— MNA/KZL

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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

NATIONAL

Over 64 Asian elephants spotted in Taninthayi Nature Reserve

THERE are two different types of elephants: the African elephant and the Asian elephant. The Taninthayi Nature Reserve in Myanmar is estimated to have between 45-64 Asian elephants.

In 2011, in the Taninthayi Nature Reserve, such elephants were found to inhabit 90 per cent of the reserve, and it is estimated that their population may have increased since now.

In ancient times, during the reigns of Myanmar kings, a country that possessed a large number of elephants was regarded as a militarily powerful nation. In the modern era, however, countries with effective conservation practices are recognized for their ability to sustain elephant populations, which serve as a symbol of a



PHOTOS: TANINTHAYI NATURE RESERVE



healthy ecosystem. Moreover, nations that can protect wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands are generally regarded as nations possessing a fine environment. In Myanmar, the presence of numerous protected forests and wetland areas enables wild elephants to survive and thrive.

“Elephants are considered a symbol of ecological richness in a forest of nature conservation areas. Among wildlife, elephants have a wider feeding range than tigers. If a large

number of elephants are foraging in an area, it indicates that the forest is ecologically healthy and rich in biodiversity. In the Taninthayi Nature Reserve, more than 60 elephants have been recorded.

“In neighbouring countries, elephant-based tourism has been successfully developed, and similarly, in Myanmar, elephant conservation is contributing positively to the tourism industry. To increase the elephant population, it is essential

to effectively prevent elephant poaching. All citizens need to be aware of this and take part in the effort. If deforestation and harm to elephants increase, the environment will also be severely affected. To ensure elephant reproduction, it is crucial to preserve healthy ecosystems and pastures,” said U Nyein Chan, staff officer of the region’s Department of Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation.

Myanmar is working to showcase the rich biodiversity and ecosystems of its ASEAN Heritage Parks to other regional countries. Myanmar is also collaborating with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity. This includes implementing community-based conservation projects around the parks and carrying out initiatives funded under the ACB-SGP, which aim to engage local communities in protecting biodiversity while also supporting their livelihoods.

Such actions support the biodiversity and ecosystem, and the survival of wild elephants and other animals, and the wild elephants are found in northern Myanmar, Bago Yoma, Rakhine Yoma and southern parts of Myanmar. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Spiritists disciplinary committee to expand nationwide

MYANMAR Spiritists Disciplinary Committee (Central) aimed to organize to provide services to and control animists will be extended in the regions and states, according to sources close to that committee.

The committee was formed in March this year and it intends to supervise and monitor traditional animists to preserve the culture in their performances, dances and costumes, and to avoid indecent entertainment mixing with behaviours in contrast to the standard norm when they hold Nat-propitiating and other ceremonies.

“Later, representative committees will be formed in regions and states after the constitution of the organization is issued. The regions and states will not have chairmen and secretaries. Each state or region will have one representative,” he said.

The constitution of the organization is expected to be released this year, and the process will begin after such an announcement.

“The centre will lead the work. The representatives of the regions and states will report their work to the centre,

which will decide and handle it. We will not appoint many people. We will not have chairpersons and secretaries,” he said.

Currently, since the organization rules have not been issued yet, they have not been able to handle the task properly, and they will take action according to the issuance of the rules.

“We will ban the ceremony, but we cannot imprison people. If the animist does not follow the rules, we will warn him. If he continues to fail to abide by, we will ban the ceremony or refuse to provide certificates,” he explained. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



This image captures idols at a Nat-propitiating ceremony.

NATIONAL

MRCSS donates K250M for quake-damaged religious sites



Photos depict MRCSS officials donating cash to religious leaders in Sagaing and Mandalay.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCSS) donated a total of K250 million to religious buildings in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions that were damaged by the recent major earthquake, according to the society’s headquarters.

The donation was intended to support the repair and reconstruction of religious buildings affected by the earthquake. In Sagaing Region, K50 million

was donated to the Shwe Hintha Taikthit Monastery in Sagaing, K50 million to the Ratana Theingi (Charity) Nunnery, K25 million to the Christian community, and another K25 million to the Thirithasana Ranyan Hindu Temple in Sagaing.

Similarly, in Mandalay Region, K10 million was donated to the Cathedral Church in Aungmyaythazan Township, K15 million to Saint Joseph and Saint

Anna Catholic Churches in Singaing Township’s Myaukkaing Village, K25 million to the East Bone Oue Mosque in Bone Oue Village, Amarapura Township, K25 million to the Islamic Zarokia Religious School, and K25 million to the Ambika Mata Hindu Temple in Aungmyaythazan Township, making a total contribution of exactly K250 million. — ASH/KZL

Magway fundraising fair supports earthquake recovery

A fundraising fair is currently being held in Magway Township, Magway Region, from 17 to 26 June to support the rehabilitation of areas affected by the recent earthquake, according to U Ko Ko Oo, the event’s coordinator.

The fair is taking place within the grounds of the Myathalun Pagoda in Magway Township and aims to raise funds to assist in rebuilding the disaster-hit areas.

“This fair features food stalls and shops selling consumer goods, as well as entertainment and games. It is being held with around 80 stalls participating,” said U Ko Ko Oo.

Similarly, in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, a joint fundraising fair was held from 7 to 18 June as part of the traditional festivities at the Thihoshin Pagoda in Ward 14. Shopkeepers from Yangon Region and local vendors

joined together to sell goods at the fair. Funds raised through public support and purchases during the event will be used for reconstruction work in earthquake-affected areas.

These fundraising fairs are also being organized in other major towns across Magway Region, including Chauk and Yenangyoung Townships, where similar events have already been held. — ASH/KNN

Live music show ‘Who Is the Culprit?’ to be staged in Yangon

POPULAR singer May Khalar will perform a live music show titled ‘Who Is the Culprit?’ at the New Xtreme Bar & Lounge in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, according to sources.

Her performance will be accompanied by the New Xtreme band, who will provide full musical support to enhance the show.

“The renowned singer May Khalar will be performing live on the night of 27 June. Alongside her, the resident singers at New Xtreme Bar & Lounge will also take the stage to give their best performances. We warmly invite everyone to come and enjoy the show,” said the event organizer.

The concert will be held as a live music show, starting at 7 pm on Friday, 27 June. — ASH/MKKS



Promotional poster for May Khalar’s upcoming live performance.

Restoration planned for Sri Kshetra religious sites with ...

