

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Anti-Online Scam Bill Released for Public Review

THE Anti-Online Scam Bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was released yesterday before submitting it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for public observation and sending recommendations. These recommendations can be sent to

the Office of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Anti-Online Scam Bill consists of 13 Chapters: Title and Jurisdiction for Chapter I, Definition for Chapter II, Objective for Chapter III, Establishment of Central Committee and its Responsibilities

and Authority for Chapter IV, Formation of Regional Committee for Chapter V, Formation of Anti-Online Scam Centre and its Responsibilities for Chapter VI, Prevention for Chapter VII, Exchange of Information for Chapter VIII, Temporary

suspension and action against financial flows for Chapter IX, Cooperation with International Community for Chapter X, Prohibitions for Chapter XI, Penalties for Chapter XII, and General for Chapter XIII. — GNLM/TTA

333 Pyu Silver Coins, 328 Konbaung Alloy Plates Transferred to Archaeology Dept

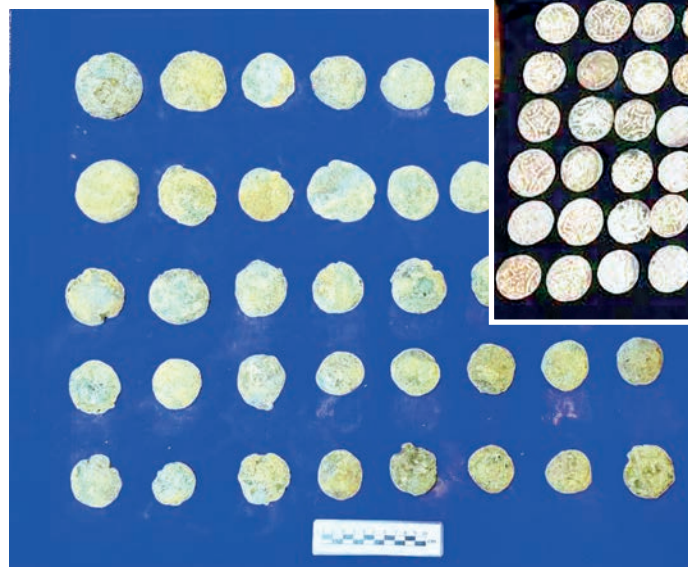
The Department of Archaeology and National Museum stated that individuals who hand over antiquities are awarded monetary rewards calculated according to the items' value, historical age, craftsmanship and rarity, while donors of exceptionally valuable and rare artefacts also receive an additional premium and a certificate of honour.

A TOTAL of 333 silver coins from the Pyu era and 328 ancient alloy plates believed to have served as weighted currency during the Konbaung era were handed over to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

On 5 May, U Win Ko Ko Maung, a



This photo displays Pyu-era silver coins handed over to the department on 5 May 2026.



This image reveals alloy plates handed over to the Archaeological Department on 7 May 2026.

resident of Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, handed over 333 silver coins he had collected. Upon inspection, the department confirmed them to be rare items from the Pyu era. Because they serve as significant evidence of Pyu-era trade, prosperity, and monetary systems, the department recommended a reward for the donor.

Similarly, on 7 May, U Waranyana, a presiding monk from Aunglan Township, Magway Region, handed over 328 alloy plates which he discovered about three feet underground while digging the foundation for a new Dhamma hall within the monastery compound.

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NATIONAL



Officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team inspect maintenance work.

Officials, ASI team inspect maintenance work in Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone

THE director and officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), together with a team from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), inspected the maintenance work in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone yesterday morning.

Maintenance work is currently being carried out on Pagoda No 697 (Hsinphyushin Pagoda), No 1499

(Meenyeingon Pagoda), No 1670 (Maha Bodhi Pagoda), No 1976 (Shwekuncha Pagoda) and No 1668 (Shwehtesaung Pagoda).

The mural painting section is currently conducting research and coordination to ensure that the work is carried out safely, that the original ancient artworks are not damaged, and that appropriate conservation work is undertaken. — Dipalin/MKKS

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE Union Government has assigned U Myat Tun, Director-General of the President's Office, to the duties of the Permanent Secretary and the Director-General of the same organization.

333 Pyu Silver Coins, 328 Konbaung Alloy Plates Transferred to Archaeology Dept

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Following an authentication check, the team identified the items as ancient plates believed to have been used as currency during the Konbaung era. As these represent an ancient monetary practice, the team also recommended a reward for the monk.

The Department of Archae-

ology and National Museum stated that when individuals hand over antiquities, the department calculates a reward based on the item's value, historical age, craftsmanship, and rarity. For exceptionally valuable and rare items, an additional premium is added, and the donor is presented with both a monetary reward and a certificate of honour. — MT/ZN

Mandalay-Japan Festival to serve as cultural bridge between Myanmar and Japan

THE Myanmar-Japan Alliance Business Association (MABA) has announced that it will host the Mandalay-Japan Festival & MABA 10th Anniversary Ceremony, an event designed to serve as a bridge between Myanmar and Japan.

The festival is open to the public with free admission and will take place on 6 and 7 June at Mingalar Mandalay. The event will feature exhibitions of Japanese products, Myanmar local products and regional businesses, food and lifestyle experiences, a tourism promotion zone, education and vocational training schools, and entertainment and cultural performances.

The event marks the 10th anniversary of MABA, celebrating a decade of achievements across business, culture, education, tourism, and community networking. The organizers aim to create a strong bridge for bilateral



An announcement board detailing the Mandalay-Japan Festival & MABA 10th Anniversary Ceremony.

culture and business opportunities by bringing together Myanmar's cultural heritage, Japanese traditions, entrepreneurs, investors, organizations, young professionals, and the general public in one location.

MABA expects over 10,000 visitors to attend the festival. It is envisioned as a

significant event that fosters deeper connections between the two nations.

Attendees will have the chance to experience high-quality products and exciting programmes while enjoying the liveliness of Mandalay and the beauty of Japanese culture in a single venue. — MT/ZN

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Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 13 May 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, the Low-Pressure Area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has intensified into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area. — DMH

NATIONAL

Algerian President Sends Congratulatory Message on Election of Myanmar's President

MR Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, sent a congratulatory message to U Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of his election as President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. — MNA

MoLA establishes pilot law offices as part of 100-day project



Union Minister Dr Thida Oo inspects the pilot law office in Pobbathiri Township.

UNDER the Ministry of Legal Affairs, ten township law offices were planned for expansion as pilot law offices within the new government's first 100 days. Coordination and discussions were held to designate and implement the Zabuthiri, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri, and Pobbathiri township law offices within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as pilot law offices to serve as exemplary models.

Previously, 21 district law offices and seven township law offices were designated and operated as model pilot law offices. Currently, the Zabuthiri, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri, and Pobbathiri Township Law Offices in Nay Pyi Taw are being designated and developed as model pilot law offices.

Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo stated that, through the establishment of pilot law offices, the transition from manual systems to digitalization can be achieved in office operations such as registration, documentation, and reporting. It was noted that these offices serve as exemplary models for enabling rapid coordination between prosecuting law officers and presiding law officers through the use of technology, as well as for conducting Pre-Trial Interviews (PTI). Furthermore, implementing these measures will facilitate broader engagement with victims and eyewitnesses in criminal cases and foster closer cooperation with

police officers, government departments, government organizations, and civil society organizations. This supports the rule of law, in accordance with the President's speech, which emphasizes that every citizen must receive equal protection under the law.

The Union minister also stated that, unlike other law offices, these offices will be prioritized as model law offices by focusing on enhancing the image of the offices, providing necessary office equipment, and improving the quality and capacity of the officers serving there.

