

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar emphasizes peace, stability, prosperity, and protection of fundamental rights and interests of people

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press statement on 10 May 2026. The full text of the press statement is as follows: -

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar successfully held a free and fair multiparty democratic general election between December 2025 and January 2026. Out of 24.23 million el-

igible voters nationwide, more than 13.13 million cast their votes according to their own free will. As a result, a new government led by the President elected by the Parliament, chosen by

the people has now assumed the responsibilities of the State.

In the 2020 general election, the then-ruling government committed severe electoral irregularities. Follow-

ing complaints from political parties and the public regarding the lack of fairness in the election, investigation and verification were carried out.

SEE PAGE 2

Outstanding student youth camps conclude with bonfire ceremonies

Outstanding student youths at Grade-11 and higher education levels happily joined the bonfire events at closing of their outstanding student camps in Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung together with local authorities.

THE closing bonfire ceremonies for the 2026 Higher Education-level Outstanding Student Youth Camp in Chaungtha and the Grade-11 Outstanding Student Youth Camp in Ngwehsaung were held at the respective camps yesterday evening.

The Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister and his wife, the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker and his wife, the commander of South-West Command and his

wife, an official from the local airbase in Pathein and his wife, regional ministers and their wives, joined the ceremonies together with outstanding youths.

The chief minister spoke on the occasion at the Higher Education-level Outstanding Student Youth Camp in Chaungtha, and enjoyed song and dance performances presented by the outstanding youth.

They also attended the closing

ceremony of the Grade-11 Outstanding Student Youth Camp in Ngwehsaung, where the chief minister addressed the gathering and had dinner together with the outstanding student youth.

The Region Chief Minister and officials lit and officially opened the beach bonfire event, and joyfully participated together with the outstanding student youth in a peaceful and cheerful atmosphere. — Region IPRD/KZL



Outstanding Students take part in the closing bonfire ceremonies for the 2026 Outstanding Student Youth Camp on 9 May 2026.

PHOTO: REGION IPRD

OPINION

Midwives, heroes at the grassroots level

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



MoRA Union Minister inspects distribution of prefabricated houses

NATIONAL

PAGE 7



Three-wheeled vehicles to create over 50,000 job opportunities in domestic short-distance transportation

DELICACY

PAGE 10



Traditional Myanmar Cuisine

NATIONAL

Myanmar emphasizes peace, stability, prosperity, and protection of fundamental rights and interests of people

FROM PAGE 1

Due to the findings of significant irregularities involving over 11.3 million cases out of 38.2 million eligible voters, it was addressed according to the law. Consequently, those responsible for attempting to retain power through fraudulent means were duly prosecuted before the Court in accordance with the law, upon the establishment of clear and sufficient evidence of corruption and other criminal offences. Therefore, a new free and fair general election was held in December 2025.

The positive developments taking place in Myanmar have been well recognized by the majority of ASEAN Member States, many of which have

expressed their readiness to further enhance engagement and cooperation with Myanmar. However, it is observed that a few Member States continue to maintain restrictions, discriminatory measures, and the exclusion of the Myanmar Government from equal representation, while interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs through criticism and pressure, in violation of the fundamental principles enshrined in Article 2, Chapter I of the ASEAN Charter.

Since joining ASEAN in 1997, Myanmar has actively participated in ASEAN processes in accordance with the ASEAN consensus and principles. Furthermore, as a responsible Member State,

Myanmar has consistently fulfilled its duties and obligations as an ASEAN Member State, including making annual contributions for ASEAN mechanisms and activities.

Over the past five years, despite facing unequal treatment arising from the positions of certain ASEAN Member States, Myanmar has exercised patience and continued to cooperate in accordance with its obligations as a Member State. Attempts to continue such non-constructive engagement with the new government of Myanmar disregard the genuine will of the Myanmar people, who exercised their democratic rights through lawful voting.

Although a consensus has yet to be

reached on Myanmar within ASEAN, Myanmar continues to maintain bilateral engagements with ASEAN Member States. Myanmar deeply appreciates to the majority of ASEAN Members States that have supported the positive developments taking place in Myanmar.

Myanmar will continue to pursue peace, stability, prosperity, and the protection of the fundamental rights and interests of the people of Myanmar through a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led process aligned with the country's prevailing circumstances.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
10 May 2026

MR to upgrade Yangon-Mandalay No 11-Up, No 12-Down trains with air suspension coaches

MYANMA Railways has announced that starting 15 May, the No 11-Up and No 12-Down Express trains—which serve numerous stops along the Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon railway—will be upgraded by replacing the original AAR coaches with modern air suspension coaches.

The new train sets will feature four Upper Class carriages — two air-conditioned carriages at K45,000 per ticket and two non-air-conditioned carriages at K27,000. Ticket prices for Ordinary Class and the current list of station stops will remain unchanged.

Myanma Railways stated that this upgrade aims to ensure passengers have comfortable travel options,



The air express train scheduled to run on the Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon railway route.

particularly for those unable to secure DEMU tickets. The service organization expressed its commitment to meeting travellers' needs

and extended its gratitude to passengers for their patience during the necessary maintenance and upgrade periods. — Htun Htun/ZN

Gold Market Rate as of 10 May 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,200,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday, 10 May 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 11 May 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Bago, lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and southern Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin 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 hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 May 2026: Some rain or thundershowers with may be heavy at times. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 May 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers with may be heavy at times. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 May 2026: Some rain or thundershowers with may be heavy at times. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 10 May 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the Southwest Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours.— DMH

NATIONAL

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister oversees regional development activities in Kyunsu and Myeik townships

TANINTHAYI Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo met departmental officials, businesspeople, and residents at the Kyunyadana Hall of the Kyunsu Township General Administration Department on 9 May to discuss matters related to township development.

They then visited Pyi Phyo Tun Company Limited in Kattalu Village to observe the construction of a 24-hour solar battery system, as well as the installation of power facilities and solar panels. During the visit, cash donations were presented to Basic Education High School (Kattalu), Post-Primary School

(Hteinchaung), and Middle School (Mayanchaung).

Afterwards, he visited the basic and advanced maritime youth training camp and presented cash awards to the trainees. He also observed the trainees' rowing exercises, the construction of a tubeless motorcycle tyre factory by Pho Lamin Trading Co Ltd in Kayin Village, and the operations of the OK Yadana Rice Mill in Kyaukphya Village, including the drying, milling, cleaning, and packaging of locally produced rice for domestic distribution and sale in Myeik Township. — Khaing Htoo (IPRD)/TH



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo meets trainees of the basic and advanced maritime youth courses. PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (IPRD)

Myanmar, Guangxi hold talks on trade, investment and educational cooperation

CONSUL-GENERAL Daw Khine Hsu Lin from the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanning held discussions with Mr Wei Ran, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, at the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangxi Autonomous Region in China on 8 May.

During the meeting, the two sides held frank and cordial discussions on organizing events to promote trade and investment between Guangxi Region and Myanmar, increasing scholarship opportunities, establishing sister-city relationships, and matters relating to the China-ASEAN Expo (CA-EXPO).

At the discussion, the Myanmar Consul-General explained the Myanmar Government's primary objectives and basic policies, the processes to be carried out following the formation of the new government, invitations for national reconciliation and domestic peace, and efforts to promote national development in Myanmar. In response, Mr Wei Ran, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, welcomed the policies and future programmes of the new Myanmar government and said that the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region stood ready to cooperate with Myanmar. — ASH/KNN

MoI Union Minister inspects functions of Printing Press, Arts Centre construction in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Lin visited the Government Printing Press (Mandalay) under the Printing and Publishing Department (Upper Myanmar) yesterday morning and inspected books printed and published by the press, the operation and condition of the Orient-I and Orient-II rotary presses, sheet-fed printing machines, raw material storage, glue-binding machines, gathering and stitching machines, cutting machines, Katana image setter, photocopier and plate-making machines.

During the inspection, the Union minister instructed officials to ensure that printing operations met proper standards and quality requirements, particularly so that school textbooks could be durable enough for continued use by successive students, and to provide training for skilled workers.



Union Minister for Information U Htein Lin inspects the progress of the construction of the Arts Centre (Mandalay) yesterday.

He then visited the construction site of the Arts Centre (Mandalay), where responsible officials explained the construction progress, completed works, ongoing activities and future plans for the arts centre project. The Union minister discussed ways to accelerate the construction work and enquired

about the availability of funding. Afterwards, he inspected the construction work of the Arts Centre (Mandalay), which is being carried out in three phases, and reviewed the completion of the works included in Phase I, while coordinating the necessary requirements. — MNA/KNN

Union Health Minister inspects FDA office, hospitals in Shan State



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win observes the process of software-based patient registration and healthcare services at the Women's and Children's Hospital-Taunggyi yesterday.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspected the office of the Shan State Food and Drug Administration Department, people's hospitals and medical facilities in Taunggyi yesterday.

