

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar, Pakistan to boost diplomatic relations, trade and investment



Vice-President U Nyo Saw and Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim exchange handshakes during the latter's courtesy call on the former.

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Nyo Saw, received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the hall of the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Vice-President and the Paki-

stani Ambassador emphasized the discussions to further cement diplomatic relations and friendly ties between Myanmar and Pakistan.

They also held frank discussions on plans to further enhance cooperation in the trade and investment sectors. In addition, they reviewed ongo-

ing collaboration in human resource development and efforts to boost the tourism industry.

Also, present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Khin Latt and U Ko Ko Kyaw, and officials. The Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar was accompanied by officials. — MNA/TTA

Yangon to host Cultural Connections 2026

ACCORDING to the embassies, the Cultural Connections 2026, an international cultural festival that helps individuals understand, explore and engage with diverse cultures of different countries, will be hosted in Yangon in May.

With new experiences and exchanges, the Cultural Connections will return to Yangon in May and embassies and cultural centres of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, the UK and the United States will open their doors to individuals to explore cultures of relevant countries.

Cultural Connections is an international festival that will offer an opportunity to visitors to experience traditions, innovations and communities of relevant countries through participation in art, music, food and activities.

At each pavilion, extraordinary opportunities will enable visitors to understand more about each country, build relationships and enjoy the diversity, which can strengthen the global partnerships.

Everyone is welcome on this special journey, and they are enthusiastically looking forward to sharing it with the participants, the embassies stated. — MT/ZS



This image displays a pamphlet for the Cultural Connections 2026.

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Myanmar and Indian armed forces to enhance border security, regional peace and stability

BUSINESS

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200+ container vessels call at Yangon Port in Jan-Apr

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Maritime, aviation trainees visit Sixth Buddhist Council 70th Anniversary Exhibition

NATIONAL

Among various tourism services, land and coastal leisure travel has become increasingly popular with both domestic and international visitors. In Myanmar, the Wah Ale Island, located within the Lampi Marine National Park, has been attracting more European tourists than local visitors. As the tourism season comes to an end, tourist arrivals are expected to conclude by mid-May.

The Lampi Marine National Park, situated in the Myeik Archipelago in Taninthayi Region with more than 800 islands, is globally recognized as a park that supports the survival of amphibians and marine research, and a recreational site for the local and foreign visitors for its stunning sea views. Due to its rich flora and fauna, including rare species, it is considered highly valuable for research.

Foreign tourists visit the

Wah Ale Resort through bookings every year to do a variety of activities, such as scuba diving to observe coral reefs, kayaking through mangrove forests and coastal caves, studying and documenting seagrass and rare marine species, swimming within the park, enjoying sunset views, walking along sandy beaches, and learning about the lifestyle of the local Moken (Salon) ethnic group. Visitors also explore the island's forests to study biodiversity, wildlife, medicinal plants, and rare species of birds, butterflies, and orchids.

"Most foreign visitors come

to the Wah Ale Island based on their research interests. They are especially drawn to the natural beauty of the sea, marine ecosystems, forests, rare species, fish and shrimp breeding areas in mangrove forests, and coral reefs. Many are particularly interested in closely studying forest ecosystems. The eco-friendly accommodation and transport services also appeal to them. As the travel season is ending this month, all pre-booked visitors will have completed their trips by mid-May. The Lampi Marine National Park and Wah Ale Resort also contribute significantly

to the Blue Economy," said U Kyi Oo, warden of the park.

The Lampi Island was recognized as a marine national park on 28 February 1996 and as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2013. The Wah Ale Resort within the Lampi Marine National Park, which is the most visited site by European tourists, will see the end of its tourism season by mid-May. The park continues to attract more international than domestic tourists and stands as a proud national marine reserve that supports the country's tourism sector. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

European tourist arrivals to Wah Ale Resort to conclude by mid-May



Photos from top to bottom show European tourists exploring Wah Ale Island Resort, including a wooden boardwalk through the mangrove forest within the well-preserved compound. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**

Basic Public Financial Management Course 12 concludes

THE closing ceremony of the Basic Public Financial Management Course 12 was held yesterday afternoon at the Public Finance Management Academy of the Budget Department, Ministry of Finance and Revenue and was attended by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin, members of the Management Board of the Public Finance Management Academy, the permanent secretary, heads of departments, trainers, and trainees.

The Union minister spoke on the occasion that, in line with the mission of the Public Finance Management, "Producing capable civil servants to promote a strong public finance management system", trainers taught subjects related to public finance management, such as designing and implementing planning and budgeting, accounting, auditing, and reporting. He encouraged trainees to study and carry out their duties by using these subjects in

order to improve public financial management in pursuit of existing policies, laws, and procedures, leading to the national development and socioeconomic development of the people. He instructed that the trainees should continuously apply what they have learned in the training in their departments, share and discuss with their colleagues, and continue to study and learn. He urged the trainees to strive constantly to improve their performance, and

they will be able to effectively fulfil public service tasks with full responsibility and accountability based on their performance.

Afterwards, the Union minister presented certificates of completion, and a trainee gave words of thanks on behalf of the trainees.