Afterwards, she toured and inspected the township law offices designated as pilot law offices. — MNA/TH

MTF to hold roadshows in India to promote Myanmar's tourism industry

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) will hold roadshows in major cities in India to showcase Myanmar's tourist destinations, the federation stated.

The events aim to promote Myanmar's tourism industry in the Indian tourism market and make Myanmar's destinations more attractive to Indian tourists.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Myanmar Tourism Federation and Aerionyx Global Representations on 8 May to promote Myanmar's destinations in major Indian cities.

Under the agreement, Aerionyx Global Representations will act as the official representative

of the Myanmar Tourism Federation by providing information and insights on tourism markets. In addition, the two organizations will jointly conduct digital marketing activities, public relations activities, skills development training and B2B meetings.

Such tourism cooperation between Myanmar and India will also help Myanmar's tourism industry gain greater visibility in the Indian tourism market and contribute to the sustainable development of tourism.

The Myanmar Tourism Federation will also organize road exhibitions annually in three to five major cities in India to promote Myanmar's tourist destinations. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows a signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MTF and Aerionyx Global Representations held on 8 May 2026.

Pathein Solar Project expected to hit 90 MW subject to land availability

THE Pathein Solar Project, which is initially intended to generate 30 megawatts, is now expected to expand the capacity to 90 MW depending on land availability, according to the Ayeyawady Region government.

The Ayeyawady Development Public Company Limited, which will implement the

project, held a ceremony to present the Pathein Industrial Project and the 30 MW Solar Power Generation Project on 12 May at the regional government office.

Company officials gave a presentation about the monthly expected power generation, the connection with the national

grid, the potential of solar energy availability, the project timeline and the preparations for the commencement of the project.

During the ceremony, the regional chief minister thanked all the stakeholders involved in the project and added that the regional government is

also focusing on providing an adequate power supply and enhancing regional economic growth, as well as the socio-economic development of the public. For adequate power supply, the 10.5 MW hydropower project is now being implemented, and access to electricity is a major requirement for the public, he

said. The regional government will help implement the project to achieve completion within the timeframe, in compliance with the rules and regulations.

The 30 MW solar generation power plant project is expected to commence on 26 May 2026 and be completed on 26 May 2027. — Htun Htun/ZS

NATIONAL

Youth maritime, aviation training courses 2026 held nationwide during summer break



Images show youth aviation trainees enthusiastically observing control tower operations (L) and maritime trainees actively engaged in practical rowing exercises.

BASIC and advanced youth maritime and aviation courses for 2026 are being conducted at training camps across townships throughout Myanmar during the summer school

holidays.

The programmes aim to help young students develop knowledge and skills, make productive use of their holidays, and nurture future generations

with expertise in the naval and aviation fields.

Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) opened the courses on 27 April at training camps nationwide.

Youth maritime trainees are receiving instruction in naval communications, flag signalling, rowing techniques and sailing skills at camps in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Hpa-

An, Kengtung, Hainggyi Kyun, Heinze and Kyunsu, among others.

Meanwhile, the basic and advanced youth aviation courses are being conducted at 20 camps under the supervision of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), with a total of 1,044 trainees.

Training subjects include military drill, aviation history, principles of flight, airfield procedures, aviation knowledge, radio-controlled aircraft and helicopter operation, and simulator training.

Trainees are also going on field visits to air bases, maintenance workshops and air traffic control towers to gain practical knowledge of day-to-day aviation operations. — MNA/KZL

MPC to conduct Media Training Course 7/2026 in Yangon Region

THE Myanmar Press Council's Media Development Committee will conduct the Media Training Course 7/2026 from 18 to 22 May at the Myanmar Press Council office in Botahtaung Township.

Members and experts from the Myanmar Press Council, together with external specialists, will serve as instructors for the course. The training sessions will be conducted daily from 10 am to 3 pm.

During the course, U Khin Maung Aye (KMA) will lecture on media literacy, U Tin Maung

Oo on media and the qualities of a good journalist, U Khin Maung Zaw on media and international affairs, U Maung Maung Myint Thein on news translation, U Thiha Baw Zan on digital literacy, a representative from the Copyright and Registration Department on printing, publishing and media law, U Khin Maung Kyaw Din on media and Myanmar's image, and a representative from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on media and human rights. — ASH/KNN



This image shows the opening ceremony of the Media Training Course 6/2026.

Vocational masonry training opens in Mongyai



The vocational masonry training is underway in Narkho Village, Narkho Village-tract on 12 May 2026.

AS part of the 100-day project for the 2026-2027 financial year, the Township Rural Development Department of Mongyai, Tangyan District, Shan State (North), launched a vocational masonry training course at Narkho Village, Narkho Village-tract, on 12 May.

The training aims to create skilled workers and provide job opportunities for residents. During the opening ceremony, U Aung Win Khaing

Oo, Township Head of the Rural Development Department, delivered an opening speech, encouraging trainees to study the masonry techniques and applications diligently so that they can apply them effectively in their future careers.

Following the opening remarks, instructors explained the course curriculum. Afterwards, Township Head U Aung Win Khaing Oo, Daw Nan Aye Naung of the Township Co-

operative Department, and Narkho Village-tract Administrator U Aung Kham presented training materials to the participants.

The 15-day free training, which runs from 12 to 26 May, is being attended by 20 trainees from Narkho Village. A skilled instructor is providing both theoretical and practical masonry lessons throughout the course. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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NATIONAL

TAUNGDWINGYI Township in Magway Region was once known as Ponnyawady during the Pyu era. About 10 miles west of Taungdwingyi (Ponnyawady) lies the ancient Pyu city of Beikthano, one of Myanmar's most remarkable archaeological heritage sites, famous for its culture of the Pyu people. The ancient city stretches about three kilometres from north to south and 2.8 kilometres from east to west, covering a total area of about 900 square kilometres in a rectangular shape.

Beikthano was established with three city walls. The surrounding landscape centres around the Yin Creek plain, with Taungdwingyi located to the east, while the Yin, Saton, Yanpal creeks and Taung Oo converge in the west. It is also a city with fertile soil, and there is a grand palace constructed with rectangular-shaped bricks at the centre of the ancient city.

The history of Beikthano ancient city can be seen in the book *History of Taungdwingyi* by Nay Myo Min Hla Thiri Athinkhaya, title recipient Myay Latt Sit Kae Gyi of the King Mindon term. It reads Maha Thabawa and the ogress Sandamukhi fell in love and had a daughter, who was abandoned by her mother and later adopted by a hermit. As the girl grew up, it was said that in a previous life she had offered palm leaves to the Buddha and made a wish. Because of her devotion, the Beikthano created a royal city and throne for her, and she became known as Princess Panhtwa.

King Duthtaboung of Sri Ksetra attempted to conquer Beikthano, and Princess Panhtwar played the drum given by the King of the Celestial. Meanwhile, the water of Yanpal Creek began to rise, and King Duthta-



Beikthano Hailed as Cradle of Pyu Civilization

boung and his soldiers retreated. Later, King Duthtaboung used a strategy to sabotage the drum, won the war and took Princess Panhtwa to Sri Ksetra.

The Beikthano Ancient City was officially recognized as one of the Pyu Ancient Cities on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 22 June 2014, during the 38th

Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Doha, Qatar.

The Beikthano Archaeological Museum displays a total of 497 artefacts including artefacts

of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, fossils, models of traditional houses, literary evidence excavated from the site, Pyu inscriptions, Pyu-era bricks, coins, beads, and evidence of ancient Pyu craftsmanship such as goldsmithing, masonry, architecture, carpentry, stone carving, bead making, weaving, and brick production. These findings indicate that the Pyu people had already mastered the traditional "Ten Flowers", traditional Myanmar arts and crafts and had achieved a high level of civilization in ancient times.