During the visit to the Shan State Food and Drug Administration Department, the Union minister met officials and stressed the importance of ensuring safe food for the public before inspecting the

laboratory.

He also inspected software-based patient registration and healthcare services at the Women's and Children's Hospital-Taunggyi, as well as practical training sessions at the Taunggyi Midwifery Training School.

At the State Public Health Department office, the Union minister met health staff from Taunggyi Township and discussed prevention of seasonal infectious diseases during the rainy season and expansion of vaccination coverage.

In the afternoon, he inspected the Heho Station Hospital in Kalaw Township, an AHA Centre-funded building at Thayetpu Rural Health Centre and the Wetphyuyay rural health branch, and instructed officials to ensure smooth delivery of public healthcare services. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

MoRA Union Minister inspects distribution of prefabricated houses

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, along with relevant officials, inspected the arrival of a freight train carrying containerized prefabricated houses donated by the People's Republic of China for earthquake-affected monasteries and nunneries in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 4 pm on 9 May at Ywataw railway station. They also inspected the loading of the prefabricated houses onto vehicles for further transportation.

A total of 192 prefabricated houses that arrived at Ywataw Station in Nay Pyi Taw are being distributed and donated to 121 earthquake-affected monasteries and one nunnery across the eight townships of the Nay Pyi



The prefabricated houses are being unload from the truck at a monastery in Nay Pyi Taw.

Taw Council Area.

The Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the relevant regional governments, and other relevant

departments are cooperating to deliver and donate the prefabricated houses to Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region. — MNA/TH

Inlay Khaungdaing outstanding students' camp holds dinner

THE honorary dinner and closing ceremony for the 2026 Inlay Khaungdaing Outstanding Students' Camp took place on the lawn of the Khaungdaing Inlay Outstanding Students' Camp in Nyaungshwe Township, Kalaw District, at 6 pm yesterday.

Attendees included Union

Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Than Maung, the Shan State Chief Minister, the Speaker of the Shan State Hluttaw, the Deputy Commander of the Eastern Command, the Deputy Minister for Education, state ministers, ethnic affairs ministers, and Grade-10 male and

female outstanding students.

During the ceremony, the Shan State Chief Minister delivered an address and presented crystal trophies and traditional ethnic costumes as commemorative gifts to the outstanding students and officials.

Afterwards, a student on behalf of all outstanding students spoke words of thanks. Students from No 2 Basic Education High School in Nyaungshwe gave entertainment performances, while outstanding students from Kachin State performed the Jinghpaw dance. Outstanding students from Shan State also presented the first-prize-winning song from the 2019 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-air Balloon Festival song contest. Local vocalists also entertained guests with songs. — Maung Maung Than (TGI)/KZL



Outstanding students celebrate the closing ceremony for the 2026 Inlay Khaungdaing Outstanding Students' Camp in Nyaungshwe Township yesterday. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THAN (TGI)

Outstanding students visit Global Earth, return to Yangon

OUTSTANDING students from the 2026 Higher Education Level (Chaungtha) Camp and Grade-11 (Ngwehsaung) Camp visited Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Company Limited in Pantanaw Township, Maubin District, during their return journey after completing their study tour.

The male and female out-

standing students observed fish-related food production technologies, fish farming activities and hatchery operations at the company before departing again for the Yangon gathering point in Yangon, according to the Region Information and Public Relations Department. — Region IPRD/KZL



Outstanding students from the 2026 Higher Education Level (Chaungtha) Camp and Grade-11 (Ngwehsaung) Camp observe the products of Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Company Limited in Pantanaw yesterday. PHOTO: REGION IPRD

Public Notice

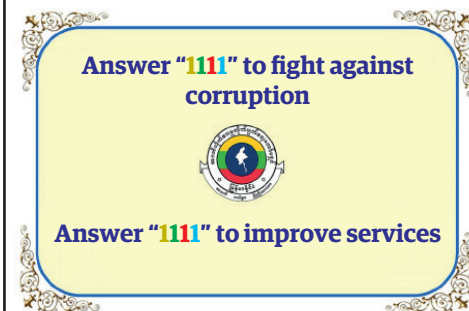
THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

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

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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NATIONAL

Large crowds attend the final day of the special exhibition commemorating 70th anniversary of of Sixth Buddhist Synod



Ashin Viriya



U Sein Lin



U Tin Thein



Ko Soe Wai Lwin



Daw Hsu Nwe Win

A special commemorative exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held from 3 to 10 May along the circular walkway surrounding the Maha Pasana Cave on the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon, for the public to visit and study.

As today, the final day of the exhibition, coincided with a public holiday, the event was particularly crowded with visitors, including monks and nuns from monasteries and nunneries in Yangon, staff members and families from the Department of Religious Affairs, families from regiments and units, students from the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College, and people from the townships of Mayangon, North Okkalapa, Hline, Thanlyin, Kayan, Thakayta, Dagon Myothit (South) and Shwepaukan. The following are collected views and opinions regarding the exhibition.

**Ashin Viriya
Shinmataung Tharek
khan Monastery
Yesagy Township,
Magway Region**

“At the exhibition commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, many young people were able to learn in detail about the historic site where the Sixth Buddhist Synod was convened, as well as the history of the Buddhist Sasana. It is highly beneficial for the Buddhism, for the country, and for the younger generation.

“At a time like today, when tensions and emotional conflicts are growing throughout the world, if people come to under-

stand and practise the teachings of the Buddha, peace will prevail not only in Myanmar but across the entire world.

“Although the Buddhist Sasana first originated and flourished in India, it no longer possesses the complete Pariyatti and Patipatti as Myanmar does today. Myanmar has had the honour of convening the Buddhist Synod twice, and both occasions are beyond measure in value. The Sasana has endured because capable and meritorious individuals were able to lead in a blessed country. These are extremely important historical records for the Buddhism and priceless heritage for future generations.”

**U Sein Lin
Director, Religious Affairs and
Vinicchaya Affairs Division,
Department of Religious Affairs**

“As the Fifth and Sixth Bud-

dhist Synods were convened in Myanmar, invaluable benefits have been gained for the monks and lay people of the country. Owing to the successive convening of the Buddhist Synods, Myanmar, as a Theravada Buddhist nation, has been able to promote and propagate the Buddhism in accordance with the Sixth Synod tradition.

“In brief, the successful celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod demonstrates that successive levels of Sangha organizations engaged in Pariyatti literature will continue to preserve and safeguard the Sasana for as long as the world exists. This commemorative celebration was organised with devotion and meritorious intent of the State leaders.

“The questions and answers of the presiding Sayadaws vividly reflected the scenes of seventy years ago and inspired

feelings of reverence, joy, merit and faith. I believe that monks, nuns and lay people alike will share in these same sentiments.”

**U Tin Thein
Director, Examinations Division,
Department of Religious Affairs**

“Our Department assigned staff members daily to the exhibition halls to explain each display in detail to monks and members of the public. We feel delighted and encouraged to see so many monks and lay people visiting enthusiastically and developing greater reverence and faith. We are deeply pleased that the Buddha Sasana continues to shine brilliantly like the sun and moon, enabling the public to cultivate devotion and faith.

**Ko Soe Wai Lwin
Mayangon Township**

“I am very grateful for the

opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge and experience from the displays and exhibits relating to the historic site and records of the Buddhist Synod convened in Myanmar. I would also like to express my gratitude to the State and the responsible officials for organizing exhibitions like this.”

**Daw Hsu Nwe Win
Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)
Township**

“According to what I have read in books, the Kaba Aye Hill where the Sixth Buddhist Synod was convened was constructed in the same style as the Sattapanni Cave in India, where the First Buddhist Synod was held. Since we did not live during the time of the First Buddhist Synod and have not yet had the opportunity to visit India, this cave of the Sixth Buddhist Synod reminds us of the First Synod as well.

“At the ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, we had the opportunity to pay homage to the venerable Sayadaws conducting the recitation of the Synod. We were not alive during any of the Synods convened throughout history and had only been able to learn about them through literature. Now, we have had the chance to witness and listen to the venerable Sayadaws conducting the Synod recitation in person. We have gained a great deal of knowledge from being able to visit and study the exhibition like this.”

Information Team



A crowd of people view stone inscriptions on 6th Buddhist Synod.

NATIONAL

People welcome back frontline Tatmadaw members in Monghsat

A ceremony to honour and welcome back Tatmadaw members who had returned from the frontline after carrying out duties for regional security and stability in and around Mogok and Thabeikkyin, Mandalay Region, was held yesterday evening at a local battalion in Monghsat, eastern Shan State. The event was attended by Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Myat Htut, along with officials, members of Myanmar Police Force and the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, departmental personnel and local ethnic residents.

