Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Damaged buildings require restoration to original condition

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tours in Sagaing and Mandalay yesterday.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects rehab operation in Sagaing and Mandalay

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and chief ministers of Mandalay and Sagaing regions, yesterday inspected ongoing rehabilitation operations for loss and damage caused by the earthquake in Sagaing and Mandalay.

At the meeting with the headteacher and officials of the No 1 Basic Education High School in Sagaing, the Senior General explained that the State arranges the KG+9 free education system for the enhancement of education standards. Educational staff have to serve academic duties conscientiously and teach students to have knowledge of literature and social relations. They need to organize the people to enable all school-age children to learn and fulfil their needs.

The Senior General viewed round progress in the construction of necessary school buildings of the school and guided officials to systematically construct school buildings to have long-term strengthening. He also observed the learning of students in the school buildings.

While in Sagaing, the Senior General, his wife and entourage paid homage to the Buddha image of Rajamanicula Kaungmhudaw Pagoda. The Senior General oversaw damage to the interior and exterior of Kaunghmudaw Pagoda, stairways and religious buildings, debris clearance process and rehabilitation measures.

The Senior General and party fed fish and released fingerlings at the Myitta Lake in the northern wing of the pagoda.

In the Aungmyay Bawdi Dhammayon of the pagoda, the Senior General heard reports on loss and damage to the pagoda by Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance on repairing the damaged parts to the original state, growing trees along the bund of Myitta Lake, and relaxation sites at stairways of pagodas.

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NATIONAL

Efforts underway to produce value-added industrial goods

IT is necessary to promote agro-based industries that rely on agricultural and livestock products and to be able to produce value-added industrial goods.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of implementing Twantay livestock breeding zone on 30 November 2024)

Myanmar, Nepal further cooperate to enhance diplomatic ties

The photo depicts Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Myo Myint Maung paying a courtesy call on Nepali Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Arzu Rana Deuba at her office on 9 June.

MYANMAR Ambassador to Nepal U Myo Myint Maung called on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Dr Arzu Rana Deuba at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal at noon (Nepali Standard Time) on 9 June.

At the call, they frankly discussed bilateral friendship, relations between the peoples of both countries, further cooperation in the enhancement of diplomatic relations, and preparations of Myanmar to hold a general election.

Also, present at the meeting together with the Nepali Foreign Minister were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Myanmar Ambassador was accompanied by the deputy head of mission of the Myanmar Embassy to Nepal.

"Before the establishment of the official diplomatic relations in 1960, Myanmar and Nepal have been maintaining amicable relations," said Myanmar Ambassador Wunna Kyaw Htin U Myo Myint Maung at the reception event to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day of Myanmar and the 65th Anniversary of Establishment of Myanmar-Nepal diplomatic relations held on the evening of 4 February 2025, at the Myanmar Embassy in Kathmandu.

Myanmar and Nepal have long-standing bilateral relations based on mutual affection, friendship, religion, and culture. The two countries officially established diplomatic relations on 19 March 1960. Nepal has opened an embassy in Yangon, and Myanmar has opened its embassy in Kathmandu, actively engaging in diplomatic affairs and fostering friendly relations between the two nations. — Htun Htun/ TTA

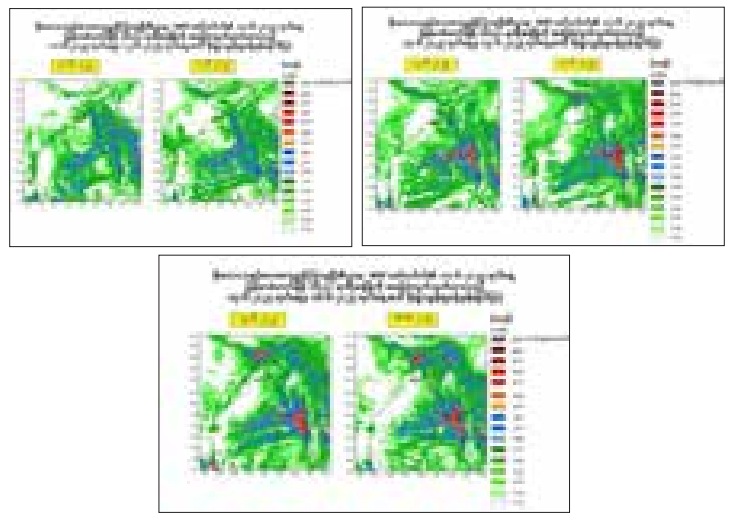
Special Weather News

Issued at 6 pm MST on 10 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 16:30 hrs MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and due to the easterly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during today evening to 16 June 2025. Occassional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 -35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, 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 strikes, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights.—DMH



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 10 pm Monday 10 June 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 11 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Upper Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Rakhine, and northern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Lower Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and southern Shan 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, Lower Sagaing, and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon,Rakhine and, (northern and southern)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: Occassional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 -35 miles per hour. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about 6-8 feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Rakhine, and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 June 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — 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)

Damaged buildings require ...

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General and his wife donated cash to the fund for the overall renovation of the pagoda through officials.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister, along with Council members, arrived at the Sitagu Vipassana Monastery. There, they paid respect to the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw, Sitagu Shwekyin Sangha Patron, and Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Ñissara.

In support of the restoration work for pagodas, stupas, and other religious structures that were damaged or collapsed due to the recent earthquake, they donated 1,500 tonnes of cement and other offerings, contributed by families from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air).

The merits for the offerings were then shared in dedication to the monks, nuns, and individuals who lost their lives due to the natural disaster.

The Senior General also inspected the damage to SunU Ponnyashin Pagoda.

An official forwarded reports on the examination of the pagoda by experts, samples for the reconstruction of the pagoda with the use of RC beams for its perpetuation and the layout for religious buildings of the pagoda.

In his response, the Senior General gave guidance to officials to systematically compile the documentary photos of the pagoda, renovate the pagoda in its original state, and carry out necessary calculations for the reconstruction of religious buildings.

The Senior General observes the learning of schoolchildren in Sagaing.

On arrival at Ayeyawady Bridge (Inwa), an official reported to the Senior General on the opening of the watercourse after the removal of debris at the No 4 and No 5 arches of the bridge and damage to lateral bracing, bearing and piers of the bridge.

At Maha Muni Buddha Image, the Senior General examined jewellery items for the collapsed diamond orb and the pennant-shaped vane, and cracked mural paintings. He also viewed round damage to the Buddha image and religious buildings and gave necessary guidance to officials.

At the Museum of the pagoda, the Mandalay Mayor and the chairman of the Image Board of Trustees reported on the progress of reconstruction measures. The Senior General stressed the need to systematically repair the buildings in their original states, and emphasize renovation for the buildings to be perpetual through engineering perspectives.

On arrival at Maha Atulawaiyan (Atumashi) Monastery, the Senior General paid homage to the Culamuni Buddha Image and other Buddha images and made cash donations.

The Senior General inspected maintenance of the monastery and Buddha images for magnificence and left necessary guidance. — MNA/TTA

Health Alert: Guard Against Flu & COVID-19

DURING the rainy season, respiratory infectious diseases such as seasonal influenza and COVID-19 are more likely to spread.

Although COVID-19 is no longer considered a global pandemic, it is now recognized as a locally circulating disease similar to seasonal influenza. At present, there is no cause for public concern regarding outbreaks or deaths due to these diseases in Myanmar. However, to prevent potential spread, the public is strongly urged to observe the necessary preventive measures.

- To prevent the spread of the virus to others, people with current respiratory symptoms such as fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and sore throat should
  (a) Avoid going to crowded places, and if necessary, wear a mask properly.
  (b) Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when sneezing or coughing, while not wearing a face mask.
  (c) Promptly seek medical treatment at the nearest hospital or health centre if symptoms are severe.
- Practice good personal hygiene like frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water, or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer regularly.
- As COVID-19 vaccines are effective in reducing the risk of infection, severe illness, and death caused by emerging variants of the virus, the high-risk groups comprising of elderly, people with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, or cancer and pregnant women are urged to receive booster doses.