Research findings suggest that Beikthano emerged before the 2nd century BC, making it one of the earliest urban civilizations established in South-East Asia. As a city rich in history and cultural heritage, Beikthano Ancient City in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region, stands as an important World Heritage site, inviting visitors to explore the origins and achievements of the Pyu civilization. — Naung Naung (Beikthano Myay)/KTZH



The above images show unearthed ancient ritual earthen pots and other artefacts.



Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 13 May 2026

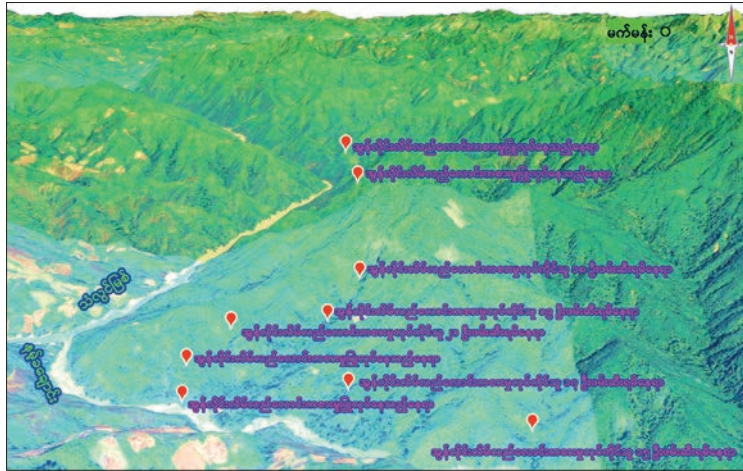
	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653~3,669	557~558.70	124.9~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	11,945,794.73	5,642,089.59	202,188,873.65	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare parts, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, lubricants, industrial raw materials,

fertilizers, packaging materials, consumer goods, animal feed, and construction materials. From the CMP sector revenue, US\$1.81 million was contributed to the edible oil sector and US\$0.14 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

NATIONAL

90 Chinese online scammers, gambling items seized in Shan State (North)



Photos from left to top show a scammer operation site, a crackdown map, and arrested Chinese online scammers.



MYANMAR authorities detained 90 Chinese nationals involved in online scam and gambling operations near the Thanlwin River in Metman Township, Shan State (North), together with equipment used in the gambling operations on 12 May.

According to the tip-off, the combined force conducted investigation on 12 May evening and seized three residential tents

measuring 80 feet by 40 feet and one dining tent used in the online gambling about 55 kilometres from the southwest of Metman, one dining tent, five residential tents measuring 60 feet by 20 feet, 12 residential tents measuring 20 feet square, one medical storage tent measuring 40 feet by 20 feet together with one bathroom and toilet unit, one generator tent measuring 30 feet by 20

feet, two buildings measuring 80 feet by 40 feet, one bathroom building measuring 40 feet by 10 feet, one residential building measuring 100 feet by 30 feet, two residential buildings measuring 60 feet by 20 feet, one residential building measuring 80 feet by 20 feet, eight generators, 40 all-in-one computers, one desktop computer, one CPU unit, seven laptops, eight Starlink devices, nine solar panels, two dynamos, seven electric fans, two 3500W power stations and ten Wi-Fi devices. Moreover, the authorities found and seized two additional buildings measuring 60 feet by 20 feet, fifteen residential tents accommodating 20 people each, two motorcycles, two refrigerators, five freezers and three generators in the surrounding areas.

Yesterday morning, near the

Thanlwin River, about 50 kilometres southwest of Metman, the combined team also found groups of illegal Chinese nationals who had fled after operating online scam and gambling businesses, and arrested one group of 18 persons, one group of 19 persons, one group of 21 persons and one group of 17 persons, for a total of 75 illegal Chinese nationals. At around 5 pm on the same evening, another 15 illegal Chinese nationals were found and arrested nearby, bringing the total number arrested to 90.

Moreover, they also found one dining hall measuring 50 feet by 15 feet, twenty residential tents measuring 10 feet by six feet, one rice storage building measuring 20 feet by 15 feet, one electrical storage building measuring eight feet by five feet, one medical storage building

measuring 10 feet by five feet, one kitchen building measuring 40 feet by 15 feet, one entrance and exit gate building measuring 10 feet by five feet, one ration warehouse measuring 40 feet by 15 feet, one generator shed measuring 15 feet by 10 feet, one general storage building measuring 10 feet by five feet, 100 sacks of rice, five generators, three freezers, 20 gas cylinders, one 14-compartment rice cooker, 89 plywood sheets, four motorcycles and two Starlink devices.

Similarly, they also seized one women's dormitory measuring 80 feet by 30 feet, one men's dormitory measuring 80 feet by 40 feet, one kitchen building measuring 30 feet by 15 feet, one seven-unit toilet building measuring 15 feet by 5 feet, one bathroom measuring 30 feet by 15 feet, one guard post measuring five feet square, one water purification machine with water tank measuring nine feet by five feet, one residential building measuring 60 feet by 25 feet, one storage warehouse measuring 50 feet by 25 feet, four large generators, four large refrigerators, one large rice cooker, 30 plastic chairs, ten blue diesel containers, one half-filled oil drum and related equipment.

The seized items will be managed in accordance with the procedures, and the offenders will be taken action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

3 education staff injured in FPV suicide drone blast in Indaw



The images show damage to the school following a FPV suicide drone attack and the drone used in the attack (R).

THREE education staff were injured when PDF

terrorists launched two FPV suicide drones at

the Basic Education High School (Branch) (Aung

Zeya) in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, on

12 May.

The attack occurred at around 11:45 am while teachers and office staff were carrying out preparations for the upcoming school reopening season, including student enrollment and classroom arrangements. The drones were launched from about 2,600 metres west of Indaw and exploded inside the school compound, damaging school buildings, and one headteacher of the primary school

and two office staff were injured.

PDFs intentionally launched attacks on non-military targets, such as educational buildings where students peacefully study, and such action is considered a war crime under the Geneva Conventions and international law. Locals strongly condemn and reject these acts of violence, and security forces are intensifying security measures. — MNA/KTZH

Live seafood exports to boost overseas earnings

MARINE products from Kawthoung and Myeik in the Tanintharyi Region are exported in frozen form every year, and if these products are exported live and directly, the country can earn more foreign income than now and also gain access to a new market for live marine products.

Among the exports of fish and shrimp, Taninthayi Region increases its export volume annually more than other regions. In the 2024-2025 financial year, the country earned about US\$725 million from marine product exports. Of this export revenue, Taninthayi Region contributed US\$303.62 million through the export of raw products. If these products could be processed into value-added goods and exported live, the marine aquaculture and production sector would develop even further.

The saltwater shrimp is be-

ing farmed in Yebyu, Kyunsu, Pulaw and Kawthoung of Taninthayi Region, and other marine products such as prawn, soft shell crab and fish are also bred and exported. The export of live lobster and other marine shrimp varieties, which are highly favoured overseas for their freshness and cleanliness, could significantly increase foreign earnings. Marine business operators are enthusiastic about making such exports possible.

The Myanmar white shrimp (Vannamei) from Myeik Archipelago is being exported to China and Japan, while the boiled ones to China and frozen ones to Japan through sea route. If live products could be exported directly by air, both the country and business operators would gain greater profits.



