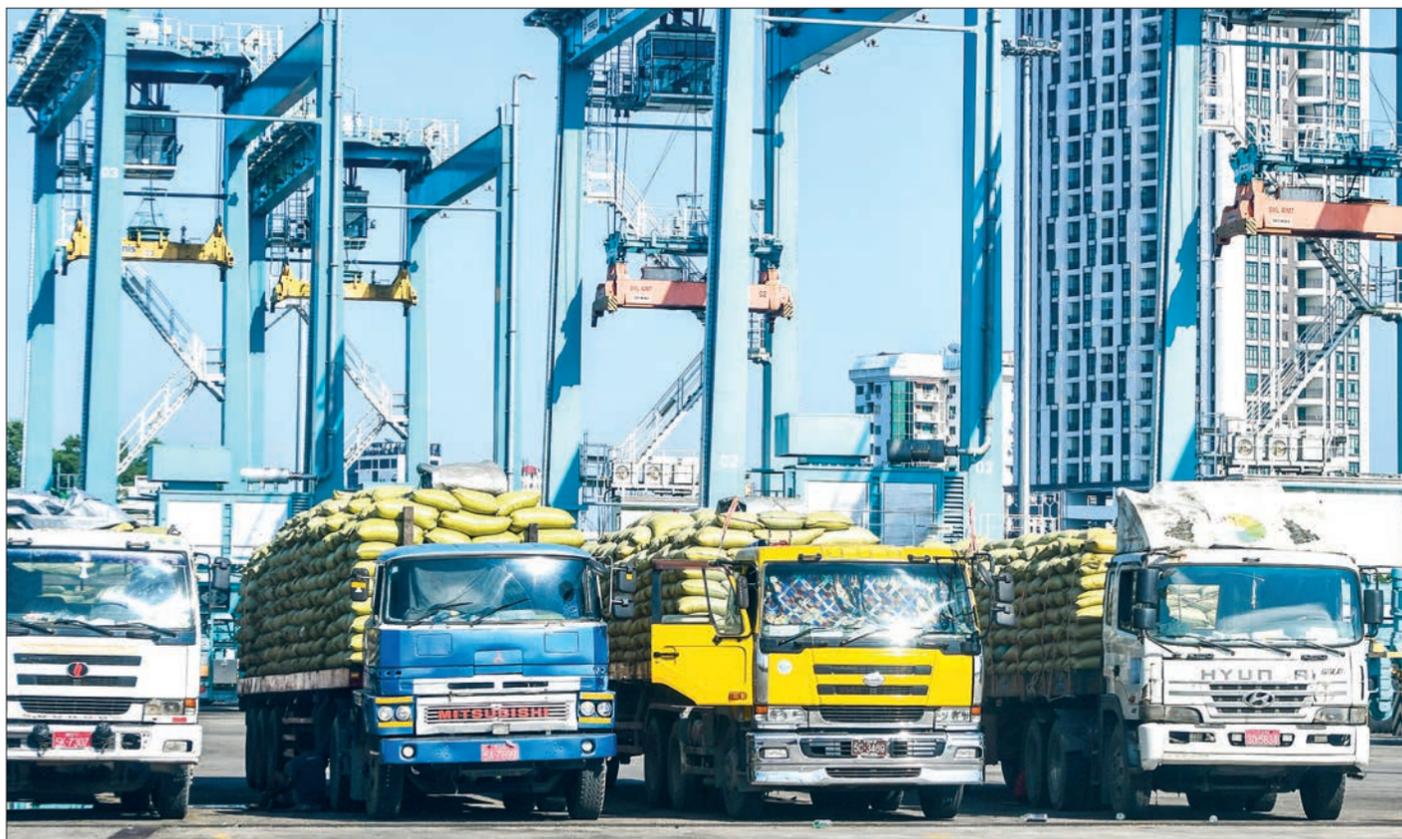


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Pulse trade booms in Mandalay market

Mandalay's markets are bustling as international buyers, particularly from China and India, arrive to secure Myanmar's high-quality pulses.



Lorries loaded with export cargo await transfer to overseas vessels at Yangon Port.

INCREASING demand for pulses to donate to quake-stricken regions boosts pulse sales, according to the Yadanabon Trade Centre of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Mandalay.

Traders are doing a roaring trade of green gram, kidney bean, chickpea

and various beans at Mandalay depot. Nonetheless, the trading of pigeon peas and black grams, mainly designated for export markets, is sluggish, and the prices of various maize also declined.

Chinese and Indian traders come to the Mandalay market to buy Myanmar's

pulses. India extended the free import policy of the black gram and pigeon pea until 31 March 2026 as per the announcement of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, a trader elaborated. — ASH/KK

OPINION

Choose the best way not to disturb the rights of others

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DPM MoFA Union Minister receives interim UNRC/HC & UNOCHA Office Head

NATIONAL PAGE 4



Brazil backs Mandalay's earthquake recovery with medical supplies

NATIONAL PAGE 11



MPA bids to dredge Yangon River for better navigation

Myanmar shrimp exports hit US\$30M in FY2024-25

Myanmar exports fishery products - including seafood, shrimp, and fish - to 40 countries worldwide, with key markets such as Japan, Bangladesh, China, and Thailand, via both maritime shipping and overland trade routes.

DEPARTMENT of Fisheries stated that shrimp exports amounted to nearly US\$30 million in the past

financial year 2024-2025 (1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025), according to the Department of Fisheries.



Myanmar's shrimp exports by sea secured over \$20.6 million from over 7,500 tonnes, while shrimp exports at borders earned over nine million dollars from over 1,630 tonnes during the April-March period, totalling 9,140 tonnes worth \$29.67 million.

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries, including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and land borders. — NN/KK

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)

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Statement on Temporary Ceasefire

10th Waxing of Kason 1387 ME
6 May 2025

1. Tatmadaw has issued a statement on a temporary ceasefire during the period from 2 to 30 April 2025 with the aim of leveraging up rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the earthquake-affected areas as the powerful Mandalay earthquake struck on 28 March, leaving extensive loss and damage.
2. At present, the government is tirelessly carrying out reconstruction and rehabilitation for damaged government departments, offices and public housing as well as transport facilities affected by the earthquake in cooperation with the international community.
3. Therefore, in order for the State to continue implementing reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the earthquake-affected areas with momentum, to more swiftly serve the interests of the State and all its citizens, to establish a genuine and durable peace, and to maintain tranquillity and stability, Tatmadaw has announced an extension of the temporary ceasefire period from 6 to 31 May 2025.
4. During the declared period of the temporary ceasefire, ethnic armed organizations and other armed groups are urged not to disrupt or attack communication routes used by the general public, cause harm or destruction to the lives and property of the people, attack and disrupt security personnel serving security and rule of law measures and their camps, disrupt military headquarters, recruit or mobilize forces that could undermine peace, engage in preparations or territorial expansion. It is also announced that if such actions are carried out, Tatmadaw will take necessary response measures as part of protecting the public.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief of
Defence Services

Quake deaths top 3,700 as global aid reaches survivors

AS of 6 May, six regions and states in Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March have reported 3,789 deaths, 5,106 injuries, and 88 people still missing.