Ministry of Health
4 June 2025

NATIONAL

Myanmar Libraries Committee explores strategies to foster reading culture

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, presided over a coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the guidance of the Prime Minister to accelerate the drives to raise reading habits while focusing on the youth and literary sectors. He continued that every possible way should be used for the children to enjoy reading, and the reading clubs or talk shows for the children should also be conducted at the community centres.

Moreover, the government provided the required assistance in reopening the basic education schools and retaking the G 12 exam after the Mandalay earthquake, and such support is a sign of the special emphasis of the government on the education sector.

Event attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister Maung Maung Ohn chairs the coordination meeting of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoTC Deputy Minister attends Global Digital Forum in Russia

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Lu Mon attended the inaugural Global Digital Forum held from 5 to 6 June in Nizhny Novgorod, the Russian Federation.

At the opening ceremony on 5 June, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dmitry Yuryevich Grigorenko, Nizhny regional chief Mr Gleb Nikitin, officials and delegates from 110 countries participated.

During the forum, the deputy minister held a separate meeting with Ms Bella Cherkesova, Russian Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Media, to discuss boosting trade through digital technology, addressing regional technology gaps, readiness, advantages, challenges and opportunities for Myanmar-Russia cooperation.

The Global Digital Forum in progress on 5-6 June in Russia, attended by Deputy Minister U Lu Mon.

He also attended ministerial-level discussions led by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Sergey Vershinin and visited the related exhibitions.

Several digital technology cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed between Russian and international non-governmental organizations attending the forum. — MNA/KZL

Public Notice

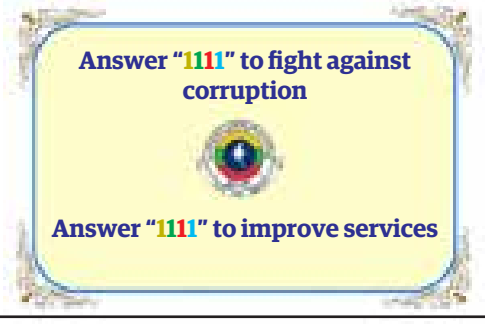
THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

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

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

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

Anti-Corruption Commission



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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

Quake survivors receive rice under APTERR Tier 3 programme

THE handover ceremony of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Tier 3 Rice (1610MT) donated by the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China to support the quake-stricken people from Nay Pyi Taw through the Department of Agriculture took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, deputy mayor of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Development Committee and members, the APTERR secretary-general, representatives from Korea and China, departmental officials and quake survivors.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman gave a speech, and the deputy minister briefed the APTERR programmes, the APTERR secretary-general, the representative from the Korean Embassy and Counsellor Mr Ouyangdaobing of the Chinese Embassy clarified the donation.

The deputy minister handed over the donated rice to the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, and the APTERR secretary-general, representatives of the Korean Embassy and the Chinese counsellor presented the rice bags to the quake survivors.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials gave back certificates of appreciation and gifts to them. — Aung Myo Win (Ottara)/KTZH

The group photo session in progress yesterday at the handover event of the APTERR Tier 3 Rice.

Reconstruction efforts ongoing in quake-hit areas

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing is pictured during his inspection tour in Kyaukse.

FOLLOWING the Mandalay earthquake, various organizations work closely with locals to support rebuilding damaged sites.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials inspected completed modular container houses in the compound of Kyaukse district offices in Suugon Ward yesterday and selected new sites for further construction.

They attended a water rescue training event organised by the Kyaukse Fire Department, observed rescue boat demonstrations and practical water rescue exercises in Minye Dam, Bawgawady Ward, Kyaukse and presented cash awards.

Officials also reviewed repairs and resumed operations at the TOP Myanmar woven bag factory and the Kiyo-Myanmar Healthy Fruit and Veggie Chips factory in Sintkaing Township. They visited damaged pagodas, monasteries, homes and buildings in Bilin village and other areas battered by the earthquake.

Construction materials like bricks, iron pipes, and roofing sheets are sold at special prices to support rebuilding. Officials visited the Ooyin Lay Philanthropic Monastery to oversee restoration work and donated supplies to the abbot. — MNA/KZ.L

Weekly aid reaches quake victims amid ongoing relief efforts

THE powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025 caused widespread damage in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State, and Bago Region. Since the disaster, both local and international donors and humanitarian organisations have continued to provide medical supplies and relief items to support those affected. Weekly updates on these contributions and their distribution to disaster-stricken areas have been regularly issued. The most recent report, covering the period from 28 May to 3 June, was released on 3 June 2025.

From 4 to 10 June 2025, additional donations of food, medicine, and medical supplies were received from India, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Nanning City, and the Singapore Lotus Charity Society. The medical items were handed over to the Healthcare Work Committee (Ministry of Health), while the food supplies were being distributed without delay to the impacted areas.

From 28 March 2025 to date, a total of 108 truckloads of donated items — equivalent to an estimated 2,427 tonnes — have been despatched: 64 to Mandalay Region, 32 to Sagaing Region, and 12 to Shan State (South).

The announcement further read that weekly updates will continue, providing timely information on the arrival of new donations and their distribution to the people in need. — MNA/MKKS

The handover event of relief supplies donated by India.

NATIONAL

Myanmar deports 3 Koreans

MYANMAR deported three Koreans involved in telecom fraud, online gambling and criminal activities via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

Between 30 January and 10 June 2025, a total of 9,114 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 8,754 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 360 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

The Immigration process underway for the deportation of three Koreans.

Two Thai fugitives arrested with 11,000 meths in Tachilek

Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated methamphetamine tablets.

ACTING on a tip-off that wanted fugitives from Thailand were renting accommodation on Daw Nang Kaw's compound in Hweinamlin Village, Zone 2, Pongtong Ward, Tachilek Township, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search at 4:30 pm on 2 June. As a result, two wanted fugitives from Thailand, Mr Phanatsak Riabpuang and Miss Wanida Jakkeaw, were arrested with 11,000 methamphetamine tablets.

Both individuals have been charged under the law, and the Myanmar Police Force reports that efforts are underway to identify and apprehend others involved in this criminal network. — MNA/MKKS

Tatmadaw Air Force jet crashes during training exercise

A Tatmadaw (Air) combat aircraft suddenly encountered a mechanical failure while conducting a training flight yesterday at around 12:15 pm near Sparsae village, approximately 2,000 metres east of Minntaipin village in Pale Township. The aircraft crashed to the ground and caught fire.

Security forces immediately arrived at the crash site and are carrying out necessary security measures. Relevant authorities continue investigating the cause of the aircraft's mechanical failure. — MNA/KZL

Homemade mine blast in Hmawby leaves 10 garment workers injured

A homemade mine explosion occurred near a local training school in Auk Wannakchaung Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region, at around 7 pm on 9 June 2025, injuring one man and nine women.

According to reports, the explosion happened beside a brick wall near the training school. A 9B/1349 Isuzu Canda vehicle belonging to Wah Phoo Garment Factory, driven by 40-year-old U Win Kyaw from Kyapyukan Village, was transporting garment workers when it struck a homemade mine planted by terrorists.

The injured include garment workers from Wah Phoo Garment Factory: 33-year-old Kyaw Ye Aung, 45-year-old Daw Mya Mya Sint, 41-year-old Daw Htway Htway Yee, 23-year-old Ma Ei Po Po Thet, 43-year-old Ma Aye Mar Htun, 29-year-old Ma Zin Mar Thin, 35-year-old Ma Ei Ei Pyone, 28-year-old Ma Wai Hnin Soe, 50-year-old Ma Lay Lay Nwe and 33-year-old Ma Nwe Nwe Wah, each sustaining varying degrees of blast injuries.

