

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

# MIC approves inflow of three FDI businesses worth \$35+M

**T**HREE new foreign direct investment valued at US\$35.778 million flowed into Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

Including the three new businesses, the MIC meeting held on 16 May approved both domestic and foreign investment businesses such as: the manufacturing of solar panels and related accessories, installation of power cables and related services, the preparation and production of instant foods, garment manufacturing under the Cutting, Making, Packaging (CMP) system, the production of iron and steel-based materials, and other business activities including the aforesaid newly-invested businesses.



Officials from Yangon Region Investment Monitoring Body monitor production of CMP-based bags, toys and suits in four Dagon Myothit townships on 2 May 2025.

According to information provided by DICA, foreign investment is currently permitted in the industrial and service sectors, including the capital expansion in existing investment businesses. At present, among 12 economic sectors, the highest levels of foreign investment are put in the energy sector accounting for 28.34 per cent, the oil and natural gas sector for 24.69 per cent and the manufacturing sector for 14.49 per cent.

Singapore, China, and Thailand among 53 countries and regions remain the top three countries at the highest investment levels in Myanmar till the end of April 2025. — Htun Htun/TTA

## Article

My Two Cents' Worth: Community Care with Natural Disaster Preparedness and Management

By Chit Ko Pe

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Four modular offices, 34 modular houses installed at T&C Ministry for staff families

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MoH plans to enhance healthcare services at Urban Health Centres

# Critically endangered migratory birds sighted at Moeyungyi Wetland Sanctuary

**A**ROUND 500 critically endangered Asian Openbill storks (commonly known as hnget kyar) have been spotted foraging at the Moeyungyi Wetland Sanctuary in Bago Region, according to the Moeyungyi Wetland Sanctuary Warden Office.

The sanctuary is a rich natural environment in Myanmar, renowned for its thriving wetland ecosystem. It serves as a seasonal refuge for 12 species of endangered birds, including the Asian Openbill storks, which have recently arrived in groups. Unlike other wetlands, where

these birds are rarely seen, Moeyungyi has become a key habitat during this period.

According to the sanctuary warden, early monsoon rains this year have led to the arrival of nearly 500 Asian Openbills around the transition from summer to the

rainy season. This is considered a positive sign for the wetland, as these birds are not typically found in other similar environments. Usually, only a few individuals are spotted throughout the year, but this month has seen an unprecedented flock.

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The panoramic view of Moeyungyi Wetland Sanctuary is seen with migratory birds for hibernation. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**



# NATIONAL

## Nurture students to become disciplined and law-abiding citizens

TEACHERS need to educate students to become knowledgeable and well-informed, guiding them towards gaining wisdom and insight. Similarly, it is necessary for teachers to nurture students to become disciplined and law-abiding citizens.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the World Teachers' Day which falls on 5 October 2024)

# Cyclone likely to form off Tamil Nadu coast on 20 May

METEOROLOGIST U Win Naing predicted at 1 pm on 18 May that there is likelihood of a cyclone forming near the Tamil Nadu coast in the southwest Bay of Bengal on 20 May, based on findings from ECMWF charts.

He analyzed that the probability of the cyclone would drop to 90 per cent on 21 May and further decrease to 80 per cent on 23 May.

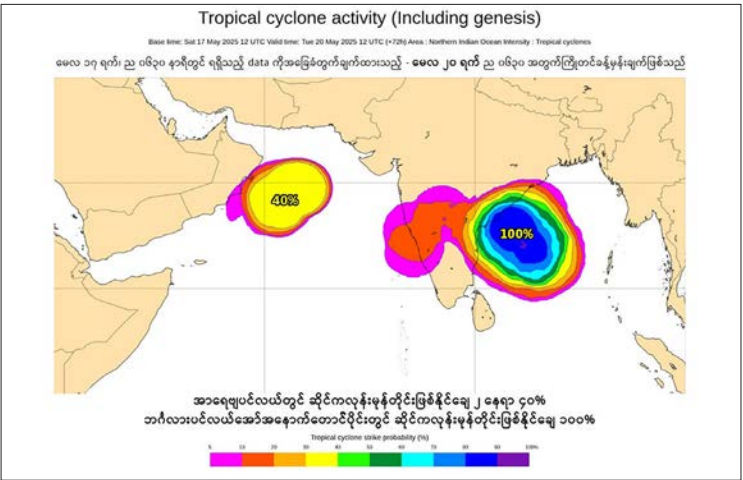
U Win Naing also stated that, according to ECMWF chart predictions, there is no

chance of forming a cyclone in the southwest Bay of Bengal. Instead, it is likely to remain a low-pressure area, which could develop into a system capable of advancing the southwest monsoon into central and upper Myanmar.

Similarly, the ECMWF-AI forecast, along with the GFS, GEFS, and GEPS models, predicts that a low-pressure area, storm, or cyclonic storm could develop in the middle-eastern and northern Bay of Bengal starting on 26 May. However,

he noted that this is a long-term forecast and requires further confirmation.

According to the weather forecast, the southwest monsoon has already reached the delta regions, with thunderstorms likely to continue in southern Myanmar, including the Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon, and Taninthayi regions, as well as Mon and Kayin states. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in all other states and regions only after 23 May. — Htun Htun/TH



This photo showcases charts presenting storm forecast findings for the period on 20 May.

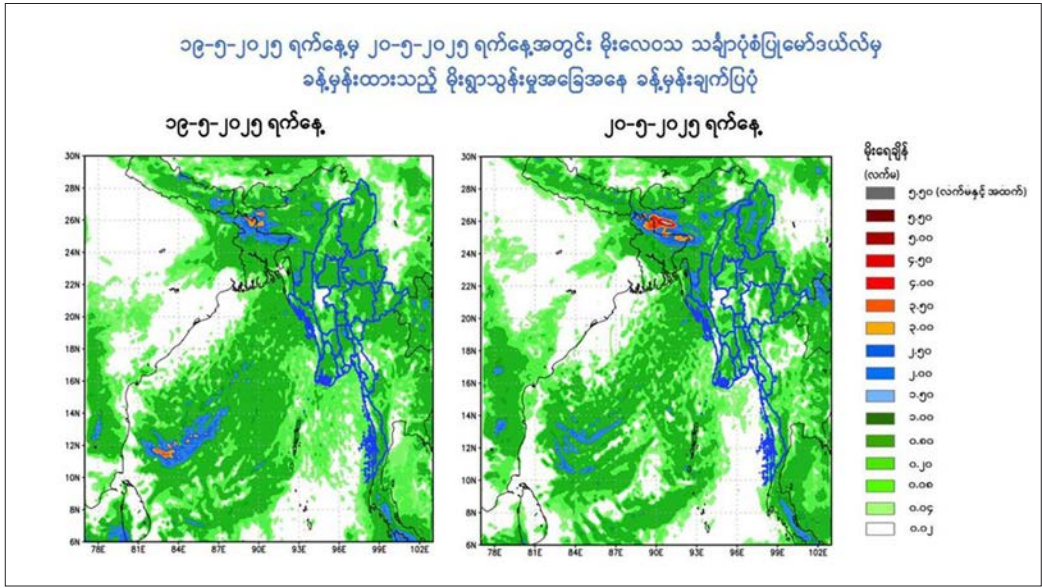
## Heavy Rainfall Warning 12

Issued at 3:30 pm MST on 18 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and south Bay of Bengal, continuations of southwest monsoon advancement and development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Chin and Rakhine states from today evening to 20 May 2025.