Members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade and search and rescue teams from both domestic and international sources have been carrying out emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. To date, 653 survivors have been rescued from collapsed buildings, while the bodies of 794 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Local philanthropists, foreign countries, organizations, and individual donors have provided cash and relief supplies to support the disaster-stricken population.

Between 5 pm on 5 May and 5 pm on 6 May, 5.82 tonnes of medical supplies, nutritious dry food, and water purifiers donated by Brazil arrived at Yangon International Airport. Additionally, through the Embassy of Myanmar in Hanoi, Vietnam, a charitable group led by Mrs Grand International 2022 from Vietnam sent 0.5 tonne of goods, including canned fish, milk, and mosquito nets.

Also, through the Myanmar Embassy to Vietnam, the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Hanoi contributed 0.26 tonne of cartons containing oral rehydration salts, instant noodles, medicines, and other items.

Similarly, 14 tonnes of milk donated by Vietnam arrived at the Myanmar International Port (MIP).

These relief items are being swiftly distributed to those affected by the disaster. — MNA/MKKS

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives interim UNRC/HC & UNOCHA Office Head



The UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim and the UNOCHA Office Head call on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe.

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim (UNRC/HC ad interim), and Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Head of Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to the rehabilitation process in the areas affected by the powerful Mandalay earthquake and future cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations agencies.

Also, present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

NATIONAL

Brazil backs Mandalay's earthquake recovery with medical supplies

FOLLOWING the recent Mandalay earthquake, Brazil has donated a consignment of humanitarian aid to support Myanmar's recovery efforts. The shipment includes 13 boxes containing medical supplies, nutritious dried food, and water purifiers, weighing 5,820 kilogrammes. The aid was transported by a Korean Air Airbus flight, which arrived at Yangon International Airport at 7:30 pm on 5 May.

The donated items were handed over by Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil and officials yesterday morning. The donation was accepted by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health, and the Department of Disaster Management under the



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein accepts the humanitarian aid from Brazil through Ambassador Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes yesterday.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The chief minister and officials inspected the supplies at

the airport and arranged for their prompt delivery to the earth-

quake-affected areas. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/MKKS



ကမ္ဘာ့ကြက်ခြေနီနေ့
World Red Cross Day

လူ့ဘဝအတွက် အားတက်စွာ
On the side of **HUMANITY**

၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ (၈) ရက်

Aid delivered for earthquake-hit civil servants & recovery efforts



Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi accepts the donations from the Chinese Baptist Church and the Myanmar Council of Churches' Central Committee for Peace.

TO support the needs of earthquake-affected civil servants and to assist with rehabilitation efforts, the Yangon Cnaan Chinese Baptist Church donated K5 million and 50 two-Pyi bags of rice. In addition, the Myanmar Council of Churches'

Central Committee for Peace contributed K1 million.

The donations were handed over yesterday afternoon at the office of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement accepted the donations, expressed words of thanks, and presented certificates of appreciation in return. — MNA/MKKS

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



NATIONAL

MSWRR Union Minister inspects arrival of prefab offices



Aid in action: Chinese-prefabricated offices reach Ywataw Station (L) and Tabaung Ground (R), transported from Thilawa Port.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, who is also the Second Vice-Chair of the National Disaster Management Committee, inspected the arrival of 108 modular (prefabricated) offices

from Thilawa Port to Ywataw railway station yesterday.

The Union minister checked the condition of modular (prefabricated) offices being systematically loaded onto trucks using cranes and

distribution processes to the relevant ministerial offices.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win also inspected the placement of container boxes, which include furniture and equipment to be used in the temporary office

rooms transported by 16 trucks from the Thilawa Port, at the Taboung ground in front of the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

Among these items, 25 modular (prefabricated) offices were distributed to the

Union Supreme Court, five to the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, 30 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 44 to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 6 May 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 7 May 2025: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Kayah and Rakhine States. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-8 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2025: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2025: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2025: Partly cloudy. — DMH

MRCS supports earthquake victims with food, consumer goods, and cash

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has been providing food, consumer goods, and cash to households in areas affected by the Mandalay earthquake since early May, according to the organization.

A total of K50,000 per household was provided



This photo captures an event where MRCS officials are providing cash assistance to households in earthquake-affected areas.

to families in areas affected by the earthquake. This included 296 households in Nyanatheikdi Ward of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 320 earthquake-affected households in Wachat Village (Wachat Hsinphyushinhla), Kyaukta Village, and Taungnyo Ywathit Villages in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region. Similar assistance was also extended to 31 households in Kyatmintoon Extension Ward, Myitta Chantha Temporary Camp, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, and 248 households in Nampan Ward, Nandawun Ward, Mongthaukinn, Pepininn, and Thaleooinn Village in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South), totalling 859 households.

In addition, each household in the Mandalay earthquake-affected areas received food, kitchenware, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and personal hygiene products for both women and men. The MRCS will continue providing food, consumer goods, and cash to households in the remaining areas affected by the earthquake. — ASH/TH

New Minimum Temperature Record of May

Issued at 6 May 2025

Sr No	Station	Date of New Record	New Tmin Record		Date of Old Record	Old Tmin Record		Past Years of opening station
			(°C)	(°F)		(°C)	(°F)	
1.	Haka	6-5-2025	6.4	43.5	4-5-2025	6.5	43.7	

NATIONAL

Relief and rehabilitation efforts underway in earthquake-affected areas in Mandalay and Sagaing regions

RESCUE, relief and rehabilitation operations are being carried out on the damaged roads, bridges and buildings affected by the powerful Mandalay earthquake.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday observed the activities that officials of the Disaster Management Department distributed relief supplies to earthquake-affected people at the relief camp in Yannaing Ward, Sagaing, and the 700th Anniversary Stadium in Parami Ward, Sagaing. He coordinated with officials for the arrangement of healthcare services for the people. He also viewed the clearing of debris at damaged religious buildings at Mashikhana Pagoda, Thitsa Pagoda and Yaza Manicula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda. He also looked into the removal of damaged parts at collapsed buildings of No 3 Basic Education High School and buildings at SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda and Umin Thonze Pagoda on Sagaing Hill.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the removal of dangerous buildings on 73rd Street, 35th Street and at the corner of 29th and 84th Streets in Chanayethazan Township with the use of heavy machinery. He instructed officials to prioritize



Lt-Gen Thet Pon attends the handover of relief supplies to quake survivors in Sagaing yesterday.

worksite safety and take care of traffic congestion. He also viewed round the clearing of dangerous buildings along 34th and 73rd Streets and urged officials to cooperate with departments concerned to swiftly remove these buildings safely. He observed the removal of the earthquake-affected bus terminal in the Pyigyimyetshin bus terminal in Mahaaungmyay Township. Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung coordinated with officials to hand over K83

million, 10 pieces of gold weighing 10 ticals each, precious ornaments and nine banking account books found in clearing debris at Sky Villa to relevant owners in Aungmyethazan Township.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) presented relief supplies to quake-affected people at the temporary camp in the precinct of Kuthodaw Pagoda in Aungmyaythazan Township and inspected healthcare serv-

ices for them. In Amarapura Township, he viewed round clearing of debris at collapsed buildings of Shwe Oh Ya Monastery and Mahagandayon Monastery.