The returning soldiers had diligently carried out military operations on the front lines, day and night, in order to ensure that ethnic communities across various regions and states could live and work in peace, with the



Triumphant Tatmadaw members are seen being warmly welcomed back home.

security of their lives and property safeguarded, as well as to maintain national stability and regional peace.

The commander and party welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia. The event includ-

ed traditional dance and music performances. The commander also presented cash prizes and commodities to the returnees.

The commander and party had lunch together with the victorious Tatmadaw members. — MNA/KZL

UMFCCI hosts Myanmar Climate-Smart Rice & Carbon Initiative Workshop



The Myanmar Climate-Smart Rice & Carbon Initiative Workshop in progress at UMFCCI in Lanmadaw Township.

THE Myanmar Climate-Smart Rice & Carbon Initiative Workshop took place at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry in Lanmadaw Township on 9 May.

The workshop aimed to promote practical implementation of carbon markets and opportuni-

ties in Myanmar. Green & Blue VCM Carbon Initiative led the event in cooperation with eight representatives who attended the training at the Mekong Institute.

Participants shared knowledge on carbon markets, carbon credits, market opportunities, future prospects and potential carbon opportunities in the rice sector.

According to the carbon credit market, global carbon markets could reach US\$1 trillion by 2040, while Myanmar has the fourth-highest nature-based carbon reduction potential in ASEAN, with an estimated potential of up to 94 megatonnes. — ASH/KZL

Traditional Myanmar cultural artworks showcased at the Seoul Friendship Festival 2026

THE Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea participated in the Embassy Zone at the Seoul Friendship Festival (SFF) 2026, organized by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, by displaying traditional Myanmar cultural artworks, traditional cultural items, and souvenir gifts, according to the Myanmar Embassy to ROK.

Myanmar's Chargé d'Affaires at interim and Ambassador to South Korea U Myo Myint Maung joined the event held on 9 May and warmly greeted the Vice-Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan City Mr Park Chan-gu.

The festival was attended by participants from 72 embassies. Coinciding with the 30th Anniversary, this year's festi-

val was held for two days at the Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) in Seoul under the theme "30 Years with the World, Bridging Culture Together".

At the Opening Ceremony of Seoul Friendship Festival 2026, Mr Park Chan-gu, Vice-Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan City, delivered the opening remarks. Brunei Ambassador Pengiran Hajah Noorayah binti Pengiran Haji Yusof delivered congratulatory remarks on behalf of the participating embassies.

The Seoul Friendship Festival 2026 is the largest annual cultural exchange programme among the international cultural festivals held in Seoul. — Htun Htun/KZL



People visit the booth of Myanmar at the Embassy Zone during the Seoul Friendship Festival (SFF) 2026 in Seoul, South Korea on 9 May 2026.

YRTC to expand YBS fleet to meet rising commuter demand

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) said it has planned to expand more YBS buses in order to fulfill the growing demand for YBS service.

The number of YBS commuters has lately increased further about 250,000, so it has tried to provide the YBS service with additional buses, said YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang.

"The number of YBS passengers has risen back. At present, there are about 3,500 buses running on a daily basis for 1.75 million people, up from 1.4-1.5 million before. So about 250,000 passengers have increased. In response to this

growth, we have tried to expand more buses. On the other hand, some buses being fined for violating YBS rules," he said.

YRTC has imposed penalties on CNG buses which failed to provide the public transport service and about 30 YBS buses are now being penalised for breaching the rules, he added.

According to YRTC, around 3,500 YBS buses under 132 bus lines offer public transport on a daily basis. In line with its motto "Safe Public Transport to All", YRTC complies with guidelines and policies issued by the Yangon Region Government and the Yangon Region Road Safety Council. — MT/ZS

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Three-wheeled vehicles to create over 50,000 job opportunities in domestic short-distance transportation

BAJAJ Auto, which distributes three-wheelers, says it has created more than 50,000 job opportunities, including in Myanmar's short-distance transport sector and related small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Bajaj Auto showroom was opened at 9 am on 10 May 2020, on Anawrahta Road between the Western University roundabout and Yoegy bus-stop in Htantabin Township, Yangon. The launching ceremony was held with the aim of creating job opportunities in



An official of Bajaj Auto explains potential for creating of jobs due to production of three wheelers.

the short-distance transportation and increasing

household income.

The ceremony was

attended by users of Bajaj Auto three-wheelers

manufactured and assembled in Myanmar under the SKD system, as well as Taxi Gate officials, residents, businesspeople, and media representatives.

The showroom will display Bajaj Auto RE three-wheelers and will also provide spare parts, repair services, vehicle licensing assistance, and installment payment services.

In addition, customer service and after-sales services, free mechanic training, three-wheeler test-drive programmes,

the WeGo Kilo Taxi Service, authorized agent application opportunities, and services related to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC) and the Yangon City Taxi Association (YCTA) will also be provided. The three-wheeled vehicles were introduced with the aim of distribution and sales, as well as providing comprehensive services. They are currently operating in townships approved under the systematic supervision of the YRTC and the YCTA. — Myo Min Thura/TH

Press Release on Study and Analysis of Ambient Air Quality in Yangon on 9 May 2026

THE Yangon Region Environmental Conservation Department is continuously conducting a 24-hour regular monitoring and analysis of ambient air quality in Yangon using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) at the following three monitoring locations in Yangon City, measuring six key parameters: Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃), and Carbon Monoxide (CO).

No	Air quality monitoring sites in Yangon Region	Parameters					
		PM 2.5	PM 10	SO ₂	NO ₂	O ₃	CO
1	Botataung Township, Yangon	Good					
2	International Business Centre, Hline, Yangon	Good					
3	Dagon Township, Yangon	Good					

Air Quality Index - AQI

0-50	Good air quality
51-100	Acceptable air quality
101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very unhealthy
301-500	Hazardous

It is assessed that the measured ambient air quality results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall conditions, vehicle usage, dust dispersion caused by hot and dry weather, emissions from factories, and the surrounding conditions of the air quality monitoring locations.

Environmental Conservation Department

Mongyai Township conducts free carpentry vocational training opens under 100-day plan



The opening ceremony of free vocation carpentry course in progress in Mongyai Township, Shan State, on 9 May.

WITH the aim of creating job opportunities for rural residents, the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development organized the opening ceremony of a free vocational carpentry training course in Mongyai Township, Tangyan District of northern Shan State on 9 May. The training is part of a 100-day implementation plan for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The opening ceremony, held in Nakho Village of the township, was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sai Aung Nyunt and State Hluttaw representative U Sai Kham Kaw, both of whom delivered opening remarks.

During the event, the Township Head of the Mongyai Rural Development Department explained that the

vocational subjects were selected based on analysis of local products, market demands, and labour requirements. He emphasized that the 100-day plan aims to empower locals with practical skills suited to their region.

Subsequently, instructors detailed the specific subjects to be covered in the curriculum. Departmental officials then provided necessary training aids and equipment to the participants.

A total of 20 trainees from Nakho Village are attending the course. The 15-day vocational programme will feature both theoretical and practical carpentry techniques taught by skilled instructors. The ceremony was also attended by district and township-level departmental officials and staff from relevant departments. — Cho Thar Nyunt (Rural)

OPINION

ARTICLE

Midwives, heroes at the grassroots level

MIDWIVES are playing a key role in providing maternal care to pregnant women and mothers of babies to improve their health conditions so as to overcome challenges of giving birth, as well as some problems of prenatal hardships.

Midwives, mostly female health personnel, give maternal care to women. Their professional care with patience and compassion for the patients helps improve the health standard of the people. Their salaries and income may be low, and their educational qualifications may not be high. However, the care and compassion they show in providing healthcare services to pregnant women and maternity patients are admirable, commendable and worthy of respect. They may or may not possess physical beauty, but the purity of their attitude toward patients, together with the healthcare they provide through their professional skills and knowledge, is itself their true beauty.

As of 2026, the Ministry of Health of Myanmar has produced over 86,000 nursing and midwifery diploma holders since 1962 to support the national 30-Year Health Vision, particularly in rural and border areas. The ministry manages operational activities of 26 midwifery training schools and nursing and midwifery schools to turn out midwives as a reliable force for maternal healthcare services for women.

stated that such an international day provides a global platform to highlight the essential role of midwives in advancing quality, respectful, and equitable maternity care.

As of 2026, the Ministry of Health of Myanmar has produced over 86,000 nursing and midwifery diploma holders since 1962 to support the national 30-Year Health Vision, particularly in rural and border areas. The ministry manages operational activities of 26 midwifery training schools and nursing and midwifery schools to turn out midwives as a reliable force for maternal healthcare services for women.

