

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Constitution empowers NDSC with final say on elections

Governing the nation through a democratically elected government remains the most effective and legitimate path to ensure stability, progress, and the will of the people.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC Coordination Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that as the government has taken responsibility of the State under the 2008 Constitution, it is essential to proceed towards a multi-party democratic system that the people aspire to.

The State Administration Council held its coordination meeting at the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi aw yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General highlighted that it would be best if elections could be held on a nationwide scale, adding the Constitution outlines significant provisions regarding the convening of the Hluttaw (Parliament) under Sections 85, 128, and 155.

He underlined that a review of the laws shows that elections can be held successfully with substantial participation. Administering national affairs through an elected government is ultimately the best course for the country.

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### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the SAC meeting

1. The Constitution also stipulates that elections can be held based on the final decision of the National Defence and Security Council.
2. It would be best if elections could be held on a nationwide scale.
3. Those from administrative bodies at the state and regional levels, as well as at the district, township, ward, and village levels, must have to possess sufficient qualifications.
4. Those who hold administrative responsibilities and civil servants must remain free from party politics.

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# NATIONAL

## Teachers need to enhance professional knowledge, dedication, and moral integrity

THE success or failure of students' lives depends on a teacher's qualifications and goodwill. Therefore, teachers must always strive to maintain and enhance their professional knowledge, dedication, and moral integrity.

*(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the World Teachers' Day which falls on 5 October 2024)*



Travellers are seen visiting Nay Pyi Taw.

## Tourism village rises near Nay Pyi Taw

A tourism model village is being developed near Nay Pyi Taw, aiming to help visitors to explore the knowledge of the local area during their vacation, said Myanmar Tourism Federation's vice chair U Naung Naung Han.

It is Nyaungpintha village, located at Magyipin village tract in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, about an hour's drive from the Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone.

"MTF has set up a tourism village near Tatkon for tourists to take a half-day or a day trip. Houses in the village were washed away in the flood. MTF drafted a village plan and reconstructed 23 houses. We have already transferred the houses to the owners. People can visit the village and explore their culture," said U Naung

Naung Han.

At present, the community tourism has been under creation and visitors can enjoy local foods along with recreation activities at the village in future, he said.

"There is a small creek and a crop field by the village. We plan to develop a programme where visitors can

work on villagers' activities by themselves. International tourists have now visited Nay Pyi Taw, and they can feel the village's taste just by taking an hour's drive from the hotel zone," he added.

MTF has aimed to continue developing similar villages if the ongoing project achieves, he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 19 May 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20 May 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Chin State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah and Kayin, and Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine and (Northern and Eastern) Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuations of condition of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

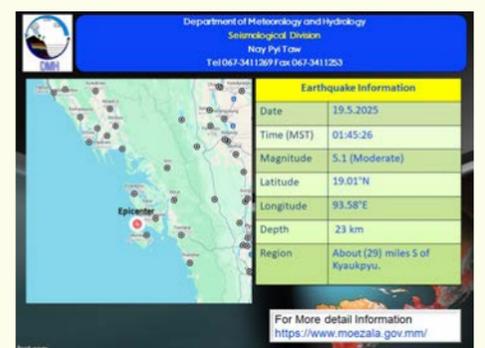
**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 May 2025:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

### EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 2 am MST)

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.1) Richter Scale with its epicentre Myanmar sea (about (29) miles south of Kyaukpyu), latitude 19.01°N, longitude 93.58°E, depth (23) kilometres, about (90) miles southeast of Sittway seismological observatory was recorded at 01 hour 45 minutes 26 seconds MST on 19 May 2025. — DMH



**COVID-19 report,  
19 May 2025**

**NEW TESTS**

2,461

**NEW CASE**

ONE

**CASUALTIES**

NIL

Myanmar National Centre for Diseases Control  
Department of Public Health

## 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)*

## Constitution empowers NDSC with ...

### FROM PAGE 1

The Constitution also stipulates that elections can be held based on the final decision of the National Defence and Security Council.

The Senior General noted that those from administrative bodies at the state and regional levels, as well as at the district, township, ward, and village levels, have to possess sufficient qualifications. Those who hold administrative responsibilities and civil servants must remain free from party politics, he added.

With regard to the enhancement of the education sector, the Senior General retold that the establishment of Polytechnic Universities that combine computer studies and technology has been successful, and tangible outcomes have been observed.

He emphasized that it is crucial to manage and implement educational reforms with a long-term perspective in mind to produce skilled professionals in the fields of agriculture, livestock, and industry.

The Senior General gave guidance

to the region and state chief ministers and officials to manage the opening of all schools in their relevant regions.

He noted that terrorists have to understand that their destructive acts in the education sector are the same as destroying their future.

He urged officials from relevant sectors and from regions and states to cooperate with each other in enhancing the education and health sectors as a must.

As natural disasters brought loss and damage to the State, the Senior General recounted that Rakhine State faced K534.146 billion worth of loss and damage in cyclonic storm Mocha in 2023, but the government provided K73.797 billion from its budget to the state. In 2024, Typhoon Yagi caused K466.231 billion of loss, so the government spent more than K54.807 billion for rehabilitation operations. The loss caused by the powerful Mandalay earthquake, which struck on 28 March, totalled K3,629.288 billion, and rehabilitation measures are being taken.

He stressed that it is necessary to

take effective preventive measures in advance to minimize damage caused by natural disasters. Furthermore, since the losses and destruction resulting from armed conflicts are also immense, efforts must be made to achieve peace.

He noted that, according to the calculation, State incomes declined more than US\$8 billion due to weakness in meeting the target cultivation of crops. If productivity from the agriculture sector met the target, the country would secure some US\$14 billion more income.

Moreover, the Senior General gave a guideline that it is necessary to seek solutions for hiking prices of commodities and to address unbalanced situations between the supply and demand. Hence, efforts must be made to increase production.

The Senior General recognized the utmost efforts of personnel from the Ministry of Electric Power for the supply of electricity to the people, although terrorists destroy, disturb and threaten power plants and towers, not to generate and supply electricity.

He also acknowledged that service personnel from the Ministry of Transport and Communications could repair damaged roads and bridges in a few hours, although terrorists had exploded these facilities. Likewise, those from the Ministry of Construction also repair damaged roads and bridges as quickly as possible.

The Senior General stressed that the government must strive to become a reliable, trustworthy government for the people to set a good history.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and the chief ministers of regions and states discussed development undertakings in relevant areas, and work processes in the administration, economic and social sectors.

Also, present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

## 6 Myanmar students win third place at OIBO 2025

STUDENTS from the BEHS Dagon 1 competed in the Open International Biology Olympic (OIBO) in Sirius, Russia, on the Sirius Federal Territory and won third prizes individually during the competitions.

They arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening, and were welcomed back by Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, Headmistress Dr Sandar Mya Nyein and teachers, parents and officials holding the State flag, vinyl posters and flowers in their hands.

The Open International Biology Olympiad (OIBO) 2025 is an international biology

competition aimed at encouraging students and young people to explore and solve current issues in biology and biotechnology. It is organized in collaboration with industrial partners to promote international cooperation and the exchange of experiences. Each participating country competes as a single national team. The students won third prizes in Zoology, Botany and Practical events held from 10 to 17 May.

The event took place for seven days in Sochi of Russia, and six Myanmar students from the BEHS Dagon 1 participated in the events. — MNA/KTZH



Third-prize winners welcomed at Yangon International Airport.

