

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with EEC Board Chairman

Myanmar inked a Memorandum of Cooperation with EAEU in 2023 and another MoC with EEC in Saint Petersburg of the Russian Federation in June 2023.

Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, held a meeting with Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Mr Bakytzhan Abdirovich Sagintayev at Minsk International Exhibition Centre BELEXPO yesterday morning.

The Chairman of the EEC Board warmly welcomed the Senior General.

At the meeting, the Chairman of EEC Board extended greetings that he warmly welcomed the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister, and his entourage, and expressed that the participation of the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister himself at the Fourth Europe-Asia Economic Forum (EEF 2025) will further enhance cooperative efforts.

In his discussions, the Senior General expressed his firm belief that this meeting will be a drive to practically implement cooperation between Myanmar and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member countries. Myanmar and EAEU inked a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2023. Moreover, he added that the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission



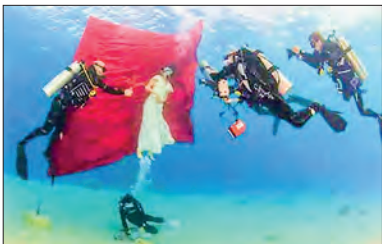
State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Chairman Mr Bakytzhan Abdirovich Sagintayev of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) during their meeting yesterday.

(EEC) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, in June 2023. He continued that many opportunities for cooperation have been found between Myanmar and EAEU member countries. The Senior General expressed his hope that the implementation of the signed memorandum of cooperation will be a step for Myanmar to advance to the level of an observer country in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). So, he affirmed that Myanmar will strive to further strengthen cooperation through practical implementation.

Furthermore, the Senior General and the Chairman of EEC Board frankly exchanged views on promotion of economic cooperation between Myanmar and EAEU member countries, enhancement of agriculture, transport, mining technology and energy sectors of Myanmar and potential for cooperation in these sectors, further acceleration of trade opportunities through conducting direct trade and investment and holding expositions and fora between Myanmar and EAEU member countries, support of EAEU for Myanmar to become an observer country of EAEU,

and creation of good opportunities to ensure economic cooperation.

Also, present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, SAC member General Nyo Saw, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus U Thit Linn Ohn and officials. The Chairman of the EEC Board was accompanied by officials. — MNA/TTA



Global interest grows in Myanmar's culture and scenic beauty



Vietnamese business leaders visit Thilawa SEZ, Emerald Bay Project for talks



First HSK exam at Yangon University strengthens China-Myanmar ties

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw urged to strengthen military, administrative, and public service capacities

TATMADAW must continuously excel in military, administrative, and organizational capabilities to effectively fulfil its responsibilities in national defence, training, and public service ...

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Military Technical University Cadet Batch 26 Graduation Ceremony held on 12 December 2024)

MRESA signs MoUs with Japan-US real estate associations in Tokyo

CHAIRMAN U Khin Maung Than of the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (Central) and his delegation, including Vice-Chairperson Daw Moe Moe Htun, U Tint Swe, Daw Thet Thet Khine, and YRESA Chairperson Daw Myat Mo Mo departed for Tokyo, Japan, on 24 June to attend the 2025 JARECO Conference, which was held on 26 June at Nihon University, at the invitation of JARECO (Japan-American Real Estate Coalition Organization).

During the conference on 26 June, a Bilateral Partnership Agreement was successfully signed between Mr Kevin Sears, President of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) from the United States, and U Khin Maung Than, President of MRESA. Following the success-

ful signing, the American Global Association officially recognized MRESA as meeting international real estate standards.

Next, MRESA representatives, including Chairman U Khin Maung Than and YRESA Chairperson Daw Myat Mo Mo, also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JARECO, the Japan-American Real Estate Coalition Organization and the Long Island Board of Realtors. The signing ceremony saw Mr Yoshi Takita, BOD of JARECO, and Professor Masayuki Nakagawa, Chair of JARECO.

Thanks to these agreements, MRESA real estate agents will benefit from shared knowledge and professional expertise, training opportunities and collaboration with inter-



The documentary group photo session is underway after the MoUs signing event between Myanmar, Japan, and US realty associations.

national partners. Moreover, Myanmar's real estate agents are expected to establish international connections and gain access to the global real estate community. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Special Weather News

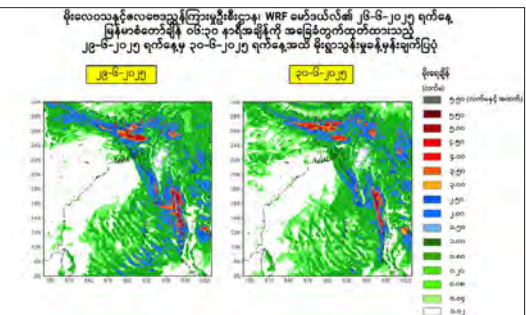
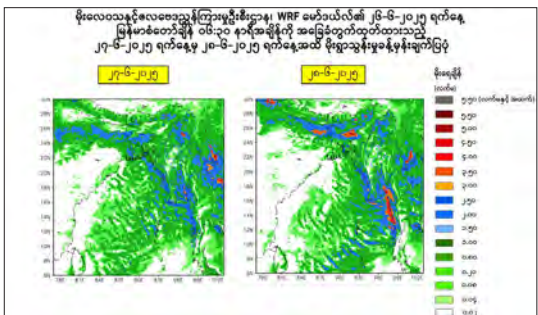
Issued at 6 pm MST on 26 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mandalay, Magway, and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during today evening to 30 June 2025. Occasional squalls with rough seas

will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

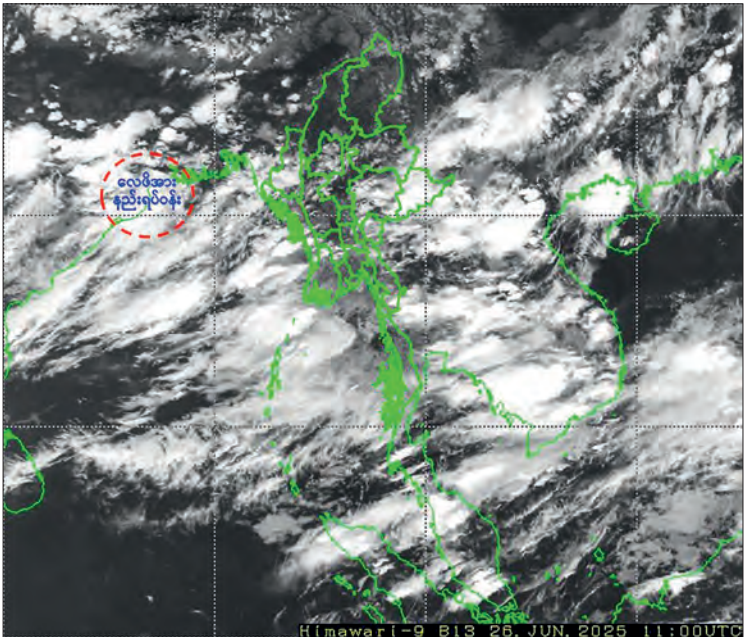
People should be aware of natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hail, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. —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



Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 26 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal, India, still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards across North Odisha and adjoining West Bengal. — DMH



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)

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Belmedpreparaty Pharmaceutical Factory in Minsk

THE Myanmar high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in the Republic of Belarus, visited the Belmedpreparaty pharmaceutical factory in Minsk yesterday morning.

At the factory, the Senior General and the party were welcomed by Minister of Health Mr Aliaksandr Khajayeu of the Republic of Belarus and factory officials.

The Senior General viewed round medical treatment supporting vehicles showcased in front of the factory and asked what he wanted to know.

He visited the booth of pharmaceuticals produced by Belarus, and a display of machinery used in medical treatment and discussed topics over clarifications.