FROM PAGE 1

the Lemyethna Temple were damaged, as their structures were already weakened. Since they have been damaged, we must take the time to restore them while preserving their originality,” said U Tun Tun Aye.

The Bawbawgyi Pagoda is one of the oldest structures in the ancient Pyu city of Sri Ksetra, while the Lemyethna Temple is another notable example of Pyu architecture. Built around the 6th–7th century AD, the Bawbawgyi Pagoda stands 46.634 metres high and has a circumference of 64.8 metres. Its design features a five-tiered platform topped by a long, cylindrical brick structure. The pagoda is said to resemble the Dhamek Stupa



This photo showcases the Lemyethna Temple, a square structure featuring four arches and entrances in the ancient Pyu City of Sri Ksetra.

in Sarnath, India, a memorial site where the Buddha delivered the Anattalakkhana Sutta, also known as the Discourse on the Characteristic of Non-self.

Similarly, the Lemyethna Temple is the only cave pagoda found in the ancient city of Sri Ksetra. This small, square structure features four arches and entrances and is estimated to have been built during the late Pyu period, between the 7th and 9th centuries. The Lemyethna Temple is a significant monument that illustrates the development of cave pagodas in Pyu Buddhist architecture.

Three ancient Pyu cities in Myanmar — Beikthano, Halin, and Sri Ksetra — were designated as World Heritage Sites in June 2014. — ASH/TH

Palm oil reference prices drop to six-month low

PALM oil reference price was set for a six-month low at K6,110 per viss in a week ending 22 June as weak global palm oil prices are closely tied to domestic palm oil reference prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imports edible oil to meet the domestic growing demand. The imported CIF price (Cost, Insurance and Freight) for palm oil has been declining since January 2025. The wholesale reference price declined to K6,110 per viss in the week ending 22 June from K7,280 in the first week of January. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. The committee issues reference prices weekly every Monday through the website www.doca.gov.mm of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Facebook pages of the department and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. Despite the reference



Workers seen organizing jerrycans of cooking oil for distribution and sale.

price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing

companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demand. — NN/KK

Agriculture
Dept to lease
Myaungmya
Jute Mill

THE Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will put up Myaungmya Jute Mill for a long-term lease, according to a tender accepting and evaluating committee.

The Cotton and Jute Division of the Agriculture Department invited interested private entities to submit a tender under an open tendering procedure to lease 18.14 acres of Myaungmya Jute Mill by 30 June 2025 (1 pm). Tender form is available at the Procurement, Supply and Logistic Division of the Agriculture Department located at Office No 43 in Nay Pyi Taw between 16 and 27 June within office hours.

Interested entities can enquire details through the Procurement, Supply and Logistic Division (Ph: 0673410210, 0673410518), according to the committee. — NN/KK

CBM sells \$1M to importers on 18 June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over one million dollars out of the designated \$10 million injection, to commodity importing companies on 18 June 2025.

Furthermore, CBM also

sold US\$1.68 million from the companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis to edible oil importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 17 June that it would sell US\$33 million

to fuel oil importers. Furthermore, CBM injected over 376,400 yuan and 500,000 baht into the financial market on 17 June after sales of over \$913,000 from CMP companies to edible oil importing companies and over \$1.126 mil-

lion to importers of other goods.

CBM would sell US\$10 million to importers as well, according to its notification dated 16 June. CBM sold \$1.37 million from CMP companies to edible oil importing companies and over 1.05 million to importers of other goods on that day.

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

CBM sold \$1.3 million that were bought from CMP companies, to fuel oil importing companies on 12 June 2025.

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

CBM pumped over 400,000 yuan on 9 June, over \$501,000 on 6 June and 364,400 yuan on 5 June into the FX market.

CBM announced on 4 June that it would sell US\$30 million to

fuel oil importers. CBM pumped US\$422,000, 345,850 yuan and over 2.1 million baht on that day into the forex market.

CBM injected over 600,000 yuan and 2.6 million baht on 3 June, 579,900 yuan and 4.7 million baht on 2 June, over 610,000 yuan and 2.4 million baht on 30 May after sales of 4.3 million baht on 28 May into the financial market.

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

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



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

Strive to equip society with legal knowledge

LAWS and disciplines within a country are established to build a dignified nation and foster national development. For the benefit of the State and the public, every citizen must abide by these laws. However, following the law requires understanding it; knowledge of legal matters is essential to ensure compliance.

In Myanmar, many violations of laws arise not from deliberate wrongdoing but from ignorance. This highlights the urgent need for all relevant sectors to work together in educating citizens about the laws and regulations. Cultivating good habits and respect for the law from an early age is crucial, as it is often more effective to build good conduct early than to correct bad behaviour later.

Hence, during their education, students are nurtured to develop strong moral character and discipline alongside academic learning. Schools not only teach standard subjects but also systematically instil moral values, patriotism, and national pride. The goal is to raise knowledgeable, disciplined individuals who have a strong sense of character and civic responsibility.

Weak enforcement of laws has hindered national development efforts. For progress to occur, everyone must be aware of, understand, and follow the laws and disciplines issued by the State. Furthermore, individuals must diligently perform their duties within their respective sectors. It is also important to recognize that corruption plays a significant role in undermining the rule of law and causing violations.

The responsibility for laws and disciplines rests not only on citizens who must obey them but also on the authorities who enforce and oversee their implementation. Currently, the government aims to disseminate knowledge about disciplined democracy to the people, and all departmental officials are required to attend mandatory legal training courses. Likewise, basic education schools include legal instruction in their curriculum.

At the basic education level, students from Grade 12, generally aged 16 to 18, are taught fundamental legal principles. Since they become eligible voters at 18, this education prepares them to understand the legal framework of their country, not merely for exams, but to be informed citizens. Teachers who provide constitutional education also undergo training to deepen their legal knowledge and improve their teaching skills. In addition, universities offer courses in law and economics, helping students grasp democracy's core principles and economic perspectives.

Laws and disciplines are vital pillars supporting national development and enhancing the nation's prestige. It is encouraged that all sectors respect, comply with, and enforce these laws while fostering disciplined habits. Through such collective effort, Myanmar can build a better future grounded in respect for law and order.

Yoga in Myanmar: A Journey of Mind, Body and Spirit

Evolution of Yoga

YOGA'S history is deeply rooted in ancient India, with origins possibly dating back over 5,000 years to the Indus-Sarasvati civilization. The earliest written records appear in the Vedic texts, around 1500 BCE. Over time, Yoga evolved into a system of physical, mental and spiritual practices, passed down through generations. Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, around 200 BCE, provided a comprehensive framework, including the Eight Limbs of Yoga, which are still relevant today. The classical form of Yoga, as outlined by Patanjali in the Yoga Sutras, is known as Ashtanga Yoga, also referred to as Raja Yoga or the Eight-Limbed Path. It's a holistic system encompassing physical, mental and spiritual practices, aiming for self-realization.

These eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga are:

1. **Yama:** Ethical guidelines and restraints.
2. **Niyama:** Self-disciplinary practices.
3. **Asana:** Physical postures.
4. **Pranayama:** Breath control techniques.
5. **Pratyahara:** Withdrawal of senses from the external world.
6. **Dharana:** Concentration.
7. **Dhyana:** Meditation.
8. **Samadhi:** State of absorption or union with the divine.

In contemporary Bharat, several figures have significantly developed the understanding and practice of Yoga from ancient traditions, while also adapting them to modern contexts. Some prominent names include Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, B K S Iyengar, Sri Ravi Shankar and so on. Swami Vivekananda is widely regarded as a key architect of the revival of Yoga in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He brought the philosophy and practices of Yoga to the West, introducing it to a broader audience and emphasizing its practical aspects for spiritual growth and social reform. His speeches and writings, particularly his 1893 address at the World's Parliament of Religions, were remarkable. He also developed his own interpretations of Yoga, incorporating elements of Vedanta and other Hindu philosophies. He presented four distinct yet interconnected paths of Yogas, towards spiritual realization and self-discovery: Karma Yoga (the path of action), Bhakti Yoga (the path of devotion), Raja Yoga (the path of concentration and discipline) and Jnana Yoga (the path of knowledge). Each yoga has a unique approach to realizing the divine within, and Vivekananda believed that all four are equally valid paths to enlightenment.

Sri Aurobindo's "Integral Yoga" offered a comprehensive approach to spiritual evolution, encompassing physical, mental and spiritual development. He integrated Yoga with his larger philosophy of human evolution and the development of a higher consciousness.

With time, many thinkers, philosophers and teachers propagated and promoted Yoga across the Globe with their unique styles. Society values its importance in its day-to-day life.

Impact of Yoga on Well-being

Yoga has significantly evolved and become a prominent part of contemporary wellness practices, moving beyond its traditional roots to encompass diverse styles and applications, each offering unique benefits and approaches. Some of the most common types include Hatha Yoga, Vinyasa, Ashtanga Yoga, Mantra Yoga, Kriya Yoga and so on. These styles differ in their focus on physical postures, breathwork, meditation and energy flow. It's increasingly recognized for its benefits in stress reduction, promoting mental and physical health and fostering a sense of balance and well-being. Modern Yoga is also integrated into various settings, including schools, corporations and healthcare systems, reflecting its growing relevance in addressing the needs of the modern world.

Yoga is important because it offers numerous physical, mental and emotional benefits, improving overall well-being and promoting a healthier lifestyle. It's a practice that can help individuals manage stress, enhance flexibility and strength and even improve sleep quality.

The numerous benefits of Yoga offer a holistic development of an individual in the following way:

Physiological Benefits:

- **Improved Flexibility and Strength:** Yoga poses (asanas) target various muscle groups, enhancing flexibility and building strength.
- **Reduced Risk of Injury:** Increased flexibility and body awareness can help prevent injuries, especially in sports and other physical activities.
- **Better Posture and Balance:** Yoga can improve posture, balance and coordination, leading to physiological benefits like better body alignment and stability.
- **Improved Cardiovascular Health:** Regular Yoga practice can help lower blood pressure and heart rate, potentially reducing the risk of heart disease.
- **Pain Management:** Yoga can be effective in managing various types of chronic pain, such as back pain and arthritis.

Psychological and Emotional Gains:

- **Stress Reduction:** Yoga's emphasis on breathing and mindfulness can help calm the mind and reduce stress hormones.
- **Improved Sleep:** Yoga can help relax the body and mind, making it easier to fall asleep and stay asleep.
- **Enhanced Mental Clarity and Focus:** Yoga can improve concentration and attention, leading to better cognitive function.
- **Emotional Regulation:** Yoga can help individuals become more aware of their emotions and develop healthy coping mechanisms.
- **Increased Mindfulness and Self-Awareness:** Yoga fosters a sense of being present in the mo-

ment, which can lead to greater self-awareness and improved decision-making.

Path to Inner Awakening:

- **Connection to Self and Others:** Yoga encourages a deeper understanding of oneself and one's place in the world, promoting a sense of interconnectedness.
- **Cultivation of Inner Peace and Harmony:** Yoga can help individuals find inner peace and cultivate a sense of balance and harmony in their lives.

Therefore, Yoga is a valuable practice that can enhance physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Its benefits extend beyond physical exercise, offering a holistic approach to health and wellness. It helps an individual to grow and nurture from the Gross to the subtle.

Yoga and Myanmar: The Connection

Yoga has a deep connection with Myanmar's cultural landscape due to the shared historical ties with India, where Yoga originated. Myanmar, the land of meditation, emphasizes mindfulness, inner peace and self-discipline. Yoga is becoming increasingly popular in Myanmar, with a number of Yoga studios and centres opening in different cities like Yangon, Bago, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, Mandalay, Sittway, etc.

Myanmar is my fourth posting from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) & the Ministry of External Affairs to promote Yoga. The previous countries included- Hungary, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cambodia, and New Zealand. I have noticed that the people of Myanmar have a keen interest in knowing the Classical form of Yoga from the Yoga texts. Like any other country, they have a deep interest in staying healthy and active. More than 200 Yoga enthusiasts have joined my Yoga classes at the SVCC, Embassy of India in Yangon. The beautiful parks and gardens across Yangon, like Mahabandoola Park, People's Park, and Kandawgyi Lake, offer an interesting and fresh atmosphere for fitness enthusiasts to practise Yoga, Pilates, Zumba and other healthy activities in large groups. The serene atmosphere in pagodas like Sule Pagoda and Shwedagon Pagoda allows the local people of Myanmar to disconnect from the outside world and connect with the Self. These strong techniques help the local people to balance their thoughts and emotions to face the different problems and situations of life.