# NATIONAL

## MoH Deputy Minister honours IMC Emergency Medical Team

A farewell ceremony to honour the International Medical Corps (IMC) emergency medical team, which is set to depart after completing emergency healthcare operations, was held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Health's conference hall.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun attended the ceremony on behalf of the Chairperson of the Health Sub-Committee of the National Committee for Natural Disaster Management.

At the start of the ceremony, attendees observed a one-minute silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Mandalay earthquake.

Following this, Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun delivered a farewell address, noting that, during the national emergency caused by the Mandalay earthquake, 28 medical teams from



The farewell event to honour the International Medical Corps Emergency Medical Team in progress yesterday, attended by Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun.

17 countries came to assist, including the IMC team. The IMC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, had set up a temporary emergency clinic at the 300-bed Nay Pyi Taw Gen-

eral Hospital, operating from 19 April to 18 May, for a month. During this period, the clinic provided healthcare services to over 1,400 outpatients. Additionally, the IMC donated medicines,

medical supplies, temporary tents, and building materials, for which the Ministry expressed profound gratitude. The Deputy Minister also emphasised that the Ministry of Health is

continuing rehabilitation efforts in line with the guidance of the government.

Subsequently, Mr Syed Yasir Ahmed, the leader of the IMC team, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Health, the management and staff of the 300-bed Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital for their cooperation, which ensured the smooth operation of the medical activities.

Afterwards, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Health Sub-Committee of the National Disaster Management Committee, the Deputy Minister presented the IMC team with a certificate of appreciation and commemorative gifts.

The ceremony was attended by directors-general of the Ministry of Health, members of the IMC medical team, and officials from the Ministry of Health. — MNA/MKKS

## Basic, advanced maritime & aviation youth courses conclude

BASIC and advanced maritime training courses of Tatmadaw (Navy) and the basic and advanced aviation training courses of Tatmadaw (Air) started at the same time in the respective townships on 22 April to develop the knowledge of the

young generation during the summer school holidays and to bring forth a future generation of young people with maritime and aviation expertise.

Yesterday, the closing event of the basic and advanced maritime youth training course

1/2025 was organized at Pobbathiri Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters with the attendance of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and other officials.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) remarked and awarded



The concluding ceremony of the maritime training underway.



The winding up event of the aviation training in progress yesterday.

the outstanding trainees.

At noon, the trainees, coaches and officials paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

The youth training course 1/2025 was conducted at 11 training camps with 800 trainees. The training offered various subjects and practical sessions with a naval vessel Mottama.

Similarly, the closing event of the basic aviation youth course (advanced level) and the basic aviation youth course (basic level) of the Tatmadaw (Air) was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw,

and Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and relevant officials attended the event.

The Commander-in-Chief (Air) remarked and awarded the outstanding trainees.

The basic aviation youth course 1/2025 was conducted at 13 training camps with 693 trainees offering different subjects, while the advanced aviation youth course 1/2025 opened at two training camps with 111 trainees delivering different subjects, including a practical flying session of RC flight and a helicopter. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## People's Military Service Training 13 begins across various commands

THE opening ceremonies for the People's Military Service Training 13 were held at various military commands yesterday. Eligible citizens attended the military training in their respective regions. The commanders of training depots gave opening speeches.

Commanders and relevant officials attended the events, greeted trainees and presented cash prizes, foodstuffs, and materials to them.

The People's Military Service Law was enacted as every citizen is under a duty to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. The People's Military Service Law



The opening of the People's Military Service Training 13 in progress yesterday in Hopong Township, the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

came into effect on 10 February 2024, aiming to conduct military training courses. The

first intake commenced on 8 April 2024, and those who have completed the People's Military

Training are currently serving in various military units, fulfilling their responsibilities for

national defence and security. — MNA/KTZH

## Quake kills 3,728 as rescue efforts continue

ON 28 March, Myanmar was struck by a devastating earthquake, severely striking six regions and states. As of 19 May, the death toll has risen to 3,728, with 5,104 injured and 79 still missing.

Search and rescue operations, conducted by the Myanmar Fire Brigade alongside domestic and international rescue teams, have been carried out promptly in affected areas. To date, 653 survivors have been rescued from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 805 deceased have been recovered.

Local donors have con-

tinued to support the affected communities with financial assistance and essential supplies, while international countries, organizations, and philanthropists are also contributing. On 16 May, the Indian Embassy delivered 20 cartons of Paracetamol weighing 0.285 tonne to Yangon International Airport, followed by 19 cartons of ointments and household medicines weighing 0.279 tonne on 19 May.

The donated medicines and medical supplies will be handed over to the Ministry of Health for use in healthcare services. — MNA/MKKS

## Speedboat training launched for flood rescue teams

THE Myanmar Social Relief Organization of the Mandalay Region Committee will organize and open a speedboat driving course at its office at the end of May.

It is aimed to help search and rescue operations in floods and to produce efficient and highly skilled rescuers.

Those who wish to attend must have completed the basic rescue training, be able to swim, and be willing to perform

meritorious deeds for rescue in water. Priority will be given to those who have worked with the regional committee during the rescue period. Participants must be between 20 and 40 years old and must meet the requirements.

It will be from 8 am to 5 pm from 25 to 30 May, lecturing with practical exercise on swimming assessment, rescue speed boats, engines, inflatable boat, inflatable+

fibre speed boat, fibre speed boat, aluminium speed boat driving and precautions, 18 hp / 30 hp / 40 hp / 50 hp / 60 hp engine usage and precautions, accidents and solutions, and long-term maintenance methods.

All teaching aids will be provided by the organization, but the participants will have to pay half of the fuel costs for the speed boats, it said. — MT/ZN



Speed boats and rescuers that are capable of conducting search and rescue operations in water.

### Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Office of the State Administration Council <a href="https://sacoffice.gov.mm">https://sacoffice.gov.mm</a>	
2. Ministry of Defence <a href="https://www.mod.gov.mm">https://www.mod.gov.mm</a>	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs <a href="https://www.mlis.gov.mm">https://www.mlis.gov.mm</a>
4. Ministry of Information <a href="https://www.moi.gov.mm">https://www.moi.gov.mm</a>	5. Myawady Webportal <a href="https://myawady.net.mm">https://myawady.net.mm</a>
6. Myanmar National Portal <a href="https://myanmar.gov.mm">https://myanmar.gov.mm</a>	

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar students pursue vocational education in Yunnan Province, China



Students studying at the Ruili Vocational High School.

ACCORDING to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, 88 Myanmar students are currently studying at the Ruili Vocational High School, located in Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China.

At present, the Ruili Vocational High School maintains regular cooperation with educational institutions in Myanmar, including the GESC Chinese Language School in Yangon. This year, as a result

of the China-Myanmar educational collaboration, 36 Myanmar students have successfully gained admission to the school.

Under the China-Myanmar Educational Cooperation Programme, students from Yangon are receiving education at the Ruili Vocational High School. Among the successful applicants this year is Ma Su Nwe Ni from Yangon.

"I have loved drawing since childhood. When I found out I had the opportunity to study

in China, I chose the three-year garment-making course, hoping to fulfil my dream of becoming a fashion designer. Apart from learning theoretical subjects at school, I am also gaining practical experience at a garment manufacturing industrial park near the school. In the future, I aim to combine traditional Myanmar weaving techniques with advanced Chinese production skills to create high-quality fabrics," said Ma Su Nwe Ni. — ASH/KNN

## 'We'll Shine' concert set to light up stage

SINGERS He Lay and Wyne Su Khaing Thein will hold a music concert titled "We'll Shine" on 30 May. The concert will be a live music show, according to singer He Lay.