At the meeting hall of the factory, the Senior General and the party held a meeting with the Belarusian Minister of Health and officials. They exchanged views on the potential for co-operation in the health sector



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-led Myanmar delegation holds the meeting with Minister of Health Mr Aliaksandr Khajayeu and officials in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus.

between the two countries, the situation of using medicines and medical equipment produced by Belarus in Myanmar, and a plan to hold detailed discussions between officials of the Belmedpreparaty Pharmaceutical Factory and health officials from Myanmar.

The Senior General viewed the production process of the factory and asked what he wanted to know about the topics, with clarifications by officials.

Belmedpreparaty Pharmaceutical Factory, located in Minsk, is the largest one, where more than 2,100 employees work in production operations. — MNA/TTA

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	

Relief and rehab efforts ongoing for Mandalay quake victims

AS of 26 June, six regions and states in Myanmar severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March have reported a total of 3,768 deaths, 5,104 injuries, and 38 people still missing.

The Myanmar Fire Brigaded, along with local and international search and rescue teams, has been actively conducting emergency operations in the affected areas. To date, they have successfully rescued 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings and recovered the bodies of 846 deceased persons.

Donations in cash and kind continue to be provided to those affected by the disaster. These contributions come not only from domestic donors but also from foreign countries, organizations, and international philanthropists.

Between 5 pm on 25 June and 5 pm on 26 June, a shipment of medicines weighing a total of 17.542 tonnes arrived at Yangon International Airport. The donation was made by the ICRC. These medical supplies are to be used in healthcare services. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

The Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, attended the Plenary Session of the 4th Eurasian Economic Forum (EEF 2025) at the Minsk International Exhibition Centre BELEXPO in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus, yesterday evening.

The forum was held with the title of Strategy of the Eurasian Economic Integration: Outcomes and Prospects. It was attended by the Rotating Chair of Eurasian Economic Union-EAEU President of the Republic of Belarus together with the President of the Russian Federation, the President of Kazakhstan and the President of Kirgizstan of EAEU member states, EAEU observer State President of Cuba, invited countries' representatives from Mongolia and the UAE, the SAC Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the special envoy of the President of Nicaragua. Moreover, government representatives from partnership countries interested in Eurasian economic cooperation, businesspersons and representatives from international organizations also attended the forum.

The Senior General and Heads of State from various countries were welcomed by Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mrs Petkevich N V.

At the plenary session of the forum, they were also welcomed by Belarusian President Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko.

The plenary session was held with the title of Strategy of the Eurasian Economic Integration: outcomes and prospects. The Belarusian President delivered a speech. Afterwards, Heads of State from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, the President of Cuba, the Chairman of the Board of EEC, the SAC Chairman and Prime Minister of Myanmar and the special envoy of the Nicaraguan President delivered speeches.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was established in 2015 with the aim of enhancing economic cooperation among its member states and improving the standard of living of their people. In line with these objectives, the Europe-Asia Economic Forum (EEF) — which includes



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the Plenary Session of the 4th Eurasian Economic Forum (EEF 2025) in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus, yesterday.

Myanmar eager to join EAEU as member state

Myanmar will actively continue cooperating based on the existing friendship and mutual respect between Myanmar and EAEU, as well as mutually beneficial collaboration and equality.

member states, observer countries, invited nations, and international economic stakeholders — has been organized, and this year marks its fourth edition. Through these forums and collaborations with international organizations and countries, the EAEU has been able to progressively implement various initiatives to adapt to the changing global environment. These include enhancing its international presence, establishing a platform for cooperation in the transport and energy sectors, upgrading international payment systems, promoting the emergence of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), facilitating smooth investment flows across different development sectors, and advancing financial support mechanisms. In building a progressive human society, it is necessary for us to construct a unified and harmonious regional

organization based on mutual respect and cooperation.

The fundamental principles of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) include following international laws, such as the equal sovereignty of member states and the inviolability of borders, as well as respect for national interests — values that are practically needed in today's world. In the current global landscape, powerful nations are exerting political and economic pressure and imposing sanctions on smaller countries, and this is the violation of the fundamental principles of international relations. Myanmar wishes to express its support and admiration for the actions and achievements of the EAEU, which upholds sound principles that every nation should embrace and puts them into practice for global development. Just as Myanmar values and is interested in

the EAEU's initiatives and successes, the country will also continue to enhance its cooperation with the Union. It is also hoped that, in support of such efforts, the Chairman, member states, and the EAEU headquarters will continue to assist in these undertakings.

At this Fourth Forum, I would like to express that the theme of the Forum, "The Greater Eurasian Economic Integration Strategy — Outcomes and Prospects," is a timely and appropriate topic. Under the leadership of His Excellency President of Belarus, we are fully confident that the Fourth Eurasian Economic Forum will bring about positive outcomes such as mutual trust, friendship, and cooperation among the participating countries.

The contact between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) began in 2022. At

the invitation of Myanmar, a delegation from the EAEU and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) visited the country and held extensive discussions with relevant ministries covering various sectors such as electricity and energy, agriculture, education, and transportation. The engagement gained momentum starting in 2023, during which a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation was signed between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission at the 26th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum held in the Russian Federation.

Moreover, a delegation from the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) also visited Myanmar in 2024, resulting in the acceleration of multi-sectoral cooperation. Joint coordination meetings for the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission were held — once in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar; and once in Saint Petersburg, Russia. These meetings helped to strengthen collaboration and communication, laying the foundation for enhancing mutual relations. It is necessary to explore and promote potential areas of cooperation with the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, particularly in sectors such as the economy and trade.

SEE PAGE 6

Peace Forum 2025 enters second day

THE Peace Forum 2025, themed “Towards a New Nation of Peace and Prosperity through the Integration of Peace, Elections and Development”, entered its second day at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, committee secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, committee members, retired Tatmadaw officers, representatives of JMC, political parties, NCA-signatories and non-signatories, participants in peace

processes, technicians, intellectuals, directors-general of ministries concerned and organizations, rectors of universities, representatives of international and local NGOs and other observers. They are divided into two discussion groups: Group 1 and Group 2.

During the morning session, both groups discussed under the theme: “Successfully Holding Elections”.

In the afternoon, Group 1 discussed “identifying ways to enhance cooperation for peace, transparent electoral processes,



The second-day session of the Peace Forum 2025 in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

and the State stability and development,” while Group 2 about “exploration of the international community’s role in supporting peace and development efforts in building a democracy and federalism-based Union in the post-election period”.

Participants coordinated the discussion, and the third day of the forum will be on 27 June. — MNA/KTZH

THE Myanmar Photographic Society, in accordance with the motto “Let the world recognize us through the art of photography,” continues to participate in international photography competitions and exhibitions. Meanwhile, foreign countries tend to show special interest in artistic photographs that portray the natural beauty of traditional culture and rural landscapes, rather than those created using advanced technological methods.

The Myanmar Photographic Society has its motto “Let the world recognize us through the art of photography” for a long time. Last month, Myanmar, South Africa, and Indonesia submitted nature photographs to FIAP as part of a competition. There are also many other international competitions. In October, the Myanmar Photographic Society will attend a cultural photography exhibition in China. Countries around the world usually give awards to photos that show culture and tradition, more than the photos taken with modern technology, like underwater or aerial shots. For example, they are very interested in photos of Bagan pagodas and the Thingyan Water Festival. The Myanmar Photographic Society is always trying to show the world Myanmar’s natural beauty, ancient culture, and traditional customs,” said U Than Tun Oo, chairman of the society.

The Myanmar Photographic Society is a member of FIAP



Global interest grows in Myanmar's culture and scenic beauty

(The International Federation of Photographic Art), comprising over 100 member states, and it organized the 1st Myanmar International Photography Salon in 2018. It competes in international photo exhibitions and competitions every year, and it highlights the natural beauty, culture and traditions of ethnic people, and there are fewer photo submissions in the underwater and aerial photography categories, as they require expensive technology.