“We are currently exporting marine products in frozen form. If live exports become possible, profits will increase significantly. We are cooperating with the Department of Fisheries. Yangon is convenient for air transport, but Myeik Airport still faces difficulties accommodating cargo aircraft. In particular, preparations for live export lobster, tiger shrimp, and white Vannamei shrimp are already favourable.



Female workers are attentively processing seafood along the production line. PHOTO: ZWE MANN

Since demand is strong and the number of breeders is increasing, the country will earn more foreign currency. Airlines will also benefit if each flight can carry between 15 and 20 tonnes. If live products can be exported directly from Myeik Airport to China and Japan, export volumes can double, and Myanmar will also gain a new market for live ma-

rine exports,” said U Thet Soe, secretary of Taninthayi Region fisheries federation.

Currently, Taninthayi Region exports fish, shrimp and live snails to Thailand and to China by flight. Although profits are lower due to high transportation costs, exports continue in order to maintain the trade flow. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

CBM to inject over US\$2M to edible oil, CMP sectors



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$2.037 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$11,535 to CMP companies on 12 May.

CBM also sold \$2.17 million to edible oil-importing companies on 11 May. Additionally, CBM sold \$1.3 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$334,400 to CMP companies on 8 May.

Next, CBM sold over \$1.337 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$10,490 to CMP companies and \$1 million to LNG-importing companies on 7 May.

CBM injected foreign currencies

into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Myanmar Timber Enterprise puts teak, hardwood up for auction

THE Local Marketing and Milling Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for an open tender to sell 7,100 tonnes of round logs and sawn timber of teak and hardwood.

Open tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 26 May at the Taw Win Hall, Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Those logs and sawn timber are sourced from northern Sagaing Region, Nay Pyi Taw, southern Shan State, Bago Region and Magway Region.

Interested bidders can observe details of the open tender through official website of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise: www.mte.gov.mm or by dialling 09 795700439 and 09 402705515. — NN/KK

Fisheries Dept issues flood preparedness advisory for fish farms

THE Department of Fisheries issued a warning and advisories to fish farmers to take proactive measures to prevent fish pond flooding.

Fish farming is being carried out across the country to ensure national food security and to generate foreign income through exports. The Department has issued guidelines to prevent fish ponds from being flooded due to excessive rain and river flooding, and to minimize losses

of fish and shrimp farmers. The preventive measures include strengthening pond dykes by placing sandbags on thin or low-lying areas of the pond walls, reinforce them with nets to prevent fish from escaping when the water level rises, filling sandbags and putting bamboo railing in fish farms that lie next to water currents from erosion, and placing sandbags as reinforcement, preparing fishing nets, motorboats, and equipment

in advance to relocate fish if necessary, giving priority to larger fish in relocation, moving stored fish feed and other supplies to higher ground above water level, keeping the fish from escaping with regular feeding, monitoring possible inundated places that are vulnerable to flooding and the condition of fish ponds and arranging communication method to promptly report any unusual cases.

Furthermore, fish farm-

ers need to stay alert for emergency weather warnings broadcast on state-owned radio stations. They need to regularly read daily newspapers for weather warnings. Fish farmers need to exchange information with other farmers. They can ask for help from the nearest Fisheries Department in emergency cases, the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation warned. — NN/KK

OPINION

Initiate a good plan for farmers to boost production

MYANMAR is a country that primarily pursues an economy based on agriculture and livestock breeding. When the agriculture and livestock sector develops and rural people's incomes increase, rural areas will become more developed, which in turn will contribute to the overall growth of the national economy.

As the majority of rural residents mainly depend on agriculture and livestock activities, plans will be implemented to enhance

The programme to increase agricultural loans to farmers will commence on 12 May 2026 in time for the 2026 monsoon planting season. Farmers who have fully repaid their previous loans will receive the 2026 monsoon cultivation loans from the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank. It is stated with pleasure that the government's programme to increase agricultural loans for farmers, which benefits the improvement of farmers' livelihoods, is not only advantageous for farmers themselves but also contributes to the development of rural areas.

In addition, to support the establishment of agro-based industries, farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs will be enabled to purchase necessary agricultural machinery at concessional interest rates. Loans will be provided at an interest rate of six per cent for equipment ranging from low-cost power tillers, water pumps, and irrigation pumps to higher-value machinery such as dryers, silos, and rice mills. The loan ceiling will be set at up to K300 million for one category and above K300 million for another category.

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Accordingly, in disbursing agricultural loans to farmers, the interest rate will remain unchanged at five per cent per annum, while loan amounts will be increased depending on the type of crop. For paddy, wheat, and long-staple cotton (for seed production), the current loan rate per acre will be raised from K150,000 to K300,000. For 18 other crop types, the per-acre loan rate will be increased from K100,000 to K250,000. In addition, for sesame, canola, and jute, the per-acre loan rate will be increased from K100,000 to K150,000.

farmers' living standards and promote the development of rural areas. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue, through the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, is providing annual agricultural input loans and development loans at concessional interest rates to ensure that farmers across Myanmar have access to necessary capital for cultivation. In addition, as part of the government's 100-day "Quick Win" programmes starting from 20 April 2026, the Ministry has included a plan to increase the amount of agricultural input loans disbursed to farmers.

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Quiet Influence

By Inori

THE human mind is easy to manipulate; it is especially pliant and easily influenced by external factors and by what people already perceive as factual or right. The perception one holds – the imprint carved on the mind – propels it towards favouritism and bias, whether we are consciously aware of it or not. For example, imagine being told "This is right" by a person we respect and hearing the same words from a stranger; we are more likely to believe the one we hold in high regard, even though both may be saying the same thing.

Building on this tendency, almost everyone now has access to AI, which has taken on the role of an assistant capable of handling countless tasks – from small talk and recipes to designing intricate software and proposing solutions to global problems. Its efficiency and advanced reasoning have led people to rely on it, instilling a strong sense of trust. This reliance gradually develops into favouritism. Yet such favouritism, though backed by evidence of performance, may carry drawbacks that are not immediately visible. Although numerous articles discuss AI's harmful impact, they often focus on workforce replacement. Far fewer explore the subtler but equally significant issue of how AI can reshape human thoughts and

values.

This concern becomes pressing when considering that Large Language Models (LLMs) are trained primarily on texts from dominant cultures, especially English. As a result, system-level biases may marginalize traditions, languages, and standards from less-represented regions like Myanmar. Because most online text is in English or other widely used languages, Myanmar's literature and culture remain largely absent from training corpora. Standards of politeness, hierarchy, and Buddhist ethical frameworks are rarely included. Consequently, users in Myanmar often receive content that leans towards Western norms and values.

When LLMs provide ideas and advice aligned with dominant cultures, the issue becomes more significant. People, believing that "AI is accurate and factual", can be easily influenced by its outputs. They may begin to absorb information from AI more readily than they adhere to the traditions and teachings they were raised with, even when those teachings offer profound insight.

This tension became clear to me during a conversation with an AI about a drama I was watching. I remarked, "This drama made me ask myself, 'Are you loyal?'" The AI quickly reassured me, saying, "It is okay to feel something and have sparks." Without knowing the context, it normalized feelings in a way typical of AI design. That response

stayed with me longer than I expected. I realized that it may unintentionally validate actions that are harmful or socially unacceptable, and in certain contexts, it can feel as though it condones romantic attraction outside committed relationships.

In Buddhist-influenced societies, loyalty, fidelity, and restraint are deeply valued. Suggesting that such "sparks" are acceptable may conflict with these ethical principles. I pressed further, asking, "Are you saying it is acceptable to have feelings for someone else while already married?" The response emphasized that humans cannot fully control their thoughts. However, Buddhism emphasizes awareness of thoughts and feelings, but also careful discernment – acknowledging thoughts without indulging.

