

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

EAOs urged to weigh ceasefire for rehab efforts

Investment in disaster prevention not only enhances a country's resilience to natural disasters but also helps protect economic development and other progress.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that the government will implement both short-term and long-term plans to effectively carry out rehabilitation efforts, aiming to restore affected areas to a state even better than before and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The second donation ceremony of well-wishers for people affected by the Mandalay earthquake and for rehabilitation measures took place at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Senior General and all attendees observed a one-minute silence for the demise of people in the Mandalay earthquake.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that as this is a period of accelerated implementation of rehabilitation efforts, stability and peace are essential. Therefore, Tatmadaw has declared a temporary ceasefire from 2 April until the end of May. In light of this, ethnic armed organizations and relevant parties are urged to give serious consideration to this temporary ceasefire, and to comply and cooperate, keeping in mind the interests of the nation and the people.

He emphasized that when carrying out reconstruction activities, it is es-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts cash donations for relief and recovery aid to the Mandalay earthquake victims at yesterday's event.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the second cash donation for rehabilitation of quake-affected areas

- 1. Ethnic armed organizations and relevant parties are urged to give serious consideration to this temporary ceasefire, and to comply and cooperate, keeping in mind the interests of the nation and the people.
- 2. When carrying out reconstruction activities, it is essential to not only address the current risks and hazards being faced but also to proactively consider potential future risks.
- 3. Since there are limitations to what the government alone can accomplish, it is only through collaborative efforts like this that the government can carry out rehabilitation works in the earthquake-affected regions efficiently and successfully.

sential to not only address the current risks and hazards being faced but also to proactively consider potential future risks. Rehabilitation measures must be taken in accordance with established standards and guidelines to ensure long-term stability and resilience for the future.

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The Role of Academic Degrees in the Workplace and Development

By Dr Zeyar Win **PAGE 8-9**

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MRCS teams up with Singapore, Norway for quake relief and support

BUSINESS

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Domestic palm oil reference prices bearish on weak global cues

NATIONAL

Empowering the Next Generation: The Vital Role of Educators in Nation-Building

THE development of capable, well-rounded, and competent young individuals — upon whom the State can rely — depends on the quality of teaching, guidance, and instruction provided by educators.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with students from the five-year BEd course No 6 of the University for the Development of National Races held on 25 October 2024)

Global Day promotes cultural appreciation at CUC



The Global Day in progress at the Communication University of China in Beijing yesterday.

THE Global Day, an international cultural festival, was held yesterday at the Communication University of China (CUC) in Beijing. The event aimed to help students explore the diverse cultures, traditions, languages and traditional cuisines of countries around the world while fostering mutual respect and

understanding across different cultures.

CUC, one of China's leading media and communication universities, organizes Global Day annually to give students the opportunity to engage with international cultures. This year's event featured national flags, traditional costumes and handicrafts from

various countries. Cultural booths showcased traditions from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. Food stalls offered traditional dishes from countries including Myanmar, China, Russia, Korea, Japan, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Italy, Egypt, Nigeria and Liberia.

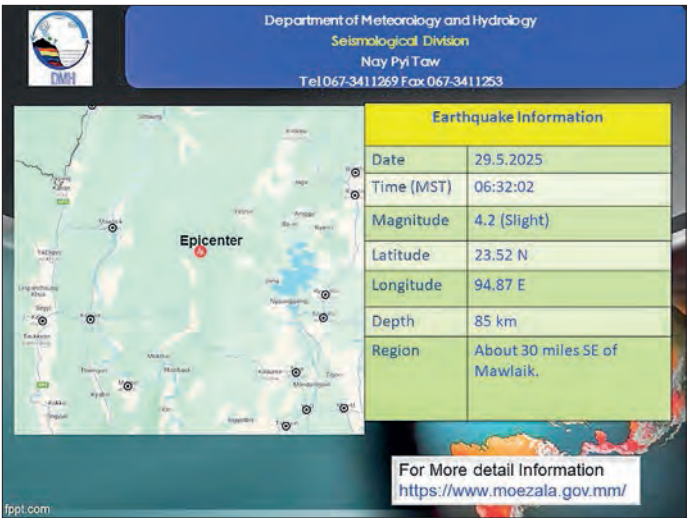
The festival also featured music, dance and song performances by international students, as well as exhibitions of Chinese painting and crafts. Students from more than 30 countries currently studying at CUC participated in the event.

Global Day served not only as a joyful and enriching experience for students but also as a platform to enhance intercultural exchange, communication skills and academic cooperation. It also supported China's international education outreach by creating opportunities for global engagement and deeper cultural awareness. — Lin Lin/KZL

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 6:45 pm MST)

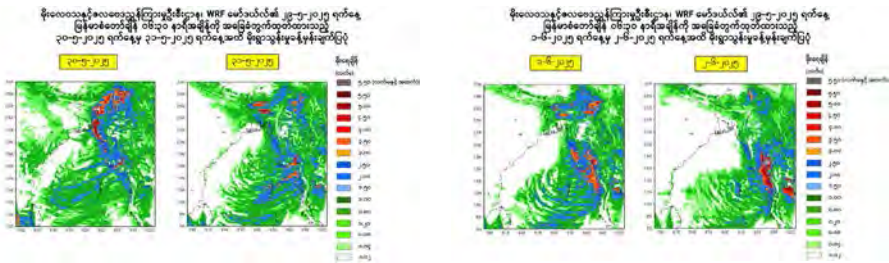
A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.2 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 30 miles southeast of Mawlaik), latitude 23.52°N, longitude 94.87°E, depth 85 kilometres, about 47 miles west-northwest of Kanbalu seismological observatory was recorded at 06 hours 32 minutes 02 seconds MST on 29 May 2025.—DMH



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.

Deep Depression News 4/2025

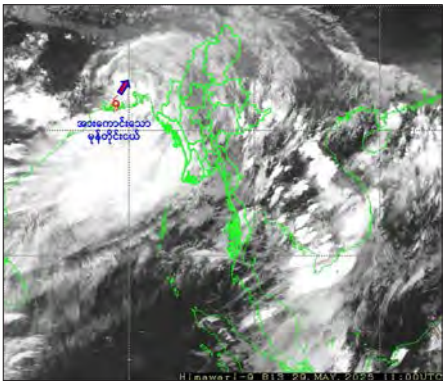
Issued at 7 pm MST on 29 May 2025



ACCORDING to observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression West Bengal, India-Bangladesh Coasts between Sagar Island and Khepupara has moved northeastwards and continuous crossing the interior regions of the southwest of Mongla (Bangladesh).
Forecast

It is likely continued to move north-eastwards and gradually weaken into a Depression.

Due to the Deep Depression, 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 tonight to 2 June 2025.

Frequent squalls with very rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40-45

miles per hour.
Wave height

will be about 14-16 feet in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Occasional squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-14 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Advisory

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

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

EAOs urged to weigh ceasefire for rehab efforts

FROM PAGE 1

He pointed out that investment in disaster prevention not only enhances a country’s resilience of natural disasters but also helps protect economic development and other progress.

The Senior General stressed that the government will implement both short-term and long-term plans to effectively carry out rehabilitation efforts, aiming to restore affected areas to a state even better than before and ensuring that no one is left behind. In doing so, since there are limitations to what the government alone can accomplish, it is only through collaborative efforts like this that the government can carry out rehabilitation works in the earthquake-affected regions efficiently and successfully.

He noted that the Mandalay earthquake affected 506,069 people from 2,081 villages of 944 village-tracts and 374 wards of 10 regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, leaving 3,739 people dead, 5,104 people injured and 68 missing.

He counted that the earthquake destroyed 51,210 public houses, 431 road works, 103 bridges, 83 railway segments, 11 rail bridges, 6,730 mobile communication stations, 10 high-voltage transmission lines, 3,435 pylons, 594 dams, six embankments, 11,338 departmental buildings, 384 hospitals, 364 clinics, 166 ancient buildings and museums, 2,409 basic education schools, 72 higher education buildings, 90 private schools, 6,469 temples and stupas, 5,588 religious edifices, 344



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win accepts cash donations for relief and recovery aid to the Mandalay earthquake victims.

private workplaces, 78.5 acres of cropland and 133,700 head of cattle, worth K3,804.549 billion.

