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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing puts some donations into the mouth of a decorated dragon puppet at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of the Establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar firmly upholds One-China policy

One-China policy strengthens bilateral relations between Myanmar and China, contributing to regional peace and stability.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed gratitude to China for its stance of support regarding Myanmar's issues on the international landscape.

A ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of the Establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations took place at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the ceremony, the Senior General said an opening address. He said: In the history of modern bilateral relations, Myanmar was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China when it was founded in 1949. Subsequently, the two countries established diplomatic relations on 8 June 1950, marking the beginning of what is now considered a diamond jubilee era.

Since the establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in 1950, successive visits and exchanges of goodwill delegations between the leaders of both countries have steadily strengthened and deepened the relationship over time.

Based on the historical ties between Myanmar and China, the successful signing of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in 1954 has become a model in the history of modern international relations. Since the Bandung Conference in 1955 up to the present day, it is encouraging and commendable to see that many developing countries worldwide have practised these Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

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Consumer Protection Commission to open more information and complaint acceptance centres

NATIONAL

Irrigation water essential for agricultural operations and productivity

SINCE access to irrigation water is essential for agricultural operations and increasing double-cropping productivity, four sources of water—rainwater, reservoir water, river and creek water, and underground water – must be utilized in combination based on the local context.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the financial commission meeting on 27 November 2024)

Despite rain, visitors still come to Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung beaches

Some visitors to Chaungtha beach in May.

LOCALS said that beach destinations such as Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung are still receiving a moderate number of visitors during the early rainy season.

Although there are not as many tourists as during the open season, a reasonable number is still coming to relax, said a travel service provider.

"The beaches are not as crowded as the summer, but tourists are still visiting. The rain is not too heavy, so it is still moderate. Some people just want to relax and enjoy seafood, so they avoid busy time and prefer this season. It is not that there is no tourist at all, they are still coming during the early monsoon period," said a Ngwehsaung resident.

With tourists still visiting Chaungtha, some beach hotels are offering room rates as a pre-monsoon promotion. During the rainy season, domestic travellers usually visit destinations such as Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches, Hpa-an, PyinOoLwin, Kalaw and Bagan-NyaungU. — MT/ZN

Some visitors to Ngwehsaung beach in May.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 8 June 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to Vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 9 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Kachin, Kayah, Rakhine and northern Shan states, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, 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 these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 -35 miles per hour. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and six to eight feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon and (southern and eastern) Shan states.

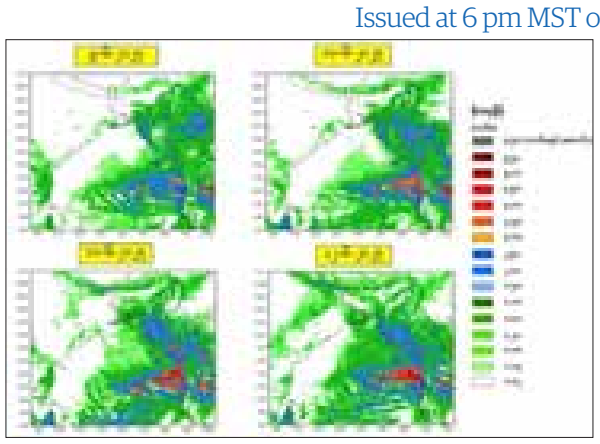
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

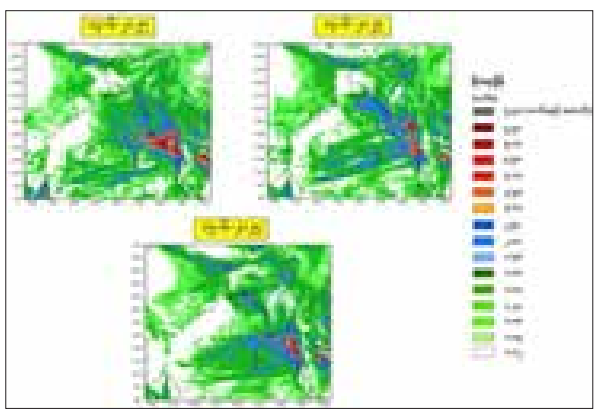
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 June 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Special Weather News

Issued at 6 pm MST on 8 June 2025





ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and due to the easterly 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 today evening to 15 June 2025.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — 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)

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar firmly upholds One-China policy

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar firmly upholds the One-China policy in its international relations. Furthermore, Myanmar fully supported the People's Republic of China in becoming a member of the United Nations in 1971. Going forward, Myanmar reaffirmed its commitment to continue adhering to the One-China policy in order to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and contribute to regional peace and stability.

At present, Myanmar wishes to express its welcome and support for the global principles advocated by President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China — namely, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative — as they are seen as contributing to a more peaceful, stable, and sustainably developed future world.

The relations between the two countries were elevated to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" in 2011 through mutual exchanges between the peoples and close cooperation across various sectors.

One of the most remarkable developments in the history of bilateral relations between the two countries is the historic visit of President Mr Xi Jinping to Myanmar in 2020. During this visit, both sides agreed to jointly build a Myanmar-China community with a shared future. At present, this agreement has already begun to yield solid and progressive outcomes for the benefit of both countries and their peoples.

The Senior General reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to working hand in hand with China to implement and advance the common goals of the two countries during this historic moment of opportunity.

The Senior General recounted that during his attendance at the ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War Victory held in May 2025 in Moscow, Russia, he had the opportunity to meet and hold discussions with President Xi Jinping of China. During the meeting, they exchanged views openly and cordially on strengthening bilateral relations based on genuine partnership, mutual trust, and close friendship rooted in kinship. They discussed enhancing cooperation in various sectors, accelerating efforts to build a peaceful and shared community, and collaborating on regional peace and stability issues.

Furthermore, during attendance at the 8th Greater Mekong Subregion Summit held in Kunming, China, in November 2024, he had a cordial and in-depth discussion with Chinese Premier Mr Li Qiang, which resulted in positive outcomes.

He urged all to continue cooperating in order to effectively implement strategic projects and joint undertakings along the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. He conveyed his appreciation for China's longstanding positive engagement and generous support toward Myanmar, provided in a spirit of goodwill. Furthermore, he expressed gratitude to China for its stance of support regarding Myanmar's issues on the international landscape.

He also expressed gratitude to China for supporting and assisting the efforts of the Myanmar government in the peace process, national reconciliation, and development initiatives.

He expressed the gratitude of the people of Myanmar to the Chinese government and the search and rescue teams dispatched to Myanmar for their assistance during the critical Golden Hour.

China has provided emergency humanitarian assistance worth 1.1 billion yuan to support reconstruction efforts for rehabilitation of the earthquake-affected areas. This timely support from China, which was the first international aid received during the most difficult time, has had a significant impact and served as a source of strength for the Myanmar government and people.

At the 75th anniversary (Golden Jubilee) commemorative ceremony of the establishment of the Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, Myanmar reaffirmed its strong determination to deepen the kinship, friendship, and mutual understanding between Myanmar and China, and to accelerate the building of a close and warm community through strategic cooperation.

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar extended greetings. They all enjoyed cultural dances and songs of Myanmar and China and a documentary on history of Myanmar-China relations and cooperation.

The Senior General and attendees viewed round documentary photos on bilateral relations between Myanmar and China.

Also present at the ceremony were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, ambassadors from foreign missions, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, chairs and members from Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Myanmar-China Friendship Association, diplomats from Chinese embassy to Myanmar and the consulate-general, and guests. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Dinner marks 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Myanmar-China Diplomatic Relations

THE dinner reception to commemorate the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Myanmar-China Diplomatic Relations was held at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on the evening of 8 June 2025.