This example reflects broader cultural implications. In Myanmar, relationships are deeply tied to family and community honour. Encouraging romantic "sparks" outside of loyalty risks undermining trust and social cohesion. At the same time, many AI reassurance strategies reflect Western therapeutic norms, which prioritize validating emotions. Yet in this cultural context, validation without moral framing may be seen not as support but as encouragement of misconduct. What is intended as comfort may, therefore, conflict with the ethical responsibility valued in Myanmar society.

This personal experience centred on

commitment and relationships; however, such tensions may extend further, resulting in more complicated concerns. LLMs tend to produce patterned responses. One may not agree with something it says, but when told the same thing repeatedly enough, the mind may gradually bend towards it. The risk is

higher because AI applications are widely available and within reach of both adults and young children with malleable minds.

Imagine how AI could reshape young minds – there is a real risk that it could erode deep cultural values and insights if not approached with care. If a child were to en-

counter the kind of response I did, they might come to believe that infidelity and cheating on one's partner are common, or worse, they might begin to normalize such behaviour. They would no longer view these acts as wrong, but as ordinary parts of human relationships. Loyalty could become a myth for future generations, and mistakes might be accepted without challenge. A society that should be built on sincerity and fidelity would instead stand upon "normalized lies".

Furthermore, most AI systems state that "making mistakes is human", but they rarely define the limits of this idea. An AI may prioritize modern context and logical explanations, but the values and cultures passed down by our ancestors carry a deeper history than a purely modern perspective. They come with histories, learned lessons, and corrected mistakes. People must be discerning enough not to let themselves be influenced by a simple "It is human" or "AI is factual", because not every action can be excused by human imperfection. We can think, reflect, and weigh decisions based on traditions, values, and ethical frameworks. Nevertheless, some allow AI to shape their thinking because of a deep-rooted belief or unchecked favouritism: "AI is right."

We must recognize that the influence of AI on human thought is not merely a technical matter but a cultural and ethical one. In Myanmar, such influence can erode principles that have guided generations. What begins as efficiency and convenience may gradually reshape our perceptions. However, the choice remains ours: to accept its influence uncritically or to think independently – guided by discernment, tradition, and responsibility.



We must recognize that the influence of AI on human thought is not merely a technical matter but a cultural and ethical one.

Designing a Curriculum for the Four Language Skills

By Maung Maung Aye



In teaching English, the four essential language skills – Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing – must be included.

IN teaching English, the four essential language skills – Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing – must be included. An effective English curriculum enables learners to develop these skills in an integrated and balanced manner. A curriculum is the overall plan that outlines what students are expected to learn in a course, a school programme, or an entire education system. It is prepared based on learners' levels, the duration of the course, and clearly defined objectives. Curriculum development becomes more effective when it is systematically implemented through well-structured lesson plans.

A lesson plan plays a vital role in translating curriculum goals into classroom practice. It specifies what to teach, when to teach, and how to teach. It outlines subtopics, teaching methods, learning activities, and instructional materials such as charts, pictures, audio recordings, and digital tools. Through lesson planning, teaching becomes more organized, purposeful, and learner-centred.

Designing an effective speaking curriculum requires a structured yet flexible approach that integrates theory, practice, and continuous feedback. Clear objectives must first be defined, such as

improving pronunciation, fluency, conversational competence, and confidence in public speaking. Diagnostic assessments, including interviews and role-plays, help identify learners' proficiency levels and needs, allowing the curriculum to be tailored to contexts such as academic, professional, or everyday communication. The speaking curriculum should be organized into progressive modules. These may begin with basic pronunciation and simple dialogues, then move towards vocabulary expansion, fluency-building activities, interactive communication, and public speaking tasks. Lesson plans should incorporate interactive methods such as role-plays, debates, storytelling, and presentations. Technology tools, including recording software

and pronunciation applications, can further support practice and self-evaluation. Formative assessments, such as peer feedback, classroom discussions, and short presentations, should be conducted throughout the course. At the end of the term, summative assessments like final speeches or mock interviews can evaluate overall progress. If learners demonstrate weaknesses, supplementary speaking activities or short remedial courses should be introduced to help them improve.

A listening curriculum aims to develop learners' ability to comprehend spoken English in various contexts, from casual conversations to academic lectures. Objectives may include identifying main ideas, understanding details, recognizing different ac-

cents, and improving note-taking skills. Diagnostic listening tasks help identify challenges related to speech speed, pronunciation, or vocabulary.

The curriculum should progress from basic listening skills, such as recognizing sounds and simple phrases, to more advanced skills like understanding extended dialogues, interpreting tone and attitude, and critically evaluating spoken texts. Lesson plans should combine top-down strategies (predicting meaning from context) and bottom-up strategies (focusing on sounds and words). Authentic materials such as podcasts, interviews, and news reports are valuable resources. Formative listening tests, quizzes, and discussions should be conducted during the course, while summative assessments may include listening examinations based on lectures or interviews. If students fail to achieve expected

outcomes, targeted listening practice and supplementary courses should be designed to address their specific weaknesses.

A well-designed reading curriculum develops decoding skills, comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking. The curriculum should begin with clear objectives and diagnostic assessments to determine learners' reading speed, comprehension level, and vocabulary knowledge. The reading curriculum should progress from foundational skills such as phonics, skimming, and scanning to higher-level skills, including inference, critical analysis, and interpretation of different text types. Lesson plans may include pre-reading activities (predicting content), while-reading strategies (annotating and identifying key ideas), and post-reading tasks (summarizing and discussing).

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Designing a Curriculum for the Four Language Skills

FROM PAGE 9

Technology-based reading tools can also enhance learner engagement. Assessment should include formative techniques such as quizzes, retelling, and group discussions, along with summative assessments like comprehension tests or reading portfolios. Learners who struggle should be supported through remedial reading programs or short supplementary courses designed to strengthen their skills.

Designing a writing curriculum focuses on developing

accuracy, coherence, organization, and creativity across different genres. Objectives should address grammar, sentence structure, paragraph development, genre awareness, and editing skills. Diagnostic writing tasks help determine learners' strengths and weaknesses. The curriculum should be structured in stages, starting with sentence and paragraph writing, followed by different genres such as narrative, descriptive, and persuasive writing, and finally, advanced tasks like research and professional writing. Lesson plans should

emphasize the writing process, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing. Peer review activities and digital writing tools can further support learning. Formative assessments, such as assignments and drafts, should be conducted regularly, while summative assessments may include final essays or writing portfolios. After evaluation, results should be published, and students who do not meet expectations should receive additional guidance through remedial writing sessions or supplementary courses.

As regards assessment and remedial instruction, testing is an essential component of curriculum implementation. Formative assessments conducted during the course, such as presentations, assignments, and classroom activities, help monitor learning progress. At the end of the semester, summative assessments, such as final examinations, evaluate overall achievement.

After assessments, results should be analyzed carefully. If students fail or show weaknesses in specific skills, corrective measures must be taken. De-

signing and implementing short supplementary courses is crucial to help learners overcome their difficulties and achieve the desired learning outcomes.

To conclude, an effective English curriculum integrates the four language skills with clear objectives, systematic lesson planning, appropriate teaching methods, and continuous assessment. By aligning curriculum design with lesson plans, formative and summative testing, and remedial instruction, teachers can ensure that learners develop strong and balanced language proficiency.

