

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Coffee cultivation to expand by 1,000 acres in Taninthayi Region

**T**aninthayi Region will expand its coffee plantations by 1,000 acres in the 2025-2026 financial year, as the crop is recognized as one of the region's potential commercial crops, according to the Taninthayi Region Agriculture Department.



Photos show coffee saplings at a nursery in Taninthayi Region (above) and coffee beans (left photo). **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

With suitable water sources, land conditions and climate, Taninthayi Region is not only home to perennial crops such as rubber, oil palm and coconut but also favourable for cultivating Robusta coffee. Due to these advantages, the department is implementing plans to expand coffee cultivation across the region this year.

"In the 2024-2025 financial year, we expanded coffee by 1,874 acres in Taninthayi Region. As of today, the total area under coffee cultivation has reached 3,022 acres. In Myeik District alone, 940 acres were added in 2024-2025, bringing the district's

total to 1,200 acres. For 2025-2026, we plan to expand by 1,000 more acres region-wide, including 500 acres in Myeik District. We have already nurtured 170,000 coffee seedlings for distribution," said an official from the regional Agriculture Department.

Coffee farmers in these areas are receiving the seedlings free of charge from the department. Farmers are also supported with technical advice on common cultivation issues, such as soil quality, good seed varieties, pest and disease control, and planting techniques. These services are available at any time through the re-

spective district and township agriculture offices.

"Coffee trees are planted at the beginning of the rainy season, in June. They start bearing fruits in their fourth or fifth year. Harvesting takes place in December and January. Locally grown coffee is also being exported," added the official.

Moreover, land-use efficiency is being improved by planting coffee as an intercropping crop between other perennial crops like rubber and areca palm. The plan also aims to increase farmers' income, improve livelihoods, create local job oppor-

tunities, and help Myanmar coffee enter international markets. To support this, the department is providing both training and free seedlings to farmers. Coffee plantations in Myeik District have been established in Taninthayi and Mawtaung townships, as well as in Bokpyin Township, with acreage expanding in targeted areas.

Farmers can maintain regular contact with the department for ongoing technical support. As coffee cultivation expands, farmers' incomes and the local socio-economic conditions are expected to improve. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/KZL

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Private Fine Art Teaching exhibition runs 31 May-2 June

### NATIONAL PAGE 7



Mobile trucks offer fair-priced food in Sagaing

## 390+ Japanese firms to hire 1,100 Myanmar workers

ACCORDING to statistics on the demand letters released by the Myanmar Embassy to Japan, more than 1,100 Myanmar workers would be recruited by up to 390 Japanese companies.

The embassy has carried out timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it said.

It verifies whether labour supervisory companies and factories, or companies which offered jobs in Japan, are officially established or not, and resubmits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is about 397 demand letters that the embassy submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification until 25 February 2025. According to it, over 360 Myanmar male workers and over 800 Myanmar female workers would be recruited by more than 390 Japanese companies.

The embassy stated on 15 May, more than 1,200 Myanmar workers would be employed by up to 300 Japanese companies. — MT/ZS



Myanmar workers seen at the airport.

# NATIONAL

## Empowering Minds: Strengthening Libraries and Fostering a Culture of Reading

EFFORTS are being strengthened to develop libraries and promote nationwide reading initiatives, enabling people to cultivate not only technical skills but also broader knowledge and wisdom.

*(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 of the Union held on 25 October 2024)*

### Public holiday announcement for Eid Al Adha Day

ACCORDING to Notification No 76/2025 issued by the State Administration Council, Eid Al Adha (Qurbani Eid) Day, which falls on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nayon 1387 ME (7 June 2025), is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

## Su Su San Memorial Garden established to honour late meteorologist

A mango garden, dedicating to U Tun Hla Aung who provided valuable weather forecasts helpful to farmers on the Facebook account Su Su San was created as a memorial to mark the second month anniversary of his demise, according to Ko Yenanthar Dingar, founder of Yenanthar Dingar planting group.



The mango garden, a memorial to Meteorologist Su Su San.

The memorial garden was set up in their Parahita park located on Yangon-Pyay-Magway-Mandalay Road in Yenangyoung Township on 28 May.

“It has been two months on 28 May that the meteorologist Su Su San, who contributed to all including us with his vocation, passed away. Just a few hours before he died, he wrote a post about mango trees that can give people shade with edible fruits, that is why we created this mango garden as a long-lasting good deed for him,” said Ko Yenanthar Dingar on his Facebook page.

For the memorial garden, Golden Bat organic fertilizer company provided organic fertilized soil. — MT/ZS

## “Chit Thaw Hninzi” series in HD quality to air in June

THE drama series titled “Chit Thaw Hninzi” (the Beloved Rose) will be broadcast in High Definition (HD) quality during the month of June, according to Academy Khin Wint Wah, who plays a leading role in the series.



This series is an original production of the Mahar Application, part of the Mahar Original Series lineup. The storyline and screenplay were written and directed by Aung Chan Lu.

“It is a drama series that explores themes of love in various forms of sacrifice. Despite the various ways love is portrayed, we want to share a message that genuine love is something truly magical. Please support us,” said actress Khin Wint Wah.

Promotional poster for the drama series “Chit Thaw Hninzi” (the Beloved Rose).

The series will feature 20 episodes and includes a cast of prominent artistes such as Academy Aye Chan Maung, Khin Wint Wah, Myat Kaythi Aung and many other supporting actors and actresses including Cindy Myat. — ASH/KZL

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 1 June 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 2 JUNE 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah and northern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Kayin and Rakhine states and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Mandalay Magway, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, 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 these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-13 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate to strong monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 JUNE 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 JUNE 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 JUNE 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 8 am MST on 1 June 2025)

ACCORDING to the 7:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina is observed as 3.5 feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Myitkyina Township, to take precaution measure. — 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)*

## MoI Union Minister inspects repair works at garment factories

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than arrived yesterday morning at No 8 Garment Factory in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region, to inspect the repair works on buildings, equipment, and the transformer damaged by the earthquake.

He met with employees to discuss the importance of factory officials planning ahead to

minimize losses from unforeseen natural disasters, systematically recording and conducting equipment repair work, emphasizing occupational safety during maintenance, continuously supervising and inspecting to prevent damage to fixed assets, and making concerted efforts to resume production at the factory as soon as possible.



This photo showcases Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspecting No 8 Garment Factory in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region.

After visiting the No 8 Garment Factory branch in Yamethin Township to inspect earthquake

damage, the Union minister instructed that machinery and equipment be repaired according

to specifications and practical plans be developed to resume factory operations. — MNA/TH

## Relief efforts underway in Myitkyina since the Ayeyawady River swells



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan encourages rescue teams who carry out rescue operation in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday.

RELIEF efforts have been underway in Myitkyina since the evening of 31 May, with ten flood relief camps assisting 4,020 people from 810 households, as the Ayeyawady River, having risen about 10 feet that morning, remains at 1,105 centimetres — 95 centimetres below the danger level of 1,200 centimetres—causing flooding in low-lying areas.

Under the supervision of the state government, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan inspected flood relief camps, assessed the efforts of state government members in carrying out relief work,

reviewed readiness of rescue boats and equipment, evaluated arrangements for swift evacuations, and observed search and rescue operations using boats. He urged flood relief teams to continuously monitor the situation, inform the public, conduct timely search and rescue operations, and presented awards to the rescue teams.