As Buddhism spread from India to Myanmar, it carried forward techniques of mindfulness and concentration that complement the science of Yoga. In essence, meditation serves as a profound path to cultivate mindfulness, inner awareness and overall well-being. Yoga evolved as a system for self-realization during the Vedic period, while meditation practices gained prominence with the rise of Buddhism. Both Yoga and meditation in Myanmar emphasize cultivating mindfulness and deep inner awareness. In Yoga, mindfulness is developed through postures, breath control, and meditation, fostering a connection between the body and mind. Similarly, meditation practices in Myanmar, such as Vipassana

(insight meditation), centre on observing the present moment with clarity and understanding the true nature of reality. Yoga in Myanmar is gaining popularity as Myanmar's predominantly Buddhist culture provides a unique context for Yoga practice, with opportunities to integrate Yoga with meditation and spiritual practice. The Embassy of India (SVCC) in Yangon has organized several International Yoga Day celebrations across the country, and many health enthusiasts actively participate in these initiatives. This year, we are celebrating the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 with the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", which highlights Yoga's role in promoting physical, mental and environmental well-being, aligning with global calls for sustainability and unity. The Embassy of India is planning different events to celebrate this year's International Day of Yoga.

Significance of Yoga for the people of Myanmar

Yoga is gaining significance in Myanmar as a tool for physical and mental well-being, offering benefits like stress reduction, improved flexibility and a deeper connection to the body and mind. It is a way to promote health, prevent disease and cultivate inner peace, aligning with Myanmar's Buddhist traditions and emphasis on mindfulness. The following are the key benefits which individuals are experiencing in different dimensions:

Physical Dimension:

Yoga practices can improve physical health by increasing flexibility, strength, and balance. They can also help with managing stress, which is a major factor in many lifestyle-related disorders.

Mental Dimension:

Yoga's emphasis on mindfulness and meditation can help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. It promotes a sense of calm and inner peace, which can be particularly beneficial in a society that values spiritual well-being.

Spiritual Dimension:

Yoga's roots, in ancient Indian traditions, including its focus on self-discipline and inner awareness, connect well with Myanmar's Buddhist culture and its emphasis on meditation and mindfulness. Yoga can deepen understanding of the nature of life and cultivate inner peace, which is valued in Myanmar's spiritual traditions.

Social and Cultural Significance:

Yoga is increasingly being recognized as a practice that can promote harmony and well-being in all aspects of life. It's also becoming a more accessible practice, with yoga studios and instructors becoming more common in Myanmar.

International Recognition:

The celebration of the International Day of Yoga in Myanmar highlights its growing significance and the global recognition of its benefits.

Yoga is therefore gaining popularity in Myanmar and is viewed as a way to promote physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It is often practised in conjunction with meditation, reflecting the influence of Buddhism in the country. Yoga studios and retreats are becoming more common, offering a variety of classes and workshops for different levels of practitioners.

My personal experience in Myanmar so far is a blend of ancient history, vibrant culture, and natural beauty, but the best part about Myanmar is its beautiful people. The love and warmth which I receive from my Yoga students is overwhelming.

Dr Ankita Sood
Yoga Instructor & Teacher of Indian Culture
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
Embassy of India, Yangon

Intermittent fasting matches traditional diets in weight loss benefits, study finds

Researchers caution that longer-term studies are needed to confirm the effects of intermittent fasting.



The studies included in the review lasted from three to 52 weeks and covered various styles of intermittent fasting. **PHOTO: ANI**

A COMPREHENSIVE review published in The BMJ suggests that intermittent fasting may be as effective as traditional calorie-restricted diets for weight loss. The study indicates that certain fasting methods, particularly alternate-day fasting, might offer slightly greater benefits, although researchers emphasize the need for longer-term studies to confirm these findings.

The review comes at a time of increasing global concern about obesity, with the World Health Organization estimating that approximately 2.5 billion adults were overweight and nearly 900 million classified as obese as of 2022. Obesity is linked to a higher risk of chronic illnesses, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure.

Intermittent fasting, which involves cycles of fasting and eating, has gained popularity as an alternative to traditional calorie-counting diets.

To evaluate its effectiveness, researchers reviewed data from 99 randomized clinical trials involving over 6,500 adults, most of whom had pre-existing health conditions and an average BMI of 31. The studies varied in duration from three to 52 weeks and included different styles of intermittent fasting, such as time-restricted eating (e.g., the 16:8 method), alternate-day fasting (24-hour fast every other day), and whole-day fasting (e.g., the 5:2 diet).

The findings revealed that all forms of intermittent fasting and continuous calorie restriction resulted in modest weight reductions compared to diets without calorie control. Among the fasting types, alternate-day fasting showed the most significant advantage, leading to an average additional weight loss of 1.29 kilograms compared to continuous calorie restriction. It also outperformed time-restricted eating and whole-day fasting by 1.69 kilograms and 1.05 kilograms, respectively.

Source: ANI

NATIONAL

Pineapple sales rise

THE purchase of pineapples has increased during their season, according to sellers and consumers.

Due to the plenty of supply, the price is cheap, and pineapple is a favourable fruit for consumers, said a seller.

“Pineapple is abundantly available in the monsoon, and both old people and young people

enjoy it. People eat it as a snack and also cook it. It is the season when the supply is abundant and the price is also cheap,” said a seller.

Some buy them to resell as juice.

“Pineapple is rich in Vitamin C and other health benefits. So, we eat it often,” said a woman.

— MT/ZS



This photo reveals that pineapples are arranged for sale.

Myanmar hosts BIMSTEC workshop on boosting agricultural trade and investment



The BIMSTEC's Workshop on Sharing National Export Strategies to Enhance Agricultural Trade and Investment in progress online, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

THE Regional Workshop on Sharing National Export Strategies to Enhance Agricultural Trade and Investment in BIMSTEC was organized virtually on 18 June, and Director-General Dr Thandar Kyi of the Planning Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation served as chairperson.

The workshop was also attended by experts of the International Food Security Research Institute, the Myanmar Rice Federation Chair, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, BIMSTEC member states and other relevant officials.

Myanmar hosted the workshop as per the Plan of Action on Strengthening BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation 2023-2027.

The workshop focused on the role of national export strategies in the promotion of agricultural sectors, the social status of farmers in BIMSTEC, challenges and opportunities in facilitating the trade of agricultural products and the exploration of obstacles in trading, promising chances and challenges and investment in agricultural trade of BIMSTEC regions.

Moreover, the workshop exchanged the national export strategies to promote agricultural trade and investment in the BIMSTEC regions. — MNA/KTZH

Dala Bridge Project to finish by December's end



This photo showcases the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge (Dala) from the Yangon side.

THE Yangon-Dala Bridge, which allows safe passage of large international commercial ships and coastal and inland waterway vessels, is under implementation to be completed by the end of December.