On the occasion, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, delivered the opening remarks at the reception commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and China. In his address, the Deputy Prime Minister extended warmest congratulations on the 75 years of enduring diplomatic ties between Myanmar and China, emphasized that the two countries stand as good neighbourly friendship based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual respect.

He also highlighted the significance milestones of bilateral ties— the highest level of elevation being the Strategic Cooperative Partnership and the affirmation of community of shared future vision, and also reaffirmed to fulfill the visions, commitments, and the fruitful outcomes of the meetings between Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang of the People's Republic of China. Furthermore, he conveyed sincere gratitude to the Government of China for its timely dispatch of emergency rescue teams and humanitarian assistance for the swift response in the aftermath of the Mandalay earthquake, as well as for China's continued positive support for Myanmar peace and national reconciliation process.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Than Swe hands over the Commemorative Medals of Appreciation from Myanmar Government for humanitarian assistance and sending emergency rescue teams to Myanmar to Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia at the dinner reception to commemorate the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Myanmar-China Diplomatic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, the Deputy Prime Minister handed over the Commemorative Medals of Appreciation from Myanmar Government to the Ambassador of China as a sincere appreciation for the invaluable humanitarian assistance and for sending emergency search and rescue teams to Myanmar within hours after devastating earthquake.

Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, also delivered a return remark by reflecting on the existing friendly ties and commitment to continue multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Chinese Ambassador later cut the commemorative Diamond Jubilee Cake.

Subsequently, the attending guests were graciously hosted at a formal dinner reception. During the event, cultural dance troupes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Myanmar-China Friendship Association presented a series of traditional performances, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of both nations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Than Swe, along with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, presented an honorary flower bouquet and honorarium to the cultural troupe members.

The reception was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Ministers, Union-level dignitaries, deputy ministers, Ambassadors/ Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Yangon, members of the diplomatic corps, officials from the concerned ministries and invitees. — MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects Gyobyu Dam, development undertakings in Taikkyi Township

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein inspected the condition of the Gyobyu Dam and local development progress in Taikkyi Township on the morning of 7 June.

He inspected the strength of the Gyobyu Dam, water storage level and distribution conditions. They also checked the condition of the Thanat Creek damming reservoir near the livestock breeding zone in Taikkyi Township, assessing its storage level, water release through spillways and structural strength. During the visit, the Chief Minister issued instructions for necessary measures.

Afterwards, he visited U Kae's livestock farm, where 50 local cattle, 262 goats, and 40 dairy cows were being raised. He also visited the National Wood livestock farm, where 250 head of cattle are raised. The Chief Minister listened to presentations by the farm operators and coordinated with departmental officials to provide the necessary support. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/ KZL

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein inspects the water distribution of the Gyobyu Dam in Taikkyi on 7 June. **PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)**

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NATIONAL

Union Industry Minister inspects domestic cement factories, No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet)

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited the Shan Yoma Cement Factory yesterday morning to inspect its cement production and testing processes, after which he instructed factory officials to ensure full operational capacity, stockpile necessary spare parts and inputs, and plan electricity production in line with the plant's schedule.

In the afternoon, the Union minister met with officials at the Apache Cement Factory meeting hall in Pyinyaung, Thazi Township, and instructed them to ensure the factory produces electricity according to its plan while contributing surplus power to the national grid, which greatly benefits the country. He also toured the facility to inspect equipment damaged by the earthquake and assess the factory's electricity generation process.

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspects Apache Cement Factory in Thazi yesterday.

On 7 June, the Union minister, accompanied by Shan State Minister for Economic Affairs U Khun Thein Maung, held separate meetings with officials from the mill construction project at No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) in Taunggyi Township, Shan State, as well as with officials and staff from the Shan State Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection.

During the meeting, the Union minister said that the Mandalay earthquake had caused extensive damage to homes, factories, workshops, roads, bridges, and religious buildings, and that reconstruction work must be carried out at an accelerated pace. He emphasized the importance of obtaining pig iron materials that meet the required standards for producing quality iron and steel domestically, directed efforts to commence pig iron production promptly to supply quality materials for public construction needs, and provided subsidies to employees.

In the afternoon, the Union minister inspected the equipment at the Air Separation Plant, which was under repair by foreign experts and local technicians. — MNA/TH

Rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts continue unrelentingly in quake-affected areas

RESCUE and rehabilitation operations are being implemented in the areas facing extensive loss and damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the rapid removal of earthquake-damaged religious buildings at the Sakkadhita Nunnery in Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, using heavy machinery; the demolition of the earthquake-damaged three-story building at No 1 Basic Education High School in Poetan Ward; the construction of a new building to house a water purifier and the completion of cleaning and beautification work at the school; the removal of collapsed and damaged religious buildings at the Yadanabeikman Htupayon Shwe Monastery in Minlan Ward using heavy machinery; the clearing of religious buildings at the Rajamanicula Pagoda in City Ward, which was destroyed by the earthquake; and the reconstruction of the pagoda, while coordinating with authorities as needed.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon views the debris cleaning work by heavy machinery at the BEHS 1 in Sagaing.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing inspects the production of No 7 Textile Factory (Myittha) in Myittha yesterday.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the completion of a modular container house serving as a temporary office at the railway yard in Kyaukse, reviewed the status of office operations, and instructed officials to maintain a clean and attractive station environment, remove garbage along the railway tracks, and organize garbage bins systematically.

He inspected earthquake damage at No 7 Textile Factory (Myittha) in Lankhwa Village, Myittha Township, reviewed the status of yarn and cotton fabric production, assessed the completion of the temporary school building at Basic Education High School (Kume), and instructed officials to maintain a clean and attractive school environment to support effective student learning.

He inspected and coordinated the provision of cement, steel bars, and plywood sheets at special factory prices for reconstructing pagodas, religious buildings, and residential structures damaged by the earthquake in Myittha Township, as well as assessed earthquake damage at the Gwegyi Monastery in Kume and the progress of reconstruction efforts. — MNA/TH

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NATIONAL

Illegal goods, unregistered vehicles worth K567M seized across nation

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, combined inspection teams seized unregistered vehicles and illegal goods worth over K567.89 million during checks from 6 to 8 June across multiple regions.

On 6 June, officials at the Myitnge checkpoint in Mandalay Region intercepted an Ankai bus en route from Yangon to Mandalay. The bus valued at K50 million was found carrying industrial goods and food products without official documents, with an estimated value of K27.25 million.

On the same day, two Foton tractor heads with trailers travelling from Muse to Mandalay were stopped near Sin Khaung Taung on the Hanmyintmo-Ywangan Road. They were transporting industrial goods valued at K80.63 million without documentation. The vehicles were worth K162 million, bringing the total seizure value at that checkpoint to K319.87 million.

Confiscated rice cooker and vortex pump at Mayanchaung inspecting checkpoint.

On 7 June, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck carrying consumer goods without valid documents was stopped near Shwe Thanlwin checkpoint in Phayagyi, Bago Region. The goods were estimated at K12.2 million, and the truck itself at K40 million, totalling K52.2 million.

Further inspections led by the Customs Department at the permanent checkpoint in Mayanchaung intercepted two trucks travelling from Myawady to Yangon. They carried industrial and consumer goods valued at K28.1 million without proper documentation. The seized vehicles included a Mitsubishi Fuso truck and a Nissan Diesel tractor head with a trailer, worth K150 million, bringing the combined total to K178.1 million.

On 7 and 8 June, authorities in Sagaing Region seized 36 barrels of illegal diesel at the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint. The fuel was valued at K17.72 million, and action was taken under petroleum laws.

Also on 7 June, Myanmar Police Force impounded 23 unregistered cars and 143 unregistered motorcycles, with legal action underway.