He also inspected the flood relief camp at No 12 Basic Education High School in Lekon (Zeelun) Ward, reviewing the conditions of 1,228 evacuated people from 151 households. He delivered encouraging speeches to the flood victims and provided

them with rice, oil, eggs, instant noodles, porridge sachets, and drinking water for their families.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister, accompanied by Commander of the Northern Command Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Htwe, and senior Tatmadaw officers, looked into the systematic deployment of Tatmadaw members and firefighters for search and rescue operations, the readiness of rescue boats and vehicles, and the flood rescue camp opened at Aungzay Yanaung Monastery, where over 500 people from 122 households had been relocated. — MNA/TH

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# NATIONAL

## Volunteers, residents tirelessly participate in rescue and rehab efforts

MEMBERS of various organizations and residents participate in rescue and rehabilitation efforts in quake-affected areas.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Myat Kyaw and Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected collapsed Myatheintan Pagoda caused by the Mandalay earthquake and condition of Mingun bell in Mingun region of Sagaing Township yesterday.

They presented 18 kinds of personal goods and foodstuffs provided by the Department of Disaster Management to Mingun Buddhist Home for the Aged and cash to older persons. They also viewed collapsed Pahtodawgyi and the lion statue and Mingun Sitagu main water pump station. They also presented 18 kinds of personal goods and foodstuffs to Mingun region police station and inspected damaged staff hous-

ing. They donated foodstuffs and alms for venerable monks from Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery on Momeik Hill of Mingun mountain range and inspected clearing of the collapsed monastery and viewed round damaged school buildings in Chaungpauk and Pengahse villages.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) looked into renovation of damaged Shwekyetkya Pagoda in Amarapura Township. He also observed repairing of damaged pagodas in Aungmyethazan Township and fulfilled the needs.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) over-looked dredging of drains along Yangon-Mandalay highway in Kyaukse and repairing of buildings at the rural health centre in Phyauxeikpin Village and sales of construction materials at the



Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Myat Kyaw and Lt-Gen Thet Pon view collapsed Myatheintan Pagoda in Mingun of Sagaing Township yesterday.

factory prices to the people. He also looked into preparations to hold the religious examinations at Taikyaung Buddhism Learning Centre in Singaing Township.

While in Singaing, he inspected the quake-affected natural gas-powered plant of Power Gen Kyaukse Company Ltd. Seven of eight generators have

been repaired at the plant. Each engine can generate 18.471 megawatts. So, the plant can feed 129.297 megawatts to the national grid per day. — MNA/TTA

## PDF terrorists plant mines to spread fear and disrupt daily life of local people in Pakokku Township

PDF terrorists have been planting and detonating mines in towns, villages, wards, rural areas, roads, and bridges with the intent to instil fear among the public, disrupt the peaceful livelihoods of the public, obstruct transportation and the flow of goods, and create an atmosphere of terror.

In Pakokku Township of Magway Region, improvised mines were discovered yesterday on public roads used by residents. Acting on tip-offs from local people who oppose terrorism, security personnel conducted



Homemade landmines planted by PDF terrorists along the road in Pakokku Township.

a search and found improvised mines planted along the roadside by PDF terrorists. These devices were safely dismantled and cleared in a systematic manner to prevent civilian casualties or injuries.

The public has strongly

condemned these acts of terror deliberately targeting innocent people, and has rejected such violent actions outright. Therefore, security forces are stepping up necessary security operations to ensure the safety of the public.

— MNA/KNN

## Global aid pours into Myanmar

AS of 1 June, a total of 3,740 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 67 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international rescue organizations, have been conducting emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. To date, 653 individuals have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 817 deceased persons have been recovered.

Local donors and philan-

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

Between 5 pm on 31 May and 5 pm on 1 June, 2.5 tonnes of Oral Cholera Vaccine-OCV arrived at Yangon International Airport, donated by Shanghai United Cell Biotechnology Co Ltd from China.

These medicines have been transferred to the Ministry of Health for using in healthcare activities. — MNA/KZL

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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar-China media dialogue marks 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations

THE Myanmar-China Media Dialogue commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was held yesterday morning at the Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, departmental officials, Minister Counsellor Ms Cao Jing and staff from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, guests, and participants in the discussion.

The ceremony opened with a musical performance by vocalists from Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and China Media Group, who sang the Chinese folk song "Blossoming Jasmine".

This was followed by the screening of a commemorative video clip titled "From Pauk-Phaw Friendship to more successful and warmer Myanmar-China Relations".

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint then delivered a speech, noting that this year marks the diamond jubilee of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations — a milestone of great significance for both nations. He expressed confi-



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint delivers speech at the Myanmar-China Media Dialogue commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar at the Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

dence that the theme of today's dialogue, "Walking hand in hand towards a shared future," reflects a commitment to deepening bilateral media cooperation, which will in turn strengthen the people-to-people bond between the two countries.

He praised the Chinese media's prompt and widespread coverage of the recent Mandalay earthquake, which greatly

supported Myanmar's search and rescue efforts as well as its reconstruction operations. He urged even closer collaboration to reinforce bilateral ties and promote mutual understanding among the peoples of both countries. He envisioned future cooperation shaped by mutual support and shared prosperity.

Following this, Minister Counsellor Ms Cao Jing deliv-

ered remarks. She highlighted the Chinese Embassy's high regard for the role of media and noted that the Myanmar-China Media Dialogue is held every three months. She explained that study tours and advanced training programmes are regularly arranged for Myanmar media professionals to visit China, helping them to witness the authentic aspects of Chinese

society. She added that the Chinese Embassy would continue to host exchange programmes and dialogues, aiming to deepen Myanmar media professionals' understanding of Chinese culture and the warmth and sincerity of the Chinese people.

The dialogue then proceeded with discussions divided into three sessions under the themes: "Media Cooperation in Times of Crisis: Reflecting the Shared Future of Myanmar-China Community", "Future Prospects for Media Collaboration in Gathering News on Post-earthquake Recovery, Development, and Public Welfare Efforts" and "Turning the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Myanmar-China Diplomatic Relations into an Opportunity: Exploring New Avenues of Cooperation in Diplomacy and Media Through a Modern Chinese Approach".

The discussions were led by officials from MRTV, the Department of Media Development, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies, the Myanmar Press Council, and China Media Group. — MNA/KNN

## Chinese, Myanmar artists showcase their artistic works from 31 May to 4 June



This photo depicts visitors enjoying artistic works of Myanmar and Chinese painters at China-Myanmar Friendship Art Exhibition.

A group art exhibition titled "China-Myanmar Friendship Art Exhibition" is be-

ing held from 31 May to 4 June, said U Maw Li Shwe, the chairman of the My-

anmar-China Calligraphy and Painting Association, who is one of the organizers of the exhibition.

Chinese and Myanmar artists display their oil and watercolour paintings and modern artworks at the exhibition held at Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township of Yangon Region. Moreover, the exhibition showcases Chinese calligraphy artworks and sculptures made of sandalwood and Indian Sandalwood.

Reportedly, more than 30 artistic works in different perspectives created by eight Chinese and Myanmar artists are also put on display at the exhibition.

U Maw Li Shwe said, "Coming 8 June marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar. To commemorate this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this event is being held with the intention of promoting collaboration and exchange in the field of painting between the two countries. The

exhibition features artworks by eight Myanmar-Chinese painters, as well as more than 20 Chinese calligraphy artworks and sculptures. These calligraphy pieces are composed of inspirational texts, and each painting carries its own meaning".

The artistic exhibition held for the first time aims to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China as well as to cooperate and exchange artistic experiences of Myanmar and Chinese artists

Myanmar artists Maw Li Shwe, Iris Win, Win Mg Shwe, Moe Thura, Thike Oo, Kyi Oo, Trangle Tun Naing and Forward Ye Myint display their artistic works.

The paintings in sizes of 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches and 18 by 18 inches are valued ranging from K500,000 to K1 million. The proceeds from sales of paintings will be donated to the fund for the Chinese Handwriting Contest. — ASH/TTA

# NATIONAL

## Vehicles, smuggled fuel seized in regions and states

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, special inspection teams conducted coordinated crackdowns on illegal trade between 29 May and 1 June in regions and states.