Altogether, 41 trainees from various ministries reportedly attended the course, and it lasted for about three and a half months. — MoFR

NATIONAL

Myanmar and Pakistan to boost friendly ties

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the hall of the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on further strengthening of friendly relations between Myanmar and Pakistan, measures to develop education and women's affairs, and cooperation in organizing medical symposia, exchanging experiences in med-

ical treatment and conducting medical research.

Also, present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw and officials. Officials accompanied the ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

The Pakistani ambassador calls on Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye yesterday.



MoFA Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Maung Swe meets Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on matters per-

taining to the further promotion of bilateral relations and strengthening shared interests for cooperation in various sectors between the two countries.

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

MoEA Union Minister meets Union Legal Aid Board Chairman



Union Minister U Than Maung and Union Legal Aid Board Chair U Maung Maung Shwe meet yesterday.

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Than Maung met Union Legal Aid Board Chairman U Maung Maung Shwe and member U Khin Zaw yesterday evening at the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed issues of cooperation and mutual assistance in the activities of the

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs as a Union Legal Aid Board.

The director-general, deputy permanent secretary and officials from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the Department of Ethnic Rights Protection were also present at the meeting. — MNA

Reentry Rules for Myanmar PJ Passport Holders Returning on Leave

1. Starting from 1 May 2026, Myanmar workers returning to Myanmar on leave must obtain a Letter of Permission for Leave from their employer and have it verified and endorsed by the relevant Myanmar Embassy, mission, or Consulate-General, and must apply for permission to depart again by submitting the required documents along with the endorsed letter issued by the relevant authorities.
2. For workers who returned to Myanmar before 1 May 2026, those who have exceeded a leave period of more than one month, or whose country of employment and workplace differ from those stated on their OWIC, must provide valid reasons and

3. supporting evidence for exceeding the one-month leave period.
3. In most countries where Myanmar citizens are employed, among the prescribed types of leave, except for maternity leave, family care leave, and medical leave, general leave, including annual leave, is typically limited to a maximum of one month. Therefore, verification is conducted to ensure that returning workers are genuinely on approved leave. This is also to ensure that Myanmar workers can be protected under the relevant laws of the host country if they encounter any difficulties at their workplace, as stated in their OWIC, by confirming

4. the actual employer and workplace where they are currently employed.
4. Therefore, Myanmar citizens holding PJ passports who are working abroad and re-enter Myanmar on leave are informed that, to ensure their timely return to their respective workplaces overseas and to avoid loss of employment opportunities, applications with complete and accurate documents will be processed and approval for overseas departure and issuance of a new OWIC card will be performed within one week (including public holidays) systematically and as quickly as possible.

Department of Labour

NATIONAL

Myanmar and Indian armed forces to enhance border security, regional peace and stability

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo received a delegation led by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the measures to enhance friendly relations and further cooperation between the two countries and their armed forces, conditions that have enabled the strengthening of close and cordial relations through mutual visits by State and military leaders, as well as matters related to the exchange of friendship visits at various levels between the two armed forces.

Furthermore, they frankly exchanged views on measures to enhance border security and regional peace and stability, including conditions for strengthened cooperation to wipe out terrorist



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo receives Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

groups along the border areas of the two countries. Their discussions also included the arrangements for security cooperation between the two sides, as well as cooperation between the two navies in conducting joint military

exercises aimed at improving operational capabilities.

Their discussions covered the arrangements for the reciprocal exchange of cultural and sports teams between the two armed forces, issues related to

maritime trade, and the sending of trainees between the two sides. They also exchanged views in a friendly and open manner on Myanmar's efforts to successfully hold a fair and dignified election and, as a government represent-

ing the people, to continue moving forward in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence with neighbouring countries, while maintaining a balanced approach to promoting regional interests.

After the meeting, they exchanged commemorative gifts.

Present at the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy was accompanied by Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Colonel Jaswinder Singh Gill, Defence Attache of the Indian Army to Myanmar, Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, Naval Attache of the Indian Navy to Myanmar, and officials. — MNA/TTA

President's Office Union Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador

UNION Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the hall of the President's office in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday afternoon.

They frankly and cordially exchanged views on ways to enhance the existing friendship between Myanmar and Pakistan, and ways to

promote economic and trade relations.

Present at the meeting were the director-general and officials from the President's Office. — MNA



Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim calls on Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi yesterday.



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NATIONAL

Public Notice

1. In pursuance of the guidance made in the President's address, the Ministry of Immigration and Population is implementing priority tasks for the public within the government's 100-day plan- such as issuing Citizenship Scrutiny Cards (CSC) to citizens aged 18 and above who have not yet obtained them for various reasons, at relevant immigration offices, whereas for students aged 10 and above, the CSCs are being issued in accordance with the law, and Unique Identification (UID) data are being collected through the e-ID system at respective schools under the "La Min Project".
2. Moreover, household lists and citizenship, associate citizenship, and naturalized citizenship documents that were damaged or lost due to the natural disasters and violence are being verified through the e-ID system, and they are being issued by the township-level five-member committee.
3. However, some people are unfamiliar with office procedures and have relied on brokers, resulting in undesirable issues and the acquisition of fraudulent documents.
4. Therefore, the people who wish to carry out matters related to CSCs and household registration are advised to visit the respective township immigration offices in person. Upon arrival, immigration staff at reception counters will register them and assist those who face difficulties throughout the process. If all required documents are complete, services will be provided on the same day. If documents are incomplete, necessary information

will be coordinated among relevant township offices. Information on required documents and procedures has already been made available through vinyl posters and pamphlets distributed at immigration offices.