From 6 to 8 June, 19 cases were recorded nationwide, with total estimated seizure value at K567.89 million. — MNA/KZL

Stimulant tablets seized in four townships

MEMBERS of Drug Enforcement Division under the Myanmar Police Force seized stimulant tablets in Singaing, Kyaukse, Tachilek and Tangyan townships.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team apprehended four suspects — Thida, Aye Myat Mon, Khin Su Kyi (aka) Moe Moe and Shwe Zin Mar on the road to Ywathaywa Village in Singaing Township on the afternoon of 6 June. The authorities confiscated 55,500 stimulant tablets from them, estimated to be worth K83.25 million in the area (valued at K1,500 per tablet).

Offenders are seen alongside seized stimulant tablets and motorcycles.

In a related investigation, police arrested Daw Myaing, along the road leading to the industrial zone in Kyaukse Township's Binsu Ward, with 5,635 stimulant tablets. These tablets were valued at K8.45 million at the local rate of K1,500 per tablet. Further interrogation led to the arrest of Ma Melone, who had allegedly supplied the drugs. She was apprehended on the road to Phyauksaikpin Village in Kyaukse Township. Action was taken against all individuals under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, on the afternoon of 6 June, authorities in Tachilek Township detained a suspect named Sai Aung Kham on the road between Shwedagon Pagoda and Natsin Road in Makaokham Ward. He was found in possession of 10,000 stimulant tablets valued at K7 million (at K700 per tablet). A follow-up search at his residence on Kyaung Street in Samseng (B) Ward uncovered 4,000 more tablets valued at K2.8 million (at K700 per tablet). Legal proceedings were initiated against Sai Aung Kham under the relevant law.

Meanwhile, members of Drug Enforcement Division raided the home of Ma Nang Kham in Ward 9, Tangyan. They discovered 4,900 stimulant tablets hidden inside her bedroom. These were valued locally at K4.9 million (at K1,000 per tablet). She was also charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL

Film and Construction industries to jointly plant trees

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization and the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) will jointly organize the "Monsoon Tree Planting Event" in mid-June, MCEF said.

A poster stating that the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation will jointly organize the "Monsoon Tree Planting Event".

Themed "Let's plant trees to prevent disasters," it will be held with a large crowd of film artistes, construction-related entrepreneurs, and engineers. The Monsoon Tree Planting Event will take place at 7:30 am on 15 June (Sunday) at the 200-acre Movie City Project (Hlegu). Associations, companies, construction entrepreneurs, and building materials vendors who want to join this event can contact MCEF, it said.

Interested parties are advised to contact MCEF at No 3, corner of Thanthuma and Waizayandar roads, Thuwanna junction, Thingangyun Township at 09-893 217 109, 09-660 282 000, and 09- 250 609 740. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Thanlyin property market booms due to urban buyers and rural migrants

THE real estate market in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, is booming, according to locals and migrants.

It can be attributed to urban buyers and rural migrants, and there is more interest in land and houses in the market, with more actual buyers than investors.

"Since the opening of new Thanlyin bridge, transportation has become easier, so some people from proper Yangon have come down to buy plots of land here. Some people who prefer to live in a compound with privacy bought houses. The easier transportation has made Thanlyin more popular and more deals have been made. Some people have moved because they can't afford the prices in the city," said a Thanlyin resident.

Due to rising demand of most migrants, the real estate rental market has developed significantly more than before, and rental prices have also increased.

"In the rural areas, people usually live in detached houses, and when they move here, some don't like apartments for elderly persons have to go up and down a lot. So they rent small houses with a compound in Thanlyin for freer movement. The price of small houses is around K 250,000 to K300,000, depending on the crowded area and the neighbourhood," said Ma Wai Wai who relocated from a rural area.

The property market in Yangon is at its peak, and in the rental market, 6-month leases, one-year leases, and deposit systems are more common, according to real estate agents. — MT/ZN

Agents listing houses for sale in Thanlyin Township.

Chinese Embassy to Myanmar to approve five-year ASEAN visa for Myanmar businesspeople and their families

This photo features the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE five-year ASEAN visa, available to eligible Myanmar business owners, their spouses, and children, allows multiple entries into China and will be reviewed and approved starting 9 June, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The visa permits a maximum validity of five years and a maximum stay of 180 days.

Those wishing to apply for an ASEAN visa can contact the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or the Consulate General in Mandalay for inquiries. — ASH/TH

Consumer Protection Commission to open more information and complaint acceptance centres

THE Myanmar Consumer Protection Commission has established 51 information and complaint acceptance centres across the country, with plans to open more centres in order to perform more effective addressing the complaints of consumers, according to the commission.

With regard to raising consumer awareness, the commission could educate 6.4 million population of consumers accounting for 12.48 per cent of the total population of the nation, emphasize consumer rights and faults of service providers and solve loss of consumers from 1 April 2016 to the end of April 2025. Moreover, plans are underway to extend the consumer awareness section in various sectors.

Currently, consumer complaints were most frequent in the sectors of online financial services, telecommunications services, and automobile sales. Furthermore, consumer losses and damages caused by the mistakes and failures of service providers in these sectors were addressed and resolved. In addition, the commission will effectively resolve remaining complaints in other sectors.

Union Territory and regional and state consumer affairs committees will be functional to ensure stability of commodity prices and eradication of illegal trade concerning with consumer protection measures under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Law. — ASH/TTA

Officials of Myanmar Consumer Protection Commission raise consumer awareness in the domestic market.

Daily newspapers available online

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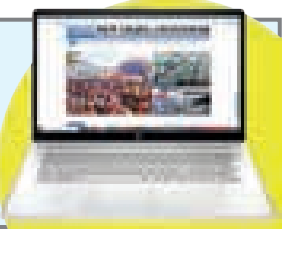


OPINION

Serve the interests of employees through optimism

DURING the 113th International Labour Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, Myanmar was deeply disappointed to learn that, during the tripartite meeting of the government, employers, and employees held on 5 June, a decision concerning Myanmar was made unilaterally without the involvement of the concerned country.

The decision in question appears to have been made with the intention of exerting pressure on the Myanmar government by countries and opposition groups that view it unfavourably, using the ILO platform with the adoption of the decision invoking Article 33. The decision is a one-sided demand aimed at compelling Myanmar to comply with the recommendations of the ILO Commission of Inquiry on Myanmar, which was formed on the grounds that the country was not adhering to Conventions 87 and 29 on Forced Labour.

The ILO making such a decision without the inclusion of the relevant country in discussions regarding Myanmar does not align with the ILO's foundational principles. It represents a one-sided action that undermines the tripartite structure of the ILO. This decision is seen as politically motivated and lacking fairness and impartiality, resulting in a misjudgment that does not reflect the actual situation in Myanmar.

Such actions tend to bring more harm than benefit to the grassroots population and can undermine the trust and confidence that the broader working population of Myanmar has in the ILO. Myanmar has been actively implementing the constructive recommendations included in the report of the ILO Commission of Inquiry on Myanmar for the benefit of workers, and it has been regularly providing timely updates on the progress made. However, it is regrettable that, due to political motives and pressure, Myanmar's positive efforts are being overlooked and instead subjected to coercive measures.

The decision is regrettable in that it proposes implementing measures that could genuinely push Myanmar's social and labour conditions in a harmful direction. Action taken by certain countries through the ILO platform to exert political pressure on Myanmar poses a threat to the employment opportunities and regular income of ordinary workers. It should be noted that such threats could lead to significant changes in workers' conditions and may result in a situation with more harm than benefit.

As an ILO member state, Myanmar has ratified four fundamental conventions and has been actively working to promote and protect the interests of workers in the country, in addition to fulfilling its responsibilities as a member. However, the ILO has overlooked Myanmar's positive efforts and has instead applied one-sided pressure on labour-related issues in the country.