Inspection teams led by Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force carried out checks near Shwethanwin toll gate in Phayagyi of Bago Region. Authorities seized five vehicles carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods without valid documentation. The estimated value of the goods was K25.544 million. The vehicles included two Mitsubishi Fuso trucks, two Toyota Hiace vans, and one Yutong bus, worth around K200 million. The seizures were made in accordance with customs procedures. Authorities also confiscated 1.020 tonnes of illegal timber in Toungoo District, valued at K184,963, under the Forest Law.

Meanwhile, inspections conducted by Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force on the same dates led to the seizure



Smuggled rice cooker seized in Bago Region and an unregistered vehicle seized in Sagaing Region.



of 45 gallons of petrol and 12 gallons of diesel worth K28.17 million at the combined checkpoint on the Yadanabon Bridge in Sagaing. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Further inspections in Sagaing, Kalay, and Hkamti townships resulted in the confiscation of one unregistered vehicle and eight unregistered motorcycles, with an estimated value of K10.6 million. Action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 29 May, the combined teams impounded a motorboat (approximately K400 million) carrying 300 barrels of smuggled fuel

oil worth K120 million at the Anawrahta bridge checkpoint in Chauk and five unregistered motorbikes worth K3.7 million in Aunglan Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 30 May, the combined on-duty teams seized a Hyundai truck (approximately K25 million) carrying two kinds of foodstuffs valued at K11.184 million without official documents at the Thanlwin bridge (Tayokhla side) in Hpa-an Township, three kinds of foodstuffs worth K17.306 million without official documents

in a warehouse of Mingaladon Township, a Scania bus (approximately K65 million), heading to Mandalay from Yangon, carrying industrial materials worth K12.193 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K35 million), heading to Bamauk from Mandalay, carrying 13 kinds of industrial materials worth K12.608 million at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint and a Yutong bus (estimated value of K100 million), carrying three kinds of consumer goods worth K80.06 million without official documents on Yangon-

Mandalay Highway. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

The combined teams nabbed an unregistered motorbike (approximately K3.5 million) in Maubin Township, a Hino truck (approximately K30 million), heading to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying industrial material valued at K16.8 million without official documents on No 2 Highway, three kinds of industrial materials valued at K370.487 million from a container at the Thilawa Port. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

On 31 May, the combined teams confiscated a kind of industrial materials worth K12.83 million that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road on Tachilek-Kengtung road. The action was conducted following Customs procedures.

The Steering Committee reported 47 arrests on three consecutive days from 29 May to 1 June, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1.579 billion. — MNA/KZL/MKKS

## Private Fine Art Teaching exhibition runs 31 May-2 June

THE Mula Art Gallery at Botahtaung Township in Yangon Region hosts a group art exhibition titled Private Fine Art Teaching from 31 May to 2 June.

The exhibition showcases over 70 paintings by 27 artists, featuring a variety of styles, colours, and themes.

“The exhibition will include

works on diverse subjects and media and will be open from 10 am to 5 pm at Room E1-12 of the Secretariat, Yangon,” said the gallery manager.

The collection features paintings in various sizes, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. — ASH/KZL



Private Fine Art Teaching group exhibition takes place at the Secretariat Yangon.

## MPC holds graduation ceremony for second journalism training course 2025

THE graduation ceremony for the second journalism training course of 2025, organized by the Media Development Committee of the Myanmar Press Council and held weekly on Fridays since its start on 9 May, took place on 30 May at the council's office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

At the ceremony, Myanmar Press Council Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo and Second Vice-Chairman and Head of the Media Development Committee U Khin Maung Kyaw Din delivered speeches.

At the graduation ceremony, participants received certificates of completion from the MPC Chairman and Vice Chairman, along with central executives and trainers.

The programme includes subjects such as basic journalism, journalism English, mass communication, online



This photo showcases Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo of the Myanmar Press Council speaking at graduation of journalism training course on 30 May.

journalism, and print media journalism, with lessons taught in both Myanmar and English. Veteran journalists U Ko Ko Oo (Executive Director, MDEA), U Maung Maung Myint Thein (Sathmu Tekkatho), U Ye Min Soe (Maung Mauk-Wutlon) and U Myat Soe

(Hlaing) are serving as voluntary instructors.

The Myanmar Press Council plans to continue organizing such training courses, incorporating both internal and external journalism experts as instructors. — ASH/TH

# NATIONAL

## Mobile trucks offer fair-priced food in Sagaing



The photo shows a market truck selling foodstuffs at affordable prices to residents in Sagaing.

THE Ministry of Commerce and Sagaing Region government jointly arranged food trucks to sell basic foodstuffs, meat and eggs at fair prices at the quake-affected staff housing in Sagaing starting from 30 March, and yesterday marked 62 days of operation.

Yesterday, mobile trucks sold the basic foodstuffs, including rice, cooking oil, salt, beans, dried fish, egg and noodles to the departmental staff in Sagaing. Daily sales will continue in the coming days. — MNA/KZL

## Ye Township durian fruits command higher prices

ACCORDING to information from local growers and sellers, durians from Ye Township in Mon State are performing well, as they are fetching higher prices than last year.

Ye is a township located in the southern part of Mon State, known for its abundant fruit orchards and prominence in durian production. According to the Department of Settlement and Land Records, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, the durian plant cultivation area in Ye Township spans 2,344 acres, with an average yield of 2,478 fruits of durian per acre, resulting in a total yield of 5,808,432 durian fruits.

In Myanmar, durians from Ye Township in Mon State are renowned and are also cultivated in regions such as Kayin

State, Shan State, and Taninthayi Region.

“Last year, durian fruits didn’t fetch good prices because the yield was high,” a durian grower from Ye Township said, adding that small durian fruits are fetching good prices this year.

Durian fruits from Ye Township are primarily sold in the domestic market and are purchased not only for consumption but also for making jam.

“Not many local fruits are exported overseas; most are sold domestically and supplied to Upper Myanmar,” he continued.

The durian season in Myanmar occurs in May, June, and July, and the trees are now in full bloom. — MT/TH

## Low-interest home decoration loan to be offered



G Bank has offered low-interest home decoration loan.

IN partnership with Trends Design Furnishing, low-interest home decoration loan will be offered for those who dream of home sweet home, said G Bank.

It is one-year loan and aims to help customers who want to decorate their home partially or the whole but don’t want to make lump sum payment. For loan customers, G Bank will give umbrella as its monsoon promotion and Trends Design will offer chance to enjoy low interest.

With necessary documents, decoration loan can be applied in accordance with G Bank’s policy. In addition to apartments, any kind of buildings such as workshops, shops and offices are eligible for the home decoration loan, said Trends Design Furnishing Co, Ltd. — MT/ZS



This photo showcases durian fruits from Ye Township, in the domestic market.

## 38M+ fingerlings to be stocked nationwide in 2025-2026 FY

THE Department of Fisheries has announced plans to stock over 38 million fingerlings across Myanmar during the 2025-2026 financial year.

The fingerlings will be released mainly into the country’s major rivers — the Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Chindwin, and Sitoung. In addition, stocking will take place in other rivers, streams, lakes, and natural ponds nationwide. The primary species to be introduced include rohu, catla, and mrigal carp.

This nationwide stocking ini-



A ceremony for the stocking of fish fingerlings into a river in progress.

tiative is intended to promote the expansion of private fish farming, helping to generate more employment opportunities and household income for local communities. It is also expected to contribute to the country’s foreign income through increased fish production, thereby supporting the national economy.