The workshop for the Korea-Myanmar Friendship (Dala) Bridge was held at Thiri Anawa Hall of the Myanmar Port Authority on 17 June and was attended by U Win Khant, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and officials.

The workshop discussed and coordinated the development of standard procedures and work guidelines to ensure the safe passage of large ships, and coastal and inland vessels through the Yangon River.


Submitting these standard procedures, guidelines, and regulations to relevant ministries and organizations, obtaining approval, and widely disseminating and discussing them with all stakeholders, educating them, strictly implementing them, supervising and taking necessary actions, will enable the safe passage of large ships and vessels through the bridge day and night.

Despite its scheduled initialization in April 2017, the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge construction project began in May 2019. It is a steel cable-stayed bridge with a total length of 1,872.5 metres (6,144 feet), a main bridge length of 590 metres (1,936 feet), and a width of 26.5 metres (87 feet) with four lanes. — Htun Htun/ZN

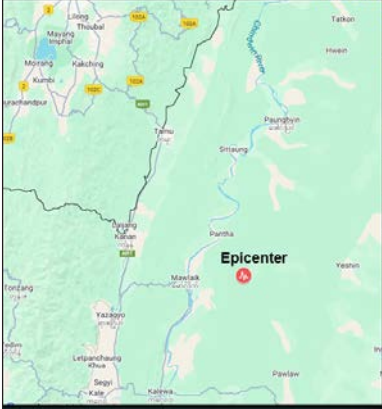
EARTHQUAKE

Issued at 6:35 pm MST on 19 June 2025

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.1 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 15 miles east-northeast of Mawlaik), latitude 23.67 °N, longitude 94.65 °E, depth 10 kilometres, about 44 miles southeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at 18 hours 20 minutes 05 second MST on 19 June 2025. — DMH



Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Seismological Division
Nay Pyi Taw
Tel 067-3411269 Fax 067-3411253



Earthquake Information

Date	19.6.2025
Time (MST)	18:20:05
Magnitude	3.1 (Slight)
Latitude	23.67 N
Longitude	94.65 E
Depth	10 km
Region	About 15 miles E-NE of Mawlaik.

For More detail Information
<https://www.moezala.gov.mm/>

fppt.com

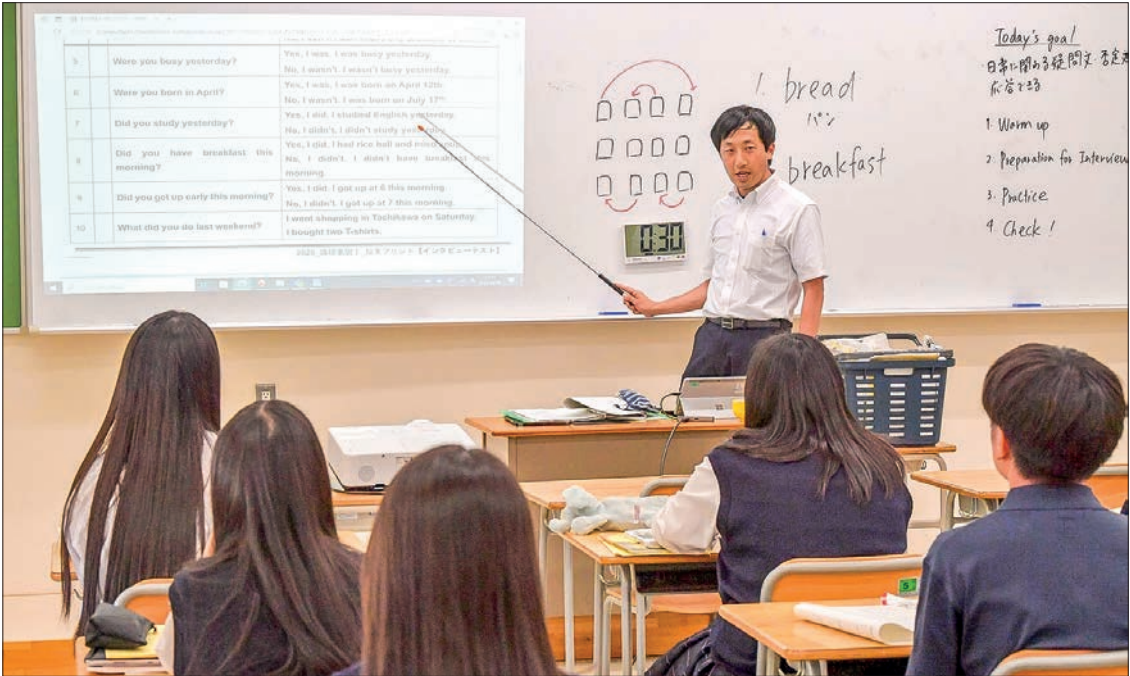
The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Japan’s free high school policy may provoke exodus from public schools

The policy aims to alleviate financial burdens on families amid rising inflation.

JAPAN’S recent decision to make high school tuition virtually free, including for private institutions, has raised concerns among educators and policy experts about potential negative impacts on public schools and increased inequalities. While the policy aims to alleviate financial burdens amid rising inflation, critics argue it could lead to an exodus from public schools, which have

historically served as safety nets for diverse student populations. The initiative, part of a political deal, lacks accompanying support for struggling public schools, many of which are already facing declining enrollment and budget constraints. Teachers like Shunsuke Nakamura at public schools are adapting to challenges, focusing on individualized care and education, but



Shunsuke Nakamura teaches English at Tokyo Metropolitan Itsukaichi High School in the suburbs of Tokyo on 5 June. **PHOTO: KYODO**

they face increased workloads without additional resources. The policy, effective from 2024 in Tokyo, has already contributed to a drop in applicants at

public institutions, despite their unique offerings and diverse student bodies. Analysts emphasize that the focus on financial relief has over-

shadowed discussions about the broader implications for the education system, particularly the essential role of public schools. — Kyodo

Uma Thurman returns to action in ‘The Old Guard 2’

UMA Thurman has opened up about her decision to step away from action films after the success of the ‘Kill Bill’ franchise. The actress is making a long-awaited return to the genre alongside Charlize Theron in ‘The Old Guard 2’.

