

The

Global

NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR



This photo gives a glimpse of scenic spots in Hpa-an, Kayin State, that appeal to tourists.

Hpa-an on track to become model green city

APPROXIMATELY 70 per cent of the project to transform Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State, into a green and clean city has been completed, according to U Saw Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Kayin State government.

The initiative reportedly aims to make Hpa-an a model city among all state and regional capitals across the country in terms of cleanliness and environmental sustainability.

Efforts are currently focused on maintaining cleanliness, particularly at the entrances to the city and in areas with heavy tourist traffic, as part of the city's ongoing transformation into a green and clean City. Additionally, flower planting is conducted during the rainy season.

To attract more tourists, a local tourism management committee has been formed under the regional tourism development programme. This committee is working to ensure cleanliness



Efforts are currently focused on maintaining cleanliness, particularly at the entrances to the city and in areas with heavy tourist traffic. Visitors enjoy thrilling water rides.

and pleasant surroundings in high-traffic areas such as routes leading up to Zweekabin Mountain and other tourist destinations. Rubbish bins are being installed along roadsides in these locations.

Furthermore, these bins are reportedly emptied by volunteers and members of environmental conservation groups regularly, with collection taking place either once a month or every two months. — ASH/KNN

Myanmar ships 43,000 tonnes of fish in April-May

MYANMAR exported over 43,600 metric tonnes of fish with an estimated value of US\$47.476 million in April-May of the current FY 2025-2026, according to the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar exported over \$29 million worth of 21,092 metric tonnes of fish by sea, while \$18.28 million valued over 22,570 metric tonnes of fish were sent to neighbouring countries through land borders. Myanmar's fish export reached over 47,710 metric tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous financial year (2024-2025), generating over \$51.6 million. The export volume is down by 4,053.665 tonnes of fish worth \$4.125 million compared to that of the same period last FY.

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Yangon palm oil reference price drops to K6,110 per viss this week

NATIONAL

Products must be marketable, quality

- Products must meet quality standards and be suitable for the market in manufacturing products.
- If the products are the same, the price must be cheap; if the prices are the same, the quality must be better.
- By following these two principles, success can be achieved.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting on 3 December 2024)



Myanmar reports 52 new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 2,285 samples from 8 pm on 8 June 2025 to 8 pm on 15 June 2025, and 52 new cases were detected. Therefore, the positivity rate was 2.28 per cent, and no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm, Myanmar CDC

Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

EARTHQUAKE



A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.7 Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India Region), latitude 10.93°N, longitude 93.28°E, depth 124 kilometres, about 449 miles southwest of the Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 15 hours 44 minutes 01 second MST on 16 June 2025.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 16 June 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the North Andaman Sea, North Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and strong over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 17 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kayah and northern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady 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 of these phenomena

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls rain or thundershowers in Bago, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 June 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 June 2025: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

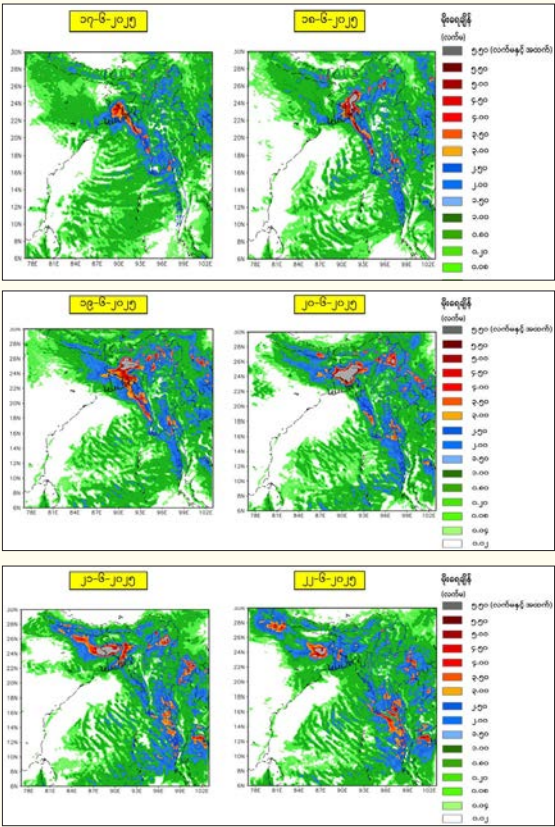
Special Weather News

Issued at 6 pm MST on 16 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during today evening to 22 June 2025. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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



New Rainfall Records of June

Issued at 16 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 9:30 pm hrs MST, the new 24 hrs rainfall records were observed for the month of June. — DMH

| Sr No | Station | Date of New Record | New Rainfall Record | | Date of old Record | Old Rainfall Record | | Past Years of opening station |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | | | (mm) | (inches) | | (mm) | (inches) | |
| 1 | Kyaikkhamei | 16-6-2025 | 212 | 8.35 | 5-6-2024 | 210 | 8.27 | 43 |
| 2 | Kalay | 16-6-2025 | 113 | 4.45 | 4-6-2003 | 111 | 4.37 | 58 |

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)

MoEP Union Minister inspects Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project

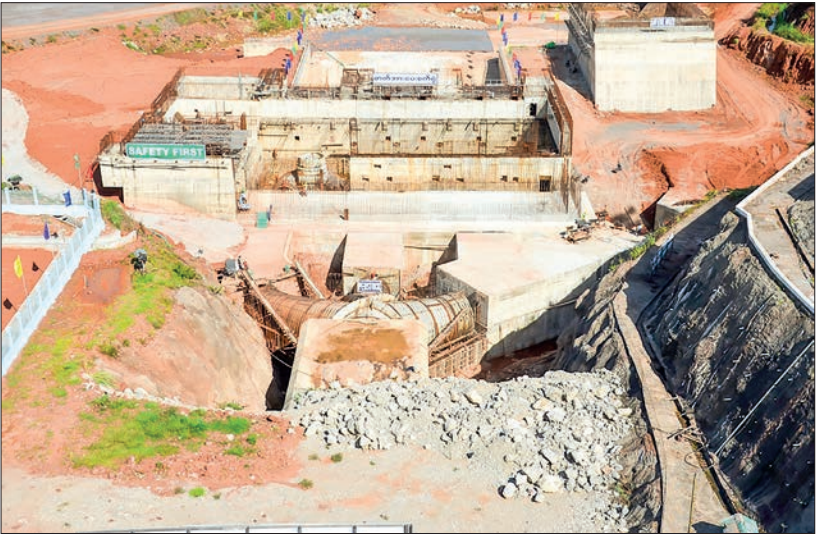
UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun, accompanied by Commander of the Eastern Central Command Maj-Gen Myo Min Tun, Shan State Minister for Natural Resources U Sai Leik, and relevant departmental officials, visited the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project, which is being implemented by Construction Task Force 5 under the Hydropower Implementation Department and Kengtawng power plant on 15 June.

They observed a project model, documentation photos showing implementation progress, and geological rock samples at the project briefing hall.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said electricity is a key for national development, and the ministry will continuously implement the new hydropower projects that can generate electricity by utilizing



Union Minister U Nyan Tun and officials are pictured during their inspection tour of the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project on 15 June.



the country’s natural resources, considering the economic status while minimizing impact on the environment and society.

Only through such efforts will it be possible to meet the country’s growing annual electricity demand promptly.

The Union minister presented foodstuffs to the staff.

The Union minister and party inspected the main dam, main spillway, aqueduct tunnel, valve, steel pipeline, power plant and switchyard in the project area.

They also conducted an on-site inspection of both the completed components and the ongoing construction works within the project area, and presented foodstuffs and cash to the staff.