Alongside this initiative, the Department of Fisheries is also providing basic training in fish farming to local farmers and those interested in fish hatchery. — ASH/KNN

## OPINION

### Remember to honour parents for giving births

**P**ARENTS – father and mother – are the great benefactors of each family in Myanmar culture. All Buddhists designate parents are one of the religiously sacred gems. Generally, offspring never violate and harm their parents. If they are affordable, they look after their parents with facilities as much as possible as prescribed by Myanmar culture and traditions.

Myanmar upholds the concept that parents are the benefactors who give birth to their children. They nurture their children from childhood to adulthood. Moreover, those parents continue their aid their offspring to comfortably walk along their paths as they choose. Actually, parents never see faults committed by their offspring due to holding up the forgiveness for all. Even so, parents never expect to receive anything from their children and they are always keen to serve their offspring as much as possible.

Aligned with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, many countries now view family and parenting support as essential to social policy, helping reduce poverty and inequality, and promoting overall well-being. As such, all offspring have to reciprocally look after their parents when they become senior citizens as part of paying back gratitude to their parents. If it becomes a tradition in the global community, all offspring and parents in generations will have the chance to build their lives safely.

identity, and economic stability.

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For 2025, the theme “Raising Parents” underscores that parenting is not innate but a learned skill. It highlights the need for time, resources, and support to help caregivers create a positive environment for their children. To mark the occasion, UNICEF will launch Parenting Month 2025 – a global campaign to empower caregivers. The initiative will feature real-life parenting stories, offer practical advice, and advocate for expanded access to parenting programmes and resources.

**S**OMETIMES a family seems to be a kind of gift given by nature. Some people tend to lead a married life but end their lives all by themselves just because of their personality traits, especially having had no family spirit since their birth, or other family background situations. It looks pretty easy to tie the knot with someone but quite difficult to be able to live a happy family life. Strangely enough, some are frightened of marriage simply because some women are afraid of childbirth itself or some men have little desire to bring up children. Despite this, lovemaking or marriage has always been an ancient human practice, as well as children can metaphorically be the tinkle of a small bell in a house, which means that children can make a sweet home. And also, a sweet home gives rise to a happy life. In a lovely and warm home will even be found some family psychology of interest.

**Psycho 1:** A daughter is more emotionally attached to her father while a son connects deeply with his mother. Whether it is right or wrong, this is because father and daughter or mother and son are not the same sex, I think. Naturally, humans like to cling to those who have different sexes from them more than those with the same sex as theirs. Because of this, daughters willingly rely on their fathers’ leadership and management, which mostly cannot be obtained from females, whereas sons only want their mothers’ care and love, which can rarely be seen in males. However, fathers will give the same opportunity to both their sons and daughters as sons or daughters or both are their children only as well as mothers will have the same love for all their children for the reason that they have got a maternal spirit since birth, which enables them to equally look after their children with compassion. There may be an exception – that is, some sons love their fathers and some daughters feel affection for their mothers, where the highly potential reason is that the children face a separate or divorced or adulterous family. In spite of this, most children rely upon their mothers, who live or even play together with them almost at all times.

**Psycho 2:** The eldest child of

## Family Psychology of Interest

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

ten carries the weight of responsibility more than the others. This usually happens in poor families and big families rather than in rich families and small families. Sometimes it can be found in families without a family head, particularly a father. But the fact that life is a struggle should be for the eldest children, boys in particular, in a house. Thus, there is a Myanmar saying, ‘An elder brother is in the place of a father and so is an elder sister’ (Akokyidot-aphaaya, Amakyidot-amiaya). Humorous to say, my mother gave birth to seven children. Among them, my eldest sister Ma Myaeng Aye dropped out just in Grade 2 and laboriously worked together with my mother. My elder brother Phoe Kyaw also threw his lot with us immediately after he left school in Grade 7. Those who were responsible for our family even included an uncle on my mother’s side Bagyi Tun Kyi. Of course, all family members may share the responsibilities of a family, probably making a difference to a greater or lesser degree, yet the eldest son or daughter in a family can do the most of it after the father.

**Psycho 3:** A son who respects his mother will naturally respect women. If a mother gives birth to a son, she will be the most responsible person regards as her son, I believe. The older a boy grows, the farther he stays from his father as well as the more disagreements are between them. At such a time, a mother becomes the key player in her family. She must be able to explain to his son critically and rationally whatever cases occur between his husband and son to an extent which is acceptable to him. A good son comes from a mother and a good fruit from the root, as the proverb goes. A mother has the responsibility of ensuring that her son is taught to respect his father. Sayama Kyi Aye once stated in her famous novel ‘Maung, Ko Ko and Myananda’ that if children see their parents having an argument in their presence, they can get a bad impression of them. So as to get respected, mother



Children raised in loving environments are more likely to express love and affection towards others. ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART

and father should avoid getting into an argument in the presence of their children like the plague whenever possible. Only a mother who treats her husband with respect will be passively respected by her son. He is self-assertive to express thanks to her. Also, only a son who has respect for his mother will be soft-hearted for every woman he meets. Otherwise, there will be a big problem in his married life, starting with no family spirit.

**Psycho 4:** Siblings who fight the most in childhood tend to become the closest in adulthood. As always, young siblings rarely get along well with each other, sometimes whether they have the same sex or different ones. Little siblings are always fighting due to food, clothes, pocket money or even an unexpected cause. But following a quarrel, they will come to terms quite soon. Such quarrelling makes them know about one another in the future. In other

words, they get to see each other’s likes and personal characteristics. Traditionally, children have the opportunity to come into their parents’ inheritance, especially after their death. At that time, these heirs will be able to abstain from undesirable problems with their eyes open while sharing the inheritance. Nevertheless, Myanmar people say ‘Blood talks’. What it means is that siblings get together or meet life sufferings together in important or urgent

situations no matter whether or not they were on bad terms with one another in their childhood. Blood is thicker than water, which means that family relationships are stronger than any others, according to Oxford.

**Psycho 5:** People who mimic their parents’ habits often do so unconsciously. It is said that home is the first birthplace of manners of children, the environment the second and school the third. At

home, parents are the role models of manners for children. As usual, sons like to imitate their fathers’ manners and daughters their mothers’. In general, children follow their parents’ talking style, actions, clothing and table manners to the letter. Some manners such as sweet talks and using polite or gentle language are very good whilst other manners like child abuse and domestic violence are bad at most. And many people are strongly of the opinion that children’s boorish behaviour and rude words may be due to their fathers and mothers respectively. Alternatively, if a father’s action is acceptable, his children will become well-bred as expected. Also if a mother’s talks are well-mannered, her children will speak softly and modestly for certain. Strange to say, some children can speak more early than expected when their parents are talkative at home.

**Psycho 6:** Children who grow up watching arguments often become peacemakers in their own lives. This is absolutely right. The way I see it, many children do not like their parents always arguing for any reason or too little purpose. Parent arguments without children’s emotional safety. Not only that, almost all arguments create nothing but a type of noise pollution in the environment. Any sensitive and high-strung child is scared of his or her hot-tempered parents to death so often. As far as I can see, a negative emotion called anger with effing and blinding might drive children to be of low intelligence development. As shown above, children look down on their fathers, who win or lose an argument with their mothers. People could stand overwork but not too much noise. Accordingly, young children have a long memory of bad childhood incidents and then no desire to bring this occurrence to their adulthood, mainly in their married lives. In this way, children who meet with frequent family arguments wish for a peaceful life.

