

Waso robe offering ceremony for 2025 held at Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)



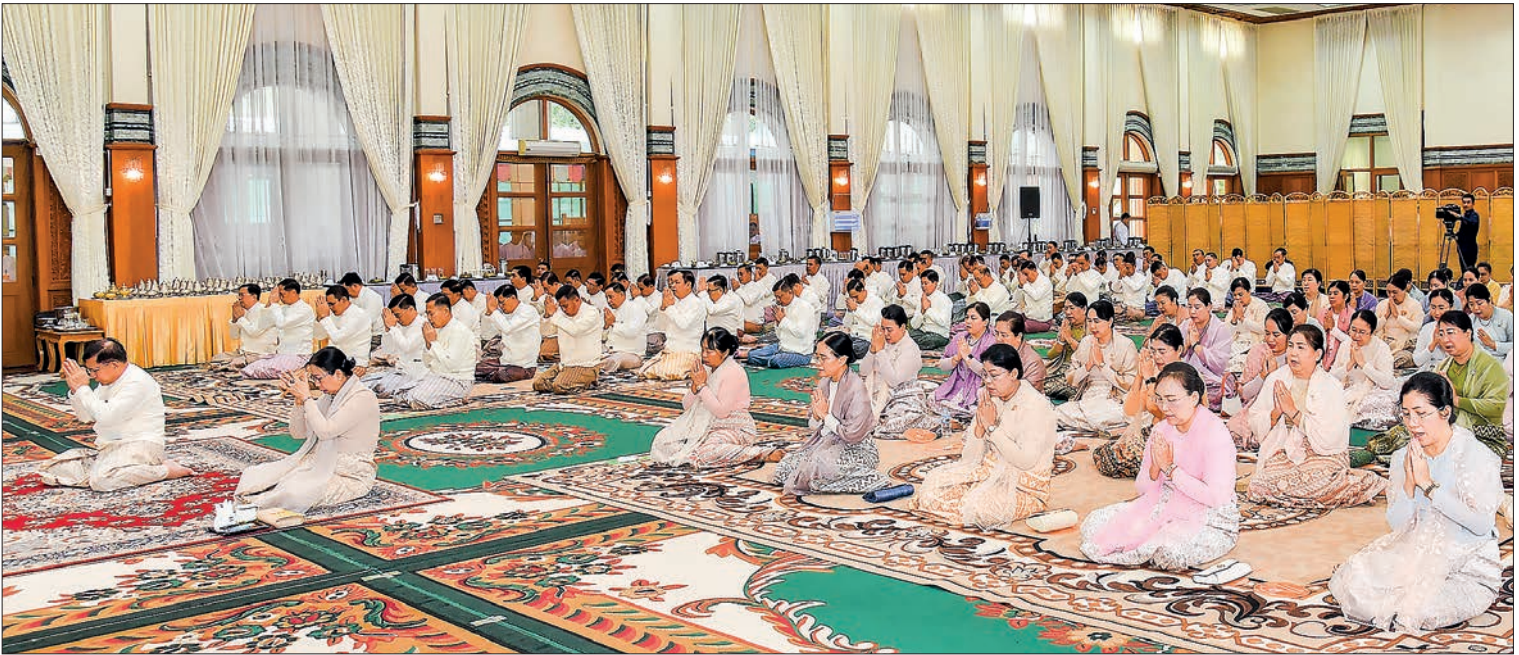
homage to the Buddha image in the Anawrahta Hall and offered alms, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights. The SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts while members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The Senior General and his wife donated Waso robes and offerings to Chairman Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe also offered Waso robes and offerings to Secretary of SSMNC New Masoeyein Monastery Sayadaw. Attendees and their

Families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) held the Waso robe offering ceremony for 2025 at Anawrahta Hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

Also, present at the ceremony were 27 members of the Sangha including Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhism Learning Centre in Thanlyin of Yangon Region Aggamaha



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and the congregation are pictured observing the Nine Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aggamaha Pandita Aggahama Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa at the event yesterday.

Pandita Aggahama Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, and Secretary Sayadaw Presiding Patron of New Masoeyein Monastery of Mandalay, Dhamma Theikdi Monastery Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggahama Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa. The Senior General paid

wives presented Waso robes and donations to members of the Sangha.

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NATIONAL

Compulsory KG+9 education launched to build skilled and knowledgeable workforce

THE fundamental requirement for a country’s development is an abundance of educated individuals. Therefore, to cultivate a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, a compulsory education system has been implemented, requiring everyone to complete at least KG+9. Upon successfully completing KG+9, students may enrol in basic education, agricultural, or industrial high schools. Those who meet the specified qualifications can pursue further education at relevant universities and colleges.

(An excerpt from message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2025)

EJU applications open on 7 July

IN order to hold the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students in November, applications are open starting from 7 July, said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).
Exam fee is set as K60,000 for all subjects such as Japanese as a Foreign Language, Science or Japan and the World and Mathematics. For EJU, which is scheduled on 9 November, applications can be submitted as of 7 July at the MAJA Yangon head office and as of 10 July at the MAJA Mandalay branch. Applications will be accepted from 9:30 am to 4 pm during all weekdays, except public holidays and weekends, until the end of the month.
Three 3 by 4 centimetres licence-sized photos in blue or white background and a copy



A glimpse of EJU.

of the ID card are required. Candidates will have to fill the application form carefully, and no changes are allowed later, said MAJA.
EJU is a critical requirement for international students who have ambitions to study abroad as well as it is also an evaluation of the education level of the international students and can apply for admission to Japanese universities with EJU marks. — MT/ZS

Injured baby elephant Kyaw Pearl improves recovery



The baby elephant Kyaw Pearl has been given care at Wingabaw elephant camp.

ONE of baby elephants at Wingabaw elephant camp has now improved in health. At the camp, a female elephant named Pearl Sanda gave birth to twins and Kyaw Pearl, a male elephant is now unable to move his back part

after being accidentally hit by his mother’s leg, causing a spinal cord injury.
No getting sick, the little elephant has now restored good health, despite having regular breastfeeding, he has also been given formula milk as the intake of food is low. He has been kept warm in the rainy season in order to avoid getting sick. Now his bruises have recovered but it will need to take time to cure his injury on the spinal cord.
The elephant is being treated in consultation with local veteran veterinarians, and the Myanma Timber Enterprise is arranging for the case report to consult with foreign elephant doctors. — MT/ZS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Saturday 6 July 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
SPECIAL Weather: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area has formed over West Bengal, India. It is likely to move slowly West-Northwestwards and across Jharkhand and north Chhattisgarh, India during next two days.
FORECAST VALID Until NOON OF 7 July 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, 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 squall with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet in Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong monsoon.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 July 2025: One or two time of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 July 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 July 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Office of the State Administration Council https://sacoffice.gov.mm	
2. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm
4. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm	5. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm
6. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm	

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)

Waso robe offering ceremony for 2025 held ...

FROM PAGE 1

Secretary New Masoeyein Monastery Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained. After the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife, the Vice-Senior General and his wife, and senior Tatmadaw officers offered lunch meals to members of the Sangha led by Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw. Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and his wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and his wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives and officials also attended the ceremony. — MNA/TTA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer Waso robes to SSMNC Chairman Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.