“I am currently photographing and documenting the lives and lifestyles of the Salon people. We can say it is a detailed documentary of a specific ethnic group. Underwater photography

usually draws international interest. However, when it comes to artistic recognition, the conceptual photography category often gets more attention. Underwater photography is great for adventure and exploration. As for me, as I live near the sea, I enjoy both types of photography,” said photographer Ko Pyi Soe Tun (artist).

The Myanmar Photographic Society was established as Rangoon Photographic Society on 21 November 1950. In 1955, it changed to the Myanmar Photographic Society and opened an office at the lower block of 35th Street in Yangon in 1963. It celebrated its 50th anniversary event, and marked its 75th anni-



PHOTO: KANU/ PHOTOGRAPHERS

versary with the 58th Myanmar National Photography Art Exhibition. This year, the exhibition was held from 13 to 16 March at Sule Square. — Thitsa (MNA)/ KTZH



NATIONAL

Myanmar burns K1,000B worth of seized narcotic drugs



Photos show confiscated drugs being burned to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

MYANMAR burned narcotic drugs in major cities of the country yesterday, marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

In Taunggyi, 19 kinds of narcotic drugs and 12 types of precursor chemicals worth over K353 billion (US\$98 million), which were seized in Shan and Kayah states, were destroyed at the event.

In Yangon, 25 kinds of narcotic drugs and 11 types of precursor chemicals worth over K424 billion (\$118 million) that were seized in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Tanin-

thayi, Mon, Kayin, Rakhine, were also destroyed.

Moreover, 26 kinds of narcotic drugs and 17 types of precursor chemicals worth over K295 billion (\$82 million) that were seized in Mandalay, and the upper and middle parts of the country, were burnt in Mandalay Region.

This year, the country burnt 66 kinds of drugs and precursor chemicals, including heroin, opium, methamphetamine, ICE, Happy Water, speciosa powder, cannabis and ketamine worth over K1,072 billion (\$297 million) in Yangon,

Mandalay, Taunggyi and Sagaing.

Moreover, the ceremony to award the winners of different categories for short stories, articles, and so on, marking the 38th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, was also organized at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw and different regions and states, with the attendance of relevant officials.

From 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025, the police seized drugs and precursor chemicals worth over K972.461 billion. — MNA/KTZH

Kayin State records 78 drug-related cases worth K3.9B in 5 months

AUTHORITIES in Kayin State recorded a total of 78 drug-related cases involving 117 offenders between 1 January and 31 May 2025, with the estimated value of the seized drugs reaching K3.9 billion. This was revealed during the 38th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking event held at Zweekabin Hall in Hpa-an at 8 am on 26 June.

Although poppy cultivation and drug production are minimal in Kayin State, officials reported that illegal drug trafficking continues due to cross-border smuggling of controlled chemicals, issues related to migrant workers, and local drug distribution through various channels. In response, Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Anti-Drug Police Force, and allied organizations are carrying out daily anti-drug operations based on tailored regional strategies.

At the event, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo encouraged enhanced cooperation between the health and justice sectors in addressing drug problems, stressing that drug abuse is a global threat to humanity. He called on all stakeholders to join hands to eliminate drug dangers and build a “Drug-Free State”.

During the ceremony, Minister for Security and Border Affairs and Chair of the Kayin State Drug Control Committee Colonel Min Thu Kyaw read a message from the Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, who is also Union Minister for Home



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo views the exhibition on 26 June.

Affairs Attendees then viewed a video showcasing the committee’s activities. The chief minister also presented the certificates of honour and awards to individuals who made notable contributions to anti-narcotics efforts.

Following the ceremony, the chief minister and officials met informally with participants and visited educational booths, photo exhibitions, and crime scene display vehicles. They observed students actively engaging in the displays and discussed necessary support measures with responsible personnel. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/KZL

Myanmar eager to join EAEU ...

FROM PAGE 4

In today’s international landscape, which is fraught with numerous challenges, it is essential that we work together in order to overcome threats. In this collective effort to confront and overcome such situations, the role of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is of great importance. It is encouraging to see that the EAEU has demonstrated steady progress and notable successes in recent years, despite facing external economic challenges and sanctions.

Myanmar is also very enthusiastic about becoming a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). I earnestly request your kind support in facilitating Myanmar’s swift participation as an observer country in the EAEU.

The Senior General expressed his commitment to actively continuing to cooperate based on the existing friendship and mutual respect between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as mutually beneficial collaboration and equality.

After the meeting, the Rotating Chair of EAEU President of the Republic of Belarus, the Senior General and Heads of State from countries, had documentary photos taken in front of a mining truck before the Minsk International Exhibition Centre BELEXPO.

The Europe-Asia Economic Forum has been held annually since 2022, hosted by the member state serving as the rotating chair of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The forum is organized to enhance economic integration and cooperation within the Europe-Asia region, with discussion topics set in advance to align with this goal. The first forum took place in 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the second in 2023 in Moscow, the Russian Federation; and the third in 2024 in Yerevan, Armenia. The fourth Europe-Asia Economic Forum (EEF 2025) is currently being held in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus, with over 2,700 participants from 33 countries attending. The forum features plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, and business meetings that continue throughout the event.

At the 4th Europe-Asia Economic Forum (EEF 2025) held this year, the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar, participated in a plenary session discussion. Member of the Myanmar delegation, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw also took part in the morning session discussing migration, multimodal transport, and digital transformation strategies to establish a sustainable long-term transportation system in the Europe-Asia region. In the afternoon session, Dr Aung Gyi, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, participated in the discussion on cooperation within the Europe-Asia Economic Union for effective development of the agriculture sector.

In the evening, the Senior General and Heads of State from countries attended the EEF 2025 dinner hosted by Belarusian President Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko. — MNA/TTA

MYANMAR women have preserved the noble traditions and customs from generation to generation. The efforts of these women in safeguarding such traditions are also prominently reflected in the literature that emerged across different eras.

According to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, number of women accounted for approximately 29.4 million out of the total population of around 56.2 million, indicating that more than half of the country’s population is women. Being a Union made up of over 100 different ethnic groups, Myanmar is home to a wide diversity of traditional cultures, customs, languages, dress, historical backgrounds, and geographical features.

In the present day, Myanmar women not only shoulder the traditional role of household responsibilities, but also keep abreast with men in contributing to both personal and social progress. As women are considered a vulnerable group, it is essential to protect and nurture their lives, ensuring their well-being and empowerment. At the same time, their rights and livelihoods must be safeguarded and promoted, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare, economy, social development, and overall security for young women. Women themselves must also strive to preserve and uphold the dignity and value of womanhood.

An important aspect for Myanmar women is the preservation of their ethnic traditions, cultural customs, national pride, and dignity. These values must be safeguarded to ensure that they are neither diminished nor lost. Therefore, it is essential to continuously foster a mindset that cherishes and values the lives of women, promoting a spirit of respect, pride, and cultural identity throughout their lives. Myanmar people should know their tradition and culture and should not value others’ cultures while preserving

their tradition and culture, and this includes traditional dress and customs.

Myanmar girls and women wore traditional garments such as Yin Phone and longyi, following the attitudes of their parents. They gracefully wear Myanmar traditional dress at religious events, pagoda festivals and donation events. However, some young people may be considered reckless for wearing skirts, shorts and long pants in ways that may damage Myanmar culture.

Myanmar women are the

rising stars of the future, and they should wear safe and fine dresses as they are living in a country with the proclamation of Buddhism. Moreover, they can be known as Myanmar by the tourists whenever they see them wearing a Myanmar dress.

Myanmar girls serve as role models in preserving traditional cultural heritage by wearing Yin Phone and longyi. Naturally calm and composed, Myanmar women are also known for their gentle and graceful demeanour, which contributes to their dignified feminine charm.