Security forces are investigating the incident to identify and take legal action against those responsible for the attack. — MNA/KZL

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

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.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Myanmar sets US$517M target for sesame & maize exports in 2025-26

MYANMAR Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association aims to achieve sesame and maize export targets of US$517 million in the 2025-2026 financial year.

The association targets to export 1.36 million bags of maize in the 2025-2026 financial year to bag $354 million. Around 90,000 tonnes of sesame are also planned to be exported this FY, with an expected income of $163 million.

The association is making efforts to export value-added products such as corn silage and corn syrup. At present, the sesame export market has been sluggish. Therefore, the association is exploring new market potentials, and discussions with trade partners are ongoing.

This photo reveals a field of Myanmar's maize that is designated for exports.

Myanmar exported 2.4 million tonnes of maize in the previous financial year 2024-2025, generating an income of $574 million. Thailand is the top importer of Myanmar's maize. Myanmar's maize is flowing into Thailand under a zero-tariff benefit. Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. Myanmar also exports maize to India, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Myanmar's various sesame exports amounted to $114 million with 74,000 tonnes. Myanmar's sesame is primarily exported to China, and also sent to Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Singapore. — ASH/KK

Myanmar aims to export 2 million tonnes of pulses

THE Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association aims to export two million tonnes of various pulses in the current financial year 2025-2026, beginning 1 April.

Myanmar delivered 2.14 million tonnes of various pulses to international markets in the previous financial year, earning US$1.82 billion.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green gram is exported to China and Europe.

Myanmar's pulses export revenue accounts for 38 per cent of agricultural produce export, yearly generating over $1 to 1.5 billion.

Myanmar is one of the world's largest bean producers. Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy, and it contributes to over 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. There are over 17 million acres of paddy and 10 million acres of pulses and beans in the country. The country's second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agricultural produce and covering over 20 per cent of growing acres. India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to the 2025-2026 financial year. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/KK

The photo shows pulses and beans seen in a market.

CBM to sell over US$400K on 9 June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US$400,000 on 9 June after selling $500,000 on 6 June and 364,400 yuan on 5 June.

CBM announced on 4 June that it would sell US$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM pumped US$422,000, 345,850 yuan and over 2.1 million baht on that day into the forex market.

A foreign exchanger counting greenbacks at the exchange counter.

CBM injected over 600,000 yuan and 2.6 million baht on 3 June, 579,900 yuan and 4.7 million baht on 2 June, over 610,000 yuan and 2.4 million baht on 30 May, after the sale of 4.3 million baht on 28 May into the financial market.

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

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

Heavy Industries Enterprise 3 invites bids for cotton supply

THE No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry invited a tender for the procurement of 573,200 visses of A-grade long-staple cotton, 600,000 visses of A-grade cotton and 100,000 visses of C-grade cotton in the current financial year 2024-2025. A tender submission will be accepted by 16 June 2025. The No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise informed the Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Merchant Association of a tender invitation situation in order to source raw materials for cotton ginning factories.

Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the production department of the No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprises located at Office 37 in Nay Pyi Taw at 067 3408138, 067 3408439, and 067 3408492. — NN/KK

Restore peace through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders

PEACE cannot be restored in a single day or overnight. Because it cannot be forged so quickly, it does not mean everyone should give up. All stakeholders must work hard and strive so that entire people, including all ethnic groups, can live peacefully and have secure livelihoods and homes.

Now is the time to intensify rescue, relief, and rehabilitation operations in the areas affected by the powerful Mandalay earthquake, which caused extensive loss and damage.

The severe earthquake resulted in numerous collapsed and damaged buildings, as well as a significant number of affected individuals, including those who lost their lives, those injured in the main quake and its aftershocks, and those who suffered property losses.

To achieve this, all stakeholders and parties must participate honestly in the peacemaking process. Everyone should act with sincerity and integrity in all their efforts. They must abandon selfish motives and harmful actions and show a genuine willingness to restore peace for the benefit of the entire population. Their efforts toward peace must be grounded in patriotism and honesty while respecting established laws, regulations, and public ethics. All involved should reflect on the lives and hardships of the Myanmar people. If this is done, Myanmar and its people will have a peaceful future.

Meanwhile, not only the earthquake victims but also those indirectly or directly affected are hoping for the restoration of peace across the nation. These victims are now bearing the heavy burden of the earthquake's aftermath, compounded by harsh weather conditions. Their situation is truly heartbreaking. All stakeholders must take into account the worsening living conditions of the people.

It is reasonable to believe that all Myanmar people share a sense of optimism and a positive attitude toward improving the country and the lives of its citizens. Regardless of differing political systems, all living beings, especially humans, aspire to enjoy the benefits of development and meet their essential needs. However, it is crucial for everyone to work together in harmony, avoiding blame and embracing forgiveness in the pursuit of lasting peace. All stakeholders must recognize that armed conflicts ultimately harm and kill unarmed civilians.

In reality, peace cannot be restored through one-sided efforts. All stakeholders must participate in the process of restoring peace, especially since countless people have lost their lives or been injured in various armed conflicts. Moreover, the lack of peace and stability has, at times, hindered rescue efforts during natural disasters. Therefore, it is essential for everyone to take timely action to address these critical issues.

To achieve this, all stakeholders and parties must participate honestly in the peacemaking process. Everyone should act with sincerity and integrity in all their efforts. They must abandon selfish motives and harmful actions and show a genuine willingness to restore peace for the benefit of the entire population. Their efforts toward peace must be grounded in patriotism and honesty while respecting established laws, regulations, and public ethics. All involved should reflect on the lives and hardships of the Myanmar people. If this is done, Myanmar and its people will have a peaceful future.

Blurred Boundaries: International Law and the Risks of Corridor-Based Aid

By Hla Myet Chell (International Law)

IN MODERN conflict zones, proposals for "humanitarian corridors" are often introduced as emergency mechanisms for delivering aid to civilians caught in crossfires. On paper, the concept appears benevolent and necessary: create temporary access routes through embattled or inaccessible regions, allowing food, medicine, and emergency supplies to reach vulnerable populations. However, beneath the humanitarian impulse lies a complex web of legal, political, and security vulnerabilities, especially when such corridors traverse territories controlled by non-state armed actors.

Undermining Sovereignty: The Legal Dilemma

The foundation of international relations is built on the principle of state sovereignty. Enshrined in Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter, and reaffirmed by instruments such as the Declaration on Principles of International Law (1970) and customary international law, this principle affirms that each state has the exclusive right to control its internal affairs and territorial integrity without external interference.

Humanitarian corridors that bypass the central government and engage with non-state actors challenge this principle. When aid operations are coordinated with entities that do not hold recognized sovereignty, such actions can amount to the de facto legitimization of parallel governance structures. This poses a dangerous precedent: legitimizing governance by force, rather than by law or democratic process.

According to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), particularly under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, humanitarian access must be consented to by the state party concerned. Article 70 (1) of Additional Protocol I states that relief actions "shall be undertaken subject to the agreement of the Parties concerned". In non-international armed conflicts, which fall under Common Article 3 and Additional Protocol II, humanitarian operations still require state consent, unless the Security Council authorizes otherwise under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

Thus, from a legal perspective, humanitarian corridors established without the consent of the host state or a clear UN mandate may be illegitimate. They risk violating the principle of non-intervention and may be interpreted as an infringement on state sovereignty, potentially amounting to an internationally wrongful act.

The Philadelphia Corridor: A Warning from the Middle East

The so-called Philadelphia Corridor provides a real-world cautionary tale. Situated along the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, this narrow strip was initially created under the Oslo Accords to serve as a buffer zone for monitoring arms smuggling and providing a humanitarian lifeline to Gaza.

Despite this objective, the corridor was quickly co-opted by Hamas, a designated terrorist organization in many countries, which used it as a conduit for smuggling weapons, ammunition, and military supplies into Gaza. Tunnels were dug beneath the corridor, enabling the steady flow of contraband. What was meant to be a route for humanitarian relief morphed into a strategic asset for militant actors, fueling violence in the region.