DPM Union T&C Minister inspects container housing for quake-affected staff families

MEMBER of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo visited various locations in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 July to inspect the installation of container houses designated for staff and their families affected by the recent earthquake. Accompanied by deputy ministers and departmental officials, the General oversaw the completion and relocation process of the container houses allocated by the National Disaster Management Committee. These units are intended to serve as temporary shelters for affected personnel of the Ministry of Transport and Commu-



State Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister, Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo inspects container houses being constructed to provide temporary housing for staff affected by the earthquake.

nications. The inspection tour included the Nay Pyi Taw Central Railway Station compound, the Department of Road Transport Administration (Ywataw), Office No (2) and Office No (5), the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, and Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications areas in Dekkhinathiri Township. The General examined the provision of drinking

water, electricity supply and other basic necessities at the sites. He instructed officials to build proper kitchen facilities, ensure all essential supplies are available and carry out systematic planting of shade trees and vegetables around the housing units. He also called for the prompt issuance of household registration documents, the completion of remaining container house installations within the designated timeline and the swift relocation of remaining staff and their families. According to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, out of 871 container houses allocated, 866 units, accounting for 99.42 per cent have already been completed. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Government emphasizes rural development

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe yesterday urged all stakeholders to make every effort to implement sustainable rural development activities in line with the theme of this year's World Rural Development Day: "Harnessing Rural Strength to Transform Our World".

The Union minister delivered a speech at a ceremony marking World Rural Development Day at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. He stated that of the 8.2 billion people in the world today, 43 per cent live in rural areas. In Myanmar, according to the 2024 Population and Housing Census, 69 per cent of the country's 51.3 million people reside in rural areas. Therefore, the national government is prioritizing rural development. Although many previously underdeveloped rural areas have seen significant progress, some villages still face substantial development needs.

He highlighted the implementation of the Rainbow Project, which focuses on developing the cooperative sector, improving livelihoods and micro and



Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe visits the photo galleries on rural development at the World Rural Development Day ceremony yesterday.

small-sized industries through income-generating projects, constructing rural and industrial roads and bridges, and providing safe drinking water and electricity. He also emphasized the ministry's annual expansion and implementation of community-based comprehensive de-

velopment projects through the establishment of the Emerald Green Rural Economic Development Fund, promotion of rural economic development via vocational schools, creation of modern model villages, and various village development initiatives.

Next, a congratulatory video

message from the Director-General of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), along with a video clip showcasing rural development efforts, was shown.

Afterwards, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Develop-

ment U Khant Zaw, spoke on the topic "Policy Priorities and Public Participation for Sustainable Rural Development," while Mr Shihab Uddin Ahamad, an advisor from Water Aid, presented on "Unlocking the Potential of Regional Cooperation for Rural Transformation in Myanmar: A Pathway to Sustainable Development".

Then, the Union minister and officials presented performance awards to the heads of the Rural Development Departments of Shan State (South), Ayeyawady Region, and the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory for their implementation of rural development projects during the 2024-2025 financial year.

They all toured photo galleries on rural development presented by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health. — MNA/TH

People seek insurance to protect against natural disaster damage



This photo shows KER condo in Yangon. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

RESIDENTS of high-rise condominiums in Yangon are increasingly purchasing insurance policies to protect against damage from natural disasters such as earthquakes, according to the Myanmar Insurance in Yangon

"If you have fire insurance policy, you can also obtain coverage for 11 types of natural disasters, including earthquakes. This insurance will reimburse you for any losses you may incur. After the Mandalay earthquake, people realized the importance of being insured against natural disasters

and began seeking coverage," said Daw Sanda Lin, Director of Myanmar Insurance (Yangon).

Myanmar Insurance and private insurance companies are providing compensation for buildings, vehicles, and life insurance policies that were insured against damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake.

"As an insurance company, we post insurance-related updates on our Facebook page and the KBZ MS website every week or every two weeks to show how we provide our services. You can

access this information and learn how insurance can help you recover from losses. We offer various types of insurance services," said U Kyaw Zay Han from KBZ MS.

The Mandalay earthquake caused cracks and crevices in the walls of some high-rise condominiums in Yangon. Residents who had insurance received compensation, prompting more high-rise condo residents to obtain coverage against damage caused by natural disasters. — Thitsar (MNA)/TH

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

NATIONAL

New iron and steel quality testing lab coming soon

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than presided over a coordination meeting on the establishment of a laboratory for quality testing of iron and steel at the MSME Product Showroom in Mayangon Township of Yangon on 5 July.

The Union minister said discussions with the Myanmar Steel Association were made to draft the Roadmap for steel policy to test the sample steel bars being used locally as a response after the earthquake. Moreover, the procedures are being carried out to set the Mandatory Standard for locally produced and imported iron and steel. After these processes, an international standard lab should be established as per the criteria to



maintain the quality. He called for the participation of experts from relevant fields to establish a lab. The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister provided proper instructions. The chairs and experts of the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Myanmar Engineering Society presented the MNBC 2025 and a soft copy to the Union minister. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than delivers speech at the coordination meeting on the establishment of a laboratory for quality testing of iron and steel in Yangon on 5 July 2025.

Use of Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine demonstrated in Taninthayi Region



This photo captures UEC officials explaining the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine to officials in Taninthayi Region yesterday. PHOTO: REGIONAL IPRD

IN the upcoming multiparty democratic general elections, the use of the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) will help eliminate issues such as invalid ballots, delays in vote counting, and numerical errors, said Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko at the ceremony to launch the trainer course of using MEVM at the city hall in Dawei yesterday morning. He added that this will enable the announcement of accurate and reliable election results within a short period of time. As a result, disputes, electoral fraud, and irregulari-

ties can be prevented, leading to a more transparent, fair, and dignified election process. The Chief Minister stressed that trainees have to try hard to thoroughly understand, follow, and master the use of the voting machine, so that they can effectively and clearly conduct cascade training sessions for polling station officers, deputy polling station officers, and those responsible for operating and supervising the machines during the election. Taninthayi Region Election Sub-commission held the demonstration on use of

MEVM and exercising practices of using the machine. Member of the Union Election Commission U Ko Ko Lwin made a speech while Deputy Director-General U Nyi Nyi Lwin of the UEC Office explained use of the machine. The Chief Minister, the Chief Justice of the Regional High Court and regional ministers participated in the demonstration of using the machine in voting. The UEC member and technicians will give training to 80 trainees to use the MEVM till 8 July. — Regional IPRD/TTA

Damaged and dangerous buildings removed in Mandalay

MEMBERS of various organizations and people participate in rehabilitation efforts in quake-affected areas. Different types of heavy machinery are being used in removing debris at A building of Sku Villa in Aungmyaythazan Township of Mandalay yesterday. Moreover, damaged and dangerous buildings are being

removed with the use of heavy machinery in Pale Ngweyaung Ward of Aungmyaythazan Township. Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected clearing of debris at the rehabilitation sites and coordinated with officials to fulfill the requirements.—MNA/TTA



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

Gold Market Rate as of 6 July 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,890,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization plants trees in 2025 rainy season

THE 2025 rainy season tree-planting ceremony of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization was held yesterday morning at designated locations in Mayangon, Thingangyun, and Hlegu districts of Yangon Region.

First, the ceremony took place at the Dagon Thiri Fish Pond in the precinct of Kaba Aye Pagoda, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, where the officials of the organization (Central and Yangon Region) and relevant officials collectively planted 300 trees.

Next, a total of 200 saplings were planted in the courtyard

of Thuwunna MyoOo Pagoda in Thingangyun District, Yangon Region.

Similarly, in the courtyard of Hpa-auk Tawya Monastery in Hlegu District, Yangon Region, the chairman of the Yangon Region Organization, along with officials and members of the district and township branches of the organization, planted a total of 300 trees. — MNA/TH

The 2025 rainy season tree-planting ceremony of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization in progress in Yangon yesterday.