"Wyne Su and I will have a music concert at New Xtreme on 30 May. We will select the best songs from the recently released

"We'll Shine" album by Wyne Su and me," said singer He Lay.

The concert will be held at New Xtreme Bar & Lounge in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, starting at 7 pm, and the New Xtreme band will provide the best support for the singers' performances. — ASH/MKKS



A poster advertising the concert of singers He Lay and Wyne Su Khaing Thein.

## 28 overseas employment agencies face blacklisting, licence revocation over unpaid taxes by 31 May

THE Ministry of Labour has announced that 28 overseas employment agencies would have their licences revoked and blacklisted if they do not pay taxes by 31 May.

The Ministry of Labour informed the relevant agencies on 7 June 2024 that they must file tax reports to the relevant township revenue offices by August 2024 after sending workers abroad for the financial year 2023-2024.

Furthermore, among the agencies required to pay taxes, those that had not yet paid were notified on 9 May 2025 that they needed to pay their taxes by 31 May.

The Ministry of Labour has



Myanmar workers sent by overseas employment agencies are seen at the airport.

instructed the 28 agencies that have not yet paid their taxes to do so at the relevant township revenue offices by 31 May and to submit their reports on time. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of their overseas employment agency licences and their inclusion on the blacklist.

These 28 agencies are Aung San Moe Co Ltd, Diamond Bagan General Services Co Ltd, Fore Signal Int'l Services Co Ltd, Forerunner Myanmar Co Ltd, Global Champion Co Ltd, Htoo Aung Hlyan Co Ltd, JJA Support Co Ltd, JMK Service Co Ltd, Job Success Co Ltd, MAX Success Co Ltd, Moe More Family General

Services Co Ltd, Mingalar Asia Co Ltd, Mya Yeik Hlyan Co Ltd, Gwe Kyal Wint Co Ltd and Royal Four Seas Services Co Ltd, according to the Ministry of Labour.

In addition, SMZ Co Ltd, Seven Day Ayar Lwin Co Ltd, Shwe Lwin Lwin Co Ltd, Shwe Poe Myanmar Group Co Ltd, Shwe Thiri Chan Thar Services Co Ltd, Shwe Zin Inter Co Ltd, Southern Treasure Co Ltd, Super Tip Co Ltd, Swan Aung Myin General Services Co Ltd, Thaw Tar Myint Moh Services Co Ltd, Vega & Mira Co Ltd, Ya Wai Myaing Family Co Ltd, and Yadanar Su Latt Co Ltd are also involved. — ASH/MKKS

# Myanmar exports 230+ tonnes of honey in Apr

MYANMAR exported 236.9 tonnes of honey valued at US\$0.355 million in April of the current financial year 2025-2026, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

The seaborne honey export exceeded 860.68 tonnes, while the border posts registered 47.8 tonnes of honey exports from April to November 2024. Myanmar's honey is mostly sent to Japan, with 96.21 tonnes worth \$144,315, followed by Thailand with 140.7 tonnes worth \$211,050. Myanmar exports honey to China, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand. Myanmar delivered over 2,200 metric tonnes of honey to foreign trade partners in the last FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Apiculture Division's data indicated.

Sagaing and Mandalay regions are the leading producers of Myanmar's honey. Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are also found in Yangon, Bago and Magway regions, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states. Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, Niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Myanmar's honey production is estimated at over 4,000 metric tonnes annually. Sixty per cent went to foreign markets while the remaining was designated for domestic consumption. Honey is utilized as a traditional medicine in the country.

There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives. Moreover, two million acres of



A row of wooden beehives in a peaceful apiary, surrounded by lush greenery.

crops contribute to bee pollination annually. The beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality bee production. — NN/KK

## China leads Myanmar rice imports in Apr



Rice export bags await loading onto overseas-bound merchant vessel.

CHINA is the largest importer of Myanmar rice, with over 61,500 tonnes of rice and broken rice in April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Belgium is the second largest importer of Myanmar rice with over 20,000 tonnes, followed by 13,300 tonnes to the UK, over 12,000 to Bulgaria, over 8,500 to Spain, over 5,790 to the Philippines, over 3,300 to Poland, and 2,600 to Indonesia.

Myanmar exported over

140,000 tonnes of rice to the international market by sea in April.

Myanmar bagged over US\$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April 2024-31 March 2025). The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the FY 2024-2025, falling short of the target slightly.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Un-

ion of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

## Yangon palm oil reference price edges down

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market was poised for a decrease to K6,525 per viss for a week ending 25 May from K6,620 per viss in the previous week (18 May), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Sustain a working society to ensure longevity

HUMANS are active, living beings who work to earn income in order to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. These earnings help reduce the stress of daily life.

Actually, food, clothing, and shelter are not the major problems in their lives. Although people strive to address these needs, it can be said that the act of struggling to solve these problems is, in itself, the true solution to life. In other words, humans engage in various activities to sustain their society and maintain both their physical and mental well-being. As a result, this ongoing renewal of body and mind contributes to longevity.

Everyone wishes to have a long life. During their lifetime, they hope to achieve many things to meet both their own needs and those of others. While some problems can be solved with money, others

depend more on actions and behaviour. Many physical and mental issues can be improved through activity and engagement. Therefore, people work not only to earn an income for themselves and their families but also to maintain healthy social relationships with others. Indeed, the brotherhood or close social relationships can be found in the workplace. Many workers spend more of their valuable time at work than at home. As a result, their bonds with coworkers can become even stronger than those with their own families. At workplaces, they support each other through the challenges and pressures of society. Together, they have the strength to solve problems collectively. They are always ready to lend a helping hand without expecting anything in return. Their strong connection is evident, which is why their physical and mental well-being remains stable while working.

Otherwise, if individuals leave their workplaces despite being physically and mentally capable of working, they may encounter social issues such as dissatisfaction, low self-esteem, depression, and various inconveniences. It is evident that continuing to work can be an effective remedy for such struggles. These problems are commonly observed in the lives of retirees. Employees from both private companies and government sectors may experience undefined ailments or psychological distress in daily life after severing ties with their workplaces.

Hence, everyone needs to nurture and heal themselves to improve their physical and mental well-being, possibly by using the most effective treatments available. The spirit of community in any society can help extend the lifespans of older adults or retirees. Social interaction in the workplace can reduce depression and feelings of isolation, while also refreshing the minds of those who feel lonely.

**I**F you ask me, our world is getting boisterous with diverse doctrines and policies day by day. The world looks like an imminent time bomb, not knowing when on earth it will explode. In my opinion, the first world would be existing with calmness, where living things — both plants and animals — could be living and growing according to their nature and habitats. Whatever is said, we humans, intelligent people, should give birth to stability from that calmness, then peace and quiet generation after generation, metaphorically. The first step towards global peace is most likely to be a strong desire for this peace only. We must under no condition feel personal or other animosities towards anyone, whether they are our friends or enemies. If we feel nothing but hatred for anybody, this hatred will start to crop up in us even before it breeds negative consequences and bad deeds. And it is natural if people want peace only when their nations are plunged into chaos by someone or something. Of course, peace is a thing that should be wanted, as always. So, what actions can be done for world peace by individuals? How is it below?