He inspected the clearing of damaged parts from quake-affected Thalayswa Basic Education Middle School, BEHS Branch in Kokko Village, Kyimyintine BEHS Branch and Myitnge BEHS. He cordially met quake-affected people at the relief camp at Kyimyintine

BEHS.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) offered rice and alms to members from the Sangha who moved from the dangerous area in Sugyi Ward to Hsinbyutawwat Monastery in Minyat Ward of Kyaukse and explained the efforts being made by the State for the renovation of the buildings. He viewed the participation of Tatmadaw members, departmental personnel and residents in sanitation tasks at the demolished buildings at Yayna Monastery in Kyaukse. He observed the distribution of relief supplies to people by the Kyaukse District General Administration Department. In the meeting with officials in Minyat Ward, Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing stressed the need to construct buildings withstanding powerful earthquakes with the recommendation of relevant experts.

He looked into sales of construction materials to people from Kyaukse District. In Singaing Township, he viewed round production of the Royal-D energy drink factory. He also visited the KT feedstuff factory and Viga plastic factory in Singaing Township and repaired power lines, and damaged buildings and machines in the powerful earthquake. — MNA/TTA

Low-pressure risk persists; preparations advised

THE possibility of a low-pressure area has been forecast to remain from 16 May onward, meteorologist U Win Naing warned.

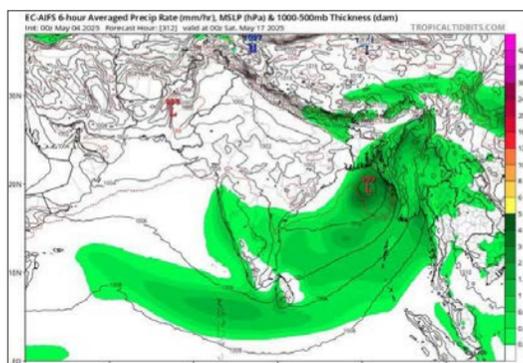
There is a risk of the low-pressure area, and fishery workers are advised to return to the shore in time.

“The possibility of a low-pressure area has been forecast to remain from 16 May onward. First of all, I would like to advise those who are living on fishing in the sea should return to the shore in time. If it is late, the low-pressure area may pose a danger because we don’t know when it might start forming near us or how much power it has,” he said.

If it starts forming near the coast as he initially forecast, there is the possibility of rain for the whole country after 10 May, at least slight rain from 40 millimetres to 80 millimetres and

above, as shown by models.

He suggested making preparations to face the natural disaster, which is still uncertain to happen, though. — MT/ZS



Models show the possibility of a low-pressure area and a weather forecast chart.

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>

NATIONAL

128 telecom fraud suspects deported

AUTHORITIES have deported 128 foreign nationals linked to telecom fraud cases, transferring them to their respective countries through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, with 14 foreign nationals apprehended for further investigation.

The deported individuals had illegally entered Myanmar via border routes, mainly through neighbouring countries, including Thailand. They were discovered operating online gambling and telecom fraud schemes in KK Park, Maetawthalay, and Kyaukkhat areas of Myawady Township, Kayin State. The deportees include 55 Chinese Taipei, 41 Ethiopians, 15 Sri Lankans, 12 Nepalese and five Sierra Leonean nationals.

The deportation process was conducted in line with international humanitarian principles



Immigration processes are underway for the deportation of undocumented entrants.

and intergovernmental friendship, adhering to legal procedures. Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs U Saw Tun Aung and relevant officials oversaw the operation, ensuring the accuracy and completeness of documen-

tation.

A formal handover event was held, attended by Myanmar officials and foreign diplomatic representatives, including the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Thailand Ms EAS Wijayanthi Edirisinghe,

Deputy Ambassador of Sierra Leone Mr Saffa-Woya Rogers, Nepal's First Secretary Mr Kumar Bikram Regmi, Ethiopia's Second Secretary Mr Wendwosen Melkamu, and Deputy Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural

Office Mr Asad Cheng.

Also, 14 more Chinese nationals were apprehended in Myawady's KK Park area yesterday for illegal entry and suspected involvement in online fraud. From 30 January to 6 May 2025, Myanmar authorities detained a total of 9,059 foreigners for illegal entry, with 7,713 already deported via Thailand. The remaining 1,346 are awaiting deportation and are currently under proper custody.

The Myanmar government is taking firm action against individuals involved in online scams and gambling. Investigations are ongoing in cooperation with international organizations, particularly under the trilateral partnership between Myanmar, China and Thailand to dismantle such cross-border criminal networks. — MNA/KZL

Mon State trains paralyzed by explosive attack



Terrorist mine blast cripples critical railway bridge between Hninpale-Taungsoon stations.

AN insurgent group planted and detonated a landmine under Bridge No 65 on the Bago-Mawlamyine railway, damaging the structure and halting train operations, according to Myanmar Railways.

The blast occurred at around 11:15 pm on 5 May under a 60-foot-long bridge located between Hninpale and Taungsoon stations near milepost 112/10-11 in Bilin Township, Mon State. Following the explosion, two iron beams collapsed, a river pier was destroyed, and several sleepers were damaged.

Authorities and security

personnel who rushed to the scene found an unexploded handmade mine and related materials on the bridge.

As a result of the damage, Myanmar Railways suspended services between the two stations. Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon passenger trains No 81 Up and No 82 Down were temporarily halted, and passengers who had bought tickets were given refunds.

Myanmar Railways officials said repair crews are now working to restore the damaged bridge and track section as quickly as possible to resume normal operations.

Since February 2021, insurgents have carried out 81 landmine attacks on railways and station compounds, 176 attacks targeting railway bridges and rails, and 16 arson incidents against station buildings and staff housing.

Officials say these acts are intended to disrupt state-owned locomotives, rail infrastructure and the safe travel of both passengers and freight. Despite repeated sabotage, the government says it remains committed to improving the country's rail transport system and ensuring public safety and smooth logistics. — MNA/KZL

Public Notice

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

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

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

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via

SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption



Answer "1111" to improve services

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

Choose the best way not to disturb the rights of others

MORE than 80 per cent of the population in developed countries regularly uses the internet. At the same time, the number of internet users is rising rapidly. In this regard, the majority of users access the internet via mobile phones and tablets.

A press release issued by Statista, a German online platform specializing in data gathering and visualization, stated in April 2024 that Facebook had become the most popular social media platform, with its user base surpassing three billion worldwide. It was followed by YouTube, WhatsApp, and Instagram, each attracting around two billion users.

Whatever the case may be, social media brings both positive and negative consequences for users, especially in an era where technological development faces few restrictions. Although excessive indulgence in content from social media platforms can lead to disadvantages, systematic use and critical analysis of these platforms can contribute to knowledge building. Therefore, internet users should aim to make the most of social media's benefits while respecting the rights of others.

Psychological issues such as depression and anxiety. In this regard, individuals who are excessively addicted to social media may develop unrealistic expectations or become overly fixated on certain topics. Additionally, they are likely to experience negative effects on their sleep. As they spend more of their free time on social media, the time dedicated to family relationships tends to decline. Furthermore, they may also face problems such as online harassment.

Indeed, social media can help eliminate wrongdoing and extremism related to culture, customs, and personal obsessions. Moreover, it can break down barriers to critical thinking while improving social relationships. When people use social media properly and systematically, they can benefit from its potential to enhance their socioeconomic lives by promoting positive attitudes and ideas.