Three-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.25B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, authorities continued their efforts to curb illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 4 July, illegal trade eradication task forces operating under the Sagaing Region's task force seized consumer goods at an estimated value of K107 million lacking valid documentation near No (2) Tar factory in Padamya Ward, Sagaing. At the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint, officials also confiscated undocumented food items worth K3.56 million, totalling seizures worth K110.6 million. Legal proceedings are underway under the Import and Export Law.

Likewise, the Mandalay Region task force seized undocumented goods transported in



Confiscated illegal LED Light and Kitchen Refrigerator in Shan State.



an Isuzu truck bound for Shwebo from Mandalay, including consumer and industrial goods worth K8.18 million and the vehicle itself worth K32 million. Further checks near Kyaukse led to the seizure of undocumented food items worth K10.75 million and a Man Tractor Head with a

trailer, worth K106 million. Combined value of Mandalay Region seizures reached K156.9 million.

In Yangon Region, inspections led by the Customs Department uncovered undocumented industrial goods stored in five containers at the Thilawa Port valued at K255.9 million. Similar

checks at Asia World Port and Yangon International Airport's cargo terminal led to the seizure of items worth K51.8 million and K7.3 million respectively. The combined value of Yangon-based seizures totalled K315.1 million, and legal action is taken under Customs procedures.

goods valued at K17.92 million without official documents near Bago Tollgate, industrial materials worth K160 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port and industrial materials worth K1.7 million without official documents from a Japanese passenger, from Thailand to Myanmar, at the Yangon International Airport. The action was conducted in line with Customs procedures.

On 4 July, the combined on-duty teams seized foodstuffs valued at K7.88 million without official documents in Paung Township, a Nissan Caravan (approximately K30 million), heading to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying foodstuffs valued at K4.27 million without official documents near Shwe Thanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi, a Toyota Hilax (approximately K30 million), travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon, carrying foodstuffs worth K3.09 million without official documents at the Nyaung-kuhashay x-ray station and 21 unregistered vehicles and 116 unregistered motorbikes. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the related laws.

The Steering Committee reported 33 arrests on 3 and 4 July, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1,257.7 million. — MNA/KZL/MKKS



Confiscated illegal tyres and vehicle in Bagon Region.



NATIONAL

DPTOA plans second study tour to Ayeyawady Region

THE Domestic Pilgrimage and Tour Operator Association (DPTOA) will arrange a second study tour to the Ayeyawady Region, according to U Myo Thein Kyaw, Joint Secretary General of the DPTOA.

During the study tour, participants will visit Manaungmyin Buddha Image of the Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda, one of the four Buddha images in the Ayeyawady Region, and the relic of Arhat U Sila. They will also visit the Kyaik Kalunpoon Pagoda and the tomb of Gen-

eral Maha Bandoola in Danubyu Township. Additionally, they plan to visit the Nathmaw Shwethalyaung Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, U Pa Ye Pagoda, and the Five-Faced Pagoda in Hinthada Township.

“This is the second trip organized by our association in the Ayeyawady Region. The first trip drew 200 participants. We will continue to organize such tours,” said U Myo Thein Kyaw.

The one-day study tour to the Ayeyawady Region will

be conducted using highway express buses with capacities of 35 and 45 passengers. The round-trip cost is K40,000 per person. Services include purified drinking water, guidebooks for the trip, travel insurance, and tour leaders who will accompany participants throughout the journey.

The trip will depart from the DPTOA office at No 4 at the corner of Merchant Street and Sandaku Street in Botahtaung Township of Yangon on 27 July. — ASH/TH



This photo showcases the DPTOA's first study tour to Ayeyawady Region.



Measuring air quality in the Yangon Region.

MOH warns against air pollution impacts, especially for pregnant women, babies and the elderly

AS pregnant mothers, children under five, elderly people and those with chronic lung or heart disease are more likely to suffer from air pollution, they should seek indoor and outdoor protection, the Ministry of Health warned.

Major causes for two types of air pollution include wild fire, open fires, factories, generators, vehicles and methane from animal digestion in outdoor pollution, and bad ventilation, using smoking materials such as mosquito coils and incense sticks, smoking in rooms and running generators in airtight units in indoor pollution.

Short-term exposure to polluted air can cause headache, dizziness, blood from the nose, pneumonia, intranasal swelling, skin allergies, tearing, and sore eye while carbon monoxide poisoning may even lead to death. In case of long-term exposure, complications such as respiratory diseases, asthma, nasal cancer, ischemic heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer while immature death rate is high in infants under one month, it said.

On 2 May, four family members in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a running generator indoor to operate the air conditioner.

According to air quality report for the Union Territory and 11 regions and states from 16 to 30 June by the Environmental Conservation Department, air quality in the Yangon Region Government Office, International Business Centre and Dagon Myothit (South) Township is good while that in Thanlyin Township is acceptably good. — MT/ZN

DRD to implement rural water supply projects in 655 villages in 2025-26 FY

PLANS have been set to implement rural water supply projects in 655 villages across the nation in 2025-26 financial year, said U Soe Maung, the director of the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

In so doing, villages will be categorized into four groups. These are the villages with water scarcity, the villages with water insufficiency, the villages with unsafe water and the villages with safe water.

“The department will allocate some K9 billion from the State budget to implement projects in 655 villages in the entire nation. Among these projects, some projects are undergoing but some projects are at the stage of tender invitation. The water supply projects with the use of interest incomes from the emerald green project are being implemented as usual. The emerald green project covers more than 1,000 villages per year. Although the earlier number counts for 655 project villages,

if the department spends incomes from interest of the emerald green project, number of project villages will be more than 1,000,” said the director.

During this financial year, the rural water supply projects have been implemented since April and May this financial year. As such, some of these projects have completed. The Department of Rural Development is striving to meet the target of supplying safe drinking water to all rural people in 2030. — ASH/TTA



A tube-well is being sunk in the rural area last year.

Help develop rural areas with resilience to global change

THE structure of every country may be divided into just two types: urban and rural. However, due to numerous factors, there is no uniformity in living standards. While urban areas experience significant social and economic progress, rural populations tend to be left behind and lag in development. Recognizing this disparity, efforts toward nationwide development must prioritize reducing the gap between urban and rural development as much as possible.

The Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations stated that 80 per cent of the world’s poorest people live in rural areas, earning less than \$2.15 per day. Meanwhile, more than one billion people worldwide face acute multidimensional

poverty—over half are children, according to the statistics of UNDP.

DESA’s survey in 2021 stated that half of the rural populations lack health coverage. Likewise, a statement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations mentioned that family farms produce 80 per cent of the world’s food. The 2024 survey of the International Telecommunication Union-ITU highlighted that rural areas sit on the climate front line, enduring droughts, floods and extreme heat, adding that 83 per cent of urban residents used the internet versus but 50 per cent of the rural population have access to the internet.

The 2025 theme for World Rural Development Day is “Resilience to Global Change”. This theme emphasizes the need for robust strategies and collaborative efforts to enhance the adaptability and sustainability of rural regions and bioeconomy businesses. It also highlights the importance of building resilience in the face

of various global challenges.

It is the rural people who cultivate and raise livestock to provide food and water for the urban population. Since urban residents are heavily engaged in factories, workshops, and commercial businesses, they do not have extra land available for agricultural activities. Urban dwellers are primarily focused on running economic enterprises. According to the principle of division of labour, those involved in the success of industrial and manufacturing sectors rely on rural areas for their daily food and water supplies.