Myanmar steps up crackdown on foreigners in online gambling, telecom fraud cases



Immigration process is underway for the deportation of foreign immigrants linked to telecom fraud and online gambling.

THE Government of Myanmar is identifying and investigating foreign nationals who have illegally entered and are residing in border areas and who are involved in criminal activities, including online gambling and online fraud.

Those found to be involved are being systematically deported and repatriated to their respective countries in accordance with legal procedures.

During the ongoing deportation process, the authorities uncovered and detained an additional 20 Chinese nationals who had entered areas around Myawady, Kayin State, through illegal routes after transiting through certain neighbouring countries, including Thailand.

From 30 January 2025 to 13 May 2026, a total of 14,654 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township were detained. All of them have been investigated, and 13,422 individuals have already been systematically deported to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures. The remaining 1,232 foreign nationals are awaiting repatriation and are being properly accommodated and cared for.

Among those awaiting transfer, 766 foreign nationals are currently being held under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, while 466 are ready for repatriation to their respective countries.

The Government of Myanmar is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries, as well as international organizations, to identify, arrest and take effective and stringent action against those involved in online scam centre operations, including foreign nationals who orchestrate such activities from behind the scenes.

In addition, authorities are working effectively to coordinate the swift repatriation of foreign nationals who have fallen into hardship for various reasons, including victims of human trafficking, so that they may be returned to their respective countries as soon as possible. — MNA/MKKS

Public Notice

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

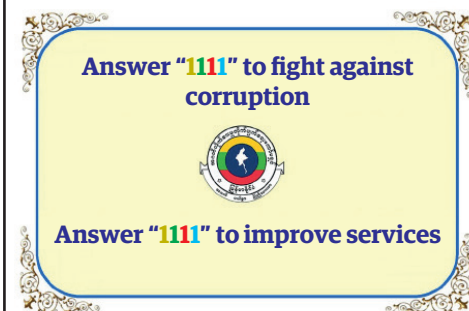
The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

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



Gold Market Rate as of 13 May 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,150,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

New London museum woos younger visitors

IN London's Olympic Park, the V&A East museum opened 18 April, targeting under-30s with a honey-coloured concrete design. This outpost of the 174-year-old Victoria and Albert Museum contrasts its nearby Storehouse — packed with reserves — by showing just 500 objects in light-filled spaces. Free galleries mix punk icon Vivienne Westwood's shoes, 18th-century designer Anna Maria Garthwaite's dress, and contemporary east London art, including Althea McNish's African-Caribbean fabrics.

Conceived since 2012 with 30,000+ young people, it explores health, identity, community, climate, and gender — themes resonating with youth, where only

31-37 per cent aged 16-24 visited UK museums last year versus 41 per cent of adults. Chief curator Brendan Cormier calls visits "following a thread" to uncover stories. Visitor Amy Richard, 27, loves the surprise of wandering, while her father eyes Nike trainers in a sustainability display.

A temporary exhibit, "The Music is Black: A British Story" (to Jan 2027), immerses with shifting soundtracks on 120+ years of Black British music — from jazz to hip-hop — addressing immigration, resilience, and colonial slavery via maps. Amid US "woke" debates, experts like Kevin Coffee see it as a step to match youth expectations. — AFP



A gallery assistant looks at Daria dress (2019) by British fashion designer Molly Goddard. PHOTO: AFP

Conflict created more internal displacement than disasters

CONFLICT and violence drove more people to flee within their own countries in 2025 than natural and manmade disasters for the first time on record, monitors said on 12 May.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said in their annual report on the subject that at the end of 2025, 82.2 million people were living in internal displacement worldwide.

The figure is just under the highest number ever recorded

in 2024.

"Numbers remain at historic highs," the director of the IDMC, Ms Tracy Lucas, told AFP, calling the trends "a wake-up call".

Over the course of last year, 65.8 million new internal displacements were reported, including a number of people forced to flee multiple times, the report showed. Conflict and violence were responsible for 32.3 million of those displacements — up 60 per cent from a year earlier — while 29.9 million fled storms, floods and other disasters. — AFP



A wolf-like robot "Super Monster Wolf" stands beside a rice field to drive away wild animals that cause damage to crops in Kisarazu, Chiba prefecture, on 25 August 2017.

PHOTO: AFP/TORU YAMANAKA/FILE

Japan 'robot wolves' in high demand to scare off bears

The Super Monster Wolf is a specialized agricultural robot designed in Japan to protect crops from wildlife damage.

A Japanese company making ferocious-looking robot wolves is being swamped by orders after record numbers of fatal bear attacks on humans last year.

"Monster Wolf" is an animatronic scarecrow with flashing red eyes that howls and growls menacingly to scare away wild animals.

Ohta Seiki, the Hokkaido-based firm that makes the devices, has already received around 50 orders this year, more

than the usual volume for an entire year.

"We make them by hand. We cannot make them fast enough now. We are asking our customers to wait two to three months," company president Yuji Ohta told AFP.

"Awareness of bear safety and measures against wildlife damage (on farm products) improved. There was also a growing recognition that our product is effective in dealing

with bears," Ohta said.

Orders come mostly from farmers, operators of golf courses and people working outside in rural areas such as in construction. Bears killed 13 people across Japan in 2025-2026, more than twice the previous high.

More than 50,000 bear sightings were recorded nationwide, more than double the previous record set two years before, according to official data. — AFP

Biogas helps cut bills, deforestation in east DR Congo

IN Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, resident Julienne Mukelenge has ditched toxic charcoal fumes and unreliable power for biogas, a cheap, local renewable energy. "Electricity is expensive, but biogas is very economical," she says, as blue flames heat her supper. With nearly one million people un-

able to afford electricity, most rely on charcoal (makala), but prices have soared since M23 rebels — backed by Rwanda — seized the city in January 2025 after fierce fighting. The group banned logging in nearby Virunga National Park to cut funding for pro-government militias, spiking charcoal costs from \$30/month per bag

to unaffordable levels. Mother Romaine Kanyere notes a 6kg biogas cylinder at \$8 lasts two weeks for a family of three to five — far cheaper.

Since 2016, local firm Umoja has produced biogas via digesters that ferment chicken droppings into methane, bottling 720 kilogrammes monthly from 50 units. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's railway investment up 3.2 pct in first four months



Total fixed-asset spending hit 200.8 billion yuan (approximately US\$29.57 billion). **PHOTO: GLOBAL TIMES**

During the January-April period, fixed-asset investment in the railway sector reached 200.8 billion yuan (about US\$29.34 billion).

CHINA'S railway construction made steady progress in the first four months of 2026, with fixed-asset investment expanding 3.2 per cent year on year, according to the country's railway operator.

During the January-April period, fixed-asset investment in the railway sector reached 200.8 billion yuan (about US\$29.34 billion), according to data from China State Rail-

way Group Co, Ltd. In the next phase, the company will fully deliver on the major railway projects set out in the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), it said.

It will advance railway planning and construction in an orderly manner, step up efforts to build a modern railway system up to world-class standards, and provide solid support for the country's high-quality development. — Xinhua

Trump insists inflation surge 'short term,' policies working

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday insisted that his policies were working and that surging inflation was merely temporary due to the US and Israeli war against Iran.

"Our inflation is just short term," Trump told reporters, hours after consumer price inflation came in at 3.8 per cent year-on-year, its highest lev-

el in three years. "As soon as this war is over, which will not be long, you're going to see oil prices drop," he said.

The war on Iran, launched on 28 February, has engulfed the Middle East in violence, with Tehran's retaliatory action targeting US regional allies and virtually blocking the key Strait of Hormuz. The halt in shipping

through the waterway, which normally sees about a fifth of global oil and gas traffic, has seen energy prices skyrocket.