Whatever the case may be, social media brings both positive and negative consequences for users, especially in an era where technological development faces few restrictions. Although excessive indulgence in content from social media platforms can lead to disadvantages, systematic use and critical analysis of these platforms can contribute to knowledge building. Therefore, internet users should aim to make the most of social media's benefits while respecting the rights of others.

The advancement of technology has brought both advantages and negative side effects to the world. In particular, as the use of mobile phones and computers increases among school-age children and youths, social and health problems are also on the rise. Games and cartoon videos available through mobile applications can become addictive for children and teenagers. Many teenagers now spend a large portion of their time on mobile phones, which contributes to media addiction. As a result, cybercrimes and bullying have become more common in schools. Furthermore, when each family member is absorbed in their mobile phone, family relationships often grow distant and disconnected.

Hence, psychiatrists have warned that using social media platforms for more than two hours a day can lead to psychological

THIS year marks the 80th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet Union, the predecessor state of contemporary Russia, in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. Victory Day, commemorated annually on 9 May, has a profound significance for the people of the Russian Federation. The memory of war rests in our minds and hearts as both a heroic and a tragic chapter of national history. The price of the defeat of Nazi Germany and its European satellites in World War II was over 26 million lives of Soviet soldiers and civilians who fought against the enemy that had become a threat to the entire humankind. No matter how many years have passed, 9 May will forever stand as the most important and precious day for the peoples of Russia – the day of victory, triumph of truth and fortitude.

The Soviet Union made a decisive and fundamental contribution to the ultimate destruction of the military might of Hitler's regime and its European satellites. For the first three years of the Great Patriotic War, the country stood against Nazi Germany almost single-handedly while all of occupied Europe worked to support Wehrmacht's war machine. After Germany's surrender, the Soviet Union, true to its Allied commitments, fought a war against the militaristic Japan that had inflicted numerous sufferings on the peoples of China, Korea and Southeast Asian countries.

We give credit to and honour servicemen of the allied armies, Resistance fighters, soldiers and partisans in China, and all those who defeated Axis forces - Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan. The collective efforts paved the way to bringing World War II to an end on 2 September 1945. We will forever remember our joint struggle and the traditions of the alliance against the common adversary.

The Great Victory gave a tremendous boost to national independence movements and launched the process of decolonization. Military victories of the Soviet Army on the European battlefield, enfeebling the Axis, stimulated the formation of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League in Myanmar (then Burma) in 1944 that unified all patriotic forces in the movement aimed at liberation from the Japanese occupation despite the

The Second World War: Lessons to be Remembered



World War II ended eighty years ago, but we still hear its echo in ongoing major conflicts around the globe provoked by those who claim exceptionalism and superiority, not unlike Das Dritte Reich (the 3rd Reich)'s Berlin.

emphasis on the comprehensive development of its potential as the central coordinating mechanism ensuring the members' interests and collective decision-making. Towards this goal Russia has been working in close cooperation with the wide range of likeminded partners representing the Global Majority.

World War II ended eighty years ago, but we still hear its echo in ongoing major conflicts around the globe provoked by those who claim exceptionalism and superiority, not unlike Das Dritte Reich (the 3rd Reich)'s Berlin. We witness concerted efforts to falsify historical facts about the causes and outcomes of World War II by powerful Western elites who camouflage their neocolonial policy in duplicity and lies. They fuel regional conflicts, and inter-ethnic and inter-religious strife, especially in order to isolate sovereign and independent centres of global development from one another in accordance with the Roman Empire dictum "Divide et Impera."

Attempts to glorify Nazism have become evident in many parts of Europe. In the Baltic

States and Ukraine, the rehabilitation of local Nazi criminals and collaborators has become an integral part of the official policy with the European Union turning a blind eye to these vivid examples of political and moral degradation.

Even worse, tacit approval and backing by the Western leaders of the ultra-nationalist pro-Nazi forces in Ukraine have given the Kyiv regime the green light to commit numerous atrocities against its political opponents and ordinary citizens in the regions with a predominantly Rus-

sian population. After the bloody coup d'état in 2014, the Ukrainian regime unleashed a "punitive operation" in the Donbass region with barbaric shelling of cities claiming the lives of thousands of civilians.

The Ukraine leadership opted to become a "battering ram" of NATO posing a direct military threat to Russia, which made the conflict unavoidable. In his address to servicemen taking part in the Special military operation in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin said: "Today, as in the past, you are fighting for

Iskander Azizov
Ambassador of
the Russian Federation
to the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar

sies in international relations, Russia has always advocated the establishment of an equal and indivisible security system, which is critically needed for the entire international community. Together with like-minded partners in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS Russia has actively promoted the emergence of a new security architecture in Greater Eurasia and beyond. We are confident that the experience of solidarity and partnership in fighting the common threat during WWII provides a foothold for moving towards a



Despite all controversies in international relations, Russia has always advocated the establishment of an equal and indivisible security system, which is critically needed for the entire international community.

fairer world based on principles of equal opportunities for the free and self-determined development of all nations.

We take pride in the unconquered generation of the victors. As their successors, we have the duty to remember the harsh lessons of World War II in order not to repeat them again and to preserve the memory of those who defeated Nazism. They entrusted us with being responsible and vigilant and doing everything to thwart the horror of another global hot war.

Despite all controver-

I Say What I See: When Truth Meets Perspective

THERE are moments in my work - and in life - when the line between truth and perception begins to blur. As an editor, I'm trained to seek facts, to trim the excess, to keep the story clean. Yet, as a human being, I cannot unsee what I feel. I walk the streets, I overhear snippets of conversations, and I recall memories that still linger. All of these shape the way I interpret what's in front of me. This essay is not an argument for one way of seeing over another. It is a reflection on the tension between what is objectively known and what is subjectively felt - and why, perhaps, both matter more than we often admit.

The Editor's Dilemma: When the Ground Shakes, So Do Our Judgements

In the immediate aftermath of the Mandalay earthquake, Parahita associations - volunteer-based social welfare groups rooted in the Pali concept of working for others' good - rushed to the scenes of destruction. With little hesitation, they stepped into collapsed buildings, guided only by instinct and urgency, to search for survivors or recover bodies. These were not uniformed officials or assigned rescuers. They were ordinary citizens with extraordinary will.

But not all doors were open to them. In one tragic case, a hotel owner reportedly barred these social welfare groups from accessing his damaged property, even though people - alive or dead - were believed to be trapped beneath the rubble. His decision, perhaps grounded in fear of liability, property loss, or panic, raised a sobering question: **When lives are at stake, whose judgement should prevail - those who own, or those who act?**

As a journalist, I could report the facts: the quake's magnitude, the damage, the casualties, the controversy. But as someone watching this unfold, I also saw something else - a struggle not just between property and compassion, but between two ways of seeing the world. The hotel owner's actions may appear cruel to some, but from his view, they were protective. The Parahita volunteers' actions, heroic to many, could seem reckless or unauthorized to others. This is where subjectivity enters: one's truth is not always another's.

And yet, buried beneath these conflicting responses is something more constant - our shared humanity. The facts of the earthquake are objective: buildings fell, people were lost, and time was running out. However, how we respond to those facts, and how we judge others' actions is always filtered through our own fears, values, and beliefs. That's where subjectivity reveals itself not as a weakness, but as a force that sometimes propels us to act - even when the facts are incomplete.