5. It has been found that fake accounts are advertising online services for issuing household lists and citizenship certificates, and creating fraudulent documents. Legal action is being taken against such activities. Therefore, the public is strongly urged not to engage with brokers or fake accounts and instead to personally visit the relevant township immigration offices to carry out these matters.
 - (a) Account Name - Shwe Yamin
09 444810929, 09 968720062, and 09 955550231
https://www.tiktok.com/@shwe.yamin297?_r=1&_t=ZS-964iVHFIPIm
 - (b) Account Name - Phyu Zin (မှတ်ပုံတင်ရုံး)
09 962738756 and 09 952733267
https://www.tiktok.com/@phyu.zin5906?_r=1&_t=ZS-964iZOY0OeY
 - (c) Account Name - ရတီမေဦးမှတ်ပုံတင်ဝန်ဆောင်မှု
09 985955682 and 09 971355796
https://www.tiktok.com/@wai.yan.moe537?_r=1&_t=ZS-964ikTbUEZM
 - (d) Account Name - မှတ်ပုံတင်ဝန်ဆောင်မှု
09 780788106 and 09 798700781
https://www.tiktok.com/@user26765611615576?_r=1&_t=ZS-964j5cR-wwcM
 - (d) Account Name - Oomin
09 764180425

https://www.tiktok.com/@ooye852?_r=1&_t=ZS-964jDCybqh0

(e) Account Name - Ko Hein
09 971355796, 09 985955682, and 09 785068854
https://www.tiktok.com/@.kohein0?_r=1&_t=ZS-964tOP1yZ3n

6. People are hereby informed that if they want to make enquiries or encounter any inconvenience or difficulty regarding household registration lists and citizenship-related matters, they may contact the following phone numbers during office hours: National Registration and Citizenship Department: 067 3431045/3431056
Electronic Identification System Department: 067 3431551
Kachin State Office: 09 263519787
Kayah State Office: 09 250064050
Kayin State Office: 09 422468982
Chin State Office: 09 400310820
Sagaing Region Office: 09 762641469
Taninthayi Region Office: 09 250950550
Bago Region Office: 09 421060370
Magway Region Office: 09 450064985
Mandalay Region Office: 09 4075906
Mon State Office: 09 692276358
Rakhine State Office: 09 43070789
Yangon Region Office: 09 43035829
Shan State Office: 09 699032805
Deputy Head Office (Shan - North): 09 677618228
Deputy Head Office (Shan - East): 09 428235148
Ayeyawady Region Office: 09 898942069
Union Territory Office: 09 427227011
Ministry of Immigration and Population

UEC Chair leads biannual inspection, maintenance of election voting machines

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe, together with Commission Member U Than Aung Kyaw and Nay Pyi Taw Council members Colonel Ye Moe and U Khin Maung Latt, inspected the maintenance and six-monthly inspections of electronic voting machines (MEVMs) used in eight townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory during the 2025 general election, yesterday afternoon.

The Chairman reviewed the examinations, findings and repairs of the Myanmar electronic voting machines used in the 2025 general elec-

tion, carried out by officials and technicians from the relevant Election Commission branches in the eight townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

He instructed that the voting machines are controlled items and should be stored and maintained systematically to prevent damage, with careful attention paid to regular six-monthly inspections. — MNA/MKKS

Union Election Commission Chair U Than Soe is seen during his inspection tour.



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NATIONAL



Indian Navy warships are seen during a three-day goodwill visit upon their arrival at Thilawa Port.

Indian Navy warships arrive in Yangon for 3-day goodwill visit

INDIAN Navy warships INS Satpura (F-48) and INS Sunayna (P-57) arrived at the MITT Jetty at Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday evening for a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The warships were welcomed by senior officers and naval personnel from the Tat-

madaw (Navy).

Carrying a total of 527 officers and other ranks, the vessels will remain for three days, until 6 May.

During their stay, the crew members will visit well-known landmarks in Yangon and participate in friendly sports competitions. — MNA/MKKS

CAPI system training for monsoon paddy survey

A practical training on collecting data for 2026-2027 monsoon paddy fields using mobile-based CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) system was conducted in Yangon.

The training aims to ensure accurate and timely data collection on paddy cultivation areas by village, field and crop varieties, as well as the number of plots under cultivation. Officials said the upgraded system will allow faster and more precise ground data collection, benefiting both the government and farmers.

The session was led by officials from the Settlement and Land Records Department, including Deputy Director Dr Ye Tun, who explained the use of mobile devices with CAPI and CSPro software for data collection. A total of 58 staff from Yangon Region, Lower Myanmar and Rakhine State land records offices attended and will further conduct multiplier training in their respective townships. — Oktha/KZL



The training on collecting 2026-2027 monsoon paddy fields data is underway in Yangon.