He continued that rescuers saved 653 survivors and 806 bodies from the collapsed and damaged buildings.

He added that the government manages the facilitation of communication, supply of electricity and keeping all affected people under temporary shelters before monsoon while

opening temporary dispensaries to provide healthcare services to the people.

The Senior General recounted that during the implementation of such response efforts, international humanitarian assistance was welcomed and facilitated. Relief items donated by the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Russian Federation, the AHA Centre, Vietnam, Bang-

ladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan, Belarus, Laos, the Singapore Red Cross Society, Nepal, the United Arab Emirates, Brunei, and Malaysia were distributed to the people in need in the earthquake-affected areas without delay.

He underscored that if disaster risk reduction efforts are effectively planned and implemented from the beginning to the end — with thorough and

proactive measures — it is estimated that the cost of recovery efforts after a natural disaster can be reduced about sevenfold.

He noted that on 1 April, during the first donation ceremony, local and overseas donors contributed a total of K125.27 billion, comprising K112.87 billion in cash and K12.4 billion in kind.

The Senior General and well-wishers together with attendees watched a video clip on “Earthquake recovery and the capabilities and noble dignity of the Myanmar people”.

The Senior General accepted cash donations by Union ministries, families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), Ambassadors of Laos and Sri Lanka, and well-wishers and returned certificates of appreciation.

Chairman of National Disaster Management Committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and council members accepted cash donations from well-wishers, regional and state governments, ministries and organizations and presented certificates of appreciation.

The Senior General cordially greeted well-wishers and hosted a tea party.

At the second donation ceremony for providing aid for earthquake-affected people and rehabilitation, well-wishers at home and abroad donated K131.53 billion and US\$2,314,900 including 51 four-storey four-unit buildings, each of which is valued at K2,000 million. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

AI, flooding, and fracturing tech tapped for oil and gas exploration

EFFORTS are being made to adopt AI, Water Flooding and Hydraulic Fracturing in the exploration of oil and gas in addition to the current methods in the energy sector; said Admiral Tin Aung San.

Chairman of the Electric Power and Energy Development Commission State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San delivered a speech at the Electric Power and Energy Development Commission's 3/2025 meeting at the SAC Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Admiral said preparations are underway to promptly launch new offshore projects in addition to the Standard Well system. The Ministry of Energy also conducted exploratory production in thin sand layers of oil and gas fields, the Aphyauk gas field and the Mabubin (south) field, and the daily production rate showed an increase.

The ministry also promoted cooperation with Academic institutions and the Oil and Gas



SAC Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San presides over the third meeting of the Electric Power and Energy Development Commission yesterday.

industry to explore new oil and gas fields and sustainable human resources.

For the improvement of electricity and energy, local and foreign investments are invited, so it is important not to affect the government in signing the contracts. Moreover, the officials should conform in conformity with the current trend and guarantee the investors and supervised at different stages to prevent delays.

He then highlighted the need to draft the SPO for the import and installation processes of solar panels and related devices and to implement the operations as per the timeline, as the projects are key for the energy sector of the country.

He also urged officials to make efforts to upgrade Thanlyin Oil Refinery, oil and chemical plants, construct new plants, upgrade pipeline networks and

expansions as per the project, and supervise the efficiency of machinery and equipment.

First Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun and Second Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin reported on ongoing electricity and energy development measures, renewable energy and ongoing work plans.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the region and state

chief ministers and members of the commission discussed the development of the electric power and energy sectors.

After hearing the reports, the Admiral said in order to facilitate the easy selection and use of land required for the implementation of solar power electricity generation projects, if interested entrepreneurs and potential investors come to implement projects on suitable land areas available in regions and states, the necessary support and assistance will be provided.

He added that the hydropower projects will be implemented as mid-term and long-term projects, and special emphasis should be placed on technology and contracts with the veteran legal officers and technicians. The region and state chief ministers should manage proper measures to establish solar-powered plants in industrial, agricultural and livestock zones.

He finally highlighted the need to supervise the pipeline system and prevent efficiency decline, damage and losses due to prolonged use of machinery. — MNA/KTZH

Continued rescue and rehabilitation for quake-hit areas

AS of 29 May, the death toll from the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March has reached 3,740, with 5,104 people injured and 67 reported missing across six severely affected states and regions.

Search and rescue operations, coordinated by the Myanmar Fire Services Department and both domestic and international response teams, are ongoing in the hardest-hit

areas. Rescue personnel have managed to save 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings, while 817 bodies have been recovered from the rubble.

Local donors continue to provide monetary and material aid to victims of the disaster. International support has also been forthcoming, with various countries, organizations, and philanthropic groups sending

financial and humanitarian assistance. Between 5 pm on 28 May and 5 pm on 29 May, a 2.069-tonne shipment of 102 boxes of diarrhoea vaccines, donated by Shanghai United Cell Biotechnology Co Ltd in China, arrived at Yangon International Airport.

The donated vaccines have been transferred to the Ministry of Health for use in health-care initiatives. — MNA/TH

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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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.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

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UNOCHA Head

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid in Myanmar, as well as further activities of the UNOCHA. Also, present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

They exchanged views on matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and the UN-

OCHA during the term of Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid in Myanmar, as well as further activities of the UNOCHA. Also, present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

The UNOCHA Head calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.



Production sharing deal signed for Min Ye Thu Project Mottama Block M-10

THE Myanmar Oil and Natural Gas Enterprises and Myanmar-based Thailand national-owned Gulf Petroleum Myanmar Co Ltd organized the signing ceremony of the Production Sharing Contract for Min Ye Thu Project Mottama offshore Block M-10 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin said it is necessary to extract and utilize the natural gas that is abundant in the country. Currently, the major offshore projects under production are facing a decline, and as the projects are nearing completion, the exploration, drilling and production operations are being made in promising areas with

potential for oil and natural gas. The contract for Min Ye Thu Project Mottama offshore Block M-10 will bring benefits such as strengthening financial investment in exploration, drilling and extracting, earning foreign income, creating local job opportunities and providing natural gas needs of the country.

He also urged the officials to strive for successfully commencing the initial extraction of natural gas by the target year of 2028, which is the main objective of the project. Appreciation was also expressed to the relevant ministries that cooperated in the contract signing process, the staff of Gulf Petroleum Myanmar Co Ltd and all personnel

from the Ministry of Energy. The CEO of Gulf Petroleum Myanmar Co Ltd made a remark, and the managing director of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprises and CEO of Gulf Petroleum Myanmar Co Ltd signed the contract and posed for a documentary photo.

The government currently operates four offshore natural gas projects: Yadana, Yedagon, Zawtika and Shwe, and two further offshore projects, totalling six projects. The Min Ye Thu Project Mottama offshore Block M-10 is the seventh offshore project of the country, and it is the first project being implemented in the tenure of the State Administration Council. — MNA/KTZH



The production sharing contract for the Min Ye Thu project of Mottama offshore Block M-10 in progress yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin.

U Aung Min Oo appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

THE State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Min Oo, Charge d'Affaires/Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. — MNA

E-9 workers can claim Samsung insurance via HRD Korea, EPS Myanmar

E-9 workers who are left to claim Samsung insurance can contact HRD Korea and the EPS Centre Myanmar.

The EPS Centre in Myanmar released a list of 56 who returned to Myanmar, but they have yet to claim Samsung's gratuity and travel allowance for return.

They can call HRD-Korea and the Myanmar EPS Centre to submit the claim. Both listed and unlisted can call Myanmar EPS centre's phone number 09 426217648 during office hours 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays if they haven't done it.