As such, in order to achieve success in each respective sector, every government must prioritize the improvement of the socio-economic lives of rural people and the development of rural areas as a fundamental foundation. As a result of such efforts, both rural and urban communities will be able to enjoy balanced and equitable socioeconomic development to have a reliable capacity to be resilient against global change.

The Invisible Weight of What We Take

By Laura Htet (UDE)



Looking back, I realize she didn’t agree with delight. She agreed with quiet reluctance. Maybe she hadn’t made a sale all day. Maybe she needed some extra money to get home. I had been celebrating a win, unaware that she was giving something up with a heavy heart. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

WHEN I was younger, the market felt like a stage, and I thought I was one of its clever performers. Every time I bargained something down to half the price, it felt like winning a secret game. I remember the silent pride that rose in me when I walked away holding something I wanted, feeling light, satisfied, and quietly pleased with myself. I never thought about the other side of that moment. I didn’t see the whole picture.

Back then, I believed I was simply being smart. But growing older teaches us to see not just outcomes, but emotions, especially the ones we once ignored. One day, I remembered a time I bargained with an elderly woman selling handmade baskets on the roadside. I had pushed the price low until she nodded, wrapped the basket in old paper, and handed it to me. Her smile was small, but her eyes looked distant. At the time, I saw only my success. Now, I see her loss.

Looking back, I realize she didn’t agree with delight. She agreed with quiet reluctance. Maybe she hadn’t made a sale all day. Maybe she needed some extra money to get home. I had been celebrating a win, unaware that she was giving something up with a heavy heart.

That basket, once a prize in my eyes, now feels different. It carries something invisible – an unspoken sadness. It wasn’t a gift freely given, but something surrendered. And it taught me that what we take, when it comes with discomfort or pressure, is never just a thing. It’s wrapped in emotion. It comes with weight; we don’t always feel right away.

But there’s another side to this.

Let’s imagine a moment when, instead of bargaining, we offer more than what is asked. We say, “Keep the change”, or compliment the seller’s craft with sincerity. We look them in the eye and mean it. In that moment, something shifts. The seller lights up. They feel seen and valued, not defeated. What they give us in return carries

their joy. The item becomes more than just a product—it becomes a token of human connection, given with pride and peace.

This, I’ve learned, is what truly matters in any exchange: not the price, but the feeling behind it. When we take something that someone offers freely, we carry their warmth with us. But when we take what someone is not ready to give, even if they say yes, we carry their sorrow.

This lesson isn’t only about markets. It’s about our daily interactions – our relationships, our conversations, the way we treat people’s time, energy, and trust.

Sometimes we ask for favours. Sometimes we borrow someone’s ear or heart. And often, people say yes even when they don’t want to. They smile, they nod, they do what we ask. But deep down, they’re tired, unsure, or unwilling. We don’t always notice, and sometimes we choose not to.

But the truth remains: when we take from someone who is hurting, hesitant, or afraid to say no, we don’t walk away with a gift. We walk away with a burden.

It’s easy to forget that the quiet discomfort someone feels when they give us something they didn’t want to give doesn’t disappear. It stays in the space between us. It may not be visible, but it lives in the memory of that exchange, and in the way they feel the next time we speak.

That’s why giving more – more patience, more presence, more care – matters. When we offer a kind word when it isn’t expected, when we give our full attention even for a few minutes, when we help without waiting to be asked, we create something beautiful. These moments become little gifts of their own. Not just to the other person, but to ourselves. Because kindness, freely given, circles back in quiet and powerful ways.

Even with strangers, these small acts can mean the world. Hold-

ing the door a little longer. Letting someone speak without rushing them. Smiling sincerely when the world seems too fast. These are the things that make people feel human again, even if only for a moment. But just as we must give with intention, we must also learn to receive with care.

There are times when we want something: someone’s time, someone’s understanding, maybe even their forgiveness, but we sense hesitation. We hear the pause. We feel the silence between their words. And in those moments, we must be brave enough to let go. To respect their boundaries. To walk away without taking more than they’re willing to give.

Because what we gain at someone else’s emotional cost never stays sweet. It begins to weigh on us. It becomes a quiet sadness we carry, whether or not we admit it. Someone’s unspoken grief can become our silent regret.

But imagine a different kind of world. A world where people give only when they want to, and where we take only what is freely offered. Where every exchange, whether big or small, is filled with willingness, not pressure. Where people leave each interaction feeling just a little more whole, a little more respected.

That is the kind of world we build when we choose kindness. When we speak with care. When we notice what’s behind someone’s yes, and listen when their silence speaks louder. It’s not about being perfect. It’s about being present. Aware. Thoughtful.

So, before we take something from a market, a moment, or a person, let us ask ourselves: Is this being offered with joy? Or am I pushing too far? And when we give, let us give not just what’s asked, but what’s meaningful. Let us give with warmth, not obligation. Let us leave behind peace, not pressure.

Because in the end, what truly lasts is not how much we’ve gained, but how deeply we’ve connected. Not what we’ve held in our hands, but what we’ve left in people’s hearts. The things we carry in life are not always seen. But they are always felt. So let us make sure that what we take – and what we give – leaves behind light, not weight.

Where the River Meets the Soul

By Yin Nwe Ko



Night is coming.

Still, he rows.

The river becomes more than just a body of water: It becomes a metaphor for life – a wide, unpredictable road filled with storms and whirlpools, soft melodies and sudden winds.

Each of us is like that little boat. We do not always travel on calm waters. Our paths are not always clear or easy. Life’s current does not always carry us where we wish to go. And even if it does, sometimes we must choose to turn against it.

Some journey downstream, flowing effortlessly with the current. They do not struggle; their passage is smooth, graceful. They wave as they pass, like the hyacinths, unaware or perhaps uncaring of the effort others must make to move forward. But it’s

stream. He must fight the course of the current. The tide, though fading, leaves behind a coarse and muddy texture on the water’s surface, making the journey all the more difficult. Yet he continues. His arms may ache, his breath may grow short, but his will does not falter. The river may threaten to break him, but it will not break

his resolve.

The oars in his hands are small. The whirlpools ahead must be avoided with skill and intuition. Each paddle stroke is both an act of survival and an act of faith. The sky above darkens slowly, the late afternoon bleeding into dusk. Shadows stretch across the mudflats. The wind begins to hush.

WITH a violent wind from the south and the tide receding steadily, the river becomes an arena of chaos. The coarse water swells and waves, crested with frothy white heads, clash against one another like restless spirits. They seem to rise and fall with a primal force, as if they are dancing wildly to the rhythm of an unseen orchestra. Amidst this wild watery waltz, a little boat struggles for balance, rolling and tossing like a leaf caught in a storm. The river, at this moment, does not welcome peace.

Inside the boat, the boatman’s hands grip the oars tightly, knuckles pale with effort. His arms are weary, his mind clouded with anxiety. The boat, though small and fragile, is his entire world. It holds not just his body but his hopes, his thoughts, his fears. The helm resists his control, pulling him left and right, and for a moment, it seems the storm outside has awakened a storm within. Madness whispers from the corners of his mind, tempting him to surrender to the river’s will.

The river’s current continues its course, flowing with a resonant roar. Yet even this sound, powerful and rough, seems to become a kind of music – a song of the tide, a chant of nature’s clock. And there, right in the heart of it all, floats the little boat. It does not drift aimlessly. It resists, it struggles, it dreams. The coat it wears is not of fabric but of determination, holding it together as the world around it churns and moans.

Downstream, a cluster of water hyacinths bobs along joyfully, carried effortlessly by the current. Their purple blossoms wave like tiny flags of farewell. Unlike the boat, they do not resist. They follow the flow, unburdened. They have no destination, no fight, only movement and surrender. They vanish into the distance, turning their faces away from the struggles of the little boat.