Even so, amid this tension, there was also unity. Not only did Parahita groups throw themselves into the arduous relief efforts, but the government's Department of Fire Services was also among the first on the scene. Together, they pooled their manpower and machinery, showing that in moments of true urgency, collaboration can transcend boundaries of authority and identity. It was a reminder that, while our motivations may differ, our humanity can still align.

Subjectivity in the Editor's Chair: Choosing What Matters

As editors, we work with boundaries - editorial guidelines, institutional policies, and unspoken lines of caution. But there are times when those boundaries must stretch, if not bend. Some stories press their way into our conscience - not just because they are newsworthy, but because they carry a humanitarian truth too essential to ignore.

In the wake of the earthquake, humanitarian aid and relief teams from across the globe arrived not for headlines, but out of heartfelt conviction. They brought medical supplies, technical expertise, food, and comfort - motivated not by politics or prestige, but by a shared belief in the dignity of life. These actions, grounded in compassion, are objective in outcome yet deeply subjective in intent. They are born from values that cannot be measured, yet their impact is undeniable.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

16-episode series 'The Queen' begins filming in Yangon 7 May



This photo captures the scene from the launch ceremony of the film series on 5 May.

THE film series titled 'The Queen' will begin filming in Yangon from 7 May, according to actress May Grace, who will be starring in the series.

Set in Yangon, the series was developed by director Bhone Thet Paing Soe, with the screenplay written by Chit Su Khin. It will be produced by Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Pro-

duction, with Bhone Thet Paing Soe also taking on the role of director.

"This is a series centred around female leads. It blends both action and drama, and I believe audiences will really enjoy it," said May Grace.

The Queen will run for 16 episodes and feature an extensive cast, including Charlie, Nay

Htut, Henry San, Bhone Thaik, Bo Lay, May Grace, M Seng Lu, Dee, Kyaw Zeya, Min Thu, Kyaw Zin Htut, Aung Zaw Min, Mo Kham, Win Min Than, and many others.

The opening ceremony for the filming of the series was held on 5 May at Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/MKKS



A promotional poster for the music concert featuring Myo Kyawt Myaing, Phyo Pyae Sone and Nay Min Eain.

Star vocalists unite for trio concert in Yangon

A music concert featuring three popular vocalists: Myo Kyawt Myaing, Phyo Pyae Sone and Nay Min Eain will be held at the Inya Lake Garden Hotel in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, at 7 pm on 16 May, according to Nay Min Eain.

"As the rainy season approaches, we want to perform the best songs that suit this early monsoon period. Since the three of us are coming together, we have carefully planned to deliver the very best," Nay Min Eain said.

The Daly Gita band will provide live instrumental backing throughout the concert, supporting all performances by the three vocalists. — ASH/KZL

Stars to perform at 3-day earthquake benefit concert

A movie, theatrical and music fundraising concert for rehabilitation in quake-stricken areas was scheduled to be held for three days from 10 to 12 May at the National Theatre in Yangon. Famous actors and actresses such as Nay Toe, Aye Chan Maung, Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Khin Zarchi Kyaw and Aye Wutyi Thuang, and singers and dancers will be performing.

A one-act play 'The Pawn Shop by My Dearest' directed by Than Htike (Shwe Yeik) will be starred by well-known actors, including Kyaw Htet Aung.

If people want to take a seat at a good location, tickets can be booked at the hotline numbers 09 880942792 and 09 880942793. — MT/ZS



Actors are in rehearsal for the earthquake fundraising concert.

Myanmar's legendary Prince Sudhanu's attire reborn

HUNTING dress of Prince Sudhanu of Ayutthaya, famous in Myanmar mythology, has been recreated by Myat Theinkhange from the Myat Taw Win Royal Attire Service.

Min Thant, Face of Myanmar – 2024 Male Model Winner, was dressed in the style of Prince's attire when he went out hunting in the forest. He was the lover of the mythical bird Manawhari.

"In Myanmar fables, the character of the archer Sudhanu is re-created. Ko Min Thant is a GYM Trainer, as well as the 2024 Male Model Winner. His body is strong, and his appearance is unusual. He is topless and dressed in the style that princes wear

when they are out in the forest. He is holding bows and arrows, wearing a sash, a light headscarf, shoes and sandals," he said.

His re-making was aimed at reviving Myanmar's mythical characters, and he was happy to find that young people have been recently interested in the clothing of ancient princes and court clothes.

"Now, I see many people taking this kind of dress seriously and showing interest. Models are recreating the styles of ancient kings, princes and warlords and competing, and it's great to see people interested. As people want to preserve their traditional heritage and wear it, I'm really happy," he said. — MT/ZN



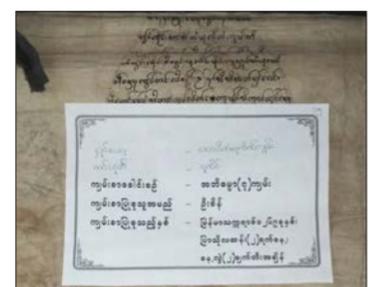
Prince Sudhanu's usual costume style when he goes out hunting.

Rare Shan Ni Parabaik donated to Shan State Buddhist University

ON behalf of Shan Ni literature and culture associations in Homalin, three Parabaik (manuscripts with folding pages) written in the Shan Ni language were transferred to Shan State Buddhist University on 1 May, aiming to maintain them at the university's library and open them to the public.

Vessantara Jataka, written by U Phone Thar, seven books of Abhidhamma, written by U Sein in 1296 Myanmar year and Buddhavamsa, written by an unknown author, are included.

At the SSBB, other works



Some ancient Parabaik in the Shan Ni language.

of Shan literature are present, though there is no book in Shan Ni literature, and the number of people who can read the Shan Ni language has fallen recently. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

NATIONAL

MPA bids to dredge Yangon River for better navigation

MYANMA Port Authority's Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee called for local and international companies for dredging work in the Yangon River for channel improvement with adequate dredging equipment, extensive experience and technology in channel dredging.

The Myanmar Port Authority invited a preferred bidder to operate dredging work for a three-year term from the 2025-2026 financial year to the 2027-2028 financial year. The tender process will be carried out following paragraphs 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 of the procurement directive 1/2017, and the contract will be signed on an annual basis each FY.

Those interested can purchase the tender applications and forms at the Central Store, Botahtaung Township, by 3 pm on 19 May. Tender applications can be submitted to the MPA head office by 1 pm on 20 May, and the tender opening will be held at 2 pm on that day.

Individuals can enquire details through the Marine Department at 01 8246380, 01 8387117 ex (211) and Central Store at 08 1610230, the committee stated. — NN/KK



An aerial drone view of vessels in line at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

New Insurance Agent Training kicks off 13 May

MYANMA Insurance Training School will provide an insurance agent course (Batch 17) on 13 May to produce insurance advisor careers.

The training school is making concerted efforts to help compensate for the loss of earthquake survivors. The school offers courses to produce insurance advisors to bridge the gap between insurance companies and policyholders.

They will provide guidance

and advice for investment in various insurance schemes, assist the customers by explaining the claim process and help them fill out the necessary forms.