The Kengtawng hydropower plant is located in Mongnai

Township, Shan State (South), and it is a three-generator-installed run-of-river type facility that produces 54 megawatts and 377.6 million kilowatt hours a year, and it links with the national grid through a 230 kV power line. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Dy Minister receives UNDP Myanmar Resident Representative

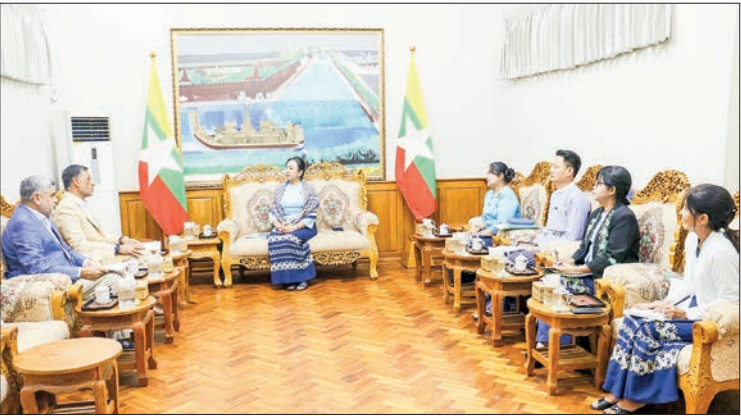
DR Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received Mr Titon Mitra, Resident Representative of UNDP, Myanmar, at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Eco-

nomie Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters relating to the UNDP’s support for recovery in Mandalay’s earthquake-affected areas and work plans to be carried out

in Myanmar.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and the representative from the UNDP Myanmar office were also present at the meeting. — MIFER



The Resident Representative of the UNDP to Myanmar calls on Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Opening ceremonies held for People's Military Service Training 14

TO enable citizens to serve in the defence and security of the nation, eligible and patriotic individuals selected for the People's Military Service Training 14 have arrived at the respective training depots located within the military commands to undertake the necessary preparations.

Yesterday morning, opening ceremonies for the training course were held at the various training depots. At each ceremony, the commandants of training depots delivered opening speeches.

Chief ministers of regions and states, commanders, and relevant officials attended the ceremonies, met with the trainees of the People's Military Service Training 14, and presented them with cash awards, food items, and essential supplies. They also greeted and encouraged the trainees.

As every citizen must safeguard 'Our three main national causes' — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national unity, and perpetuation of sovereignty, military training is provided to enable citizens to fulfil these responsibilities and to serve in the defence of the State.

To this end, the People's Military Service Law was enacted on 10 February 2024, and training courses have since been conducted. Those who



Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Pyae Sone Lin warmly greets trainees from the People's Military Service Training 14 yesterday.

have completed these courses are now dutifully fulfilling their

responsibilities in defence and security across their assigned

regiments and units. — MNA/MKKS

MPT plants 1,400+ trees nationwide for greener Myanmar

MPT staff and volunteers planted more than 1,400 trees across ten regions and states on 14 June for environmental greening purposes.

This nationwide tree planting initiative took place in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Kachin State, Kayin State, Mon State, Shan State (East, North, and South), Bago Region (East and West), Magway Region, Ayeyawady Region, Tanintharyi Region, Mandalay Region, and Yangon Region. Over 700 MPT staff and volunteers participated in planting more than 1,400 saplings simultaneously.

Mr Naoki Shimane, from MPT's Operations Department, stated, "This marks the seventh time we have implemented the nationwide tree planting programme. To date, we have managed to plant over



MPT staff members are seen planting trees on 14 June 2025.

20,000 trees across the country. Tree planting is not just about adding more trees; it is also about creating a greener and healthier environment. Whether as individuals or as organizations, we hope everyone will join in protecting the environment to help build a better future."

The government also continues to strive for environmental conservation by

planting trees annually during the rainy season. The benefits of tree planting include increased shade, improved air quality, and the reduction of greenhouse gases. These efforts also help to mitigate natural disasters and climate change. Since 2017, MPT has planted over 20,000 trees nationwide as part of these ongoing activities. — Thitsa (MNA)/MKKS

SAR teams from home and abroad continue quake-hit operations

AS of 16 June, 3,753 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 53 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade and both domestic and international organizations have been continuously carrying out operations in the affected areas promptly. So far, 653 survivors

trapped under collapsed buildings have been rescued, and the bodies of 833 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Donations of cash and essential relief supplies from charitable donors both inside the country and abroad are being delivered to support the affected people. Further updates regarding these contributions will continue to be released. — MNA/MKKS

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.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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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.

Rehab efforts beefed up in quake-stricken areas

MEMBERS from various organizations joining hands with residents actively participated in the rehabilitation operations in the Mandalay earthquake-affected areas.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the collective cleanliness activities in religious sites and wards using heavy machinery in Sagaing town.

He also observed the healthcare services of Tatmadaw mobile medical teams for quake-affected monks, nuns and people, water purifying processes using Tatmadaw

water purification trucks and water distribution processes for locals.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung and Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik inspected the progress of rehabilitation measures, cleanliness activities in religious sites and wards.

Since 30 March 2025, debris removal operations have been carried out at Sky Villa, which was damaged by the earthquake. During the clearing process, cash amounting



Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung inspects the rubble removal using machinery at Sky Villa in Mandalay.

to K916,744,700, four vises and one tical of gold, gold jewellery, and other precious ornaments were discovered and have been systematically returned to their rightful owners. — MNA/KTZH

FSD launches training courses on fire extinguishing, SAR operations

THE Yangon Region Fire Services Department will provide training to social welfare organizations on fire extinguishing and search and rescue operations to ensure a swift and effective response to natural disasters in the region, according to the department.

“We need to conduct the search and rescue operations promptly and effectively when natural disasters occur. In doing so, the Fire Services Department and charitable organizations cooperate, and so we will launch training starting this year in Botahtaung District regarding how to follow the steps, understand and practise,” said U Min San Aye, department head of the region.

The department launched a firefighting, search and rescue training course 1/2025 for 50 trainees from 37 social welfare organizations of five townships in Botahtaung Dis-

trict at the district fire services department in Thakayta Township for two weeks.

The training will focus on enabling trainees to carry out search and rescue operations following international standards and in a systematic manner during natural disasters, emphasizing implementing

search and rescue procedures effectively and efficiently in different zones within each district. In addition, district department heads and officers with international experience will provide hands-on training using operational equipment to ensure practical skill development. — Ottha/KTZH



The department launched a firefighting, search and rescue training course 1/2025 for 50 trainees from 37 social welfare organizations of five townships in Botahtaung. PHOTO OTTHA



A surgical operation of the bone marrow transplant underway.

Yangon General Hospital conducts bone marrow transplants

THE Yangon General Hospital performed four bone marrow transplant operations in May 2025.

Out of four patients, three were discharged and one, suffering from lymphoma, is in good condition. The first four patients who received bone marrow transplants with cryopreservation were one woman, aged 46 from Ayeyawady Region, one man, aged 65 from

Mandalay, another man, aged 57 from Yangon, one man, aged 57 from Yangon and one woman, aged 19 from Yangon.

Bone marrow transplants were performed locally at the Yangon General Hospital for three patients in 2016, three in 2017, four in 2018, one in 2019, one in 2020, three in 2024 and four in 2025, totalling 19. — May Thu (IPRD)/KTZH

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL



Travellers are seen enjoying the Ngwetaung Beach in May.

Ngwetaung Beach draws 17,500+ local visitors in May 2025

A total of 17,566 domestic travellers visited Ngwetaung Beach, located in Hainggyikyun, Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, during May 2025, according to Daw Ni Ni Mar, an executive member of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Ngwetaung Beach).

“In April 2025, 14,155 domestic visitors came to Ngwetaung Beach. But in May,

the number increased to 17,566. We are seeing steady growth in domestic tourism to this beach. Travellers come here throughout the year, and the monthly number is increasing,” said Daw Ni Ni Mar.

To ensure visitors to Ngwetaung Beach can relax in a safe and peaceful environment, various services have been arranged. These include bicycle rental services, motorboat

rentals, and horseback riding activities. Local food, souvenirs, and other regional products are also available for purchase at designated market stalls.