But the boatman has chosen a different path. He must go up-

stream. He must fight the course of the current. The tide, though fading, leaves behind a coarse and muddy texture on the water’s surface, making the journey all the more difficult. Yet he continues. His arms may ache, his breath may grow short, but his will does not falter. The river may threaten to break him, but it will not break

harbour with lights in windows and warm meals waiting. A place of belonging.

The sky deepens into indigo. Stars begin to shimmer above, faint and few at first, then multiply into a soft cosmic field of light. They do not speak, but their silent presence comforts the boatman. They, too, are travellers, voyaging across the heavens. Their light is ancient, yet it reaches him now, reminding him that he is not alone.

In the river, the waves settle slightly. The moon begins to rise, casting a silver ribbon upon the water. It is faint, but enough. The boatman’s eyes, though weary, find strength in that shimmer. It becomes a guide, a thread of hope stretching from his tired boat to the unseen shore.

So he rows.

The journey is not yet over, but it is not without beauty. The struggle is not yet finished, but it is not without meaning. And the little boat, though bruised by waves and worn by wind, continues forward, with grace, with courage, with hope.

TECH/ENVIRON:
WORLD

AI robots fill in for
weed killers and
farm hands

The startup Aigen developed this robotic solution to address the labor shortage in US farms and the increasing resistance of weeds to herbicides.

OBLIVIOUS to the punishing midday heat, a wheeled robot powered by the sun and infused with artificial intelligence carefully combs a cotton field in California, plucking out weeds. As farms across the United States face a shortage of laborers and weeds grow resistant to herbicides, startup Aigen says its robotic solution — named Element — can save farmers money, help the environment and keep harmful chemicals out of food. “I really believe this is the biggest thing we can do to im-

prove human health,” co-founder and chief technology officer Richard Wurden told AFP, as robots made their way through crops at Bowles Farm in the town of Los Banos. “Everybody’s eating food sprayed with chemicals.” Wurden, a mechanical engineer who spent five years at Tesla, went to work on the robot after relatives who farm in Minnesota told him weeding was a costly bane. Weeds are becoming immune to herbicides, but a short-



Aigen's solar-powered autonomous robots aim to take the chemicals and toil out of industrial weeding. PHOTO: AFP

age of laborers often leaves chemicals as the only viable option, according to Wurden. “No farmer that we’ve ever talked to said ‘I’m in love with chemicals,’” added Aigen

co-founder and chief executive Kenny Lee, whose background is in software. “They use it because it’s a tool — we’re trying to create an alternative.”

Element the robot resembles a large table on wheels, solar panels on top. Metal arms equipped with small blades reach down to hoe between crop plants. — AFP



An aerial image shows vehicles driving on the California 14 Highway as solar panels, part of an electricity generation plant, stand on 18 June 2021 in Kern County near Mojave, California. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

WITH the passage of his party’s “One Big Beautiful Bill,” Republican President Donald Trump has largely delivered on his promise of curtailing Joe Biden’s landmark climate law. Here’s a breakdown of how the new legislation will reshape US climate and energy policy. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed by Biden in 2022, was the largest climate investment in US history, allo-

cating around \$370 billion in tax credits for renewable energy projects, efficient appliances, and more. Much of that now faces imminent repeal. “These credits were all huge motivating incentives for clean energy to be built out across the country,” said Jean Su, senior attorney at the Centre for Biological Diversity. “With those removed, those renewable energy projects are all at risk of entirely failing.”

Su noted the cuts come amid surging electricity demand from AI data centers. “Removing tax incentives for clean energy means that all of this new energy demand will be given over to the fossil fuel industry” — resulting in more greenhouse emissions and air pollution. Critics say keeping the US energy mix heavily tied to fossil fuels locks in market volatility. — AFP

Inter-American court says
states must protect people
from climate change

THE Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled Thursday that countries belonging to the Organization of American States (OAS) have an obligation to take “all necessary measures” to protect populations from climate change. The decision means that around 20 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean that recognize the court’s jurisdiction must undertake legal reforms that could increase the requirements imposed on businesses,

something environmentists have long advocated. “States must adopt all necessary measures to reduce the risks arising... from the degradation of the global climate system,” the Costa Rica-based court said in response to a request submitted by Colombia and Chile. It underlined that “the right to a healthy environment” is included among the rights protected by the American Convention on Human Rights. — AFP



The Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruling means that around 20 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean must undertake legal reforms ‘to reduce the risks arising... from the degradation of the global climate system’. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

WORLD

Novelist Otani becomes Japan’s 1st to win British crime writing award

A Japanese novelist on Thursday became her country’s first to win a major British award for crime and mystery writing amid a boom in translated Japanese fiction in Britain.

Akira Otani was given the best translated crime novel prize at the Dagger Awards for “The Night of Baba Yaga,” beating out five short-listed competitors including fellow Japanese author Asako Yuzuki.

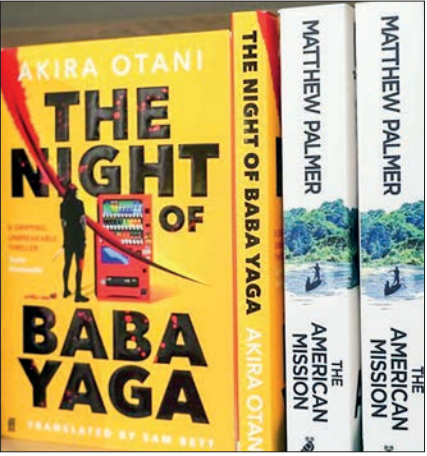
The 44-year-old’s novel tells the story of a woman kidnapped by a yakuza crime syndicate and forced to serve as a bodyguard to the boss’s daughter. As the story progresses, the relationship between the pair develops in unexpected ways as the attitudes of the men around them grow darker and more sinister.

Judges compared the story to a manga comic, praising the work for its raw depiction of the yakuza as well as the humanity and feeling of its characters in the competition organized by the Crime Writers’ Association.

“This saga sparkles with originality and delivers a splendid if bizarre love story,” the judges said.

The book, originally published in Japanese in 2020, is Otani’s first work to appear in English. It was translated by Sam Bett and released in July 2024 in the United States, followed by publication in Britain two months later.

The popularity of translated Japanese novels has grown over the past years in Britain. — Kyodo



Akira Otani was given the best translated crime novel prize at the Dagger Awards for “The Night of Baba Yaga,” beating out five shortlisted competitors.
PHOTO: KYODO

India ranks among top world’s most equal societies

India’s economic progress is being shared more evenly across its population due to consistent policies aimed at reducing poverty, expanding financial access, and providing welfare support.



INDIA has emerged as one of the most equal societies globally, with a Gini Index of 25.5, according to the latest data from the World Bank.

Ranking fourth worldwide in income equality, India now stands just behind the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Belarus.

“It reflects how India’s economic progress is being shared more evenly across its population. Behind this success is a consistent policy focus on reducing poverty, expanding financial access, and delivering welfare support directly to those who need it most,” a release from the Social Welfare said.

The Gini Index, a key measure of income distribution where 0 represents perfect equality and 100 denotes maximum inequality, places India ahead of advanced econ-

India’s Gini Index has improved from 28.8 in 2011, showing steady progress in equitable growth. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

omies, including China (35.7), the United States (41.8), and all G7 and G20 countries. India’s score has improved from 28.8 in 2011, reflecting steady progress in equitable growth.