Eventually, citing national security concerns, Israel seized control of the corridor and announced it would never relinquish it again. This episode illustrates how humanitarian mechanisms, when not robustly governed, can directly compromise the security of neighbouring states and prolong the violent conflict.

The case also underscores a core principle of International Humanitarian Law: humanitarian aid must be neutral, impartial, and independent. When these principles are not observed, corridors can be repurposed for strategic advantage. The abuse of humanitarian access undermines not only security but also the legitimacy of humanitarian norms.

Security Vulnerabilities in Fragile Regions

In regions where central authority is weak or contested, the establishment of humanitarian corridors poses a range of security risks:

Weapons and Narcotics Smuggling: Corridors passing through areas outside government control can become unmonitored pathways for illicit activities.

Terrorist Infiltration: Unregulated access can enable the movement of extremist fighters across borders or conflict lines.

Empowerment of Illicit Actors: By providing access to resources and international legitimacy, corridors can embolden non-state actors and entrench their control over territory.

Security guarantees in such regions are difficult to enforce. Unlike the Philadelphi Corridor, where Egypt and Qatar attempted (unsuccessfully) to provide monitoring forces, many conflict zones lack reliable third-party security providers. Who takes responsibility if the corridor is hijacked? Who ensures neutrality, safety, and the exclusive delivery of aid?

Furthermore, the financial burden of establishing and maintaining such corridors is immense. International organizations, including the United Nations, are often already overstretched. Meanwhile, donor fatigue and shifting geopolitical priorities limit the capacity of major powers to fund and secure such operations. Without robust oversight and sustained support, the risk of abuse becomes all but certain.

Moral Hazard and Political Liability

A less discussed but equally important issue is moral hazard. If international actors sidestep state authority to deliver aid, they may unintentionally incentivize armed groups to seize territory, knowing that humanitarian support will follow. This creates a perverse cycle: the more territory they control, the more likely they are to gain de facto recognition and access to resources.

Should weapons or contraband be smuggled through these corridors, neighbouring states and international agencies that facilitated them could be held partially responsible. In a world increasingly governed by legal norms, liability does not stop at borders.

According to the Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (2001), states may bear responsibility for aid programs that cause harm if they knowingly contribute to violations of international obligations. If aid leads to unintended consequences like arming militants or destabilizing neighbouring regions, those involved may face not just political fallout but also legal scrutiny.

The Path Forward: Upholding Law and Sovereignty

The urgency of humanitarian needs should not blind policymakers to the long-term strategic consequences of their decisions. Aid must be delivered in a manner that respects national sovereignty, supports the rule of law, and does not enable or legitimize actors who operate outside international norms.

In short, humanitarianism must not be weaponized. The international community has a responsibility to ensure that aid does not become a tool of conflict, but rather a bridge to peace. The experience of the Philadelphi Corridor is not just a warning – it is a blueprint of how good intentions can be hijacked without firm adherence to international law.

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I Say What I See: Moving Forward with Both Consciousness and Conscientiousness

By @Editor

IN the intricate web of human interactions, the words consciousness and conscientiousness embody fundamental principles that shape our decisions and behaviours. Consciousness, in its broadest sense, refers to awareness – the ability to perceive, think, and respond to the world around us. It is the cognitive foundation of experience, the mental presence that allows individuals to engage with reality. Conscientiousness, however, is a moral and ethical disposition, a trait that drives responsibility, diligence, and integrity in one's actions. While consciousness enables recognition, conscientiousness ensures the careful, ethical application of that awareness.

The interplay between these two qualities becomes evident in various sectors of society – whether in maritime navigation, journalism, labour movements, or humanitarian efforts. A seafarer must be conscious of the ever-changing oceanic conditions while being conscientious in ensuring safety and discipline. A journalist relies on conscious objectivity to report truthfully, yet conscientiousness dictates adherence to ethical storytelling. Across professions and personal lives, the dynamic relationship between these concepts influences how individuals interpret, act, and contribute to the social fabric.

Navigating the Crossroads of Consciousness and Conscientiousness

THE life of a seafarer is one of constant vigilance – an existence shaped by the unpredictable forces of nature and the unwavering demands of duty. My experience at Kakinada Port, a bustling maritime hub on the east coast of India, serves as a defining moment in my understanding of consciousness and conscientiousness. It was here, while working near the cargo hatch during discharge operations, that I suffered an accident – an unexpected crack in my left ankle that would test not only my physical endurance but also my mental resilience.

As I lay immobilized, the weight of two competing forces bore down on me. On one side was conscientiousness – the ingrained sense of duty to my employer, the commitment to fulfilling my role despite adversity. The maritime industry thrives on discipline, and I feared that my inability to work would jeopardize my position. On the other side was consciousness – the undeniable awareness of my responsibilities beyond the ship, the realization that my family depended on me. My two children, aged four and three, needed their father to provide, to be present, to ensure their future. The internal struggle was overwhelming: Should I prioritize my duty to the company or my duty to my family?

This dilemma is not unique to seafarers. Across industries, individuals face moments where consciousness and conscientiousness collide – where personal awareness challenges professional obligation. In that moment, I understood that true balance lies not in choosing one over the other but in recognizing their interplay. Consciousness informs conscientiousness; it is the awareness of responsibility that drives ethical action. Likewise, conscientiousness must be guided by consciousness – without understanding the broader implications of duty, diligence can become blind adherence.

The Indian Ocean, stretching between Kakinada and Pathein, Myanmar, serves as a metaphor for this duality. Just as the waters connect distant lands, so too do consciousness and conscientiousness shape human interactions, binding individuals to both their personal and professional commitments. My experience at sea reinforced a fundamental truth: to move forward, one must navigate both awareness and responsibility with equal measure.

My transition from proofreader to editor was not merely a career progression but a deepening of both consciousness and conscientiousness in the realm of language. As a proofreader, I developed an acute awareness – consciousness – of the precision required in text, ensuring grammatical integrity and clarity.

SEE PAGE 10

NATIONAL
ESSAY

Myanmar-China Friendship Association provides aid to quake victims in Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana

THE Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) has announced that it donated money to those affected by the Mandalay earthquake in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

On 7–8 June, a donation of K250 million was made to rebuild the earthquake-damaged Kanhla Monastery in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The donation also supported several other institutions in Nay Pyi Taw: the Kyaungone Pariyatti Monastery, Nantawsin Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre, Taungtha Home for the Aged, Santarama Nunnery Buddhist Learning Centre, and Kinmoontanthein alms hall (all in Pyinmana Township), as well as Kyaukchet (Middle Village) School in Zeyathiri Township.

The donations were made by U Tin Oo, the chairman, along with the vice-chairman, secretaries, and members of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

This photo showcases the donations of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

On June 2–3, the association donated K708 million to build two houses and provide financial assistance for retired teachers in Sagaing, Sagaing Region, purchase an ECG machine and necessary medicines for Sagaing General Hospital, and supply two ECG machines, two phlegm suction pumps, and two months' worth of blood testing and operation room equipment for Mandalay City General Hospital, Mandalay Region. — ASH/TH

Actress, donors donate over K200M to earthquake relief in Sagaing

ACCORDING to actress Khaing Hnin Wai, she, along with other charitable donors, donated around K200 million on 8 June to support 33 households affected by the Mandalay earthquake in Sagaing, Sagaing Region.

Actress Khaing Hnin Wai donating cash to quake-impacted families.

The donation was made to assist in building affordable homes for the 33 affected families, with approximately K6 million allocated per household for reconstruction.

"We donated about K200 million to construct 33 affordable homes valued at around K6 million each for earthquake-hit families in Sagaing who already have their plots of land. Additionally, to help rebuild religious buildings and residential homes, we are going to donate 50,000 bags of cement worth around K1 billion to earthquake-battered areas including Mandalay, Sagaing, PyinOoLwin, Nay Pyi Taw and Pyawbwe," said Khaing Hnin Wai.