Nationwide Youth Maritime, Aviation Training Launched at Multiple Camps

TO enable students and young people to develop their knowledge during the summer holidays, make good use of their time, pursue their interests, and nurture a future generation of professionals in maritime and aviation fields for the nation, Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) simultaneously opened both Basic and Advanced Maritime Youth Courses, as well as Basic and Advanced Aviation Youth Courses, at training camps in various townships on 27 April.

Opening ceremonies for the Basic and Advanced Aviation Youth Courses were held simultaneously at training camps in the respective townships on 27 April, and training is now underway.

At the maritime youth training camps, a total of 800 trainees are receiving instruction from responsible instructors across 13 Tatmadaw (Navy) camps. Training subjects include basic military drill, military history, navigation, astronomy and compass use. The trainees include 45 from Nay Pyi Taw Camp 1 in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 50 from Nay Pyi Taw Camp 2, 100 from Inya Camp in Yangon, 35 from Cocokyun, 120 from Hpa-an in Kayin State, 60 from Kengtung in Shan State, 50 from Hainggyikyun, 65 from Pathein, 60 from Mawlamyine in Mon State, 40 from Heinze in Taninthayi Region, 50 from Myeik, 50 from Kyunsu, and 75 from Mandalay in Mandalay Region.

Similarly, Basic Aviation Youth Course No 10 and Advanced Aviation Youth Course No 9 commenced on 27 April, with a total of



This photo shows aviation youth trainees during a training session.



This image highlights maritime youth trainees during a training session.

1,044 trainees attending 20 training camps under the supervision of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air). These include 54 trainees from Pyay, 50 from Mawlamyine, 60 from Taunggyi, 50 from Magway, 50 from Homalin, 65 from Nay Pyi Taw and 50 from Kengtung, all receiving training from qualified instructors.

The aviation courses cover

subjects such as basic military studies, the history of aviation and aviation youth programmes, fundamentals of flight, basic aviation knowledge, airfield procedures, the history of the independence struggle, and practical skills, including RC aeroplane and helicopter piloting, as well as simulator training. Training is continuing at the remaining camps. — MNA/MKKS

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



200+ container vessels call at Yangon Port in Jan-Apr

A total of 235 container vessels arrived at the Yangon Port in the first four months (January-April) 2026, Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Yangon Port saw arrivals of 53 container vessels in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in January 2026. This month, 57 vessels are slated to call at the Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 728 container vessels in 2025, 633 in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port

Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-m Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port has handled. — NN/KK



File photo shows containers being loaded and unloaded aboard container vessels at the international port of Yangon.

Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to bid for rural infrastructure project

THE Yangon Region Department of Rural Development invited Myanmar citizen entrepreneurs to submit tenders for the construction of rural production roads and bridges, and rural water supply projects within townships under its supervision, with the use of the Union Budget and the Yangon Region Gov-

ernment Fund.

Tender application forms will be available by 14 May. The deadline for tender submission is 4:30 pm on 14 May, and the tender opening will take place on 19 May at the office of the Director of the Yangon Region Department of Rural Development.

A pre-bidding presenta-

tion will be held at 10 am on 12 May at the Yangon Region Rural Development Department, located at 245, Thanlyetsun Road, Botahtaung Township. Individuals can enquire about details by dialling 01 9010650 or emailing ygn.drd@drdmyanmar.net during office hours. — NN/KK

Bridges Dept calls tenders for Ayeyawady (Thayet-Aunglan) Bridge materials procurement

MYANMAR citizen business people are invited to submit bids for the procurement of construction materials, transport services, and equipment rental required for the Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) construction project in Magway Region, according to the Tender Committee of the Bridges Department operated under the Ministry of Construction.

The project is being car-

ried out by Construction Task Force 3 and Special Bridge Task Force 7 of the Department with the Union Capital Expenditure of the 2026-2027 financial year.

Task Forces and forms can be purchased at the Bridges Department (Construction Task Force 3), Director (Civil) Office, Myitta Road, South Okkalapa (Myintha), Yangon, and at the Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) Construc-

tion Project Office starting from 4 May. The deadline for tender submission is 9 am on 20 May. Tender opening will take place at 10 am on 21 May at the briefing hall of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) project, Office of the Director (Civil) Office in Aunglan.

Interested individuals can contact the details at 09 43165108, 09 5175675, 09 401556233, and 09 254322540. — NN/KK

Myanmar to deepen industrial, investment cooperation with SCO member states



Attendees at the Green and Sustainable Development Forum held in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, China.

MYANMAR will cooperate with China's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its member states in the industrial and investment sectors, said Myanmar Ambassador to China U Zaw Win Myint.

The Ambassador made that remark while delivering a speech at the Green and Sustainable Development Forum held in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, China, on 28-30 April.

Green and sustainable development is crucial, and Myanmar is undertaking efforts in renewable energy, environmental conservation, and enriching natural resources. Myanmar

will be working together with neighbouring China to achieve its environmental conservation and sustainable development goals, he added.

Through regional cooperation, the country will accelerate efforts in carbon reduction and promote a green environment. As China is a key partner of Myanmar, both sides will collaborate on renewable energy and foster a sustainable green environment.