Today's world has become a dexterously, industriously and

synthetically developed planet for ages. With the increasing rise of industries, lots of industrial zones are scattered in almost every part of the world, especially in densely populated sites — for example, capitals, big cities and even towns. Industrial plants from these sites emit poisonous gases like carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere. This is just the beginning of acid rain to occur. Even if industrialization solves the immense problem of unemployment across the world, this process commonly leads to air pollution, sight pollution, noise pollution, water contamination and soil degradation. Together with those natural consequences, people from every corner of the globe may sometimes face fewer or more tariff wars between great world nations, that is, most developed countries in the world. At the very worst, the least developed countries on the earth are meeting global warming due to industrialization. In this case, poisonous gases entering the atmosphere are the main problem in my eyes, and plants are the great 'inhaler' of these gases and 'exhaler' of oxygen, also a part of our lives. Hence, planting as much as possible can pay back for carbon debt, lessen the sufferings of global people

and then give rise to interpersonal peace.

One of the reasons that we have been living a decent life to some extent since we came into the world is our good neighbourhood. The pleasure of our environment contributes to that of our lives, as well as the unpleasantness of our environment creates that of our lives. At least this world warmly welcomed us so that we have got food, clothing, shelter and places to live on the earth. We eat rice, wheat, fruit or vegetables, drink or use water, wear or decorate flowers, sit under shady trees or bamboos and take in air that can be obtained naturally on the ground. Forests, woods, mountains, waterfalls, rivers, lakes, seas and oceans are home to living things, including microorganisms, and are natural scenes of beauty in the world. We even answer the call of nature on the ground besides throwing away household and industrial waste. In that connection, we are beholden to this world for its many acts of kindness. What should we do for the world in return? Many regions of the world are still having poverty, famine, poor healthcare services, natural disasters, humanitarian catastrophes and perhaps a world energy shortage with the world population

## Save the World

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



Recognizing the interconnectedness of humanity and nature, we must cultivate a sense of responsibility towards the world to create a harmonious future. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

growth. We ought to give those beset with difficulties and dangers a helping hand either at home or abroad in order to wipe away people's tears in the hope of making world peace, no matter whether it is material or energy, as much as we can.

Needless to say, today is the knowledge age. A country where new technology is developing on the globe is leading other countries with slow or little improvement in technology. Also, no wonder that today's youth is desperately following digital literacy and advancement or the trending of next technology. But on the other side, this competitive atmosphere between youth could cause greed and envy to a greater or lesser degree, seeing that they find those who are doing much better than they. Often, education and technology go hand in hand. A person who wants to take up technology should have known to learn education. Following a type of education, he must have not only mastered technology but also the truth and beauty of the world. The universal truth will involve both the conversation of the solar system and human history or geopolitics. And the term 'beauty' will contain physical beauty, mental health, psychological well-being and spiritual welfare of people in the modern world apart from natural beauty. In fact, education is nothing but finding truth and beauty in the real world, not virtual reality. Accordingly, only education for the truth and beauty of humans and nature will certainly bring the

very peace to the world, probably easing a destructive spirit.

Some state that painters are the happiest people in the world, but to me, only the time of reading makes me by far happier than other activities. To be candid, the task of reading does not cost as much as painting. Most of all, paintings express personal feelings rather than others'. In particular, painting is a type of subjective perception, and it can be done by a sensitive artist in a quiet place or studio, but sometimes. However, reading will be done by almost every literate person at almost all times. People indirectly look for knowledge, concepts, ethics, aesthetics and education from books. Although not in authentic situations, they may be thrown into ecstasies over reading like virtual reality circumstances. I am strongly of the opinion that the essence of reading is instilling intrapersonal peace into oneself. After reading non-fiction, it is very important that a person should become broad-minded and far-sighted. Also, subsequent to poems, essays, stories and novels, readers had better sympathize and then empathize with others. When all is said and done, even light literature can keep amateur readers amused for hours. To say nothing of interpersonal peace, the

art of reading enables people to build at least inner peace into themselves.

Clearly, no one makes or looks after the world. In actual fact, there can be seen only two sermons of universal truth by Buddha that protect the world from being damaged. These are someone's shame and fear of doing bad deeds, 'Heri' and 'Ooktapa' in the Pali language, respectively. People like to commit bad manners, especially in deserted areas at night, but also in public in broad daylight. Starting with no shame or fear of bad things, people tend to sin again and again. After all, bad deeds are in vain not only on victims but also on offenders. Actually, avoiding bad deeds itself is a kind of building oneself and nurturing a noble spirit. Even though a person is doing what he likes, he had best not disturb others in any way. So, as always, to avoid bad deeds consciously and not to bother others conscientiously, we can do the four tasks mentioned above — planting, giving a helping hand, seeking education and reading — as much as we wish. May peace be with all of us, as Pope Leo XIV stated. Long live the world, too!

**L**ANGUAGE is malleable, and its creative properties enable humankind to lie, deceive, and distort the truth. Undeniably, we twist language, sugarcoat it, and exploit it for various purposes. "Talk is cheap," as the saying goes — it's all too easy to weave words into the fabric of reality, just as it is to forge lies and spread falsehoods.

Intentions — be they benevolent or malicious — shape the words we release into the world. More often than not, we become engulfed by the very words we see and hear each day. Consciously or not, they nest in our minds, feed on our thoughts, and nudge our actions — softly, yet sometimes with startling cunning.

One must remember: the power of words often slips by unnoticed, discernible only to those with keen eyes and sharpened ears. While many remain oblivious, a few wield language

like a finely honed blade — subtly, brilliantly, and with precision.

Consider a simple scenario: you visit a shopping centre to buy clothes. A sales assistant, eager to make a sale, insists a particular coat looks good on you. Their words — truth or fabrication — are draped in velvet, coaxing you to make the purchase. Most people, flattered, take the bait. But suppose you know a thing or two about colour theory. You realize the salesperson is falsely claiming that a warm orange complements your cool skin tone. Now the lie, cloaked in silk and silver, is laid bare. Armed with knowledge, you escape the trap of words.

Now let us descend deeper into the labyrinth: the information sector — a prestigious pillar meant to unveil truth, light the path for the public, and expand horizons with trustworthy facts. Tragically, public faith in this pillar has waned, eroded by rogue

media infected with malicious intent. It is, ironically, the very field where words are supposed to clarify but instead cloud; where they should illuminate, they now obscure.

While many work tirelessly to clean the lens of distortion, others labour with malevolence to smother the light, spreading lies and manufactured news like thick fog. Cloaked in the garb of "fake," they mislead the masses for unjust aims. Here, words cease to be mere tools — they become weapons, capable of robbing peace and destabilizing societies. And the bitter truth? These weapons lie within anyone's grasp — from the cunning salesperson to the venomous demagogue.

Unwittingly, the general public becomes the bullet — fired towards its own destruction. Simply put, we are being used. This raises two questions: First, how can we restore faith in the

## When Words Betray

By Inori & Vale



Critical thinking, fact-checking, and diversifying information sources are essential for navigating modern communication and safeguarding against falsehoods. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

media sector? Second, how can we shield ourselves from being consumed — body and soul — by false information?

The first question, I shall leave to wiser minds and those entrusted with the reins of responsibility. But the second

— how we, as individuals, can shield ourselves from the snares of false information — that, I shall address.