Such actions tend to bring more harm than benefit to the grassroots population and can undermine the trust and confidence that the broader working population of Myanmar has in the ILO. Myanmar has been actively implementing the constructive recommendations included in the report of the ILO Commission of Inquiry on Myanmar for the benefit of workers, and it has been regularly providing timely updates on the progress made. However, it is regrettable that, due to political motives and pressure, Myanmar's positive efforts are being overlooked and instead subjected to coercive measures.

ARTICLE

Heading to Lush Bay, a Breathtaking Cave and the Land of Pearl 1

By Aung Sie Hein

GOING to the ocean in the morning with drizzle feels like a unique and different experience. By the time we left the Chinatown area in the old quarter of Hanoi, the drizzle had turned into a steady rain.

The Chinatown in old Hanoi, Vietnam, is similar to Yangon's Chinatown, but the structure and style of the houses are noticeably different. The homes are narrow in the front and stretch deep toward the back, typically no more than three stories high. According to local tradition, if a son is born, a ten-foot-wide plot is inherited, so these narrow, ten-foot houses can often be seen, similar to some homes in areas like Thakayta, South Okkalapa, and Dagon Myothit (South) townships in Yangon. Narrow alleys, compact homes, small eateries lining the streets, large coffee shops, swarms of motorbikes zipping back and forth, and a variety of cars emerging from every corner – these are likely iconic scenes that define Hanoi's Old Quarter Chinatown.

Leaving behind Chinatown, as we ascended onto the highway, the sight of the grand and beautiful new city of Hanoi, with its towering buildings, immediately captivated my attention. Putting aside the multilayered roads and colourful cars of Hanoi, as our vehicle cruised toward Ha Long Bay, my gaze was once again drawn to the expansive green fields stretching alongside the highway, where the vast, serene sea seemed to merge with the lush landscape.

Behind lush paddy landscapes

In the distance, across the vast fields spread like green carpets, neat and beautiful little buildings can be seen arranged in order. Among the wide fields, groups of rice mills, silos and agricultural machinery can be seen scattered throughout. The wide, continuous stretches of farmland, the small production roads, and the irrigation drains present a scene so orderly and well-organized that it looks like a carefully drawn map of an agricultural landscape.

In Myanmar, it's not easy to come across vast stretches of farmland laid out in large, rectangular plots like those measured in hectares. Most genuine Myanmar farmers own less than five acres of land, so it's rare to see large, contiguous plots suitable for big tractors to operate efficiently. For such systematically organized farmland to emerge, challenges such as the need for a stable market, favourable weather conditions, and other hurdles must be overcome. Behind the lingering question of *"When will all this become a reality?"* lies only a sense of quiet contemplation.

Behind the lush green rice fields, Vietnam's rice cultivation and production are facing mounting challenges. Vietnam's rice trade is also showing notable developments. In 2024, Vietnam became a record-breaking rice exporter, shipping 9.04 million tonnes. According to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) global agriculture, supply, and demand forecast report, Vietnam is set to soon surpass Thailand to become the world's second-largest rice exporter.

Many rice farmers in Vietnam are switching to cultivating other, more profitable crops, which has led to a decline in the country's rice production. However, Vietnam's rice exporters are maintaining their hold on the global rice market by importing rice from neighbouring Cambodia. As a result, by 2024, Vietnam could reach an import volume of around 4 million tonnes, potentially becoming the second-largest rice-importing country in the world. This situation, being both the second-largest rice exporter and the second-largest rice importer globally, highlights a unique aspect of Vietnam's rice trade.

The Stella Luxury Cruise, departing from Ha Long Harbour, embarked on its first exploratory trip to Sung Sot Cave, the largest and most breathtaking stalactite cave in the Ha Long Bay area.

There are multiple pleasure boats at the shore heading to Ha Long Bay.

A glimpse of the land of Pearl

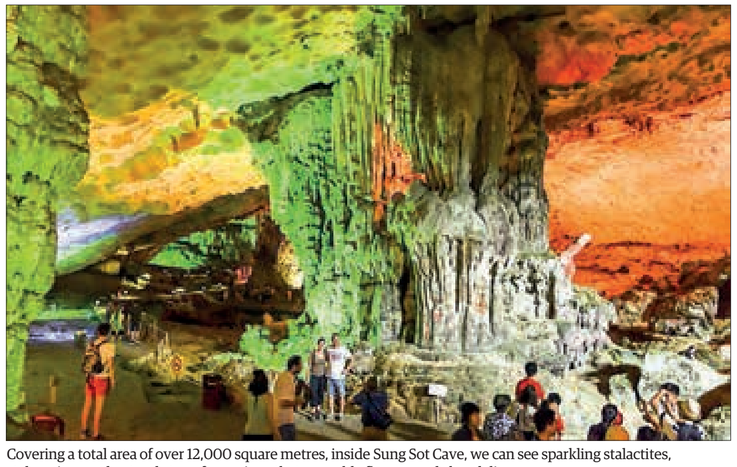
When the vast farmlands that once captivated the eye began to fade away, the shimmering reflection of silver light appeared, signalling the arrival at the seaside. This gave a clear sense that we had entered the coastal region. "Ha Long" was once a region known for its coal mines. Along the way, we passed through large areas where hundreds of coal transport trucks used to park. But when international tourists began to arrive at Ha Long Bay, the coal mines gradually shut down, and the entire area appeared to have transitioned to tourism. Now, as a coastal city, Ha Long is also thriving economically through its port operations and fishing industry, becoming a well-known and prosperous city.

Ha Long is famous not only for its coal mines, ports, and fishing industry but also for its pearl farming. Pearl farms built in the middle of the sea, artificial islands, and museums that display the step-by-step process of pearl cultivation and production attract many tourists.

It has only been two hours since leaving Hanoi. Although the drizzle has stopped, puddles from the rain remain. Upon entering the Ha Long area, the car made a brief stop at a place that houses restaurants, a pearl sales hall, and a pearl museum.

What is remarkable is that inside the pearl sales showroom, the pearl production process is demonstrated using small display tables. The process of extracting pearls from oysters and the step-by-step production stages are practically shown, with staff explaining everything clearly. Within the three-story building, there is a large shopping centre that includes gemstone and pearl showrooms, pearl-themed paintings and sculptures, clothing, shoes, and a wide variety of food items. In one section of the shopping centre, there is even a display where crocodile skin is shown with the actual shape of the crocodile, and various types of bags made from crocodile skin are exhibited and sold. As for the dining area, it is located entirely on the second floor.

Having just left the Pearl Museum, we soon arrived at the world-famous Ha Long Bay. It has been over two hours since leaving Hanoi. Although we were glad the rain completely stopped upon setting foot on the beach, we still could not see the sunlight.



Covering a total area of over 12,000 square metres, inside Sung Sot Cave, we can see sparkling stalactites, stalagmites, and natural stone formations that resemble flowers and chandeliers.

A breathtaking cave

We are going to board the large cruise boat, Stella Luxury Cruise, docked at the shore, to explore Ha Long Bay. Approximately 50 travellers will join the journey on the three-story Stella Luxury Cruise. Since there are multiple pleasure boats at the shore heading to Ha Long Bay, we need to be careful not to get on the wrong boat, and the passengers are also quite crowded and a bit bustling.

The Stella Luxury Cruise, departing from Ha Long Harbour, embarked on its first exploratory trip to Sung Sot Cave, the largest and most breathtaking stalactite cave in the Ha Long Bay area.

Sung Sot Cave is the largest and most spectacular stalactite cave among the many limestone caves in Ha Long Bay. It is renowned by tourists worldwide and is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage stalactite cave.

Sung Sot Cave is located on Bo Hon Island in the middle of Ha Long Bay, about a 50-minute journey from Ha Long Beach. To reach the entrance of the main cave, visitors must climb over 100 steep steps. From the large cave entrance, you have to go down again to enter the inner part of the cave. Covering a total area of over 12,000 square metres, inside Sung Sot Cave, we can see sparkling stalactites, stalagmites, and natural stone formations that resemble flowers and chandeliers.