Myanmar is willing to work with the SCO on clean energy, a green environment, and sustainable agricultural development. — ASH/KK

OPINION

Honour firefighters for their sacrifice in efforts

IN Myanmar, the majority of fires are caused by negligence, with other causes including cooking fires, spontaneous combustion, electrical fires, forest fires, and arson.

A fire caused by an individual's negligence can not only result in death and injury to people but also destroy homes and property that have been built up through years of effort and savings. Along with such loss and destruction, the morale and hopes that people have built their lives upon are also diminished. Therefore, preventing fire hazards caused by individual negligence requires not only awareness and responsibility but also the collective strength and unity of the public.

During the summer, forest fires also occur frequently. When such fires destroy forests and hills, they can have a direct impact on the climate. Deforestation and forest fires damage the socio-economic lives of people living in the surrounding areas.

In 2025, a total of 1,018 fire incidents occurred nationwide, with losses amounting to K9,255.7 million, according to an announcement by the relevant department. Therefore, efforts must be made each year to reduce the damage and losses caused by fires. In responding to major fires and natural disasters, personnel of the Myanmar Fire Brigade have worked tirelessly in firefighting, disregarding risks to their lives and physical safety.

In 2025, a total of 1,018 fire incidents occurred nationwide, with losses amounting to K9,255.7 million, according to an announcement by the relevant department. Therefore, efforts must be made each year to reduce the damage and losses caused by fires. In responding to major fires and natural disasters, personnel of the Myanmar Fire Brigade have worked tirelessly in firefighting, disregarding risks to their lives and physical safety.

5th May of this year marks the 80th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day. Firefighters are carrying out firefighting and search-and-rescue operations during natural disasters using modern vehicles and advanced technologies, enabling rapid detection, rapid response, and rapid suppression. The public is therefore urged to promptly report fire incidents and natural disasters by calling the Fire Services emergency number 191 and to cooperate in response efforts.

In such degraded environments, it becomes difficult to carry out agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods. As the natural environment deteriorates, it often takes many years to return to its original condition.

Due to climatic conditions, fires can ignite easily. Without water, it is not possible to extinguish them. Therefore, water should be used efficiently. As a fire engine carrying 800 gallons of water can spray for only about three to five minutes, it is necessary to provide hydrants and fire-fighting water reservoirs in every ward and village.

In addition, fire brigades should be formed at the local and workplace levels to safeguard communities. The Department of Fire Services is also providing auxiliary firefighting training courses. As fire hazards cannot be fully prevented and managed by the department alone, young people should attend such training and work in cooperation with the department to help protect their communities.

ON 25 April 2026, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, visited Myanmar, meeting with Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe at the invitation of the latter.

It was the very first delegation of high-level diplomats visiting Myanmar within a month that the country had established its new government and parliament following the 2025-26 General Election. What is more, Chi-



President U Min Aung Hlaing and China's Ambassador Ms Ma Jia exchange handshakes.

The kinsfolk diplomacy

By Thet Mon Tun

nese President Xi Jinping was the first to send a congratulatory message to our president, U Min Aung Hlaing, within hours of his election as president. Again, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia was also the very first

ambassador to pay a courtesy call on President U Min Aung Hlaing on 6 April. Furthermore, Special Envoy of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, Jiang Xinzhi, who is also the vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, attended the presidential inauguration ceremony and met President U Min Aung Hlaing on 10 April in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is learned that China's policy towards Myanmar remains constant in supporting Myanmar's own development path that suits its national conditions; and supporting Myanmar's national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. During the visit, Chinese FM Wang Yi also said: "China has always been and will remain a truly reliable friend and partner of Myanmar and is willing to deepen practical cooperation".

Strategic collaboration for pragmatic benefits

This year marks the beginning of a new chapter for Myanmar and its people under the leadership of the newly elected government. People's hopes and expectations revive. The previous Thingyan Festival seems a forerunner of Myanmar's enduring peace, development and prosperity. The Myanmar people, with resilient characteristics, have overcome tests and challenges that came from many directions

in recent years. This year's Thingyan was so emotional, full of peace, joyfulness, and auspiciousness – a signal of a well-prepared eagerness of the nation to proceed to follow the development routes.

This year also marks the initial year of China's 15th Five-Year Plan. Both sides are expected to join hands not only in advancing their respective modernization and national rejuvenation processes, but also in promoting regional security, peace and integrity.

China's 15th Five-Year Plan, which was approved in March 2026's Two Sessions, outlines re-framing and upgrading the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) toward



Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi pays a courtesy call on Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing.

high-quality development. Other areas involve digital infrastructure, green energy, Artificial Intelligence, robotic technology and many priorities.

Simply thought, it is a good opportunity to reconstruct and improve electricity accessibility and infrastructure of Myanmar under strategic cooperation in energy and oil and gas sectors, and implement the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor by taking benefits from the initiation of the 15th Five-Year Plan of China.

"Together implementing the four global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping (Global Development Initiative, Global Se-

curity Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative, and Global Governance Initiative), we would like to build high-quality Belt and Road Initiative for long-lasting China-Myanmar community with a shared future to ensure economic development outcomes for the people," Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia remarked during the meeting of the first-quarter of China-Myanmar media briefing held on 26 March 2026 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon.