As of Tuesday, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in the United States had risen about 51 per cent since the start of the war, according to data from the AAA motor club. — AFP

NZ PM highlights resilience, energy security

NEW Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said Wednesday that the government will prioritize economic resilience, energy security and defense "in an increasingly volatile world".

Speaking to BusinessNZ ahead of Budget 2026 to be delivered on 28 May in Auckland, Luxon warned New Zealand can no longer rely on geographic isolation for security amid rising global instability.

The prime minister out-

lined the government's plans to strengthen energy security, secure trade ties across the Indo-Pacific, boost defence capability and maintain social cohesion, arguing that prosperity depends on security.

He also emphasized responsible economic management and fiscal discipline, confirming the government's goal of returning to a budget surplus by the 2028-29 financial year and reducing public debt to around 40 per cent of GDP.

Net operating spending on new initiatives in the upcoming budget will be 2.1 billion NZ dollars (US\$1.25 billion), lower than earlier projections, Luxon said.

He said the government would continue investing in core sectors, including health, education, defence, law and order and infrastructure, while reprioritizing spending to avoid higher taxes or increased borrowing. — Xinhua

Vietnam unveils first White Book on Taxation

VIETNAM'S Department of Taxation on Tuesday released the White Book on Vietnam Taxation, the first publication of its kind to provide an overview of the country's tax system, budget revenue performance in 2021-2025 and development orientations for the sector in the years ahead, the Vietnam News Agency reported Wednesday.

The publication highlights the sector's efforts to modernize governance, enhance transparency and improve consistency in public information, while positioning taxation as both a sustainable source of state budget

revenue and a macroeconomic regulatory tool to promote social equity and support vulnerable groups, the report said.

According to the White Book, Vietnam's total state budget revenue topped 9.92 quadrillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$376.7 billion) during the period, or 120 per cent of the target set by the parliament.

The White Book sets out four major priorities for the sector's development, namely institutional reform, digital transformation, taxpayer-centred services and improved tax governance quality, the report added. — Xinhua



Employees work at electronics company in Van Giang district, Hung Yen province, Vietnam, on 20 February 2021. **PHOTO: VNA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE**

France's unemployment rate rises to 8.1 pct in Q1 2026

FRANCE'S unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 8.1 percent in the first quarter of 2026, reaching its highest level since the first quarter of 2021, the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) said on Wednesday. According to INSEE, the number of unemployed people in France, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), increased by 68,000 from the previous quarter to reach 2.6 million in the first quarter of 2026. The unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percent-

age point year on year. Over the past year, the unemployment rate increased across all age groups, rising by 2.0 percentage points among people aged 15 to 24, by 0.6 point among those aged 25 to 49, and 0.4 point among people aged 50 and above. Women's unemployment rate remained broadly stable during the quarter, edging up 0.1 point to 7.7 percent, while men's unemployment rate rose by 0.3 point to 8.5 percent, its highest level since the first quarter of 2021. — Xinhua



Over the past year, the unemployment rate increased across all age groups, rising by 2.0 percentage points among people aged 15 to 24, by 0.6 point among those aged 25 to 49, and 0.4 point among people aged 50 and above. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Nissan logs 533.10 bln yen net loss in FY 2025, forecasts return to black

NISSAN Motor Co said Wednesday it posted a net loss of 533.10 billion yen (\$3.4 billion) for the year ended March due to restructuring costs, marking a second straight year of red ink, while forecasting a return to profitability in the current business year. The struggling Japanese automaker reported an operating profit of 58.01 billion yen for fiscal 2025, down 16.9 per cent from the



Sales slipped 4.9 per cent to 12.01 trillion yen, with US car sales falling 3.4 per cent to 906,000 units. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

previous year but in line with its earlier estimate. It had previously projected an operating loss of 60 billion yen before revising the forecast in late April, citing faster-than-expected progress in reform efforts, the weaker yen and one-time gains from changes to US emissions regulations. Sales slipped 4.9 per cent to 12.01 trillion yen, with US car sales falling 3.4 per cent to 906,000 units. — Kyodo

Kazakhstan misses oil target by 5 mln tonnes in first four months of 2026

KAZAKHSTAN'S oil production in the first four months of 2026 fell about five million tonnes short of target due to disruptions at the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and the Tengiz oil field, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Economy Serik Zhumangarin said on Wednesday. Had the planned volume been produced, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the period would have ex-

ceeded six per cent, Zhumangarin said. Kazakhstan's GDP grew by 3.6 per cent year-on-year in January-April 2026, according to data from the Bureau of National Statistics. Zhumangarin said that the current dynamics indicate growth in the non-resource sector, demonstrating the economy's ability to maintain expansion despite declining oil production, driven by manufacturing, construction and trade. — Xinhua

Vietnam's crypto asset market expected to be launched in Q3

VIETNAM expects to establish a cryptocurrency and digital asset market as early as the third quarter of this year, local media VnEconomy reported Wednesday, citing Deputy Minister of Finance Nguyen Duc Chi. The deputy minister shared the expectation at the Digital Trust in Finance 2026 forum on Tuesday, while highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening the digital economy

with a safe and transparent crypto asset market. To achieve the goal, the ministry has launched several large-scale digital transformation projects aimed at improving services for citizens and businesses, including information technology systems for digital customs operations, redesigned digital tax administration processes and modernized state budget management systems. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML030)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML030)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0093N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0093N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2610S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2610S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Under the provisional accord struck by EU governments and parliament representatives national authorities will be obliged to look at diversifying supply sources when procuring critical medicines. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

EU agrees new measures to tackle drug shortages

Supplies of key medicines such as antibiotics, insulin and painkillers have at times run low within the 27-nation bloc in recent years, due to supply chain snags and Europe's over-reliance on Asia for key components.

EUROPEAN Union lawmakers and countries reached a deal Tuesday on new rules seeking to tackle shortages of essential drugs and boost manufacturing in Europe.

Supplies of key medicines such as antibiotics, insulin and painkillers have at times run low within the 27-nation bloc in recent years, due to supply chain snags and Europe's over-reliance on

Asia for key components.

Under the provisional accord struck by EU governments and parliament representatives national authorities will be obliged to look at diversifying supply sources when procuring critical medicines.

The deal allows authorities to apply an "EU preference" to procurement, and reward suppliers of drugs and active ingredients manufactured within the bloc,

according to the EU parliament.

"Companies that produce medicines in Europe will be favoured in procurement procedures," said Tomislav Sokol, the centre-right EU lawmaker who sponsored the text.

"Strategic projects will benefit from access to national and EU funding and from faster and more efficient permitting procedures." — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

China, US hold constructive exchanges in S Korea

THE Chinese and US delegations on Wednesday held candid, in-depth and constructive exchanges in South Korea on economic and trade issues of mutual concern, as well as on further expanding practical cooperation.

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, also China's lead person for China-US economic and trade affairs, and US lead person Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent conducted the consultations. Guided by the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, the two sides upheld the principle of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation. — Xinhua

Sweden to cut fuel taxes further as energy prices soar

SWEDEN'S government said Wednesday it would temporarily cut fuel taxes to counter rising fuel prices stemming from the war in the Middle East, after it already announced a cut in March.

The proposed cut would be 2.4 kronor (\$0.25) per litre, which the government said would result in a litre of petrol or diesel being about 3 kronor cheaper the pump after VAT was accounted for. The measure, expected to cost around 7.7 billion kronor, was part of a crisis package totalling 17.5 billion kronor presented by the government.