Ngwetaung Beach is also a popular year-round destination due to its proximity to the Myat Mawtin Pagoda, a revered religious site. The majority of visitors are from the Yangon Region and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. — ASH/MKKS

Film artistes support to school supply programme for their children

FILM artistes who are members of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization donated cash contributions to support a programme that provides school uniforms and stationery for their children, according to the organization's Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

To benefit from this support, members of MMPO having school-age children were invited to apply by submitting a copy of their membership card, a household registration copy, and official recommendation letters from relevant basic education schools within this June.

“This programme has been a long-standing tradition. This year too, we are continuing our usual tradition to support the parents in the film industry who have school-going children. In collaboration with well-wishers, we are preparing to provide complete sets of school uniforms, exercise books, and stationery. So far, film artistes and film production companies have donated amounts ranging from K30,000 to K1 million. In addition to cash, some have also donated notebooks and stationery,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

Among those who donated K1 million are Academy Yan Aung, Saung Eindray Htun (Ma Ma Saung), Khaing Hnin Wai, Director Maung Maung Myint (late) and Daw Khin Ma Ma's Pyay Nyein family, Taw Win Foundation, Power Lucky



Some of the artistes are seen donating at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

Film Production, Triple Six Film Production, Channel 8 Myanmar and Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee.

Artistes such as Khaing Zin Win (Bay Bay), Saung Yoon San, Academy Khant Si Thu, Aung Thiri Film Production, and Hi Tune Production donated K500,000 each, while Baby Maung and Thanzin Maung contributed K300,000. Actor Nyi Htut Khaung also donated K300,000.

The MMPO aims to ensure that every child of member artistes who needs school uniforms and stationery will receive the necessary support. Applications are open to all eligible members from across different sectors of the film industry. — ASH/KZL

K50M in Waso robes donated to 310 monks in actor's memorial tribute



This photo showcases Academy Khant Sithu family making donations.

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Khant Sithu and his family donated Waso robes and four essential items worth K50 million, along with a day meal, to 310 monks at the Dhamma Vihara Pahtamakyaw and Dhamma Yeiktha Monasteries in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, on 14 June, according to Academy Khant Sithu.

The donation was made to mark the fourth anniversary of their father's passing.

“On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of my father's death, I paid respect to my mother by donating Waso robes, the four requisites, K50

million, and a day meal to 310 monks studying at Dhamma Vihara Pahtamakyaw and Dhamma Yeiktha Monasteries,” said Academy Khant Sithu.

In addition, each of the 310 monks received K10,000, a set of robes, as well as 50 bags of rice, 100 visses of cooking oil, soap, canned fish, dried noodles, and various snacks.

Furthermore, Academy Khant Sithu, along with sponsors and donors, also honoured Ma Ei Kya Phyu, who won first prize nationwide in the Thuttasonelin Buddha recitation competition, with cash, a gold chain, and a pendant. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar ships 43,000 tonnes of fish in April-May

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar bagged over \$421 million from about 400,000 tonnes of fish exports in the 2024-2025 FY (April-March), according to the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar steadily exports seafood to 40 countries, including China, Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan through maritime and

land border crossings.

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass, are conveyed to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

There are over 140 cold-storage seafood processing factories in Myanmar. The Department of Fisheries processes a licence renewal yearly. — NN/KK

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Yangon palm oil reference price drops to K6,110 per viss this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market decreased to K6,110 per viss for the week ending 22 June from K6,185 per viss in the previous week ending 15 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging

complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.



Cooking oil bottles neatly arranged inside the supermarket.

The palm oil domestic consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Footwear federation holds meeting to boost quality control



This photo depicts footwear producers offering products at a cheaper price at a fair.

MYANMAR MSME Cluster Footwear Manufacturers Federation (Central) held a work coordination meeting on 14 May in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, regarding quality assurance in production and market promotion.

MSME clusters of footwear producers from regions and states participated in the meeting.

“Food producers can source 85 per cent of raw materials locally, including 60 per cent of rubber, metal, glue and fabric cloth. Only 15 per cent of materials are imported. MSME producers face

difficulty with the physical location. The industry can create more opportunities for residents. The federation aims to penetrate international markets with quality footwear products,” said U Kan Nyunt, President of the federation.

The federation and representatives from regions and states in the footwear industry also discussed matters of grasping the domestic market amid the dominating ones from Thailand, ensuring quality assurance, market shares of foreign brands and local market conditions. — ASH/KK

MRF targets 3M tonnes of rice exports in FY2025-26

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) aimed to reach three million tonnes of rice export in the current financial year 2025-2026, beginning 1 April.

Myanmar conveyed over 400,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past two months (April-May), comprising over 217,070 tonnes of rice and 185,213 tonnes of broken rice, Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF)’s trade chart showed.

Myanmar sent over 402,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to international markets by sea, while 280 tonnes were exported to neighbouring countries through land border crossings.

Myanmar bagged over US\$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice

and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April 2024-31 March 2025). The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK



Workers diligently stack rice bags in the warehouse.

OPINION

Be alert and vigilant against the COVID-19 pandemic

AS COVID-19 is not over, everyone must be health-aware, stay alert, and emphasize self-protection from the pandemic. Although the World Health Organization declared the end of the COVID-19 global public health emergency in May 2023, COVID-19 infections continue to spread worldwide. Currently, the dominant strain of the COVID-19 virus is a subvariant of Omicron called XEC, which has shown increased transmissibility.

The Ministry of Health stated that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread globally, along with the emergence of new virus variants. Between 8 and 15 June this year, a total of 2,285 laboratory samples were tested, and 52 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were detected, according to a statement released by

the Ministry of Health on 16 June. The announcement also mentioned that during this period, there were no reports of severe COVID-19 cases, patients requiring special medical treatment, or any COVID-related deaths in the country. Therefore, the ministry concluded that while the disease is still present, there is no cause for serious concern at this time regarding outbreaks or fatalities.

In Myanmar, due to the effective leadership of the national government, the responsible and dedicated efforts of civil servants, the cooperation of relevant ministries, and social organizations, and the unity and active participation of the people, the severe transmission of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic could be controlled and contained within a short period. As a result, from May 2023 up to date, there have been no deaths due to COVID-19, and no alarming public health incidents have occurred, marking over two consecutive years of successful pandemic management.