Previously, on 12 May, the Myanmar EPS Centre made a similar announcement on a list of 53 E-9 workers who have yet

번호	영문명	생년월일	출생지	입국일자
1	AUNGKHANG	1970/04	554,210	2017-09-12
2	AUNGKHAYINT	1970/01	554,210	2018-06-15
3	AUNGKHAYINT	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-27
4	AUNGKHAYINT	1970/01	554,210	2017-10-12
5	AUNGKHAYINT	1970/01	554,210	2017-04-20
6	AUNGKHAYINT	1970/01	554,210	2018-06-10
7	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-06-18
8	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2017-09-27
9	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
10	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
11	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2017-09-11
12	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-27
13	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
14	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2017-09-11
15	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-27
16	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
17	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
18	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
19	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
20	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2017-09-11
21	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-27
22	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
23	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
24	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
25	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
26	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
27	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
28	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
29	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
30	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
31	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
32	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
33	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28
34	CHINTHARIN	1970/01	554,210	2018-07-28

List of workers who have yet to withdraw their Samsung insurance claim. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL



Kyaiktiyo Pagoda draws 1.17 mln pilgrims in 8 months

ACCORDING to the Board of Trustees of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, more than 1.17 million domestic and international pilgrims and tourists visited the site from October 2024 to mid-May 2025.

U Soe Hla, a representative of the pagoda’s board, said, “The annual pagoda festival at Kyaiktiyo begins on the

full moon day of Thadingyut. Throughout the festival period, pilgrims have been visiting daily. Although the festival ends on the full moon day of Kason, visitors continue to come and pay homage. Even during the current rainy season, we are seeing over 200 visitors daily, and that number rises to about 400 on public holidays”.

To ensure visitors can pay homage safely and peacefully, the Board of Trustees and responsible officials are overseeing security arrangements, free accommodation, food and drink

provisions, and healthcare services. Around 150 vehicles are operating daily to transport pilgrims up the mountain, and cable car lines are also open for public use.

The Kyaiktiyo Pagoda’s Buddha Pujaniya festival runs annually from the full moon day of Thadingyut to the full moon day of Kason. During this period, pilgrims from all corners of the country flock to the site in large numbers every day. The highest number of visitors was recorded in December 2024. — ASH/MKKS

Pilgrims visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

Solo music concert set for Yangon’s Transporter Restaurant

ACTOR Ye Yint Aung’s solo music concert is set to be held on 1 June at the Transporter Restaurant in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, according to the actor himself.

“At my solo music concert, I’ll be joined by lead vocalists from the Transporter Band – Jule, Robin, Htoo Htoo, Hay Man Myint Zaw, and Kyawt Kay Thi – as well as DJs, who will all be supporting the show. The dancers from Secret Pieces Dance Group will also deliver an exciting performance,” said Ye Yint Aung.

The concert is scheduled to start at 7 pm, and the performances will be accompanied by the talented musicians of the lead music band, who will provide full instrumental support. — ASH/MKKS



A view of the poster for Ye Yint Aung’s solo music concert.

MRCS teams up with Singapore, Norway for quake relief and support

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society is collaborating with the Singapore Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross to provide technical and humanitarian assistance in its earthquake response efforts, according to its headquarters.

To coordinate technical and humanitarian assistance in earthquake response efforts, officials from the Singapore Red Cross visited the temporary relief camp in Thalayswa Village, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, on 27 May to discuss the use of water filters, drinking water distribution, sanitation, water, and environmental



This photo showcases the Myanmar Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the Singapore Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross, distributing drinking water and relief supplies.

hygiene training provided to volunteers by the Amarapura Township Red Cross Society.

Similarly, officials from

the Norwegian Red Cross, including Mr Jorgen Halvorsen (Director of International Programmes and Preparedness), Mr Vinay

Sadavarte (Regional Representative for Asia), and Mr Erwin Lloyd Guillergan (Country Representative), visited earthquake relief camps in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, on 22 May to observe sites where relief supplies were distributed and drinking water was provided. On 23 May, they visited temporary earthquake relief camps, a child-friendly centre, a mobile primary healthcare clinic in Kyaukta Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, and a drinking water distribution site in Sagaing, where they held discussions at each location. — ASH/TH

Miss Earth Pyay & Taungoo 2025 contestants unveiled

CONTESTANTS of the Miss Earth Pyay and Taungoo 2025 pageant were introduced to the media at a press event held on 27 May.

The event took place at M3 Food Centre in Bahan Township, Yangon, where eight contestants who will be competing in the Miss Earth Pyay and Taungoo 2025 pageant were presented to local journalists and media outlets. The competition aims to select repre-

sentatives from Pyay and Taungoo regions for the upcoming Miss Earth Myanmar 2025 national pageant.

City Director for Miss Earth Myanmar, Ko Dee Han, stated during the event, “We have not organised any pageants since 2018. This year, we are reviving the City pageants, and this is a reintroduction event for Yangon. Our aim is to guide our contestants toward national-level rec-

ognition. While we have strong candidates, each of them brings unique qualities. Through this competition, representatives for Miss Earth Myanmar will be chosen. There is no crown-buying system here. We do not charge any fees for crowns or application forms. Even the evening gowns are sponsored”.

The eight contestants introduced at the event were: Yoon Wah Htway,

Khaing Khaing Lin, Thae Su Mon Aung, Rebecca, Sone Sone, Khaing Thazin San, Thet Hmue Eain and Yin Min Thet. Among these, two will be crowned Miss Earth Pyay 2025 and Miss Earth Taungoo 2025 respectively at the upcoming Grand Final, scheduled for the second week of June. The winners will advance to compete in the Miss Earth Myanmar 2025 national pageant. — ASH/KZL

Domestic palm oil reference prices bearish on weak global cues

LOWER global palm oil prices are closely tied to domestic palm oil reference prices, resulting in a five-month decline of K890 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imports edible oil to meet the growing domestic demand. The imported CIF price (Cost, Insurance and Freight) for palm oil has been on a downward trend since January. The wholesale reference price declined to K6,390 per viss on 1 June from K7,280 recorded on 1 January, showing a significant decrease of K890 per viss.

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 refer-

ence rate for edible oil weekly. The committee issues reference prices weekly every Monday through the website www.doca.gov.mm of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Facebook pages of the department and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. 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.

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 to-



Bottles of edible oil are neatly organized for sale in the supermarket.

gether 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 1,535 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. The domestic consumption of palm oil 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

CBM injects THB4.3M into financial market on 28 May



THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected 4.3 million baht on 28 May into the financial market.

CBM announced on 27 May that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil importers.

CBM sold over \$288,000, 300,000 yuan and 2.8 million baht on 26 May, over 990,000 yuan and two million baht on 23 May, over 5.7 million baht on 22 May, \$120,000 and two million baht on 21 May, \$568,000 and 1.9 million baht on 20 May, \$3 million on 19 May and \$300,000 and 1.6 million baht on 16 May.

CBM pumped \$138,500 and three million baht on 15 May and over 4.3 million baht on 14 May into the financial market.

CBM announced on 13 May that it would sell \$23.67 million to fuel oil traders and 50 million baht to importers. CBM sold over \$1.62 million on 13 May and over \$820,000 and 1.5 million baht on 12 May. CBM also injected over 3.6 million baht on 9 May again in the financial market after over 5.3 million baht and 723,000 yuan on 8 May, and \$710,000

on 7 May into the financial market. CBM announced on 6 May that it would sell \$33 million and 200 million baht to those engaged in the fuel oil industry. CBM sold 397,843 yuan on that day. CBM injected over \$42 million, over 20 million baht and 500,000 yuan in April, over \$126 million, 320 million baht and 3.6 million yuan in March, over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and over \$124 million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MMFA hosts 15th Management Skill Training on 24 June

THE Myanmar Microfinance Association (MMFA) will open Management Skill Training (Batch 15) from 9:30 am to 11:30 am on 24-27 June.

The training will cover Effective Supervisory Skills, Strategic HR Management, Customer Relationship Management and Coaching and Mentoring.

This training is tailored to those with Supervisor Level and above, with HR Consultants and Soft Skill trainers, Dr Tin Ma Ma Soe and Dr Htet Htet Aung. The fee is K100,000 for non-members. Members can enjoy a K20,000 discount. Trainees will receive a completion certificate. Those enthusiastic can enrol in the course by 18 June through <https://shorturl.at/6Lkq3>. For further details, individuals can contact 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

DICA shuts down Growth Wealth Trading for non-compliance

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) put Growth Wealth Trading Limited on the blacklist for the 2025-2026 financial year for filling in incorrect information while seeking exporter/importer registration.