Knowledge, above all, is the remedy. It is the blade we must sharpen to slice through the poison-laced fog of deception. And open-mindedness — let that be our torch, illuminating paths left in shadow by dogma. When welded together, these tools restore clarity and anchor us in truth. But ideals are not enough; action must follow thought. To guard ourselves in practice, we must cultivate a few crucial habits in our daily consumption of information.

First, we must fact-check — pause before accepting or sharing what we read, especially if it triggers a strong emotional response. Second, we must diversify our sources. Consuming news from a single outlet limits our view to one lens; seeking perspectives across a spectrum grants us a fuller, more nuanced understanding. Third, we must remember: no source is free from bias. All media bear the

fingerprints of their creators. By learning to detect emotionally charged language, omissions, or slanted narratives, we can better discern what lies beneath the surface. These are simple practices — yet they bear a profound impact. Adopted consistently, they sharpen our minds, strengthen our integrity, and restore our compass in this disorienting age of information excess. So let us open our eyes to observe, sharpen our ears to listen, and remain ever alert. Let us weigh possibilities before we judge or believe. Let us harness patience before we allow words to sway our actions.

Beware. Do not let them play you like a puppet — unless, of course, you've already mastered the strings yourself. In which case... I do hope you know what you're doing. Again — beware.

# NATIONAL

## Ngamoeyeik Dam irrigates 35,952 acres, secures Yangon's water supply

THE government promotes the agriculture and livestock sectors, and the harvesting processes of summer paddy in Yangon Region are completed. Meanwhile, the Ngamoeyeik dam supplied water to 35,952 acres of summer paddy and drinking water in the region.

In 2024-2025, the dam provided water to a total of 35,952 acres of summer paddy — 22,133 acres from Ngamoeyeik canals, 7,250 acres from sluice gates and 6,614 acres from electric-powered water pumping projects. Moreover, the dam also supplies water, 130 million gallons in summer and 90 million gallons in monsoon, to Nyaunghnapin and Aungdagun water treatment plants in Yangon.

In Yangon Region, the water was supplied to summer paddy fields through the tributaries, left and right main canals of Ngamoeyeik from 15 December 2024 to 7 May 2025. The officials also cooperated with the Water User Group to prevent water waste. They also set up the shutters at the spill-



PHOTO: NGAMOYEYIK DAM

way of Ngamoeyeik and placed the sandbags at the spillways of Mahuya and Paunglin spillways

to store water.

“The Ngamoeyeik Dam daily supplies water for the sum-

mer paddy and also drinking water in Yangon. The harvesting of summer paddy is nearly

complete. The dam distributed water to 35,952 acres of summer paddy on 7 May as a final move. It supplies water to two Nyaunghnapin water treatment plants daily in Yangon. Ngamoeyeik Dam is a reliable dam for agriculture and drinking water. We are also glad that we can supply enough water to the agricultural sector and drinking water to the city,” said U Tun Lwin, staff officer of the dam.

The Ngamoeyeik Dam is located about two miles from Phaunggyi Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, and it is 15,500 feet long, 75 feet in height and has a capacity of 180,000-acre feet of water. It supplies water to 33,852 acres of irrigated areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation distributes water from Ngamoeyeik dam (Mahuya Dam and Paunglin Dam), Lagoonbyin Dam and Kalihtaw Dam in Hlegu Township and Tabu Hla Dam in Taikkyi Township. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



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# NATIONAL

## 4-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K696M

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 16, 17 and 18 May, the combined teams impounded 3.89 tonnes of illegal teak (worth K1.95 million) in Lewe district, industrial materials (worth K55.48 million) without official documents from 18 containers at the Asia World Port, foodstuffs (valued at K4.32 million) without official documents from the luggage of a passenger from Malaysia to Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport, and a Yutong bus (worth approximately K70 million) carrying consumer goods (valued at K5.53 million) without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 18 and 19 May, the combined on-duty teams seized a Nissan Caravan (estimated value of K30 million) carrying foodstuffs (valued at K3.04 million) without official documents in Phayagyi, 0.484

tonne of illegal hardwood and 7.418 tonnes of illegal timbers (valued at K1.17 million) in Bago and Nyaunglebin districts, and two unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K6.5 million) in Thayawady and Minhla Townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law, and Customs procedures.

On 19 May, the combined teams captured 5.761 tonnes of illegal teak (valued at K10.13 million) in Monywa Township, consumer goods (worth K499.5 million) without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge checkpoint in Sagaing Township, and industrial materials and foodstuffs (worth K8.45 million) without official documents in Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 19 arrests on four consecutive days from 16 to 19 May, confiscating illegal goods worth approximately K696 million. — MNA/MKKS

## 26 Ugandans deported over telecom fraud



Immigration and officials processing the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

THE Myanmar government, in collaboration with international organizations and neighbouring countries, is rigorously investigating and eradicating telecom fraud and related criminal activities. In cases involving foreign nationals, the government systematically repatriates them to their respective countries.

Yesterday, 26 Ugandan nationals were deported to their home country via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, following legal procedures and considering humanitarian and bilateral relations. To ensure a smooth and systematic deportation process, U Myint Phone, Deputy Director of the

Immigration and Population Department of Kayin State, and other officials instructed relevant departments to maintain accurate records and data.

The handover ceremony was attended by Deputy Director U Myint Phone, officials from the Ugandan Embassy to Malaysia, including Ambassador Ms Betty O Bigombe, and representatives from the Thai Immigration Department of Tak Province. Myanmar officials formally handed over the deportation documents to the representatives of the respective countries.

Between 30 January and 19 May 2025, Myanmar authorities

detained a total of 9,086 foreign nationals who had illegally entered the country. Of these, 8,438 individuals were deported to their respective countries through Thailand, following legal procedures. The remaining 648 foreign nationals are ready for repatriation and are being well looked after.

The Myanmar government remains committed to thoroughly investigating online scams and online gambling activities in collaboration with neighbouring countries and international organizations. Further actions will continue to be taken against those involved. — MNA/MKKS

## Three Myanmar women hurt fleeing police in Malaysia

THREE Myanmar women were injured when they jumped the wall after seeing a police car stop at the front of the factory where they were working in Selangor State, Malaysia.

They arrived in Malaysia just three months ago, and they thought the police were conducting a raid at the factory as part of the crackdown operation on undocumented foreigners; that is why they tried to escape and got injured in the head and leg.

Of the three, one broke her leg, another one underwent eight stitches for a cut on the

head, and the third one got a leg dislocation.

"The factory helped them to visit the hospital, but nothing else. They don't have money and have difficulty even with

food," said the 'Lovely Heart' philanthropic Myanmar youth blood donor group in Malaysia.

The group visited them and gave financial support worth 1,300 ringgits. — MT/ZS



The 'Lovely Heart' philanthropic Myanmar youth blood donor group delivering helping hands to the injured.



Iron U beams.



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# ECONOMY WORLD

## China's industrial sector posts steady growth amid continued economic recovery



A worker works at an assembly line of Voyah, a Chinese NEV brand, in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, 9 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S industrial production continued to see stable growth in April as the country's economic performance held steady against external headwinds.

China's value-added industrial output expanded 6.1 per cent year on year in April, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Monday.

The manufacturing sector saw its value-added output climb 6.6 per cent year on year last month, with that of equipment manufacturing and high-tech manufacturing up by 9.8 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, according to the official data.

In the first four months of

this year, the country's industrial output gained 6.4 per cent compared to a year ago, the data showed.

The industrial output is used to measure the activity of large enterprises each with an annual main business turnover of at least 20 million yuan (about US\$2.78 million).