During an appearance on ‘The Tonight Show’ starring Jimmy Fallon, Thurman explained that she took a break from action movies to preserve her legacy as an action star. “I never really followed Kill Bill up with action because I

didn’t kind of want to be in a whole bunch of ‘B’ action movies,” she said, as quoted by People magazine. Thurman saw ‘The Old Guard 2’ as an opportunity to “put my toe into action again”. — ANI

Rape trial of France’s feminist icon Pelicot retold on Vienna stage



Preparing for the performance was ‘very difficult’ said actor Safira Robens. **PHOTO: AFP**

A staged reading titled “The Pelicot Trial” will premiere in Vienna, retelling the harrowing story of Gisele Pelicot, a French feminist icon who survived nearly a decade of rapes by numerous men. Directed by Milo Rau, the performance draws from the public trial held in Avignon, which Pelicot insisted on to ensure transparency and generate international discourse. The production aims to extend Pelicot’s actions by presenting court statements alongside

external voices, including experts and feminists, to explore the broader societal issues highlighted by the case, such as marital rape and the porn industry. The performance, lasting up to seven hours, will take place in a church, allowing spectators to come and go freely. It seeks to evoke a collective trauma and provoke reflection on the systemic failures of the French justice system, which struggled to address the cases of over 50 defendants. — AFP

Labubu craze grips Finland

LABUBU, a toothy, fluffy figurine created by Chinese brand Pop Mart, is experiencing a

wave of popularity in Finland, with long queues outside stores and a growing online fanbase.



Labubu, a toothy, fluffy figurine created by Chinese brand Pop Mart, is experiencing a wave of popularity in Finland, with long queues outside stores and a growing online fanbase. **PHOTO: CHEONG KAM KA/XINHUA**

At the Forum shopping center in downtown Helsinki, dozens of Finnish customers lined up early last weekend to purchase one of just 12 available Labubu plush toys. The first shopper reportedly arrived as early as 7 am. Finnish collectors cite a blend of fashion appeal, scarcity, and emotional comfort as key drivers of Labubu’s popularity. “Sometimes it’s just about having something small and joyful, especially in these tough times,” said one local buyer. Another compared Labubu to Norse trolls, highlighting an unexpected connection between East Asian design and Nordic folklore. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

India’s trade shows resilience amid global uncertainty

India is poised to regain a strong export growth trajectory.



Although merchandise exports experienced a slight decline to US\$38.73 billion, the robust performance in services helped bolster overall export figures. PHOTO: PEXELS

INDIA’S trade performance in May 2025 has shown strength and stability, despite uncertain global conditions, according to views shared by industry experts and economists.

FIEO President S C Ralhan highlighted that India’s total exports, including goods and services, increased by 2.8 per cent to US\$71.12 billion in May 2025, up from US\$69.20 billion in May 2024.

The growth was mainly driven by services such as software, consultancy, and financial services. Even though merchandise exports dipped slightly to US\$38.73 billion, the continued service momentum helped support overall performance.

“Exporters are adapting well to a tough global environment,” said Ralhan. “The ability

to sustain export growth despite logistical disruptions, especially in the Middle East, is a testament to the sector’s agility and policy support.”

On the import front, merchandise imports eased to US\$ 60.61 billion, while overall imports (goods and services) stood at US\$77.75 billion, down from US\$78.55 billion in May 2024.

He added, “With appropriate policy interventions and global conditions expected to stabilize in the second half of 2025, India is well-positioned to regain a strong export growth trajectory”.

Pankaj Chadha, Chairman of EEPC India, stated that the engineering exports sector has managed to stay steady despite continued international challenges. — ANI

Nippon Steel confident management freedom ensured in US Steel deal



Eiji Hashimoto, Nippon Steel CEO, called the agreement ‘fully satisfactory’. PHOTO: AFP

NIPPON Steel Corp’s top executive Eiji Hashimoto said Thursday that the US government’s role set under its \$14.1 billion buyout of United States Steel Corp “will not hamper” the US unit’s business going forward.

At a press conference in Tokyo, Hashimoto said \$11 billion of investment in US Steel operations — 10 times more than the initial plan —

and a golden share issued to the US government that allows it to veto key management decisions among other conditions are rational, even as analysts view them as downside risks to US Steel’s management.

“There would be no revival of US Steel in the first place if our activities were restricted,” Hashimoto said, a day after the deal was fi-

nalized following a year and a half of struggle that saw US President Donald Trump and his predecessor Joe Biden block it.

Under a national security agreement signed with the US government, a US president or a designated official will have the right to approve management decisions, including the closure or idling of US Steel’s existing manufacturing facilities.

“It’s quite an efficient deal given that we are buying a production capacity of 23 million tonnes for two trillion yen,” he said, regarding the purchase price. “Profitability is ensured and (the deal) is satisfactory for both Nippon Steel and US Steel.”

Nippon Steel remains the world’s fourth-largest steel-maker through the acquisition of US Steel, with their combined production volume in 2024 at 57.82 million tonnes, behind China Baowu Steel Group Corp, Arcelor Mittal SA and Ansteel Group Corp — Kyodo

Shortages hit Nigeria’s drive towards natural gas-fuelled cars

MOTORISTS in Nigerian cities are facing significant challenges as they queue for hours or even days to refuel their vehicles with compressed natural gas (CNG), following government promotion of CNG as an alternative fuel.

Many drivers, like Murtala Ishola, express regret over converting their engines from petrol or diesel due to the lengthy wait times. This situation has worsened since the abolition of fuel subsidies in May 2023, which led to a five-fold increase in fuel

prices. The government initiated the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI) to encourage CNG adoption, aiming to convert one million commercial vehicles by 2026.

However, logistical issues, such as inadequate delivery trucks and poor road conditions, have contributed to the CNG shortages. With only about 100,000 cars converted and over \$200 million invested, the initiative faces criticism as motorists struggle with limited fuelling stations. — AFP



Motorists have faced queues for petrol whose price has shot up after the scrapping of subsidies. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



The MC-21 can be configured for up to 211 passengers and has a range of 5,100 kilometres.
PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Russian airlines ready to sign contracts for 200 MC-21 aircraft

RUSSIAN airlines are already ready to sign contracts for 200 MS-21 aircraft, the certification process for the aircraft is already underway, Russian Transport Minister Roman Starovoit said.

“Our airlines are ready to sign contracts for 200 MC-21 aircraft ... certification work is already underway,” Starovoit told the Izvestia newspaper on the sidelines of the 2025 St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The Russian city of St Petersburg will host the 28th edition of SPIEF from 18-21 June under the theme of “Shared Values: The Foundation of Growth in a Multipolar World”. Rossiya Segodnya international media group, Sputnik’s parent company, is the forum’s information partner. — SPUTNIK

US Supreme Court greenlights nuclear waste licence in Texas

THE US Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that Texas can not challenge a federal approval of a privately-owned temporary nuclear waste storage site, as the state is not a party to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)’s licensing proceeding.