Those interested can apply to the school and enquire about details through the contact numbers 09 403891139 and email institute.mi05@gmail.com of the Myanmar Insurance Training School located at No 627-635, Merchant Road, Yangon. — NN/KK

I Say What I See: When Truth Meets Perspective

FROM PAGE 9

As Myanmar people, we extend our highest and deepest gratitude to all of them. It is not only a thank-you, but an embrace of solidarity - a warm, everlasting respect for those who act when others hesitate, who see beyond borders to the simple truth: humanity helps humanity.

Conclusion: Seeing with Both Eyes

In journalism - and in life - we often speak of truth as something singular, objective, and provable. But the truth, as I've come to understand it, is also shaped by what we feel, what we value, and what we witness through our own eyes. The Parahita volunteers, the hotel owner, the government rescue teams, and the foreign aid workers - all acted from different truths. Some are born of reason, others of belief. Some are driven by duty, others by empathy.

To say what I see is not to claim ultimate authority. It is to acknowledge that subjectivity and objectivity are not enemies, but necessary partners. One grounds us in reality; the other reminds us why that reality matters.

In the end, facts tell the story. But it is our perspective - our willingness to feel, to interpret, to understand - that gives the story its soul.

@Editor

MMFA launches financial literacy courses in Mawlamyine

THE Myanmar Microfinance Association (MMFA) will conduct a Financial Literacy and Digital Financial Literacy course for the first time in Mawlamyine on 24 May.

The course is tailored to individuals engaged in the

microfinance companies and institutions to provide knowledge on digital currency, how to check facts and figures, and cover various aspects of the financial and monetary sector to ensure systematic management, with U Thet Zaw

Aung, Microfinance Professional Myanmar (MPM), Certified Trainer-Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and MMFA.

Training fees are K65,000. Registration can be made via the following link: <https://shorturl.at/PtbCB> by 18 May. Individuals can enquire about details via the contact number of MMFA at 09 965209010 during office hours.

MMFA aims to promote the quality of the microfinance sector and increase the inter-

ests of the members by offering training opportunities to member microfinance institutions and those engaged in the industry to be tailored with essential skills and awareness of digital currency. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

Rush of returning travellers peaks as Golden Week holiday ends



THE rush of travellers returning to Tokyo and other major cities peaked on Tuesday, the last day of the latter half of Japan's Golden Week holidays, with train stations and airports crowded

People board a shinkansen bullet train at JR Sendai Station in Sendai, northeastern Japan, on 6 May 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

with holidaymakers.

Tokyo's Haneda airport was bustling with travellers including families coming back from leisure trips. Kohei Takimoto, 40, who spent with his family around a week in Okinawa Prefecture, famous for its beaches, said, "I was able to refresh myself, both mentally and physically."

His six-year-old daughter, Miyu, said, "The beach was beautiful and I had so much fun."

JR Shin-Osaka Station in

western Japan was also packed.

Masanari Deguchi, 24, was returning to Kawasaki near Tokyo after a visit to his hometown of Sakai, Osaka Prefecture. "Although it was hard to travel around since the holidays were not consecutive, I am glad I was able to relax here," Deguchi said.

The second half of Golden Week was a four-day holiday from Saturday, while the first half took place in late April. — Kyodo

German stock markets rattled by vote loss of incoming Chancellor

GERMANY'S benchmark DAX index on Tuesday dipped by more than two per cent during the intraday trading as the incoming chancellor failed to secure enough votes of confirmation in the parliament.

The unprecedented failure sent the DAX index nosediving to an intraday low of 22,861.4 points, which recovered later but was trading more than 1.3 per cent lower than the closing level on Monday.

The decline, which is sparked by the vote loss, reversed days of gains of the DAX index as the US administration softened its rhetoric with regard to tariffs recently.

Friedrich Merz, the leader of the CDU and CSU parties which won the elections, is due to be confirmed by the parliament as the next chancellor of Germany but failed to garner enough votes. — Xinhua

Thailand's headline inflation drops 0.22% in Apr

THAILAND'S headline inflation rate turned negative for the first time in 13 months in April, driven by falling energy and food prices, official data showed on Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian country's consumer price index (CPI) dipped 0.22 per cent in April from a year earlier, reversing from a 0.84 per cent increase in March, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The April reading came in

below the central bank's target range of one per cent to three per cent for the second straight month.

The core CPI, which excludes raw food and energy prices, rose 0.98 per cent year-on-year in April, quickening from a 0.86 per cent gain in the previous month, said Poonpong Naiyanapakorn, director-general of the ministry's trade policy and strategy office.

For the first four months

of 2025, the headline CPI grew 0.75 per cent compared to the same period in 2024, Poonpong told a news conference.

He noted that headline inflation in May is expected to remain near the previous month's level, possibly declining for the second consecutive month, due to lower global crude oil prices, the government's measures to reduce living costs, and increased supply for fresh vegetables. — Xinhua

Indonesia's 2025 economic growth to be influenced by US tariff policies, central bank says

INDONESIA'S central bank said on Tuesday that the reciprocal tariff policies imposed by the United States will likely impact the country's economy this year.

"Going forward, our economic growth in 2025 is projected to reach the midpoint of the 4.7 to 5.5 per cent year-on-year range, influenced by both the direct and indirect effects of US tariff policies," said Ramdan Denny Prakoso, executive director of

Bank Indonesia's communication department.

Indonesia's Central Statistics Agency reported on Monday that the Southeast Asian nation's economic growth slowed to 4.87 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of this year, down from the previous quarter. The gross domestic product reached 5,665.9 trillion rupiahs at current prices and 3,264.5 trillion rupiahs at constant 2010 prices. — Xinhua



A man (C) buys food from a vendor at a morning market along a street in Bangkok on 22 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan's Fujitsu, Riken push ahead with quantum computer development

FUJITSU Ltd and Japan's state-backed Riken research institute have jointly developed a superconducting quantum computer that uses 256 quantum bits or qubits and aim to launch a more advanced 1,000-qubit computer within two years.

Building on its 64-qubit predecessor released in 2023, the new system will be available to others in June, Fujitsu and Riken said late last month.

Quantum computers are prone to errors when disturbances occur in their environments, and improving error correction technology remains a major challenge. The technology can be upgraded by increasing the number of qubits.

To develop a quantum computer that is capable of large-scale computing with adequate error correction skills, several million qubits are needed, said

Keiichi Fukagaya, manager at Riken's mathematical, computational and information science promotion division.

"We aim to develop a 1,000-qubit computer in fiscal 2026" as a next step, said Shintaro Sato, the head of the quantum laboratory at Fujitsu.

Quantum technology will be able to solve complex problems that supercomputers cannot solve or do so fast enough, Interna-

tional Business Machines Corp says on its website.

Challenges that might take a classical computer thousands of years to complete might be reduced to a matter of minutes, according to IBM. Competition over development is intensifying among countries, as quantum computing is expected to be used for a wide range of applications in the financial, pharmaceutical and other sectors. — Kyodo



A newly developed quantum computer is unveiled to the press in Wako, Saitama Prefecture, on 22 April 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

Ford sees \$1.5 bln tariff hit this year, suspends 2025 forecast

FORD reported a 65 per cent drop in first-quarter profits Monday, citing a near-term drag on auto sales from new vehicle launches, as it withdrew its forecast amid tariff uncertainty.

The carmaker estimated a full-year net hit of about \$1.5 billion in adjusted operating earnings following President Donald Trump's myriad tariff actions since returning to the White House in January.