Khaing Hnin Wai's philanthropic group, in collaboration with other well-wishers, had already contributed food supplies, household items and cash donations worth around K10 billion to earthquake-stricken communities in Mandalay. — ASH/MKKS

Top vocalists to light up the stage in upcoming concert

THE music concert featuring singers Myo Gyi and Y Wine will take place at Inya Lake Garden Hotel in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, starting at 7 pm on 20 June, as confirmed by singer Myo Gyi.

Singers Myo Gyi and Y Wine.

"It has been a long time since we met the Yangon audience. This will be an evening where the two of us, along with our friends, reunite with the entire Iron Cross (IC) band that the audience has been eagerly waiting for. Fans of IC will also get to see the skilful performances of Chit San Maung again. So, let's meet," said Myo Gyi.

The music concert will be held at 7 pm on 20 June, featuring vocal performances by the singers, supported by the Iron Cross Band providing excellent live music accompaniment. — ASH/KZL

I Say What I See: Moving Forward with Both Consciousness and Conscientiousness

FROM PAGE 9

YET, as I took on editorial responsibilities, conscientiousness became equally vital – the ethical obligation to shape narratives thoughtfully, preserve authenticity, and guide content with diligence. Editing is more than refining words; it demands conscious decision-making to honour truth and conscientious commitment to uphold journalistic integrity. Every editorial choice is a balancing act between awareness and responsibility, an interplay I have navigated throughout my career.

Throughout my journey from the unpredictable life of a seafarer to the meticulous world of editing, consciousness and conscientiousness have shaped not only my decisions but also my growth as an individual. As a seafarer, consciousness was a survival instinct, an ever-present awareness of my surroundings, while conscientiousness demanded unwavering dedication to duty. As an editor, consciousness evolved into perceptiveness, a deep understanding of language and meaning, while conscientiousness became the ethical foundation of my work, ensuring integrity in every piece I shaped.

Though distinct, these qualities are inseparable in the pursuit of personal and professional excellence. Consciousness is the awareness that guides our perceptions, while conscientiousness is the principled action that follows. Together, they drive individuals forward, allowing us to navigate challenges with clarity and responsibility.

To my readers, I offer this reflection: in whatever path you take, embrace awareness and responsibility as complementary forces. Let consciousness inform your decisions, and let conscientiousness anchor them in integrity. If my experiences, however humble, offer even a small lesson, I urge you to draw from them as you see fit, applying them to your pursuit of growth and understanding.

NATIONAL

Riverside residents warned to stay vigilant against flooding

A riverbank collapse in Ganchaung village, Ganchaung village-tract, Nyaungdon, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, in November 2024.

PEOPLE living on the river banks with normal influx, where the strength of the soil has decreased, and areas that were severely affected by the earthquake should not neglect the flood risk, said U Hlaing Min Oo, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Social Relief Organization Central Committee.

"As a consequence of the earthquake, many visible cracks in the soil have appeared. They were widespread. Therefore, we urge the people living along the riverside not to neglect the risk of flooding in areas where the soil strength has decreased, and areas that were severely affected by the earthquake," he said.

The Myanmar Social Relief Organization is working with relevant departments and agencies to respond to natural disasters that occur throughout Myanmar. There have been floods in Upper Myanmar in the past few days, and as the water can enter central Myanmar through the Ayeyawady River, people are urged to be careful.

The organization, with its track record of previous successful rescue operations, has systematically managed rescue equipment donated by various donors and trained the rescuers.

People living around the lower reaches of the Ayeyawady and other rivers are advised to notify relevant agencies as well as nearby social relief organizations, and to evacuate to safe areas for themselves. — MT/ZN

A man having a test for COVID-19.

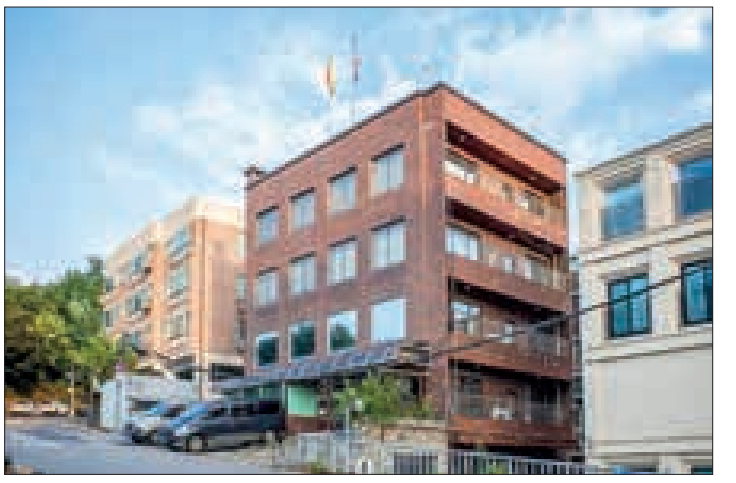
COVID-19 case detected in Kyaikto

A 25-year-old man was infected with COVID-19 in Mon State's Kyaikto Township under the township hospital's laboratory test result, said the township health department.

He has just moved from Yangon three months ago, lived at a rented house in a ward and tested positive for the virus after he had a health test for his job.

He hasn't reportedly received any dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, and he has been under observation at the hospital despite good health conditions. — MT/ZS

Taxpayers must visit ME Seoul after bank transactions



The Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

THE Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Korea has announced that Myanmar citizens who will pay taxes must make payments at the bank on the day or one day before they are actually going to visit the embassy, and they must also come to the embassy without fail.

Income tax payments of Myanmar citizens working in the Republic of Korea were accepted in cash previously, but starting from 12 May, they are required to pay the tax in person to the embassy's bank account and present the original bank deposit slip at the embassy for verification and receipt issuance.

Currently, some taxpayers are found to have made payments to the bank but have not come to the embassy to withdraw the receipt. Therefore, taxpayers are advised to pay their taxes to the bank on the day or one day before they come to the embassy.

The embassy has advised that tax payments should not be made to the bank on 30 June, 31 July, 29 August, 30 September, 31 October, 28 November, and 31 December. Without complying with these requirements, the embassy will not accept or carry out, it stated. — MT/ZN

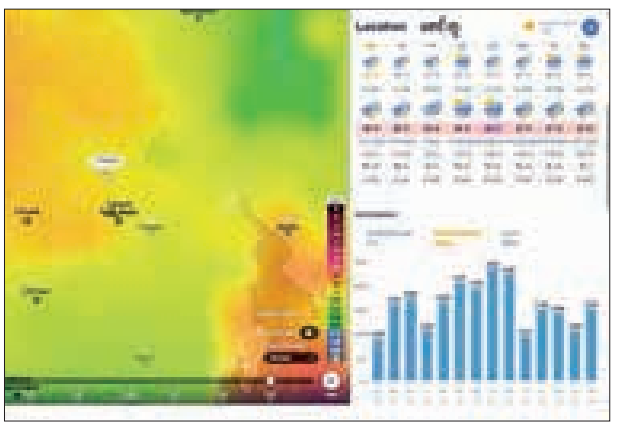
Bago River under watch as flood preparations begin

THE weather chart shows the possibility of heavy rain in the upper Bago River (Zaungtuu) and downtown Bago.

U Win Naing, a meteorologist, said on 10 June morning that the Bago River needs to be watched, and he urged wards situated in the lowland to start preparation as there is a higher chance of flash floods.

It is about six feet away from the river has approached the danger point on 10 June, and the water has ascended above five feet in 24 hours.