**Psycho 7:** The more a parent sacrifices silently, the more their children subconsciously respect them. Sacrifice is a noble spirit that can hardly ever be done quite easily by a normal person. Among sacrifices made by differ-

ent people, a mother’s sacrifice is unrivalled in that mothers bravely make the supreme sacrifice to their future children, although knowing they could die amid such a final sacrifice. On occasions, a father is not afraid to sacrifice anything for his children. Nonetheless, not all children are aware of this sacrifice for the potential simple reason that they are very immature for their age, but perhaps unconsciously acknowledge it. It cannot be said that parents’ sacrifices are seen in every family as the universal truth since a Myanmar saying states ‘A mother cannot help dropping and trampling her child in the burning world’. That case has been one in a million until now, however. As Buddha Myatswa sermonized, people love themselves most. Even so, parents’ sacrifices for their children stretch into infinity so that they will fully appreciate it one day.

**Psycho 8:** A child raised in love grows up to give love effortlessly. Some children do not or dare not show affection for other children. Home is a house with love – there is no place like home. Many children beloved at home adore their other mates. That is why they have well known the pleasure of getting loved and can love their friends as a child. In all honesty, most children in every corner of the globe long for lots of love and affection from their biological parents, siblings and other strange elders. When they are not loved by others, they appear not to know how nice and innocent love is, to say nothing of caring for others. I can truthfully say that such children may even find it difficult to love themselves. Every free child, but with little life knowledge, is worth loving. Not surprisingly, a child hungering for love never grows on others.

After all, family psychology can be perceived next in all respects. Some families put elder children first instead of the eldest and the youngest children, on account of ill health or any other reason. Honest to say, I do not know if this is very fair or not. Surely, that is a kind of family psychology. Another family psychology will be viewed in the future as well.

## SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

# Recycling contaminated soil from Fukushima: Japan's dilemma

*The contaminated soil is currently stored in interim facilities near the nuclear plant, with a government commitment to find permanent storage by 2045.*



This photo taken on 24 April 2025 shows a farm worker checking on kiwi fruit vines at ReFruits Co., a company hoping to revitalise agriculture in the area by growing kiwi fruits, some five kilometres (three miles) from the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant in the town of Okuma, Fukushima prefecture.

**PHOTO: RICHARD A. BROOKS / AFP**

FOLLOWING the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, authorities removed 14 million cubic metres of contaminated soil to reduce radiation levels in the region. This decontamination effort was initiated after a massive earthquake and tsunami caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Although most areas have been declared safe, many evacuees remain hesitant to return due to ongoing radiation concerns. Young farmers, like 25-year-old Takuya Haraguchi, are working to revitalize the region's agricultural reputation.

The removed soil is currently stored in interim facilities near the nuclear plant, with the government promising to find

permanent storage solutions by 2045. Plans include using the soil for construction projects outside Fukushima, but finding willing recipients has proven challenging. The government has indicated it may symbolically recycle some soil for flower beds to demonstrate safety.

Approximately 75 per cent of the stored soil has radioactivity levels comparable to one X-ray per year, and tests show that using it in construction has not resulted in increased radiation levels. However, local communities have opposed proposals to relocate the soil to popular areas, prompting the environment ministry to enhance public communication about the safety of its plans. — AFP

## Trump to announce new nominee to lead NASA, replacing Musk ally

THE White House said on Saturday that US President Donald Trump will soon announce a new nominee for the head of NASA, following his decision to withdraw former candidate Jared Isaacman, a close ally of Elon Musk.

"After a thorough review of prior associations, I am hereby withdrawing the nomination of Jared Isaacman to head NASA," Trump wrote on his Truth Social site. "I will soon announce a new Nominee who will be Mission

aligned, and put America First in Space."

Late last year, Trump named Isaacman, a billionaire and private astronaut, as the nominee for NASA chief. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee approved his nomination in late April. Isaacman, a close associate of Musk and a major client of his company SpaceX, has purchased several private spaceflights from the company with hundreds of millions of dollars. — Xinhua

## Dushanbe hosts high-level international conference on glacier preservation

THE capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, hosted the first high-level international conference on glacier preservation on Friday, the country's Khovar news agency reported.

The event brought together more than 2,500 participants, including experts from 80 countries, heads of government delegations, senior representatives of regional and international

organizations, research institutions, and development partners.

The conference was organized within the framework of the International Year of Glacier Preservation, an initiative proposed by Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and endorsed during the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The opening of the con-

ference marked the launch of a new global initiative: the Dushanbe Process for Glacier Preservation. In his keynote speech, Rahmon said the outcomes of the conference, including the Dushanbe Declaration and the Dushanbe Glaciers Appeal, would serve as a foundation for coordinated international action on glacier preservation. — Xinhua



Glacier preservation efforts in 2025 focus on raising global awareness about the critical role of glaciers and the impacts of their melt, particularly in the context of climate change and water resources.

**PHOTO: UNESCO**

## Sudden hailstorm lashes Egypt's Alexandria

AN unseasonal rainstorm battered the Egyptian city of Alexandria on Saturday, flooding roads and damaging seafront businesses in the latest bout of erratic weather to hit the region.

Hailstones pelted the city overnight, forcing people to flee cafes as gusts of wind blew the ice pellets through windows,

according to footage posted on social media.

Lightning lit up the skies and underpasses were submerged.

Alexandria governor Ahmed Khaled Hassan raised the alert level and emergency crews worked through the morning to tow cars and clear debris. — AFP

## From retro games to AI workouts, China's children jump into new era of school sports

*Their innovative routines have gone viral on social media, attracting significant attention.*



An AI-enabled screen updates a leaderboard in real time. PHOTO: XINHUA

IN rural eastern China, children at Tangjian Central Primary School in Suqian are revitalizing traditional games like Cat's Cradle and jumping rope, transforming them into modern, engaging team activities.

This innovative approach blends creativity, agility, and coordination, capturing the attention of social media users with viral videos showcasing their routines. Principal Geng Jinbao notes that skipping ropes have become the school's signature sport, with students forming performance teams that have

won national titles.

Recent educational reforms have shifted focus from rigorous academics to holistic development, allowing more time for physical activity. Schools across China are embracing creative sports activities, integrating traditional cultural elements like martial arts and lion dancing into fitness routines.

Additionally, AI technology is being utilized to personalize workouts and enhance physical education, with schools in Beijing implementing AI-powered facilities to monitor and improve

students' performance.

With rising concerns about childhood obesity and myopia, the Chinese government mandates at least two hours of daily physical activity for students. Experts emphasize the importance of sports in building emotional resilience and character, advocating for a balanced approach that fosters teamwork and personal growth.

Students like Chen Haoyu have gained confidence and life lessons through sports, highlighting the transformative power of physical activity. — Xinhua

## Vienna calling: Strauss's 'Blue Danube' waltzes into outer space

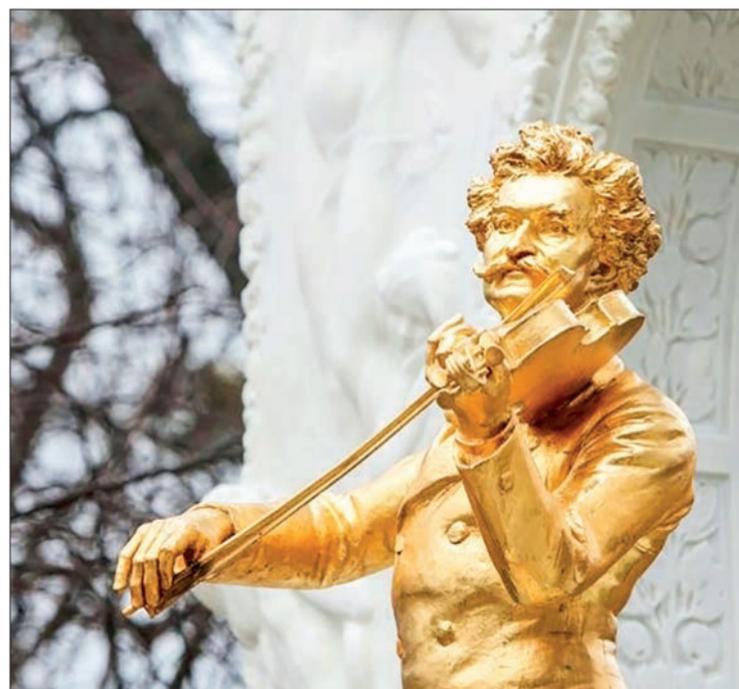
AUSTRIAN composer Johann Strauss II's iconic waltz, "The Blue Danube," has become synonymous with space travel, particularly after its use in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film "2001: A Space Odyssey." To celebrate Strauss's 200th birthday, the European Space Agency (ESA) broadcast a live performance of the waltz into space on Saturday.