In truth, midwives and maternity healthcare workers, who compassionately care for and assist women undergoing childbirth — a process closely tied to life-threatening risks — are the ones who help new human lives begin their journey in this world. Whether or not their efforts are recognized by patients and the public, they continue to faithfully fulfil their duties and responsibilities.

Simply knowing that the mothers and babies they helped deliver are living in good health is itself a source of joy and fulfilment for maternity healthcare workers. They would not exchange that joy for anything else. That very sense of fulfilment is their priceless reward. It is also their goal — the goal they strive toward and fulfil every single day. So, those midwives are honoured by designating 5 May every year as the International Day of the Midwife. It has been celebrated since 1992 in order to raise awareness about the midwifery profession.

This year's campaign for the International Day of the Midwife highlights the urgent need for a million more midwives globally to ensure safe, respectful care for families in line with its theme "One Million More Midwives". The World Health Organization

Healthy Citizens, Strong Nation

By Dr Zeyar Win

FOR many years, countries measured progress mainly through economic numbers such as GDP growth. But today, experts agree that true development is about people's quality of life. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the Human Development Index (HDI) to reflect this shift. HDI looks at three key areas: life expectancy, education, and living standards. Among these, health is the foundation. Without good health, people cannot learn effectively, work productively, or contribute fully to society.

Life Expectancy as a Measure of Progress

One of the most important indicators in HDI is life expectancy at birth. This figure shows the overall health of a nation's people. Longer life expectancy depends on proper nutrition, maternal and child care, protection from infectious diseases, and access to medical treatment. Poor health limits education opportunities and reduces productivity. Sick workers

miss work, families face high medical costs, and economies suffer. In this way, health is not only a basic human right but also the engine that drives national development.

Healthy Workers Build Strong Economies

A healthy workforce is essential for growth. Workers who enjoy good health miss fewer days and produce more, thereby increasing family income and strengthening the national economy. Healthy mothers and children also secure the future, as proper nutrition in childhood leads to better learning ability and earning potential later in life. Investing in health is therefore the most important investment in human development. It ensures that future generations are strong, educated, and capable of contributing to society.

Challenges Facing Developing Nations

Despite the importance of health, many developing countries face serious challenges. Hospital, clinic, and medication resources



A healthy workforce is essential for growth. Workers who enjoy good health miss fewer days and produce more, thereby increasing family income and strengthening the national economy.
ILLUSTRATION: AI GRAPHIC ART

are often limited. There are large gaps between urban and rural areas in terms of access to healthcare. Poor transportation and infrastructure make it difficult for rural communities to reach medical services. As a result, preventable diseases often cause unnecessary deaths. These challenges slow down HDI progress and hold back national development.

Universal Health Coverage: A Path Forward

Experts emphasize the need for Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which ensures that everyone can access healthcare regardless of income. UHC includes prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Accessible healthcare improves quality of life and reduces poverty. To make UHC successful, governments must invest

in health systems, improve service quality, and encourage community participation.

Clean water and sanitation are also vital. They reduce the spread of disease and improve public health. Vaccination programs and disease monitoring save costs and extend life expectancy. Public health education helps people eat balanced diets, exercise regularly, and avoid

harmful habits such as smoking or drug use. Citizens themselves play an important role by practising healthy lifestyles.

Government's 100-Day Plan

The new government has launched a 100-day plan to quickly improve people's lives. In healthcare, the plan focuses on expanding UHC, raising life expectancy, increasing vaccination coverage,

and promoting health awareness. Alongside these efforts, hospitals and clinics are being strengthened, and more doctors and nurses are being trained. Officials say these steps will not only improve people's lives but also raise the country's HDI.

The government's short-term plan is designed to deliver immediate benefits, but it also lays the foundation for long-term

progress. By investing in healthcare infrastructure and human resources, the country is building a stronger base for future development.

Health as the Foundation of Development

Health is the starting point for education, work, and income. A person who is healthy can attend school, gain knowledge, and later secure a good job. Families benefit from higher incomes, and the nation benefits from stronger productivity. Without health, these opportunities are lost. That is why healthcare investment is considered the most effective way to drive sustainable development.

Myanmar's path to development depends on healthy citizens. With strong investment in healthcare systems, universal access to medical services, and responsible lifestyles, the nation can build a healthier, more prosperous future. The government's 100-day plan is a step in the right direction, but long-term commitment is essential.

As experts often say, Healthy people make a healthy nation. By ensuring that every citizen has access to healthcare and by promoting awareness of healthy living, Myanmar can strengthen its Human Development Index and secure a brighter future for generations to come.

The Hidden Wealth Within a Peaceful Heart

By Laura Htet (UDE)



THERE are some people whose presence feels like a cool breeze on a hot afternoon. The moment they walk into a room, tension softens, conversations become gentler, and even troubled hearts seem to rest for a while. They may not be rich, famous, or powerful, yet they carry something far more valuable — inner peace. In today's fast-moving world, where comparison, competition, and negativity surround us every day, such peaceful people remind us that the true quality of life is not measured only by wealth or success, but by the condition of the heart.

Many people spend their lives asking, "Why are others more fortunate than I am?" We

see someone living comfortably, achieving success, or enjoying a happy family, and sometimes an invisible dissatisfaction quietly appears within us. Without noticing it, we compare our lives with theirs. Jealousy grows little by little, and our peace disappears. Yet what we often forget is that every person walks through life carrying the results of their own actions, choices, and Karma.

A person becomes wealthy, fulfilled, and successful because of their karma. When we can sincerely look at another person's happiness and think, "How fortunate they are. Their good deeds are bearing fruit," our own heart becomes lighter and purer. Genuine happiness for others is itself a

beautiful form of merit. But when envy replaces appreciation, we create suffering within ourselves. Another person's success belongs to their karma, yet through our own uncontrolled thoughts, we turn their good fortune into our own unhappiness.

This is why mindfulness is so important in everyday life. Before we think, speak, or act, we should quietly ask ourselves a simple question: "Will this thought or action uplift my life, or pull me down?" Most conflicts in life do not begin outside us. They begin inside the mind. Greed, anger, pride, resentment, and arrogance slowly poison our thoughts long before they appear in our words and actions.

Modern life often encourages quick reactions. People become angry within seconds over small misunderstandings. Harsh comments spread easily. Many enjoy criticizing others without real-

izing how much negativity they are carrying within themselves. Yet anger and hatred never bring peace. Looking down on others does not make us greater. Refusing to forgive only burdens the heart that refuses forgiveness.

The truth is, without mindfulness, we may not even realize when our mind becomes unwholesome. We simply follow wherever our emotions lead us. A moment of jealousy becomes bitterness. A small disagreement becomes hatred. Pride slowly replaces kindness. This is why self-awareness matters so deeply. The moment we recognize, "My mind is becoming polluted with negative thoughts," we still have the opportunity to correct ourselves before those thoughts grow stronger.

For many people, spiritual practice becomes a way to cleanse the mind and return to peace. In Buddhist homes across Myanmar, simple daily practices continue

to bring comfort even during difficult times. Some people quietly recite the virtues of the Buddha in the early morning. Others sit peacefully for a few moments observing their breath before beginning the day. Some listen to Dhamma talks while cooking or doing housework. These may seem like small acts, but they gradually shape the mind toward calmness and wisdom.

One of the most powerful things about mindfulness is that it changes not only ourselves but also the atmosphere around us. A home filled every day with shouting, complaints, and criticism cannot remain peaceful for long. Negativity spreads quickly from one person to another. But kindness spreads too. When one person in a family becomes calmer, more patient, and more understanding, others naturally begin to soften as well.

SEE PAGE 11

DELICACY

Nan Gyi Thoke or Traditional Mandalay delicacy (Mandalay Mont Di Salad) Thick Rice Noodle Salad

“Mandalay Mont Di Thoke”, also known as “Nan Gyi Thoke”, is believed to have originated around the Yadanabon era. The renowned writer Salay U Ponnya even referred to it in his literary verse as “circular Mont Di curry”. According to Mandalay oral history, some people also say that Nan Gyi Thoke first appeared when a royal queen during the ancient monarchy developed a craving for a special dish.

Nan Gyi Thoke was enjoyed by ancient Myanmar people and was especially popular as a “complete one-plate meal” in the central plains and Upper Myanmar regions. In Myanmar, Nan Gyi Thoke is considered one of the country’s most famous and beloved dishes, much like Mohinga.

Nan Gyi Thoke, or Mandalay Mont Di Salad, is a traditional Mandalay delicacy made with thick rice noodles mixed with chicken, seasoned oil (red or yellow oil), roasted chickpea powder, crispy fried noodles or crunchy fritters, sliced boiled eggs, chilli powder, fish sauce, coriander, onion rings, lime, and other ingredients. It is usually served together with soup broth.

Foreign visitors are especially fond of Mandalay Mont Di Salad, known as Nan Gyi Thoke. Some even comment that it tastes better than Italian spaghetti.