In the next 24 hours, it will rain heavily in the upper Bago River (Zaungtuu) and downtown Bago, so the river will flood to its danger point of 28.85 feet in the next 48 hours, he said. Rain will continue over the next days in Zaungtuu and Bago, he added. — MT/ZS



ECONOMY
WORLD

110,000 trips: China-Europe freight train service embraces new progress

The 110,000th China-Europe freight train departs from Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, 10 June 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE 110,000th China-Europe freight train departed from Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province on Tuesday morning, marking a milestone in the service's high-quality development.

Loaded with 55 containers of home appliances, including LCD monitors and refrigerators worth nearly 20 million yuan (about US$2.78 million), the train will exit China via northern Inner Mongolia's Erenhot Port, the largest land port on the China-Mongolia border, before arriving in Europe in 17 days, said Gao Yitian, an official from the Jiaozhou branch of Jinan Railway Logistics Center.

As a witness, Gao said that over the past decade, the China-Europe freight train service has expanded dramatically, not just in volume, but also in reach, cargo diversity, and efficiency. The international logistics network in Shandong has transported not only Chinese exports but also cross-border goods from Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Southeast Asian countries.

"I believe that these trains will continue to deliver more 'Made in China' products while providing better services for countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative and people there," Gao added.

As of now, a total of 128 Chinese cities have launched China-Europe freight train service, reaching 229 cities in 26 European countries and over 100 cities in 11 Asian countries. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks rise as outcome of US-China trade talks awaited

TOKYO stocks rose Tuesday for a third straight trading day, with some gains erased as investors cautiously awaited the outcome of US-China trade talks that could ease tensions between the world's two largest economies.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 122.94 points, or 0.32 per cent, from Monday at 38,211.51. The broader Topix index finished 0.83 point, or 0.03 per cent, higher at 2,786.24.

On the top-tier Prime Market, gainers were led by marine transport, precision instrument and mining issues.

The US dollar briefly rose above the 145 yen line in Tokyo but later returned to the upper 144 yen level amid a wait-and-see mood as Washinton and Beijing plan to hold trade talks for a second day on Tuesday, dealers said.

A man walks past electronic boards showing the Japanese yen's rate against the US dollar (L) and the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (R) along a street in central Tokyo on 19 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 144.74-76 yen compared with 144.56-66 yen in New York and 144.12-14 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Monday.

The euro was quoted at $1.1391-1393 and 164.88-92 yen against $1.1414-1424 and 165.05-15 yen in New York and $1.1422-1424 and 164.62-66 yen in Tokyo late Monday afternoon.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond ended at 1.475 per cent, up 0.005 percentage point from Monday's close, with fears growing that Japan's fiscal health will worsen as the ruling bloc is considering what critics have called an election-driven cash handout programme.

The Nikkei stock index was lifted by shares of companies that have a business base in China after senior US officials made positive remarks following the conclusion of the first day of high-level bilateral trade talks Monday in London, brokers said. — Kyodo

Indonesia's forex reserves reach US$152.5 bln in May

INDONESIA recorded foreign exchange reserves of US$152.5 billion at the end of May 2025, the country's central bank announced on Tuesday.

Ramdan Denny Prakoso, executive director of Bank Indonesia's Communications Department, said the figure was "stable compared to the previous month." It was the same as April's reserves, which are also $152.5 billion.

"The stable level of reserves was supported by tax revenues, services income, and foreign exchange earnings from oil and gas, despite the need for government external debt payments and exchange rate stabilization measures amid ongoing global financial market uncertainty," Ramdan added.

The figure is equivalent to financing 6.4 months of imports or 6.2 months of imports and government external debt payments, well above the international adequacy standard. – Xinhua

Inflows of remittance, forex reserves up for Nepal

NEPAL saw a surge in the inflows of remittances and foreign exchange reserves between mid-April and mid-May, the central bank said on Tuesday.

Remittances into the country stood at a record-high US$1.2 billion during the period, as against $845.8 million during the same period of last year, the Nepal Rastra Bank said in a report.

It noted that during the first 10 months of the current 2024-25 fiscal year ending in mid-July, Nepal had received remittances worth $9.96 billion, 10.5 per cent higher year-on-year.

Likewise, the forex reserves grew by 20.5 per cent to $18.4 billion by mid-May, up from $15.27 billion by mid-July last year.

"The foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports for 17.4 months and merchandise and services imports for 14.6 months," the report noted. – Xinhua

"Wine Olympics" returns to China as international expo opens

THE Fifth China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo opened Monday in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, with the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles (CMB) -- dubbed the "Wine Olympics" -- returning to China after seven years.

The four-day event has attracted over 1,100 domestic and international guests, featuring 14 activities such as a winery and wine exhibition, an innovation competition, and an art biennial.

Making its China debut in 2018 in Beijing, the CMB has this year brought together nearly 400 international judges and over 7,000 wine samples, including a record number of entries from China, according to CMB Chairman Baudouin Havaux.

"This event opens a new era for the global visibility of the Chinese wine industry," Havaux said.

He added that it is no coincidence the 32nd edition of the CMB is being held in Yinchuan, as it clearly reflects the growing strength of Chinese wine, especially that of Ningxia.

The region boasts a unique terroir for making top-class wine, with its prolonged sunshine and a cool, dry climate aiding the cultivation of grapes. After four decades of development, Ningxia has become China's largest wine-producing region. The eastern foot of Helan Mountain is widely regarded as a "golden zone" for grape growing and high-end wine production.

By the end of 2024, Ningxia had more than 600,000 mu (around 40,000 hectares) of wine grape plantations and an annual wine output of 140 million bottles. Its wines are exported to over 40 countries and regions. — Xinhua

People visit the Global Wineries Exhibition during the Fifth China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 9 June 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

New Zealanders enter workforce earlier, retire later: census

MORE young New Zealanders join the labour market and older adults are staying employed longer, according to the statistics department Stats NZ's latest census on Tuesday.

The census shows a significant rise in youth employment, with about 66 per cent of New Zealanders aged 15 to 29 employed in 2023, up from 57 per cent in 2013, Stats NZ said, adding the biggest increase was among 15 to 19-year-olds, whose employment rose to 45.1 per cent from 33.7 per cent a decade earlier.

This trend was attributed to a strong post-pandemic labour market, with low unemployment and high demand for workers following COVID-19 border restrictions, said Stats NZ spokesperson Rosemary Goodyear.

Regions with robust seasonal industries, such as Marlborough, Tasman, and Southland, have the highest youth employment rates, thanks largely to opportunities in agriculture, forestry, and viticulture, Goodyear said.

Older New Zealanders are also increasingly likely to remain in the workforce. The proportion of people aged 65 and over who are employed rose from 22 per cent in 2013 to 24 per cent in 2023, with the largest gains seen in the 70 to 74 age group, statistics show.

Better health, longer life expectancy, and financial pressures are highlighted as key factors behind this trend, with employment among older women rising at a faster pace, Goodyear said. — Xinhua

Pakistan's exports rise 7% in FY2024-25, led by IT sector

PAKISTAN'S exports rose by seven per cent in the outgoing fiscal year, reaching US$26.9 billion, supported by strong performance in the country's Information Technology (IT) sector, the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25 showed on Monday.

The survey, unveiled by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, highlighted the significant contribution of the IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS) sector, which posted a 23.7 per cent year-on-year increase in exports during July to March, amounting to $2.825 billion.

Aurangzeb noted that freelancers earned around $400 million during the fiscal year, reflecting the growing role of the digital gig economy in driving export growth. The IT and ITeS sector generated a trade surplus of $2.4 billion, the highest among all service industries, offering a timely boost to the external sector amid broader economic adjustments.

"Pakistan's IT sector has the potential to be a game-changer in addressing external imbalances," said Aurangzeb, adding that the government aims to support the industry through targeted reforms and incentives. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (215N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (215N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (520W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (520W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-6-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Abbas tells Macron supports demilitarization of Hamas

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas attends the 32nd Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Central Council session in Ramallah on 23 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

PALESTINIAN president Mahmud Abbas has said that Hamas "must hand over its weapons" and called for the deployment of international forces to protect "the Palestinian people", France announced on Tuesday.