DICA has already notified that the registrar will publicly declare the deny list and weak compliance matters on the DICA's website if companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, fail to comply with the existing law, rules and bylaws of the government institutions concerned and provisions stipulated in the Myanmar Companies Law.

Growth Wealth Trading Limited was found to have put the wrong address of the company while applying for registration. Consequently, the Ministry of Commerce is to revoke the exporter/importer registration. — NN/KK

OPINION

Train administrative officials to be free from party politics

THE government issued a directive that emphasizes the critical need for thorough training of personnel responsible for governance and administration in every Union organization, region, state, district, township, ward, and village.

The primary goal is to develop and enhance the capabilities of these individuals so that they emerge as highly qualified professionals. Such training programmes aim to cultivate political neutrality among government officials and administrative staff, ensuring that their actions and decisions are free from partisan influence, political movements and scandals. This impartiality is essential for

fostering trust, transparency, and fairness in public administration.

Through the establishment of effective administrative mechanisms, this training initiative aims to strengthen better and better governance systems and improve the overall performance of public administration across the country. It reflects a dedicated effort to elevate the standards of government service, ensuring that the needs of citizens are met with professionalism and dedication.

to perform their duties within the bounds of legality and uphold the rule of law. This legal competence is crucial for protecting citizens' rights, maintaining order, and ensuring that governance practices comply with established standards.

Furthermore, the training programme encourages officials to develop a clear vision for regional development. This forward-looking perspective motivates relevant administrators to plan strategically and implement policies that promote sustainable economic growth, social progress, and overall well-being in their respective areas. With a strong vision for development, officials can better address the unique challenges and opportunities within their communities.

Ultimately, the purpose of this directive is to foster government personnel who are not only capable and knowledgeable but also committed to serving their regions with integrity and efficiency. By nurturing a concept of activities free from party politics but participating in national causes, administrative expertise, legal awareness, and developmental foresight, these individuals will be well-prepared to execute their responsibilities effectively.

Through the establishment of effective administrative mechanisms, this training initiative aims to strengthen better and better governance systems and improve the overall performance of public administration across the country. It reflects a dedicated effort to elevate the standards of government service, ensuring that the needs of citizens are met with professionalism and dedication.



Choosing the right degree program involves considering personal interest and passion, job market opportunities, tuition costs, scholarships, and regional demand for certain expertise.

ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART

The Role of Academic Degrees in the Workplace and Development

By Dr Zeyar Win

THE 21st century is often referred to as the “Age of Knowledge.” As such, education has become increasingly valued. When discussing education, universities, colleges, and vocational training schools are closely associated with the term. Developing countries recognize education as a fundamental requirement for national progress, leading to expanded opportunities for learning. Governments have established more educational centres domestically and have also sent students abroad for further studies. Myanmar, too, has historically placed significant importance on education, as evidenced by historical records and traditional proverbs such as “Knowledge is a golden pot that cannot be stolen” and “No one is old whenever they want to get knowledge”.

Academic Degrees

Academic degrees play a crucial role in an individual's career, personal development, and social status. Obtaining a degree opens doors to better job opportunities in the labour market. For instance, fields such as health, engineering, and law require formal degrees. University education integrates theoretical knowledge with practical skills, enhancing problem-solving abilities and critical thinking. Degree

holders are often more respected in society and have greater earning potential. Additionally, university education improves communication skills, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Choosing the right degree programme involves considering personal interest and passion, job market opportunities, tuition costs, scholarships, and regional demand for certain expertise. Challenges in higher education include high expenses, time consumption, and gaps between academic curricula and real-world applications. Pursuing a degree not only shapes an individual's future but also contributes to societal and national development. Selecting an appropriate degree and overcoming its challenges can be key to achieving success.

Workplace Adaptation

Degree holders often struggle to adapt to their respective workplaces, a challenge observed globally, including in Myanmar. University curricula sometimes fail to align with practical industry requirements, lacking hands-on experience or technical proficiency. For example, theory-focused education may not adequately prepare graduates for real-world problem-solving or technical expertise. Additionally, graduates may lack soft skills like communication, teamwork, and time management, which are essential in the workplace. As technological advancements and job requirements evolve rapidly, degree holders must stay updated with modern skills. In developing countries, limited job opportunities often force degree holders into roles unrelated to their academic qualifications.

To address this, universities need to design curricula that better

align with workplace needs. This includes incorporating technical training, digital skills, and hands-on experience. Internship programmes and on-the-job training initiatives can also bridge the gap between academic learning and professional requirements. Furthermore, workshops on soft skills such as leadership, collaboration, and adaptability should be encouraged. Simply holding a degree is insufficient, and graduates must be trained to effectively integrate into professional environments.

Development

The development of a country, organization, or individual is fundamentally linked to education. As the saying goes, “A nation progresses as knowledge rises.” Therefore, the proper utilization of degree holders in suitable roles is vital. Apart from foundational degrees, postgraduate qualifications influence promotions and placements, depending on the relevance and applicability of one's expertise. Master's and PhD degrees should be evaluated based on their field of study rather than merely serving as criteria for career advancements. A department's efficiency increases when academic qualifications are properly matched with responsibilities.

However, it is important to note that simply holding an advanced degree does not equate to mastery in all fields.

In developing nations, some young professionals misunderstand the purpose of education, believing that accumulating degrees alone ensures success, regardless of their relevance. This misinterpretation leads to inefficient learning practices.

Thus, for organizations and companies to progress, they must strategically utilize degree holders according to their expertise. Training, refresher courses, and adherence to workplace ethics should be prioritized. Institutions should establish structured qualification requirements to optimize human resources efficiently. Individuals must continuously update their knowledge related to their profession, undergo relevant training, and cultivate teamwork ethics. Ultimately, the proper deployment of educated professionals enhances overall development and efficiency in both corporate and national contexts.

The Modern Side Effects of Sedentary Living

By Laura Htet (UDE)

IT STARTS with a simple idea: just five more minutes. Five more minutes at the desk. Five more minutes on the couch. Five more minutes scrolling on the phone. And suddenly, those five minutes stretch into hours, into days, into years. Without even realizing it, we've become a generation of sitters. We sit to work. We sit to relax. We sit to socialize. We even sit to eat, travel, and sometimes, just to pass the time. But while our bodies stay still, something dangerous is happening quietly — a silent shift in our health, our minds, and even our relationships.

When asked if I consider myself a sedentary person, I don't even have to think about it. Yes, absolutely. I work from home, which means most of my

day is spent in front of a screen. There are days when I forget what fresh air smells like until I go outside to take out the trash. It sounds funny, but it's not. I often find myself hunched over, blinking at the screen, too tired to move but too wired to rest. I tell myself I'll stretch later, or go for a walk tomorrow. But “tomorrow” always seems to be busy.

The strange part is that sitting doesn't feel dangerous. It feels easy, relaxing, even. But that's what makes it so tricky. Unlike smoking or drinking, prolonged sitting doesn't scream danger right away. Instead, it sneaks up on us. First, it's a little back pain. Then it's tight hips or a stiff neck. We start feeling more tired even after doing nothing all day. It feels