### Advisory

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



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 18 May 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 19 May 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kayah and Kayin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Chin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and eastern 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:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about seven to nine feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuations of condition of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 May 2025:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH







# NATIONAL

## MoH plans to enhance healthcare services at Urban Health Centres

UNION Minister for Health, Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, delivered a speech at the coordination meeting held at the Training Centre of Yangon General Hospital yesterday to discuss enhancing care at Urban Health Centres (UHCs).

He explained that, according to the structure of the Department of Public Health, the UHCs are established in urban areas, and to strengthen health care services that reach all people, the ministry plans to enhance these services by initially focusing on selected priority townships as part of a long-term strategy, while emphasizing the importance of systematic medicine supply management to ensure sufficient availability and minimize losses, and stressing the need to include all eligible age groups in the routine vaccination program for comprehensive immunization coverage.

Following this, Dr Myat Wunna Soe, Director-General



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects mobile operation theatre room.

of the Department of Public Health, and Dr Thida Hla, Director-General of the Department of Medical Services, provided instructions on improving the operations of UHCs. Dr Nanda Win,

Head of the Yangon Region Public Health Department, outlined the status of the 12 UHCs set to be launched and the requirements for expanding similar centers, while township public

health department heads reported on their current activities and needs. The Union minister and the directors-general addressed these needs in their responses.

On 17 May, the Union min-

ister and his team received donations of medicines worth K34 million and K20 million in cash from the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) and 10 types of medicines worth K22.20 million along with K15 million in cash from Aorta Co Ltd, to support the healthcare needs of earthquake-affected people, and expressed his gratitude for these contributions.

The Union minister and his team visited the Central Medical Store Depot in Yangon, where they inspected the temporary storage of 95 Mobile Operation Rooms (MOR) worth approximately 32 million yuan, donated by the People's Republic of China for post-earthquake reconstruction in Mandalay, reviewed an operation theatre equipped with a model, and instructed their timely transport to hospitals in disaster-prone states and regions, emphasizing systematic maintenance upon arrival. — MNA/TH

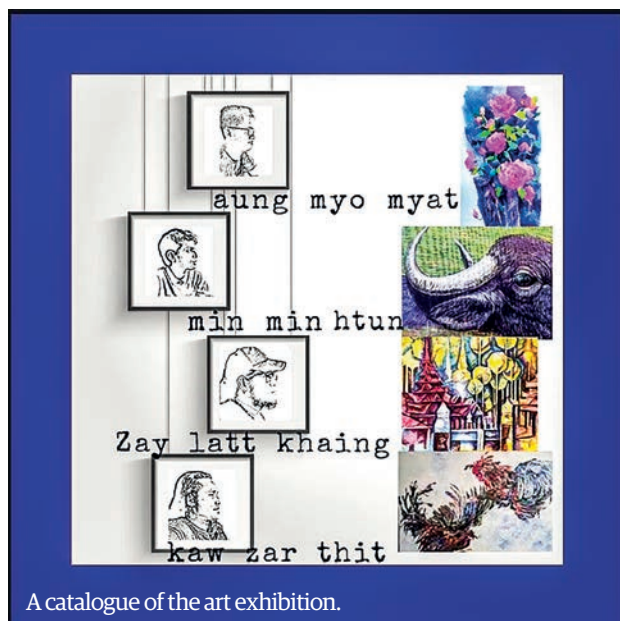
## ‘Unity 4’ group art exhibition kicks off on 17 May

A group art exhibition, ‘Unity 4’, has been ongoing at Artistic Space art gallery in Yangon Region’s Botahtaung Township, starting from 17 to 21 May, said artist Min Min Htun.

At the event, artworks in different themes and different artistic ideas by four artists have been displayed.

“The group art exhibition, Unity 4 by four experienced artists, has been in progress at the Artistic Space art gallery, and I would like to come to visit,” said a female artist, Min Min Htun.

The four artists are Aung Myo Myat, Min Min Htun, Zay Latt Khaing and Kaw Zar Thit. Paintings in different sizes have been exhibited, and prices range from K300,000 to K700,000. — ASH/ZS



A catalogue of the art exhibition.

## 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>

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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

Illegal timber, Moissanite stones, industrial raw materials, vehicles seized

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, inspection teams under the Customs Department took action against offenders of illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 15 and 16 May, the combined teams impounded industrial materials valued at K692.159 million from 18 containers at the Asia World Port, a Toyota Hilux (approximately K15 million) carrying foodstuffs valued at K19.6 million without official documents at the Zathabyin combined checkpoint in Hpa-an Township, an unregistered motorbike and an unregistered vehicle (estimated value of K30.9 million) in Monywa and Kalay townships and three kinds of consumer goods valued at K21.985 million without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty team seized illegal teak weighing 3.019 tonnes, illegal hardwoods weighing 0.391 tonne and illegal timber weighing 2.819 tonnes worth K2.895 million in Nyaunglebin and Thayawady districts, two unregistered vehicles and an unregistered motorbike worth K12.1 million in Kamayut and Hlinethaya townships, a Kinglong bus (approximately K50 million) carrying consumer goods worth K128.861 million without official documents near the UPG factory in Paleik Township and



Illegal goods and vehicle without documentations seized at checkpoints nationwide.

two vehicles (estimated value of K152 million) carrying industrial materials worth K85.458 million without official documents on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near the Kyaukse detour. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

On 16 May, officials inspected seven containers at Asia World Port Terminal and seized industrial goods worth an estimated K97.6 million, as they were imported without legal documents. On the same day, a total of 645 pieces of white Moissanite stones in various sizes worth approximately K312.15 million were seized from a Chinese passenger who arrived at Yangon

International Airport.

On 17 May, authorities intercepted a vehicle from Hpa-an to Yangon near the No 2 Highway near the Yangon University of Economics. The vehicle was carrying consumer goods worth K16.3 million without valid documentation. A Mitsubishi Canter truck transporting the goods, valued at K26 million was also seized.

In a separate case, a vehicle travelling from Thamanya to Yangon on the old Yangon-Mandalay highway near Max fuel station in Indagaw was found to be carrying consumer goods worth K25.08 million without supporting documents. The accompanying Ngwe Kyair Sin truck, worth

K35 million was also seized.

On 17 May, a combined inspection team under the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized consumer goods worth K32.5 million at the temporary checkpoint in Yetha temporary vehicle inspection terminal, due to the absence of supporting documents. The Hino truck transporting the goods, valued at K35 million was also confiscated, bringing the total value of the seizure to K67.5 million. In Taninthayi Region, authorities conducted inspections at the Ayeyeknye ward in Kawthoung and seized undocumented industrial goods worth K57.82 million near a river jetty. In Sagaing Region, the

task force conducted inspections near Monywa's Industrial Zone and seized an unregistered vehicle worth K6.5 million. At the Kantalu combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township, consumer goods worth K32.1 million without legal documents were also confiscated.

In Bago Region, the task force arrested an individual for transporting 0.476 tonne of illegal hardwood worth K221,330 within the Thayawady District. Legal action was taken under the Forest Law.

Between 15 and 17 May, a total of 46 cases were recorded, with the total estimated value of the seized goods reaching K1.887 billion. — MNA/KZL/MKKS

Thukyauk Kokyauk Film to premiere in 4<sup>th</sup> Week of May

THE Myanmar feature film titled “Thukyauk Kokyauk” (You’re scared, I scared too), produced as the first project by Kumudra Film Production is set to hit cinemas in the fourth week of May, according to actor Phyo Ngwe Soe, who stars in the film.