The decision reversed a ruling by the federal appeals court in New Orleans that invalidated the licence the NRC had granted for the facility in southwest Texas for 40 years, plus a possible 40-year renewal.

As a result, a planned similar facility in New Mexico would be restarted, according to local media reports.

The opinion, authored by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, said that Texas, as well as the Texas-based oil and gas extraction company Fasken Land and Minerals, did not have the right to sue over the licence.

“Under the Hobbs Act, only an aggrieved ‘party’ may obtain judicial review of a Commission licensing decision,” Kavanaugh wrote. — Xinhua

Foreign visitors to Japan hit 3.7 mln in May, new record for month

THE number of foreign visitors to Japan in May rose 21.5 per cent from a year earlier to 3.7 million, a record for the month, government estimates showed Wednesday, as travel demand remained strong even after cherry blossom season.

By country and region, South Korea topped the list with 825,800 visitors, up 11.8 per cent, followed by China with 789,900, a 44.8 per cent increase, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

The two countries and 19 other markets also set new visitor records for May, it said. — Kyodo



The number of foreign visitors to Japan in May rose 21.5 per cent from a year earlier to 3.7 million, a record for the month, government estimates showed Wednesday. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (229W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (229W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (900N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (900N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 16 VOY.NO. (02)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 16 VOY. NO. (02)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISITCS CO LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Thailand’s major party
announces exit from
coalition government

The decision follows backlash over a leaked phone call between Paetongtarn and Cambodia’s Senate President amid rising border tensions.



The party criticized Prime Minister Paetongtarn for damaging the country’s dignity and respect for its people and armed forces. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

THAILAND’S Bhumjaithai Party, the second-largest partner in the ruling coalition, announced its withdrawal from the government led by Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on Wednesday.

The decision follows widespread backlash over a leaked phone call between Paetongtarn and Cambodia’s Senate President Samdech Techo Hun Sen amid escalating border tensions between the two Southeast Asian nations.

In a statement, the Bhumjaithai Party said its executive board convened and unanimously agreed to exit the government. All of the party’s ministers have tendered their resignations to the prime minister, effective from Thursday.

“Bhumjaithai has called on Prime Minister Paetongtarn to take responsibility for making the country lose its dignity, honour, and respect for the people and the armed forces,” the party said.

The party stands ready to cooperate with the Thai people, support the army, and assist all officials safeguarding Thailand’s sovereignty, territory, and national interests by every possible means, the statement said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air India says plane ‘well-maintained’ before crash

AIR India’s Boeing plane was “well-maintained” before it crashed a week ago, killing all but one of 242 people on board, the airline said Thursday.

Indian authorities are yet to detail what caused the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner to hurtle to the ground in the western city of Ahmedabad, where at least 38 people were also left dead.

As investigators attempt to retrieve data from the plane’s black boxes – the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder -- the airline said that no problems were detected with the jet before the disaster. “The plane was well-maintained, with its last major check in June 2023,” Air India said in a statement.

“Its right engine was overhauled in March 2025, and the left engine was inspected in April 2025. Both the aircraft and engines were regularly monitored, showing no issues before the flight,” the airline said. — AFP

Mediterranean rescuers say saved 175,000 people since 2015

MARITIME rescue organizations said Wednesday they had pulled more than 175,000 people from the Mediterranean over the past 10 years, as waves of migrants sought to use the dangerous sea route to reach Europe.

The group of 21 NGOs active in the region estimated that at least 28,932 people had died while trying to cross the sea since 2015.

The majority had died in the central Mediterranean – waters between between Libya, Tunisia, Italy and Malta – Mirka Schaefer of German NGO SOS Humanity told a Berlin press conference.

In that area, the equivalent of five adults and one child lost their lives every day over the past decade, she said.

The number of unrecorded cases was likely to be “significantly higher”, she added.

Of the 21 organizations currently engaged in maritime rescue in the region, 10 of them are based in Germany. Between them the groups operate 15 boats, four sail ships and four planes. — Xinhua

Türkiye boosts border security
amid Iran-Israel conflict

TÜRKIYE has increased security measures along its borders amid rising tensions in the region following recent hostilities between Iran and Israel, Defence Minister Yasar Guler said on Wednesday. “Security measures at our borders have



Iranians are seen at the Gurbulak border crossing in Agri, Türkiye, on 18 June 2025. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

been increased due to recent incidents in neighbouring Iran,” Guler said during a visit to the eastern border province of Van.

Speaking in a video teleconference with commanders from the Third Army Command, Guler said Türkiye would maintain a heightened state of border security in light of ongoing developments.

The latest round of hostilities began with Israeli airstrikes on Iran on 13 June. According to official figures, nearly 600 people have been killed in Iran and 24 in Israel since the escalation began. — Xinhua

Russia, Ukraine ready
to meet for peace talks
after 22 June

RUSSIAN and Ukrainian negotiators are prepared to resume direct talks after 22 June, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday during a meeting with the leaders of major global news agencies in St Petersburg.

Putin reaffirmed Russia’s openness to dialogue, including a possible meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. However, he raised concerns over the legitimacy of Zelensky’s authority. “I am ready to meet with anyone, including Zelensky,” Putin said. “That is not the issue. If Ukraine entrusts him to nego-

tiate, let it be Zelensky.

The real question is: who will sign any resulting documents? We are not dealing with propaganda here; when it comes to serious matters, what matters is not political messaging but legal legitimacy.”

Putin also said that if no peaceful resolution is reached, Russia will pursue its objectives in Ukraine by military means.

“Undoubtedly, if we fail to reach an agreement through peaceful negotiations, we will achieve our goals by military means,” he said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Gattuso convinced Italy can reach World Cup

GENNARO Gattuso said Thursday he is convinced Italy can qualify for the World Cup as he begins his reign as Azzurri coach following the dismissal of Luciano Spalletti.

Italy are at risk of missing out on a third consecutive World Cup after a troubled start to their qualifying campaign which has left them nine points behind Group I leaders Norway and cost Spalletti his job.

Asked whether he had more hope or conviction that Italy could reach next year's finals in the USA, Canada and Mexico, Gattuso said: "conviction".

"I believe that we have good players available to us. We have four or five who are among the top 10 in the world in their position," added Gattuso.

"We have a good team, but I do mean team, I'm not thinking about individuals. I'm convinced that the team has quality and I'm convinced that we can achieve our goal."