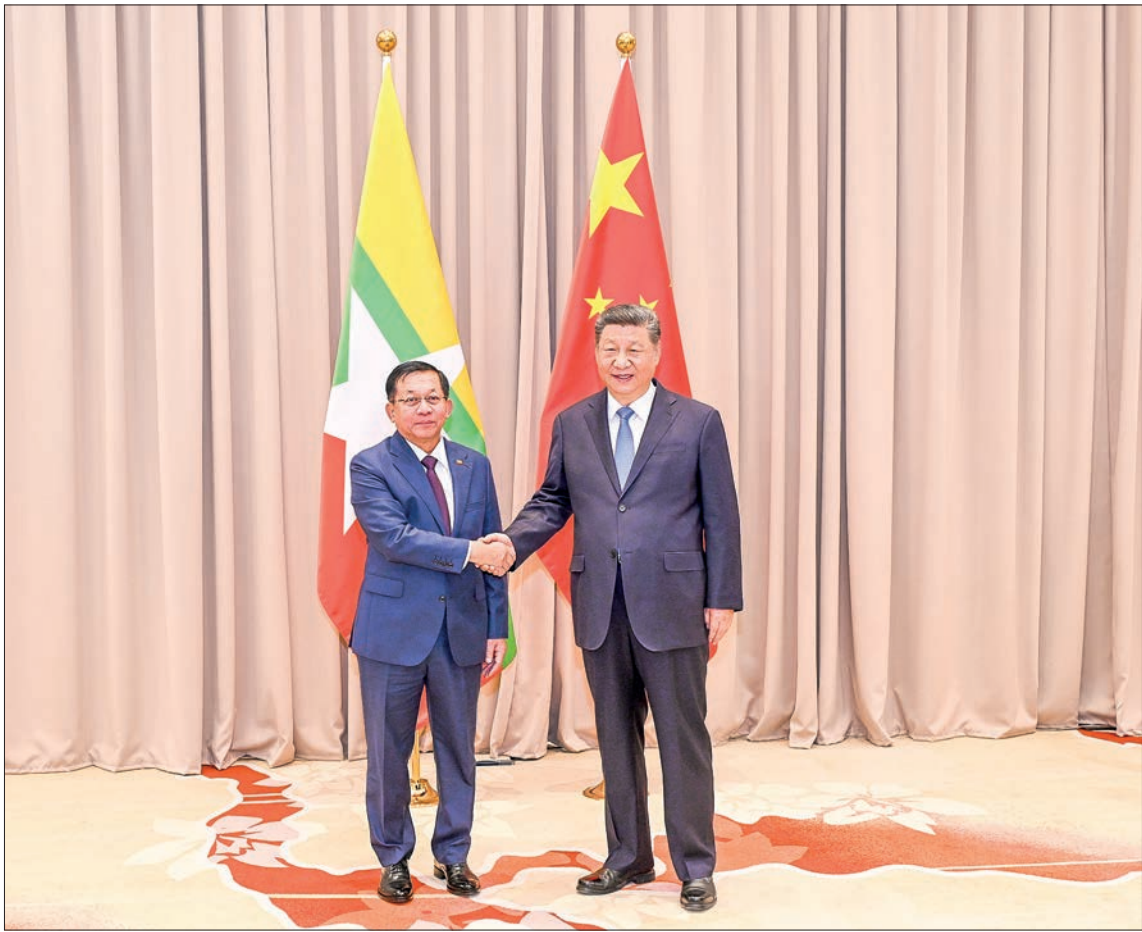
health incidents have occurred, marking over two consecutive years of successful pandemic management.

Although COVID-19 is no longer considered a global emergency, the threat posed by the newly emerging Omicron variant XEC remains concerning. Among all preventive measures against COVID-19, the most effective and reliable include: staying in well-ventilated and open-air spaces, consistently wearing face masks that cover both the mouth and nose, using air purifiers or systems that ensure clean airflow, completing the full course of COVID-19 vaccinations including booster doses, and strictly following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health regarding the disease.

Experts have warned that the risk of new COVID-19 variants could lead to a resurgence of the disease, which should not be taken lightly. Therefore, based on the experience and practices that helped all the people endure previous COVID-19 waves, it is strongly advised that everyone remain vigilant, stay informed about public health, and continue to take precautionary measures to protect themselves and others.

Myanmar-Sino relations mark 75 years with resilient bond

By Thet Mon Tun



The two leaders, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar and President Xi Jinping of the PRC jointly upheld the United Nationscentered international system and the international order underpinned by international law and safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries when they met in Moscow in early May at the sideline of the Grand Celebration of 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union.

DIPLOMATIC relations between Myanmar and China have reached their diamond jubilee anniversary on 8 June 2025. The state-level grand celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Myanmar-China diplomatic tie was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Bound by history, Myanmar and China have been sharing the intertwined fates with fraternal ties since prehistoric times.

The most ancient tie between the two countries was evidenced as early as 4 BC; there was a trade route linking China's Sichuan and Yunnan provinces with Myanmar. Again, in the Chinese Tang Dynasty from 618-907 AD, a team of musicians and dancers from Myanmar's Pyu Dynasty visited the capital of the Chinese Tang Dynasty and exchanged cultures. The very first Myanmar diplomat to China can be traced back to Myanmar's Bagan Dynasty in the 12th century when the Venerable Sayadaw Shin Ditha Pamauk arrived in Beijing for negotiations, which concluded as a success story of an ancient diplomatic milestone between the two countries with mutual respect and understanding.

Sharing the geographical origins of mountains, hills and rivers, the two countries experienced similar historical paths, particularly in World War II when the world stood against fascism eighty years ago. While Russia (former Soviet Union) fought Nazi Germany together with its allies in the European frontline, Myanmar and China fought the Japanese fascists in the Asian frontline respectively. Historical records estimate that around 20 million Chinese sacrificed their lives and souls

in the battles resisting the Japanese aggression, while Myanmar lost at least one million citizens in the struggle to expel Japanese fascist forces.

Myanmar and China established a strategic partnership as early as in fighting back the Japanese invasions, notably through the construction of the Yunnan-Myanmar Road, connecting Kunming in China's Yunnan Province and Lashio in Myanmar's Shan State. This vital route played a crucial role in the supply chain for China in resisting Japanese aggression. Chinese forces provided reciprocal support to the Myanmar Army in combatting Japanese invaders, especially in the frontline in northern Myanmar and the southern part of China. More than just neighbouring countries, Myanmar



it is our sincere appreciation to China for its unwavering support in Myanmar's efforts to achieve long-lasting peace and stability, national reconciliation, and socioeconomic development.

and China stood as allies in defending their sovereignty against foreign invasion. This reflects their Swe Myo Pauk Phaw spirit in the shared struggle against colonialism during the 1940s.

Accordingly, since World War II, Myanmar and China have already developed the groundwork for a "Community of Common Destiny for Mankind" or a "Shared Future" through their efforts.

The sense of a shared future and shared interests reflects togetherness on the road to building peace, development and prosperity, which will be shared among each other by recognizing differences and diversities with mutual respect and trust.

Today, the world is reshaping the international order toward a global environment with peace, justice and equality which guarantees for non-hegemonic arena; the People's Republic of China is one of the steering nations in this mechanism guided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, of which, both Myanmar and China were pioneering signatories dating back in 1954.

What is more, Myanmar was the first non-communist country that recognized the new China after its founding of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949. Furthermore, Myanmar is the very first neighbouring country to China that peacefully agreed to finalize the bilateral border demarcation; and the two countries have never ever had any disputes over their shared boundary ownership.

Under the Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw (fraternal) tie, Myanmar and China uphold mutual support in the international diplomatic realm. As an all-weather friend of China, Myanmar consistently supports the 'One China' policy and firmly rejects any acts of aggression against China carried out from Myanmar territory. Reciprocally, China has persistently maintained its steadfast diplomatic support to Myanmar on the international stage in every successive era.

However, without a doubt, the threats posed by neocolonialism have repeatedly sought to weaken this deep-rooted solidarity between the two Asian nations, which have been sharing affection for thousands of years with mutual respect. Both countries,

Myanmar and China, firmly reject hegemonism, any attempts to destabilize the region, and neocolonial interference in any disguise, standing together in unity and supporting each other through every challenge.

The concept of a shared future and shared interests for a common destiny are the core values that should be vested in the global trend of multipolarity. The two leaders, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar and President Xi Jinping of the PRC jointly upheld the United Nationscentered international system and the international order underpinned by international law and safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries when they met in Moscow in early May at the sideline of the Grand Celebration of 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union. Their meeting reached an important consensus on building the Myanmar-China community with a shared future.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of the diamond jubilee anniversary of the bilateral tie on Sunday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that the longstanding "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, which was cultivated by successive generations of leadership, has continued to grow stronger over time. In 2011, this enduring relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership. President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Myanmar in 2020 marked a new chapter in bilateral relations, during which both nations reaffirmed their commitment to building a Myanmar-China community with a shared future.

In return, Chinese President Xi Jinping also highlighted in his congratulations that the friendship between Myanmar and China has stood the test of time and grown even stronger; adding that upholding the jointly advocated Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Bandung Spirit, the two countries have been committed to good neighbourliness, deepened mutually beneficial cooperation, and firmly supported each other on issues regarding their respective core interests and major concerns, setting a fine example of friendly exchange between countries.