The country’s strong performance in reducing poverty has played a central role in achieving greater equality. The World Bank’s Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief reports that 171 million Indians were lifted out of extreme poverty between 2011 and 2023. The poverty rate fell sharply from 16.2 per cent to just 2.3 per cent during this period, based on the USD 2.15 per day global poverty threshold. — ANI

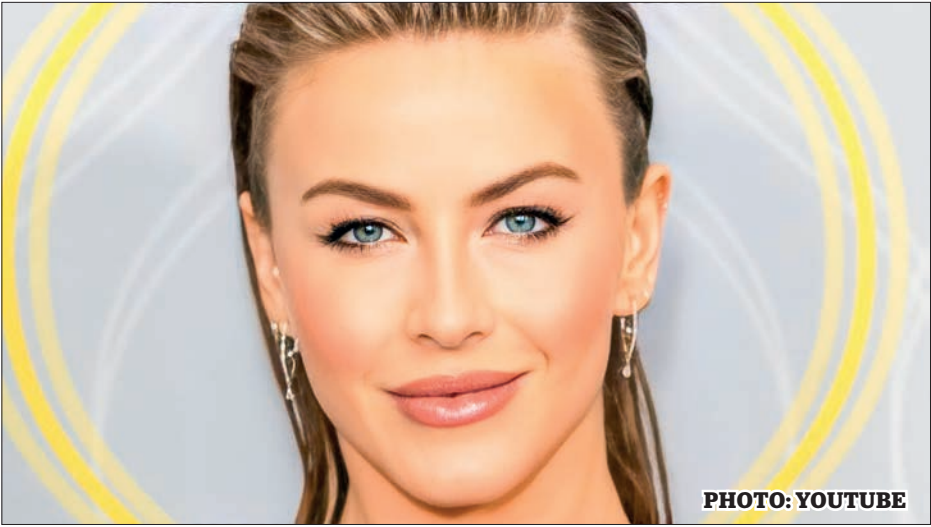
Julianne Hough discusses egg-freezing journey publicly

DANCER and singer Julianne Hough, who joined ‘Dancing with the Stars’ as a professional dancer when she was 18, talked about freezing her eggs for the third time and her endometriosis diagnosis in 2008, reported People.

Hough’s decision to undergo her most recent egg-freezing process, her third total, is related a lot to freeing herself from the “psychological fear”.

She decided to share her egg-freezing journey on social media in early June. “I wasn’t showing it to be like, ‘I’m going to make a big statement,’ but with the response I got, I realized how important it was,” she said, adding, “I found out I have endometriosis when I was 19 or 20, and I wish back then I would’ve been told to freeze my eggs, but I wasn’t told until later on, reported People.

Apart from her endometriosis, “I have some other health implications that might make conceiving challenging, and



I got a divorce, and now I’m in a different stage of life,” she said. “For me, it’s never been about ‘I’m not ready,’ but I know it is for some people. I think the time will be right when it’s right,” as per the outlet.

Hough started dancing competitively at the age of 9, and she became a

household name after winning her first season of DWTS.

She rose to fame while also overcoming challenges, including her endometriosis diagnosis in 2008 and a public split from her ex-husband, Brooks Laich, in 2020. — ANI

University of Haifa launches US\$60M ‘Home Again’ Campaign for Northern Israel

WITH tens of thousands of Israelis still displaced from their northern homes, the University of Haifa has launched “Home Again,” a US\$60 million campaign to restore and rebuild communities through trauma care, economic support, and community rebuilding.

The initiative gained momentum with a US\$5 million gift from the Boston-based Frieze Family Foundation to establish a Center for Shared Society.

The university aims to transform crisis into long-term resilience through research-driven recovery, regional partnerships, and coexistence-building programs that address the emotional, economic, and social toll of continued conflict. — ANI

Colombia, Uzbekistan join BRICS Bank

The addition of Colombia and Uzbekistan increases the total membership of the NDB to 11 countries. The addition of Colombia and Uzbekistan increases the total membership of the NDB to 11 countries.

COLOMBIA and Uzbekistan have joined the New Development Bank (NDB), expanding the membership of the multilateral lender commonly known as the BRICS Bank, the institution's president, Dilma Rousseff, announced here Saturday.

The announcement came at a press conference held after



People enjoy floral displays at the square of the National Library of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 1 May 2025. A flower festival is held in Tashkent on Thursday, attracting many local visitors. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

the 10th meeting of the NDB's Board of Directors, ahead of the 17th BRICS Summit scheduled for Sunday and Monday.

The bank's Board of Governors approved the accession of the two countries, bringing the total membership to 11.

Current members include Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria, Colombia and Uzbekistan.

"We have several other countries under observation and review, and they may join the bank in the future," said Rousseff, adding that negotiations remain confidential as per the board's decision. — Xinhua

Young US college graduates face employment crisis



At 5.8 per cent, unemployment for young, recent graduates from US universities is higher than it has been since November 2013.

PHOTO: AFP

REBECCA Atkins, a 25-year-old law and justice graduate, faced significant challenges in her job search, submitting over 250 applications over two years without success.

The unemployment rate for recent college graduates in the

US has reached 5.8 per cent, the highest since November 2013, excluding the pandemic period. This rate remains higher than the overall unemployment rate, which has stabilized between 3.5 per cent and 4 per cent post-pandemic.

The labor market for new graduates has weakened since 2022, with hiring down 16 per cent year-over-year, particularly in sectors like technology and finance.

Analysts attribute this trend to cyclical post-pandemic hiring slowdowns and economic uncertainty, exacerbated by policy changes during the Trump administration. Many entry-level jobs now require several years of experience, leaving graduates like Atkins feeling inadequate. Job openings in professional services have declined by over 40 per cent since 2021, with the tech sector particularly affected. Additionally, the rising influence of artificial intelligence may threaten entry-level positions. — AFP

Oman and Saudi Arabia launch Phase II of industrial integration

THE second stage of the industrial integration initiatives between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia kicked off on Saturday within the activities of the Economy, Trade and Industry Committee of the Oman-Saudi Coordination Council.

The launch ceremony was organised under the patronage of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Bandar bin Ibrahim bin Abdullah Al Khorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources in the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, in the presence of Sayyid Najib bin Hilal bin Saud Al Busaidi, the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, its Permanent Representative to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and a number of officials from the two sides. — ANI

Researchers use algae to recycle wastewater in drought-stricken regions

RESEARCHERS are advancing a green solution to water scarcity by using algae to recycle wastewater in drought-stricken rural regions.

Flinders University researchers in South Australia are trialing enhanced high-rate algal pond (HRAP) systems that incorporate native filamentous algae, enabling faster, more efficient wastewater treatment and easier removal of solids, according to a statement from the university on Friday.

This breakthrough not only improves water quality for non-potable uses like irrigation, but also offers a low-cost, ener-

gy-efficient alternative to traditional sewage treatment, addressing critical water shortages faced by regional communities, the statement said. Local councils in South Australia are using HRAP systems, where low-energy paddlewheels circulate wastewater through channels filled with microalgae and bacteria that remove contaminants, researchers said.

"Algae-bacterial granule formation is a positive way for biofilms to form dense, fast-settling biomass and improve treated wastewater quality," said Flinders University PhD researcher Sam Butterworth. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 11 June 2025 shows "sequencing batch reactors" treating effluent and removing biosolids at a wastewater treatment plant in the Barossa Valley, South Australia. **PHOTO: FLINDERS UNIVERSITY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Vietnam posts 7.5% growth in first half of 2025

VIETNAM announced on Saturday its economy grew 7.52 per cent in the first half of 2025, the highest in more than a decade as exports soared.