The name “Nan Gyi” is said to have originated from the preparation of noodles that are thicker and larger than ordinary Mohinga noodles. (“Nan” means strands, while “Gyi” means large in size.) In Mandalay, people can choose among three noodle sizes: Nan Gyi (large), Nan Lat (medium), and Nan Thay (small). Now, let us present the recipe for this rich and delicious traditional dish.

Ingredients

1. 1 viss of Nan Gyi rice noodles
2. One chicken breast
3. 10 ticals of minced fish cake paste
4. 20 ticals of cooking oil
5. 6 onions
6. 2 bulbs of garlic
7. Ginger
8. Roasted chickpea powder
9. Shrimp fish sauce
10. Burmese coriander leaves
11. Lime
12. Mustard greens
13. Fried chilli
14. Seasoning powder
15. Eggs
16. Dried noodles

To Cook the Chicken

Clean the chicken thoroughly and boil it with salt, turmeric, fish sauce, and a little water. Once cooked, shred the meat. Heat oil in a pot, add pounded ginger



Traditional Myanmar Cuisine



and garlic, then stir-fry with turmeric and chilli colouring powder until the oil rises to the surface.

(The chicken curry should be cooked with some remaining gravy, as the broth will later be mixed into the noodles.)

To Prepare the Fish Balls

Add about one tin of water to a pot and bring it to a boil. Add the fish paste balls. Once cooked, season to taste with salt and flavouring, then remove from the heat.

To Prepare the Seasoned Oil

Heat oil in a pot. Thinly slice three onions and fry them until golden, then set aside. Into the remaining oil, add about one spoonful of turmeric and pounded garlic. Once the garlic turns golden, add one tablespoon of chilli powder, stir well, and turn off the heat.

To Prepare the Soup Broth

Add the required amount of water and bring it to a boil. Add pounded ginger and garlic, then add the boiled fish balls. Thinly sliced mustard greens may also be added if desired. Once the soup boils, season lightly with fish sauce and adjust the taste before removing from the heat.

To Prepare the Crispy Fried Noodles

Deep-fry fresh noodles in hot oil until golden

yellow. Remove, drain the oil, and let them cool. Once cooled, crush them into smaller, crispy strands.

Boil and slice the eggs for serving. Slice the coriander leaves, onions, and lime.

When preparing Nan Gyi Thoke, first coat the Nan Gyi noodles evenly with roasted chickpea powder before adding the other ingredients. The salad should be mixed thoroughly by hand — either with clean hands or by wearing disposable plastic gloves — to achieve the best texture and flavour.

(Instead of using ready-made chilli powder, it tastes much better to fry dried whole chillies in oil, pound them coarsely, and use the resulting fried chilli paste and oil in the salad.)

Finally, top the dish with sliced boiled eggs, crispy fried noodles, onion rings, coriander leaves, and lime juice to taste. Served together with fish ball soup broth, the flavorful and satisfying Nan Gyi Thoke is ready to enjoy. — MOON



ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

The Hidden Wealth Within a Peaceful Heart

FROM PAGE 9

True peace begins within ourselves. We cannot demand peace from others while carrying anger inside our own hearts. If we wish for a peaceful family, peaceful relationships, or a peaceful society, we must first learn how to create peace within our own minds.

Many people believe meditation is only for monks or elderly people, but meditation is simply training the mind to become steady and clear. Even a few quiet moments each day can change the way we respond to life. When the mind becomes calm, our words become gentler. We listen more carefully. We be-

come slower to judge and quicker to forgive. Instead of reacting immediately with anger, we learn to pause.

In today's digital age, people are constantly surrounded by noise. Social media often encourages comparison, arguments, and endless distraction. People scroll through images of other people's success and begin to feel dissatisfied with their own lives. But real happiness rarely comes from comparing ourselves with others. It grows from gratitude, contentment, and inner balance.

There is also great power in choosing wholesome thoughts intentionally. When the mind continuously focuses on kind-

ness, compassion, gratitude, and positivity, negative thoughts gradually lose their strength. Just as a room filled with light leaves little space for darkness, a heart filled with wholesome thoughts leaves little room for hatred or jealousy.

I once met an elderly woman who lived a very simple life in a small neighbourhood. She did not possess great wealth, yet everyone who met her remembered her warmth. She greeted every person with kindness, spoke gently even during difficulties, and always found reasons to be grateful. People visited her not because she could solve all their problems, but because being near her made them feel

peaceful. Her calmness was a reminder that true richness does not always appear in material form. Sometimes it appears in the way a person speaks, forgives, and treats others.

Life will never be completely free from hardship. Every person faces pain, disappointment, and uncertainty at different times. But the condition of our mind determines whether suffering destroys us or teaches us. When gratitude and mindfulness guide our hearts, even difficult moments become easier to endure. We begin to notice small blessings that we once ignored – a kind word, a healthy morning, the comfort of family, or the simple peace of silence.

In the end, every day becomes a series of quiet choices. We choose whether to hold onto anger or let it go. We choose whether to envy others or celebrate their happiness. We choose whether to feed negativity or nurture kindness. Kamma is not only created through major actions. It is created moment by moment through the thoughts we allow to grow inside us.

And perhaps true success in life is not merely becoming wealthy or admired, but becoming someone whose presence brings peace to others. In a world filled with noise, conflict, and restlessness, a peaceful heart may be one of the greatest gifts a person can offer.

Pentagon begins release of “never-before-seen” UFO files

A total of 161 files are currently available on the website.



This file photo taken on 19 February 2020 shows the Pentagon seen from an airplane over Washington, DC, the United States. **PHOTO: LIU JIE/XINHUA**

THE Pentagon on Friday began the release of “never-before-seen” files on unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP), commonly known as unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

The collection is being housed on a government website, war.gov/UFO. Additional files will be released by the US Department of Defence

on a rolling basis, according to a press release from the department.

A total of 161 files are currently available on the website.

“The American people can now access the federal government’s declassified UAP files instantly. The latest UAP videos, photos, and original source documents

from across the entire United States government are all in one place — no clearance required,” the press release said.

According to the release, the disclosure follows US President Donald Trump’s directive to begin identifying and declassifying government files related to UAP. — Xinhua

EU monitor says sea temperatures near all-time highs as El Nino looms

THE European Union’s climate monitor said Friday that ocean temperatures are edging toward record highs as conditions shift toward a potentially powerful El Nino weather pattern.

Samantha Burgess from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) said sea surface temperatures in recent days were just shy of the all-time highs of 2024 — and May looked set to break its own record.

“It’s a matter of days before we are back in record-breaking ocean SSTs (sea surface temper-

atures) again,” Burgess, strategic lead for climate at ECMWF, told AFP.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service said daily sea surface temperatures in April “gradually inched” toward near-record highs, reflecting the transition to El Nino expected in coming months. Copernicus, which is overseen by the ECMWF, said sea surface temperatures in April were the second-highest measured, with marine heatwaves breaking records in the ocean between the tropical Pacific and United States. — AFP



Oceans absorb around 90 per cent of the excess heat generated by human activity. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan's top tourist destinations concentrated in Kyoto, 6 other prefectures

The survey used smartphone app location data to examine foreign visitor traffic across about 25,000 districts nationwide.



Tourists walk down a street near Yasaka Pagoda in Kyoto on 13 January 2025. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

TOP destinations for inbound tourists are heavily concentrated in just seven of Japan's 47 prefectures, including Kyoto and Hokkaido, which collectively accounted for 72 of

the country's top 100 spots, a survey showed Saturday.

Twenty-five prefectures saw none of their locations rank in the top 100, as foreign visitors flocked to interna-

tionally recognized destinations such as Kyoto's historic temples and Hokkaido's ski resorts, according to a joint survey on people's movements in 2025 by data analysis firm Unerry Inc and Kyodo News.

As Japan enjoys an inbound tourism boom amid a weak yen, the outcome underscores that economic benefits are unevenly distributed across regions while concerns are growing that overtourism in heavily visited areas could strain natural and cultural assets and disrupt the lives of local people.

The survey used smartphone app location data to examine foreign visitor traffic across about 25,000 districts nationwide, excluding areas around airports. — Kyodo

Sri Lanka to hike electricity tariff amid energy crisis

SRI Lanka will increase electricity rates by up to 18 per cent from Monday to offset the additional costs of generating power using thermal plants due to the Middle East war, the Public Utilities Commission said.

Consumers using more than 180 units (kilowatt hours) of electricity a month will have to pay an additional 18 per cent from Monday, while those using less than that will not see their bills affected.

"The increase will apply to industries, hotels, businesses and government institutions and religious places of worship consuming more than 180 units a month," the commission said in a statement Sunday.

The measure is the latest in a series of steps taken by the island nation following the war in the Middle East.