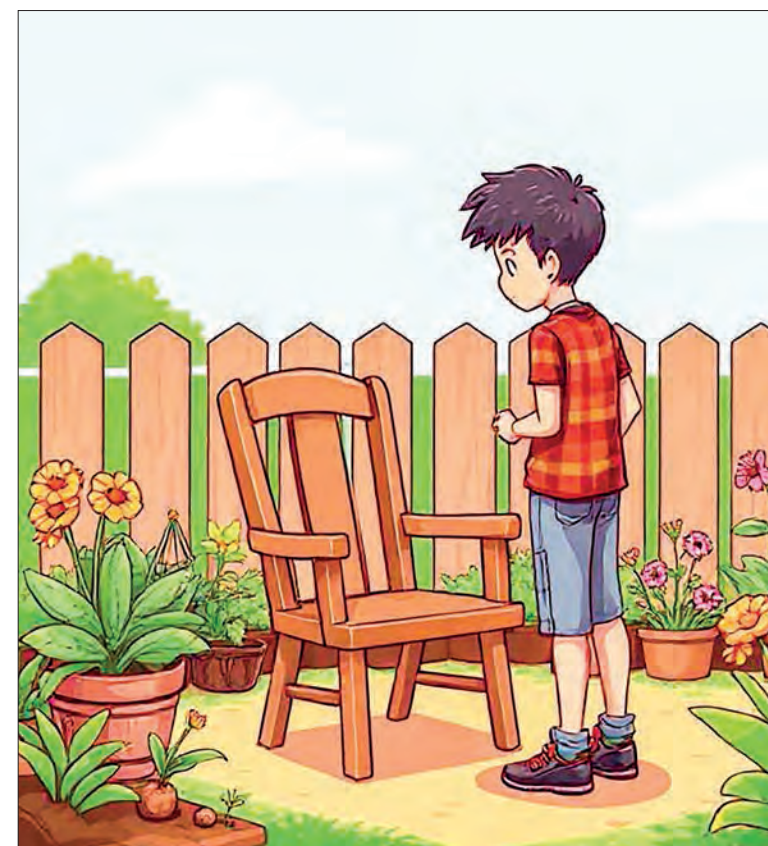
unfair. We've barely moved — so why do we feel like we've run a marathon?

Physically, sitting for long hours slows everything down — our metabolism, our circulation, our muscles, and even our breathing. Our posture changes, especially when we're not sitting properly (which most of us aren't). Over time, this can lead to serious issues like obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes. But it doesn't stop there. The body and the mind are best friends — when one suffers, the other usually does too.

After months of barely leaving my chair, I noticed that my mood started changing. I wasn't sad exactly, but I was unmotivated. Simple tasks felt heavy. I stopped meeting friends as often, even though I missed them. I started avoiding phone calls and sometimes even replying to messages. At first, I blamed

it on work stress or just being busy. But deep down, I knew something else was going on. I wasn't just tired — I was disconnected. From people. From nature. From movement. From life.

It turns out, this isn't just my experience. Mental health experts are now linking prolonged sitting with increased anxiety and depression. And it makes sense. When we sit too much, we cut ourselves off from many things that naturally boost our mood — sunlight, fresh air, social interaction, and physical activity. In some cases, people develop social anxiety without even noticing it. The more time we spend alone in front of a screen, the harder it can feel to go out and face people again. We start overthinking simple things, like what to say in a group or how to act around others. Social situations become exhausting rather than



Movement doesn't need to be intense. A 10-minute walk, a few yoga poses, or dancing in our room to our favourite song — it all counts. The important thing is to keep our body and mind awake. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART S**

enjoyable.

So, how did we end up here? Why has sitting become such a huge part of our lives?

One word: convenience. Technology has made everything easier — maybe too easily. We can work, shop, learn, and even date from a chair. We don't need to go anywhere or talk to anyone face-to-face if we don't want to. Add to that long commute, desk jobs, endless entertainment options, and online everything — suddenly, our entire day is spent seated.

Even kids today are affected. School means hours of sitting in class, followed by homework and screen time. Sports and outdoor play are becoming less common, while video games and streaming shows are taking over. It's not laziness — it's the world we've built around us. A world that rewards stillness and punishes movement with effort and time. But how much sitting is actually too much?

Experts suggest that sitting for more than eight hours a day can be harmful, especially if we're not active the rest of

the time. But even sitting four hours straight without a break can hurt our bodies. It slows down blood flow, increases pressure on our spine, and tightens our muscles. And once the body starts feeling weak or stiff, the mind follows. We feel more sluggish, less energetic, and sometimes even more anxious or down.

The scary part is that the risks are real. A sedentary lifestyle increases our chances of serious health problems — things like obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, weak bones, and even certain types of cancer. On top of that, people who sit too much are more likely to feel lonely, depressed, or disconnected. It's like our world gets smaller and heavier, even though nothing has physically changed. But here's the good news: small changes make a big difference.

Reducing sedentary behaviour doesn't mean turning our lives upside down. It means doing little things differently, consistently.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

Monsoon tourists flock to Hpa-an as hotels fill up

SOME hotels in Hpa-an, which is a famous destination for travelling in the monsoon and the number of visitors rises every year, have been fully booked, according to visitors.

Hpa-an, a city where the natural landscape looks very attractive in the rain, draws many tourists.

“The entire environment is green as it has been raining since May, and the visitor arrival has started elevating. The city is more beautiful in June and July. Our friend group will go on a trip there in late June, but some hotels are already fully booked,” said a visitor.

People across the country, including from Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, have gone on vacation in Hpa-an by private cars or travel and tour packages. A lot of people have booked hotel rooms for June.

Mount Zwekabin, Hpa-an Valley, Kyaukkalatt, Htunpataing, Donyin Waterfall, Loonnya Blue Lake, Kyonhtaw Waterfall, Sadan Cave and Naunglone Valley are famous destinations in Hpa-an. Residents say the growth in tourist arrivals helps create more job opportunities for them and are pleased with it. — MT/ZS



A general view of the hotel in Hpa-an.



Seminar on post-quake business continuity set for Mandalay

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) is preparing to hold a seminar on the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to help businesses affected by the Mandalay earthquake, said UMFCCI general secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe.

She made the remarks at a pre-conference discussion on the “Review of Myanmar’s Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery and Reconstruction” organized by the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank, under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Commerce.

“In our community, we always talk about BCP. We need to have plans to continue operations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses were affected worldwide. We

published books on BCP and provided training with the help of the ILO and employers for all businesses, including MSMEs. Quakes and pandemics are different. This time, we study the experiences of disaster-prone countries. And we will share the Business Continuity Guideline, which is general for earthquakes, tsunamis or other disasters. We are working on it,” she said.

The forum on the recovery and reconstruction of the Myanmar economy after the earthquake will be held on 30-31 May at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. The forum features three panels: quake impacts on the economy and problems, challenges and opportunities during the recovery period, and economic recovery ways. — Htun Htun/ZN

72nd International Everest Day celebrated

THE 72nd International Mount Everest Day was held at the Central Hotel, Yangon on 29 May.

It was organized by the Embassy of Nepal and attended by ambassadors, heads of mission, diplomats, UN officials, government officials, tour operators and guests.

It is celebrated every year on 29 May, commemorating the historic day when Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest in 1953 for the first time, said Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire.

“This iconic achievement marks a pivotal moment in mountaineering history, symbolizing not only human resilience and determination but also the cultural pride and global recognition of Nepal. Mount Everest Day events in 2025 will draw attention to Mount Everest facts, inspiring adventurers worldwide and



This photo showcases the 72nd International Mount Everest Day celebration.

reinforcing Nepal’s identity as the gateway to the Himalayas”, he said.

With long bilateral goodwill relations, Nepal and Myanmar have much potential to cooperate in tourism.

“People of Myanmar must know Nepal beyond Lumbini; not only as the land of Birth Place of Lord Gautama Buddha but also as a land of mountains, a land rich in nature, culture, and adventure tourism. Nepal is also known as the paradise of mountaineering and trekking. Similarly, Myanmar has lots of

unexplored hills and mountains for tourism. Both countries can cooperate in adventure tourism. I would like to encourage travel and tour companies of Myanmar to make a package tour of Lumbini and beyond for travellers to Nepal”, he said.

At the event, Myanmar’s two mountaineers, Ko Pyae Phyo Aung and Ko Win Ko Ko, who successfully climbed Mount Everest in 2016, shared their experiences while the Ambassador presented souvenirs to them and hosted a dinner. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

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ARTICLE/LIFESTYLE
WORLD

The Modern Side Effects
of Sedentary Living

FROM PAGE 9

Standing up and stretching every 30 to 60 minutes. Taking a walk during lunch instead of scrolling. Using stairs instead of elevators. Parking a little farther from the door. Doing simple chores instead of sitting during every break. Even standing while talking on the phone or doing light stretches while watching TV can help.

Another trick I've learned is to schedule movement like it's an important meeting. I write "walk" or "stretch" in my planner, just like a class or a work call. Otherwise, it's easy to forget. Movement doesn't need to be intense.