China, as a rising power with strong economic and political unity, having a highly esteemed cultural status, consistently shares weals and woes in multi-faceted issues. China's vast and immediate assistance in the recent major earthquake in Myanmar deserves earnest recognition as a milestone in the humanitarian efforts in Myanmar. The people of Myanmar always express our heart-touched gratitude to the government and the people of China for their timely and generous humanitarian assistance in earthquake management. What is more, it is our sincere appreciation to China for its unwavering support in Myanmar's efforts to achieve long-lasting peace and stability, national reconciliation, and socioeconomic development.

The enduring ties between Myanmar and China bearing the Pauk Phaw spirit will stand lasting over to our future generations and descendants for the next thousands of years with resilient love.

An Investment in Education Pays a Good Result

By U Khin Maung (A Retired Diplomat)



1. An investment in education pays a good result. Knowledge is power. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Ignorance produces nothing good. In this article, I am going to explain something about investment, particularly.
2. Investment in knowledge, investment in education. I was born to very poor parents in a small village, four miles away from Yamethin, a distinct headquarters. My parents were very poor. My mother was illiterate. My father was literate but did not know the English language, A, B, C. But he was very ambitious, especially about me, his only son. The other four elders are four ladies, and our youngest child is a girl. At the age of about ten when I was, my father transferred to Yamethin to send me to a private school. In those days, a private school, not a tuition class. After about two years, I was transferred to a state high school, the only high school in Yamethin at that time. I was admitted and enrolled in the 5th standard. Due to my foundation in a private school, I was popular as a bright student in English. In the 5th standard, students are up to the Matriculation standard.
3. I was very poor. So, our headmaster, BA, Cambridge, London, U San Ohn paid the fees for the Matriculation Examination Admission fees, kyats 15, on my behalf, predicting. I was bright enough to pass the Matriculation Examination. I passed as one of the Sixth students from Yamethin State High School.
4. As my parents were very poor, I applied for a stipend to Rector Dr Htin Aung, PhD LLD DLit, mentioning, I was granted High school fees free, and I was even permitted to sit for the Matriculation Examination as my headmaster, U San Ohn, paid for my Matriculation Examination. Admission fees are 15 kyats (fifteen kyats). How poor my parents were, you could imagine.
5. To cut the story short, I was granted a stipend in my first year of university course. I was quite afraid and worried that my stipend would be withdrawn if I failed in any examination, terminal test or final examination. So, I attended classes regularly and tried my best to pass every examination with flying colours. I passed the second-year university promotion Examination with credit and distinction in French.

NATIONAL

MAEX supports 472 market vendors' children with supplies and aid

MYANMAR Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) has provided school supplies and financial assistance worth K 34.4 million to 472 children of market sellers for the 2025-26 academic year, the company said.

The MAEX's fourth donation ceremony was held at the new stall 7 of the Danyingon wholesale market on 14 June. The recipients include school-children of market sellers, hard labourers and company employees from the market.

Supplies and assistance, including books, pens, pencils, rulers, water bottles, lunch boxes, school bags, and school uniforms, were provided to 289 primary students, 100 middle-school students, 54 high school students, 29 university students, and a total of 472 students. The amounts of the aid were K53575, K66200, K85825, K94825, and K150,000, respectively, for preschool and kindergarten students, first to fifth-grade students, middle school students, high school students, and university students. The total value was worth K34.4 million.

The MAEX vice-chairman and directors, officials from the Yangon City Development Committee, Insein Township, Northern District, Markets



This photo showcases the fourth ceremony of giving school supplies and grants to students held on 14 June.

and Warehouses Department, company employees, market sellers who are parents, cycle carriers, loaders, and students are present on the occasion. — TM/ZN

Myanmar's ancient royal top-knots and headdresses to be revived

THE ceremonial royal top-knot style and headdresses from the era of ancient Myanmar kings have been recreated by the Myat Taw Win traditional outfit-making service.

These traditional styles have been revisited so that Myanmar people can wear them in their auspicious novitiate, ear-boring and wedding ceremonies.

These ornaments were re-made by Myat Taw Win using pure silver, gold plating, and gilding art, according to the service. For those who love Myanmar culture and want to preserve it by wearing traditional Acheik and double-length longvis in weddings and cultural ceremonies, the Myat Taw Win has produced both ready-



Photos showcase the ancient Myanmar royal top-knot style and headdresses recreated.

made and cut fabric pieces based on the proportions, colour combinations, and Acheik designs of ancient Myanmar dresses.

Recently, there has been more interest among young people in Myanmar's cultural clothing and attire, as well as interest from both domestic and foreign countries. — MT/ZN



Poster for the golf tournament.

MGF to host golf tourney for Olympic Day

A golf tournament in commemoration of the International Olympic Day 2025 will be held on 19 June, said the Myanmar Golf Federation.

Organized by MGF, the golf tournament will take place at Yangon Golf Club located in Danyingon and includes three individual handicapped matches (0-12, 13-18 and 19-24).

Interested golfers can register with Yangon Golf Club's phone numbers 09 882561500 and 09 260777228 by 17 June. The awarding ceremony is planned at 1 pm. — MT/ZS



OWIC issued for 4 agency workers bound for Qatar

FOUR workers who will go to Qatar through the employment agency have been allowed to join the training course on overseas employment guidelines and apply for an Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC), said Safe Migration.

They will have to join the training course on 16 June and do the OWIC on 17 June, and if they are unable to do so by the specified date, they will need to resubmit, it said.

Agencies will need to apply for the deployment approval in a week and resubmit an Excel soft copy of the worker list, passport copy and OWIC copy to the Department of Labour. After receiving the sending approval, they can buy an air ticket and continue to seek the leaving permit, and after the permit is approved, they can send the worker, said Safe Migration. — MT/ZS

Volunteer Japanese teachers may hinder foreign residents’ learning

AROUND 80 per cent of teachers in Japanese language classes offered by local governments are volunteers, a national survey showed Monday, sparking concerns that foreign residents enrolled may be receiving sub-standard education.

Although maintaining a learning environment for foreign residents, including workers and their families, is a legal “duty” of national and local governments, some areas remain without such classes due to personnel and

funding shortfalls.

Limited Japanese ability makes daily life more challenging for foreign residents -- from struggling to shop or speak with doctors, to missing important disaster alerts or failing to follow local rules around tasks like garbage disposal.

According to the annual survey, about 23,000 of the roughly 29,000 teachers at 1,548 Japanese language classes across the country were volunteers in fiscal 2023, with that share having hovered

around 80 to 90 per cent for more than 20 years.

The number of foreigners attending in-person classes hit a record high of nearly 100,000 in fiscal 2019, but it temporarily declined until fiscal 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It then began trending upward again, reaching about 88,000 in fiscal 2023. The central government began supporting municipalities in reducing their reliance on volunteers after a law promoting Japanese language education



A volunteer teaches a Japanese language class in Okayama, Okayama Prefecture, in May 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

took effect in 2019. Local officials, however, often complain the process of applying for funding is too burdensome. While the number of local governments that do not provide Japanese language

classes, known as “blank areas”, decreased every year between fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2023, every prefecture except Hyogo in western Japan still has at least one. — Kyodo

Princess Kako visits Iguacu Falls as visit to Brazil ends

JAPAN’S Princess Kako, a niece of Emperor Naruhito, visited Brazil’s Iguacu Falls on Sunday, wrapping up her official visit to the South American nation that marked 130 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The younger daughter of Crown Prince Fumihito and Crown Princess Kiko learned about the nature preservation efforts at the national park that encompasses the falls.

The 30-year-old departed Sao Paulo on Sunday night and is scheduled to return to Japan on Tuesday.