The latest hike comes on top of a 40 per cent tariff increase introduced last month. — AFP



Lanka Electricity Company workers carry out maintenance work on an electric pole in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2025. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Qatari LNG carrier passes through Strait of Hormuz after weeks of disruption

SHIPPING tracking data on Sunday showed that a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker from Qatar successfully passed through the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf of Oman and is heading toward Pakistan.

The LNG carrier "Al Kharaitiyat" transmitted its position via the Automatic Identification System on Saturday, indicating that it had entered the Strait of Hormuz. Updated tracking data on Sunday showed that it had successfully crossed the strait and entered the Gulf of Oman.

According to information available, the vessel is the first Qatari LNG carrier to pass through the Strait of Hormuz since the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran on 28 February.

Tracking data also showed that the vessel used a newly established shipping corridor recently activated by Iran. Some analysts believe this may be related to mediation efforts by countries, including Pakistan, aimed at easing US-Iran tensions. — Xinhua

Soaring energy profits reignite calls for windfall tax



Shell, BP, and TotalEnergies achieved record-breaking profits in the first quarter of 2026. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

EUROPEAN oil and gas companies who posted huge profits in the first quarter on soaring prices caused by the war in the Middle East face new calls from London to Paris to tax their outsized gains.

Shell rounded out the major energy producers' earnings season on Thursday by announcing net profit of nearly \$5.7 billion (around

4.8 billion euro), up 19 per cent on the first quarter of 2025.

The group explained it had benefited from higher prices and "increased refining margins," as well as "a higher contribution from trading activities".

It was a similar story for British rival BP, which reported a sharp rise in profits at the end of last month,

posting \$3.84 billion while TotalEnergies saw their profits soar 51 per cent to \$5.8 billion.

In contrast, US energy companies ExxonMobil and Chevron saw their profits decline, results affected by an unfavourable time lag between the sale and delivery of products within the derivatives markets.

The US-Israeli war on Iran prompted Tehran to blockade the key energy chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, causing a sharp drop in oil supplies on the market and a surge in prices.

A barrel of Brent crude, the global benchmark, averaged around \$100 in March, with peaks of \$120, compared with \$70 before hostilities began in late February.

That notably helped European trio BP, Shell and TotalEnergies, which have strong trading operations — unlike their US counterparts and rivals ExxonMobil and Chevron, which are more reliant on production activities. — AFP

Tanzania eyes export, industrial growth from China's zero-tariff policy



Orange fruit sellers arrange the oranges as they wait for customers at Buguruni Market, a fresh food market in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 14 September 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

TANZANIA expects increased exports, industrial growth and job creation following China's implementation of a zero-tariff

policy for 53 African countries, officials said on Saturday.

The remarks were made during a meeting

themed "Zero-Tariff for Shared Opportunities" held for Tanzanian exporters in the port city of Dar es Salaam.

Tanzanian Minister of Industry and Trade Judith Kapinga said the initiative comes at a crucial time as Tanzania strengthens its position in regional and international trade through economic diplomacy and industrial reforms.

Kapinga said China remains one of Tanzania's most strategic trade and investment partners, with bilateral cooperation spanning infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and tourism.

"This opportunity is vital for local entrepreneurs, and we are deeply grateful to China for opening these doors to trade," the minister said. — Xinhua

Japan cruise ship Nippon Maru bids farewell to fans after 35 yrs of sailing

THE Japanese cruise ship, Nippon Maru, returned Sunday to a port south of Tokyo after its final voyage to mark the end of its 35-year career, in which it carried a total of 600,000 passengers and sailed around the world.

Fans and the families of crew members gathered at a terminal in Yokohama to bid farewell and showed gratitude to the retiring 22,472-tonne ship, once considered a pioneer of Japan's luxury cruise in-

dustry.

They waved flags and cheered as the Nippon Maru, operated by a subsidiary of Japanese shipping firm Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd, berthed at around 8 am after having completed a three-day cruise in the Pacific off eastern Japan. At a retirement ceremony held on the rooftop of the Osanbashi Yokohama International Passenger Terminal, Captain Koichi Uchida expressed his appreciation to the ship. — Kyodo



The Japanese cruise ship, the Nippon Maru, returns to Yokohama Port in Kanagawa Prefecture after its final voyage on 10 May 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Sri Lanka plans 6G research centre as global wireless race advances

SRI Lanka is moving to set up a dedicated research centre for 6G and next-generation wireless technologies by the third quarter of 2026, with discussions now in their final stages.

The proposed centre will be developed with foreign partners and the private sector, local media reported on Sunday, citing Deputy Minister of Digital Economy Eranga Weeraratne. The plan comes as global research on 6G moves beyond the pursuit of faster internet speeds. Sri Lanka, however, is not expected to move quickly into a local 6G rollout. Weeraratne said 5G technology in the country still needs further development, while telecommunications operators require time to recover their current investments before shifting to the next generation. — Xinhua

Rose plantation gaining popularity in E Afghanistan

WITH its beautiful landscape and virgin nature, suitable for cultivating rose flowers, Dara-i-Nur district in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province is rapidly becoming a rose hub in the country's eastern region, as many farmers are turning to rose farming as a source of income.

They believe that the rose plantation is easier and more profitable than

poppy growing.

"Rose farming is a profitable business and a good alternative to poppy. This business needs support and development," Ahmad Siar, a farmer, told Xinhua in his rose farm.

While collecting rose flowers from his farm in the Dara-i-Nur district, he said with joy that he is satisfied with the earnings from his work and business.

Around eight rose-collecting centres have been established in Dara-i-Nur district, the farmer said, adding that some 50,000 kilograms of rose petals had been collected so far this year. "The farmers, after collecting their rose petals, transport them to the collecting centres and from there shift them to the factory to make perfume and export overseas," Siar said. — Xinhua

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Yuan.

Sr No.	Tender No	Description
1	12(T)4/MR(ML/NPT) Yuan/26-27	Procurement for Remanufacturing of (2) Units of Battery Electric Multiple Units from Original Diesel Multiple Units
2	12(T)5/MR(ML/NPT) Yuan/26-27	Procurement for Conversion of (6) Units of Battery Coaches from Original Ordinary Class Passenger Coaches

Closing Date & Time – 11.6.2026(Thursday) (2:30)PM

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 11.5.2026 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51 Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon, Phone- 95-1-294352, 291994, 291985

"PUBLIC NOTICE To Daw Lin Mar Oo (14/YaKaNa(N)111404) and the General Public Regarding the Dissolution of Marriage by Mutual Consent"

Our client, U Myo Thet Aung (14/PaThaNa (N) 179216) and Daw Lin Mar Oo (14/YaKaNa (N) 111404), executed a "Deed of Divorce by Mutual Consent" before the Mayangone District Court on July 4, 2025.

On the same day, they also executed a "Deed of Agreement for Partition of Matrimonial Property," whereby all matrimonial properties jointly acquired during their marriage were equally divided and settled between them.

From the date of their lawful divorce on July 4, 2025, up to the present time, there has been absolutely no reconciliation or cohabitation between the parties as husband and wife.

Daw Lin Mar Oo has been posting and disseminating writings on social media implying that she has resumed marital relations with our client, making false statements and communications to our client's colleagues and associates by referring to herself as our client's wife, making statements and communications with the intention of harming our client's business interests and damaging his reputation, spreading one-sided false information, and engaging in abusive, threatening, and harassing conduct through Viber.

Accordingly, this public notice is hereby issued requiring Daw Lin Mar Oo to cease and refrain from continuing any of the aforesaid acts.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to Daw Lin Mar Oo and the general public that, should it be found that any of the aforementioned acts are continuing or recurring, necessary legal action will be taken in accordance with the prevailing laws of Myanmar.

Under the instructions of U Myo Thet Aung (14/PaThaNa (N)179216):

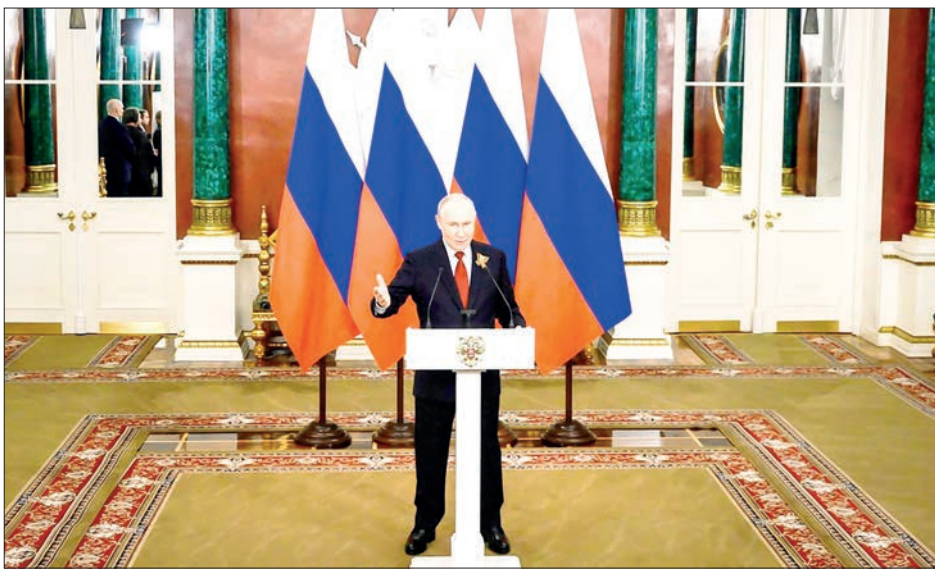
Daw Zin Mar Nwe (LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.M.L, D.I.P.L) Advocate (SN-11379)
U Zarni Myo Myat (LL.B, D.I.P.L, D.B.L) HGP (SN-56164)
No. (5), Pan Chan Kyaung Street, (13) Ward, Hlaing Township, Yangon. Phone: 09-403 712 932

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia-China interaction is most important factor in stabilizing intl relations: Putin

Putin noted that China is Russia's largest trade and economic partner, adding that bilateral trade diversification continues through high-tech industries, which is very important.



Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses a press conference following Russia's annual Victory Day parade on Moscow's Red Square on 9 May 2026, marking the 81st anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War. **PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES**

INTERACTION between Russia and China is the most important factor in stabilizing international relations, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference, Putin described cooperation between states like China and Russia as "undoubtedly a factor of deterrence and stability" in

global affairs.

He noted that China is Russia's largest trade and economic partner, adding that bilateral trade diversification continues through high-tech industries, which is very important.

Putin also said that Russia and China have reached a high level of agreement to "take a serious step forward" in oil and gas cooperation.

On the Ukraine crisis, Putin said he is ready to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky not only in Moscow but also in a third country, but only for signing an agreement on a final peace treaty. "It is possible to meet in a third country, but only if final agreements are reached on a peace treaty, which should be designed for a long-term historical perspective, in order to participate in this event or sign something, but this should be the final point, and not the negotiations themselves," the Russian leader added. — Xinhua

Unmanned lab opens with robots at work as researchers push AI, automation

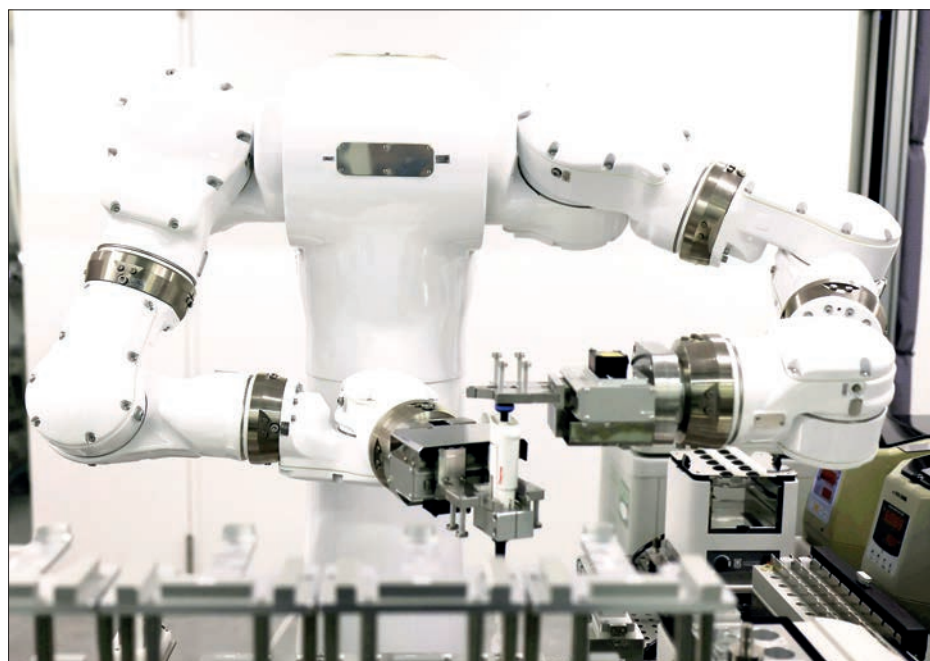
A Tokyo-based university has opened a laboratory where robots are carrying out medical experiments once handled by human researchers as it aims to eventually automate nearly the entire research process.

The facility at the Institute of Science Tokyo's Yushima campus, known as the Robotics Innovation Centre, features 10 robots, including a humanoid model called Maholo LabDroid, and no human staff.

The university plans to significantly increase the number of automatons in the long run, integrating automation systems with artificial intelligence.

Using two arms, the robots can perform delicate tasks such as transferring fixed amounts of reagents and opening the doors of temperature-controlled equipment to place and remove items. Cell cultivation, which has already been programmed, can also be carried out automatically.

The university plans to expand the



A dual-arm robot is shown at the Robotics Innovation Centre at Institute of Science Tokyo in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward on 15 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

number of robots to around 2,000 by 2040, carrying out almost all research tasks

from generating hypotheses to experimental verification. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

India-EFTA trade pact talks accelerate

COMMERCE Secretary Rajesh Agrawal visited Switzerland earlier this week to review the implementation of the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two countries, according to a release by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The visit, held from 6-7 May, focused on "translating TEPA's market-access outcomes into concrete business partnerships, investment commitments and greater industry utilization," the ministry said in the release.

During the visit, the Commerce Secretary held bilateral talks with Helene Budliger Artieda, State Secretary at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), where both sides "reviewed the progress achieved since TEPA became operational and discussed measures to expand trade and investment, strengthen regulatory cooperation, address non-tariff barriers and promote deeper business linkages," the release stated. — ANI

Israel set up secret base in Iraq to launch airstrikes against Iran: Reports

ISRAELI authorities have established a secret military base in the Iraqi desert to launch airstrikes against Iran, the Wall Street Journal claims citing sources, including US officials.

According to sources, the Israeli army built a facility to house special forces, the base also served as a logistics hub for the Israeli Air Force. The sources claim the base was established shortly before the outbreak of military action against Iran.

The publication clarifies that search and rescue teams were also stationed at the base to search for Israeli pilots who ejected from downed aircraft. One unnamed source added that Israeli Air Force special forces trained in sabotage operations in enemy territory were also stationed at the base.

Sources told the Wall Street Journal that the Israeli base in the Iraqi desert had nearly been uncovered in March. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Man City keep title race alive, Liverpool frustrated by Chelsea

MANCHESTER City kept the pressure on Arsenal at the top of the Premier League with a 3-0 win over Brentford, while Liverpool were booed off after a 1-1 draw against struggling Chelsea on Saturday.

With three games of the season left for both title contenders, City closed to within two points of the Gunners, who face a tricky trip to relegation-threatened West Ham on Sunday.

After a dramatic 3-3 draw at Everton on Monday, Pep Guardiola's men could not afford another slip up if they were

to retain hope of a seventh title in nine years.

A resolute Brentford, still in the running for European football themselves next season, held out until the hour mark when the in-form Jeremy Doku curled into the top corner.