A 10-minute walk, a few yoga poses, or dancing in our room to our favourite song — it all counts. The important thing is to keep our body and mind awake.

As for more serious movement, exercises like walking, jogging, swimming, cycling, or even home workouts are great for breaking the cycle of sitting. Not only do they help our body, but they also improve our mood, sleep, and energy. Physical activity increases blood flow to the brain, releases feel-good chemicals like endorphins, and helps reduce stress. In a way, moving our bodies teaches our minds to breathe again.

Over time, I've noticed

that I don't just feel physically better when I move — I feel more confident. I speak more clearly. I make eye contact more often. I feel less anxious when I have to meet people or speak in public. It's like my body says, "We're okay," and my mind finally believes it. I still have days when I sit too much, but now I catch myself and try to break the pattern before it becomes a habit again.

What we often forget is that the body was made to move. Our ancestors didn't spend their lives in chairs or staring at glowing screens. They walked, carried, climbed, danced, and connected. Sitting isn't evil, but too much of anything, especially something passive, changes us. It changes how we feel, how we think, and how we connect.

In the end, it's not about becoming a fitness hero or giving up our favourite shows or games. It's about not letting the chair become our prison. It's about finding balance in a world that keeps pulling us into stillness. It's about protecting our health, not just for the future, but for now, so we can live a life that feels full, present, and awake. So, the next time we say, "Just five more minutes," ask ourselves — what are those five minutes really costing us?

'Hacks' renewed for season
5 ahead of season 4 finale

MAX has renewed the Emmy-winning comedy series 'Hacks' for a fifth season, just ahead of the season four finale.

The series, starring Jean Smart and Hannah Einbinder, has been a top performer on the streaming platform, ranking in the top five series in the US and top 10 globally, as per Deadline.

'Hacks' has garnered 48 Emmy nominations during its run, including a win for Outstanding Comedy Series in season three.

The fourth season has been pacing as the series' best season yet, according to Deadline.

The show's creators, Paul W Downs, Lucia Aniello, and Jen Statsky, are set to continue their work on the series.

"We're beyond thrilled to keep the laughter rolling with Jen, Paul, Lucia, our extraordinary cast and crew, and our partners at Max," said Universal TV President Erin Underhill in a press note, as per Deadline. — ANI



Teachers cheer on examinees outside an exam site at the High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China in Beijing, capital of China, 7 June 2023. China's national college entrance exam, also known as "gaokao", started Wednesday this year. PHOTO: ZHANG CHENLIN/XINHUA/FILE

13.35 mln Chinese
students to sit annual
college entrance exam

Special measures have been implemented to combat criminal activities related to the exam and to maintain a fair testing environment.

A total of 13.35 million Chinese students are set to sit this year's national college entrance exam, also known as the gaokao, starting 7 June, the Ministry of Education said on Wednesday.

The figure marked a slight drop from last year's record number of 13.42 million partic-

ipants. The ministry said local authorities are guided to ensure sound organization of the examination and provide thoughtful services. Special actions have also been launched across the country to combat criminal acts related to the exam, aiming to purify the exam environment

both online and offline, and crack down on various forms of cheating.

Strict security checks will be enforced at exam sites, with a focus on prohibited items such as mobile phones as well as smart watches, bands and glasses. — Xinhua

S Korea's population
mobility falls for 2nd month
in Apr

SOUTH Korea's population mobility fell for the second consecutive month amid an aging population, statistical office data showed Wednesday.

The number of those who moved residence inside and outside the same province or city tumbled 10.7 per cent over

the year to 476,000 in April after sliding 2.6 per cent in the previous month, according to Statistics Korea.

The population mobility has roughly been on the decline for the past few years amid the population fall and the rapidly aging population. — Xinhua



In May 2025, Seoul experienced a net outflow of 3,718 residents, while Busan saw a net outflow of 1,822 residents. Busan Metropolitan City, is South Korea's second most populous city after Seoul. PHOTO: PIXABAY

ECONOMY WORLD

Africa elects its next ‘super banker’

The AfDB, founded in 1964, is headquartered in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and has 81 member countries, including 54 African nations.



Akinwumi Adesina is stepping down as president of African Development Bank (AfDB) after 10 years.
PHOTO: AFP

THE race to become Africa’s next “super banker” ends on Thursday, with five candidates, including one woman, vying to succeed Nigeria’s Akinwumi Adesina as head of the African Development Bank in a contest that appears too close to call.

In 2015 it took six rounds of voting to elect Adesina as president of the AfDB, which

was founded in 1964 and now has 81 members, including 54 African nations.

Based in Ivory Coast’s economic capital Abidjan, the AfDB is one of the world’s largest multilateral development banks, and is funded by member subscriptions, loans raised on global markets as well as repayments and income from loans.

But Adesina’s successor will immediately face a disrupted international economic environment, notably due to announcements from the US Trump administration.

Beyond tariffs, the AfDB is also facing the threat of losing 500 million dollars in US funding for its projects to support low income countries on the continent. — AFP

Zimbabwe’s farmers push on as land grab compensation flounders

IN Zimbabwe, farmers like Daniel Burger and Miriam Mupambawashe are striving to revive the country’s agriculture sector, which suffered greatly due to a controversial land reform programme in the 2000s.

This reform redistributed land from the white minority to the black majority, resulting in the confiscation of around 4,000 white-owned farms, often accompanied by violence. While Mupambawashe successfully

transitioned from a novice to a thriving farmer, many others struggled or abandoned their farms, leading to food shortages and increased reliance on international aid.

Despite the challenges, Burger and Mupambawashe have fostered a cooperative relationship, with Burger providing expertise and equipment to support Mupambawashe’s farming efforts.

However, the issue of

compensation for confiscated land remains contentious. The Zimbabwean government has begun making compensation payments after decades of delay, but the process has been fraught with complications.

Initially promising a \$3.5 billion fund for infrastructure, the government shifted to offering only one per cent in cash and the rest in treasury bonds, which many farmers view as inadequate. — AFP

Major investment banks raise 2025 China economic growth forecasts

LEADING financial institutions, including Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley, have recently raised their forecasts concerning China’s GDP growth in 2025, given that China’s pro-growth policies are helping the Chinese economy maintain its growth momentum, while recent China-US trade talks in Geneva have also yielded substantive results.

Goldman Sachs released a research report on 13 May, in which it decided to raise its fore-

cast for China’s GDP growth in 2025 by 0.6 percentage points, elevating it from four per cent to 4.6 per cent. “We are raising our forecasts for China’s 2025 export value growth to 0 from -5 per cent previously,” said Shan Hui, chief China economist at Goldman Sachs. Accordingly, within the GDP breakdown by the expenditure approach, Goldman Sachs raised the net export contribution to China’s GDP growth prediction from -0.5 percentage points to 0.1 percentage points. — Xinhua

AI personal shoppers hunt down bargain buys

TECH giants like Google and Amazon are rolling out AI shopping agents that can hunt for deals, recommend products, and even make purchases on users’ behalf.

Internet giants are diving deeper into e-commerce with digital aides that know shoppers’ likes, let them virtually try clothes on, hunt for deals and even place orders.

The rise of virtual personal shoppers springs from generative artificial intelligence (AI) being put to work in “agents” specializing in specific tasks and given autonomy to complete

them independently.

“This is basically the next evolution of shopping experiences,” said CFRA Research analyst Angelo Zino.

Google last week unveiled shopping features built into a new “AI Mode”.

It can take a person’s own photo and meld it with that of a skirt, shirt or other piece of clothing spotted online, showing how it will look on them. The AI adjusts the clothing size to fit, accounting for how fabrics drape, according to Google head of advertising and commerce Vidhya Srinivasan. — AFP



Google advertising and commerce vice-president Vidhya Srinivasan shows a new shopping feature that uses artificial intelligence to enable people to virtually try on clothes using their own pictures of themselves.

PHOTO: AFP

Sony’s financial arm aims to launch overseas businesses after listing

Currently, Sony Financial has no overseas operations.