Therefore, from major cities to rural areas, Myanmar’s traditional cultural heritage should be preserved. The beauty of traditional attire and customs, which deserves to be honoured as a form of cultural art, should be portrayed by artists as a masterpiece delicately painted with the skilled brushstrokes of Myanmar culture.

Just as Myanmar women rightfully possess the tradition of wearing cultural attire, they should also uphold modesty and a sense of decency in how they dress. Their clothing should

be neither too plain nor overly extravagant, neither outdated nor excessively modern. By wearing traditional Myanmar dress, which is most pleasing to the eye, heartwarming to the soul, and rich in elegance and dignity, they help preserve the beauty and cultural heritage of Myanmar women today and pass it down as a cherished legacy to future generations of young girls. This article is created in honour of the Myanmar Women’s Day, which will fall on 3 July 2025.

Translated by KTZH

Honourable dress of Myanmar women

Zeyar Naing (Shwe Kan Myay)



Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



OPINION

Encourage MSMEs to improve public socioeconomic life

MICRO-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are key sources of jobs, income, and local growth, especially for women, young people, and vulnerable groups. Their size and flexibility help build strong, fair, and sustainable communities.

Myanmar has enacted the law for MSME since 2015 to accept the information related to business, technical assistance and financial aids for the small and medium enterprises, to reach local and international markets and enhance the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises, to have new employment opportunities and increase income of the people through the development of small and medium enterprises and to reduce the difficulties and obstacles in business operations of small and medium enterprises.

It is necessary to implement the theme of MSME Day 2025, “Enhancing the role of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) as drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation”. As such, not only the government but also the private sector needs to strive for the development of the economic sector of all countries with their efforts to successfully boost MSME businesses. So, everyone needs to realize that only when MSME develops will people of all countries be able to enjoy a higher living standard.

rights, and government support. Only when relevant governments support these businesses will they boost their businesses. In order to successfully operate their functions, MSME businesses need human resources, financial support, technologies, the government’s encouragement, and many other factors.

MSMEs hold the potential to transform economies, foster job creation, and promote equitable economic growth if given adequate support. MSMEs Day aims to highlight their pivotal role and explore opportunities for their further advancement. Hence, the United Nations General Assembly designated 27 June as “MSME Day” to raise awareness of the tremendous contributions of MSMEs to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is necessary to implement the theme of MSME Day 2025, “Enhancing the role of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) as drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation”. As such, not only the government but also the private sector needs to strive for the development of the economic sector of all countries with their efforts to successfully boost MSME businesses. So, everyone needs to realize that only when MSME develops will people of all countries be able to enjoy a higher living standard.

Walking Together, Rain or Shine

By Junior Thin

LOVE is life, isn’t it? It’s not always found in poems or songs, not always loud or full of fireworks. Sometimes, love is quiet. It walks gently on the streets, unnoticed by most, but deeply felt by those who pause to observe. I once saw such love, and I still remember it vividly.

Almost every day, between 7 am and 8 am, I became aware of a couple who came to the same street as I sat sipping my morning tea. At first, I didn’t pay them much attention, but soon, the quiet rhythm of their presence touched something deep in me.

The man always wore sunglasses – thick, dark ones that covered his eyes completely. The woman carried a canvas bag, medium in size, hanging over her right shoulder. Their clothes were plain and faded, neither neat nor messy, simply lived-in, speaking of honest lives and long days. There

was nothing flashy or extraordinary about them. But the way they walked – ah, that was something worth noticing.

He held on to her shoulder gently, his fingers curved softly, never gripping too tightly. His steps were hesitant, uncertain, but hers were calm and sure. She led the way, not pulling him, but walking in a pace that allowed him to follow with dignity. They moved together in harmony, like two parts of one soul.

They used to enter the small café nearby, the one called “Sein”. It was not a grand place – just a humble shop with a few tables, the smell of tea leaves, and a boy who served quietly. This couple came in almost every morning, and every morning, they followed the same routine.

The woman would ask for just one cup of tea, not the special one, the “Shai”, which was more ex-

pensive and fragrant, but the ordinary one, the cheaper, simpler tea. That choice, too, said something. Perhaps it was a matter of money, or perhaps it was simply their way, living within means, without complaint.

She also ordered deep-fried twisted dough sticks, fresh from the pan. When they arrived, golden and warm, she tore one in half and placed a piece in the man’s hand. Then, with delicate care, she poured half of the tea into the saucer and slid the remaining tea, still steaming in its porcelain cup, toward the man. Everything was shared, halved with balance, not out of duty, but out of love.

I watched as they dipped their dough sticks in the tea, tasting each bite slowly, sipping tea in between. There was no rush. Their silence was not empty – it was peaceful, filled with meaning. They spoke in whispers, close to



one another, as if the world didn’t need to know what they were saying. I never heard their words, but I didn’t need to. Their connection was clear in the way they sat, the way they listened, the way they smiled faintly now and then.

When they were done, the woman would wave to the young boy and quietly settle the payment. No arguments, no show. She paid, they stood, and they left the café, side by side.

I watched them go, every

time. It became a habit of mine, this silent observation. Whether the sky was clear or cloudy, whether the sun was shining or the rain was falling, they walked the same path. Their steps did not falter. The man’s hand remained

gently on her shoulder. And she led him, with the same care and calm as always.

I didn’t know where they went after they left. I didn’t know where they lived or how they earned their living. The man’s sunglasses were not just for the sun. He was losing his eyesight – perhaps already completely blind. And the woman, with her gentle guiding steps, could see. She could lead. But still, it was impossible to tell who supported whom.

It is easy to assume that the one who sees is the one who guides in every way. But life isn’t always that simple. Perhaps the man, despite his blindness, had a special talent, a craft, a knowledge, a quiet strength. Perhaps he was once an artist, or a musician, or someone who taught others through voice and wisdom, not sight. Perhaps they both had learned to depend on one another equally, not out of weakness but out of love.

They didn’t look wealthy. But they didn’t look poor in spirit either. There was a richness in their togetherness, something that could not be bought. The way she handed him the tea, the way he waited patiently for his share, the way they walked in step – it all spoke of a deep, unshakable trust.

I thought many times about their life. Were they husband and wife? Likely so. Had they faced hardship? Surely. But they carried

it lightly, gracefully. No complaints, no bitterness. Just a shared path, walked side by side.

Perhaps they had married long ago, not for comfort or convenience, but because they had found something real in each other. Perhaps their love had been tested by time and trouble, but it remained firm and kind. That kind of love is rare – not made of passion alone, but of patience, acceptance, and quiet care.

His blindness, I realized, was not a void in their life. It did not seem to be a loss that broke them. Instead, it became something they lived with, and around, and through. Her eyes became his eyes, and maybe in return, he gave her something equally valuable – his trust, his presence, his unwavering companionship.

What I saw in them each day was not dramatic, not loud. But it stayed with me. It made me think about love differently, not as a feeling that comes and goes, but as something one chooses, every single day.

Love, in their case, was a cup of tea, shared in halves. It was warm dough sticks, broken in two. It was a hand on a shoulder, steady and soft. It was walking together, rain or shine, on a path that had no clear end.

Yes, love is life.

And for some, it is lived not in grand gestures, but in the simplest things done together, with care.

The Phone: A Friend or Enemy for Young Students Today?

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)



Digital literacy encompasses a range of skills, from basic computer use to advanced problem-solving in digital environments.