The screenplay and story were written by Didi Htet Aung, while Director Nora took on the directing role on behalf of Kumudra Film Production.

“This is a heroic comedy for fans

who love a mix of humour and suspense. It revolves around a wealthy urban mansion haunted by long-standing spirits — a former movie star and a Japanese army officer. When a greedy family arrives at the house, a clash between the living and the dead ensues. Will the ghosts be able to scare them off? Or will the family overpower the spirits? Who ends up in hilarious trouble? You’ll find out when it hits cinemas,” said Phyo Ngwe Soe.

The film features an ensemble cast including Academy Myint Myat, Phyo Ngwe Soe, Charlie, Ayine, Khin Hlaing, Tin Maung San Min Win, Nae Thit Aye Aung, Yamone Myint Myat, Academy Tekkatho Gwan Bon, Lin Lin, Kay Nyi and many others. — ASH/KZL

Poster of the film “Thukyauk Kokyauk”.





# NATIONAL

## Critically endangered migratory birds sighted ...

FROM PAGE 1

As a native species of South-east Asia, Asian Openbills are observed in countries like Cambodia, Thailand, and Singapore, with Cambodia being their primary breeding ground. Due to

their instinctual awareness of abundant food sources, they are naturally drawn to Moeyungyi, where wetland flora and fauna

na thrive. The sanctuary's warden emphasizes the importance of conserving Moeyungyi Wetland, a globally signif-



PHOTOS: ZWE MARN



icant habitat for endangered birds. The community must work together to maintain the sanctuary's ecological balance, ensuring its long-term survival.

The Asian Openbills started arriving at the wetland in April and typically leave in early June. During the transition from summer to monsoon, snail-eating birds like the Asian Openbill feed on snails clinging to rice plants, while larger snails in waterlogged fields are also consumed. Their presence enhances the wetland's natural beauty and helps control the population of rain-fed snails, which can harm

paddy fields.

In Myanmar, snail-eating birds generally breed at Inlay Lake and then migrate to other wetlands, including Moeyungyi. The Asian Openbill storks, however, do not typically inhabit Inlay Lake or Indawgyi Lake, but they frequent Moeyungyi Wetland during August and September. Internationally, Asian Openbills can be found in Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, India, and Africa. In Asia, they are primarily spotted in Myanmar's Ramsar-designated wetland, Moeyungyi. — Thitsar (MNA)/KNN

## Rentals go up in Yangon property market

YANGON property market is experiencing a good condition with more rentals, according to real estate agents.

Due to the influx of relocating families, the rental market for houses and apartments in Yangon is continuously high, they said.

"There are more rental deals because it's the pre-monsoon season where house-moving occurs. Both houses and apartments are rented. Not very soon after one moves out, the next one moves in. Rental prices are K 250,000, K300,000 or K400,000 depending on the location and neighbourhood. Although the rental rate is high, there are still people who move in, or visit for training courses from the other cities, so transactions happen continuously," said

an agent.

Rentals with deposits and the 6-month contracts are now becoming more common.

"Recently, rental apartments are no longer cheap. Many of them are rented on a monthly basis, on a yearly basis or on a deposit. If the neighbourhood is clean and good, it is more expensive. Those who have moved from other cities with their elderly parents prefer to rent houses. As most people cannot afford a house, they usually rent apartments," said a tenant.

Yangon's real estate market is currently experiencing a slowdown in sales, but the rental market is still thriving with good prices. — MT/ZN



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A real estate advertisement on a social media page.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

2025 basic, advanced maritime youth trainees visit pagodas, landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw

A total of 923 trainees and instructors/administrators from 11 training camps of the Basic and Advanced Maritime Youth Training Courses No 1/2025, who have arrived in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, visited the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda and the four sacred places of Sanvejaniya yesterday morning. Officials conducted them round the sacred sites.

In the afternoon, the maritime youth also visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZL



Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,727

AS of 18 May, a total of 3,727 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 80 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely hit by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international rescue organizations, have been carrying out emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. So far, a total of 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 804 deceased persons have been recovered.

Both local donors and philanthropic individuals have been providing financial aid and relief supplies to those affected by the disaster. Similarly, foreign governments, international organizations, and charitable donors have been offering monetary and material assistance.

On 15 May, 10 containers including tents, medicine and foodstuffs, weighing 47.9 tonnes from Sri Lanka and five containers including various kinds of goods, weighing 28.841 tonnes from Chongqing Municipal People’s government arrived at Yangon Port.

These relief items will swiftly be distributed to quake-impacted communities to ensure timely support. — MNA/KZL

Earthstar mushroom season arrives, price gets high

A seasonal earthstar mushroom has been now available in the market and being a popular food, the price has been high at the beginning of the season, according to sellers.

The price is over K100,000 a viss. “This is the beginning of the season, so earthstar mushrooms are very young and they can give the softest and sweetest taste. The earthstar mushroom is a popular food so the price is K10,000 above 10 tical, at present. It can be available just for a season throughout the year, so people who like it buy despite the price is good,” said a seller.

However, the price will drop when the production becomes abundant, she said. The seasonal earthstar mushroom has many health benefits



A vendor sells earthstar mushroom to people.

such as vitamins, potassium, protein, the bone and muscle health. — MT/ZS fibre and iron, and it can help improve

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

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



## Boost the innovative capacity of youths to build a better society

YOUTHS are among the most powerful forces in shaping the future of society. Their capacity, morality, creativity, and technological skills play a vital role in driving innovation and development. Young people are capable of imagining diverse possibilities and applying technology with high levels of critical thinking, often in ways that minimize environmental impact. As a result, both developed and developing countries increasingly rely on the talents and capabilities of their youth.

As an example concerning the capacity of youths, international news agencies in recent months specialized in the news story that the 2025 Earth Prize regional winner for Asia was Team Thermavault from India, consisting of Dhruv Chaudhary, Mithran Ladhania, and Mridul Jain. Those teenagers won for their Thermavault, a

The countries at the top of the innovation index are investing more in research and innovation due to a comprehensive understanding of the potential of their youth. These countries provide high-quality infrastructure and technological resources to support young people. When a country creates learning opportunities and an environment that fosters creativity, the innovative capacity of its youth tends to increase.

Governments and relevant authorities should prioritize improving the fundamental education of young people, creating opportunities for them to showcase their skills, and attracting investment to support the development of innovations and new initiatives. Innovation involves the creation of new ideas, methods, products, and services, or the transformation of production processes for the benefit of society. Therefore, it is essential to provide young people with the freedom to explore different ideologies, implement meaningful projects, strengthen their capacity for innovation, develop teamwork skills, and embrace lifelong learning.

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They were awarded a cash prize of US\$12,500 and the Earth Prize on 19 April this year. Those young Indian students from a high school in Chennai of India, are building 200 more Thermavaults to be used at 120 hospitals by spending their cash prize. Their activities show the innovative ability of students and the encouragement of authorities to the modern teaching process of schools.

Such an occurrence highlights that the high innovative capacity of youths depends on the governments of relevant countries and their educational policies. Only when these governments invest more in the education sector will young people be able to enhance their capacity for innovation. Therefore, it is essential to nurture youth in order to strengthen their capabilities.

IN THIS very newspaper on 27 August 2022, I wrote an article titled “Community care with first aid”. This article serves as a supplement to it.

The devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025 has so far resulted in the loss of many lives and damage to numerous properties. Local and foreign humanitarian assistance has been pouring in to support rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

In its wake, the urgent need for an effective, community-driven emergency response system has become clear. Resilience must come from the ground up. Building core capacity for rescue and emergency preparedness, especially at the ward and village levels, offers a sustainable pathway toward disaster readiness. Myanmar’s geopolitical context makes it uniquely reliant on local capacity. Community-based rescue and preparedness is not just an alternative, it is a necessity. By equipping local communities to act swiftly in the event of earthquakes, floods, landslides, or other disasters, lives can be saved in the critical minutes and hours before external help arrives. Local preparedness also ensures that marginalized groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and those in remote ethnic areas, are not left behind. In other words,

## My Two Cents’ Worth: Community Care with Natural Disaster Preparedness and Management

By Chit Ko Pe

it is a bottom-up solution while the government institutions and agencies apply a top-down approach.

The community-driven strategies are outlined as follows:-

- 1. Establish community-based emergency response teams:** Let ward/village-tract administration offices act as the nerve centres for community preparedness and response.
- 2. Provide training and drills:** Training local volunteers in disaster preparedness, search and rescue operations, and first aid can create a network of first responders ready to act swiftly in emergencies. It shall start with training one or two individuals per ward in basic rescue, first aid, and communication. These people then train others. Periodic -biannual or annual, community drills can help keep skills fresh and encourage public participation. Religious



A resilient society is better equipped to face the risks associated with natural disasters. ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART

institutions, schools, and local NGOs can serve as

training venues and community mobilizers.

- 3. Invest in local infrastructure and equipment:** The

lack of heavy machinery and proper equipment hin-

ders rescue efforts, forcing many to rely on manual labour. Investing in essential tools and infrastructure at the community level can expedite response times in future disasters. Local donors shall consider it.

- 4. Develop decentralized communication networks:** Establishing reliable, community-based communication systems can ensure timely information dissemination and coordination during emergencies. Social media is a great tool in organizing teams, sharing real-time info, and tracking needs.
- 5. Get mapping and information systems:** Conduct vulnerability mapping at the ward level (e.g., buildings prone to collapse, elderly people living alone, pregnant women, infants, etc.).
- 6. Create resource pooling:** Encourage community

stockpiles such as basic medical supplies, rescue tools, and water purification kits stored in shared local facilities. Conduct local donation drives to fund these necessities.

- 7. Foster local and cross-community coordination:** Neighbourhoods should stay connected via local communication systems -phones, social media groups, or community bulletin boards. Coordination between neighbouring wards allows for shared resources and mutual aid during large-scale disasters.

Building core capacity at the community level empowers people to save lives, protect their neighbourhoods, and recover more quickly after disasters. By investing in people, tools, local systems, and inclusive coordination, Myanmar can cultivate a resilient society that is ready to face the risks posed by natural disasters. If so, Myanmar can strengthen its internal capacities to respond effectively to natural disasters, reducing dependence on external assistance and fostering resilience within its communities.

The time for community-based preparedness is not tomorrow – it is today.

## The Heart We Carry in Our Wallets

SMALL objects we carry daily hold a quiet charm – a keychain from a favourite trip, a ring softened by time, a note folded with love, or, most often, a photo tucked inside a wallet. These aren’t just things; they’re pieces of the heart, carrying memories, love, and the people who make life special. We carry them not for their material worth, but for the stories they whisper every time our fingers brush past them.

Each item tucked away holds a universe. A faded train ticket, a dried flower, or a scribbled phone number – reminders that someone mattered, that a moment once lit the heart. Among these, the photo in the wallet stands apart. It’s often a small, square token of love, folded neatly, a little worn

around the edges. It’s carried day after day, year after year, surviving the chaos of everyday life. Yet somehow, it remains intact, holding a gaze, a smile, or a memory we never want to lose.

A friend recently shared a story that warmed the soul, showing just how much these keepsakes mean. Her husband went to the market one sunny afternoon to buy fish for dinner. It was a typical day – nothing grand, nothing out of the ordinary. He stood in line, waiting for his turn at the fish stall. The fish seller, a woman with kind eyes and a ready smile, greeted him with unexpected warmth. “Your wife,” she said kindly, “always comes here for the freshest fish. I save the best for her and give her a small discount.”

The husband blinked in surprise. He’d never met this woman before, had never spoken to her. And yet, she knew who he was. Curious, he asked, “How do you know her?” The fish seller laughed softly. “When she pays,” she explained, “I see your photo in her wallet. I’ve seen it so many times, I’d recognize you anywhere.”

The husband’s heart lifted. Something about this simple recognition stirred him. A warm smile crossed his face. This woman – just a kind stranger – had seen a piece of his life carried every day, lovingly, by the person he loved most. That photo, quietly residing in his wife’s wallet, had introduced him to the world without his knowing.

When he got home with the fish, he told his wife the story. They laughed, the sound ringing through the kitchen like wind chimes on a breezy afternoon – joyful, intimate, and familiar. It wasn’t just a funny moment. The things we carry, even without thinking, reveal so much about who we are and who we love.

That evening, the husband felt a softness in his chest. He joined his wife in the kitchen, their hands moving together in rhythm as they cooked. The garlic sizzled, the onions turned golden, and their conversation flowed like a favourite song. My friend later said that meal was unforgettable – not just for the fish’s fresh taste, but for the love that flavoured it. It wasn’t a grand celebration or an

anniversary dinner. It was a Sunday, perhaps, or a regular day that bloomed unexpectedly because of one small photo and the feelings it carried.

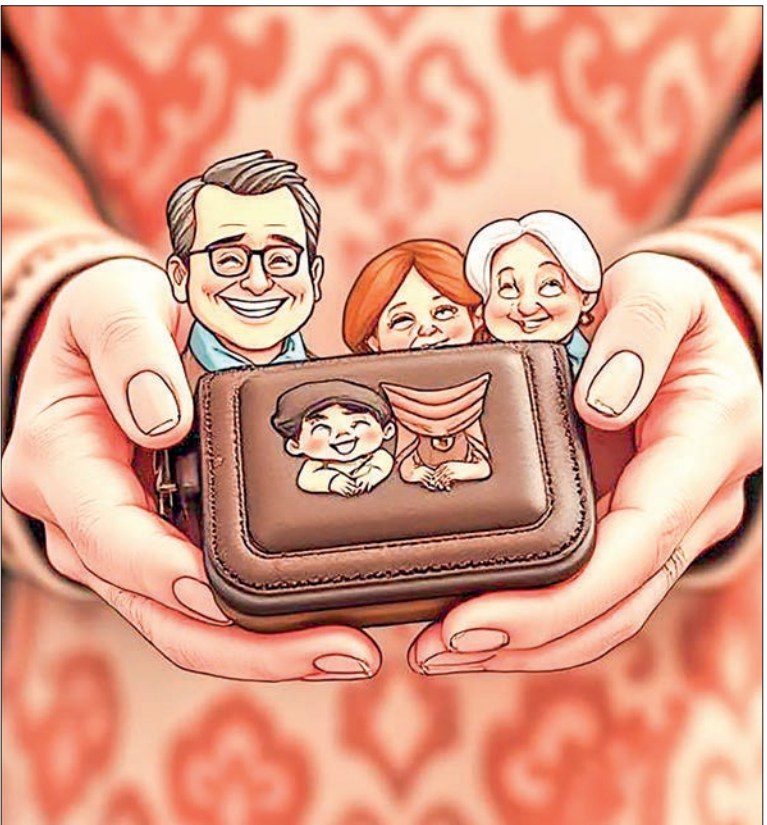
Over dinner, the husband asked gently to see the picture she carried. She smiled, reached into her purse, and slid her wallet across the table. Inside was a small, well-worn photo of him as a child, perhaps seven or eight years old – grinning, gap-toothed, full of wonder. He looked at it in quiet amazement. She had carried this memory, this younger version of him, close to her heart for years.