Pauk-Phaw tie strengthens over time

The world has entered a turbulent hostility. Myanmar firmly supports the global peace pro-

posed by Chinese wisdom. Both President U Min Aung Hlaing and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe reiterated that Myanmar firmly supports the four global initiatives proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping (GDI, GSI, GCI and GGI) for the well-being of the world; and the four-point proposal put forward by Chinese President for peace and stability in the Middle East, during their meeting with Chinese FM Wang Yi on 25 April.

Moreover, the two countries jointly uphold the Bandung Spirit or the values of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence for preserving world peace and encouraging multilateralism.

This year 2026, also marks the 76th Anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations. Bound by history, geography and culture, the two intertwined countries and their people enjoy a time-honoured fraternal (Pauk Phaw) tie – a bond that Myanmar reserves only for China in its diplomatic agenda.

"Pauk Phaw" is a Burmese term, meaning "kinsfolk" or "close relatives." It symbolizes the enduring bond between Myanmar and China, reflecting a friendship that extends over a thousand years. Although formal diplomatic relations were established on 8 June 1950, just a few months after the founding of the New China, exchanges and interactions between these two ancient civilizations had already been taking place for centuries. In 2011, the tie was upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

During the last week's talks, both sides discussed ways to further strengthen the "Pauk Phaw" relations between Myanmar and

China, the building of a Community with a Shared Future, and the momentous acceleration of existing friendly ties and practical cooperation. They reaffirmed to accelerate a pragmatic bilateral strategic partnership and high-level exchanges. They also exchanged views on continued cooperation to maintain peace and stability along the shared border; China's support for Myanmar's peace process and socioeconomic development, and increased cooperation based on good neighbourliness in combating online scamming and illegal activities in border areas. Both sides further emphasized mutual support in regional and international arenas and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting mutually beneficial cooperation. Myanmar reiterated its unwavering support for the One China Principle.

Chinese FM stated in the talk with Myanmar's Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe that China would continue to support Myanmar's peace process and remain a reliable neighbour upon which Myanmar can depend, based on the "Pauk Phaw" friendship.

"Neighbours helping neighbours and building an amicable neighbourhood is part of Chinese tradition and culture", – Wang Yi said during the press conference held last month in Beijing as part of China's Two Sessions meetings.

"Neighbour" also in Myanmar culture is often even better than the faraway relatives. It is a blessing that great neighbours are coexisting peacefully, with mutual benefits. People of Myanmar and China will truly carry this fraternal tie to our next generations by sharing weal and woe.

icant revival beginning in 2025. This development is particularly encouraging, as younger generations had previously become increasingly detached from the traditional performing arts, resulting in a marked decline in cultural awareness. Today, however, platforms such as TikTok have become instrumental in reintroducing these cultural forms, with a growing volume of content related to traditional theatre gaining widespread popularity.

Actually reinforcing relationship. In recent years, there has been a noticeable resurgence of interest among Myanmar youth in revitalizing and modernizing traditional culture. One prominent example is Myanmar's traditional theatrical performance, which has experienced a signif-

icant revival beginning in 2025. This development is particularly encouraging, as younger generations had previously become increasingly detached from the traditional performing arts, resulting in a marked decline in cultural awareness. Today, however, platforms such as TikTok have become instrumental in reintroducing these cultural forms, with a growing volume of content related to traditional theatre gaining widespread popularity.

Revitalizing Tradition: Strengthening Myanmar's Soft Power through Cultural Renaissance

By Soe Khant Lin

TRADITIONAL culture constitutes a vital component of a nation's soft power. In the contemporary global landscape, it is evident that Korean culture has exerted a profound influence for over two decades. The widespread prominence of Korean artists

across global media platforms clearly demonstrates this. Similarly, in Myanmar, over the past decades, Chinese television dramas have grown in popularity, significantly contributing to the diffusion of Chinese cultural elements. Indian films also gained considerable traction,

thereby extending the reach of Indian culture. In addition, Thai culture has had a notable influence on Myanmar society, while Filipino cultural elements are increasingly shaping the preferences and lifestyles of today's youth.

A nation's culture not only

reflects its level of civilizational development but also serves as a powerful tool for attracting international tourists, thereby contributing to national revenue generation. Myanmar's traditional culture, in this regard, possesses the potential to stand on par with those of other na-

tions on the global stage. Consequently, it is incumbent upon Myanmar's youth to preserve their cultural heritage while actively promoting it to the international community. Such

efforts require a collaborative approach: the government must provide institutional support, while citizens should actively participate and contribute to these initiatives, fostering a mu-

tually reinforcing relationship. In recent years, there has been a noticeable resurgence of interest among Myanmar youth in revitalizing and modernizing traditional culture. One prominent example is Myanmar's traditional theatrical performance, which has experienced a signif-

NATIONAL

Maritime, aviation trainees visit Sixth Buddhist Council 70th Anniversary Exhibition

BASIC and advanced maritime training courses of Tatmadaw (Navy) and the basic and advanced aviation training courses of Tatmadaw (Air) were launched on 27 April in respective townships.