Along the cave path, there are large halls, narrow steps for climbing, and narrow walkways where one can only pass a single file, requiring passage through gaps between rocks. Some places are wide and spacious with good airflow. Inside the limestone cave, due to sea erosion, the rock formations have taken on various shapes, resembling decorative stone sculptures. The limestone caves in Kayin State and Mon State of Myanmar are somewhat similar. In particular, Nandamu Cave from PyinOoLwin, and Bat Cave and Jasmine Cave in Kyaikmaraw town, Mon State, are quite alike. However, the Sung Sot Cave is larger and much longer.

At one location, arrangements were made to take commemorative photos, and since there was also a team available to take the photos, the tour was praised for being well-organized. Inside the great limestone cave, beautiful stone chandeliers, stone floral arrangements, and stone flower pots were illuminated and displayed with colourful spotlights. Because it was so beautiful, it was very satisfying for those who wanted to capture it in photographs.

The Sung Sot Cave in Ha Long Bay is also famous for its interesting and legendary stories, similar to other caves. In traditional Vietnamese folklore, Thanh Giong is a very famous hero who is said to have kept his battle horse and sword inside Sung Sot Cave to fight off evil spirits. Visitors can see stone carvings that closely resemble Thanh Giong's horse and sword. Inside the cave, small cups that can be identified as the footprints of Thanh Giong's horse further confirm the fascinating legends of the hero Thanh Giong...

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Focus on EV research, development, and technology dissemination

THE Working Committee on EV Research, Development, and Technology held its second hybrid-format meeting yesterday at Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya, the committee chairman.

The Deputy minister emphasized the government's efforts in collaboration with relevant departments to develop the EV sector in line with directives, highlighting the need to fulfill responsibilities for the country's long-term interests, create a sustainable future, stay competitive with rapidly advancing EV technology, and conduct effective research on household and agricultural EVs, solar EV charging systems, EV-based AI, EV metrology, and EV batteries, while ensuring the dissemination of EV technologies and knowledge to stakeholders, including the public.

Officials from various ministries attending the meeting reported on overseas EV training participation, the opening of training programs, EV battery research activities, awareness events, committee work progress, and plans for future tasks. The deputy minister emphasized the importance of securing intellectual property rights from research results, collaborating with relevant departments for their effective use, conducting EV training in line with technical standards, holding necessary discussions, and ensuring interdepartmental coordination. — MNA/TH

The Working Committee on EV Research, Development, and Technology's second hybrid-format meeting in progress at Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Teachers and students rescued from PDF terrorists

TERRORIST groups identified as NUG, CRPH, and PDF are using various methods to harass teachers and educators, including forcing them to participate in the DCS movement and arresting, killing, or threatening educational staff who do not comply with their demands, with the aim of disrupting the development of educated youth in the country.

On 24 May, Daw Phyo Wai Wai Myint, a teacher from Letpankyin Village in Sedoktara Township, along with two other teachers, four students from the Education Colleges, two parents of the students, and one civilian — a total of nine people — arrived at the Pwinttauk Village boat dock to travel to Magway Township with their escorts. PDF terrorists, holding small arms, arrived at the dock, threatened the teacher to join the DCS movement, warned the students not to attend school, and abducted them to Makyee Village.

Following the incident, security forces conducted necessary operations to rescue the hostages. Yesterday, they successfully rescued five individuals: Daw Phyo Wai Wai Myint, a senior assistant teacher from BEHS branch, Yethaung, Daw Cho Thazin Oo, an assistant primary teacher from Post-Primary School, Taunghandauk, Ma Khin Moe Wai, a third-year Education College student (Magway); Ma Nway Nway Hlaing, a third-year Education College student (Magway), and Ma Khin Su Su Hlaing, a second-year Education College student (Pakokku). These individuals were abducted by terrorists from two locations in Panei Village, approximately 24 kilometres north of Sedoktara. The search continues for the remaining four hostages — a student from an education college, two parents of the students, and one civilian — with efforts underway to rescue them as soon as possible. Security forces are also providing necessary medical care to those who have been rescued.

The public is deeply disgusted by the forcible detention, coercion into joining the DCS movement, and inhumane acts of shooting and killing non-military personnel, including educational staff and students. People are urged to confidentially and promptly report any information about the inhumane actions of PDF terrorists to the security forces. — MNA

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DPU strengthens Thai-Myanmar academic ties

Myanmar youths take a commemorative group photo in front of the Dhurakij Pundit University booth at the 9th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2025.

DHURAKIJ Pundit University (DPU) joined the 9th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2025, held on 23 and 24 May at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel. The event, organized by the Association of Myanmar Alumni from Universities in Thailand (AMAUT) featured 20 Thai institutions presenting study options to Myanmar students.

DPU showcased scholarships at the Yangon fair, drawing over 200 students to its booth. The university offers English-taught bachelor's programmes in International Business, Tourism Management, and Information Systems for Digital Business, as well as an MBA. Scholarships covering 25 to 100 per cent of tuition fees are available based on academic merit and English proficiency.

Director for Strategic Alliance at DPU Mr Atit Koirala thanked AMAUT for fostering Thai–Myanmar educational ties during the event. The fair was officially opened by Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump. — KZL

'Yinn' crime series begins filming

ZABU Min Entertainment officially launched production for its new crime series "Yinn" at a ceremony held on 5 June at Mahawizara Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, according to lead actor Minn Taw Win.

The story was written by Maung Thitsar, with the script adapted by Yan Naing Tun and direction led by Ye Yint Thitsar.

"This is a crime series. Viewers can expect mysteries and suspenseful situations throughout. We've already set up our locations in Yangon, and filming is now beginning," said Minn Taw Win. The cast includes Min Phone Myat, Minn Taw Win, Kyaw Zin Htut, Kyaw Zin Min Myat, Su Htet Htet Kyaw, Aw Myat Khin, Mawgun Thit, Albert Paing, May Khon Arr, and Lin Myat, among others. — ASH/KZL

Cast members are seen at the opening ceremony of the Yinn series at the Mahawizara Pagoda on 5 June 2025.

LIFESTYLE/SOCIAL: WORLD

Immigration raids in Los Angeles trigger mass protests

Videos shared online captured approximately 100 protesters engaged in a standoff with immigration agents during the raids.

THE United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents raided several locations in Los Angeles on Friday, sparking mass protests downtown.

As immigration crackdowns continue across Southern California and the nation, the raids have resulted in at least 44 individuals being detained, igniting widespread protests, confrontations and chaos in the second-largest US city.

As videos posted online showed, about a hundred protesters were in a standoff with immigration agents on Friday noon, when several workers were taken into custody in handcuffs at a clothing store in the Fashion District.

The Service Employees International Union California issued a statement saying the union's president, David Huerta, was "injured and detained" during the raid.

Law enforcement confront demonstrators during a protest in the Compton neighbourhood of Los Angeles. **PHOTO: AFP**

Huerta was arrested for "interfering with federal officers" as he "deliberately obstructed their access by blocking their vehicle," said United States Attorney for the Central District of California Bill Essayli in an X post.

Essayli also said federal agents were serving a search warrant in the Fashion District for alleged fictitious employee documents. He said there's reason to believe an employer was using fictitious documents for some of its workers.

In the evening, about 500 people gathered in downtown Los Angeles to protest the raids. Large crowds walked through the area holding signs and chanting "ICE out of LA". — Xinhua

Sydney Sweeney talks about her character in 'Euphoria' season 3, says "even worse"

SYDNEY Sweeney shared some insight into her character's journey on the upcoming third season of Euphoria.

"Cassie is crazy," Sydney told Jimmy Fallon on the recent episode of The Tonight Show, before teasing that in the HBO series' new instalment, "she's even worse", according to E! News.

Sweeney refrained from confirming or denying the significance of the images, humorously suggesting they could be generated by AI. **PHOTO: ANI**

As for whether Cassie's character arc includes a walk down the aisle, as seen in recently leaked set images? Sydney wasn't willing to explain the meaning behind the pics, which show her wearing a wedding dress while walking down an aisle featuring the intertwined initials, "C" and "N" (Fans have speculated that the initials stand for Cassie and Nate, her character's love interest in season two, played by Jacob Elordi).

"I can't confirm or deny," The White Lotus alum said before joking that the photos, "could be AI".

Sydney, who announced her separation from fiance Jonathan Davino in May after seven years of dating, has been silent on the rest of Cassie's season three journey in Euphoria. However, during the past few months, a number of clues regarding the impending episode have been made public, according to E! News.

Warner Bros. Discovery global streaming chief JB Perrette announced at a tech and media conference in December that the show is expected to return in 2026, according to Variety. — ANI

Studio Ghibli marks 40 years, but future looks uncertain

AS Studio Ghibli celebrates its 40th anniversary, the future of the iconic animation studio remains uncertain, particularly with the possibility that Hayao Miyazaki's latest film, "The Boy and the Heron," may be his last.

Founded in 1985 by Miyazaki and Isao Takahata, Studio Ghibli has captivated audiences worldwide with its intricate storytelling and stunning hand-drawn animation, earning two Oscars, including a recent win for "The Boy and the Heron."

The studio's films, which often blend light and dark themes, have redefined Japanese animation, appealing to both children and adults.

Miyazaki's son, Goro, notes that the darker elements in Ghibli films reflect the experiences of a generation that lived through war, creating a unique narrative depth.

Critics and fans alike appreciate the studio's ability to intertwine complexity and ambiguity, as seen in films like "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind" and "Princess Mononoke," which explore humanity's relationship with nature. — AFP

Four decades after the studio was founded, Ghibli's popularity has been fuelled by Netflix streaming its movies around the world. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECON: WORLD

China, EU discuss EV anti-subsidy case, brandy anti-dumping probe, export controls

The discussions included a professional examination of the EV case, marking a significant step toward a proper resolution.

This photo taken on 3 July 2023 shows China's 20 millionth new energy vehicle (NEV) produced by GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co Ltd in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: DENG HUA/XINHUA/FILE**

CHINA'S Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic held talks in Paris on 3 June on the EU's anti-subsidy case involving Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), China's anti-dumping investigation into brandy originating from the EU, and export control policies, a Ministry of Commerce spokesperson said Saturday.

The two sides conducted focused, candid and in-depth discussions on urgent and important issues including the above during their talks, and instructed their work teams to step up efforts to make economic and trade preparations for the important agenda between China and the EU this year, the spokesperson said.

They conducted a professional, in-depth discussion on the EV case, making a significant step in the right direction toward proper resolution of the case, the ministry said.

Price commitment negotiations on the EV case between China and the EU have entered their final stage, but further efforts from both sides are still needed. The EU also proposed the exploration of new technical paths, which China will assess for feasibility from both legal and technical perspectives, according to the ministry.

Both sides instructed their work teams to redouble efforts to find mutually acceptable solutions in a manner that complies with their respective legal provisions and WTO rules, and to resolve trade differences in the proper manner, the ministry said. — Xinhua

German firms eye India for future tech collaborations in manufacturing sector

AS India is on the brink of becoming the fourth-largest economy in the current fiscal, an increasing number of German companies have ramped up their hunt for Indian partners with the intention of providing future technologies in the manufacturing sector.

The German companies are looking for local partners to help Indian businesses in advancing production in areas such as green energy, semiconductor, and pharmaceutical sectors, among others.

"India is an important market; it's a growing market and has a huge amount of talent, and we are looking for talent because we are developing new technologies. We are the experts in the production field, and we are developing from the first sketch until the start of production.

What we are doing here is we have invited our potential customers to this place (India)," said Rainer Wittich, CEO of EDAG Production Solutions GmbH & Co KG. — ANI

US aerospace industry anxious as tariffs loom

US airlines and aerospace manufacturers insist they have no use for tariff protections, warning that the proposed Trump administration levies could eat into the healthy trade surplus the sector has enjoyed for more than 70 years.

At the request of President Donald Trump, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's department launched an investigation on 1 May to determine whether to impose tariffs of between 10 and 20 per cent on civil aircraft and parts, including engines.

The US industry those tariffs were crafted to protect swiftly let the administration know it was not interested.

"Imposing broad tariff or non-tariff trade barriers on the imports of civil aviation technology would risk reversing decades of industrial progress and harm the domestic supply chain," the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) said in a letter addressed to Lutnick and obtained by AFP.

The interested parties were given until 3 June to communicate their positions.

The very next day, Lutnick announced that Washington aimed to "set the standard for aircraft part tariffs" by the end of this month. — AFP

The US aerospace industry, which the tariffs were intended to protect, quickly communicated its disinterest in these protective measures to the administration. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan brokerages donating shareholder perks to help kids in poverty

JAPANESE securities firms are donating the food and beverage gifts they receive as shareholder perks through their trading activities to nonprofit organizations to support children living in poverty amid inflation. The Japan Securities Dealers Association started the programme in 2020, and around 2,300 donations had been made by March this year. Under the programme, a list of shareholder perks is presented to registered organizations channeling the goods to recipients each week and the organizations then convey their requests to the securities firms. As of April, 61 companies and 48 organizations had registered with the programme. – Kyodo

Jobs at largest US port down by half amid tariff tensions: media

JOBS at the Port of Los Angeles, the largest and busiest port in the United States, are down by half as US President Donald Trump's tariffs cripple trade with Asia-Pacific, local media reported on Saturday.

Over the last 25 work shifts, only 733 jobs were available for 1,575 longshoremen looking for work, Los Angeles Times reported, citing Gene Seroka, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, adding that the port processed 25 per cent less cargo than forecast for May. – Xinhua

Japan telecom giant NTT Docomo to end own emoji after 26 yrs

JAPANESE telecom giant NTT Docomo Inc. will retire its set of original emoji whose release 26 years ago helped shape the visual language of today's digital communications.

The carrier's Android smartphones and feature phones marketed from June will not come with the Docomo emoji set. Announcing the decision in late May, the firm said they had "fulfilled their role" while noting that Google's emoji had become more common globally.

The new mobile phones will adopt Noto Color Emoji by Google or Samsung emoji instead, it said.

The Docomo emoji were introduced in 1999 with the company's i-mode service, an Internet-capable mobile phone system that the company also plans to terminate, in 2026.

Emoji became massively popular in Japan as an element of texting, especially among teenagers in the 2000s, with some creating emoji-only messages, before taking root globally.

In 2016, NTT Docomo's set of 176 emoji was included in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, with the museum stating, "Filling in for body language, they reassert the human within the deeply impersonal, abstract space of electronic communication." — Kyodo

Emoji by NTT Docomo Inc. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Apple under pressure to shine after AI stumble

PRESSURE is on Apple to show it hasn't lost its magic despite broken promises to ramp up iPhones with generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) as rivals race ahead with the technology.

Apple will showcase plans for its coveted devices and the software powering them at its annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) kicking off Monday in Silicon Valley.

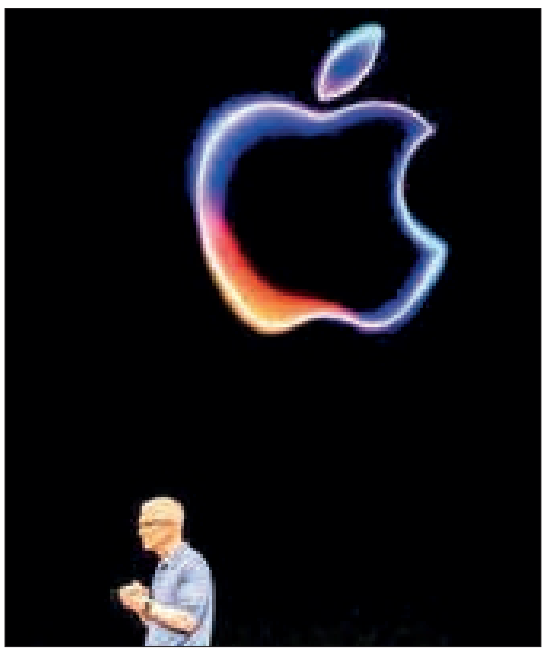
The event comes a year after the tech titan said a suite of AI features it dubbed "Apple Intelligence" was heading for iPhones, including an improvement of its much criticized Siri voice assistant.

"Apple advertised a lot of features as if they were going to be available, and it just didn't happen," noted Emarketer senior analyst Gadjo Sevilla.

Instead, Apple delayed the rollout of the Siri upgrade, with hopes that it will be available in time for the next iPhone release, expected in the fall.

"I don't think there is going to be that much of a celebratory tone at WWDC," the analyst told AFP. "It could be more of a way for Apple to recover some credibility by showing where they're headed."

Industry insiders will be watching to see whether Apple addresses the AI stumble or focuses on less splashy announcements, including a rumored overhaul of its operating systems for its line of devices. — AFP



Apple is expected to lay out its path forward when it comes to artificil intelligence and its closely guarded 'ecosystem' of devices and software at its annual Worldwide Developers Conference in Silicon Valley. **PHOTO: AFP**

Swiss order UBS to boost capital to cover overseas holdings

SWITZERLAND'S government Friday announced new rules obliging banking giant UBS to strengthen its capital base in overseas subsidiaries to avoid a collapse that could destabilise the global economy.

The decision "draws lessons from (the) Credit Suisse crisis", which saw that bank bought out by UBS in 2023 after the failure of three US banks, the federal government said in a statement.

It set new rules including "stricter capital requirements for systemically important banks with foreign subsidiaries (and) additional requirements on the recovery and resolution of systemically important banks".

"The package of measures is intended to strengthen the Swiss financial centre and reduce the risks for the state, taxpayers and the economy," it added.

In practice, the measure only concerns UBS, since the country's other three top banks have no significant activities abroad. — AFP

Global smartphone shipment forecast for 2025 revised downward over tariff uncertainty: Report

MARKET intelligence research firm Counterpoint Research has lowered global smartphone shipment forecast for 2025. It has revised down its 2025 global smartphone shipment growth forecast to 1.9 per cent year-on-year from 4.2 per cent, citing uncertainties surrounding US tariffs.

However, most regions will still likely see growth, except North America and China, according to Counterpoint Research's latest Market Outlook Smartphone Shipment Forecast Report.

Price increases from cost pass-throughs remain a key focal point, although the tariff situation remains fluid and unpredictable.

Commenting on the revised forecast, Associate Director Liz Lee commented, "All eyes are on Apple and Samsung because of their exposure to the US market. Although tariffs have played a role in our forecast revisions, we are also factoring in weakened demand not just in North America but across Europe and parts of Asia."

Lee added, "We still expect positive 2025 shipment growth for Apple driven by the iPhone 16 series' strong performance in Q1 2025."

Moreover, premiumisation trends remain supportive across emerging markets like India, Southeast Asia and Gulf countries – these are long-term tailwinds for iPhones, according to Lee. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (229N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (229N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Japan OKs 20 tril yen plan for disaster resilient infrastructure

A total of 10.6 trillion yen is earmarked for maintaining essential services, including transportation, communication, and energy infrastructure.

THE Japanese government on Friday approved a plan to enhance the disaster resilience of the country's infrastructure over the next five years, with the project expected to cost more than 20 trillion yen ($139 billion).

Focusing on measures to address aging infrastructure, the plan specifies 326 measures to be taken by government bodies from fiscal 2026 through 2030, while regional authorities bear part of the costs.

The approval by the Cabinet comes in light of prolonged water outages following a powerful earthquake that devastated the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day in 2024, and the formation of a massive sinkhole in Yashio in Saitama Prefecture, neighboring Tokyo, which is believed to have been caused by sewer pipe corrosion.

The contents of the plan will be reflected in the government's budget request for fiscal 2026, the first year of its expected enactment.

According to the plan, 10.6 trillion yen will be allocated for the maintenance of vital services, which include aging infrastructure, such as transportation, communication, and energy.

All sewer pipes with corrosion or damage that could lead to accidents will be repaired by fiscal 2030. — Kyodo

The approval by the Cabinet comes in light of prolonged water outages following a powerful earthquake that devastated the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day in 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Philippines visa-free for Indians: A game-changer for travel in 2025

Boracay's annual tourism revenues bring more than a billion dollars into the Phillipines' economy.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

IN a landmark decision that has excited the Indian travel community, the Philippines has officially introduced visa-free travel for Indian passport holders, allowing a stay of up to 14 days. With this relaxed visa policy, the Philippines has become one of the top visa-free countries for Indians to visit.

This development means that Indians planning to visit the Philippines without visa applications or embassy visits can now explore its beautiful beaches, historic landmarks, and vibrant cities with ease. However, for those planning to stay longer or who do not meet the eligibility criteria, the usual Philippines visa information for Indian nationals remains essential. Such travellers need to apply for Philippines visa online (for stays over 14 days) before their trip to ensure smooth entry and legal stay. From the turquoise waters of El Nido to the bustling energy of Manila, the Philippines offers an unforgettable experience for every kind of traveller. With the ability to travel spontaneously, Indian tourists now have easier access to one of Southeast Asia's most scenic destinations. — ANI

Colombian presidential contender has successful surgery after shooting

SHOCK and outrage swept Colombia on Saturday after presidential contender Miguel Uribe was gunned down at close range during a campaign event in Bogotá, leaving him fighting for his life.

A prominent Colombian right-wing presidential candidate who was shot during a campaign event in Bogota has successfully undergone initial surgery, the city's mayor said Sunday.

Thirty-nine-year-old Senator Miguel Uribe was speaking to supporters in the capital when a gunman shot him twice in the head and once in the knee before being detained.

A security guard managed to detain the suspected attacker, a minor who is believed to be 15 years old.

Uribe was airlifted to hospital in "critical condition" and underwent a "neurosurgical" and "peripheral vascular procedure," the Santa Fe Clinic in Bogota confirmed. – AFP

Pentagon threatens to send marines into Democrat-led California

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth indicated the possibility of sending Marine Corps troops to Los Angeles amid protests against a US government raid to find immigrants who stay in the country illegally.

Earlier, a raid by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to identify undocumented immigrants in downtown Los Angeles escalated into clashes with protesters. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that a 2,000-strong National Guard force would be deployed to Los Angeles amid the protests. California is traditionally considered a Democratic stronghold, and Trump has repeatedly criticized it. Last month, he threatened to cut state funding over the participation of a transgender athlete (the LGBT movement is considered extremist and is banned in Russia) in competitions. The administration has previously canceled $126.4 million in flood prevention projects and criticized California's handling of wildfires. – SPUTNIK

SPORTS

UFC 316: Joshua Van claims 3rd round TKO win over Bruno Silva

MYANMAR fighter Joshua Van secured a technical knockout victory in his bout at UFC 316, which was held in the United States on the morning of 8 June Myanmar time.

He faced off against Brazilian opponent Bruno Silva and claimed victory at four minutes and one second into the third round via referee stoppage. Throughout the fight, Joshua Van traded strikes with Bruno, but his powerful punches landed more effectively, causing significant damage to his opponent.

Bruno Silva responded early in the first round with a series of leg kicks, but Joshua Van countered well, repeatedly landing clean left-right combinations to Bruno's face. By the third round, the veteran Brazilian appeared to slow down, and Joshua Van capitalized with a barrage of punches, forcing the referee to stop the fight.

This marks Joshua Van's fourth consecutive win and his seventh victory under the UFC banner since signing with the promotion. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Joshua Van and Bruno Silva trading punches during their bout. **PHOTO: UFC**

Hip injury makes Atletico's Lenglet doubt for Club World Cup

ATLETICO Madrid faces a problem just a week before the start of its Club World Cup campaign, with news that central defender Clement Lenglet has suffered a hip injury.

The French international was scheduled to play for France against Germany in the UEFA Nations League third-place playoff but has been released from the squad due to the injury.

"Clement Lenglet had a medical test on Friday, 6 June for a hip injury," explained a communique from the French Football Federation (FFF), with Lenglet now set to return to Madrid to rejoin his club.

The Frenchman, who is on loan at Atletico from FC Barcelona, is now a doubt for at least the club's opening match in the Club World Cup. — Xinhua

Triple-hosted World Cup: huge ambition at a hefty cost to planet

THE largest and most far-flung World Cup kicks off in 12 months with a record 48 teams spread across Canada, the United States and Mexico and sceptics are asking whether its frenzied growth is worth the environmental cost.

FIFA, the governing body of world football, like the International Olympic Committee, insists it is working to reduce the carbon footprint. But the expansion from 32 competing nations to 48 and the resulting shift to multiple hosts both next year and in 2030, leads critics to question that claim.

Qatar used an air conditioning system to blow cold air onto pitches at the 2022 World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"Unlike the case of the Olympic Games, where the carbon footprints have been reducing over the last several editions, this is totally opposite in the case of the men's World Cup," David Gogishvili, a geographer at the University of Lausanne and a specialist in mega-sports events, told AFP.

While the 2022 World Cup in Qatar was certainly compact, it drew criticism for its oversized, air-conditioned stadiums built at breakneck speed in a small country with a scorching climate.

For 2026, all 16 stadiums — ranging in capacity from the 45,000-capacity Toronto Stadium to the 94,000-capacity cauldron of Dallas Stadium — already existed when the bid was made. — AFP

Junto Nakatani (L) and Ryosuke Nishida fight in their WBC-IBF bantamweight boxing title unification match at Tokyo's Ariake Colosseum on 8 June 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Boxing: Nakatani defeats Nishida in title unification bout

JUNTO Nakatani took a big step toward a potential future showdown with Naoya "Monster" Inoue by scoring a technical knockout of Ryosuke Nishida in their bantamweight title unification bout Sunday.

Nishida was unable to start the seventh round at Tokyo's Ariake Colosseum after dislocating his right shoulder, allowing Nakatani to add Nishida's IBF belt to his WBC belt.

Nishida also had visible swelling above his right eye.

The two previously undefeated boxers engaged in a slugfest from the opening round, with undisputed super bantamweight champion Inoue watching from ringside.

"I was determined to be aggressive from the first round after talks with my team," said Nakatani, who has been mostly based in the United States since graduating from junior high school in Japan.

"I'm happy to unify the bantamweight titles. It's a confidence booster."

Nakatani improved his professional record to 31-0, 24 of them by knockout. Nishida fell to 10-1 with two KOs.

Inoue and Nakatani have verbally agreed to fight each other next spring in what would be one of the most intriguing all-Japanese matchups in boxing history.

Earlier Sunday, former kickboxing star Tenshin Nasukawa defeated Victor Santillan of the Dominican Republic by unanimous decision in a 10-round bantamweight match.

Nasukawa aims to fight for a world title in his next bout. — Kyodo

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GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH FINDINGS

Man who let snakes bite him 200 times spurs new antivenom hope

TIM Friede, a self-taught American snake enthusiast, has endured over 200 snakebites and injected himself with venom for nearly two decades in pursuit of immunity to snake venom, a practice known as mithridatism.

Following the September 11 attacks, he began this journey, believing he could contribute to the development of a universal antivenom.

Recent research published in the journal Cell revealed that antibodies from Friede's blood can protect against various snake venoms.

This breakthrough could lead to a universal antivenom, addressing the significant global health issue of snakebites, which claim up to 138,000 lives annually and cause numerous disabilities. — AFP

London design biennale builds cross-cultural platform for Global South

This year's Biennale, led by Artistic Director Samuel Ross MBE, focuses on the Global South.

This photo taken with a mobile phone on 5 June 2025 shows a scene at the China pavilion of the 2025 London Design Biennale in London, Britain. **PHOTO: ZHENG BOFEI/XINHUA**

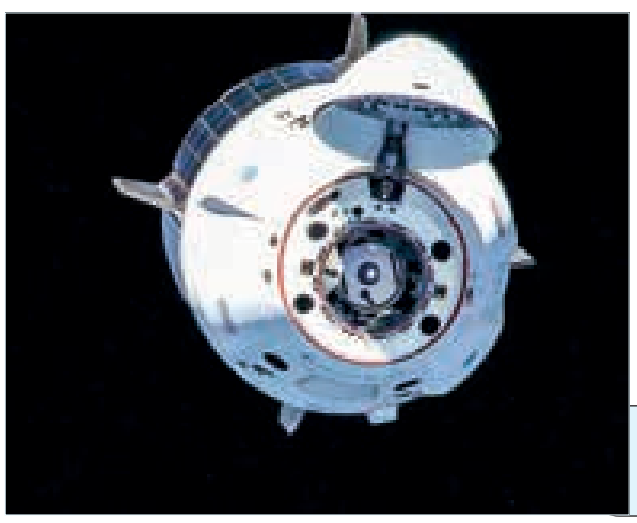
THE 2025 London Design Biennale was launched Thursday at the city's historic Somerset House, under the theme "Surface Reflections." Now in its 25th year, the Biennale features over 30 pavilions from five continents, providing a cross-cultural platform for collaboration for designers from all over the world.

Somerset House, once home to civil servants, is also celebrating its 25th anniversary as an arts institution. The historic site now houses over 2,000 artisans and innovators.

"What many don't realize is that beneath the surface, Somerset House is a home for cultural innovators," Director Jonathan Reekie from the Somerset House Trust told Xinhua. "We sit at the intersection of art, design, and technology. That spirit of creative collision is what powers both our programme and this Biennale."

This year, led by Artistic Director Samuel Ross MBE, the Biennale has turned its focus toward the Global South. — Xinhua

NASA, ISRO to launch private mission to space with Indian pilot on 10 June



The crew will travel to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a new SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, launched on a Falcon 9 rocket. **PHOTO: ANI**

NATIONAL Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on Saturday (local time)said that as part of a collaboration with ISRO, Axiom Mission 4 will be launched on 10 June, the fourth private astronaut mission from Axiom Space, which will be piloted by Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla.

Axiom Mission 4 delivers on a commitment highlighted by US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send the first ISRO astronaut to the station.

The space agencies are participating in five joint science investigations and two in-orbit science, technology, engineering, and mathematics demonstrations. NASA and ISRO have a long-standing relationship built on a shared vision to advance scientific knowledge and expand space collaboration, a statement by NASA said.

NASA, Axiom Space, and SpaceX are targeting 8:22 am (local time), Tuesday, 10 June, for launch of the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station, Axiom Mission 4. The mission will lift off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The crew will travel to the orbiting laboratory on a new SpaceX Dragon spacecraft after launching on the company's Falcon 9 rocket. The targeted docking time is approximately 12:30 pm, Wednesday (local time), 11 June, as per NASA. — ANI