This moment touched him deeply. It wasn’t just the photo – it was the constancy of love, the way she had quietly held him close even in his absence, even when

By Laura Htet (UDE)

he wasn’t aware. Love doesn’t always need grand gestures. Sometimes, it shines brightest in the ordinary – a worn photo, a fish seller’s smile, two people standing side by side at the stove, cooking dinner like a team. Moved, the husband asked for a photo of her, one he could carry. Later that night, he slipped it into his wallet, pressing it between cards and bills with gentle reverence. He wanted to carry her as she had carried him—a silent, loving promise tucked away for every-day life.

SEE PAGE 10



It is not the material possessions that define us, but the memories and love we carry. ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART



# ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

## The Heart We Carry in Our Wallets

FROM PAGE 9

Love weaves through life's moments in subtle ways. When young, wallets hold photos of first loves – crushes that make the heart race, summer romances, scribbled notes on notebook paper. As time passes, that picture might be of a spouse – the person who's seen the best and worst of us, shared in our laughter, and steadied us through grief. When children arrive, their bright eyes and gap-toothed smiles take centre stage, a daily reminder of why we keep going. And as years roll on, we might carry photos of those we've lost – parents, friends, even pets – holding onto their memory with tenderness, as if their gaze in the photo offers comfort across time.

In a loud, busy world filled with notifications, deadlines, and digital noise, these simple keepsakes bring us back to what truly matters. The photo in a wallet – tucked beside old receipts and cards – is a quiet nod to the one who holds our heart. It's a reminder that we are not alone, that someone is loved and remembered.

Whose photo rests in our wallet? A partner, a child, a parent, a friend, or perhaps a beloved pet? Maybe it's someone who has passed, whose memory is carried close to our hearts. Each photo tells a story – of connection, of belonging, of a chapter in the book of our lives. Some of us might carry our own photos, reminders of who we once were, of how far we've come.

Over time, the faces in our wallets change. As we grow, so do the stories we choose to carry. The innocent love of youth gives way to the depth and endurance of mature connection. In adulthood, the image of a partner represents stability, shared struggles, and a bond forged over the years. As parents, the joyful chaos of children becomes the focus – their smiles a bright thread running through long days and sleepless nights. And in later years, photos of those who've passed become treasured keepsakes, their absence softened by the comfort of memory.

In an age of smartphones and cloud storage, it might seem old-fashioned to carry a photo in a wallet. But maybe that's exactly why it matters more than ever: It

requires intention. It demands space in the finite, physical world we move through. It's not swiped away or forgotten among hundreds of images – it's chosen, preserved, honoured.

Some people don't carry photos anymore. That's okay, too. But perhaps the story of the fish seller and the husband will linger. Perhaps it will prompt us to pull out an old photo and place it back in the fold of our wallet. Or maybe we'll take a new one, capturing someone we love just as they are now – a moment, a glance, a truth worth carrying.

Life's beauty hides in simple things: a shared meal, a knowing glance, a photo carried close. My friend's story – of a fish seller, a photo, and love shining in the everyday — reminds us that

we're all holding onto something precious, often without realizing it.

Because in the end, it's not the things we own that define us. It's the things we carry—the memories, the love, the quiet acts of care.

And when life gets busy, when the days blur together, when the world feels too fast, these small things become our anchor. They remind us of what really matters. They bring us back to ourselves.

The husband in that story will probably never forget the fish seller's smile, or the way his wife quietly, lovingly carried a photo of him for years without ever needing to say a word. That's what love looks like. Not grand declarations. But small, steady signs. A photo in a wallet. A memory in a pocket. A heart held close.

## Worry for orcas in French marine park spikes after video

*With the park's closure due to a law banning marine mammal shows, efforts to relocate the orcas and other marine animals have faced legal and logistical challenges.*



Happier days: Marineland in 2013. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

A viral video showing two orcas circling in algae-stained pools at a closed French marine park has sparked global concern, as officials struggle to find a suitable new home for the mother and calf amid legal and logistical setbacks.

A video posted online of two orcas circling in an algae-infested pool in southern France has brought a fresh wave of worldwide concern for cetaceans Wikie, 24, and her 11-year-old calf Keijo.

France has been struggling

to find a new home for mother and son after their owner, a marine park on the French Riviera, closed down over a law banning shows featuring marine mammals.

Founded in the city of Antibes in 1970, Marineland closed to the public in January following a drop in attendance and the 2021 law.

In February, the park's management submitted a request to urgently transfer the two orcas — also known as killer whales — and 12 dolphins to two parks in Spain, but the move was blocked by Spanish authorities saying the facilities were adapted for them.

"The situation at Marineland Antibes is an emergency," said Canada-based NGO TideBreakers in a social media post after publishing the video. — AFP

## US approves first blood test for Alzheimer's

THE United States on Friday approved the first blood test for Alzheimer's, a move that could help patients begin treatment earlier with newly approved drugs that slow the progression of the devastating neurological disease. The test, developed by Fujirebio Diagnostics, measures the ratio of two proteins in the blood. The ratio is correlated with amyloid plaques in the brain — a hallmark of Alzheimer's that, until now, has been detected only through brain scans or spinal fluid analysis.

"Alzheimer's disease impacts too many people — more

than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined," said Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary.

"Knowing that 10 per cent of people aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's, and that by 2050 that number is expected to double, I am hopeful that new medical products such as this one will help patients." There are currently two FDA approved treatments for Alzheimer's: lecanemab and donanemab, which target amyloid plaque and have been shown to modestly slow cognitive decline, though they do not cure the disease. — AFP



A carer helps an elderly resident - one of three Alzheimer sufferers in the establishment - in a house at L'Hay-les-Roses on the outskirts of Paris. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



# ‘Gentle giants’: World’s strongest men defy stereotypes

EDDIE Williams, a schoolteacher by day and a wedding singer on weekends, competes as a weightlifter in the “World’s Strongest Man” competition.

Weighing 420 pounds, he challenges the stereotype that weightlifters are aggressive, asserting that one can be both strong and likable. His wife, Hannah, echoes this sentiment, describing weightlifters as “gentle giants.”

The competition, held in Sacramento, showcases athletes like Mitchell Hooper, a former champion with a master’s degree, who emphasizes that many competitors are well-educated and motivated by personal challenges rather than brute strength.

Rob Kearney, known as “the

world’s strongest gay man,” aims to redefine masculinity and highlight that true strength encompasses character and support for others. The event, which began in 1977, has evolved into a professional sport with significant investment and record-setting performances. Competitors like Rayno Nel, a mechanical engineering graduate, follow strict nutritional regimens to fuel their training, consuming up to 6,000 calories daily.