ILLUSTRATION: PEXELS

boys tend to spend too much time playing video games online. Even some of them play the games all through the night. As a consequence, they are given to yawning or dozing off very quickly during class time for the simple reason that they have not got enough sleep at night. Hence, they are getting to pay such less attention to teachers that the teachers cannot stimulate any positive motivation, like joking or other similar stimulation towards them. In other words, such schoolboys are beset with so much ‘sleep debt’ that they are unable to pay back quite easily. Sleep is a physiological need as well, and if they do not have enough sleep, they will lose their health, which can do serious damage to their school studies sooner or later:

It is natural if students become interested in the opposite sex; that is, a boy is attracted by a girl or vice versa, when they grow up, especially during adolescence. However, teachers cannot assume it to be more than the nature and neither should students. Despite this, not only schoolboys but also schoolgirls are inclined to make contact with someone who interests them on the phone from afar. Surprisingly, those people may include non-students, not student-to-student, sometimes. Some students have a deadly serious relationship with someone who is not worth saying. As a result, they are most likely to face the threat of privacy invasion, sexual conflicts, sexual harassment, and even sexual abuse. At the very worst, some students with the phone in their

hands are found to be particularly prone to marry young.

To say it candidly, students find it more interesting to use the phone than learn school subjects. Certainly, their time to use the phone will never make them bored to a great degree. At least it will surely lessen their feeling of boredom or loneliness to a certain extent. But on the other side, the more students use the phone, the more they stay in isolation from their studies, teachers, friends and environment. To make sense, the students are even completely unaware of what their surrounding is happening. Due to their sedentary lifestyle, their health begins to go downhill – in the main, they will have poor vision and then can underachieve or lose concentration on their studies. They may

do badly in their school lessons, as well as their exam results should not be good. If the worst comes to the worst, they could drop out just before the end of the academic year.

I used to have a pupil with online game addiction. Of course, he came from a distant town, namely Myeik, and went to school in our nearby village. As he stayed away from his parents, his father got him a phone lest he could lose face in their relatives’ village. First of all, he used the phone for a regular connection between him and his family – frankly speaking, sometimes with his girl. But later, he wasted too much time playing online games, lying in his bed. Then, he often suffered from paralysis of his mouth. Afterwards, he put a bet on online games and had an illegal lottery in the flesh. Thus, he had to go back to his hometown with an outstanding debt of

K300,000, sad to say.

In actual fact, students using the phone itself is not the problem, but not having digital literacy is a very real problem. If a student can use Facebook, TikTok and Telegram, he or she must also be able to go to Google and YouTube. Students can see a wide variety of study resources on the internet websites over there. They will be able to study video lessons on YouTube regarding school languages and science subjects. It means that students can do home-based learning, self-directed learning and continuous learning. Here, I do not mean that it is pointless for students to use the phone at all. As my tip, students should use the phone only at weekends, not on weekdays, and only for a few hours at a sitting. After all, the fact that the phone is a friend or an enemy for young students today depends on the phone users only.

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

MoRAC Union Minister inspects quake-hit religious sites in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin is pictured during his inspection tour of damaged religious buildings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin, accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Soe and other officials, yesterday inspected religious buildings and cultural structures in Nay Pyi Taw that were damaged by the Mandalay earthquake.

The inspection began in Aungthukha Village, Pobbathiri Township, where ten ancient pagodas located within the monastery compound were reported to have suffered damage due to the quake. The Union minister also inspected the condition of ancient Bagan-style pagodas in the Nyaungpingyisu village-tract, and the damage sustained by the Boeminchantha Stupa within

the compound of the Maha Viji-tayon Buddhist Learning Centre in Zabuthiri Township.

During the visit, discussions were held on the current status of donations received and the procedures to be followed for the prompt restoration of the damaged pagodas, stupas, and religious buildings.

Later, the Union Minister and his team paid homage to the senior monks of the Maha Viji-tayon Buddhist Learning Centre. They also briefed the monks on the extent of the damage to the Boeminchantha Stupa, the Ministry's plans to allocate restoration funds, and efforts being made to raise further donations from the public. — MNA/MKKS

Vietnamese business leaders visit Thilawa SEZ, Emerald Bay Project for talks

A group of Vietnamese businesspeople who came to the Myanmar-Vietnam Construction Business Matching visited the Thilawa Special Economic Zone on the morning of 25 June and met with the Thilawa SEZ Economic Committee to discuss Myanmar-Vietnam economic cooperation.

Daw Mya Thaung Wai and Daw Yee Yee, members of the Central Committee of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF), accompanied the Vietnamese group.

In the afternoon, the Vietnamese business group continued to the Emerald Bay Condominium Project on Shukhintha Road, Thakayta Township.

Myanmar – Vietnam Construction Business Matching was held at the MCEF head office on 23 June, with a welcoming speech by Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar, opening remarks by MCEF President U Shein Win, and over 20 Vietnamese companies showcasing their iron and steel, aluminium, cement, and electricity businesses, as well as one-on-one meetings with Vietnamese companies and guests. — Htun Htun/ZN



Vietnamese businesspeople visiting the Thilawa SEZ and Emerald Bay Project. PHOTO: MCEF PRESS



Lt-Gen Thte Pon views the rubble removal of religious sites in Sagaing.

Rescue, rehab operations ongoing in quake zones

RESCUE and rehabilitation operations are being implemented in the areas facing extensive loss and damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and relevant officials inspected the clearing of debris at the collapsed building at religious sites in Sagaing.

He observed the distribution of drinking water to the monks, nuns and locals of Sagaing using the water purification vehicles of the Department of Rural Development.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the demolition of Building A of Sky Villa in Mandalay, systematic transfer of belongings to the original owners.

He oversaw the clearing of debris at the quake-battered buildings in Ayeethazan Township and gave proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

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

30,000+ foreign
travellers tour
Shwedagon in 5 months

ACCORDING to U Bo Thin, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda, more than 30,000 international tourists visited the Pagoda between January and May 2025.

Among the foreign visitors, the majority came from Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

“In January alone, over 8,000 foreign visitors came to the pagoda. More than 7,000 came in February and March, over 4,000

in April, and more than 5,000 in May – totalling over 30,000 within five months. As for local pilgrims, more than three million visited the pagoda during the same five-month period,” said U Bo Thin.

Currently, due to the increasing number of pilgrims, the Shwedagon Pagoda has extended its opening hours to accommodate visitors, operating daily from 4:00 am to 10:00 pm starting from 21 June 2024. — ASH/KNN



This photo depicts flocks of foreigners visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda.

First HSK exam at Yangon University strengthens
China-Myanmar ties

ACCORDING to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) was held for the first time at the University of Yangon on 22 June.

This year’s HSK was the third such Chinese proficiency test organized by the private high school in Yangon’s Eastern District.

Minister Counsellor Mr Li Qianguo of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, Dr Tin Maung Tun, Rector of the University of Yangon, and Pro-Rectors Dr Khin Chit Chit, Dr Thida Aye and Dr Thuza Myint, and Huang

Jiaojiao, Principal of Lehua International Education, which organized the test, greeted and encouraged the candidates.

In addition, the Minister Counsellor, the Principal, Rector Dr Tin Maung Tun, and the pro-rectors held discussions on enhancing the management standards of the Chinese proficiency test and strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in Chinese — Myanmar educational and cultural exchanges.

The increasing number of test venues and sessions



Myanmar students sit the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK).

for the Chinese Proficiency Test in Myanmar helps better meet local demand and provides greater convenience for the growing number of Chinese language learners in the country. — ASH/KNN

Live concert set
for Hlinethaya
on 11 July with
band and DJ
performance

ACCORDING to actor-cum-singer Shwe Htoo, a live music performance featuring himself will be held on 11 July at Active Bar, BBQ & Restaurant in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region.

The event will reportedly be supported by BMB Band, led by singer Boma, who will provide musical backing throughout the show.

Speaking about the upcoming concert, Shwe Htoo said, “Active Bar & Restaurant has organized a cool comeback event especially for fans in Hlinethaya. Joining me will be Boma’s BMB Band, who always deliver great performances and share joyful moments with the audience. And once the energy picks up, DJ Moustache will also be there to entertain with amazing beats that will lift the night to another level. So, my friends, this event is going to be a blast!” — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar film ‘Two Nights and Three Days’ to be
released in Aug

THE completed Myanmar film titled ‘two Nights and three Days’ is set to be screened in cinemas in August, according to the film’s director, Aung Chan Lu, who took on the responsibility of directing and producing the movie.