The strong growth figure comes just days after southeast Asian manufacturing hub averted the most punishing of US President Donald Trump’s threatened “reciprocal” tariffs on its exports.

“GDP in the first six months of 2025 increased by 7.52 per cent over the same period last year, the highest level of the first



People shop at a supermarket in Hanoi, Vietnam, 7 January 2022.
PHOTO: VNA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE

six months in the period 2011-2025,” the General Statistics Office said in a statement.

The country achieved growth of 7.96 per cent in the second quarter over the same period last year, the highest Q2 reading since 2022 when it hit 8.56 per cent.

“Our country’s socio-economic performance in the second quarter and the first six months of 2025 achieved very positive results, approaching the set target in the context of many uncertainties in the world and regional economy,” the GSO statement said.

Vietnam — a global manufacturing hub — recorded economic growth of 7.1 per cent last year and is aiming for eight per cent this year as it vies for “middle-income country” status by 2030.

The nation has the third-biggest trade surplus with the United States of any country after China and Mexico, and was targeted with one of the highest rates in Trump’s tariff blitz. — Xinhua

Air route links Xinjiang’s Urumqi, Osaka

TIANJIN Airlines inaugurated a new air route on Saturday, linking Urumqi, the capital city of north-west China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with Osaka, Japan.

This newly opened route marks the region’s first and only air link to Japan.

The daily service, operated by an Airbus A320, will depart Urumqi at 7:30 am and arrive in Osaka at 4:45 pm local time after a stop in north China’s

Tianjin. The return flight leaves Osaka at 6 pm local time and arrives in Urumqi at 1:55 am the next day.

The airlines said that the route not only expands Xinjiang’s international aviation network, providing enhanced travel convenience for both leisure and business passengers, but also promotes China-Japan economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and tourism development. — Xinhua

Romania faces ongoing soil drought threatening corn, sunflower crops

ROMANIA is experiencing ongoing moderate to severe soil drought, threatening crops such as corn and sunflower in non-irrigated areas, the National Meteorological Administration (ANM) warned on Saturday.

According to ANM, water reserves in the 0-100 centimetre soil layer are adequate to near-optimal in much of Muntenia, Transylvania, and Moldova. However, significant moisture deficits persist of Maramures, Dobrogea, Banat regions, as well as large

parts of Oltenia, with similar conditions spreading to other agricultural zones, ANM specialists warned that high temperatures, frequently exceeding the critical biological threshold of 30-32 degrees Celsius, combined with soil moisture shortages are causing visible stress in row crops. Corn and sunflower are showing signs of temporary wilting, leaf curling, yellowing, and premature drying, with crop development stages also being accelerated. — Xinhua

Indian curry born in cafeteria spicing up Suzuki Motor’s business



Suzuki Motor Corp President Toshihiro Suzuki (R) introduces new packaged vegetarian Indian curry. PHOTO: SUZUKI MOTOR CORP./KYODO

SUZUKI Motor Corp., the longtime top carmaker in the Indian market, has launched sales of boil-

in-the-bag curry, initially developed for Indian employees in Japan who longed for the taste of

home.

The Japanese automaker began selling four different varieties of Indian curry online on 25 June — daikon radish sambar, tomato lentil, chickpea masala and moong dal green — for 918 yen (\$6) each, after months of tasting tests.

The dishes were added to the menu at the head office’s cafeteria with other Indian curries in January 2024 for vegetarian employees from India.

The number of Indian employees, both short-

and long-term, at its headquarters in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, has been steadily growing, the company said.

Suzuki offered Japanese-style curry at the cafeteria but not Indian vegetarian curry until the new menu was introduced.

The maker of motorcycles and small cars asked Torizen Co., a local bridal and restaurant business, to cooperate in developing the boil-in-the-bag versions of the four flavors. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0350-799N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0350-799N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (524W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (524W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Japanese imperial couple depart for historic visit to Mongolia

The imperial couple's eight-day trip will last until 13 July.

JAPAN'S Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako departed Sunday for a state visit to Mongolia, the first by a Japanese emperor, aiming to reaffirm the two nations' friendship with this year marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

During their eight-day trip through 13 July, the imperial couple are scheduled to lay flowers at a memorial to commemorate Japanese nationals who died while in internment camps there after the war.

A welcome ceremony and meeting with President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh and his wife are to take place Tuesday in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. The imperial couple are expected to then participate in a banquet hosted by the Mongolian leader that night.

The itinerary also includes their attendance at the opening ceremony of Naadam, Mongolia's largest annual festival, on Friday.

"Through this visit, I hope to reflect on the long-standing history of exchanges between our two countries," the emperor said at a press conference on Wednesday.

"I hope this visit will also serve as an opportunity to invigorate exchanges further, particularly among the younger generation," he added. — Kyodo



Japan's Emperor Naruhito (L) and Empress Masako depart for a state visit to Mongolia from Tokyo's Haneda airport on 6 July 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Israel to send delegation to Qatar for indirect talks with Hamas: media



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel is set to meet with President Trump on Monday as attention has turned from Iran to a cease-fire for Gaza. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ISRAEL intends to send a delegation to Qatar to discuss a ceasefire-hostages agreement with Hamas, Israel's state-owned Kan TV reported on Saturday.

The channel added that the delegation is expected to leave

for Qatar on Sunday.

On Friday, Hamas said in a statement that it has delivered a "positive" response to mediators over a Gaza ceasefire proposal, adding it is "seriously prepared to immediately enter into a round of negotiations on the mechanism for implementing this framework."

Kan TV cited Israeli sources as saying that following Hamas' response, the Israeli side believes "there is something to work with." Israel's Channel 12 News also reported the planned departure of an Israeli delegation to Qatar, quoting a senior Israeli official as saying, "It is possible to reach an agreement. This opportunity should not be missed." — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Musk announces new political party in US

TECH billionaire Elon Musk announced Saturday that "the America Party is formed to give you back your freedom," following an online poll he launched earlier in the week that showed strong support for a new political force.

"Independence Day is the perfect time to ask if you want independence from the two-party (some would say uniparty) system," Musk wrote in Friday's post announcing the poll. More than 65 per cent of the 1.2 million respondents backed the idea. — Xinhua

S Korea's special counsel seeks warrant to detain ex-President Yoon

SOUTH Korea's special counsel investigating former President Yoon Suk-yeol's short-lived martial law imposition sought a warrant to detain the ousted president, the special counsel team's spokesperson said Sunday.

Cho Eun-suk, independent counsel leading the investigation into Yoon's insurrection and other charges, requested the warrant issuance from the Seoul Central District Court. — Xinhua

PM Modi arrives in Argentina for third leg of five-nation visit

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Argentina for his third leg of a five-nation tour. He landed at the Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires.

PM Modi is on an official visit to Argentina at the invitation of President of the Republic of Argentina, Javier Milei. PM Modi is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with President Milei to review ongoing cooperation and discuss ways to further enhance India-Argentina partnership in key areas, including defence, agriculture, mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, trade and investment, and people-to-people ties.

Earlier, Indian Ambassador to Argentina Ajaneesh Kumar, laying out the itinerary of the PM's visit, told ANI that upon reaching Argentina, PM Modi will be received by the Indian community in Buenos Aires. On the next day, PM, Modi will pay homage to Jose de San Martin, widely regarded as the Father of the Argentine Nation, at the Plaza de San Martin in Buenos Aires.

PM Modi will also hold delegation-level talks with Argentine President Javier Milei. — ANI

SPORTS

Yangon United lift first MNL League Cup title

YANGON United claimed their maiden MNL League Cup title after edging Shan United 1-0 in the final held at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 6 July.