Despite the physical toll, including daily pain and discomfort, the camaraderie among competitors is palpable, as they cheer for one another, showcasing that strength is not just about lifting weights but also about community and support. — AFP



The World’s Strongest Man competition was first held in 1977 at Universal Studios in California. **PHOTO: AFP**



Hadi’s first feature film, ‘The President’s Cake’, has received good reviews at Cannes. **PHOTO: INA/AFP**

# Iraq’s first filmmaker in Cannes says sanctions no piece of cake

*Hadi’s first feature film is titled “The President’s Cake.”*

HASAN Hadi, the first filmmaker from Iraq to be selected for the prestigious Cannes Festival, said economic embargoes like those imposed in his childhood under Saddam Hussein did not work. “Sanctions empower dictators,” he told AFP, as they concentrate scant resources in their hands and only make them “more brutal”.

“In the history of the world, there was no one time

when they (imposed) sanctions and the president couldn’t eat.”

Hadi’s first feature film, “The President’s Cake”, has received very good reviews since premiering Friday in the Directors’ Fortnight section.

Cinema publication Deadline said it was “head and shoulders above” some of the films in the running for the festival’s Palme d’Or top prize, and “could turn out to be Iraq’s first nominee for an Oscar”.

The film follows nine-year-old Lamia after she has the misfortune of being picked by her school teacher to bake the class a cake for the president’s birthday, or be denounced for disloyalty.

It is the early 1990s, the country is under crippling UN sanctions. She and her grandmother — with whom she shares a reed home in Iraq’s southern marshlands — can barely afford to eat. — AFP

# Sarah Jessica Parker on almost turning down her role in ‘Sex And The City’ TV series

ACTRESS Sarah Jessica Parker revealed that she almost turned down her iconic role in ‘Sex and the City’, reported Deadline.

Parker, a six-time Golden Globe winner, shared that after filming the pilot episode in 1997, she initially asked her agent to release her from the project once it was picked up as a series.

In a podcast with her co-star

Kristin Davis, the actress shared that she had a “lovely” time filming the first episode, but she got “panicked” when the show got picked up. “When the show was picked up, I panicked. I was like, I can’t be on a TV show. I don’t think I’m suited for that life. It’s very hard to explain. It also kind of depressed me,” said Parker as quoted by Deadline. — ANI

# Nugroho’s upcoming directorial venture ‘Spirit of the Kantil’ unveils at Cannes market

CELEBRATED Indonesian filmmaker Garin Nugroho has unveiled his latest production venture at the Cannes Market alongside director Razka Robby Ertanto. It is titled ‘Spirit of the Kantil’ (also titled ‘Bedoyo’).

According to Variety, the ‘Spirit of Kantil’ is a sensual drama deeply rooted in Javanese mystical traditions, with

Nugroho serving as both writer and producer.

Nugroho, whose career spans decades with acclaimed works such as “Opera Jawa” (2006), “Serambi” (2005), and the recent “Samsara” (2024), has somehow placed Southeast Asian cinema on the boundaries. As per the outlet, the film explores the complex intersec-

tion of beauty, power, and tradition in 1950s Indonesia through a triangle of desire and mysticism: Adista, a wealthy woman who masters the esoteric art of attraction through kantil flowers; Citresa, a breathtakingly beautiful bedoyo dancer born beneath a kantil tree; and Kripala, Citresa’s husband and a struggling composer. — ANI





In March 2025, the China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec) announced a significant shale oil discovery in Shandong Province. This file photo shows the drilling site of the Jiyang shale oil national demonstration zone in east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/XINHUA**

# Sri Lanka looks to deepen ties with China in energy: minister

*Jayakody describes China as a “close friend” and outlines plans for collaboration in petroleum and renewable energy.*

SRI Lankan Minister of Energy Kumara Jayakody has reaffirmed the nation's commitment to expanding its energy partnership with China, describing China as a “close friend” and outlining ambitious plans for collaboration across petroleum and renewable energy projects.

In an interview with Xinhua on Friday, Jayakody emphasized Sri Lanka's eagerness to accelerate key energy projects in cooperation with Chinese partners. “We have a refinery

project in Hambantota, and we are in a hurry to start this project,” he said.

“Not only in petroleum, but we also want to start some projects in the electricity sector, especially in using solar and wind power. We are very likely to call for the support of China in these sectors,” Jayakody noted.

Jayakody highlighted that Sri Lanka is particularly interested in leveraging China's advancements in battery storage technology to improve the

reliability and sustainability of its electricity sector.

“We like to have those partnerships to develop these areas,” he said, pointing to a broader vision of modernizing the nation's energy infrastructure with Chinese expertise.

The minister's remarks came as Chinese state-owned energy giant Sinopec marked its first “Clean Sri Lanka” Open Day at the newly upgraded Dilly Fuelling Station in Nawala on Friday. — Xinhua

# US loses last triple-A credit rating as Moody's cuts over govt debt

THE United States lost its last triple-A credit rating from a major agency on Friday, as Moody's downgraded its rating from Aaa to Aa1, citing



Moody's was the last of the three major credit ratings agencies to downgrade the United States, following in the footsteps of S&P and Fitch. **PHOTO: AFP**

rising government debt levels.

This downgrade undermines Donald Trump's narrative of economic strength, coinciding with the failure of his flagship spending bill in Congress due to opposition from Republican fiscal hawks. Moody's highlighted the significant increase in government debt and interest payment ratios, predicting federal deficits could rise to nearly nine percent of GDP by 2035, up from 6.4 per cent last year. The agency expects the federal debt burden to reach about 134 per cent of GDP by 2035. Moody's decision reflects similar actions by S&P and Fitch, which previously downgraded the US credit rating due to concerns over fiscal management. The agency criticized successive administrations for failing to address large annual deficits and rising interest costs. — AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Vietnamese National Assembly approves 2025 state budget adjustments

THE Vietnamese National Assembly on Saturday approved a resolution to adjust and supplement the 2025 state budget, with key allocations aimed at supporting public sector reform, education and innovation.

The approved plan includes a significant allocation of 44 trillion Vietnamese dong (approximately US\$1.7 billion) to compensate officials, civil servants and public employees affected by the government's ongoing efforts to streamline administrative structures.

Over 6.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (about \$254 million) will be earmarked to support tuition fee exemptions, according to the resolution. — Xinhua

### Ramaphosa's talks with Trump chance to reset tattered ties

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa is set to meet US President Donald Trump next week in a crucial effort to mend deteriorating relations between the two nations. This will be their first in-person meeting since Trump began his second term in January.

Analysts describe the upcoming talks as one of the most significant bilateral engagements in South Africa's history, emphasizing the need for Ramaphosa to adopt a conciliatory tone to avoid confrontations similar to those seen with other leaders. — AFP

# Mongolia's GDP up 2.4% in Q1



Mongolia's agriculture is heavily reliant on livestock, with animal husbandry accounting for 80 per cent of agricultural

MONGOLIA'S gross domestic product (GDP) grew 2.4 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2025, official data released by the country's National Statistics Office (NSO) showed Saturday.

The Asian country's GDP totaled 19 trillion Mongolian tugriks (US\$5.3 billion) in the January-March period, and the growth was mainly attributed to good performance in the agricultural, services and mining sectors, the NSO said.

The landlocked country's economy grew 4.9 per cent in 2024, according to the statistical agency. Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has predicted that Mongolia's economy would grow by 6.6 per cent in 2025 and 5.9 per cent in 2026.

According to the ADB, economic growth in Mongolia will be mainly driven by increased mining output and services and supported by robust domestic demand, infrastructure investment, and a gradual recovery in agriculture. — Xinhua



# Sanxingdui-themed train links ancient culture, natural wonder in SW China's Sichuan

A tourist train left Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on Sunday, marking the launch of the first train themed around the legendary Sanxingdui Ruins site.