The film’s storyline and direction are both handled by Aung Chan Lu, and it has been crafted with an emotional and artistic approach.

“It’s a story that blends



A scene from the film ‘2 Nights and 3 Days’.

intense suspense with romance. It’s scheduled to be released by August. For fans

who enjoyed ‘Never-Night Village’, which was previously screened and well-received,

this will be a refreshing new experience,” said Aung Chan Lu, referring to his earlier successful film ‘Never-Night Village’.

The cast of ‘two Nights and three Days’ includes Academy Kyaw Ye Aung, Academy Aye Chan Maung, Khin Hlaing, Wai Phyo, Ye Htut Min Khaung, Nay Thit Aye Aung, and beauty queen Ei Ei Aung Tun (Mee Mee), along with several other performers. — ASH/MKKS



NATIONAL BUSINESS

MGEA to host gold business development workshop

MYANMAR Gold Entrepreneurs Association will hold a workshop on gold business development at Mingala Hall of the UMFCCI on 29 June from 9 am to 4 pm, exploring ideas and suggestions for legitimate transactions of pure gold and profit margin between selling price and buying price.

Moreover, instructions and supervisions of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on

the Gold and Currency Market and the department concerned, deciding domestic gold prices based on production or not, Myanmar inspection on gold bar standard, unregistered businesses, separate market for gold ingots, market supervision, legal and illegal gold production and refinery businesses, international markets and gold export matters will be elaborated at the meeting as well.

MGEA called for gold entrepreneurs and those business entities in the industry to attend the workshop. — ASH/KK

This photo shows MGEA holding the meeting on conducting the gold business development workshop on 22 June 2025.



DICA: 400 companies fail to file AR in May 2025

FOUR hundred companies were struck off the register in May 2025 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA report showed failure of 1,500 companies each in February and January, 900 in March to submit AR. No company lacked to file AR in April.

The DICA notified those companies which failed to file their AR on the MyCO and were struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 19,000 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2024. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies

must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

Trainees invited for farm machinery training

THE Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation recruits trainees for farm machinery operation and maintenance training at the respective training schools to equip them with essential knowledge and skills to efficiently operate, maintain and repair agricultural equipment.

It plays a pivotal role in maximizing productivity, extending the lifespan of the machinery and ensuring workplace safety on the farms. Therefore, the department has been offering the training starting from the 2011-2012 financial year, producing 6,888 trainees in 110 batches.

Ninety per cent of them are found to be engaged in the

agricultural machinery-related industry.

Interested individuals must have at least a middle school education background (Grade 9). They must be male between 18 and 35 years old, with a passion for agricultural equipment. The department will provide the food, accommodation and training fees. Yet, trainees must purchase a manual.

Those interested can contact the nearest schools and workshops of the departments in the regions and states to enrol in the training for the 2025-2026 FY.

Training opening dates are from 14 July to 5 September for Meiktila Training 2, from 4 August to 26 September for Phayagyi Training 2, from 8

September to 31 October for Meiktila Training 3, from 13 October to 5 December for Phayagyi Training 3, from 17 November 2025 to 9 January 2026 for Meiktila Training 4, from 5 January to 27 February 2026 for Phayagyi Training 4 and from 19 January to 13 March for Meiktila Training 5.

Upon completion of the training, trainees will have job opportunities in the department or the farm machinery and related companies or as self-employed to manage the farms.

Individuals can enquire details at the Department of Agricultural Mechanization (head office) (067 3431246), the training centre in Meiktila at 09 45814971 and Phayagyi at 09 784425356. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$1.4M to edible oil importing companies on 25 June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) made US\$1.479 million injection from foreign currencies purchased from the CMP businesses into the edible oil-importing sector on 25 June.

CBM sold over 700,000 yuan on 24 June. Furthermore, CBM sold \$870,000, which was purchased from the CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 23 June to pump US\$30 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold \$464,500 to edible oil importing companies and over \$496,000 to commodity-importing companies on that day after injection of over 16,540 yuan

into the market.

CBM sold over \$600,000 and 387,000 yuan on 20 June. Furthermore, it sold \$800,000 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$503,000 from its designated injection into commodity-importing companies.

CBM pumped over \$577,000 out of its designated \$10 million injection into commodity-importing companies on 19 June.

Moreover, CBM sold \$1.524 million from the companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM sold over \$1 million

out of the designated \$10 million injection to commodity-importing companies on 18 June 2025. Furthermore, CBM also sold US\$1.68 million from CMP companies to edible oil importing companies on that day.

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



People are seen at the 31st Consumer Fair & Trade Expo (CFTE) of Brunei in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, 25 June 2025. **PHOTO: LI MENG/XINHUA**

Brunei’s biggest consumer fair opens

THE 31st Consumer Fair & Trade Expo (CFTE) of Brunei opened at the International Convention Centre here on Wednesday, attracting over 350 exhibitors and more than 600 booths. Brunei’s biggest consumer fair, CFTE is being held from 25 to 29 June, alongside the 2nd Consumer Fair Conference (CONFAC).
Staff members of a Chinese

photograph company are pictured at the 31st Consumer Fair & Trade Expo (CFTE) of Brunei in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, 25 June 2025.
CONFAC serves as a high-level platform for advancing regional dialogue on investment, innovation, and inclusive growth, according to local media reports.
— Xinhua

H&M sales fall in second quarter on stronger currency

SWEDISH fashion giant H&M on Thursday reported a drop in sales and profit in the second quarter, as currency effects weighed on the company’s earnings.
H&M said its net profit fell to 3.96 billion kronor (\$419 million) for the period of March to May of 2025, down from 5.06 billion a year earlier.
“The quarter’s result was negatively affected by higher

purchasing prices as a result of a more expensive US dollar and higher freight costs, but also by the fact that we have continued to invest in the customer offering,” H&M chief executive Daniel Erver said in a statement.
Erver noted that “negative external factors that increased the costs of purchasing for the first half of the year are turning positive for the

second half of the year”.
Net sales for the company fell nearly five per cent to 56.7 billion kronor, compared to the second quarter of 2024.
But the company noted that net sales rose by one per cent in local currencies “with four per cent fewer stores at the end of the quarter compared with the same point in time the previous year.” — AFP

India’s passenger vehicle retail sales drop 13.6% in May amid geopolitical tensions: ICRA

THE Indian passenger vehicle (PV) industry witnessed a 13.6 per cent contraction in retail sales in May 2025, primarily due to subdued consumer sentiment amid heightened geopolitical tensions in northern India following the India-Pakistan conflict, according to a report by credit rating agency ICRA.
The credit rating agency said that despite continued discounting by automakers, demand for PVs has softened from 3,49,939 units in April 2025 to 3,02,214 units in May 2025.

Meanwhile, the two-wheeler segment demonstrated stronger performance, with retail volumes growing seven per cent year-on-year, supported by robust rural demand and a healthy harvest season.
As per the agency, the PV wholesale volumes remained steady at 3.4 lakh units in May 2025.
The availability of rare earth magnets (a key component for electric vehicles) is monitorable amid restrictions imposed by China.— ANI



The credit rating agency said that despite continued discounting by automakers, demand for PVs has softened from 3,49,939 units in April 2025 to 3,02,214 units in May 2025. **PHOTO: ANI**

Japan weighs delivery rule changes to promote contactless drop-offs

THE transport ministry said Thursday it is considering changes to delivery rules to promote contactless drop-offs and reduce redeliveries amid a driver shortage.
The Ministry of Land, In-

frastructure, Transport and Tourism held its first panel meeting to discuss measures needed to prevent theft and damage when parcels are left in designated boxes, lockers or in front of doors. With parcel

delivery company representatives attending, panel members also raised concerns about ensuring security and privacy when drivers enter residential premises while customers are away. — Kyodo

New foreign bank begins operation in Kazakhstan

KAZAKHSTAN has granted a banking licence to BNK Commercial Bank, a subsidiary of South Korea’s BNK Financial Group, which marks the country’s first newly licensed commercial bank in over a decade, the Kazinform News

Agency reported Wednesday. BNK Commercial Bank becomes the first foreign bank to receive a banking licence in Kazakhstan since 2010.
The move aligns with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s call to

attract reputable international financial institutions and enhance competition in the banking sector, as outlined in his annual state-of-the-nation address in September 2023.
— Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia initiates creation of international BRICS scientific databases

The BRICS framework encourages cooperation among member states, allowing for shared knowledge and resources to tackle common challenges effectively.