Gattuso has a tough job on his hands with only top spot in the group giving automatic qualification to the World Cup, even with Italy having played two fewer games than Norway.

— AFP



Gennaro Gattuso (C) has been tasked with guiding Italy to the 2026 World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

Chengdu 2025 World Games medal design unveiled

THE design of the medals for the 12th World Games, which will be held in Chengdu in August, was unveiled here on Wednesday.

The medal is named "Zhu-guang", which literally translates to "bamboo light", and also sounds like "chasing the light" in Chinese.

Inspired by local culture and rooted in a philosophy of sharing, the medal design features elements including the Golden Sun Bird motif and the iconic panda, symbols closely associated with Chengdu.

The medal also includes a detachable pin at its centre, which athletes can gift to someone significant, carrying the spirit of gratitude and connection.

The front of the medal is

centred on the emblem of the International World Games Association, surrounded by the event's name in both Chinese and English. Engraved with the flowing contour lines of Chengdu's cityscape and the ancient Golden Sun Bird pattern, the design evokes layers of light, symbolizing Chinese civilization and the enduring flame of sporting spirit. On the reverse side, the Games' official logo is set against a background inspired by bamboo, a symbol of resilience and integrity in Chinese culture. Its segmental bamboo design, combined with the image of "Shubao", the panda mascot, aims to express the Games' core values of peace and friendship through sport. — Xinhua

IOC reviews achievements of Thomas Bach's presidency

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday released the latest edition of the Olympic Review, highlighting the achievements of the Olympic Agenda reforms under the leadership of President Thomas Bach.

Bach is set to hand over the presidency to Kirsty Coventry on 23 June and Issue 124 of the Olympic Review also marks Coventry's election as the IOC's 10th president.

In the Review, Bach reflects on the journey that began with Olympic Agenda 2020 and continued through Olympic Agenda 2020+5. "This edition offers a moment to look back on all that we have achieved together," he writes. "From thoughtful reflections to personal tributes, this issue captures the essence of our collective efforts: staying true to our values, putting athletes first and opening our doors ever wider to the world."

Featured articles include a retrospective on Olympic Agenda, stories on sport and health partnerships, athlete-centred reforms, the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, safeguarding in sport, and testimonials. — Xinhua



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday released the latest edition of the Olympic Review. PHOTO: OLYMPICS

Real Madrid held as Man City, Juve triumph in Club World Cup openers

REAL Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw by Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal at the Club World Cup in new coach Xabi Alonso's first game in charge on Wednesday, after Manchester City got off to a winning start.

In the late game Juventus thrashed Al Ain 5-0 in Washington after visiting US President Donald Trump at the White House.

Federico Valverde had a stoppage-time

penalty saved as Real were forced to settle for a point in the Group H match in Miami having taken the lead.

It was a disappointing outcome for the large contingent of fans of the Spanish side in the crowd of 62,415 at Hard Rock Stadium.

"The first half wasn't as good as the second one. In the second half we had better chances, better control. For sure we have the princi-

ples to start building something, but we could have won," Alonso told broadcaster DAZN.

The former Bayer Leverkusen coach gave debuts to new signings Trent Alexander-Arnold and Dean Huijsen in defence but Real were missing Kylian Mbappe through illness. Gonzalo Garcia started in his place and the 21-year-old seized his chance as he opened the scoring just after the half-hour mark from a Rodrygo assist.

— AFP



Jude Bellingham's Real Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw by Al-Hilal in Miami. PHOTO: AFP



WORLD

REVOLUTIONIZING
ELECTRIC MOBILITY

Russia to test
homegrown
electric vehicle
'Atom' on ice
in Arctic

RUSSIAN state atomic energy corporation Rosatom will send the homegrown electric car Atom on a polar expedition later this month to test its capabilities in Arctic conditions, Alexander Bukhvalov, the chief for Electromobility in Rosatom's TVEL nuclear fuel company, told Sputnik on Wednesday.

"Harsh climatic conditions have long been considered critical for electric vehicles. But today we are confidently entering the Arctic to show that there are no more such restrictions," Bukhvalov said during the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

Russian technologies in electric vehicles go beyond urban conditions and demonstrate readiness to operate in any climatic zone, the official said. This proves to the consumer that the vehicle, being capable of working even in harsh conditions, will definitely cope with everyday tasks, he added.

The nuclear icebreaker 50 Let Pobedy with Atom on board is scheduled to leave the port of Murmansk in late June, Bukhvalov said.

He also said that the development of the Arctic region remains a challenge for generations of Russian people, as well as the lifting of Russia's technological industry to a new level.

— SPUTNIK

Xi says ceasefire an urgent priority
in settling conflict in Middle East

Xi's statements reflect China's commitment to playing a proactive role in international diplomacy and conflict resolution in the region.



Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 16 May 2024. Xi held talks with Putin, who is in China on a state visit, in Beijing. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/ FILE

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Thursday that ceasefire is an urgent priority in settling the conflict in the Middle East, and the use of force is not the right way to resolve international disputes.

During phone talks with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, over the situation in the Middle East, he urged the conflicting parties, especially Israel,

to cease fire as soon as possible.

The Chinese president said that protecting civilians' safety is the top priority amid the Iran-Israel tensions, calling on the conflicting parties to strictly follow international law, and resolutely avoid harming innocent civilians.

Dialogue and negotiation are the fundamental way out, he said, calling on the international community, par-

ticularly major countries that have a special influence on the parties to the conflict, to make efforts to cool down the situation.

China stands ready to continue to strengthen communication and coordination with all parties, pool their efforts, and uphold justice, so as to play a constructive role in restoring peace in the Middle East, he said. — Xinhua

Vietnamese PM calls for stronger
efforts to boost trade

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has directed relevant ministries and local authorities to intensify efforts to promote both domestic and international trade, Vietnam News Agency reported on Thursday.

The directive aims to bolster exports, increase the market share of Vietnamese goods in traditional markets and in countries that have signed free trade

agreements or comprehensive economic partnerships with Vietnam.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been tasked to facilitate the negotiation and signing of market access agreements for Vietnamese products, while also working to broaden Vietnam's bilateral and multilateral trade commitments.

The Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs and the Ministry of Industry and Trade have been assigned to assess the feasibility of establishing new trade promotion offices in key markets.

The initiative is intended to expand Vietnam's overseas trade promotion network and strengthen support for Vietnamese enterprises operating abroad, the prime minister said.

— Xinhua



Employees make clothes for export at a textile and garment company in My Hao district, Hung Yen province, Vietnam, 29 March 2022. PHOTO: VNA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA