

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Ancient Art Unlocked: Cataloguing Bagan's Rare Murals

**D**etailed documentation of ancient structures containing rare murals is being carried out within the Bagan World Heritage Site. According to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), documentation work has commenced on the Ngaphone Thinyaung Temple (Ancient Monument No 1536), which dates to the late Bagan period of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



These photos feature captivating circular paintings, along with other paintings found inside the Ngaphone Thinyaung Temple.

Inside the temple, distinctive circular murals, along with various other paintings, can be seen, and these are believed to depict the structure of the universe and illustrate the teachings of the Lord Buddha as described in Buddhist scriptures.

As the murals within the Bagan World Heritage Site, many of which are more than 1,000 years old, face ongoing threats

from theft, natural disasters, vandalism, and other hazards, systematic documentation, the classification of mural-bearing ancient structures, and annual preservation and research activities are being carried out according to established priorities.

Research is underway to compile detailed documentation of rare artworks, including murals and stucco carvings, in the Bagan region, to identify and document ancient structures that represent Myanmar's architectural and cultural heritage, in-

cluding temples, stupas, brick monasteries, ordination halls, and tunnels, and protecting the country's historically significant architectural motifs, craftsmanship, and cultural legacy from natural disasters and human-induced damage. — ASH/TH

## Nationwide Push Intensifies to Reach 50% Forest Cover: The President

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## Myanmar eyes steady growth in foreign trade

MYANMAR aims to achieve growth momentum in foreign trade, targeting to reach US\$29.1 billion in the 2026-2027 financial year, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade).

Myanmar will endeavour to achieve \$15.3 billion in exports and \$14.7 billion in imports in the current financial year. Furthermore, Myanmar's foreign



Workers load export cargo into the hull of an overseas-going merchant vessel.

trade is expected to expand by about \$1 billion year over year, with \$30 billion in the 2027-2028 FY, \$31.2 billion in the 2028-2029 FY, \$32.1 billion in the 2029-2030 FY and \$33 billion in the 2030-2031 FY.

Myanmar intends to reach its exports of \$4.75 million and imports of \$4.56 million between April and July 2026.

"We will make efforts to manage the balance of trade," said an official of the MyanTrade.

The country sets the foreign trade target depending on the condition of exports and imports. — ASH/KK



This image displays the opening ceremony of the UMTA Travel Fair 2026 at Yangon's Sedona Hotel on 13 June.

## UMTA Travel Fair 2026 Opens in Yangon

THE two-day UMTA Travel Fair 2026 opened at Yangon's Sedona Hotel on Saturday, featuring more than 70 exhibition booths from over 20 countries.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture and supported by the Myanmar Tourism Federation and brotherhood organizations, the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) has hosted the event from 13 to 14 June.

SEE PAGE 5

### Pyin Oo Lwin Nan Myaing Coffee

### MOUNT & PLEASANT COFFEE

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111  
 STARMART NINE MILE Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385  
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555  
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26<sup>th</sup> st and 66<sup>th</sup> st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244  
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

# NATIONAL

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 13 June 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather has a few clouds to partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON ON 14 June 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Magway, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and northern and eastern Shan states. In areas along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur; and therefore, it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasionally, squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Delta, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in a squall may reach 35 miles per hour (mph). Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Delta, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in a squall may reach 25-30 mph. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 14 June 2026:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 14 June 2026:** Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 14 June 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

## Public Notice: Scheduled Outages Approved for Power Grid Maintenance

THE replacement and installation works of multifunction metres on the feeders transmitting electricity from the Mann Power Plant will be carried out to enable the National Control Centre (NCC) in Nay Pyi Taw to monitor in real time the electricity transmission status of the Mann Power Plant located in Minbu Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, which is connected through the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, and to improve power system control and ensure system stability.

The plant's 132/33/11 kV 50 MVA transformer will be temporarily shut down from 8 am to 12 noon on 14 June 14, while the 132/66/11 kV 40 MVA transformer will be temporarily shut down from 2 pm to 5 pm on the same day for replacement and installation works.

During such operation period, temporary power outages will occur in Pwintbyu, Salin, Minbu, Malun, Minhla, Sagu, Ngape, Hsingaung villages, Htaukshapin oil field, and Minbu LPG Plant, which receive electricity distribution through the 33 kV and 11 kV lines from the Mann Power Plant, and the relevant factories, workshops, and electricity consumers in the affected areas have already been informed in advance.

Similarly, maintenance and repair work on the switch bays of the 33 kV Khanaungto power line and the 33 kV township office 1 power line at the 230 kV Khanaung Main Station, and tree and branch clearance works along the 33 kV transmission lines, will be carried out to ensure the reliability of the switch bays and prevent unexpected power outages, according to the following schedule;

No	Power Line	Date/Time	Affected area
1.	33kV Khanaungto	From 10 am to 1 pm, 15 June 2026	Aye village in Seikgyi Khanaungto township, wards and villages in Dala township
2.	33kV township office 1	From 10 am to 1 pm, 30 June 2026	Industrial Zone 1, Industrial Zone 2, Nyaunggywa and Daingsu wards

According to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, electricity consumption in the affected areas has already been notified in advance through the relevant township electrical engineer offices. — MNA/KTZH

## Drivers urged to take rest breaks every 2 hours

THE Expressway Maintenance and Supervision Committee has advised drivers to take a break at official rest stops after two hours of driving, as most expressway accidents are caused by drivers falling asleep.

At around 6:30 am on 12 June, a SUZUKI ER-TIGA carrying four people, including the driver, crashed into a traffic island and came to a stop between mileposts 289/0 and 289/1 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. All occupants were injured, according to the Expressway Maintenance

and Supervision Committee.

Therefore, as most motorway accidents are caused by driver fatigue, drivers are reminded to stop at official rest areas after driving for more than two hours and to ensure they do not exceed the speed limit for their vehicle type.

Furthermore, the Expressway Maintenance and Supervision Committee has warned that all vehicles using the expressway must observe the speed limit, avoid following too closely, and maintain a distance of at least



This photo captures an accident that occurred on the expressway.

300 feet between vehicles. Drivers should come to a complete stop within designated parking areas, use parking lights when stopped on the roadside

lights when making emergency stops on the road or lane. Truck drivers should also use side lamps, and all vehicles must keep to the right side of the roadway. — MT/MKKS

## MMPO secures K2.24M donation for members' education drive

SE Tawwin Media and Production and the family of Academy Nay Myo Aung (Myitta Athinche Group) have contributed a total of K2.24 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO). The donation is intended to support an upcoming programme that will provide educational stipends, school

stationery and uniforms for the children of MMPO members, according to MMPO Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay.

The ceremony to distribute school stipends and supplies is scheduled for this July at the MMPO headquarters.

"Film artists and production companies are actively

coming forward to contribute to this educational support programme for the children of our members," said U Aye Kyu Lay. "On 11 June, Se Tawwin Production contributed K1 million. On the same day, the family of Academy Nay Myo Aung (Myitta Athinche Group) donated K1.24 million, bringing the total

contribution from both parties to K2.24 million."

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the MMPO distributed support packages to 130 children from film industry professionals from various sectors, including directors, editors and documentary filmmakers, video professionals, leading actors,

scriptwriters, theatre and music performers, supporting actors, management and distribution personnel, and technical crew members.

Each child received K30,000 in cash, along with school uniforms, exercise books, pencils, pens, umbrellas and packets of instant noodles. — ASH/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Nationwide Push Intensifies to Reach 50% Forest Cover: The President

A total of 21.36 million trees will be planted on more than 30,000 acres of forest plantations and established nationwide during this year's monsoon season.

**F**orest conservation activities should be prioritized and expanded as an “important investment for the future” to ensure economic stability and sustainable development, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the first national-level monsoon tree-growing ceremony for 2026, yesterday morning.

The activities took place at Palway Forest Reserve in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw of the Union Territory, where the President planted a Mahogany sapling at the designated place.

Speaking on the occasion, the President retold the experts' forecast that a very strong Super El Niño event may develop by the end of this year, and that 2026 and 2027 could become the hottest years in recorded global history.

He noted that tree planting and forest con-



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing views the tree planting of participants in the first monsoon tree-planting event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

servation are the simplest, easiest, and most cost-effective actions for various approaches to addressing the climate change and environmental problems facing the world. They are also nature-friendly and among the most beneficial

measures. Regarding 13 tropical districts, he continued that more than 60 million trees were planted between 2016 and 2025, which is generally equivalent to over 200,000 acres. Across Myanmar as a whole, more than 269.8

million trees of various species were planted during the period from 2016 to 2025, which is generally equivalent to about 1 million acres.

The President emphasized that special greening activities are being carried

out in cooperation with relevant departments and local communities through tree planting in 13 tropical districts, along railway lines, along both sides of ASEAN roads and highways, in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, around Inlay

Lake area, and in coastal regions.

According to the 2020 report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, he stated that Myanmar's forest cover accounted for 42.19 per cent of the country's total land area, while in 2025 it was recorded at 42.15 per cent. Compared to 2020, the forest cover rate decreased by 0.04 per cent, and continued efforts must be made to completely halt deforestation.

He stressed the need to promote environmental conservation and nature-based economic development models such as the bioeconomy, green economy, and circular economy.

The President underlined that forest conservation activities should be prioritized and expanded as an “important investment for the future” in order to ensure economic stability and sustainable development.

**SEE PAGE 4**

## Mandalay-Myitkyina route reopens as new aid batch arrives

AS the Mandalay-Htigyaing-Katha-Mohnyin-Myitkyina route has been reopened, vehicles carrying food products, consumer goods, agricultural fertilizer bags, school textbooks, and supplies for Tatmadaw personnel and their families – sent for the third time under the State Government's arrangement – arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday.

To distribute these items to farmers in the

state, urea fertilizer bags were taken to the warehouse on the campus of the Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (Myitkyina), while basic food products such as potatoes, onions, and garlic were delivered to the stadium.

The Northern Command commander and state ministers inspected the delivery of Ministry of Education school textbooks and exercise books to the District Education Office,



Departmental personnel carry the textbooks and exercise books to the District Education Office in Myitkyina yesterday.

as carried out by Tatmadaw personnel, police officers, firefighters, General Administration Department staff, and municipal staff, and assisted as needed, including cash support for volunteers.

Similarly, ethnic language illustrated books and storybooks included in the

convoy were delivered to the Ethnic Literature and Culture Department at the Kachin State Directorate of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Mangkhein Ward, Myitkyina, where they were inspected and accepted by the state minister for Ethnic Affairs. — State IPRD/MKKS

## Historical knowledge-sharing talk held in Nay Pyi Taw

A historical knowledge-sharing talk titled “Culture Marks the Beginning of History” was held yesterday morning at the Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Department of Historical Research and National Library of the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture. Union Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Maung Myint, deputy minister, experts, special guests, university and basic education students and civilians joined the event.

The Union minister delivered a remark, and the director-general of the department explained the intention of holding such a talk show. Myanmar Historical Commission vice-chair 2 Dr Toe Hla discussed the evolution of Myanmar culture regarding the stone age, bronze age, iron age, Pyu and Bagan eras, titled “Culture Marks the Beginning of History”, and the participants coordinated the discussion. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Nationwide Push Intensifies to Reach 50% Forest Cover: The President

FROM PAGE 3

He urged that, of the national target to designate 30 per cent of the country's area as reserved forests and protected public forests, and 10 per cent as nature conservation areas, a total of 1,337 reserved and protected forest areas have been established to date, covering 26.11 per cent of the country's land area. In addition, 62 nature conservation areas have been

designated, covering 6.59 per cent of the country's land area. He urged that continued efforts be made to achieve these targets successfully.

Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, departmental personnel, faculty members of universities, colleges and basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw and students participated in the tree-growing

activities.

The President and party viewed around the participation of attendees in growing saplings.

A total of 3,000 saplings of 16 species, including teak, iron tree, gum-kinno, Mahogany and others, were planted at the ceremony. At the same time, regions, states, districts and townships held the tree-growing ceremony to plant 54,810 saplings. — MNA/TTA

### Key points from the speech delivered by the President at the tree-growing ceremony

1. Efforts must be made to completely halt deforestation.
2. It is necessary to promote environmental conservation and nature-based economic development models such as the bioeconomy, green economy, and circular economy.
3. Tree planting and forest conservation are the simplest, easiest, and most cost-effective actions for various approaches to addressing the climate change and environmental problems facing the world.

## Yunnan Media Group, Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw Magazine forge media alliance

CHINA'S Yunnan Media Group and Myanmar's Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw Magazine have announced a new strategic collaboration in the media sector.

Based on its overseas communication centre (the Lancang-Mekong Communication Centre), Yunnan Media Group will cooperate closely with Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw Magazine. Through high-quality, mutually-owned media platforms, they intend to jointly publish content favoured by the people of both nations. They will focus on "small but beautiful" projects related to the development of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, Pauk-Phaw friendship, culture and tourism, and public livelihood development.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was held in Yangon on 27 May, with



This image reveals the signing of the MoU between China's Yunnan Media Group and Myanmar's Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw Magazine.

officials from both organizations in attendance.

Yunnan Media Group operates multiple radio and television platforms, including Yunnan TV, Lancang-Mekong International TV, and Jixiang Net. It broadcasts news to 18 neighbouring countries in seven languages and five cross-border ethnic languages. Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw Magazine, a primary Myanmar-language media

outlet, was established in 2020 to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations.

This partnership represents a new step that will strengthen cultural and social exchanges between Myanmar and China's Yunnan Province, which serves as a central hub for China's outreach to South and South-East Asia. — TWA/ZN

## MFVP concludes strategic 5-day trade mission to China

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP), a five-day visit from 9 to 13 June was conducted for the development of Myanmar's fruit sector and for business cooperation in Yunnan Province, China.

MFVP chairman U Kyaw Thu and vice chairman U Sai Khin Maung joined the delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

They held meetings for trade promotion with the Yunnan Chamber of Commerce and Yunnan business entrepreneurs. The delegation also attended the 10<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 30<sup>th</sup> Kunming Import & Export Fair, while supporting the signing of a Konjac-export MoU.

Additionally, meetings were held on investment and facilitating trade routes, specifically focusing on Myanmar fruits, including mangoes, watermelons, muskmelons, avocados, durians, and passion fruit.

Similarly, as the signing of the SPS Protocol with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC)

for Myanmar avocados is imminent, the delegation held preliminary negotiations to ensure smooth exports. Investing in the standardized packing houses in Myanmar was discussed in further detail.

They also visited a high-tech "Premium Wholesale Market" for assessments aimed at securing a place for high-quality Myanmar fruits in the market. — MT/ZN



This image shows MFVP's five-day trip to China (Yunnan Province).



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# NATIONAL

## NPT Council Chair inspects flood mitigation and rescue drills



Search and rescue exercises are underway as part of the disaster preparedness measures.

NAY Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than inspected ongoing flood mitigation and disaster preparedness efforts in Zeyathiri Township yesterday afternoon.

He first visited a dredging project along Naraban Creek, which stretches from Thethnin-in Village to the Paunglaung Dam Road, and is being expanded by the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management using Union capital funds to reduce

local flooding risks. The chairman then attended a water-rescue simulation drill near the Paunglaung River in Kyitaung Village-tract, where he delivered an opening address, observed search-and-rescue exercises, and inspected disaster-relief equipment. To conclude his trip, he visited the Kyitaung pig farm in Thayawun Village to observe and support local livestock production operations. — Aung Ko(Pobbathiri)/KZL

## Mohnyin receives third batch of state-subsidized urea fertilizer

WITH the reopening of the Mandalay-Myitkyina communication route, vehicles carrying food and consumer goods, agricultural fertilizers, school textbooks, and exercise books, sent under the arrangement of the State Government, arrived in Mohnyin Township, Mohnyin District, Kachin State for the third time yesterday.

The vehicles carrying urea fertilizer were despatched by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development to ensure that farmers in Mohnyin Township receive and use the fertilizer in a timely manner.

Heads of relevant district and township departments welcomed the arrival of the fertilizer. Tatmadaw members, staff from the General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force personnel, firefighters, other officials, and residents assisted in



Rehabilitation supplies arrive in Mohnyin.

unloading and transporting 4,050 bags of urea fertilizer, which were then

handed over to the relevant authorities. — Shwe Mohnyin/MKKS

## MPE fertilizers distributed to farmers



A drum seeder demonstration is underway in Hinthada Township. PHOTO: KO LWIN

A drum seeder demonstration and handover of MPE fertilizer was con-

ducted at the two-acre field of U Thein Han, in Indawei village-tract

in Hinthada Township Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

At the ceremony, Daw Hla Kyi, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture, explained the benefits and advantages of using drum seeders, and township administration board chairman U Aung Zaw Min highlighted the target monsoon paddy of this year, the education programme of the

department, and the strong interest of farmers in such activities for successful plantation of monsoon paddy.

District head, township administration board chairman, and township Agriculture Department head U Saw Win Shwe presented MPE fertilizer to the farmers, and the demonstration was conducted as scheduled. — Oktha/KTZH

## Officials crack down on palm oil storage in Kyimyindine, Thanlyin

UNDER the guidance of the Yangon Region government, a combined inspection team led by the district administrative bodies visited palm oil storage tanks in Kyimyindine and Thanlyin townships on 11 June to conduct field inspections regarding security and fire prevention measures.

The team included officials from the district-level General Administration Department, the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Services Department, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Electricity Supply Corporation, and



Officials from the combined inspection team are seen during the field inspection of palm oil storage tanks.

the Department of Consumer Affairs, alongside representatives from the Myanmar Edible Oil Deal-

ers Association. It evaluated the security measures within the storage tank compounds,

preparations for fire emergency response in the event of natural disasters, and adherence to the regulations set by the relevant departments.

Myanmar's annual edible oil consumption is approximately 1.2 million tonnes, with about 900,000 tonnes imported annually, primarily from Malaysia and Indonesia. Myanmar spends over US\$600 million annually on edible oil imports to meet domestic demand, which results in significant foreign currency expenditure. — TWA/ZN

## UMTA Travel Fair 2026 ...

### FROM PAGE 1

“More than 50 local companies have participated in the event, along with tourism booths by Malaysia and Nepal, and travel agencies and tour operators from 20 countries such as France, Slovakia, Romania, Spain, Malaysia and Indonesia,” said UMTA general secretary Daw May Thet Lwin.

It aims to boost the domestic and overseas travel network, enhance the development of Myanmar's tourism industry, encourage more arrivals of foreign tourists and expand the network with international travel markets.

It is not only a normal exhibition but also includes opportunities for B2B networking with local and overseas travel companies and tourism boards. It has also offered opportunities to meet international tourism boards such as Malaysia, Nepal, Korea and Russia and build partnerships with new buyers and sellers from different countries like France, Spain, Slovakia, Romania, India and Indonesia. It has also provided a chance to have business discussions with Myanmar's well-known agencies such as Adventure Myanmar, APT and Asia Golden Mines. — MT/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

**7 June**

### Development undertakings inspected in Toungoo

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, together with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Union ministers and officials, inspected the development initiatives in Toungoo, Bago Region.

**9 June**

### President receives Indonesian FM

A delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Sugiono paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, at the Presidential Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Head of State attends 2026 China Film Week

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the opening of the 2026 China Film Week to mark the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations

between China and Myanmar at the J Cineplex of Ottarathiri Departmental Store in Nay Pyi Taw.

**10 June**

### Union government meeting, National Water Resources Committee meeting held

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the Union government meeting in the morning and delivered a speech at the National Water Resources Committee meeting in the afternoon at the President's Office.

### General Ye Win Oo receives Lao People's Army delegation

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo received Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Lao People's Army Maj-Gen Vanhthong Boudtavong at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw.

**12 June**

### Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye attends Russia's National Day Reception

Yangon-based Russian Federation Embassy hosted a reception to mark the National Day of the Russian Federation at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye.

**13 June**

### President to make State Visit to China

At the invitation of President of the People's Republic of China His Excellency Mr Xi Jinping, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing will pay a State Visit to the People's Republic of China in the near future.

### President receives Lao DPM and FM

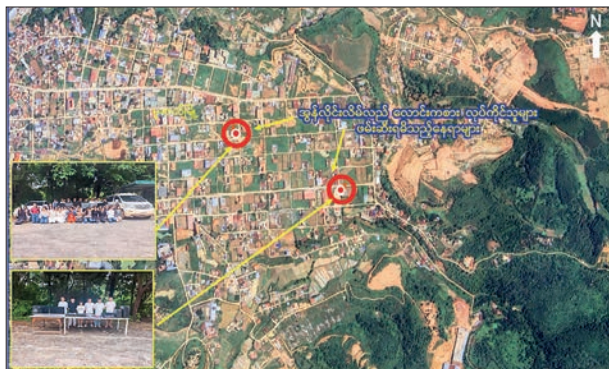


A delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. — GNLN/TTA

## Offenders arrested for online gambling and scams in Muse

THE security forces searched at 2:15 pm yesterday in Kaunghmuloi Ward, Muse Township, Shan State (North), and arrested 17 Chinese men, 34 Myanmar men, and 37 Myanmar women involved in online gambling and telecom fraud. They also seized 180 mobile phones, 44 all-in-one computers, two power stations, and one each of Crown and Alphard vehicles.

Additionally, at 2:30 pm on the same day, the security forces conducted



A location map pin pointing the sites where online scammers were detained and illicit operational equipment was seized.

another search in Kaunghmuloi Ward, Muse Township, Shan State (North), and arrested five Chinese

men and one Chinese woman involved in online gambling and telecom fraud. Authorities also seized 103

mobile phones, six laptops, two all-in-one computers, four Wi-Fi devices, and two CPUs. Legal action will be taken against the offenders, and the foreign nationals will be repatriated to their respective countries on humanitarian grounds and in consideration of bilateral relations. The government is intensifying efforts to crack down on online scams and online gambling in cooperation with international partners, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/MKKS

## MOEE urges public to cooperate in tackling electricity theft



Electricity transmission facility.

OF the country's annual power generation, about 18.38 per cent or about 3,559 million units of electricity, has been lost, said the Ministry of Electricity and Energy on 11 June, and it also urged the public to report electricity theft.

Due to the high number of power thefts, adequate power transmission and distribution can't be provided, and the income of the government and the public has been lost on a daily basis, it said.

To reduce losses, the ministry will heighten the implementation of technology upgrades in accordance with international standards, regular maintenance for power lines and transformers, smart meter installation and the use of a real-time monitoring system on power usage.

The ministry has also urged the public to stop stealing electricity and cooperate in tackling energy theft practices. — TWA/ZS

## Kehsi's completed rural water supply project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection to review the completion of rural water supply works in Wamphun Village, Kehsi Township, Shan State (South) yesterday.

Head of the Kehsi Township Department of Rural Development U Aye Naing and engineering staff inspected the completed spring water supply system, featuring a three-furlong transmission line from the water source to the village and a 3,000-gallon water storage

tank. He also met members of the village water supply committee to discuss the long-term sustainability of the system and measures to protect water sources.

The project was implemented for the 2026-2027 financial year, utilizing K15 million from

the Village Development Project (VDP) fund and K3 million contributed by residents. Jointly executed by township DRD staff and local villagers since the first week of May, the project is now fully completed, benefiting 54 households and 252 residents in the village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set to decline this week

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market indicated a steady decline to K7,300 per viss this week ending 18 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The reference prices were registered at K7,354 last week ending 11 June, K7,423 in the previous week ending 28 May and K7,387 last week ending 4 June.

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. Despite the reference price, the market price is



Oil mill workers are organizing cooking oil jerrycans for distribution and sale.

still 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 in late August. 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 attempting market ma-

nipulation 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.

Although farmers cultivate oil crops such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower and others but these cannot meet demand of local consumption yet. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## CBM sells over US\$1.6M to importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.62 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$8,617 to CMP companies on 12 June, along with over \$2,600 in non-trade transactions.

CBM injected over \$49,000 on 11 June and over \$36,600 into CMP companies on 10 June.

CBM has been injecting US dollar to the edible oil importing companies, with \$286,000 on 11 June, \$1.38 million on 10 June, \$2.6 million on 9 June, \$3.6 million on 8 June, over \$2.9 million on 4 June, over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

CBM also sold \$51,210 to CMP companies on 8 June, along with a \$380-valued non-trade transaction.

CBM sold \$3 million, purchased from CMP companies, to LNG-importing companies on 5 June. CBM sold over \$109,300 to CMP companies and \$3 million to LNG companies on 4 June, along with \$1,650 worth of non-trade transactions.

Moreover, CBM sold \$3,003 to CMP companies on 3 June after making a \$48,250-valued non-trade transaction. CBM also sold over 26,400 on 2 June and over \$46,000 to CMP companies on 1 June, along with \$33,255 worth of non-trade transactions. CBM pumped over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign exchange market in May.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026. CBM has injected foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sector, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining market stability. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

## Fuel prices continue to drop across Myanmar

FUEL oil reference prices continued their steady decline to K3,880 for Octane 92 and K3,915 for Octane 95, K3,995 for diesel and K4,800 for premium diesel this week ending 18 June, showing a decrease of over K220 to K470 per litre.

The reference prices were set at K4,345 for Octane 92 and K4,385 for Octane 95, K4,220 for diesel and K5,115 for premium diesel last week ending 11 June.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure a stable price and



As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. A pump machine at a petrol station.

secure supply. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Myanmar has been injecting foreign currencies into the fuel oil sector to help cut the price. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported,

while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

## Customs Dept to auction seized consumer goods

THE Customs Department will auction consumer goods and general goods seized under existing customs laws through a competitive bidding system. The auction will be held at 10 am on 24 June at the Supply and Transport Division, Customs Warehouse, located on concrete Strand Road, West Saw Yan Paing Ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon Region. Auction forms, along with terms and conditions and a list of items, can be purchased for K10,000 per set on 15-16 June. Deposit payments will be accepted during office hours on 17-18 June. Only those who have paid the deposit are entitled to view the items between 10 am and 4 pm from 17 to 22 June. Individuals can enquire for further details through the Supply and Transport Division in person or by dialling 09 420005920 or 09 254073302, according to the Customs Department Auction Committee. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Respectfully honour blood donors for their noble contributions

**M**YANMAR people accept the concept that donating blood, which is the most important in human organs, is one of the noble activities to save life and contribute much to giving better treatment to patients who need blood in an emergency.

As an act of honouring the blood donors from all walks of life, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day every year. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

A blood service that gives patients access to safe blood and blood products in sufficient quantity is a key component of an effective health system.

If patients reach a condition where blood transfusion is required, no medicine or medical equipment can assist, and only blood transfusion can help. Therefore, the role of regular blood donors who continuously donate blood is an extremely important form of support for patients. Patients have been able to receive treatment with the required blood types and blood components without any concerns about financial costs or the need to search for blood donors, thanks to the support of voluntary blood donors.

The global theme of World Blood Donor Day changes each year in recognition of the selfless individuals who donate their blood for people unknown to them.

The annual global campaign honours voluntary, unpaid blood donors and raises awareness about the critical, ongoing need for safe blood supplies. To recognize the generosity of regular donors, encourage new volunteers to build a life-saving habit, and highlight the importance of resilient, safe blood transfusion systems, this year's theme for World Blood Donor Day has been set as "One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."

If patients reach a condition where blood transfusion is required, no medicine or medical equipment can assist, and only blood transfusion can help. Therefore, the role of regular blood donors who continuously donate blood is an extremely important form of support for patients. Patients have been able to receive treatment with the required

blood types and blood components without any concerns about financial costs or the need to search for blood donors, thanks to the support of voluntary blood donors.

In Myanmar, the government has established one National Blood Centre, seven blood banks attached to general hospitals in Mandalay, Magway, Mawlamyine, Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Patheingyi, and Nay Pyi Taw, as well as additional blood banks integrated with laboratories in 200-bed and 100-bed hospitals. Hospitals in the country follow the Blood Management System (BMS) software, which has also been installed and is being used so as to provide safe and successful treatment for patients.

Blood donation by voluntary donors directly supports patients who urgently need blood for medical treatment and also indirectly contributes to fostering humanitarian activities within communities of different faiths. As such, it is important to highly honour these noble donors for their valuable contributions.



Book Title	-	Not Far, Almost There, and Other Short Stories
Author	-	Nu Nu Yi (Inwa)
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	January 2025 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K13,500

### Not Far, Almost There & Other Short Stories

SAYAMA Nu Nu Yi (Inwa) is a true short story writer. She first entered the literary field with her short story "A Piece of Htamain (Sarong)" published in the March 1984 issue of the Pay Phu Hlwa Magazine. She later received the National Literary Award in 1993 and the Man Asian Literary Prize (five shortlisted) in 2007. Until present, she has published around fifteen novels and eight collections of short stories.

Regarding this second edition of Not Far, Almost There and Other Short Stories, the author writes...

"I often think affectionately and sorrowfully about short stories, just as I often think about the young people of today with affection and sympathy. The short stories within our hearts, the short stories of the era we are passing through, no longer seem able to emerge. I gently touch with my right hand the short stories I wrote on the pages of magazines long ago.

All of these short stories once travelled from magazine pages into the hands of readers. No matter how many times I visited magazine offices, if there was ever a writer whose heart pounded and whose hands and feet turned cold when she reached the office

entrance, perhaps my readers would laugh to know that it was me...

The little short stories I lovingly wrote with my pen and my right hand, stories that once lived upon the pages of magazines, will now appear again in a new collection titled Not Far, Almost There, and Other Short Stories, as Short Story Collection No 2, published by Seikku Cho Cho."

The stories included in this book were originally published in illustrated magazines such as Mahaythi, Moe Wai, Pay Phu Hlwa, and Thae Oo Pan. They are collections of Sayama Nu Nu Yi (Inwa)'s short stories, vividly portraying fragments of the writer's own experiences and the real-life struggles of ordinary people from the lower social classes.

In the 'Moe Khaung Thee' short story, readers will deeply feel the hardships of Ko San Tun, a farmer who survives by harvesting beans and weeding in other people's fields. During the winter, when there is no work in his village, he walks for three days and two nights to Mandalay, herding goats along the way. When one goat goes missing during the journey, he not only loses his wages but also

has to compensate the owner for the lost goat.

In the opening of Not Far, Almost There, and Other Short Stories," it reads...

He shook out the white cloth with a flapping sound. Tiny strands of hair swirled away in the air. Well then, another head done. She lowered the child, who had been sobbing softly on the chair. Such filthy little creatures. Who knew how many days they had gone without a bath, rolling around in dust and ditches. Their heads were full of lice. He blew away a louse crawling on the clipper scissors, and Than Maung put it back in front of the mirror. "Here you are, Than Maung."

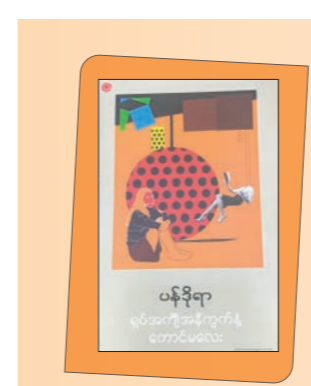
The child's mother placed a coin on the stool. A fifty Pya (Myanmar coin).

What a problem. Than Maung thought bitterly as he looked at the woman.

"Fifty Pya isn't enough anymore, Daw Than Gyi. Where have you been sleeping all this time? It's been ages since shaving a child's head cost one kyat.

"Oh? Really? So expensive. I don't have enough money right now. I'll pay later."

Saying this, she pulled the child away and left.



Book Title	-	A Girl in the Red Checkered Shirt (Short Stories)
Author	-	Pandora
Publishing House	-	The Eras
Publication Date	-	June 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K10,000

### A Girl in the Red Checkered Shirt (Short Stories)

PANDORA is a poet, particularly an award-winning poet who holds the National Literary Award for Poetry. She received the award in 2019 for her masterpiece, the Cupid Launcher poetry book. It is truly compelling to read the short stories written by a prize-winning poet. Poetry and novels serve different aesthetic formats. How can the same person create both? I wonder if Pandora, who has won the Golden Umbrella Award for her poetry, can freely nurture her new short stories in the shade of her poetic talent, sparking curiosity.

The author Phyu Mon gave a remark on Pandora's short story collection in the foreword that the poet Pandora showed her short story writing in a simple, smooth, and elegant style. As I had expected, the depth of her seemingly simple stories can only be fully appreciated through deep reflection. Moreover, her stories emphasize objectivity over subjectivity in creating storytelling, demonstrating the writer's competence and depth of knowledge. Even

when exploring the concept of fate, she does not simply attribute everything to past Kamma (actions) but encourages readers to also consider present Kamma and the circumstances we create for ourselves. Her multifaceted writing reveals a keen ability to explore different layers and deep perspective, exploring extreme contrasts - depth and shallowness, light and dark, weight and lightness, the rough and smooth."

Next, reading 'Fairy Tale, Fairy Dream' intrigues me as the author's brilliant imagination flashed and sparked within me.

Why must the nightingale, who creates a noble life according to her own circumstances and delights in it, suffer under the simple and gentle nature of ordinary humanity? My first thought is possibly due to identity value, but then it could also be because of ethics that she herself has concealed.

Exploring existence will arouse many debates on the objective status of value.

The young woman who weeps instead of searching for answers evokes many assumptions and questions.

The story titled "A Girl in the Red Checkered Shirt (Short Stories)" started with the quote, "As far as I know, she and I have known each other for a decade, or it might be earlier than that. I noticed her on the afternoon of the last rainy day 10 years ago. She wore a red checkered shirt and black longyi, carrying a grey backpack styled with four or five keychains."

This book encompasses a foreword by writer Phyu Mon titled "Sunset mountains vertically moving between butterfly wings," the following stories; The girl in the red checked shirt, Under the Sunlight, Look at a triangular prism, About the big sister and Myaing, Fairy Tale, Fairy Dream, The Shadow, Four Old Women, The Third Angle, About Things left unsaid, The Wind Whispering Between Butterfly Wings, Sunset Mountains Moving Vertically.

### A Wish for the Early Rains (Modern Free Verse)

By Moon Cherry K

*When dark clouds gather in the sky, farmers rejoice, their hearts filled with hope.*

*The earth turns lush and green; fruit trees flourish, flowers bloom in abundance, their sweet fragrance drifting upon the gentle breeze.*

*Across the mountain ranges, mist lingers softly, while crystal streams flow gently, singing their timeless songs.*

*In this season of early rains, I offer a humble prayer:*

*May our land be spared from every natural disaster.*

*May our motherland flourish, prosper in peace, and remain forever beautiful and serene.*

**မိုးဦးကျ ဆုတောင်း**

မိုးညိုမှောင်လျှင် လယ်ယာဝင်တို့  
ရွာငါ့မြူးဝမ်းသာကြသည်။  
စိုပြေမြေပြင် စိမ်းလန်းတင့်တယ်၍  
သီးပင်စားပင် ဆောလျက်၊  
ပန်းရနံ့များသည် လေပြေနှင့်အတူ  
ပျံ့လွင့်လာသည်။  
တောင်တန်းများပေါ် မြူးဦးတို့ ဝေဝါး  
နေပြီး၊ စမ်းချောင်းငယ်များ တေးသီ  
စီးဆင်းကြသည်။  
ဤမိုးဦးရာသီတွင်...  
သာသာတေးအန္တရာယ် အပေါင်းမှ  
ကင်းဝေးပါစေကြောင်း၊  
အမိမြေကြီး သာယာဝေဆာ၍  
စိုပြေဖွံ့ဖြိုးပါစေကြောင်း ဆုတောင်း  
မိပါသည်။

### Actor

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Before a dramatic backdrop,  
By heart, a character monologue  
With the royal dagger, with  
some asperity  
To the throne succeeding  
Lord Sadan, the king.

Behind the backdrop,  
Moping on his chin while  
smoking,  
With the make-up like a king,  
No money but a prop box left  
Who possesses only one map  
In the dying life, an artiste.

**သရုပ်ဆောင်**

ကားလိပ်ရှေ့မှာ  
ကျက်၍ပြောကြား၊ ဇာတ်စကားကို  
ခေးသန်လျက်နှင့်၊ အားမာန်ဝင့်လျက်  
ပလ္လင်တံပျံ၊ ထီးနန်းစံသည့်  
ဆဒ္ဒန်သခင်၊ ရှင်ဘုရင်၊

ကားလိပ်နောက်မှာ  
မေးထောက်ရှင်ကား၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဖွာ  
လျက်  
ရာဇာမင်းဟန်၊ မိတ်ကပ်ကျန်ခဲ့  
ပိုက်ဆံဗလာ၊ ဇာတ်သေတ္တာနှင့်  
ဖျာတစ်ချပ်မျှ၊ မိုးပိုင်သည့်  
ဘဝနေဝင်၊ ပညာရှင်၊  
တင်ဗွဲ

### Asking the rain cloud

By Kyi Aye, Translated by Myint Zan

*i gazed and pondered alone  
my thoughts flutter hither and thither  
by the end of summer  
reaching the month of Kasone  
(the month of May)  
my mood, my heart become  
foolish (with longing)*

**မိုးတိမ် ကိုမှာ**

တစ်ကိုယ်ငေးမိရဲ့  
အတွေးဟိုသည့်ခုနံ့လို့  
နွေအကုန် ကဆုန်ကူးရင်ဖြင့်  
ရှူး မိမိ ဘဝင် မှာ

ကျည်အေး

Published in Tarya magazine, Volume II, No 4, on page 76.  
Translator's note: only the first stanza of Kyi Aye's poem is translated.

# NATIONAL Entertainment



This image features the press briefing for the Thein Zaw Thabin Golden Jubilee Festival.

## Mandalay Thein Zaw Thabin Golden Jubilee briefing launches in Yangon

A press briefing for the Mandalay Thein Zaw Thabin Golden Jubilee Festival was held at Melia Hotel in Yangon on 11 June.

The festival will be held grandly with the artworks of Thabin, music and poetry on 27 and 28 July at the National Theatre.

"This event carries a great responsibility. We must also preserve and pass on this legacy to the younger generation, Aung Zabu. We are organizing it carefully so as not to diminish the dignity of my longtime colleagues Moe Win and Nan Win, while also fulfilling the expectations and nostalgia of the audiences who have been waiting for them," said Mandalay Thein Zaw.

The press conference was attended by great Myanmar traditional dancers Mandalay Thein Zaw, U Nan Win, U Moe Win, U Chan Thar, including Aung Zabu, singer Daw Tin Tin Mya, Soe Sandar Tun and Ei Ei Chun, and also journalists and digital media outlets. – Htun Htun/KTZH

## National Theatre to host enchanting 'Win Thabyay Tun' Anyeint



Members discuss the performance of Win Thabyay Tun Anyeint.

WIN Thabyay Tun Anyeint under the guidance of Zagana will be performed at the National Theatre on 18 June.

The Anyeint will be performed by lead female dancer Win Thabyay Tun, second dancer Snow Kyi Phyu, and Myanmar Pyi Star comedians led by Chat Gyi and Phoe Thae.

The 2.9 Yadana Jewellery supports the Anyeint as a main sponsor, whereas AYA Pay and APP Show as co-sponsors. The Anyeint will also be broadcast on the APP Show application. – Htun Htun/KTZH

## Rock in Yangon 2026 concert rallies music fans

THE 'Rock in Yangon 2026' music concert, featuring many of Myanmar's top veteran rock artistes and numerous new-generation rock bands, was held at Eastern Yangon Event Park in Yangon on 13 and 14 June.

The concert brought together some of the most popular Myanmar rock music singers at one scene, such as Lay Phyu, Wai La, Wanted, Reason, Velocity, Double Tape, and 3:16. – TWA/KTZH



## 'My Ego & Myself' set to enchant filmgoers this June

ACL Film Production is preparing to release a family drama, 'My Ego & Myself', set for screening in late June.

Written and directed by Aung Chan Lu, the film is a collaborative venture between ACL Film Production and Wizaya Film Production.

Kyaw Htet Aung, Academy Aye Chan Maung, Nyi Nanda, Academy Khin Wint Wah, Zin Myo, Tin Za Win Pyae, Academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Thar Thar, Myat Amara, Yun Wady Hlaing, child actor Hein Thiri San and many others star in the movie. – Htun Htun/MKKS

## Show Like and Channel 7 ink MoU

SHOW Like and Channel 7 held an MOU signing ceremony to mark their collaborative partnership.

Many famous artistes attended the ceremony held at the Pathein Room in the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 9

June.

A responsible official from Show Like stated that through this collaboration, audiences will be able to enjoy higher-quality and more modern entertainment programmes in the future. – Htun Htun/KTZH



This image shows artistes attending the MOU signing ceremony of Show Like and Channel 7.



This photo captures paintings to be displayed in the exhibition.

## 'Vijja Mahiddhi' Art Expo brings Buddhist philosophy to life

A rare and unique art exhibition titled 'Vijja Mahiddhi' will be held, according to artist sources.

The exhibition, which showcases artworks inspired by Buddhist philosophy, is the second solo art exhibition of artist Myo Lwin.

"These arts have

been created by combining our cultural heritage, ethics and artistic values, and have brought timeless Jataka tales to life in a modern, traditional style," said artist Myo Lwin.

The exhibition will be held at Mula Art Gallery of The Secretariat in Yangon, on 12, 13 and 14 June. – Htun Htun/MKKS

## Yangon to host 'Views' Volume 2 group art expo on 13-17 June

THE 'Views' Volume 2 group art exhibition will be held from 13 to 17 June at Good Mood Gallery in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, according to artist Ei Sandar Lwin.

It will feature creative and diverse artworks of watercolours, oils, acrylics, and other types of paintings by artists Thit Lwin Soe, Maung Thein Win, Aye Myat Nyein, Myint San, Kyi Soe, Moe Moe, Hla Htun Aung, Myint Maung, Yun Na Dee, Aung Thin Oo, Ngai Gyi, Yadana Thein, Win Thein, Htoo Htoo, and Ei Sandar Lwin. The exhibition will also highlight paintings of various sizes, with prices ranging from a minimum of K700,000 to K5 million. – ASH/MKKS



This image illustrates a catalogue for the 'Views' Volume 2 group art exhibition.

## G7 summit to address geopolitical crises amid growing divisions

*The summit will focus on strengthening international solidarity and improving the effectiveness of development cooperation.*

LEADERS of the Group of Seven (G7) will meet in the French town of Evian from 15 to 17 June, as they seek to address mounting geopolitical crises and global economic imbalances amid growing differences within the group.

The summit takes place against the backdrop of ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, which have added to global economic uncertainties, while divisions between the United States and its European

allies have drawn attention ahead of the meeting.

The summit will bring together leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, as well as the European Union (EU), to discuss responses to



The Group of Seven (G7) and Europe Union leaders pose for a group photo in Kananaskis in the province of Alberta, Canada, 16 June 2025. PHOTO: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE

what France described as an increasingly unstable international environment marked by “rising conflicts, widening economic imbalances and weakened

global governance”.

The French Foreign Ministry on Friday outlined several priority areas for the summit, including promoting balanced and

sustainable economic growth, strengthening international cooperation, and enhancing critical minerals supply chains. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### UKUS faces public pushback at inquiry hearing

FROM the perspective of countless Australians, the costly AUKUS security partnership targets a fictional foe, relies on opaque decision-making, abandons Australia's nuclear-free position and triggers global concerns.

The first hearing of the AUKUS Public Inquiry was held on Thursday in Melbourne, where more than a dozen attendees voiced their doubts and opposition to the trilateral security partnership signed by the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia in September 2021.

Earlier this month, an independent enquiry into AUKUS was launched in Australia by a group of Labour Party veterans and public figures. Within 72 hours, more than 100 written submissions have been received.

Being the first to speak at the hearing, former Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans told the inquiry commissioners and the audience that he believed AUKUS is one of the worst defence and foreign policy decisions ever made by an Australian government. — Xinhua

#### Sri Lanka to resume construction of main airport terminal

Sri Lanka will resume construction of the second passenger terminal at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) in November, the Ministry of Ports and Civil Aviation said in a statement on Saturday.

The ministry said it expects to complete the project within 30 months from the date construction resumes.

The project, which began in December 2020, was suspended in April 2022 after Sri Lanka's economic woes disrupted major infrastructure work.

The ministry said the procurement process was restarted in late 2024 and bidding was completed in 2025. Authorities are now in the final stage of selecting contractors. — Xinhua

## US appeals court rejects last-minute bid to delay removing Trump's name from Kennedy Centre

A US federal appeals court on Friday denied the Justice Department's last-minute request for a temporary pause of a court order directing that President Donald Trump's name be removed from the John F Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts.

Earlier in the day, the Trump administration and the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Centre each appealed a federal district judge's ruling ordering the removal. Under the order,

Trump's name must be removed from the building by Friday midnight.



Workers build scaffolding and hang flame retardant tarps near the signage for the “Donald J Trump and John F Kennedy Memorial Centre for the Performing Arts” in Washington, DC, early on 13 June 2026. PHOTO: ALEX WROBLEWSKI/AFP

By Friday afternoon, construction crews had cordoned off the section

of the Kennedy Centre bearing Trump's name and begun erecting scaffolding for its removal.

Patrick Nour, a performer at the Kennedy Centre, told Xinhua in front of the scaffolding on Friday evening that he is happy to see that “it isn't being disgraced”.

“It's a memorial. It isn't a place where you could just put your name on. It's dedicated to somebody who did something, not someone who is doing something,” he said. — Xinhua

## Iran FM says draft US deal to be signed 'remotely', possibly in 'coming days'

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that upon finalisation, a draft deal with the United States would be signed “remotely”, which could happen “in the coming days”.

“As soon as the final stages of our negotiations

are completed, this agreement will be signed and announced. The signing will initially take place digitally. Each side will sign remotely. After that, it will be announced that this memorandum of understanding has been signed by both parties,”

said Araghchi in an interview with state television.

“This could happen in the coming days. I am very hopeful.”

Araghchi had earlier said that a framework dubbed the “Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding” aimed at ending

the war with the United States which broke out on 28 February “has never been closer”. On Thursday, US President Donald Trump said he had called off planned strikes on Iran and claimed a deal to end the war could be signed soon. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## “Focus on boosting economic, cultural linkages”: PM Modi on France, Slovakia visit

*In his departure statement, PM Modi highlighted how France occupies a special place in India's strategic vision.*

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday embarked on his official visit to France and a state visit to Slovakia aimed at further deepening ties and strengthening partnerships with the European countries.

PM Modi is visiting France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron and Slovakia at the invitation of Robert Fico, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.

In his departure statement, he highlight-



Earlier this year, President Macron visited India, and two countries elevated relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

ed how France occupies a special place in India's strategic vision.

“Earlier this year, President Macron visited India, and we elevated our

relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership. When I meet President Macron in Nice, we will review the progress made since February and chart the next steps in our cooperation. I look forward to our discussions on pressing global issues of mutual interest as well”, he said.

PM Modi added that in Nice, he would inaugurate ‘Bharat Innovates’ along with President Macron on 14 June 2026. — ANI

## Japan, Thailand agree to promote cooperation on supply chains

JAPAN and Thailand's foreign ministers agreed Friday to promote cooperation on strengthening regional energy and resource supply chains, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said, amid economic uncertainty from the conflict in the Middle East.

In their meeting in Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow he intends to expand bilateral cooperation

in areas including security, science and technology

as they mark 140 years of diplomatic relations

next year, the foreign ministry said.

Sihasak, who also serves as Thailand's deputy prime minister, expressed support for Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia, a Japanese-led financing framework designed to help Asian countries secure stable oil supplies, the foreign ministry said. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 24 January 2022 shows a view of the Laem Chabang Port in Chonburi Province, Thailand. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA/FILE**

## China rolls out action plan to promote entrepreneurship

CHINA has rolled out an action plan to promote distinctive entrepreneurship models and provide targeted support to help startups find their market niche, according to a notice made

public on Thursday. By 2028, the policy system supporting specialized entrepreneurship will undergo a steady series of improvements, and the startup ecosystem will be

further optimized, according to a notice released by four government departments including the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. It aims to better leverage four

models — linking entrepreneurship with sci-tech achievements, industrial development, vocational skills and livelihood needs — to create more jobs. — Xinhua

## Cuba opens more sectors to private business

CUBAN President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Friday announced greater freedoms for small businesses across the country, as the communist government takes steps to liberalize the island's economy in the face of a crippling US blockade.

In a speech broadcast on national television, Diaz-Canel said Cuba would open more sectors to private businesses and streamline the approval process for new ventures.

“For non-state forms of management, the list of prohibited activities will be limited so that their scope of operations is as broad as possible,” the president said. “A process is underway... to approve all pending applications in the shortest time possible.”

Under pressure from

the oil blockade imposed by Washington in January, the Cuban government has unveiled a series of reforms aimed at opening up the economy.

Private businesses — which can employ up to 100 people — were authorized in 2021 and have become an increasingly important part of Cuba's economy. Since February, they have been permitted to import fuel, a sector previously controlled exclusively by the state.

As part of the new measures, the government will enable private businesses to invest in the economy on equal terms with foreign investors, after some of them recently left the country amid concerns over US sanctions.

— AFP



Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel says the country will open more sectors to private businesses as it seeks to liberalize its communist-run economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Infrastructure projects boost development in eastern Afghanistan

CONSTRUCTION work on 50 infrastructure projects is underway or about to begin in eastern Afghanistan's Laghman province over the next nine months, the official Bakhtar News Agency reported on Saturday.

The projects will cover key sectors, including health, agriculture, and education, Bakhtar quoted Khalil Rahman Sadiqi, provincial director of economy, as saying.

The projects are expected to generate hundreds of local jobs and improve living conditions for thousands of residents. — Xinhua

# NEV boom transforms east China county

AS evening fell over Xiatang Township in eastern China, a local night market was bustling with activity. Restaurants and open-air food stalls were filled with diners, a majority of them from the nearby factory of China's leading new energy vehicle (NEV) giant BYD.

A popular local saying captures the transformation of this small township in Changfeng County in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province: In the past, one sesame seed cake was made every one minute. Today, one NEV



An undated aerial file photo shows a view of Xiatang Township, Changfeng County of Hefei, east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

rolls off the production line every minute. Driven by the rapid growth of

China's NEV industry, the once-impo- verished county has undergone a dramatic

industrial revival.

Changfeng County was removed from China's

poverty list in 2012. Currently, it ranks among Anhui's leading county-level economies, driven largely by the rapid expansion of the NEV sector.

The county has played a significant role in Anhui's automotive success. In 2025, the province reported the largest automobile and NEV production volume among all provincial regions across China, with Changfeng alone producing 810,000 NEVs, accounting for 45 percent of the total NEV output in Anhui Province. — Xinhua

## Anthropic cuts access to AI models

JUST three days after publicly launching Fable 5, the company said in a blog post that it received a government directive banning all foreign nationals, even ones who work at Anthropic, from accessing Fable 5 and Mythos 5 over national security concerns.

"The net effect of this order is that we must abruptly disable Fable 5 and Mythos 5 for all our customers to ensure compliance," it said. The company said it received the letter at 5:21 pm (2121 GMT). Axios reported that the letter came from US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

The US Commerce officials did not immediately respond to a request from AFP.

The firm said that the letter did not state what specifically concerned the government. However, the firm's "understanding is that the government believes it has become aware of a method of bypassing, or 'jailbreaking'" the Fable 5 model such that it could aid hacking. — AFP

## JP Morgan sees gold touching \$6,000/oz by end-2026 despite recent price cooling



JP Morgan sees gold touching \$6,000/per ounce by end-2026 despite recent price cooling. **PHOTO: ANI**

JP Morgan Global Research analysts estimate that gold prices could reach new record highs by 2026-end, to around \$6,000 per ounce in Q4, with upside seen near \$6,300 per ounce in 2027, ANI reported. The forecast comes despite recent weakness in investor interest and a period of sideways trading, it added.

As per the report, gold is expected to average \$6,000 per ounce in Q4 of 2026, with prices potentially rising further to \$6,300 per ounce by Q4 of 2027. "The 2026

and 2027 outlook for gold prices remains ahead of current levels, with JP Morgan Global Research analysts expecting gold to push \$6,000 per ounce by year end, and \$6,300 per ounce a possibility for 2027," it stated.

The outlook comes even as gold prices have lost momentum in recent months. According to the report, spot gold prices rallied strongly at the start of 2026 before cooling in March and recently touching an intra-year low of \$4,170 per ounce. — ANI

## US stocks rally, oil prices fall as Trump calls off fresh Iran strikes

WALL Street stocks rallied and oil prices tumbled Friday after President Donald Trump pulled back from renewed US strikes on Iran while European equities edged higher after the ECB raised interest rates.

Trump jolted markets near 1730 GMT announcing he was calling off new attacks on Iran, while

flagging a possible peace deal that he later claimed had been reached, calling the accord a "great settlement". Those statements were enough to push oil prices more than two per cent lower while major US indices rallied, with the broad-based S&P 500 ending up 1.8 per cent.

Art Hogan of B. Riley Wealth Management wel-

comed the "better tone" from Trump, who had earlier in the day threatened to seize Iran's oil infrastructure following the latest military strikes between the countries.

But Hogan noted that Trump has repeatedly signaled an Iran deal as imminent in recent weeks without leading to anything concrete. — AFP

## Food tax cut seen cutting farm income by 300 billion yen: estimate

A cut in the consumption tax rate on food and beverages would reduce the annual income of about 800,000 small and medium-sized farms across Japan by more than 300 billion yen (\$1.9 billion), according to a think tank estimate released Saturday.

Because many of these farms are partly or fully exempt from remitting the current eight per cent consumption tax included in the prices of the farm products they sell, cutting the tax rate to one per cent would reduce their income

and could accelerate the trend of farmers quitting the industry. While the

actual impact would vary depending on the size of the farm, the estimate by Mit-

subishi Research Institute put the average annual income loss at about 400,000 yen per farm. The government, which is considering cutting the tax rate from April 2027, is expected to provide subsidies and other financial support to farms.

Under the consumption tax system, businesses deduct the tax they pay on purchases of goods such as fertilizers and agricultural machinery from the tax they collect on sales of their products, then remit the difference to the government. — Kyodo



File photo taken on 2 May 2026, shows a farmer using a machine to plant rice in a paddy in Sanjo, Niigata Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Mourners line the road outside Chulalongkorn Hospital to pay respects to Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol as her body is transported to the Grand Palace, where funeral rites will begin for the late princess, in Bangkok on 13 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Thousands gather in Thai capital to mourn late princess

**June 13**

**THE BODY** of the Thai king's eldest daughter was brought to the royal palace in Bangkok on Saturday, as thousands of black-clad mourners lined the procession route.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha, known as Princess Bha, died aged 47 on Thursday following an abdominal infection.

She had already spent more than three years in a coma due to a cardiac condition.

"When it comes to saying goodbye, it's not easy for us," mourner Donnapha Kladbupha, a 54-year-old English teacher and self-described royalist, told AFP.

The monarchy represented "unity" for Thai people during times of distress, she said.

Others queued nearby for their turn to perform a Buddhist ritual of pouring holy water into a ceremonial bowl placed before a portrait of the princess. —AFP

**JUNE 12**

## Newly minted billionaire Musk under fire over riots

**ELON MUSK**, newly crowned the world's first trillionaire, faced renewed criticism Friday over anti-immigrant riots in Belfast after researchers said violent narratives he amplified on his platform X amassed millions of views.

Clashes broke out in the Northern Irish capital after a brutal knife attack on Monday, with police charging a Sudanese national named Hadi Alodid with attempted murder.

Musk amplified calls for protest across Britain from anti-immigration activist Tommy Robinson and wrote to his 240 million followers on X: "Only by protesting REPEATEDLY and LOUDLY will there be any change."

He also boosted anti-immigration posts and messages from Rupert Lowe, leader of the fringe hard-right party Restore Britain, extending his reach to millions of users on the platform. — AFP

**JUNE 11**

## India lodges protest after Indian ship hit near Oman

**INDIA** filed a strong diplomatic protest at the United Nations following the confirmation that three Indian seafarers died when their merchant vessel was caught in a US offensive strike near Oman.

Approximately 10 million Indian citizens currently live and work across the Gulf region, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, announced.

Their safety and well-being are of utmost priority to us. Our trade and energy supply chains are dependent on stability in the region and any major disruption has serious consequences for the Indian economy.

India is also firmly opposed to attacks on merchant shipping as many of our nationals are prominent in its global workforce. — ANI

**JUNE 10**

## Airlines cannot charge parents to sit near children

**UNDER** a new EU passenger rights reform, airlines are prohibited from charging parents extra fees to sit next to their children.

EU countries had wanted to trim the compensation air carriers currently have to pay out for cancelled flights and long delays. But the plans were ditched after months of negotiations, having met fierce resistance from European lawmakers.

A parliamentary push to ban flight operators from charging for carry-on luggage was similarly abandoned in favour of a provision compelling websites selling tickets to display prices including hand luggage.

"We have successfully defended air passenger rights," a German lawmaker involved in the talks, said. More than a decade in the making, the reform leaves in place Europe's current compensation system.

This gives passengers a right to between 250 and 600 euros (\$291-\$699), depending on flight distance, for delays of three hours or more. — AFP

**JUNE 9**

## 100-kg bear caught after 4 days of sightings

**A ROUGHLY** 100-kilogramme bear was cornered and tranquilized on Tuesday following four days of repeated sightings in a city north of Tokyo, local authorities said.

The animal, believed to be a male Asian black bear measuring about a metre in length, was the first of its kind sighted in an urban area of Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture, and the first captured in the vicinity since 2020. It is believed to have wandered down from the mountains north of the city.

The bear was spotted under the eaves of a house at around 2 pm, about 2.5 kilometres southeast of JR Utsunomiya Station. The bear was removed from the scene by a hunting association.

"As well as houses, residential areas have many obstacles like thickets, which made capture difficult," an Utsunomiya municipal official said at a press conference.

The city had received 25 reported sightings since Saturday. — Kyodo

**JUNE 8**

## Oil tanker comes under suspected attack

**AN OIL** tanker with 24 Indian crew members came under suspected attack near the Strait of Hormuz on Monday. The vessel - MT Marivex - caught fire after the alleged attack but fortunately, all the crew members were rescued safely.

During an inter-ministerial briefing, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) confirmed the fire incident that took place at around 1:30 pm today.

"This is the preliminary information which we have received. Based on this, as per available information, all Indian seafarers are presently safe," according to a Ministry spokesperson.

However, the Ministry added that it was trying to gather more information on whether the vessel was hit by a projectile. — ANI

**JUNE 7**

## Missing American student found dead

**A MISSING** 20-year-old American student, James Weston Higginbotham, has been found dead in Kyoto, Japan, local police announced on Sunday. The Auburn University engineering student vanished on 29 May after leaving his hotel alone to go hiking during a family vacation. His disappearance gained international media attention and prompted a massive search involving over 100 police officers, helicopters, and canine units. Ultimately, a volunteer search-and-rescue group discovered Higginbotham's body in a mountainous area within Kyoto's Yamashina Ward.

Kyoto prefectural police confirmed his identity and stated that foul play is not suspected. Higginbotham's mother shared the family's profound heartbreak on social media, expressing that their grief is impossible to put into words. — Kyodo

# SPORTS

## Corporate partnerships boost funding for Myanmar Women's League

THE Myanmar Football Federation hosted the official signing ceremony for the Myanmar Women's League 2026-27 season on 11 June 2026 at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel.

The league secured a massive funding pool of K2.15 billion in cash and K235 million in in-kind

sponsorships from main partner Max Energy and twelve other corporate sponsors. These revenues will directly fund participating clubs through increased baseline grants of K50 million, additional club development bonuses up to K20 million, and a newly introduced per-

formance-based ranking subsidy ranging from K100 million for the champions down to K7.5 million for the tenth-place team. Individual match incentives also received a boost, with the AYA Pay Player of the Match prize increasing to K500,000 per game. The new season kicks off on



An official signing ceremony for the Myanmar Women's League 2026-27 is in progress on 11 June 2026. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

15 June 2026, featuring ten teams with matches

broadcast live nationwide on television and stream-

ing platforms. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Yangon City wins Chief Minister's Cup Hockey Title

YANGON City FC clinched the championship title at the 2026 Yangon Region Government Chief Minister's Cup 5-A-Side Men's Hockey Tournament after defeating Lion City FC with a 7-4 victory in the final match held yesterday evening at the Theinbyu Artificial Turf Hockey Pitch.



The final match between Yangon City FC and Lion City FC is in action at the Men's Hockey Tournament.

The final match was praised by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers, executive members of the Myanmar Hockey Federation (MHF), officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education,

and local hockey fans. During the award ceremony following the match, regional ministers presented individual medals and cash prizes to the tour-

naments' most improved player, best player, consolation prize winners, runner-up Lion City FC, and joint third-place finishers Anchor Club and the My-

anmar Police Force.

Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu then presented individual medals, cash prizes, and the championship trophy to the tournament winners, Yangon City FC.

The tournament ran from 8 to 13 June, featuring around 70 athletes competing across six teams.

According to officials, the tournament was organized by the Myanmar Hockey Federation to prepare and scout talent for the upcoming XXXIV SEA Games, which will include the 5-A-Side hockey format. — Bala/KZL

## Martinez returns to Argentina training

ARGENTINA goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez returned to training on Friday as he steps up his recovery from a hand injury.

Martinez fractured a bone in the ring finger of his right hand while warming up for Aston Villa ahead of the team's UEFA Europa League final win against Freiburg on 20 May.

The 33-year-old was tested with a barrage of close-range shots at Argentina's World Cup training base in Kansas City, raising hopes he will be fit for its opening FIFA World Cup match

against Algeria on Tuesday.

"We're doing well, we're doing well," Martinez told reporters after the session.

Argentina's squad is awaiting the arrival of Tottenham's newly signed centre-back Marcos Senesi, who was called up on Thursday to replace Leonardo Balerdi.

The defending World Cup champion will also meet Austria and Jordan in Group J of the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. — Xinhua

## Mboko to miss Wimbledon, hopes to play doubles with Serena again

VICTORIA Mboko says she will miss the rest of the grass court tennis season with a knee injury but hopes to resume her doubles partnership with US great Serena Williams.

The 19-year-old Canadian, ranked ninth in the world, said she suffered a medial collateral ligament injury in her opening singles match against Karo-

lina Pliskova at the WTA tournament at Queen's Club.

"Unfortunately, my fall on Wednesday caused an injury to the MCL on my left knee, which sadly means I will miss the remainder of the grass season," Mboko wrote. "This unfortunately means Wimbledon too, a tournament I had been so

looking forward to playing this year."

The setback came after Mboko teamed up with 44-year-old Williams for a doubles victory that marked the US superstar's eagerly anticipated return to competitive tennis after four years in retirement.

The two beat Nicole Melichar-Martinez and

Erin Routliffe in straight sets, but Williams's comeback was temporarily on hold after Mboko's injury forced her out of the London tournament.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, is now gearing up for the Berlin Open, where she is reportedly set to play alongside Karolina Muchova. — AFP



Canadian Victoria Mboko hopes to resume her doubles partnership with Serena Williams after she recovers from a knee injury. PHOTO: AFP

## Canada moves to ban under-16s from social media, regulate AI

CANADA'S culture minister on Wednesday introduced legislation that would ban children under 16 from having social media accounts and require AI chatbot services to limit production of harmful content. The proposed Digital Safety Act makes Canada the latest in a wave of countries cracking down on social media platforms over concerns of harm to children.

"We have seen the very serious consequences that online harms can have... The safety of children cannot be an afterthought," said Culture Minister Marc Miller in a statement announcing the proposal.

The legislation would ban social media accounts for children under 16 years old, the statement said, adding that there be an exemption "pathway" for companies if they can demonstrate "sufficient safeguards" for children.

Social media services, including adult content platforms, would also face new requirements under the law to "mitigate risks associated with exposure" to various categories of harmful content and apply labels to synthetically generated content. — AFP



The proposed Digital Safety Act makes Canada the latest in a wave of countries cracking down on social media platforms over concerns of harm to children. **PHOTO: EVANTO**

## Shakira shares rehearsal pictures before FWC opening ceremony

WITH just hours to go before the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicks off, global superstar Shakira appears more than ready for the biggest stage in football. The singer on Thursday gave fans a behind-the-scenes look at her final preparations for the tournament's opening ceremony, as she shared glimpses from an intense week of rehearsals ahead of her much-awaited performance in Mexico City.

The global popstar took to her Instagram account to post a series of pictures showing her rehearsing with dancers and crew members as preparations entered the final stretch before the grand event. The images captured the singer fully immersed in rehearsals as she fine-tuned her performance for what is expected to be one of the most-watched musical events of the year. — ANI

## Japanese parents turn to AI for clues hidden in babies' cries

*Developers are rolling out AI-powered tools designed to identify the possible causes of a baby's distress.*

**F**rom hunger to discomfort, artificial intelligence apps are being trained to interpret baby cries, with developers in Japan rapidly expanding tools that aim to translate infant sounds into guidance for parents.

Crying without a clear reason can be a major source of anxiety for parents. As families look for new ways to navigate the uncertainty of early childcare, developers are rolling out AI-powered tools designed to identify the possible causes of a baby's distress.

Moto Numazawa, a 25-year-old father in Chigasaki near Tokyo,

released Babylingual in March — a free app that interprets infant cries. In late April, when he held his phone to his 3-month-old, the app displayed "I'm hungry" with a likelihood gauge and suggested "It might be feeding time." After feeding, the baby quickly slept.

Babylingual classifies cries into five patterns based on research that babies vocalize differently for needs like hunger and sleep; it also saves recordings for caregivers and offers voice-guidance to soothe infants.

Numazawa, prompted by his own experience as a parent in a nuclear-family setting, hopes the tool



The Babylingual app analyzes Saku Numazawa's cries in Chigasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 28 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

improves parent-child communication and helps caregivers learn signals. Similar AI tools are emerging: Tokushima University

spin-off Cross Medicine created Awababy, trained on over 160,000 cries to identify 11 emotions and offer responses. — Kyodo

## First leather bag made from T-Rex cells fails to sell at Paris auction

A leather bag made from Tyrannosaurus rex cells failed to sell on Thursday, the Paris auction house Drouot said, commenting that bids were well below

expected.

Auctioneers Giquello had touted the "one-of-a-kind" piece to sell for more than \$500,000 but bids barely broke the \$150,000

mark, said the Drouot house where the sale took place.

Unveiled in the spring in Amsterdam, the bag was created from traces of collagen from the femur of a T Rex found in the US state of Montana 25 years ago.

"In recent years, we've developed techniques — biotechnologies that allow us to instruct a cell culture to produce, so to speak, genuine T Rex skin in the laboratory," Iacopo Briano, a palaeontology expert associated with the sale, recently told AFP.

He noted the material differs from vegan leather, which is mostly made from

plastic.

"In this case, it's derived from a cell culture, so it's 100 per cent skin. And at the same time, it comes from an animal that went extinct 67 million years ago!" he said.

With no precedent to go on, Alexandre Giquello, whose auction house is organising the sale, explained they had to "come up with a price" that would reflect both the amount of investment required to create the bag and its rarity.

Giquello estimated the value at between 300,000 and 500,000 euros (\$346,000 to \$576,000). — AFP



Unveiled in the spring in Amsterdam, the bag was created from traces of collagen from the femur of a T Rex found in the US state of Montana 25 years ago. **PHOTO: FACEBOOK**