Trainees, instructors, and coaches from these maritime and aviation youth training courses visited the exhibition marking the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council at the Maha Pasana Cave in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

The group observed and read the commemorative stone inscription marking the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council, toured the ten booths that describe details from the First to Sixth Buddhist Councils and religious activities of



Maritime and aviation youth trainees are pictured observing the exhibition at the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council celebration.

today. The relevant officials of the Department of Archaeological and National Museum (Yangon Branch) clarified the facts during the question-and-answer sessions.

The group then received words of advice from the Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Agga Maha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Hsekinda.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin briefed them on the history of the Sixth Buddhist Council, and the Yangon Command commander made a greeting speech.

The ceremony marking the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council was held for three days from 30 April to 2 May, and the exhibition is open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm daily until 10 May. — MNA/KTZH

Efforts underway to launch nationwide handicraft showroom by year-end



Images showcase handicraft items made of bamboo on display.

EFFORTS are being made to implement a handicraft showroom by the end of this year in Nay Pyi Taw, U Kyaw Win, a bamboo artisan, shared this information with The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The showroom aims to showcase the creative works of artisans from Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, and various other states and regions, effectively creating a collaborative market.

He explained: "We are trying to implement a system where producers can gather

to display and sell collectively. To achieve this, we plan to set up a showroom in Nay Pyi Taw that features items from various locations. Currently, entrepreneurs are working independently with no direct contact between buyers and producers. By opening this showroom, we can bring everyone together. It will be more convenient for both parties."

The project is slated for implementation by the end of this year, and several entrepreneurs have already been notified. Artisans from across

the nation will be invited to participate. If they are unable to attend, they may send the handicraft items for display.

Once established, the showroom is expected to foster stronger connections between sellers and buyers and create opportunities to enter the international market. Furthermore, he stated that once the plan is fully realized, there are ambitions to collaborate with government departments to open vocational training courses for bamboo and rattan crafts. — MT/ZN

UMTA conducts Kengtung & Tachilek Cultural Journey FAM Trip

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) recently conducted a study tour titled the Kengtung & Tachilek Cultural Journey Familiarization (FAM) Trip to facilitate future tourism planning and attract international travellers to Eastern Shan State.

The five-day, four-night trip from 23 to 27 April was led by the UMTA Tourism Promotion and Marketing Committee in collaboration with the UMTA Eastern Shan State Zone. The FAM Trip was organized with several key goals, including introducing tourism professionals to the region's unique cultural

heritage and natural beauty, exploring diverse Community-Based Tourism (CBT) experiences, increasing the profile of Kengtung and Tachilek as attractive destinations, and laying the groundwork for international tourism expansion in Eastern Shan State.

This visit follows a previous study tour conducted from 28 February to 3 March on the Yangon-Hpa-An-Yangon route. UMTA stated that they will continue to organize periodic study tours for their members to enhance regional knowledge and foster the overall development of the tourism industry. — MT/ZN



UMTA delegation members are pictured during the Kengtung & Tachilek Cultural Journey FAM Trip.

Revitalizing Tradition: Strengthening Myanmar's ...

FROM PAGE 9

Within Myanmar's traditional performing arts, the lead male performer, or Zat Min Thar (traditional artiste), holds particular cultural significance. Contemporary performers are not only youthful and visually appealing but also highly skilled and innovative, embodying both technical proficiency and creative adaptability. Historically, figures such as U Pho Sein were regarded as foundational icons of Myanmar's theatrical tradition, often referred to as the "father" of Zat Tha Pin. In the generations that followed, well-known Zat Min Thar (artistes) such as Shwe Man Tin Maung, Chan Thar, and Thein Zaw achieved national acclaim. More recently, over the past two decades, Zat Min Thar Moe Win, Moe Min, Tin Maung San Min Win, Han Zar Moe Win, Phoe Chit, and Swan Zarni have risen to prominence, each contributing uniquely to the evolution of the



art form.

In the present era, younger artistes (Zat Min Thar) such as San Yay Moe and Aung Zabu have gained widespread popularity among youth audiences across the country. Notably, in

2026, Min Thar "San Yay Moe" has emerged as a prominent figure on TikTok, where his performances, encompassing both singing and dancing, frequently attract significant attention. His ability to per-

form classical Myanmar songs alongside contemporary pieces, his strong engagement with audiences, and his innovative reinterpretation of traditional dances such as the "Myay Wine" and "Mal Aung Bala"

have made him particularly influential. Through his work, he has successfully reintroduced elements of Myanmar's cultural heritage to younger generations. His success is further exemplified by becoming one of the first traditional performers in Myanmar to organize a fan meeting, marking a significant milestone in the modernization of the art form.

In light of these developments, it is imperative to further support and empower Myanmar youth who are actively contributing to the preservation and promotion of traditional culture. The government should play a proactive role in nurturing such talents, while simultaneously advancing initiatives to elevate Myanmar's cultural presence on the international stage. By implementing this strategy, the nation can effectively enhance its soft power and ensure the enduring vitality of its cultural heritage.