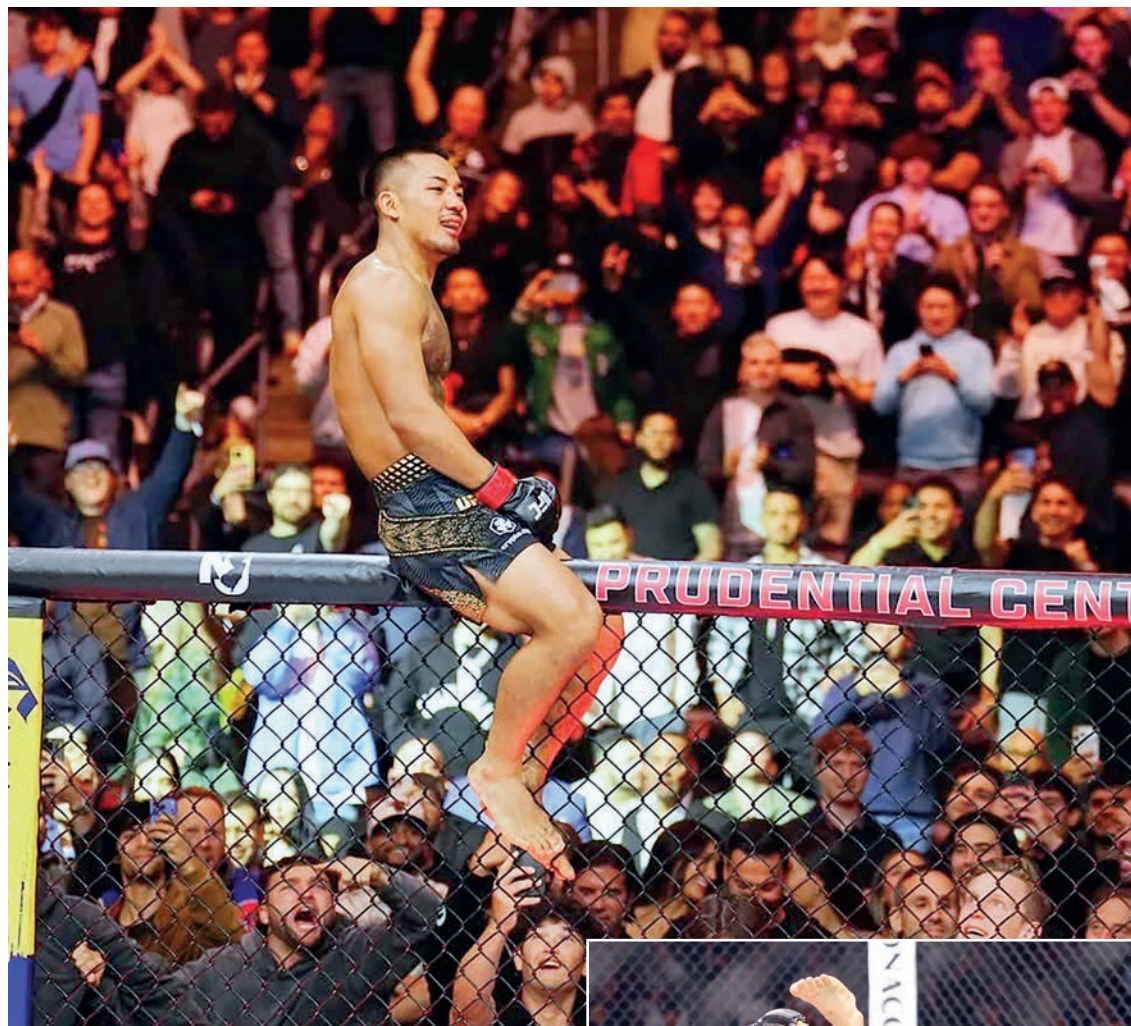
Erling Haaland back-heeled in a second to move four goals clear of Brentford's Igor Thiago in the battle for the Golden Boot.

Haaland then turned provider for Omar Marmoush to score what could be a vital third in stoppage time. — AFP



Erling Haaland scored in Manchester City's 3-0 win over Brentford. PHOTO: AFP

UFC: Myanmar's Joshua Van retains title against Tatsuro Taira



Joshua Van celebrating his victory in defending his title. PHOTO: UFC

MYANMAR representative Joshua Van successfully defended his UFC flyweight championship title after defeating Japanese fighter Tatsuro Taira by Technical Knockout (TKO) in the fifth round during a title bout held in the United States.

Joshua Van escaped several grappling attempts from his opponent and dominated the fight with powerful and accurate punches before stopping Taira with 1 minute and 32 seconds remaining in the fifth round. The 24-year-old



fighter secured the first successful defence of his championship belt.

Joshua Van, the UFC's second-youngest champion, now holds a professional record of 10 wins and one loss from 11 fights. — MNA/KZL

Mitoma injury sparks World Cup concern for Japan

BRIGHTON winger Kaoru Mitoma suffered a suspected left hamstring injury in their 3-0 win against relegated Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English Premier League on Saturday, sparking concerns about his participation for Japan at next month's World Cup.

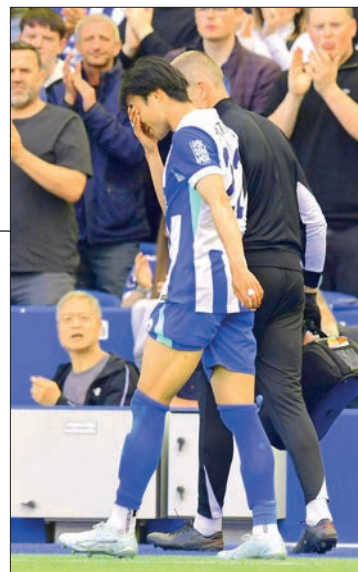
The 28-year-old Samurai Blue star was substituted in the 58th minute at the Amex Stadium after he went down clutching the back of his left thigh.

He was initially offered a stretcher but was able to limp off the pitch. He was set to undergo

scans to assess the injury, according to local media reports.

Japan will announce their squad Friday for the World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States. — Kyodo

Brighton's Kaoru Mitoma (bottom) lies on the pitch after suffering an injury during the second half of an English Premier League match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Amex Stadium in Brighton, England, on 9 May 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

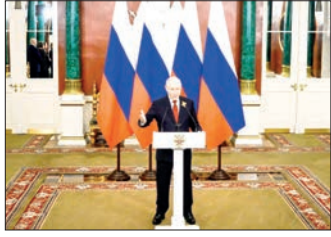


Champions Inter thump Lazio in cup final warm up

INTER Milan celebrated the Serie A title by winning 3-0 at Lazio on Saturday, in a match which was also a warm up for next week's Italian Cup final.

Lautaro Martinez, Petar Susic and Henrikh Mkhitaryan netted for the champions who have a chance to complete for a league and cup double at the same stadium on Wednesday night. Saturday's win was played out in a bizarre atmosphere as the vast majority of Lazio supporters continued a

months-long boycott of home matches in protest at owner Claudio Lotito's stewardship of the club. Hardcore Lazio and Inter fans, who have a long standing relationship also due to shared hard-right politics, gathered together in the nearby Ponte Milvio neighbourhood during the match. The seats at the Stadio Olimpico that were taken were populated by Inter supporters who cheered on their team to a simple victory in the Italian capital. — AFP



Fearing return to war, Iran conservationists shore up damaged heritage sites

The Golestan Palace in Tehran, Iran, was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013.

AS fears of renewed conflict hang over Iran, conservationists are shoring up battered historic sites and taking stock of the damage caused by the war with the United States and Israel, though experts warn some repairs could take years.

At Golestan Palace, a defining cultural landmark in central Tehran, shattered mirrors, broken doors and debris from ornate ceilings now lie scattered across parts of the site after shockwaves from strikes on the capital following the outbreak of war on 28 February.

The former royal residence, known for its sprawling gardens, pools and royal halls, has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2013.

The fragile truce in place since 8 April has allowed experts to begin gauging the scale of the damage, though the complex remains closed to the public.

“The damage has been assessed at several levels, but a more detailed spe-



Visitors walk through the damaged interiors of the historic Golestan Palace in Tehran on 4 April 2026.

PHOTO: ATTA KENARE / AFP / FILE

cialised evaluation is still underway,” Ali Omid Ali, a restoration specialist and head of the technical engineering department at Golestan Palace, told AFP.

For now, he said, teams are focused on stabilising damaged structures and preventing further collapse before broader repair work can begin.

“We need a more stable situation to start the restoration process,” he said.

Initial estimates suggest work at the site could cost around \$1.7 million. — AFP

Evacuation of hantavirus-hit ship begins in Canary Islands

OCCUPANTS of a cruise ship struck by a deadly hantavirus outbreak that has sparked international alarm began flying home from Spain's Canary Islands

on Sunday in a complex repatriation operation.

Three passengers from the MV Hondius — a Dutch husband and wife

and a German woman — have died, while others have fallen sick with the rare disease, which usually spreads among rodents.

No vaccines or specific treatments exist for hantavirus, which is endemic in Argentina, where the ship departed in April.

But health officials have stressed that the risk for global public health is low and played down comparisons to a repeat of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final flight to evacuate most of the ship's nearly 150 passengers and crew will leave for Australia on Monday, before the ship continues to the Netherlands, Spanish Health Minister Monica Garcia said.

Passengers wearing blue medical suits began disembarking the Dutch-flagged vessel onto smaller boats to reach the port of Granadilla on Tenerife, AFP journalists saw. — AFP



Boats approach the MV Hondius after it arrived at the port of Granadilla on Tenerife on 10 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Construction of Russia's first private spaceport planned for 2026

RUSSIAN private space company Space Energy plans to begin construction of its own spaceport in Primorsky Territory in 2026 for launching ultra-light rockets, the company told Sputnik.

“The company plans to begin construction and commission one of the launch pads as early as 2026. If the schedule is met, the first-ever launch of a private rocket into space in Russia could take place this same year - from the territory of the country's first private spaceport,” it said.

The spaceport, to be named Primorsky, is planned to launch the company's ultra-light Orbita launch vehicle. It will be able to launch up to 250 kilogrammes of payload into low Earth orbit and up to 150 kilogrammes into sun-synchronous orbit (an orbit at an altitude of 600-800 kilometres, during which the satellite circles the planet exactly in 24 hours). — SPUTNIK