In a letter addressed on Monday to French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who this month will co-chair a conference on a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians, Abbas outlined the main steps that he thinks must be taken to end the war in Gaza and achieve peace in the Middle East. "Hamas will no longer rule Gaza and must hand over its weapons and military capabilities to the Palestinian Security Forces," wrote Abbas.

He said he was "ready to invite Arab and international forces to be deployed as part of a stabilization/protection mission with a (UN) Security Council mandate." The conference at UN headquarters later this month will aim to resurrect the idea of a two-state solution — Israel currently controls large parts of the Palestinian territories. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

4-metre-long sinkhole appears in southwestern Japan, no one injured

A four-metre-long sinkhole opened near a busy shopping district in central Fukuoka on Tuesday morning, forcing a closure of the area, though no injuries were reported.

Police received an emergency call at 9:50 am reporting a collapsed sidewalk along a major road in the city. The hole, which spanned both the road and the sidewalk, measured about two metres wide and two metres deep, they said.

Construction work on a rainwater drainage system has been underway nearby since last month, local authorities said, adding that surrounding soil may have seeped into the pipes through gaps, causing the surface to collapse.

"I saw a hole in the ground around 10 am, and it doubled in size within about 30 minutes," said a 45-year-old thrift store worker near the site.

The incident comes amid heightened public attention on sinkholes, following one earlier this year in Yashio, Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo, that swallowed a truck and its driver. — Kyodo

Millions of eggs recalled in US after dozens sickened with salmonella

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said more than 20 million eggs have been recalled after 21 people were hospitalized with salmonella.

The eggs, distributed by the August Egg Company, were sold to retailers including Walmart Inc and Safeway Stores Inc between 3 February and 19 May. The sell-by dates ranged from 4 March to 19 June, the FDA said with its full list of brands involved.

August Egg Company recalled the eggs on 6 June, and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said it was opening an investigation into the outbreak.

Overall, 79 people across seven states got sick with a strain of salmonella linked to the eggs, according to a statement from the CDC. Bloomberg News reported on Monday that California has recorded 63 people sick with salmonella. Nevada and Washington have four people who are sick. Arizona, New Jersey, Nebraska and Kentucky have reported three people or less. — Xinhua

South Korea in 'final stages' to sign major tank deal with Poland

SOUTH Korea is in the "final stages" of negotiations to potentially sign a major deal to supply K2 tanks to Poland, according to South Korea's Defence Acquisition Programme Administration on Tuesday.

In 2022, the two countries signed a $13.7 billion arms deal -- Seoul's largest to date -- which included South Korean K2 tanks and fighter jets for Poland, Ukraine's ally and neighbour.

The negotiations for the potential upcoming deal -- part of the broader 2022 agreement -- are "in the final stages, with both governments and companies working to expedite its conclusion", an official from South Korea's Defence Acquisition Programme Administration told AFP.

While the agency did not disclose the amount, it said if signed, the deal would be the "largest ever based on a single weapon system".

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that the potential deal is worth around $6 billion, with the country's Hyundai Rotem set to manufacture 117 tanks and Poland's state-owned Polish Armaments Group producing 63 locally.

Yonhap reported that the signing ceremony is scheduled to take place in late June in Poland, but the Defence Acquisition Programme Administration said the "signing schedule for the second contract has not yet been finalized". — AFP

(FILES) Visitors look at a K2 tank at the Hyundai Rotem stall during the Defence Expo Korea (DX Korea) in Goyang, west of Seoul on 21 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Team Myanmar secures back-to-back wins with electrifying fan support

Myanmar football fans are passionately cheering during the Myanmar-Pakistan match.

Than Paing scored Myanmar's only winning goal. **PHOTOS: SOE NYUNT THAW**

MYANMAR'S national men's football team defeated Pakistan 1-0 in the 2027 Asian Cup third qualifying round Group E second match held on 10 June at Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon.

This victory marked Myanmar's second consecutive win in the third round, boosting hopes for advancing. Myanmar won both home matches against Afghanistan and Pakistan. Over 30,000 passionate Myanmar football fans filled Thuwunna Stadium to cheer for the team, which secured three points.

Despite some injured players, Myanmar's lineup included the main players, including Hein Htet Aung, Maung Maung Lwin and Than Paing. Myanmar played aggressively from the start, while Pakistan responded strongly, aiming to score. Myanmar's only goal came in 41 minutes from Than Paing, giving Myanmar the lead, which they maintained until the final whistle. The second half saw substitutions and attacking efforts from both sides, but the score remained unchanged.

Myanmar currently holds six points from two matches in Group E, while Pakistan has lost both matches without scoring. Myanmar will face Syria away on 9 October in their third group match. — KZL

Man City signs defender Ait Nouri from Wolves

MANCHESTER City has completed the signing of Algerian left-back Rayan Ait Nouri from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Ait Nouri has agreed a five-year contract after passing a medical over the weekend and will cost City 31 million pounds (US$42 million).

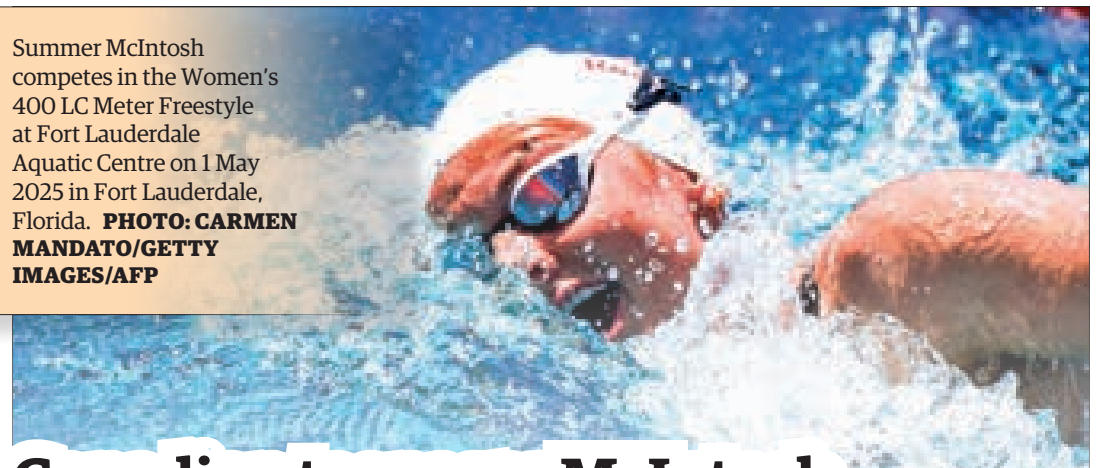
"Manchester City is delighted to announce the signing of Rayan Ait Nouri from Wolverhampton Wanderers. The 24-year-old left-back has penned a five-year deal at the Etihad Stadium, meaning he will remain at the club until the summer of 2030," informs the Man City website.

"It was an easy decision. My choice was Manchester City in the beginning - what I said with my family, I want to play for this team - I like how they play. I am very happy to be here - it is a big pleasure for me," said Ait Nouri.

"We know the team and they have shown the last few years they were the best team in the world. The players are amazing and the coach also - it will be a pleasure to train with Pep Guardiola. "I have come here to learn and show also what I can do, and I will give my best," he added.

The defender should give balance to a team that lacked a specialist left-back last season and he becomes the club's first signing of the summer.

Ait Nouri's deal has been finalized in time for him to take part in the FIFA Club World Cup, with City's first match against Moroccan side Wydad AC in Philadelphia on 18 June. — Xinhua



Summer McIntosh competes in the Women's 400 LC Meter Freestyle at Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Centre on 1 May 2025 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. **PHOTO: CARMEN MANDATO/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

Canadian teenager McIntosh smashes 200m medley world record

SUMMER McIntosh smashed the decade-old world record in the women's 200-metre individual medley on Monday, touching the wall in two minutes 05.70 seconds for her second record at the Canadian swimming trials.