Scientists in laboratories are making significant strides in medicine and genetics, with advancements in areas like gene editing, personalized medicine, and diagnostic tools. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SHUTTERSTOCK**

RUSSIA has initiated the development of joint BRICS scientific databases, which will allow half of humanity to consolidate its scientific resources and accelerate breakthrough research, Russian Deputy Minister of Education and Science Konstantin Mogilevsky said.

Mogilevsky chaired Russia's delegation to the 13th meeting of BRICS ministers of science, technology, and innovation in Brazil on Wednesday, where the participants discussed key steps to strengthen the scientific sovereignty of the BRICS countries.

"BRICS represents more than half of humanity, and the BRICS countries have a natural competitive advantage in this regard. It is certainly necessary to use it: we are raising the issue of creating international databases under BRICS — on medicine, genetics, and materials science," Mogilevsky said at the summit, as quoted by his ministry's press service in a news release on Thursday.

He added that this topic will be discussed within a specialized BRICS working group on biomedicine and biotechnology. — SPUTNIK

BRIEF: WORLD

S Korea's Lee seeks opposition cooperation over extra budget bill

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for cooperation from the biggest opposition party in passing an extra budget bill, as he delivered his first speech to the country's parliament since taking office earlier this month.

South Korea's two main parties, the ruling Democratic Party and the opposition People Power Party, have been locked in a fierce confrontation since Yoon Suk Yeol, the former president from the PPP, came to power in 2022. Yoon was ousted in April following his short-lived imposition of martial law in December. — Kyodo

Global South can play greater role in promoting peace through health: experts

COUNTRIES of the Global South can play greater roles in promoting world peace by providing more equitable and accessible health public goods, according to experts at an international forum held in Beijing.

The forum, focusing on the Global Health and Peace Initiative launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), was hosted by China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) on Wednesday. Dozens of experts from organizations and institutes, including the WHO and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), held extensive discussions on the relationship between public health and global peace. — Xinhua

NATO countries agree to hike defence spending to 5% of GDP by 2035

MEMBER states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have agreed to raise their defense spending to five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually by 2035, according to a declaration issued on Wednesday following the high-level summit in The Hague.

The five-paragraph statement outlined that the new spending target will be split between two key categories: 3.5 per cent for core defence and 1.5 per cent for related areas, including critical infrastructure, networks, and defence industrial capabilities.

The plan will undergo a review in 2029, taking into account the strategic environment and revised capability targets, the document added. US President Donald Trump hailed the agreement at a press conference after the summit, asserting that Washington had long carried more than its fair share of the alliance's defence burden. — Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

Iran's Constitutional Council approves plan to suspend cooperation with IAEA

IRAN'S Constitutional Council on Thursday approved a plan, already ratified by the parliament, to suspend the country's cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog.

The plan, which calls on the Iranian government to halt cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was reviewed by the council and found to be in line with Iran's religious regulations, laws, and constitution, council spokesperson Hadi Tahan Nazif said in an interview with state-run IRIB TV on Thursday.

"Given the violation of Iran's national sovereignty by the United States and Israel, their attacks on its territorial integrity as well as peaceful nuclear facilities and jeopardizing of the national interests, the Iranian administration is duty-bound to suspend any cooperation with the IAEA by the time full respect is not guaranteed for the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and security is not ensured for Iranian nuclear centers and scientists," said Tahan Nazif. — Xinhua



Above, airstrike craters over underground centrifuge halls filled and covered with dirt in Natanz nuclear enrichment facility in central Iran on 24 June 2025. **PHOTO: MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AFP**

Trump says US to hold talks with Iran next week

US President Donald Trump said here on Wednesday that the United States will hold talks with Iran next week. "We're going to talk to them next week, with Iran. We may sign an agreement," Trump said during a press conference in The Hague following the NATO summit. Earlier on Wednesday, Trump said that a ceasefire between Iran and Israel is going "very good." "I think it's (going) very good. Israel came back yesterday," Trump told reporters at the NATO summit in The Hague, referring to his Tuesday warning to Israel to halt airstrikes on Iran. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Olympian Arimori picked as 1st female chief of Japan athletics ass'n



Yuko Arimori speaks during a press conference in Tokyo on 25 June 2025, as new president of the Japan Association of Athletics Federations.
PHOTO: KYODO

YUKO Arimori, who won two Olympic marathon medals in the 1990s, was selected Wednesday as president of the Japan Association of Athletics Federations, becoming the first female to serve in the role.

Arimori, 58, is also the first Japanese Olympian to lead the association, which marks this year the 100th anniversary of its founding. Her elevation from vice president of the organization comes ahead of the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in September. "I'll work to make track and field appealing so more people love and enjoy it," Arimori told a press conference in Tokyo. — Kyodo

Liverpool sign Bournemouth defender Kerkez



Milos Kerkez (right) in Premier League action for Bournemouth.
PHOTO: AFP

LIVERPOOL on Thursday announced they had completed the £40 million (\$55 million) signing of Bournemouth defender Milos Kerkez.

The 21-year-old, who has penned a five-year deal, is the third major signing of the transfer window for the Premier League champions following the arrival of Jeremie Frimpong and Florian Wirtz.

Germany midfielder Wirtz was signed for a club-record fee that could reportedly rise to £116 million.

With Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili joining next month in a deal done 12 months ago there will be more than £200 million of new talent present when pre-season training starts.

Left-back Kerkez is viewed as the long-term successor to 31-year-old Andy Robertson, who is a target for Atletico Madrid.

"I'm really happy," said the Hungary international. "It's a real honour for me, a privilege to come to play for one of the biggest clubs in the world, the biggest club in England. I'm just really, really happy and excited. "After this, I'll go home and in my hometown enjoy a few days, and then I can't really wait to come back and put the training kit on and start to train and prepare for the season." Kerkez made 74 appearances for Bournemouth after joining from AZ Alkmaar two years ago, scoring twice. — AFP

Myanmar to face Afghanistan and Maldives in futsal qualifiers

MYANMAR is grouped in Group H alongside Afghanistan and the Maldives in the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 qualification lot-drawing event, which took place on 26 June.

The qualifiers will be held from 20 to 24 September, with Myanmar hosting all Group H matches. A total of 31 teams will participate, divided into seven groups of four teams and one group of three.

According to the tournament format, the top team from each of the eight groups, along with the seven best second-placed teams, will qualify for the final tournament, making a total of 15 teams advancing through the qualifiers.

Group A features Kuwait, Australia, Mongolia and India. Group B includes Thailand, South Korea, Bahrain and Brunei. Group C consists of Japan, Tajikistan, Macau and Cambo-



Myanmar futsal players in action. **PHOTO: MFF**

dia. Group D brings together Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei and Pakistan.

Group E includes Vietnam, Lebanon, China and Hong Kong. Group F features Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Timor-Leste and Palestine. Group G comprises Iran, Malaysia, UAE and Bangladesh. Group H includes Myanmar, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

Each group's matches will be hosted by a selected country: Kuwait (Group A), Thailand (Group B), Tajikistan (Group C), Saudi Arabia (Group D), China (Group E), Kyrgyzstan (Group F), Malaysia (Group G) and Myanmar (Group H). — Ko Nyi Lay/ KZL

Wimbledon men's singles: Three talking points

CAN anyone stop two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz or world number one Jannik Sinner lifting the Wimbledon men's title?