The Vienna Symphony Orchestra performed the piece in Vienna, with the concert streamed online and shown at public screenings in locations including New York's Bryant Park and near the ESA's antenna in Spain.

The performance was transmitted via a 35-metre satellite dish at ESA's Cebreros ground

station, sending the music as electromagnetic waves. Norbert Kettner, director of the Vienna tourist board, referred to the waltz as an "unofficial space anthem," noting its frequent use during docking maneuvers of the International Space Station (ISS). The concert's director, Jan Nast, emphasized music's universal ability to convey hope and joy.

Once transmitted, the signal will reach NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft, the most distant man-made object, in about 23 hours. This initiative aims to rectify the absence of "The Blue Danube" from the Voyager Golden Records, which include various sounds and music from Earth. — AFP



This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Austria's world-famous waltz composer Johann Strauss II. PHOTO: AFP

## Selena Gomez proudly supports Taylor Swift's music milestone

SELENA Gomez and Taylor Swift exemplify the ideal friendship, often referred to as "best friend goals."

Recently, Gomez expressed her pride for Swift on Instagram after Swift announced that she now owns the masters of her first six albums. Gomez shared her excitement with a heartfelt message: "YES, YOU DID THAT, TAY. SO PROUD!" Swift confirmed her

achievement by posting photos of herself surrounded by her early albums, referencing her hit song "You Belong with Me" from the album Fearless.

This milestone comes after a challenging period when Swift's music catalog was sold to music executive Scooter Braun without her consent, prompting her to re-record her albums as "Taylor's Version" to regain ownership.



Gomez and Swift have been friends since 2008. PHOTO: ANI

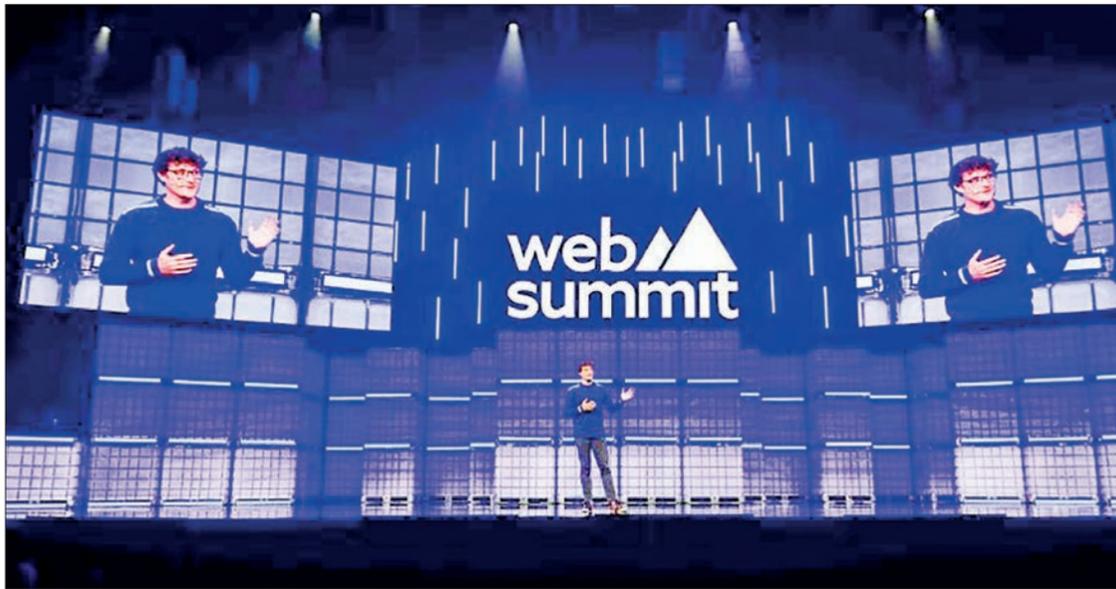
Gomez and Swift have been friends since 2008, having met through the Jonas Brothers.

In past interviews, Gomez fondly recalled their bond, highlighting their shared experiences and the humor in their early relationships. Their friendship continues to inspire fans, showcasing the strength and support that comes from true companionship. — ANI

# ECON: WORLD

## Silicon Valley VCs navigate uncertain AI future

*Silicon Valley's venture capital landscape is split into two groups: those with money to invest in AI giants and those waiting to see the results of the AI revolution.*



CEO and founder of Web Summit Paddy Cosgrave speaks at the opening of the Web Summit Vancouver 2025 tech conference. **PHOTO: AFP**

SILICON Valley's venture capital landscape has sharply divided into two factions: those with substantial resources to invest in artificial intelligence (AI) giants and those left waiting to see the outcomes of the AI revolution.

The generative AI boom, sparked by ChatGPT in 2022, has led to extraordinary valuations for companies like OpenAI, which recently raised \$40 billion at a staggering \$300 billion valuation. Other notable players include Anthropic, valued at \$61.5 billion, and Elon Musk's xAI, reportedly seeking \$20 billion at a \$120 billion valuation.

As the stakes rise, traditional venture capital firms struggle to compete, leaving only major tech companies and wealthy investors, such as Japan's Soft-

Bank and Middle Eastern funds, in the game.

Analysts highlight a clear divide between the "haves" and "have-nots" in the industry. While there is significant demand for AI-driven efficiency, the challenge lies in identifying viable investment opportunities amid the dominance of mega-platforms like OpenAI and Google.

The rapid pace of AI development complicates the search for unique business models, as companies grapple with the need for a competitive "moat." Despite uncertainties surrounding profitability, many believe AI will become an integral part of future technology, reshaping how products are developed and delivered. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Cheaper gov't-stockpiled rice hits store shelves in Japan

JAPANESE government-stockpiled rice released through no-bid contracts with retailers has hit store shelves in the country, amid high prices of other types of rice.

Some retailers, including major supermarket operator Ito-Yokado, began selling the grain at some of their outlets on Saturday, with a price tag of 2,160 yen (about US\$15) including tax for a 5-kg bag.

At Ito-Yokado's Omori store in Tokyo's Ota Ward, 500 5-kg bags of reserve rice sold out in just 30 minutes after the store opened. Other Ito-Yokado stores will also start selling reserve rice on Sunday or later.

In the latest effort to bring down surging rice prices, the Japanese government offered the sale of a total of 300,000 tonnes of its stockpiles directly to retailers earlier this week.

The agriculture ministry initially offered government-stockpiled rice through auctions. But it switched to selling it directly to retailers, bypassing auctions that have prevented government control over prices. — Xinhua

#### Indonesia expands QRIS, aims for financial system independence

INDONESIA has been pushing for the expansion of the use of Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS), aiming to achieve its economic sovereignty and have its own financial system.