The company has implemented some supply chain changes to mitigate any blowback from Trump's tariffs, shaving \$1 billion from the overall tariff drag, which Ford

estimated at \$2.5 billion after levies on imported finished vehicles, steel and aluminium and imported parts.

"Our teams have done a lot to minimize the impact of tariffs on our business," Chief Financial Officer Sherry House said on a conference call with reporters.

Profits came in at \$471 million, beating analyst expectations but just over a third of the level in the 2024 period, with revenues falling five per cent to \$40.7 billion.

In the first quarter, Ford wholesale units fell seven per cent from the year-ago level, a drop the automaker had pre-

viously telegraphed due to slowed output at plants in Kentucky and Michigan where new vehicles are being launched.

In March, Ford began shipping the new Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator to customers.

Profits fell in Ford's "Pro" division, which is geared towards fleet and sales to businesses, and in its "Blue" division, which consists of conventional internal combustion engine cars. But losses declined in Ford's electric vehicle division.

Ford described its underlying business as "strong", saying it had been on track with the prior projection of between \$7 and \$8.5 billion in adjusted operating earnings, excluding tariff-related impacts.

Ford's measures to limit tariffs thus far include adjusting vehicle shipments from Mexico to Canada to avoid triggering US tariffs, said House. The company was also avoiding levies on parts that "merely pass through the US". — AFP



A Ford Mustang is seen at a used car dealership in Montebello, California, on 5 May 2025. PHOTO: AFP

137th Canton Fair concludes with record number of overseas purchasers

THE 137th China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, concluded on Monday in south China's Guangdong Province, with organizers announcing the participation of over 288,000 overseas buyers.

This was a 17.3 per cent increase from the previous session and hit a new high. There were 171,750 first-time attendees. Purchasers from countries participating in Belt and Road cooperation totalled 187,450, up 17.4 per cent

year on year and representing 64.9 per cent of all overseas buyers.

The event also attract-

ed over 527,000 online buyers from 229 countries and regions around the world.

— Xinhua



This photo shows a scene of the 137th China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 5 May 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB517A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB517A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-5-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany's Merz elected chancellor after surprise setback

GERMANY'S conservative leader Friedrich Merz won on Tuesday a nail-biter second vote in parliament to become chancellor after he lost the first round in a stunning early setback.

Merz, 69, scored an absolute majority of 325 against 289 in the secret vote in the lower house of parliament.

He takes over at the helm of a coalition between his CDU/CSU alliance and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) of the outgoing chancellor, Olaf Scholz.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was set to appoint him as post-war Germany's 10th chancellor later Tuesday, along with his cabinet, before Merz is due to visit Paris and then Warsaw on Wednesday.

His victory caps a long ambition to lead Europe's biggest economy, which was first foiled decades ago by party rival Angela Merkel who went on to serve as chancellor for 16 years.

Merz's eventual victory on Tuesday was bittersweet as the initial defeat – the first such outcome in Germany's post-war history – pointed to rumblings of discontent within his uneasy coalition.

The unprecedented first-round loss was "a bad start" for Merz and "shows that he cannot fully rely on his two coalition parties," wrote analyst Holger Schmieding of Berenberg Bank. – AFP

Mediator Qatar says 'efforts ongoing' for Gaza ceasefire

MEDIATOR Qatar on Tuesday said it was still pursuing efforts for a Gaza war ceasefire, even after Israel approved expanded operations and Hamas said it wasn't interested in further talks.

Qatar remains in "continuous" contact with all parties, foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said, despite major obstacles to a new accord.

"Our efforts remain ongoing despite the difficulty of the situation and the continuing catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip," Ansari told reporters at a briefing.

"There are continuous contacts between Qatar and the concerned parties," he added.

On Monday, Israel said its security cabinet approved the military's plan for expanded operations, which one official said would entail "the conquest of the Gaza Strip and the holding of the territories". – AFP

Death toll from Pakistan's fuel tanker explosion rises to 20

THE death toll from the fuel tanker explosion that took place last week in Pakistan's southwest Noshki district has risen to 20 after several critically injured victims succumbed to their burn injuries, local police said on Tuesday.

According to police, 17 of the critically injured victims died over the past four days while undergoing treatment at Liaquat National Hospital in Karachi, the country's southern port city.

The explosion occurred on 28 April in Noshki, a district in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, after a tanker carrying petrol caught fire during welding repairs.

The explosion initially claimed the life of the tanker driver and left more than 60 people injured, many of whom sustained severe burns covering 70 to 80 per cent of their bodies.

Due to limited healthcare facilities in the area, the provincial government airlifted 24 critically injured patients to Karachi for specialized treatment. – Xinhua

"A military solution is no solution," UN chief on Pakistan-India tensions

"MAKE no mistake: A military solution is no solution," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on the tensions between India and Pakistan, at a press encounter on Monday.

"Tensions between India and Pakistan are at their highest in years," the UN chief said.

"And so it pains me to see relations reaching a boiling point," he added.

Guterres once again strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam on 22 April, and extended his condolences to the families of the victims. "Targeting civilians is unacceptable — and those responsible must be brought to justice through credible and lawful means," he said.

The UN chief stressed that it was essential, "especially at this critical hour, to avoid a military confrontation that could easily spin out of control," and "now is the time for maximum restraint and



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks to the press outside the Security Council Chamber at the UN headquarters in New York, on 5 May 2025. "Make no mistake: A military solution is no solution," Guterres said on the tensions between India and Pakistan, at the press encounter on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

stepping back from the brink."

"That has been my message in my ongoing outreach with both countries," said Guterres.

The UN secretary-general once again offered his good offices to both India and Pakistan in the service of peace. "The United Nations stands

ready to support any initiative that promotes de-escalation, diplomacy, and a renewed commitment to peace," he said. Tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated following a deadly attack on tourists in Pahalgam in the Indian-controlled Kashmir on 22 April. — Xinhua

Young trees from Hiroshima planted at UN as symbol of peacebuilding

TWO saplings from Hiroshima were planted Monday at the

United Nations in New York as a symbol of global peacebuild-

ing efforts as this year marks the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Japan as well as the establishment of the world body.

Izumi Nakamitsu, UN undersecretary general for disarmament affairs, said during a planting ceremony that the young persimmon trees grew from seeds that survived the 1945 nuclear attack on the Japanese city and she hopes they will endure for another 80 years and beyond.

Describing the trees as "a symbol of peace" and "resilience", Nakamitsu also said, "What we all need to remember is that we can make peace and build peace if we are together." — Kyodo



Izumi Nakamitsu (L), UN undersecretary-general for disarmament affairs, speaks at a ceremony to plant saplings grown from seeds that survived the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima at the UN headquarters in New York on 5 May 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORTS

Shan break duck in style while Yangon, Ayeyawady run riot

THE fixture IV opener of the 2025–2026 Myanmar Women's League was held on 6 May at three different venues in Yangon, and Shan United claimed their first win of the season. Ayeyawady and Yangon United also secured dominant victories without conceding.

Shan United defeated YREO with an emphatic 5-0 victory at the Thuwunna Youth Training Ground I. After facing tough opening fixtures against top teams and managing only one point from three matches, Shan United bounced back strongly in their fourth game. Goals came from Yu Yu Naing in 13 minutes, Yupa Khine in 15 and 25 minutes, and Nan Phyu Phyu Thwe in 35 and 47 minutes. With this win, Shan United now have four

points from four games, while YREO remain on three points from three matches.