"We are now facing the worst global energy crisis the world has ever experienced. The situation in the Middle East remains unstable, and we will be put to the test," Energy Minister Ebba Busch told a press conference. — AFP

Thailand tightens hantavirus screening

THAILAND has launched intensive screening measures for hantavirus among travelers arriving from South America, aiming to bolster public confidence and ensure safe international tourism, the Department of Disease Control said on Tuesday. While Thailand has reported no cases of hantavirus to date, the department said it has implemented a mandatory screening process for individuals who have traveled to 13 South American countries within the last six weeks. — Xinhua

UK's Catherine on first official foreign trip since cancer diagnosis

BRITAIN'S Princess Catherine started a two-day visit to Italy on Wednesday focused on early childhood development, in her first official foreign trip since her 2024 cancer diagnosis.

The Princess of Wales, whose husband Prince William is the heir to the Brit-

ish throne, was welcomed in the northern Italian city of Reggio Emilia.

She met the city's mayor Marco Massari as dozens of cheering onlookers waved British flags and held up signs reading "Ciao Kate" and "We love you, Kate!" Early educa-

tion is a subject close to her heart as a mother of three children -- George, 12, Charlotte, 11, and Louis, eight.

The 44-year-old's trip will focus on her work in early years child development, said a Kensington palace statement. — AFP



Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales waves as she arrives at Reggio Emilia town hall during a two-day visit in Italy, on 13 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yangon City FC sign Myanmar midfielder Myat Kaung Khant

YANGON City FC have signed Myanmar national team midfielder Myat Kaung Khant on a two-year contract with an option for a one-year extension ahead of their first season in the MNL.

The 2+1 deal marked Yangon City's first signing for the upcoming season.

Myat Kaung Khant began his football career at Patheingyi Academy in 2012 before continuing his development at Mandalay Academy in 2014.

He earned selection for the Myanmar U16 team in 2016 and competed in the ASEAN U16 Championship and AFC U17 qualifiers.

He started his professional career with Yadanabon FC in 2019 and moved on loan to Thai League 2 club Chainat in 2020 for his first overseas spell. In 2022, he joined Shan United FC before moving to Indonesian Liga 1 club Persibabo in 2023.



New signing midfielder Myat Kaung Khant is seen receiving his jersey and other related items at the signing event. **PHOTO: YCFC**

He returned to Shan United in the 2024 season and played for two seasons before joining Yangon City this year.

At the international level, he won silver medals with Myanmar U16 in the 2016 ASEAN U16 Championship and Myanmar U19

in the 2018 ASEAN U19 Championship, as well as a bronze medal with Myanmar U23 at the 2019 SEA Games. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL



Myanmar drawn in World Cup Sepak Takraw groups

GROUP-STAGE fixtures for the 2026 World Cup Sepak Takraw Championship featuring the Myanmar national team have been released.

The tournament will be held in Malaysia from 16 to 23 May, with Myanmar competing in all three event categories.

In the Regu event, Myanmar was drawn in Group C alongside Vietnam, China and Indonesia.

In the quadrant event, Myanmar will compete in Group A

with China and Brunei.

In the team event, Myanmar was placed in Group B together with Malaysia and India.

The Myanmar squad includes manager U Myint Lwin Htay and coaches U Kyaw Min Soe and U Aung Myo Swe, along with players Zin Min Oo, Thant Zin Htun, Aung Myo Kyaw, Chit Loon Poe, Shane Wunna Zaw, Yan Paing Oo, Min Thant Thu, Han Win Htut, Ye Htet, Aung Aung, Thet Paing Soe and Shin Thant. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

This photo showcases players of the Myanmar Sepak Takraw team. **PHOTO: MSTAF**

14 teams to compete in MNL U20 League



Footballers in action. **PHOTO: MNL**

A total of 14 teams will compete in the 2026-2027 MNL U20 Youth League, which will begin on 23 May.

The Myanmar National League will release the fixture list in the coming days and is currently conducting age verification checks for participating players.

Teams set to compete include Shan United FC, Yangon United FC, Dagon Star United FC, Institute of Sports and Physical Education, Hanthawady United FC, Maha United FC, Yadanabon FC, Ayeyawady United FC, Thitsa Arman, Chinland, Myawady and Yangon City FC, along with two Myanmar youth national teams.

The Myanmar National League resumed its youth competitions in 2024 and has alternated between U20 and U21 tournaments each year. Shan United FC won the 2024 MNL U20 League, while Dagon Star United FC won the 2025 MNL U21 League. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Myanmar draw Thailand in AFC U17 group play

MYANMAR and Thailand played out a 2-2 draw in their final Group A match of the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia on 12 May.

Although both teams had already been eliminated after their second group matches, they pushed for a win for pride. Myanmar looked set for victory after taking a two-goal lead, but Thailand fought back to secure a draw.

Myanmar striker Sai Myat Min scored twice in 19 minutes and 22 minutes to give his side a 2-0 advantage. Thailand pulled

one back through Suthiprapa in 30 minutes before Gabrat equalized in 75 minutes.

In the other Group A match, hosts Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan drew 5-5. Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan advanced to the quarterfinals with seven points each, while Thailand and Myanmar exited the tournament with one point apiece. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Images show players from both sides fiercely contesting possession in the AFC U17 group match. **PHOTO: MFF**





Trump arrives in Beijing for state visit to China

This is the first US presidential visit to China in almost nine years and Trump's second since November 2017.

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump arrived in Beijing on Wednesday evening for a state visit to China. At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump is visiting China from 13 to 15 May.

This is the first US presidential visit to China in almost nine years and Trump's second since November 2017.

The two leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on major issues concerning bilateral relations and world peace and development, according to China's foreign ministry.

— Xinhua



US President Donald Trump gestures prior boarding Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews en route to China. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russian FM Lavrov says India's interests in energy supply will "not be affected"

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Wednesday assured that India's interests in Russian energy supplies "will not be affected", reiterating Russia's commitment towards India, noting that Moscow will continue its efforts to

ensure stable energy supplies for New Delhi despite what he termed "unfair competition".

In an interview with RT India, ahead of his visit to India for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Lavrov

said that Russia continued to honour its agreements with partner countries despite geopolitical tensions, accusing the United States of trying to "seize all energy routes" globally.

The Russian Foreign Minister alleged that the US was attempting to dominate global energy corridors and exert pressure on countries maintaining energy ties with Russia.

"Their [US] goal is to seize everything, to seize all energy routes that are important. This goal is pretty clear and I'm confident that India understands what is happening," Lavrov said.

I can assure you that India's interests when it comes to Russian supplies will not be affected and we will do our utmost to ensure that this unfair play, unfair competition, could not affect our arrangements," he added.

He criticised Western countries, particularly European nations, for reducing dependence on Russian energy supplies, claiming the move was politically motivated rather than driven by market factors. — ANI



Lavrov assured that Russia will protect its energy trade with India from external pressures. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Researchers develop fridge-free malaria vaccine

RESEARCHERS in Australia have developed a next-generation malaria vaccine that requires no refrigeration and shows strong potential to provide long-lasting protection and reduce transmission by mosquitoes.

The vaccine is predicted to be low-cost, and its cold-chain independence strongly enhances its deployability, said a statement of Australia's Griffith University released on Wednesday.

Malaria kills more than 500,000 people each year, mostly in developing countries where vaccine storage and distribution remain major challenges.

"Existing vaccines offer only partial and short-lived protection and are difficult to distribute across the globe as they require strict refrigeration," said Griffith University Professor Bernd Rehm, whose team led the vaccine development. — Xinhua