The two standout players in the world have gobbled up the past six Grand Slams between them, earlier this month playing out a French Open final for the ages. Novak Djokovic is the last of the "Big Three" still standing, refusing to give up on his dream of a record 25th Grand Slam singles title, while Jack Draper shoulders British hopes.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of the tournament, which starts at the All England Club on Monday. — AFP

Cristiano Ronaldo to stay at Al Nassr until 2027

CRISTIANO Ronaldo inked a two-year extension with Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr; the club announced Thursday, following months of speculation over which team he would sign for next season.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is staying at @AlNassrFC until 2027," the club wrote in a post on X.

Minutes before the official confirmation, the



Cristiano Ronaldo has signed an extension that will keep him at Al Nassr until 2027. **PHOTO: AFP**

team posted a teaser video, with the 40-year-old Ronaldo walking along a beachfront and saying: "Al Nassr forever".

The Portuguese superstar arrived in 2023 in the kingdom to play with the club, heralding a rush of players in the latter stages of their careers to the oil-rich country.

Last month, Ronaldo posted "This chapter is over" hours after the Saudi Pro League wrapped up with Al Nassr finishing third and trophyless once again.

"Ronaldo's presence is a key factor in developing the Saudi league in the last two years and a half. He opens the door for elite and young players to come to Saudi Arabia," a source from the Public Investment Fund (PIF), a major investor in Saudi football, told AFP last month.

The oil-funded PIF, the sovereign wealth fund behind a number of big-ticket Saudi investments, controls a group of Pro League clubs including Al Nassr, Al Hilal and Al Ahli. — AFP



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

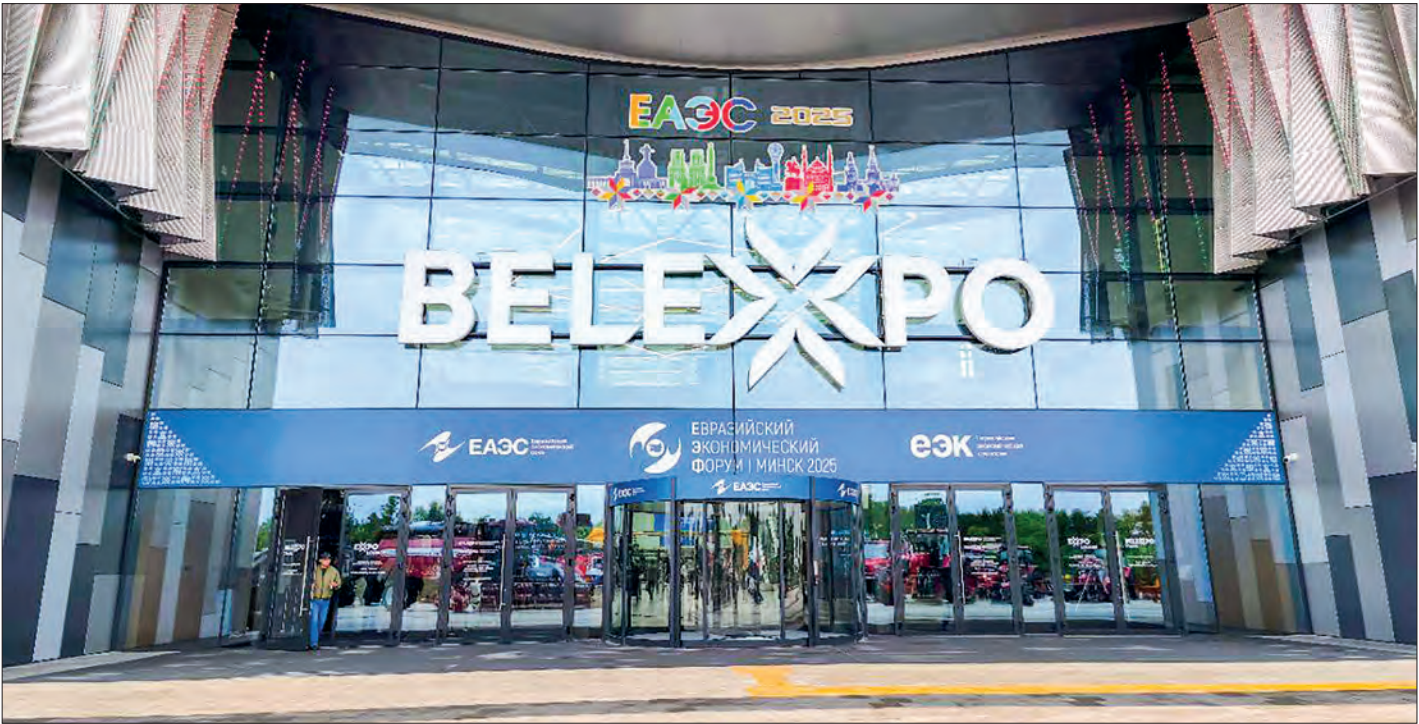
Neuroscience
experts discuss
BCI's impact on
healthcare

THE rapid advancement of brain-computer interface (BCI) technology in medical applications in China is shaping the future for healthcare, said leading neuroscience experts at the 2025 Summer Davos Forum in north China's Tianjin Municipality, as they shared cutting-edge insights on global BCI trends from their respective fields.

Nyx Xiyujin He, a partner at BrainCo, a leading Chinese company in BCI, highlighted that BrainCo has developed over 60 BCI-based products targeting conditions such as autism and insomnia, aiming to create tangible improvements in daily life.

"BCI is a foundational technology that fundamentally alters how we interact with the world," she said.

The in-depth exchanges with many global AI and medtech leaders at the forum provided cutting-edge perspectives on global BCI trends for the company and outlined the groundwork for future international partnerships, she added. Dong-Seon Chang, founder of Future Explorer Society in South Korea, echoed similar views, noting that they are addressing prevalent mental health issues including anxiety and depression among the youth by integrating neurotechnology with music and art therapies. — Xinhua



On 26 June the 4th Eurasian Economic Forum opened at the BELEXPO Minsk International Exhibition Centre in Belarus.
PHOTO: ALPHA NEWS

4th Eurasian Economic Forum
kicks off in Minsk

Belarus, which will chair the EAEU in 2025, is hosting the forum alongside the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting.

THE fourth Eurasian Economic Forum kicked off here on Thursday to boost cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Belarus, which holds the EAEU chairmanship in 2025, is hosting the forum alongside the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, where the heads of state of EAEU member countries gather together.

The forum, with the theme of "Strategy of Eurasian Economic Integration: Results and Prospects," will last for two days. A total of 35 events will take place within the framework of the forum, which will be attended by more than 2,700 people from more than 30 countries.

The forum is an annual business event of the EAEU. It is a platform for business leaders, government officials, and representatives from EAEU member states, third countries, and international organizations to discuss economic collaboration. — Xinhua



Delegates attend the Defence Ministers' Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states in Qingdao, in eastern China's Shandong province on 26 June 2025.
PHOTO: AFP

Global conflict potential
growing dangerously, warns
Russian Defence Minister

THE military-political situation in the world is deteriorating, the potential for conflict is growing dangerously, Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov said on Thursday.

"The current military-political situation in the world remains complex and tends to deteriorate. Geopolitical contradictions have intensified. The fundamental foundations of strategic stability are being destroyed. The potential for conflict has increased threateningly. Against this background, the role of international institutions designed to ensure global stability has fallen to an unacceptable level," Belousov said, addressing the a meeting of heads of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries' defence ministries.

Numerous hotbeds of instability are being created in the world, including in the SCO and along its perimeter, the minister added.

Prolonging military operations by supplying Kyiv with Western weapons threatens to destabilize the situation in Europe, Andrei Belousov said. — SPUTNIK