In the city of Foz do Iguacu on Saturday, the princess met with first-generation Japanese immigrants, including 98-year-old Shime Nakamura, who worked as both a farmer and



Japan’s Princess Kako (R) visits Iguacu Falls in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, on 15 June 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

tour guide since arriving in the country following World War II.

“It filled my heart with emotion to see her come all the way to Brazil,” said Nakamura, a native of Kumamoto Prefecture in southwestern Japan.

Brazil is home to the world’s largest Japanese immigrant community, made up of approximately 2.7 million people. — Kyodo

Nearly half of school-aged Australian children not developmentally on track: govt report

ALMOST half of Australian children are not meeting developmental milestones by the time they start school, according to a government report.

The Federal Department of Education on Monday released the 2024 edition of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), which is conducted every three years to assess how children have developed by the time they start their first year of full-time school.

It found that 52.9 per cent of the 288,423 children who were assessed were developmentally on track across all five tracked domains — physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language skills and communication — down from 54.8 per cent in 2021.

It represents the lowest proportion of participants who were on track on all five domains since the inaugural AEDC in 2009.

Among participants in the 2024 census, 23.5 per cent were facing significant developmental challenges in at least one domain and 12.5 per cent were facing significant challenges in two or more, up from 11.4 per cent in 2021 and the highest figure in AEDC history.

Across all five domains, fewer children were on track in 2024 than in 2021. In remote Australia 43.1 per cent of children were developmentally on track across all domains compared to 50.5 per cent in larger regional areas and 54 per cent in major cities. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 14 June 2025 shows the opening show of the gala night of the 27th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

International film festival commences in Shanghai

THE 27th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) commenced on Saturday in Shanghai, with 49 works shortlisted for this year’s Golden Goblet Awards.

The festival, featuring over 400 domestic and international films screened across Shanghai, will run till 22 June.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of world cinema and the 120th anniversary of Chinese cinema. Film Panorama will initiate a special section titled “Resonance: A Brief Encounter of Chinese and World Cinema,” emphasizing mutual learning and growth between Chinese and international film industries.

Twelve films from Asia, Europe, and Latin America headline the main competition. The Jury is led by renowned Italian film director and screenwriter Giuseppe Tornatore.

A series of events, including Belt and Road Film Week and Sci-fi Film Week, will also take place during the festival. Founded in 1993, SIFF is a prestigious global event, driven by Shanghai’s ambition to become an international cultural hub. The festival has garnered growing international attention thanks to China’s flourishing film market. — Xinhua

CHINA'S consumer spending in May posted its strongest growth in nearly one and a half years, as the country's supportive policies helped boost consumption and economic activity.

The retail sales of consumer goods, a major indicator of China's consumption strength, grew 6.4 per cent year on year in May, accelerating from a rise of 5.1 per cent registered in April and marking the fastest growth since December 2023, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

From January to May, the retail sales of consumer goods rose five per cent year on year, also accelerating from the 4.7 per cent growth in the first four months, according to the NBS.

Factors supporting consumption growth in May included the government's consumer goods trade-in programme, the "618" shopping festival that began in May this year, and the expansion of the country's visa-free entry policy, NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui told a press conference on Monday.

The combined retail sales of consumer goods related to trade-

China's consumer spending grows at faster pace on policy support



People visit the 4th China-CEEC Expo & International Consumer Goods Fair in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province, 22 May 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

ins grew rapidly. In breakdown, sales of household appliances, audio-visual equipment, communication devices, cultural and of-

fice supplies and furniture surged by as much as 53 per cent year on year in May, contributing 1.9 percentage points to the overall

increase in total retail sales of consumer goods, Fu noted.

The country's online retail sales maintained solid growth,

with that of physical goods expanding 6.3 per cent year on year during the first five months, accounting for 24.5 per cent of the total retail sales.

Fu said that China's economy has maintained steady momentum, with the consumption market showing increased vitality as the benefits of the consumer goods trade-in programme continue to take effect.

China's economy grew by 5.4 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2025, up from the five per cent full-year growth rate recorded in 2024. Economic data for the second quarter and the first half of the year is scheduled to be released on 15 July.

Monday's data also showed that China's industrial production and fixed-asset investment maintained steady growth from January to May, while the pace of home price declines in major cities continued to ease in May. Looking ahead, Fu said he expects new drivers of growth to emerge in China's consumption sector, but emphasized that further efforts are needed to strengthen consumers' purchasing power and confidence. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abu Dhabi state oil firm makes US\$18.7 billion bid for Australia's Santos

ABU Dhabi's state-owned oil company is leading an US\$18.7 billion takeover bid for Australian energy group Santos as it seeks to build a global natural gas giant, the two firms said Monday.

Santos' board said it planned to unanimously recommend the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's offer to shareholders if it can agree on the takeover terms.

Adelaide-based Santos has operations in Australia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and the United States, and is a major supplier of liquefied natural gas in Australia and Asia.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company offered US\$5.76 a share in a bid for all of Santos' outstanding stock, valuing the entire company at US\$18.7 billion. — AFP

Vietnam's revised employment law to boost worker benefits

VIETNAM'S National Assembly on Monday passed the amended Employment Law, granting workers broader access to preferential loans and expanding unemployment insurance coverage, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

The revised law authorizes the government to flexibly adjust loan eligibility and interest rates based on socioeconomic conditions, enabling more workers to access concessional credit for job creation, retention, and overseas employment, the report added. — Xinhua

Struggling Gucci owner's shares soar over new CEO reports



This photograph shows a facade of a shop of Italian luxury fashion brand Gucci on Rue Montaigne in Paris on 16 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

SHARES in Gucci owner Kering jumped Monday over reports that the outgoing boss of French automaker Renault would take over as chief executive of the struggling luxury group.

Renault shares, however, fell following its announcement Sunday that Luca de Meo, 58, would step down on 15 July "to take on new challenges outside

the automobile sector" after five years at the helm of the company.

Le Figaro newspaper reported that de Meo would take over at Kering, the French luxury group that owns Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Balenciaga and other premium brands.

Kering has struggled to turn things around at Gucci,

the Italian fashion house famous for its handbags and which accounts for half of the group's overall sales.

Previous reports have said the group's chief executive Francois-Henri Pinault would stay on as chairman of the group in a management shake-up.

Kering shares rose more than nine per cent in midday deals at the Paris stock exchange.

Shares in Renault fell nearly seven per cent.

Known as a skilled communicator and marketing expert, de Meo is credited with bringing stability to a company that was in turmoil when he took over in 2020.

The automaker was reeling from more than a year of crisis in the wake of the scandal involving Carlos Ghosn, the former head of the Nissan-Renault alliance who fled Japan to avoid trial. — AFP

Boeing says focus at air show on ‘supporting customers’, not orders

US group Boeing said Monday it would focus on supporting its customers at the Paris Air Show instead of the traditional announcements of plane orders, in the aftermath of Air India’s 787 Dreamliner crash.