The 18-year-old eclipsed Hungarian Katinka Hosszu's mark of 2:06.12 set at the 2015 World Championships to become the first woman to duck under 2:06. It was triple Olympic gold medallist McIntosh's second world record of the meet following her 400m freestyle world record on Saturday.

The gifted Canadian teenager had also impressed during Sunday's victory in the 800-metre freestyle, clocking the third-fastest time in history in an event not typically regarded as her strongest. Yet McIntosh showed no signs of fatigue with another dazzling performance to delight the crowd in British Columbia on Monday. "Overall really happy with that time and always just trying to keep pushing forward," McIntosh said after her record-breaking display.

"It's awesome. 200-metre is my main race out of my top five or six races where I really have to execute perfectly. "There's no room for mistakes and it's kind of a sprint event for me, so I'm really happy with that. It gives me a lot of confidence heading into Singapore," added McIntosh, referring to next month's World Championships. — AFP

Abbas tells Macron supports demilitarization of Hamas
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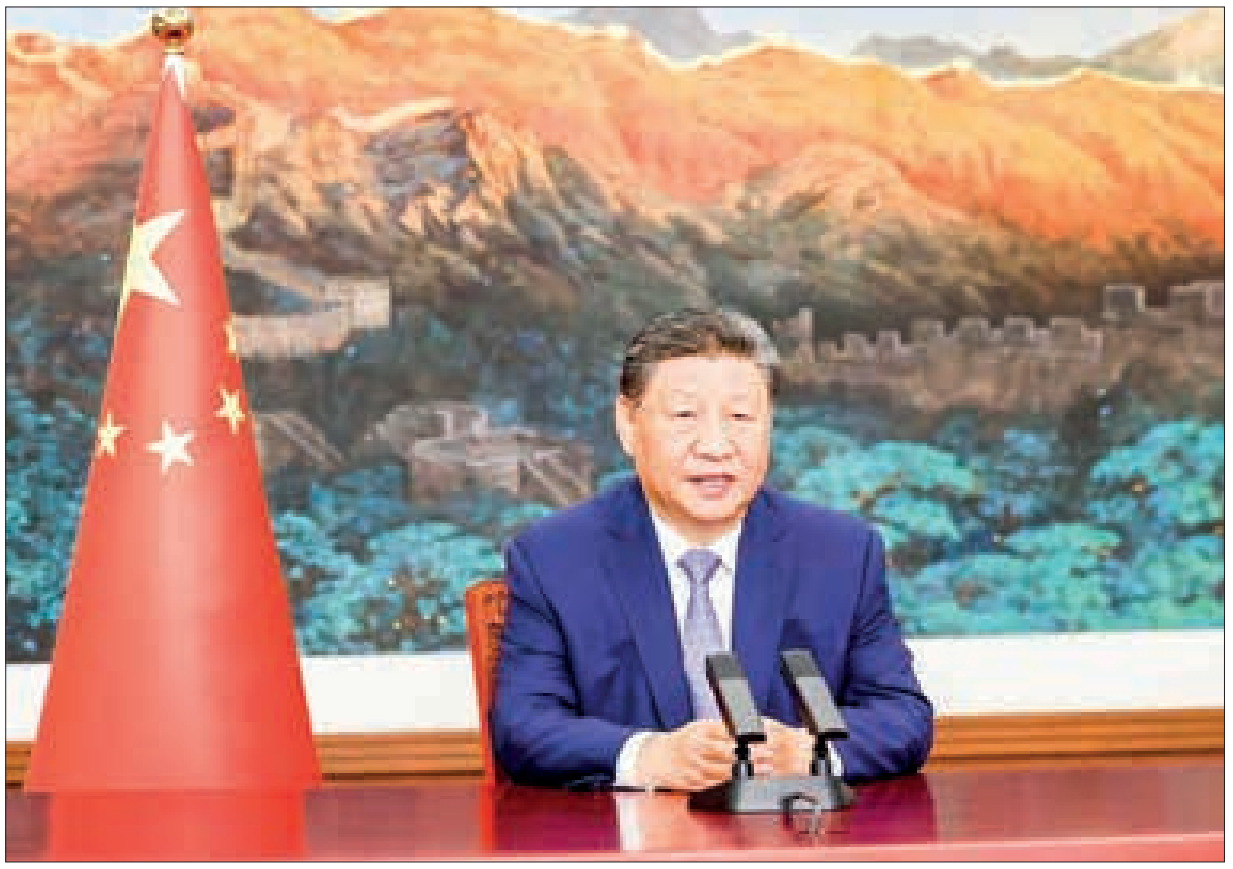
WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech via video link at the Leaders Meeting on Climate and the Just Transition, 23 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Xi urges China, S Korea to lift strategic cooperative partnership to higher level

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Tuesday that China and South Korea should lift their strategic cooperative partnership to a higher level, so as to deliver more benefits to the two peoples and bring greater certainty to the turbulent regional and international landscapes.

Xi made the remarks during a telephone conversation with South Korean President Lee Jae-myung.

Extending congratulations once again to Lee on his election as South Korean president, Xi said that China and South Korea are close neighbours that cannot be moved away from each other.

Over the past 33 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries have transcended differences in ideology and social systems, and actively advanced exchanges and cooperation across various fields, thus contributing to each other's success and achieving common development, he said.

A sound, stable and ever-deepening China-South Korea relationship, Xi said, conforms to the trend of the times, serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples, and contributes to regional and global peace, stability, development and prosperity. — Xinhua

Australian study reveals how COVID-19 virus continues to evolve

AUSTRALIAN researchers published new findings on Tuesday revealing how rapidly SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind COVID-19, evolves, offering crucial insights that could aid in forecasting and combatting future variants.

Researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) tracked the genetic evolution of SARS-CoV-2 over five years by serially passaging 11 samples from nine major variants, including Alpha, Delta, and Omicron, to observe how the virus mutates over time, according to a release from UNSW Sydney.

By studying the virus in a controlled environment, researchers could observe its natural evolutionary pathways without the unpredictable variables of real-world infections, said the study's lead author, Charles Foster, from UNSW's School of Biomedical Sciences. This approach helps anticipate which mutations may arise next, allowing scientists and public health officials to better prepare vaccines and treatments, Foster said. – Xinhua

10 dead in Austria school shooting: mayor

TEN PEOPLE died on Tuesday after a suspected shooter opened fire in a school in the southeastern Austrian city of Graz, the local mayor was quoted as saying.

Several students and at least one adult, as well as the suspected shooter, were among the dead, mayor Elke Kahr confirmed to Austrian press agency APA.

School shootings are much more rare in Europe than in the United States but in recent years Europe has been shaken by attacks at schools and universities, that were not connected to terrorism.

"Currently, a police operation is underway... The reason for the deployment was that gunshots were heard in the building," the police said on X, confirming the attack in the city of Graz.

Police and interior ministry officials could not immediately be reached by AFP.

"The situation is very unclear at the moment," police sources told Austria's APA news agency. – AFP

Canada U-turn: India "should be" at G7 table

CANADIAN Prime Minister Mark Carney has invited his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, to attend the upcoming G7 leaders' summit that will take place in the Canadian province of Alberta later in the month.

"Today, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, spoke with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. The two leaders discussed the longstanding relationship between Canada and India, including deep people-to-people ties and significant commercial links. Importantly, there was agreement to continued law enforcement dialogue and discussions addressing security concerns. Prime Minister Carney extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to attend Canada's 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta," the office said in a statement.

The G7 meeting will take place from 15 to 17 June. Modi has agreed to participate.

Prime Minister Carney had to defend inviting Narendra Modi amid India-Canada dispute.

In 2023, Canada accused Modi's government of murdering a leader of the Khalistan separatist movement that Canada and the US shelter on their territories. — SPUTNIK

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**