With effective policy support, the industrial sector has maintained relatively rapid expansion this year, making solid progress in high-end, intelligent and green transformation, NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui told a press conference on Monday.

Monday's data showed the

production of 3D printing equipment, industrial robots and new energy vehicles surged 60.7 per cent, 51.5 per cent and 38.9 per cent year on year in April, respectively. In the first quarter of this year, the country's industrial profits amounted to nearly 1.51 trillion yuan, up by 0.8 per cent from the same period in 2024.

Despite the positive trend, Fu cautioned that some enterprises still face difficulties in operations and called for more efforts to expand domestic demand and implement supportive policies to foster innovation-driven development. — Xinhua

## Japan projects shortage of 3.26 mln workers in AI, robotics by 2040

JAPAN will face a shortfall of 3.26 million workers in fields related to artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics by 2040, the country's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) projected Monday.

In its workforce projections, the ministry estimates that Japan will need 4.98 million workers specialized in AI and robotics by 2040. However, at the current pace of human resource development, only 1.72 million will be available.

Additionally, the manufacturing sector is expected to be short by 2.81 million workers for production processes as demand is projected to reach 8.65 million workers, while the supply is expected to be just 5.84 million.

In contrast, labour surpluses are forecast in several other fields. The office administration sector is projected to have an excess of 2.14 million workers, the sales sector 510,000, and the service sector

around 100,000.

The ministry also analyzed workforce needs by education level. By 2040, Japan is expected to face a shortage of 600,000 university graduates with science and engineering backgrounds.

On the other hand, there will be a surplus of 280,000 liberal arts university graduates and 70,000 with liberal arts post-graduate degrees. — Xinhua

## China-US tariff cut good for bilateral trade growth, global recovery: spokesperson

THE significant reduction of tariffs between China and the United States is beneficial for trade growth between the two countries and global economic recovery, an official with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said at a press conference on Monday.

The current international environment remains complex and severe, with a rise in unilateralism and protectionism, which poses serious challenges to the international economic and trade order and constrains global economic growth, NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui said.

However, the trend of international cooperation for win-win outcomes will not change, Fu noted, adding that China's commitment to expanding its opening up will remain steadfast.

The country's diversification of foreign trade is being steadily advanced, and the policies aimed at promoting foreign trade development are yielding continuous results, which will continue to support the steady growth of foreign trade, Fu added. — Xinhua

## Thailand's economic growth softens to 3.1% in Q1

THAILAND'S economy expanded 3.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2025 from a year earlier, driven by public investment and exports despite slowing private and government consumption, official data showed on Monday.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the January-March period softened from an upwardly revised 3.3 per cent growth in the previous three months, which was the strongest increase since the third quarter of 2022, according to the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC).

On a quarterly basis, the GDP grew a seasonally adjusted 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of this year, quickening from a 0.4 per cent rise in the final quarter of 2024, registering the fifth consecutive period of expansion, the NESDC said in a statement.

The Southeast Asian nation's economy is expected to grow in a range of 1.3 per cent to 2.3 per cent this year, down from 2.3 per cent to 3.3 per cent forecast earlier, said NESDC secretary-general Danucha Pichayanan.

Looking ahead, the expansion is bolstered by rising public



Members of the Ban Yakang community take part in a duck catching competition as part of activities to promote tourism in Ban Yakang, Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat, on 12 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

investment, an ongoing increase in private consumption amid low unemployment and inflation rates, along with the recovery of the tourism sector and related services, Danucha told a news conference.

However, economic growth is projected to slow in the second half of the year due to a global economic and trade slowdown and the impact of trade protection measures, as well as additional downside risks from agricultural volatility, he noted. — Xinhua

# Trump tariffs force EU to cut 2025 eurozone growth forecast

THE EU on Monday sharply cut its eurozone economic growth forecast for 2025 because of global trade tensions sparked by US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs.

The European Commission said the 20-country single currency area's economy should grow 0.9 per cent in 2025 — down from a previous forecast of 1.3 per cent — due to "a weakening global trade outlook and higher trade policy uncertainty".

The EU also lowered its prediction for eurozone growth in 2026 to 1.4 per cent, down from 1.6 per cent expected in November last year.

"Underpinned by a robust labour market and rising wages, growth is



Containers from shipping giants Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd are sorted at BEHALA's Westhafen container terminal on 10 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

expected to continue in 2025, albeit at a moderate pace," EU economy chief Valdis Dombrovskis said.

Trump has hit the European Union and others with 25-per-cent levies on steel, aluminium and auto imports, and the bloc faces sweeping additional tariffs unless it reaches a deal

with Washington.

The US leader announced a 20-per-cent levy on most EU goods in April, along with higher duties on dozens of other nations.

That measure has since been frozen until July to allow negotiations, but Trump has kept a "baseline" 10 per cent tar-

iff on imports from around the world, including the 27-country EU.

The EU also said Germany, the bloc's biggest economy, would not grow at all in 2025, a significantly sharp reduction from the 0.7 per cent predicted last year.

"The risks to the outlook remain tilted to the downside, so the EU must take decisive action to boost our competitiveness," Dombrovskis said.

After a previous mandate focused on fighting climate change, the commission's focus has pivoted to competitiveness, seeking to make life for businesses easier in the face of fierce competition from Chinese and American firms. — AFP

# Tokyo stocks fall as US downgrade fuels fears over stronger yen

TOKYO stocks dropped Monday, weighed down by the selling of some exporters as the downgrading of US debt by a major credit rating agency raised concerns about the yen's further appreciation against the US dollar.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 255.09 points, or 0.68 per cent, from Friday at

37,498.63. The broader Topix index finished 2.06 points, or 0.08 per cent, lower at 2,738.39.

On the top-tier Prime Market, decliners were led by marine transportation, oil and coal product, and insurance issues.

The dollar fell to the upper 144 yen range in Tokyo, pressured by selling after Moody's on Fri-

day downgraded its US credit rating by one notch from top triple-A rating.

Stocks declined as some export-oriented machinery and electronics issues were sold on the firmer yen, which decreases exporters' overseas profits when repatriated, with the move by the rating agency fueling fears about the yen's

further gain versus the dollar.

"Rising (US) interest rates stemming from concerns about fiscal health leads to a weaker dollar, thus having a negative impact on Japanese stocks," said Masahiro Yamaguchi, head of investment research at SMBC Trust Bank. — Kyodo

**Ministry of Immigration and Population  
Department of Population**

**Invitation of proposals for International Consultant**

- The Ministry of Immigration and Population have to compile and publish the population projection report based on from the 2024 Myanmar Population and Housing Census data to use as a reference for the national planning and socio-economic development for the coming years.
- The experienced international consultant will be recruited through competitive selection and evaluation processes, and interested candidates are invited and suggested to refer below information to submit the proposal:
 

(a) The date and time that the interested candidates can get TOR for international consultant	- During 12-5-2025 to 30-5-2025 TOR can be available at <a href="http://www.dop.gov.mm">www.dop.gov.mm</a>
(b) The place which can be submitted the proposal	- Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Building No (48), Nay Pyi Taw
(c) Method of submission of proposal	- In person or by email: <a href="mailto:pop.dept.mm@gmail.com">pop.dept.mm@gmail.com</a>
(d) Deadline for submission of proposal	- 30-5-2025 at 16:30 PM MMT.
- Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- If you want to know more about proposal form and the terms and conditions, you can contact the following phone number and email during office hours:  
 Department of Population, Nay Pyi Taw  
 Phone No. +9567-431066, +9567-431067  
 Email Address. [pop.dept.mm@gmail.com](mailto:pop.dept.mm@gmail.com)

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

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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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**Price adjustment announced for  
Global New Light of Myanmar**

Due to the rising costs of newsprint, ink, and printing plates for the daily newspaper, the price of The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily will be set at K500 per copy starting from 1 June 2025. Delivery charge will be collected separately, and such a rate will depend on the location.