Sony Group Corp. CEO Hiroki Totoki speaks at a meeting in Tokyo on 29 May 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

THE top executive of the financial unit of Sony Group Corp said Thursday that it aims to launch overseas operations after it is spun off from the parent company and listed on the Tokyo stock market later this year.

Toshihide Endo, CEO of Sony Financial Group Inc, said the company will focus on “honing our business model at home through March 2027, adding that expanding

its business abroad is “on the menu as an excellent strategy for the mid-term”.

Sony Financial has no overseas operations at present, a spokesperson said.

Endo was speaking at a meeting with the media and investors as his company prepares to list on the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s top-tier Prime Market on 29 September. The plan will allow the parent company to better focus on its entertainment businesses — especially games, music and movies — that have grown to account for more than 60 per cent of the conglomerate’s total sales.

— Xinhua

US retail chain giant lowers profit outlook over tariff concern

US department store chain Macy’s lowered its full-year profit forecast on Wednesday, citing the growing financial strain from surging tariffs.

Macy’s CEO Tony Spring said the company will take a targeted approach to raising prices and may stop carrying certain products altogether, as it works to offset tariff-related cost increases. About 20 per cent of Macy’s merchandise comes from China, the CEO said, which makes the retail chain giant particularly vulnerable to trade policy shifts.

For fiscal 2025, Macy’s now expects adjusted earnings per share to be between US\$1.60 and US\$2.00, down from its previous forecast of \$2.05 to \$2.25.

Spring told CNBC that tariffs alone account for 15 to 40 cents of the company’s revised earnings-per-

share guidance.

Although the company reaffirmed its full-year sales forecast of \$21.0 to \$21.4 billion, the number would still be a decline from the \$22.29 billion reported last year.

Tariff headwinds arrive as Macy’s continues a three-year transformation plan to streamline operations and boost profitability.

— Xinhua



For fiscal 2025, Macy’s now expects adjusted earnings per share to be between US\$1.60 and US\$2.00, down from its previous forecast of \$2.05 to \$2.25. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

S Korea’s real wage rebounds in March

SOUTH Korea’s real wage, adjusted for inflation, rebounded in March, labour ministry data showed Thursday.

The per-capita nominal monthly average wage in businesses with one or more regular employees gained 3.1 per cent over the year to 4,136,000 won (US\$2,990) in March after falling 5.4 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Employment and Labour. The real monthly wage grew 1.1 per cent in March on a yearly basis, turning around from a decrease of 7.3 per cent in February.

The consumer price inflation hovered around the central bank’s inflation target of two per cent in recent months, with 2.2 per cent in January, 2.0 per cent in February and 2.1 per cent in March. — Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Syntech International Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**AGT, Agro Tech Co.,Ltd**”, to new distributor name “**Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	AT-BAC 60 EC	Acetamiprid 10% + Fenobucarb (BPMC) 50% EC	P2021-4486

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (898N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (898N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-5-2025** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (228W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (228W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-5-2025** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 3 VOY.NO. (0UVDMS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 3 VOY.NO. (0UVDMS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

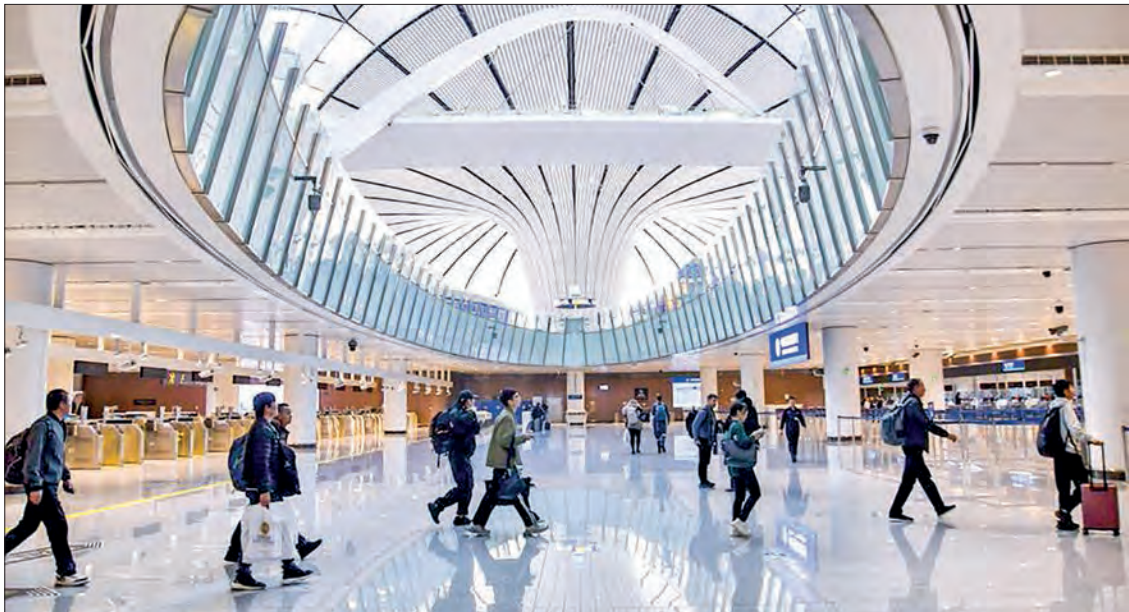
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China to trial visa-free policy for Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain



Foreign tourists go through customs at the Beijing Daxing International Airport in Beijing, capital of China, 27 December 2024. PHOTO: JU HUANZONG/XINHUA

Nationals from these countries can enter China for up to 30 days without a visa.

CHINA will trial a policy granting ordinary passport holders from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain visa-free entry into China up to 30 days from 9 June 2025, to 8 June 2026, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

At a daily press briefing, Mao elaborated on China's recent announcement of a unilateral visa-free policy for the four Gulf countries on a trial basis.

Nationals from these four countries travelling to China for

business, sightseeing, visiting relatives or friends, exchanges or transit for up to 30 days will not be required to obtain a visa for entry, Mao said.

"With the United Arab Emirates and Qatar that have implemented reciprocal visa-free policies with China since 2018, China now grants visa-free treatment to all GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries. We welcome more friends from the GCC countries to embark on an impromptu trip to China," Mao said. — Xinhua

BRIEF: WORLD

Trump says he warned Netanyahu against actions on Iran amid nuclear talks

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he had warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against taking any actions that could threaten ongoing talks between the Trump administration and Iran over a new nuclear deal, according to multiple media outlets.

"Well, I'd like to be honest. Yes, I did," Trump said when asked if he had warned Netanyahu against strikes on Iran in order not to disrupt talks US officials say they are having with Tehran, The Hill reported.

"I just said I don't think it's appropriate. We're having very good discussions with them, and I don't think it's appropriate right now," Trump added.

Trump also told reporters that the situation "could change at any moment - could change with a phone call," CNN reported.

The fifth round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States concluded last week in Rome with "some but not conclusive progress," said Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, the mediator in the talks. — Xinhua

4 crew members killed in S Korea's military plane crash: media

All four crew members were killed in South Korea's military plane crash, local newspaper Chosun Ilbo said Thursday.

The P-3 maritime patrol aircraft with four crew members aboard took off from a military base in the southeastern city of Pohang for training at about 1:43 pm local time (0443 GMT), according to the defence ministry.

The patrol plane crashed into a hill near the base around 1:49 pm local time (0449 GMT) and no civilian casualties had yet to be identified, the ministry noted.

The newspaper said all of the crew members were found as burned bodies. Three bodies were retrieved from the crashed plane's wreckage, according to Yonhap news agency. — Xinhua

UK to build \$1 billion 'kill web' to unleash cyber attacks

THE move was announced by Defence Secretary John Healey, who referred to the same old mantra about alleged threats from Russia and China as a pretext to form the unit, The Telegraph reports.

The new unit would fall under General James Hockenhull, UK Strategic Command.

The programme includes at least \$1.3 billion to build an AI-powered Digital Targeting Web ("kill web") by 2027.

The project also comprises real-time targeting across

land, air, sea, space and cyber, as well as offensive hacking ops and drone and missile signal jamming.