Launched in April 2019, the QRIS has been a pioneering innovation that makes digital payment easier for people in Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy,

Previously, people had to swipe their cards provided by Visa or Mastercard in every digital transaction. But now, they only need to scan the QR code provided by the tenants. For every transaction, they need only one code for all platforms and the most widely used banks in Indonesia. — Xinhua

## Oil under \$65 a boon for consumers, but a burden on producers

Lower oil prices are helping to reduce transportation and manufacturing costs. **PHOTO: AFP**



US President Donald Trump's tariffs, his "drill baby drill" approach, and OPEC+'s decision to increase crude output have driven oil prices to their lowest levels since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, Brent North Sea crude is trading below \$65 per barrel, a significant drop from over \$120 in 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This decline is beneficial for

consumers, contributing to lower inflation and increased disposable income for spending on leisure and tourism.

The US consumer price index fell by 11.8 per cent year-on-year in April, aided by cheaper oil prices that reduce transportation and manufacturing costs.

However, the drop in oil prices negatively impacts oil-producing countries, particularly high-cost producers

who may need to cut back on production.

Analysts warn that shale producers in the US are already reducing investments in regions like the Permian Basin. While major OPEC+ producers like Saudi Arabia and Russia can withstand lower prices due to their financial reserves, countries like Iran, Venezuela, and Nigeria face economic challenges. — AFP

# China to see over 80m railway passenger trips amid Dragon Boat Festival

CHINA'S railway network is expected to handle approximately 80.5 million passenger trips during the five-day travel rush around Dragon Boat Festival holiday, the national railway operator said Friday.

The travel rush period kicked off Friday, a day ahead of the 3-day holiday, while Saturday is expected to witness the peak passen-

ger flow for this period, with roughly 18.3 million railway trips predicted nationwide, said China State Railway Group Co, Ltd.

According to China's 12306 railway booking platform, popular destinations for this year's holiday include Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Wuhan, Xi'an, Nanjing, Changsha and

Zhengzhou.

Platform data also shows that the Beijing-Shanghai, Beijing-Jinan, Beijing-Taiyuan, Beijing-Nanjing and Shenzhen-Hong Kong routes are among the most popular during the period.

To cater to elevated travel needs, China's railways have increased capacity while also improving ser-



Passengers prepare to board a train at Nanjing Railway Station in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province, 30 April 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

vice quality to ensure better passenger experiences.

The Dragon Boat Festival, also known as Duan-

wu Festival, falls on Saturday this year. — Xinhua

## IndiGo and major airlines unite to link India with Europe and North America

INDIGO, Delta Air Lines, Air France-KLM and Virgin Atlantic on Sunday announced plans to build an industry-leading partnership connecting India with Europe and North America.

India, one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, plays a pivotal role in this collaboration.

By linking IndiGo's extensive domestic network with Delta's strength in North America and the transatlantic, the extensive reach of Air France-KLM in Europe and North America, and Virgin Atlantic's UK and transatlantic presence, the partnership is poised to offer travelers broader access, smoother journeys, and a more consistent experience across continents.

Linking dozens of cities in the United States, Canada, Europe and India, the airlines aim to meet rising demand for international travel while setting new standards for connectivity and cooperation in global aviation.

Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, said: "IndiGo has embarked on an ambitious journey to become a global airline by 2030. This partnership represents another important milestone to pursue commercial synergies, operational excellence and innovation.

This announcement not only expands our relationship with Air France-KLM and Virgin Atlantic but also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter as we welcome Delta Airlines as a valued partner. — ANI

## New Universal Studios Japan chief eyes expansion of park attractions

THE new head of the operator of Universal Studios Japan has expressed eagerness to expand the park's themed areas, building on the success of attractions such as Super Nintendo World based on the universe of iconic video game character Mario.

"We will develop in accordance with the market," said Taku Murayama, 53, who assumed his new leadership post at USJ LLC, which operates the theme park in Osaka in western Japan, effective Sunday.

Universal Studios Japan will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2026, having



Taku Murayama, the new head of the operator of Universal Studios Japan effective 1 June 2025, poses for a photo in Osaka on 27 May. PHOTO: KYODO

regained popularity after 2014 when it launched The Wizarding World of Harry

Potter, an area centering on the British boy wizard series.

It broadened the zone featuring characters from gaming giant Nintendo Co last year with the introduction of the world's first attraction area based on the popular Donkey Kong series, aiming to garner more visitors from abroad as well as Japan.

Murayama, who joined USJ in 2000 after receiving a master's degree from a US university, added that the World Exposition in Osaka, which opened in April, is an "extremely good touchstone" for the growth of the area around the amusement facility. — Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (153N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (153N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-6-2025 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2506S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2506S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-6-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Japan, S Korea open tourist fast-track entry system for ties anniv

*This initiative marks the first time a Japanese airport has designated a lane specifically for travellers from another nation.*

JAPAN and South Korea on Sunday opened dedicated entry lanes for tourists visiting each other's countries at four airports, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties.

The lanes were implemented to improve convenience for inbound travellers by speeding up the immigration process. They will remain in use through 30 June at four airports — Haneda in Tokyo, Fukuoka in southwestern Japan, Gimpo in Seoul and Gimhae in Busan.

Park Kyung Mo, a 40-year-old tourist visiting Japan with his family, said he likes the neigh-

boring nation, and he expressed hope that the two countries will deepen their relations.

It is the first time a Japanese airport has designated a lane for a specific nation, according to the Immigration Services Agency.

People who have visited the respective countries within the past year and have registered in advance are eligible to use the perk, which is available for flights arriving between 9 am and 4 pm.

The two nations signed on 22 June 1965, a basic treaty that led to the normalization of diplomatic ties. — Kyodo



Photo shows dedicated entry lanes for South Korean visitors at Haneda airport Terminal 3 in Tokyo on 1 June 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Poland holds tight vote with EU role at stake

POLES voted Sunday in a tight presidential election with major implications for the country's role in Europe, and for abortion and LGBTQ rights.

Warsaw's liberal mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, 53, an ally of the centrist government, faced off against nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki, 42, with polls predicting an extremely close finish.

With the runoff election coinciding with Poland's annual children's holiday, Trzaskowski wrote on Facebook: "May it be a really good Children's Day. For everyone."

Nawrocki, a lifelong boxer, said "I will win" after voting in Warsaw.



An exit poll is expected as soon as ballots close and election officials predict that the final result will be known on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Poland should be strong, Poland should be independent," he told reporters.

Polls close at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) in the EU and NATO member, which has been a key supporter of neighbour-

ing Ukraine in the war against Russia.

An exit poll was expected as soon as ballots close and election officials predicted that the final result will be known on Monday. — AFP

## Musk denies drug addiction

US billionaire Elon Musk denied that he was on ketamine, responding to relevant allegations.

"I'm not on ketamine," Musk said in response to US programmer Paul Graham on X, who in turn commented on another user's post from 22 March with a video of a dinner in which Musk made a figure resembling a spaceship out

of forks and spoons. The user wrote above the video that Musk had allegedly been under the influence of ketamine. Paul Graham wrote in response to the post that you don't need to be under the influence of ketamine to make such a figure.

Musk later made another post on X, in which he criticized a New York Times article that the businessman had allegedly taken drugs when he became one of US President Donald Trump's closest allies. — SPUTNIK

## NEWS In BRIEF

### Azerbaijan to host World Urban Forum in 2026

THE 13<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) will take place in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, in May 2026, according to an announcement made Friday at the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Ana Claudia Rossbach, executive director of the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), said WUF13 will shine a global spotlight on the urgent need to address the global housing crisis and its central role in sustainable urban development.

"Established by the UN General Assembly as a non-legislative platform in 2001, the World Urban Forum facilitates inclusive dialogue among global stakeholders on pressing urban issues," Rossbach said. — Xinhua

### 7 killed, dozens injured after bridge blast derails train in Russia's Bryansk Region

A bridge explosion in Russia's Bryansk Oblast on Saturday night caused a passenger train carrying 388 people to derail, resulting in the deaths of seven people, Bryansk Governor Alexander Bogomaz said.