The victory marked a significant moment for Yangon United, who ended their silverware drought since winning the 2019 Charity Cup. It also made them the first-ever champions of the newly established 2024 MNL League Cup. Shan United, aiming for back-to-back titles fell short despite their efforts.

Both teams fielded their strongest line-ups, including foreign players. Yangon United deployed recently signed Japanese striker Rintaro in their first line-up players. The match was tightly contested, with both sides showing intensity and physicality. Despite Shan United's early dominance, Yangon's well-disciplined defence kept them at bay.

The decisive goal came in the 54 minute when Saito capitalised on a scoring opportunity to give Yangon the lead. Shan United responded by making tactical substitutions and intensifying their attacks, but they were unable to break through Yangon's solid defence.

Following the match, an awards ceremony was held. Dagon Star United striker Yan Kyaw Htwe won the tournament's Golden Boot with seven goals, earning a K1 million cash prize. Runners-up Shan United received K20 million



Champions Yangon United celebrate their title win. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

and individual medals, while champions Yangon United were awarded K35 million, individual medals, and the League Cup trophy. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Arsenal sign Spain midfielder Zubimendi



Spain midfielder Martin Zubimendi has joined Arsenal from Real Sociedad. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ARSENAL on Sunday announced the signing of midfielder Martin Zubimendi from Real Sociedad in a deal reportedly worth around £55 million (\$75 million).

Euro 2024 winner Zubimendi had previously been a target for Liverpool and was also linked with Real Madrid.

"This is a huge moment in my career," said the defensive midfielder, who is understood to have put pen to paper on a five-year deal.

"It's the move I was looking for and one I wanted to make. As soon as you set foot here, you realise how big this club and this team are.

"I set my sights on Arsenal because their style of play is a good fit for me. They have shown their potential recently and the best is yet to come".

The Athletic reported that Arsenal paid above Zubimendi's 60 million euro (\$71 million, £51 million) buyout clause in order to spread the cost of the fee over a number of installments.

Zubimendi, 26, made 236 appearances in all competitions for Sociedad after graduating from the club's academy and has played 19 times for Spain.

He will reinforce manager Mikel Arteta's midfield options after the departures of Thomas Partey and Jorginho.

Zubimendi's arrival paves the way for Arsenal's record signing Declan Rice to play a more attacking midfield role alongside captain Martin Odegaard.

"Martin is a player who will bring a huge amount of quality and football intelligence to our team," said Arteta. — AFP

ISPE FC drawn in Group A for AFC Women's Champions League qualifiers

MYANMAR women's club ISPE FC has been placed in Group A following the draw for the 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League qualifiers, held on 4 July.

A total of 19 clubs will compete in the qualifiers, divided into five groups. Only the top team from each group will advance to the tournament proper.

Group A consists of Stallion Laguna (the Philippines), ISPE FC (Myanmar), Strykers (Guam), and Khovd Western (Mongolia).

Group B includes College of Asian Scholars (Thailand), PFC Nasaf (Uzbekistan), APF (Nepal), and Al Nassr (Saudi Arabia), while Group C features Kelana United (Malaysia), Etihad (UAE), Lion City Sailors (Singapore), and Sdyushor SI – Asiagoal (Kyrgyzstan).

Group D includes Kaohsiung Attackers (Chinese Taipei), Naegohyang (North Korea), Master (Laos), and RTC (Bhutan). Group E consists of East Bengal (India), Kitchee (Hong Kong),

and Phnom Penh Crown (Cambodia).

The qualifiers will run from 23 to 31 August. Each group will be hosted by a different nation: Myanmar (Group A), Uzbekistan (Group B), Malaysia (Group C), Laos (Group D), and Cambodia (Group E).

Seven clubs have already secured direct slots in the final tournament. With five group winners from the qualifiers, the main tournament will feature a total of 12 clubs. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Caldentey's Arsenal stint boosting her bid for Euros and Ballon d'Or glory



Mariona Caldentey started Spain's opening 5-0 win over Portugal at Women's Euro 2025. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MARIONA Caldentey has a first women's European Championship triumph for Spain in her sights after a dream season at Arsenal which could yet bag her the Ballon d'Or.

Versatile Caldentey is back with her former Barcelona teammates in a powerful Spain side who are the clear favourites for overall victory in Switzerland, ahead of La Roja's second Group B match with Belgium on Monday.

The reigning world champions looked a cut above the rest of the tournament in Thursday's 5-0 hammering of Portugal, and expectations are high for Spain to win Euro 2025.

"We see it (the pressure) more as a privilege. I think in recent years we've become more accustomed to it. You have to live with it," says the 29-year-old in an interview with AFP.

"We have a lot of weapons... We're a super-complete team." — AFP



BRICS summit kicks off in Brazil

Cooperation between BRICS nations and countries from the Global South and East is considered crucial for the global economy.

THE 17th BRICS summit starts in the Brazilian seaside resort of Rio de Janeiro on Sunday.

The two-day summit will bring together senior officials from the world's major emerging economies, including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will participate in the BRICS summit's plenary session via a video link, while Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will attend the summit in person.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Brazil to attend the BRICS summit.

Also earlier in the day, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Brazil for his fourth visit, aiming to strengthen India-Brazil ties in trade, defense, and energy during the BRICS summit and bilateral talks with President Lula.

Cooperation between the BRICS



This photo taken on 3 July 2025 shows welcome banners for the BRICS Summit on a street in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 17th BRICS Summit will be held here from 6 to 7 July. **PHOTO: CLAUDIA MARTINI/XINHUA**

states and the countries of the Global South and East is a determining fac-

tor for the entire global economy, the Russian president's deputy chief of

staff, Maxim Oreshkin, earlier said. — SPUTNIK

Chinese premier says to expand cooperation with Brazil in digital economy, aerospace



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 5 July 2025. **PHOTO: LI XIANG/XINHUA**

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said on Saturday that China is willing to work with Brazil to leverage each other's complementary advantages and expand cooperation in such areas as digital economy, green economy, sci-

tech innovation and aerospace.

Li made the remarks during his meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The Chinese premier arrived in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday to attend the 17th BRICS

Summit.

Li conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's warm greetings to Lula, noting that China-Brazil relations are in their best shape ever, with both sides working together to build a China-Brazil community with a shared future for a more just world and a more sustainable planet.

During Lula's visit to China in May, the two heads of state reached important consensus on pushing for building a China-Brazil community with a shared future and upholding multilateralism, Li said.

China stands ready to work with Brazil to continue the efforts in enriching the dimensions of bilateral relations and achieving more concrete results in cooperation so as to deliver more benefits to the two peoples, Li added.

China is willing to work with Brazil to further consolidate and deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, finance and infrastructure development under the framework of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, said the premier. — Xinhua

GLOBAL OIL SUPPLY

OPEC+ to hike petrol output to 548,000 bpd in August

SAUDI Arabia, Russia and six other key members of the OPEC+ alliance on Saturday said they would further increase oil output in August to 548,000 barrels per day.

Analysts had expected the alliance to decide on another output increase of 411,000 bpd – the same target approved for May, June and July.

The meeting comes after a 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel, which briefly sent prices above \$80 a barrel amid concerns over a possible closing of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for about one-fifth of the world's oil supply.

The wider OPEC+ group – comprising the 12-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies – began output cuts in 2022 in a bid to prop up prices. But in a policy shift, eight alliance members spearheaded by Saudi Arabia surprised markets by announcing they would significantly raise production from May, sending oil prices plummeting.

Oil prices have been hovering around a low \$65-\$70 per barrel. — AFP