Departing from Chengdu East Railway Station, the train takes 18 minutes to reach the Sanxingdui Ruins and around two hours to reach Jiuzhai Valley, two of Sichuan's most prominent attractions. It operates daily with 13 round trips

and is expected to carry about 30,000 passengers per day.

Adorned with iconic bronze motifs and posters of the Sanxingdui Ruins, the train offers passengers a cultural journey through time. On board, a professional guide from the Sanxingdui Museum introduces the excavation history, key artifacts and cultural significance of the ancient site.

Jointly developed by China Railway Chengdu Group Co., Ltd. and the

Sanxingdui Museum, the themed train aims to offer an immersive cultural experience for both domestic and international travelers, according to Peng Danlin with China Railway Chengdu Group.

"This is so exciting," said Zhou Wen, one of the first passengers on board, as she eagerly took photos. "Every detail in the carriage makes me feel like I've traveled back to the ancient Shu Kingdom. It's a fulfilling and unforgettable experience." — Xinhua



The train takes 18 minutes to reach the Sanxingdui Ruins and around two hours to reach Jiuzhai Valley, two of Sichuan's most prominent attractions. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

## From generic drugs to vaccines, Indian pharma industry is transforming lives worldwide



India's pharmaceutical industry is a global giant ranking third in volume and 14<sup>th</sup> in value. PHOTO: LINKEDIN

INDIA has transformed itself into a global health leader in terms of affordability, innovation, and in-

clusivity over the past decade.

India's pharmaceutical industry is a glob-

al giant ranking third in volume and 14<sup>th</sup> in value.

It's the largest supplier of generic medicines providing 20 per cent of the world's supply and a key player in affordable vaccines.

In 2023-24, the sector's turnover hit Rs 4,17,345 crore growing steadily at over 10 per cent annually for the past five years.

For the common people, this means more medicines at lower prices, better healthcare and

jobs in factories and labs across the country. From small towns to big cities, India's pharma growth is creating opportunities and saving lives.

The government claims that its schemes are the backbone of this success.

The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) runs 15,479 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, offering generic medicines at prices up to 80 per cent lower than branded ones. — ANI

## Nissan to seek early retirement applicants from office staff in Japan

NISSAN Motor Co. will solicit early retirement applications from administrative staff in Japan this summer, a source close to the matter said Sunday, launching such a program for the first time in 18 years as the struggling automaker aims to turn its business around.

The early retirement packages, to be offered in July and August, will target those in sales and accounting, while employees working in the development and production sections will be excluded, according to the source.

The program, covering workers aged 45 to 64, is part of the Yokohama-based automaker's plan to cut around 20,000 jobs globally. While it has already notified employees, the number of applications to be accepted has not been revealed, the source said. With the program, Japan's third-biggest automaker by volume aims to cut administrative costs amid a deteriorating business environment caused by the tariff policy of US President Donald Trump's administration, including the imposition of 25 per cent levies on autos from April. — Kyodo

## German companies see sharp profit drop due to US trade disruptions

THE majority of German large companies listed on Germany's benchmark DAX index suffered a sharp profit decline of 8 per cent in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025, according to a report released by consulting firm Ernst & Young (EY) on Friday.

Henrik Ahlers, chairman of the executive board and country managing partner at EY Germany, warned that the US-initiat-

ed trade disruptions pose serious challenges to Germany's export-oriented industries. "Many firms built up inventories in the US or accelerated sales to preempt tariff hikes," he said. "The full impact of these tariffs is likely to become apparent in the second half of the year."

The automotive sector alone experienced a dramatic 42 per cent plunge in profits, with industry

giants BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Volkswagen struggling. The overall situation of German industry is more challenging than ever, said Jan Brorhiller, managing partner for assurance at EY Germany.

Germany's chemical industry is also preparing for a prolonged downturn, as trade tensions intensify and customer sentiment continues to weaken. — Xinhua

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

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ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Poland votes in tight election as Europe watches



Warsaw mayor Trzaskowski (R) and nationalist historian Nawrocki may face each other in the second round.  
PHOTO: AFP

*If no candidate wins outright, a runoff will occur on 1 June.*

POLES vote on Sunday in a tight presidential election that will be decisive for the future of the country’s centrist government as well as for abortion and LGBTQ rights.

Pro-EU Warsaw mayor Rafal Trzaskowski is expected to get 30 per cent, ahead of nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki’s 25 per cent, according to opinion polls.

That would put both through to the runoff on 1 June at a particularly fraught moment for Europe as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine drags on, far-right populists continue to rise and ties with Washington come under strain.

Polls open at 7:00 am (0500 GMT) and close at 9:00 pm when

exit polls are to be released. There are 13 candidates in total and definitive results are expected only on Monday.

Ever since former EU leader Donald Tusk’s coalition came to power in 2023, key government initiatives have been blocked by the veto of nationalist President Andrzej Duda. Some Poles are hoping that logjam is about to end. “I hope that these elections will complete the change,” said Hubert Michalowski, a self-employed 50-year-old. Michalowski told AFP he was opposed to any rightward turn for Poland and instead wanted his country to “stay in the centre and reverse this trend in Europe as well”. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab summit presses for end to Gaza ‘bloodshed’

ARAB leaders meeting Saturday at a summit in Baghdad urged the international community to press for a Gaza ceasefire, as Israel launched an expanded military offensive in the Palestinian territory.

In a joint final statement, Arab League members also called for funding to back their Gaza reconstruction plan, after US President Donald Trump reiterated a proposal to take over the strip.

The Arab leaders called “on the international community... to exert pressure to end the bloodshed and ensure that urgent humanitarian aid can enter without obstacles all areas in need in Gaza.”

They added that they “firmly” rejected any plans to displace Palestinians. — AFP

One dead, five injured in suspected terror blast outside fertility clinic in California

A deadly explosion which is suspected to be a potential act of terrorism has left one dead and at least five injured outside a fertility clinic in Palm Springs in the US’s California, on Saturday (local time), the New York Post reported.

According to the New York Post, officials claim that it was a deliberate act of violence, with authorities investigating the incident.

The blast occurred outside the American Reproductive Centres, possibly originating from a car parked near the facility, The New York Post reported, citing Palm Springs Mayor Ron DeHarte.

Palm Springs Fire Chief Paul Alvarado confirmed that the explosion was intentional, with the blast damaging multiple buildings across several blocks.

“The blast appears to be an intentional act of violence... The blast field extends for blocks with several buildings damaged, some severely,” Alvarado said, as quoted by The New York Post. — ANI

US launches “endless war” to plunder others’ resources: Iranian president

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said here Sunday that the United States has begun an “endless war” across the world to plunder other countries’ resources and even human workforce, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The West seeks to provoke conflicts in the Middle East to own the regional countries’ resources at any price it wants, Pezeshkian said at the opening ceremony of the Tehran Dialogue Forum, a two-day event that has drawn 200 foreign delegations, including senior government officials and representatives of international organizations, to discuss regional and global challenges. — Xinhua

UK to strike new deal with EU in coming days: PM’s office

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer is set to sign a new deal with the EU seeking to reset ties after Brexit, his office said Saturday ahead of landmark talks. Starmer will meet on Monday with EU chiefs for the first post-Brexit EU-UK summit aimed at agreeing steps towards a closer relationship between Britain and the 27-country bloc which it left five years ago after an acrimonious and knife-edge referendum.

“This week, the prime minister will strike yet another deal that will deliver in the national interest of this country,” Downing Street said in a statement, also pointing to recent trade deals with the United States and India.