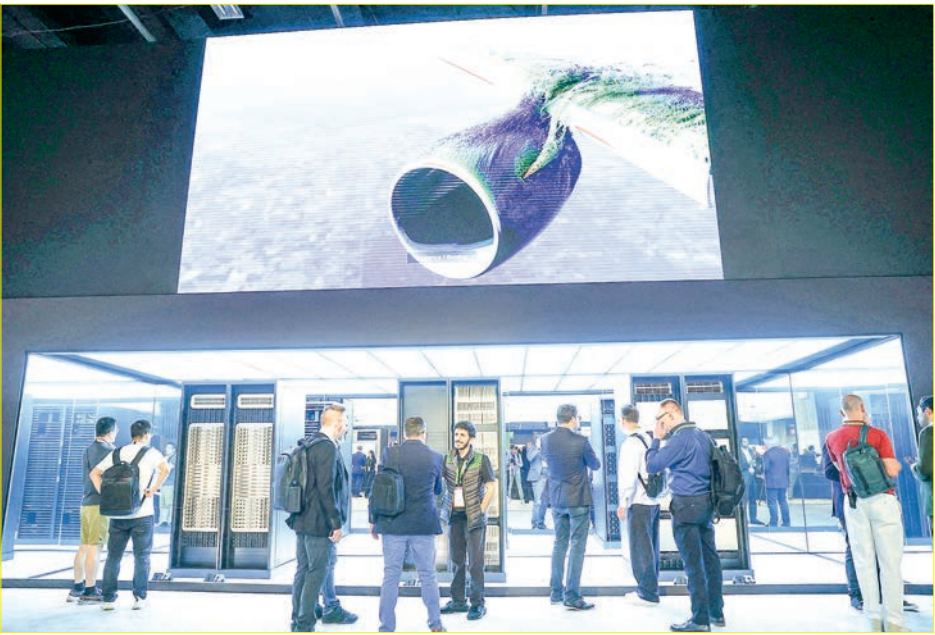
The sales rivalry between Boeing and European aerospace giant Airbus usually drives the headlines as the world’s

top civilian planemakers announce many of their biggest orders at the air show in Le Bourget.

But Boeing chief executive Kelly Ortberg said last week he was cancelling plans to attend the biennial event to focus on the investigation of the Air India crash.

“Our focus is on supporting our customers,

rather than announcing orders at this air show,” a Boeing spokeswoman told AFP at the trade fair outside Paris. The London-bound Dreamliner crashed shortly after take off in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, killing 241 passengers and crew and another 38 on the ground. One passenger survived. — AFP



A Boeing wing is displayed on a screen over a stand at the GTC Paris NVIDIA, at the VivaTech technology startups and innovation fair at the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, in Paris on 12 June 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Tokyo stocks rise as weaker yen lifts exporters

TOKYO stocks ended higher Monday, lifted by the buying of exporter shares on a weaker yen, with the US dollar climbing on the prospects of higher inflation amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, ended up 477.08 points, or 1.26 per cent, from Friday at 38,311.33.

The broader Topix index, meanwhile, finished 20.66 points, or 0.75 per cent, higher at 2,777.13.

The US dollar briefly climbed to the upper 144 yen range in Tokyo on the back of higher US Treasury

yields amid expectations that rising crude oil prices will accelerate inflation in the United States.

On the stock market, the Nikkei index briefly gained over 500 points, boosted by export-oriented auto and electronics shares, with the impact of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran on Japanese equities viewed as limited for now, brokers said. Meanwhile, Nippon Steel ended up 1.53 per cent at 2,872.5 yen after US President Donald Trump on Friday effectively approved a deal for the company to acquire United States Steel Corp. — Xinhua

Pledged FDI into Nepal grows

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) commitments to Nepal increased by 36 per cent year-on-year during the first 11 months of the current 2024-25 financial year, showed the

latest data from the Department of Industry.

The pledged amounts reached 60.6 billion Nepali rupees (US\$441.38 million) by 14 June, as against 44.4 billion rupees (\$323.34

million) during the first 11 months of 2023-24.

The committed investments went to 717 projects with a target of generating 17,255 new jobs, the department said,

noting that the information and communication technology sector drew most of the pledged investments, followed by tourism and service sectors. — Xinhua

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following pesticides distributed by **Noble King Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **Noble King Co.,Ltd** Tel:09-401573814

| Sr. | Old Trade Name | New Trade Name | Active Ingredients | Registration No. |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Lakic | Kasu-King | Kasugamycin hydrochloride hydrate 2% w/v SL | P2020-4915 |
| 2. | Dennis | DP-King | Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC | P2020-4751 |
| 3. | NAB-Dollar | Timefit | Pretilachlor 50% EC | P2020-4836 |

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (086W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (086W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC OREGON VOY.NO. (1006081)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC OREGON VOY.NO. (1006081)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KRAKUS VOY.NO. (02/2025)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KRAKUS VOY. NO. (02/2025)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILSELSEN PORT SERVICE (S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

S Korean leader Lee expresses
desire for stable ties with Japan

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae Myung expressed his desire for stable development of relations between South Korea and Japan as the Japanese Embassy in Seoul held an event to mark 60 years since the two countries normalized diplomatic relations.

Lee, who departed for Canada on the day as a guest at a Group of Seven nations summit, sent a congratulatory message for the event and said, “I wish for the stable and future-oriented development of South Korea-Japan relations.”

High-ranking officials from South Korea’s Foreign Ministry and Akihisa Nagashima, a special adviser to Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, attended the reception held ahead of next week’s anniversary of the signing of the normalization treaty.

Some 1,000 attendees, including officials from both governments, gathered for the event.

“The two countries as important partners should work together to cope with dramatic changes of the international situation,” Lee said in the video message, recalling how they have deepened cooperation in various fields over the last 60 years.

Japan and South Korea signed the basic treaty to nor-



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is seen giving a video message at an event in Seoul commemorating the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea on 16 June 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

malize diplomatic relations on 22 June 1965, following Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The treaty took effect on 18 December 1965.

When Ishiba spoke with Lee on the phone earlier this month, the two leaders agreed to strengthen communication between their governments and promote people-to-people exchanges during the anniversary year, according to the Presiden-

tial Office.

Lee took office on 4 June following his presidential election win. Following the phone talks, the two governments said Japan and South Korea consider each other partners capable of jointly tackling global challenges, following a thaw in relations in recent years after a long period of strain over wartime history and territorial disputes. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Both black boxes of Air India plane
recovered: media

BOTH the black boxes of Air India flight 171, including the flight data recorder (FDR) and cockpit voice recorder (CVR), have been found, PK Mishra, principal secretary to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said in an official statement late on Sunday.

According to the Hindustan Times early on Monday, the second black box found was the CVR, and the previous one was the FDR.

India’s federal civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu has said that the first black box was found on 13 June, and the crash investigation report will be released within three months.

According to The Hindu, downloading and analyzing the black boxes may take four to five days, and several international investigating agencies have reached Ahmedabad to assist India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) with the inquiry into the crash that killed 274. — Xinhua

Heavy rains kill 29 in DR Congo
capital

AT least 29 people were killed over the weekend by heavy rains in the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), local authorities said Monday.

Unusual downpours in the dry season caused major damage in the city, flooding roads, crippling infrastructure and triggering widespread power and water outages.

Evacuation and temporary resettlement efforts were underway, said Kinshasa governor Daniel Bumba, who also urged locals to enhance disaster awareness and take preventive measures.

Although the country is currently in its dry season, the rainfall hit 90 millimetres, the highest for this time of year in recent years, local media quoted meteorological authorities as saying. The DRC’s rainy season typically runs from November through May.

Heavy rains are projected to continue in the days ahead and could cause further damage to the city of 17 million. — Xinhua

One dead, 36 injured after 6.1-magnitude earthquake in Peru

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck Peru on Sunday, leaving one person dead and 36 injured as the tremor triggered landslides, officials said.

The quake hit shortly before noon and was centred around 30 kilometres (20 miles) from Callao, a port city next to the capital Lima, the National Seismological Centre said. The US Geological Survey put the magnitude at 5.6.

Peru said the tremor had not generated a tsunami warning.

A man died in Lima when a wall fell on the car he was driv-

ing, the National Police said.

In addition, the Emergency Operations Centre reported 36 injuries in Lima.

President Dina Boluarte called for “calm” from citizens, noting that there was no tsunami warning for the South American country’s Pacific coastline.

The TV channel Latina showed footage of landslides in several areas of the capital city.

The quake also prompted a suspension of a major football game being played in Lima. The city’s subway service was also halted.



Dust billows out of a landslide during an earthquake in Lima on 15 June 2025. A magnitude 6.1 earthquake that shook Lima and its surrounding areas caused one death in Peru’s capital and several landslides. **PHOTO: AFP**

Peru is home to 34 million people and lies on the so-called Ring of Fire, a stretch of intense seismic and volcanic activity around the Pacific basin.