The focus will be on degrading enemy communications and command systems. — SPUTNIK

Elon Musk leaving US gov't role

TESLA CEO Elon Musk said Wednesday that he is leaving his government role as an adviser to US President Donald Trump.

"As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President Trump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending," Musk posted on X.

"The DOGE (the Department of Government Efficiency) mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government," he said.

US House Speaker Mike Johnson on Wednesday thanked Musk for his work and promised to pursue more spending cuts in the future, posting on X that "Elon Musk and the entire DOGE team have done INCREDIBLE work exposing waste, fraud, and abuse across the federal government."

"The House is eager and ready to act on DOGE's findings so we can deliver even more cuts to big government that President Trump wants and the American people demand," Johnson wrote. — Xinhua



This file photo taken on 13 April 2025 shows Elon Musk and his son walking upon arrival on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, the United States. Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on 28 May that he is leaving his government role as an adviser to US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: HU YOUSONG/XINHUA

SPORTS

Amorim tells Man Utd players they cannot 'hide'

MANCHESTER United manager Ruben Amorim said Thursday that his players cannot "hide" after a dismal season hit a fresh low when they were booed off following a friendly defeat in Malaysia.

United finished 15th in the Premier League and failed to win a trophy, then immediately jetted out Sunday for lucrative friendlies in Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong.

But if his squad were hoping for some respite in Asia, they did not get it, suffering a 1-0 defeat to a Southeast Asian XI in the Malaysian capital on Wednesday.

United's players trudged off with boos ringing in their ears and footage later emerged of

winger Amad Diallo making an obscene gesture to fans outside the team hotel.

"I have respect for people but not for the one who insults my mom," the 22-year-old winger wrote on social media.

"I shouldn't have reacted like that but I don't regret what I did".

It was another unwanted distraction for Amorim and United, who face Hong Kong's representative team in another friendly on Friday.

Speaking to media in the southern Chinese city, Amorim was asked if an overseas tour to Asia was what the team needed at the end of a long and dispiriting campaign. — AFP



Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim speaks to supporters at Old Trafford at the end of the season. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar drawn in Group B for AFC U23 qualifiers



Myanmar's U22 team will compete in several international tournaments this year. PHOTO: THAW GYI

MYANMAR is in Group B for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers, following the lot-drawing event held on 29 May.

The qualifiers will take place from 3 to 9 September, with a total of 44 teams divided into eleven groups of four. Based on the draw results, Group A includes Jordan, Turkmenistan, Chinese Taipei and Bhutan. Group B consists of Japan, Kuwait, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

Group C features Vietnam,

Yemen, Singapore and Bangladesh. Group D includes Australia, China, Timor-Leste and the Northern Mariana Islands. Group E has Uzbekistan, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka.

Group F includes Thailand, Malaysia, Lebanon and Mongolia. Group G has Iraq, Cambodia, Oman and Pakistan. Group H consists of Qatar, Bahrain, India and Brunei. Group I features the UAE, Iran, Hong Kong and Guam. Group J includes South Korea, Indonesia, Laos and Macao. Group K

consists of Tajikistan, Syria, the Philippines and Nepal.

Matches for Group B, which includes Myanmar, will be hosted by Myanmar as the home team, and the fixtures are set to be held at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Myanmar U22 team for the qualifiers is currently under the leadership of Japanese head coach Kurosaki, and the squad is undergoing training with over 30 primary players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Bayern sign Germany defender Tah until 2029



Jonathan Tah says his farewells to the Leverkusen fans after making his final appearance for the club at Mainz, PHOTO: AFP

BAYERN Munich have signed German international defender

Jonathan Tah on a free transfer from Bayer Leverkusen,

the Bundesliga champions announced on Thursday.

The 29-year-old has signed a four-year deal which will keep him in Munich until 2029.

"I'm very happy to be at Bayern. I want to take on responsibility here and work hard every day so that we're successful as a team and win lots of trophies together," Tah said in the club statement. Tah spent a decade at Leverkusen, winning an unbeaten league and cup double in 2023-24. He told Leverkusen he would not be extending his contract beyond 2025 and was given a big farewell at his last home game in May. — AFP

Football: Japanese forward Asano setting sights on 2026 World Cup

MALLORCA forward Takuma Asano expressed his strong desire Wednesday to play for Japan at the 2026 World Cup.

The 30-year-old, who last played for the Samurai Blue in September 2024, scored just two goals in 21 matches in his injury-hit first season with the Spanish La Liga club.

"There's been no day when I don't think about the next World Cup," Asano told a press conference in Tokyo, referring to the 48-team tournament to be co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States. "I'm dedicating each day to that. Of course, I'm going to the World Cup." Japan have already qualified for their eighth successive World Cup.

"I'm sure I can perform well when I'm fit. If I continue to do that, I'm confident of making the national team," Asano said.

In his first World Cup in 2022 in Qatar, Asano scored the winner in Japan's come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Germany in their group-stage opener. — Kyodo



FOCUS ON DIGITAL
INTEGRATION

Laos, Russia
agree to
strengthen legal
cooperation

THE Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor of Laos and the Prosecutor General's Office of Russia have agreed to jointly carry out activities in 2025-2026, with the goal of enhancing legal cooperation and promoting mutual understanding in prosecutorial work.

Under an agreement signed here on Wednesday, the two sides will hold at least one official meeting each year and regularly exchange professional and legal documents. These exchanges aim to build institutional capacity, support legal reforms, and support the rule of law in both countries, the local Pasaxon newspaper reported on Thursday.

The two sides will convene joint meetings to discuss enhancing prosecutorial functions and the integration of digital technologies, including the potential use of artificial intelligence in legal work. Expert meetings will also be held on child protection and measures to combat crimes against children.

Additionally, both parties agreed to participate in joint training sessions at least once a year and to regularly exchange legal, technical, and scientific documents to strengthen prosecutorial cooperation. — Xinhua

Early voting begins in South
Korea's presidential polls

The turnout for the first day of early voting reached 19.6%, the highest in South Korea's early voting history.



All major polls have placed liberal Lee Jae-myung as the clear frontrunner in the presidential race. PHOTO: AFP

EARLY voting in South Korea's presidential election began on Thursday, with both main candidates casting ballots in a poll triggered by ex-leader Yoon Suk Yeol's ill-fated suspension of civilian rule last year.

South Koreans are desperate to draw a line under months of political turmoil sparked by Yoon's declaration of

martial law, for which he was impeached.

Since then the Asian democracy has been led by a revolving door of lame duck acting presidents as its export-driven economy grapples with trade turmoil abroad and sluggish demand at home.

All major polls have placed liberal Lee Jae-myung as the clear front-runner in the presidential race, with a recent

Gallup survey showing 49 per cent of respondents viewed him as the best candidate. Trailing behind him is conservative ex-labour minister Kim Moon-soo of the ruling People Power Party — Yoon's former party — at 35 per cent.

While election day is set for 3 June, those who want to vote early can do so on Thursday and Friday. — AFP

Tourist train links China's Xi'an, Kazakhstan's Almaty,
deepens regional exchanges



The train is carrying 234 passengers and is expected to arrive in Almaty on Saturday, with a one-way journey taking approximately 57 hours. PHOTO: KAZAKH TELEGRAPH AGENCY

A tourist train departed from northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Thursday for Almaty, Kazakhstan, marking a new step in cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

Carrying 234 passengers, the train left Xi'an around noon and is set to arrive in Almaty on Saturday. The return journey is scheduled to depart on 5 June and arrive back in Xi'an on 7 June, with each one-way trip taking about 57 hours.

This year marks the China tourism year in Kazakhstan. Upon arrival in Almaty, passengers will be welcomed with fun performances and local cuisine.

A four-day cultural and peo-

ple-to-people exchange event will be held in Almaty, showcasing a diverse array of activities.

Attendees can look forward to demonstrations of intangible cultural heritage skills, exhibitions of cultural relics and promotions of traditional Chinese medicine. Special events will include a youth football friendly match, a symposium on sports exchanges and a gathering of women entrepreneurs.

The special train service is one of the key outcomes of the first China-Central Asia Summit held in Xi'an in 2023. The second summit is scheduled to take place later this year in Kazakhstan. — Xinhua