Starmer will welcome EU bosses Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa as well as top EU diplomat Kaja Kallas for Monday’s talks at the storied Lancaster House venue in London.

“The prime minister will set out how a



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer will soon meet with EU chiefs for their first post-Brexit EU-UK summit. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

strengthened, forward-looking partnership with the European Union will deliver for working people and lead to more money in pockets,” the statement said. — AFP



SPORTS

3<sup>rd</sup> new generation Myanmar  
Fight tournament held in Yangon

THE third edition of the new generation Lethwei (traditional boxing) tournament named Myanmar Fight was held in Yangon at 1 pm yesterday. The competition featuring three rounds of 12 bouts was jointly organized by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, and the Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG).

In the fights, Myint Myat Maung (Bago Club) and Shine Htet Aung (Tiger King) ended their match in a draw as both displayed equal skills. In the bout between Thiha (Tawwin Ayeya) and Yaza Tun (RAY), Thiha asked for a break in the second round after a punch from Yaza Tun left him stunned. In the third round, Yaza Tun secured a win with a kicking strike.

Min Htet Mike (MK 1) defeated Yan Naing Tun (Yoya Thwe) in the second round. In the fight between Nizan Bot (Dojo 9) and Kyone Wah (Kyar Manaing), Nizan Bot took a break in the second round due to punches from Kyone Wah. However, he returned in the third round and landed blows, ending the match in a draw.

Pyae Phyto Maung (Tiger King) defeated Aung Ko Oo (MFC) in the third round by scoring three consecutive knock-downs through a combination of kicks and punches. Wai Yan Min Thu (Bago Club) secured a first-round win against Paing Gyi (Yoya Thwe) with a knockout punch.

Aung Kaung Khant (STL) defeated Phoe Khwa (Yoya Thwe) in the first round. The match between Shein Htet Aung (Yan Gyi Aung) and Thant Thuya Soe (YMA)

ended in a draw, as did the bout between Da Nu (PLP) and Nyi Wunna (Tiger King).

Shan Htet Aung (9 Club) defeated Thura Aung (Holy Power) in the third round. The match between Kaung Htet (Tiger King) and Lin Phone Oo (Dojo 9) ended in a draw.

Min Khant (Yoya Thwe) landed powerful punches in the first round, forcing Kaung Htet Zaw (STL) to take a break. Kaung Htet Zaw later returned in the second round and won the match with a knee strike that knocked out Min Khant.

This new generation tournament was the 22nd event of its kind and the third held in 2025. A total of 14 clubs partici-



Two Myanmar boxers trying to defeat each other in a ring.

pated in the competition. The event is organized monthly, with major support from Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited and assistance from the Yangon Region Government. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Everton beat Southampton  
in emotional farewell to  
Goodison



Everton fans bade a fond and emotional farewell to Goodison Park as the men's team played their final game there beating Southampton 2-0. PHOTO: AFP

EVERTON said goodbye to Goodison Park in style with a 2-0 Premier League win over Southampton thanks to a double for Iliman Ndiaye on an emotional Sunday in Merseyside.

Home of the Toffees since 1892, Goodison will play host to Everton's women from next season as the men move to a new 52,000 capacity stadium.

Legends of Everton's past, including former England captain Wayne Rooney, watched on impressed as Ndiaye produced two fine first-half finishes to en-

sure there was a happy ending for the home fans. "I'm pleased for the result. I wanted to make sure we finished right," said Everton manager David Moyes.

The business on the pitch was a sideshow with already-relegated Saints providing the perfect opposition for a glorious goodbye.

Sun-kissed streets around the ground were covered in acrid blue smoke hours before the noon kick-off as thousands of Everton fans even without tickets made the pilgrimage for a final time. — AFP

PSG success barely covers up  
French football's woes

PARIS Saint-Germain's progress to the Champions League final should be a cause for French football to celebrate but their achievement hardly disguises the fact that the game in the country is in crisis as the Ligue 1 season ended this weekend.

PSG had already wrapped up a fourth consecutive domestic title long before the French

campaign concluded, and Luis Enrique's team can also add the French Cup next Saturday.

That will be followed by the Champions League showdown against Inter Milan on 31 May, as PSG aim to finally get their hands on the trophy they covet most. France have won the World Cup twice and reached two more finals in the last seven editions.

But French clubs have made a habit of underachieving in continental competitions, meaning PSG can become just the second club from the country ever to win European football's biggest prize, after Marseille in 1993. Put another way, France has still won as many European Cups as Scotland and Romania, or one fewer than Nottingham Forest. — AFP



Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (C) and teammates in action for Paris Saint-Germain on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP





# World Health Assembly to address health challenges

THE 78<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Assembly (WHA78) will convene from 19-27 May in Geneva, Switzerland, under the theme “One World for Health”.

The Health Assembly will bring together high-level country representatives and other stakeholders to address health challenges. This year’s gathering comes at a pivotal moment for global health, as Member States confront emerging threats and major shifts in the landscape for global health and international development.

This year’s theme underscores WHO’s enduring commitment to solidarity and equity, highlighting that even in unprecedented times, everyone, everywhere should have an equal chance to live a healthy life.

A highly anticipated moment of the WHA78 will be the consideration of the Pandemic Agreement, a landmark proposal developed over three years of intense negotiations by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, composed of all WHO Member States.

The adoption of the agreement is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to safeguard the world from a repeat of the suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal will be the second ever presented for approval under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, which gives Member States the authority to reach agreements on global health.

*The assembly occurs at a critical time for global health and international development.*



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The Health Assembly will consider approximately 75 items and sub-items and is expected to approve more than 40 resolutions/decisions, many of which are put forward by the Executive Board at its

156<sup>th</sup> session (EB156), where they have been previously discussed.

The packed agenda covers a diverse range of topics in WHO’s Programme of Work, such as the health and care work-

force, antimicrobial resistance, health emergencies, preparedness, polio, climate change and social connection as determinants of health, among other issues. — ANI

## Mexican president ‘deeply saddened’ by deaths in NYC ship crash

MEXICO’S President Claudia Sheinbaum said Saturday she was “deeply saddened” by the loss of two crew mem-

bers from a navy ship after it crashed into the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. “We are deeply saddened by the loss

of two crew members of the Cuauhtemoc Training Ship,” she posted on social media. A Mexican Navy training ship slammed into the Brooklyn Bridge late Saturday, snapping all three of its masts as it collided with the iconic New York City landmark, injuring at least 22 people.

Onlookers enjoying the balmy spring evening watched in horror as the ship, its sails furled and festive lights draped in its rigging, tried to pass beneath the bridge, which sheared off the masts and sent them crashing into the East River.

The Mexican Navy said in a statement that 22 people on board the training ship were injured, three of them critically.

Some US media reports suggested that sailors had been in the rigging as the ship slammed into the bridge. The Navy said in its statement that no one had fallen into the water, and that no rescue operation had been launched. — AFP



People take pictures at the Mexican Navy training sail ship “Cuauhtemoc” while docking at Havana Harbor on 28 April 2025. **PHOTO: YAMIL LAGE / AFP**

THE INAUGURATION  
MASS

### Leo XIV officially inaugurated as 267<sup>th</sup> pope

Leo XIV was officially inaugurated as the pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church on Saturday.

On 8 May, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost of the United States was elected the 267<sup>th</sup> pope of the Roman Catholic Church during the papal conclave. He has taken the papal name Leo XIV.

His predecessor, Pope Francis, passed away on 21 April. — Xinhua