At Yangon United Sports Complex, Yangon United routed the Young Lionesses 8-0. Both teams went into the match with six points each, but Yangon United dominated from start to finish, marking their third consecutive win. Zin Moe Pyae scored in 15, 24, 40 and 71 minutes, Su Su Kyi in 16 minutes, Yoon Wati Hlaing in 49 minutes, Swe Mar Aung in 79 minutes, and Chan Myae Htun in 87 minutes. Yangon United now have nine points from four matches, while Young Lionesses remain on six points from the same number of games.

At Padonma Stadium, Ayeyawady thrashed newcomers Yangon Royal 5-0, regaining

momentum after a previous setback. Ayeyawady dominated the first half, leading by three goals, and continued to press in the second. Lei Lei Hlaing scored in just three minutes and 70 minutes, Za Kha Rosie in 24 minutes, San Thaw Thaw in 25 minutes, and Phyu Phyu Win in 85 minutes. Ayeyawady remains top of the table with 10 points from four matches, while Yangon Royal has yet to register a point from three games.

Matches will continue today with defending champions ISPE FC facing Thitsa Arman at Thuwunna Youth Training Ground I. — ASH/KZL



Shan United and YREO players in action during their Myanmar Women's League match. PHOTO: MWL

China's Zhao becomes first Asian to win World Snooker Championship



Zhao Xintong competes during the final between Zhao Xintong of China and Mark Williams of Wales at World Snooker Championship 2025 in Sheffield, Britain, 5 May 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA'S Zhao Xintong became the first Asian player to win the World Snooker Championship after beating veteran Mark Williams 18-12 on Monday.

"I can't believe it. It's like a dream,"

said Zhao, who served out a 20-month ban for breaching betting regulations last September and earned his place at the snooker worlds by winning four qualifiers as an amateur.

The 28-year-old dominated Sunday's first two sessions at 11-6 and improved his advantage to 17-8 after the third session on Monday.

With Zhao only one frame away from making history, the 50-year-old Williams launched a strong fightback by taking four frames in a row at the start of the final session.

But the three-time world champion couldn't hold off Zhao further, as the Chinese wrapped the contest up by winning the 30th frame with a break of 87.

Starting his first qualifying match on 7 April, Zhao maintained his sensational form to win 111 frames across nine matches to become the world champion.

"What an opponent he is," said Williams. "I've got nothing but admiration for what he has done". — Xinhua

Brazil close to appointing new manager, says official

THE Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) aims to name a new men's national team manager by next week, sporting director Rodrigo Caetano said on Monday.

The position has been vacant since 28 March, when Dorival Junior was sacked following a 4-1 World Cup qualifying defeat to Argentina in Buenos

Aires.

Caetano said he continued assessing potential candidates with CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues and technical coordinator Juan Santos.

"We are constantly in internal meetings ... and we are trying to confirm this name as quickly as possible," Caetano told Sportv.

"Due to the confidential nature of our negotiations, it is practically impossible for us to talk about probabilities. We know that it is a national issue and that the choice of the head coach for the Brazilian national team is an extremely important one. We hope to be able to confirm the new manager next week at the latest". — Xinhua

Forest's top five bid dented by Palace draw

NOTTINGHAM Forest's bid to qualify for the Champions League suffered a setback as they were held to a damaging 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace on Monday.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side needed a victory to keep pace with their top five rivals.

But Eberechi Eze's second-half penalty put Palace ahead and, although Murillo equalized soon afterwards, Forest left south London outside the Champions League places.

Sixth-placed Forest's attempt to appear in Europe's elite club competition for the first time since 1980-81 is now out of their hands.

They sit two points behind fifth-placed Chelsea and fourth-placed Newcastle, with third-placed Manchester City three points ahead of Forest.

Forest have three games left, with winnable fixtures against Leicester and West Ham before what could be on a final-day shootout against Chelsea.

"We were in control of the game. We created and dominated a lot. Second half was different. Good reaction but Palace created problems," Nuno said.

"Palace are really dangerous if they have the shape. It's important not to allow too much counter-attacks. We were positive but it's not easy to play at Selhurst Park". — AFP

"A military solution is no solution," UN chief on Pakistan-India tensions

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WORLD

UN warns of 'unsettling' development slowdown in 2024



Members of the pharmacology department take inventory of the last boxes of drugs delivered by the now-dismantled United States Agency for International Development (USAID) amid medical supply shortages in a pharmacy storeroom at Lodwar County Referral Hospital in Lodwar on 1 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUMANITY recorded an unexpected and "unsettling" slowdown in development in 2024 as the global post-pandemic recovery began losing steam, well before President Donald Trump dramatically cut US international aid, the UN warned Tuesday.

The world had rebounded from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic by 2023, as measured by the UN's Human Development Index (HDI), which charts living standards, health and education.

But that rebound appears to be losing momentum, according to the United Nations Development Programme's annual report, released Tuesday.

If that "unsettling" slowdown becomes the new normal, achieving levels of human development once hoped for by 2030 "could slip by decades — making our world less secure, more divided, and more vulnerable to economic and ecological shocks," warned UNDP head Achim Steiner.

Recent drastic cuts to international aid announced by several countries — most notably the United States, where Trump has slashed programmes and dismantled USAID, the country's main foreign development arm — will exacerbate the issue, Steiner told AFP in an interview.

If wealthy countries stop funding development, "this will ultimately impact economies, societies, and yes, I think it will also register maybe a year or two down the line in the Human Development Index, lower life expectancy, declining incomes, more conflicts," Steiner said. — AFP

Japan's former Emperor Akihito hospitalized for heart checkup



Former Emperor Akihito. **PHOTO: KYODO**

myocardial ischemia, the Imperial Household Agency said.

The 91-year-old will undergo a series of tests at University of Tokyo Hospital. He has not complained of any symptoms of myocardial ischemia, which reduces blood flow to heart muscles, according to the agency.

The last time the former emperor was hospitalized was in 2012 when he underwent a coronary-artery bypass surgery.

In 2022, he received treatment for heart failure. He stepped down from the Chrysanthemum Throne in April 2019, becoming the first Japanese monarch to abdicate in around 200 years. — Kyodo

JAPAN'S former Emperor Akihito was admitted to a Tokyo hospital on Tuesday for a medical examination after an earlier checkup found signs of

Putin holds telephone call with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian — Kremlin

PEZESHKIAN cordially congratulated Putin and all Russian citizens on the 80th anniversary of Victory Day.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian have discussed the development of bilateral cooperation based on the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement, the Kremlin said on Tuesday. The leaders have also discussed the progress of the Oman-mediated negotiations between Iran and the United States on the Iranian nuclear programme, the statement said, adding that Putin confirmed Russia's readiness to promote dialogue to achieve a fair agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme.

Additionally, Putin expressed sincere condolences to Pezeshki-



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian shake hands before a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

an over deaths as a result of the explosion that happened on 26 April at the Shahid Rajaei port in southern Iran, while the Ira-

nian leader thanked the Russian president for assistance in eliminating the consequences of the explosion. — SPUTNIK