Peru averages at least 100 detectable earthquakes every year.

The last big one, in 2021 in the Amazon region, had a magnitude of 7.5, left 12 people injured and destroyed more than 70 homes.

A devastating quake in 1970 in the northern Ancash region of Peru killed around 67,000 people. — AFP

SPORTS

Men's football at upcoming SEA Games restricted to U22 players

THE men's football tournament of the XXXIII SEA Games to be hosted by Thailand will be transformed into the U22 football tournament, with overage players not allowed. Although the men's football event of the SEA Games was held with national football teams in the past, it was transformed into age-wise football tournaments starting in 2001. During the period from 2001 to 2015, the men's football event was held with under-23 players, but the event allowed participation of under-22 players only from 2017 to date. However,



Players of the Myanmar U 22 football team are seen in a training session. PHOTO: MFF

the tournaments held three times from 2019 to 2023 allowed the use of two overage footballers for all contending teams. This year, host Thailand will revoke the rule of using overage players and allow the deployment of U22 players for all teams. Moreover, a plan is underway to change the competition trend with three groups instead of two in the past. Myanmar U22 men's football team is taking training in order to compete in international tournaments, including the SEA Games. It will play the international tune-up matches. Before the

SEA Games, the Myanmar U22 team will take part in the ASEAN U23 football tournament and the U23 qualifiers for the Asian Cup. Currently, the Myanmar U22 team is under the training of Head Coach Kurosaki, a Japanese. — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA

Mingaladon wins top trophy at Yangon CM's Inter-Township Karate Championship

THE Yangon Region Chief Minister's Cup Karate Championship was held at Padetha Gymnasium of South Okkalapa Township yesterday evening. Mingaladon Township won the championship trophy with 15 gold medals, five silvers and two bronzes. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, relevant officials and athletes attended the event. During the final matches, men and women competed in the respective senior and junior categories of Kata and Kumite. After the competitions, officials awarded the first, second, third and best athletes. The region's chief minister



This photo reveals the women's double-edged sword competition.

then presented trophies to the Kyimyindine Township women's team and the Mingaladon Township women's team and presented cash prizes and a championship trophy to the Mingaladon Township team. Karate events were held from 13 to 16 June, and almost 170 karatekas from 26 townships competed. — Arkar Lin/MKKS

Thailand edges Myanmar in U19 women's semifinal

THE ASEAN U19 Women's Championship semifinal matches continued on 16 June in Vietnam, where the Myanmar team was eliminated due to a wide margin of goals, missing out on the final match. In the semifinals, defending champion Thailand beat Myanmar 5-1 while hosts Vietnam crushed Indonesia 4-0. The Myanmar team, despite striving to reach the final, suffered another defeat to the Thai team, unable to break the streak of previous losses against them. The Myanmar team came out to the match with a full squad

of regular players and encountered the Thailand team. Due to heavy rain in the first half, both teams struggled to play well, but the Thailand team managed to score four goals and took the lead in the match. The goals for the Thailand team were scored at 12, 17, 34, 41, and 68 minutes, while Myanmar's consolation goal was scored by Su Su Khin at 89 minutes. On 18 June, Myanmar will play against Indonesia in the third-placed match, whereas defending champion Thailand will take on hosts Vietnam in the final match. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Players of the Myanmar and Thai teams are in action under heavy rain to control the football in the semifinal yesterday. PHOTO: MFF

Zheng Qinwen ascends to career-high world No 4 ranking

CHINESE tennis star Zheng Qinwen has climbed to a career-high world No 4 in the latest WTA rankings. The 22-year-old's rise was fuelled by a strong showing at the Queen's Club Championships last week, a key grass-court warm-up event ahead of Wimbledon. Zheng, the reigning Olympic champion, reached the semifinals on grass for the first time in her career, highlighted by a 6-2, 6-4 win over home favourite Emma Raducanu. The achievement builds on her momentum from earlier this month at the French Open, where Zheng reached the quarterfinals for the first time with a 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-3 victory over Russia's Liudmila Samsonova. — Xinhua



What the Shenzhou-20 astronauts are doing after over 50 days in space

IMAGINE living and working hundreds of miles above Earth for over 50 days. This sci-fi scene has been a reality for China's Shenzhou-20 crew — Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui, and Wang Jie — aboard the Tiangong Space Station.

Far from a quiet getaway, a short video released by China's state television broadcaster CCTV on Monday showed their "space business trip", which is packed with vital scientific work, health checks, and station upkeep, all of which are crucial for future space exploration.

The astronaut trio are in good condition and the multi-disciplinary space science experiments are advancing smoothly, according to the CCTV report.

The crew, commanded by veteran astronaut Chen Dong, was launched into orbit on 24 April for a six-month mission.

Over the past week, they devoted substantial time to space medicine research. During their research, they have explored fundamental aspects of cognitive function in microgravity, focusing on teamwork dynamics, self-awareness in isolation and how astronauts perceive motion, depth, and relationships absent Earth's gravity. These studies are critical for ensuring safe operations during spacewalks and complex tasks.

In addition, they also conducted routine vascular ultrasound scans tracked changes in cardiovascular function over



This image captured at the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 25 April 2025 shows a group photo of the crew of Shenzhou-19 and Shenzhou-20 manned spaceships. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

time and used apparatus to capture subtle changes in control and coordination during precise tasks like equipment operation or sample handling, according to the report.

On the front of life science, they focused on the "effects and mechanisms of space microgravity on microorganisms" experiment.

The video showed that in Tiangong's

specialized biotechnology experiment rack, the crew observed the growth, developmental patterns, and bioactive compound synthesis of *Streptomyces* bacteria in weightlessness.

This research is expected to reveal new biological adaptations and potential applications for space-based pharmaceutical research.

The crew carefully sampled liquid cultures, preserving the samples for their eventual journey back to Earth. Another highlight of their daily routine, in addition to the meticulous space station upkeep, is their rigorous exercise to counter the physical toll of microgravity. The video captures the astronauts running on a treadmill in the space module. — Xinhua

China welcomes Vietnam to join as BRICS partner country: FM spokesperson

CHINA welcomes Vietnam to join as a BRICS partner country, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on the news that the BRICS chair Brazil announced the formal admission of Vietnam as a partner country of the group on Friday.

China welcomes Vietnam to join the BRICS as a partner country, Guo said, noting that Vietnam's participation in BRICS cooperation will not only benefit its own development but also align with the common interests of BRICS and the Global South.

"We believe that Vietnam will make positive contributions to the BRICS mechanism," the spokesperson added. — Xinhua

UN slashes global aid plan over 'deepest funding cuts ever'

THE United Nations said Monday it was drastically scaling back its global humanitarian aid plans because of the "deepest funding cuts ever" — leaving tens of millions of people facing dire straits.

The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said it was seeking \$29 billion in funding for 2025 compared to the \$44 billion originally requested in December, in a "hyper-prioritized" appeal.

Since US President Donald Trump returned to office in January, the United States — the world's top donor — has heavily slashed foreign aid, causing havoc in the humanitarian sector across the globe.

Drastic US funding cuts have had dramatic consequences for emergency aid, vaccination campaigns and the distribution of drugs to fight AIDS.

Other major donor countries have also cut back their contributions in the face of an uncertain economic outlook.

"Brutal funding cuts leave us with brutal choices," OCHA chief Tom Fletcher said in a statement.

"All we ask is one per cent of what you chose to spend last year on war. But this isn't just an appeal for money — it's a call for global responsibility, for human solidarity, for a



A nurse performs an HIV test, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 4 June 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

commitment to end the suffering." **'Cruel', 'heartbreaking'**

In late April, while visiting a hospital in Kandahar in Afghanistan, Fletcher warned: "Cutting funding for those in greatest need is not something to boast about... The impact of aid cuts is that millions die." — AFP