We respectfully request that the readers understand the unavoidable circumstances of a changing price, and we are grateful for the support from our valued readers.

**The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Pope Leo gives inauguration Mass attended by world figures

POPE Leo XIV gave his inauguration Mass as the new head of the Catholic Church in St Peter's Square in Vatican City on Sunday, with world figures, including US-Vice President JD Vance, attending.

"It is the hour of love," the 267<sup>th</sup> pontiff said during the service, calling to build a Catholic Church that "opens its arms to the world". The first American in the role, Pope Leo XIV was elected on 8 May

to succeed the late Pope Francis.

"Love and unity: these are the two dimensions of the mission entrusted to (the disciple) Peter by Jesus," he stressed in his homily.

The Japanese government has sent former Prime Minister Taro Aso, a Catholic and top advisor to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to the event to help "deepen friendly and cooperative ties" with the Vatican.

The pope visited Japan's Nagasaki in 2008, when he was known as Robert Prevost, to attend the beatification of 188 Japanese martyrs by Pope Benedict XVI, according to Catholics in the southwestern city.

Father Futoshi Matsuo of Shiroyama Catholic Church in the city, one of the local Catholics who met him then, said, "He was a person who listened warmly to what others had to say, rather than speak



Pope Leo XIV waves to the crowd from the popemobile in St Peter's Square at the Vatican before his inaugural Mass on 18 May 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

himself."

"I am sure he will con-

tinue to set an example by practising peace building

through dialogue," Matsuo said. — Kyodo

## US launches "endless war" to plunder others' resources: Iranian president

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said here Sunday that the United States has begun an "endless war" across the world to plunder other countries' resources and even human workforce, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The West seeks to provoke conflicts in the Middle East to own the regional countries' resources at any price it wants, Pezeshkian said at the opening ceremony of the Tehran Dialogue Forum, a two-day event that has drawn 200 foreign delegations, including senior government officials and representatives of inter-

national organizations, to discuss regional and global challenges.

Pezeshkian added that Iran has nothing to hide and will under no circumstances stop its "peaceful nuclear programme".

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, talking about the Iran-US indirect talks at the ceremony, said Iran wants "a fair and balanced agreement that would be formed within the framework of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) and based on full respect for Iran's nuclear rights and guarantee the removal of sanctions in an



This file picture shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attending a press conference in Tehran, Iran, on 16 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

objective manner."

"Iran is committed to diplomacy and expects the cruel and unilateral sanctions, which have directly targeted our people, to be truly and tangibly lifted," he said.

He added that Iran is ready to open a new chapter in its ties with Europe if the latter has a real determination and adopts an independent approach towards Iran. — Xinhua

## S Korea's Democratic Party candidate leads poll for 3 June presidential election

LEE Jae-myung, presidential candidate of South Korea's majority liberal Democratic Party, led a poll for the 3 June presidential election, Flower Research survey showed Monday.

Lee came out on top with a support rate of 52.1 per cent, taking a big lead over Kim Moon-soo, the second-biggest conservative People Power Party's presidential candidate who garnered 29.5 per cent of support.

The human rights lawyer-turned-politician maintained his position as a presidential frontrunner in the 3 June election, triggered by the removal of former President Yoon Suk-yeol from office over his botched martial law imposition last December.

Lee lost the 2022 presidential election to Yoon by the country's narrowest margin of 0.73 percentage points.

The Democratic Party won an approval score of 50.3 per cent, while 32.0 per cent supported the People Power Party, the survey showed.

The result was based on a poll of 2,007 voters conducted between Friday and Saturday. It had plus and minus 2.2 percentage points in margin of error with a 95-per-cent confidence level. — Xinhua

## Joe Biden diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer

FORMER US president Joe Biden has been diagnosed with an "aggressive" form of prostate cancer that has spread to his bones, and is reviewing treatment options, a statement from his office said Sunday.

On Friday the 82-year-old Democrat was diagnosed with the cancer after he experienced increasing urinary symptoms and was seen for a new finding of a prostate nodule, the statement said.

"While this represents a more aggressive form of the disease, the cancer appears to be hormone-sensitive which allows for effective management. The President and his family are reviewing treatment options with his physicians," it continued.

Cancer cells are commonly found in the prostates of men of Biden's age, though in most cases they grow slowly. Hormone therapy is a common

treatment that can shrink tumours and slow cancer growth, but is not a cure.

According to the statement, Biden's cancer was found to have "a Gleason score of 9 (Grade Group 5)."

Prostate cancer that looks "very abnormal" is assigned the highest rating, Grade 5, according to the American Cancer Society. The Gleason Score often indicates the sum of the grades from the two areas in the prostate that make up most of the cancer, but can also be calculated other ways. — AFP

# SPORTS



Eh Mwi. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

## Myanmar fighter Eh Mwi to join ONE Friday Fights 109

MYANMAR'S fighter Eh Mwi will take on his counterpart Thailand's Wuttikrai Wor Chakrawut in the Flyweight Muay Thai event at the ONE Friday Fights 109 to be held in Thailand on 23 May. Their bout will be a co-main event.

The Thai youth fighter from Wor Chakrawut club is 23 years old, and he joined the One this year. He has one win in one bout.

Twenty-two-year-old Myanmar fighter Eh Mwi from Top One club has scored two wins and two losses in four matches. This year, he secured one win and one loss in two matches. — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA

## Yangon United chase winning streak in U21 Youth League

YANGON United FC still leads the U21 Youth League of the Myanmar National League by winning its opponent in the 4<sup>th</sup> fixture on 19 May.

At the stadium in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon United beat Yadanabon FC 2-1. Yangon United continues to lead the standings with four consecutive victories. In six minutes of the match, Htoo Wanna scored the opening goal for Yangon United. However, in 35 minutes, Yan Naing Phyto equalized for Yadanabon FC. The remainder of the match was tightly contested, but in 66 minutes, Min Thant Bo scored the winning goal for Yangon United.

At Bahan's artificial turf stadium, ISPE thrashed Dagon Port with a 3-1 win. It was the third loss of Dagon Port. Winning goals for ISPE came from Saw Aung Myo Oo in 13 and 39 minutes and Sit Nyein Chan in 86 minutes, while Zaw Paing scored a single goal for Dagon Port in 55 minutes. At Padonma Stadium, Junior Lions crushed Maha United 4-0 with a hat-trick of Thaw Zin Ko in 16, 81 and 85 minutes and a late goal from Khun Maung Lone in 90+1 minutes.