Speaking on news channel Rossiya 24 on Sunday, Bogomaz confirmed that the bridge was "blown up while a train was moving."

The Moscow Railway reported that the locomotive and several cars of passenger train No 86, en route from Klimov to Moscow, derailed in the Vygonichsky district after a road bridge span collapsed due to "illegal interference in transport activities."

Earlier, Bogomaz reported seven fatalities and 35 injuries, but the number of the injured has since climbed to 66, including three children. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Olympic Day commemorated with Traditional Lethwei Championship

TO mark the International Olympic Day, the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation held the Federation Cup Mixed Gym Traditional Myanmar Lethwei (Myanmar's boxing) Championship yesterday in Yangon.

The competition featured 14 bouts, fought under the format of three rounds of three-minute fights with two-minute breaks. Eight fights resulted in victories while the rest ended in draws or no decisions.

Dr Tin Aung Lwin, President of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, along with executive members and Lethwei enthusiasts attended the event. Winning athletes were awarded trophies and cash prizes.

The purpose of the Championship is to promote emerging athletes, highlight the essence of traditional Myanmar Lethwei, and provide opportunities for those who have never entered the ring before — whether for fun or out of passion. To support this



aim, first priority was given to boxers with no previous fights, followed by those with one or two fights.

Participating gyms earn three points for a win and one point for a

draw. At the final match in December, the gym with the highest total score throughout the year will be awarded the Federation Cup. — Arkar Linn/KZL

## Fans set to welcome PSG Champions League heroes with victory parade

PARIS Saint-Germain's players and staff will hold a victory parade on the Champs-Élysées on Sunday to celebrate with their fans after emphatically ending their long wait to win the Champions League.

Coach Luis Enrique and his team including Desire Doue, the 19-year-old who lit up the final in Munich on Saturday by scoring twice in the stunning 5-0 win against Inter Milan, will also be hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron.

More than 100,000 people are expected to watch their heroes in the parade on Paris' showpiece avenue after the team won the biggest prize in European club football for the



Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique lifts the Champions League trophy after his side outclassed Inter Milan in the final. **PHOTO: AFP**

first time in their history.

In a long night of wild celebrations, fans thronged the streets of the capital, letting off flares and fireworks as decades of pent-up frustration were released. — AFP

## Alcaraz tackles Shelton for spot in French Open quarters as Swiatek faces old foe

REIGNING Roland Garros champion Carlos Alcaraz will take on big-serving 13th seed Ben Shelton for a place in the French Open quarter-finals on Sunday as four-time women's title-holder Iga Swiatek prepares to battle former Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina.

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka will face

past semi-finalist Amanda Anisimova, while fourth-ranked Jasmine Paolini is in action against one-time world number three Elina Svitolina.

Lorenzo Musetti, who has reached at least the last four in all the clay court Masters events this season, will tackle Barcelona Open winner Holger Rune as

the competition heats up on both sides of the draw.

"Playing the defending champion, round of 16... centre court, that's a pretty cool opportunity, pretty cool experience, that not a lot of people get or see in their lifetime," said Shelton of facing Alcaraz. — AFP

## Man Utd sign Brazil forward Cunha from Wolves

MANCHESTER United signed Brazil forward Matheus Cunha from Wolves in a deal worth a reported £62.5 million (\$83 million) on Sunday.

Cunha is expected to pen a five-year contract with the Old Trafford club, who have the option of extending the deal by a further 12 months.

"Manchester United has reached agreement with Wolverhampton Wanderers for the signing of Matheus Cunha," a United statement said.

"Everyone at Manchester United looks forward to welcoming Matheus to Old Trafford."

The 26-year-old was in Manchester over the weekend to put the finishing touches to his move, which is subject to a visa and registration.

Cunha, who has won 13 caps for Brazil, scored 18 goals in all competitions for Wolves this season, winning the club's player of the year award.

The Brazilian finished his Wolves career with 33 goals in 92 appearances in all competitions after signing from Atletico Madrid in January 2023.

United activated the release clause in Cunha's Wolves contract to ensure he becomes boss Ruben Amorim's first signing of the summer transfer window.

Wolves said the deal was a club-record fee received as they thanked Cunha "for his contributions in old gold" in a statement confirming his departure. — AFP



Wolves forward Matheus Cunha. **PHOTO: AFP**



# Iran slams IAEA report on uranium enrichment as politicized and biased

Iran's statement argues that the report exceeds the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's duties and violates the principles of impartiality in international organizations.

**T**EHHRAN considers the new report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) politicized and protests its contents, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

Earlier the day, a French news agency cited the IAEA as saying in a confidential "comprehensive" report that Iran had accelerated the production of uranium enriched to 60 per cent. The UN nuclear watchdog reportedly called Tehran's cooperation "less than satisfactory."

"Iran regrets the publication of this report, which was prepared solely for political purposes by pressuring the IAEA, and expresses its protest against its contents. This report goes beyond the duties assigned to the IAEA Director General [Rafael Grossi] and violates the professional norms governing the activities of international organizations, especially the principle of impartiality," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said that Iran's military posture "leaves no room for nuclear weapons" and warned that Iran would take action against countries that might seek to misuse the IAEA report at the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting. — SPUTNIK



Azadi Square formerly known as Shahyad Square is a mainly green city square in Tehran, Iran. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Newly built "mini-great wall" in Nepal becomes major tourist attraction



A scaled down replica of the Great Wall of China in Nepal. PHOTO: ANI

A scaled-down replica of the Great Wall of China built on the foothills of the Shailung, by Shailung Rural Municipality, has been gathering tourists in recent times.

In the Tamang language, 'Shai' means one hundred and 'Lung' means hillocks, as one can view 108 hillocks in this area has always been

an attraction for tourists. Adding to the attraction, the rural municipality has now built a replica of the Great Wall of China.

The local body initially had prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of the 950-metre Great Wall from Kalapani to Dafedhunga, but only 500 metres

have been constructed.

"I am feeling pleased and enjoying the view around here in Shailung, it was a dream to come here (Shailung) and see the mini-great wall. I was planning for this trip since three years and have been able to complete it now when the meadows are green," Badri Acharya, a tourist trekking around the Shailung hills, told ANI. Shailung, a centre of attraction for tourists due to its natural scenery and beauty, has been attracting tourists in large number. As per the official figures, the number of tourists visiting the area is increasing for meditation, study, research and exploration. As per the information provided by Sanjeev Neupane, the chief administrative officer of Shailung Rural Municipality significant number of tourists are seen on Fridays, Saturdays and holidays. Approximately 20,000 individuals visited the Great Wall on Nepali New Year Day in April this year. — ANI

### Economic Impact of Tariffs

#### Australia calls US plan to double steel, aluminum tariffs "unjustified" act of "self harm"

AUSTRALIA'S Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell on Saturday described US President Donald Trump's plan to double tariffs on steel and aluminum as "unjustified" and an act of economic "self harm."

Trump said on Friday that he plans to increase the tariff on steel and aluminum imports to the United States from 25 per cent to 50 per cent from 4 June to protect the domestic industry from foreign competition.

Responding to the announcement, Farrell said in a statement that Australia's position has been "consistent and clear" and that the federal government would continue to advocate strongly for the removal of the tariffs.

"These tariffs are unjustified and not the act of a friend," he said. "They are an act of economic self harm that will only hurt consumers and businesses who rely on free and fair trade."

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, whose Labour Party won a second term in government in a landslide at the 3 May election, in April described Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs as "not the act of a friend". — Xinhua