Players from Yangon United and Yadanabon FC in action. PHOTO: MNL

The last matches of the fourth fixture will take place on 20 May. Dagon Star United will meet with Rakhine United at Padonma Stadium,

while Thitsa Arman will play against Ayeyawady United at the stadium in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

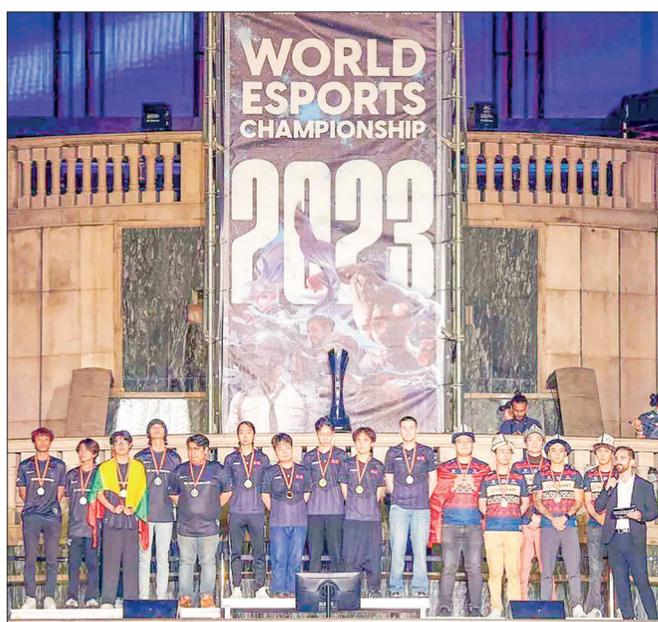
## National Esports Championship to select best players

THE National Esports Championship: Road to SEA Games 2025, which will serve as the selection tournament for the national team competing in the 2025 SEA Games to be held in Thailand, will commence starting from the third week of May. The tournament will take about two months from the third week of May to the third week of July. The players can register for qualification starting from the third week of May. The National Esports Championship is the greatest Esports competition in Myanmar with three stages: the qualifier stage, group stage and final stage.

A total of 10 teams will have to compete in the tournament: four teams from the previous MESL Pro Series Season 2, two teams from the Foundation Qualifier aimed at nurturing new and young talents, and four teams from the upcoming NEC Open Qualifier. Detailed information about the tournament will be announced starting from the second week of May through the MESL - Myanmar Esports League Facebook page.

On 16 May, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation President Dr Kaung Myat San made a speech at the M Summit 2025 at the Pan Pacific Hotel and presented certificates to the partner companies. The federation organized the university-level Esports events starting from 2024, and it will initiate the Yangon Region, Other Region and Private Universities this year; and will organize Varsity League Division 1, Division 2 and University Esports Championship twice a year; and will organize university-level Esports events widely. The detailed information will be announced through the University Esports Network and Uni League by the MESL Facebook Page.

Myanmar's selected Esports teams won the silver med-



Myanmar's Dota 2 team secures silver at the World Esports Championship 2023, triumphing among 140 competing countries.

al at Dota 2 of the World Esports Championship organized by Esports IESF in 2023, a bronze medal at Mobile Legends: Bang Bang of the SEA Games held in Cambodia in 2023 and ranked five at Honour Kings of Hangzhou 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in China 2023. Therefore, the players hope for the best results at the 33<sup>rd</sup> SEA Games. — MNA/KTZH

## Napoli close in on Serie A title despite Parma stalemate

NAPOLI will have to wait one more week to seal the Serie A title after being held to a goalless draw at Parma while closest rivals Inter Milan drew 2-2 a dramatic game with Lazio.

Antonio Conte's team stay one point ahead of Inter and were unfortunate not to win after twice striking the woodwork through Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Matteo Politano, while Scott McTominay also had a free-kick tipped onto the crossbar.

The away side thought they would be handed a chance to take the points from the penalty spot in 96 minutes when David Neres was fouled, only for the decision to be reversed for a foul committed by Giovanni Simeone earlier in the move.

A feisty match at the Stadio Ennio Tardini ended with Conte and his Parma counterpart Cristian Chivu both being sent off following a blazing row between the two dugouts in the final moments.

However a home win on the final day against Cagliari, who are safe thanks to a 3-0 win over second-from-bottom Venezia, will give Napoli a fourth league crown. — AFP



## Israeli PM says to take control of all Gaza

**I**SRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel will take control of Palestine's entire Gaza Strip, while speaking on recently intensified Israeli military operations.

In a video speech posted on the messaging platform Telegram, Netanyahu said "We are going to take control of the entire territory of the enclave — that is what we are going to do."

Speaking a day after announcing the partial resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza, Netanyahu said Israel will allow only "minimal and basic" assistance for a limited period, not specifying when the aid entry will resume.

Israel has prevented all aid from entering the Palestinian enclave since 2 March, stating the move is aimed at pressuring Hamas to agree to a hostage release deal on terms acceptable to Israel. The total blockade — including food, medicines and fuel — has worsened the severe humanitarian crisis there and prompted a warning of famine by UN experts.

In the video, Netanyahu said the limited resumption of aid was prompted by pressures from Israel's allies, because the allies "cannot accept images of mass starvation" in Gaza.

"Therefore, to achieve victory, we need to somehow solve the problem (of hunger)," Netanyahu said. — Xinhua



Displaced Palestinians walk with pots of cooked food collected at a charity distribution in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on 19 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Bucharest mayor wins Romanian presidential election with 53.6% of vote

**B**UCHAREST Mayor Nicusor Dan is leading in the Romanian presidential runoff with 53.6 per cent, while the leader of the opposition Alliance for the Unification of Romanians (AUR) party, George Simion, has 46.4 per cent of the votes, according to the country's central electoral bureau after counting 100 per cent of the votes.

The leader of the opposition nationalist party Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR) George Simion admitted defeat in the Romanian presidential election and congratulated his rival, Bucharest Mayor Nicusor Dan.

The first round took place on 4 May, with Simion (41 per cent) and Dan (21 per cent) receiving the most votes.

Romania's 2025 presidential election comes amid a political crisis caused by the annulment of the results of the first round held in 2024, when independent candidate Calin Georgescu won but the vote was overturned



Supporters of Bucharest Mayor Nicusor Dan cheered as he exited his campaign headquarters in Bucharest on 18 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

due to alleged interference in the election process via social media. The decision sparked protests in the country and accusations that the Romanian government is suppressing the opposition, including from the US administration. — SPUTNIK

## More flights cancelled at Paris' airport due to traffic control failure

**FIFTEEN** per cent of daily flights were cancelled at the Paris-Orly airport following an air traffic control system breakdown on Monday.

The cancellation was requested by France's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGAC). A "radar failure" had caused a cancellation of around 130 flights or 40 per cent of air traffic at the airport on Sunday, affecting thousands of passengers, reported the French newspaper Le Figaro.

"The situation is improving, but still requires air traffic to be regulated," as repairs are underway, said the DGAC.

Located 10 kilometres south of the French capital, the Paris-Orly airport handled over 33 million passengers in 2024, official figures show. — Xinhua

## Sri Lankan president pledges to prevent repeat of civil war tragedies

**SRI** Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Monday reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to ensuring that the tragic events of the past are never re-

peated in Sri Lanka, the President's Media Division (PMD) said in a statement.

Sri Lanka marked the 16th National War Heroes' Day celebrations on

Monday. This coincides with the end of the country's 30-year conflict in 2009.

Dissanayake visited the Mihindu Seth Medura convalescent home

in Attidiya on Monday morning, where he met war veterans receiving long-term care and rehabilitation.

Reflecting on the long-term consequenc-

es of the 30-year conflict, Dissanayake noted that the 30-year conflict had left a lasting impact on the nation, with many from both the north and south suffering not only

the loss of life but also severe physical injuries. He reiterated his firm commitment to ensuring that such a tragedy is never repeated, according to the PMD. — Xinhua