Tech giants ramp up AI spending, but returns remain uncertain

GLOBAL technology companies are set to spend unprecedented sums on artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, even as concerns mount over weak returns and uncertain business models, according to a latest Greed & Fear report by Jefferies.

The report, titled "The mother of all capex cycles", highlights that AI-related capital expenditure by major US tech players could reach about

US\$700 billion this year and US\$800 billion next year, reflecting the scale of the ongoing investment surge.

"This number represents about two per cent of US GDP and about 20 per cent of US non-residential fixed investment," the report noted, adding that it is also "equivalent to nearly 30 per cent of total non-financial pre-tax profits of all US companies." — ANI

Humpback whale stranded in Germany released into North Sea

A humpback whale that had been struggling to survive after beaching near the German coast was Saturday released into the North Sea off Denmark after being transported in a barge, a member of a rescue mission said.

Dubbed "Timmy" by the German media, the whale was first spotted stuck on a sand-

bank on 23 March near the city of Luebeck before freeing itself and then becoming stuck again several times.

The whale left the barge it had been towed on from Wismar Bay on the Baltic coast at around 8:45 am (0645 GMT), said Karin Walter-Mommert from the rescue initiative. — AFP

'Second life': Vintage Fiat 500s get electric makeover



Owner of the Officine Gentile garage, Giovanni Gentile sits at the wheel of an electric Fiat 500 Jolly Lido model at his workshop in Turin on 30 April 2026. PHOTO: MARCO BERTORELLO / AFP

IN a workshop in Turin — the historic home of Italian carmaker Fiat — vintage 500 models are getting a makeover with electric engines.

Classic Fiat 500s, made between 1957 and 1975, are being brought "into the 21st century", said Giovanni Gentile, owner of Officine Gentile.

Outside the workshop, rusty hulks of the tiny, curvy

cars are lined up waiting their turn.

Inside, sparks fly as workers cut and weld the metal. The cars then get re-painted, re-wired and the electric engines are installed.

The charging socket is hidden behind the vintage Fiat symbol at the front of the car.

Many of the re-vamped cars are painted in pastel col-

ours and some are convertibles.

The retrofitted cars sell for around 40-50,000 euros, with convertibles for up to 80,000 euros. The original Fiat 500 became a design icon and some 4.2 million models were made.

They are still popular with vintage car enthusiasts the world over and regularly attract large rallies around Italy and beyond. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

ADB pledges US\$70 bln to boost energy, digital connectivity in Asia-Pacific



A woman walks past the logo of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) outside the bank's headquarters in Manila on 15 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Sunday it will commit up to US\$70 billion by 2035 to two initiatives to integrate power grids, expand cross-border electricity trade, and strengthen broadband access across the Asia-Pacific region.

ADB President Masato Kanda launched the Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative and the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway at the bank's 59th annual meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan's second-largest city.

"Energy and digital access will define the region's future," said Kanda, adding that by "link-

ing power grids and digital networks across borders, we can lower costs, expand opportunity, and bring reliable power and digital access to hundreds of millions of people."

According to Kanda, the Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative seeks to connect national and subregional power systems to enable the cross-border flow of renewable energy. The Asia-Pacific Digital Highway aims to close the digital infrastructure gap and help the region harness artificial intelligence-driven growth.

Under the Pan-Asia Power

Grid Initiative, the ADB aims to mobilize \$50 billion by 2035 for cross-border power infrastructure, focusing on transmission lines, substations, storage, and grid digitalization.

Under the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway, the ADB will mobilize \$20 billion to finance digital corridors, data infrastructure, and AI-ready economies.

The ADB is a leading multilateral development bank supporting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth across Asia and the Pacific. Founded in 1966, it has 69 members — 50 from the region. — Xinhua

Cambodia's Angkor Wat 2nd most attractive tourist destination in Asia for 2026: TripAdvisor

CAMBODIAN Minister of Tourism Huot Hak said on Monday that the iconic Angkor Wat has been ranked second among Asia's most attractive tourist destinations in 2026 by TripAdvisor.

The minister announced this in a text posted on his official social media platforms, with TripAdvisor's list of Asia's top 25 tourist destinations, which also saw Singapore's Gardens by the Bay ranked first and India's Taj Mahal placed third.

TripAdvisor said on its website that Angkor Wat is a world wonder, with its architecture and intricate carvings, and that many people visit it at sunrise. "Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site and admire its architecture and intricate carvings," TripAdvisor said. — Xinhua

New Zealand, Singapore sign pact to safeguard fuel, food supplies

NEW ZEALAND and Singapore signed a new agreement on Monday to safeguard the flow of essential goods, including fuel and food, amid growing global supply chain risks.

The signing of the deal on trade in essential supplies in Singapore, witnessed by the two countries' prime ministers, guarantees neither country will impose export restrictions on the other, and formalizes practical cooperation on supply chain resilience, said a New Zealand government statement.

"With a third of New Zealand's fuel refined in Singapore, this agreement turns trust into action, and right now, that's keeping fuel flowing to New Zealand when it matters most," New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon was quoted as saying. — Xinhua

Vietnam's manufacturing expansion slows in April on rising costs: S&P Global

VIETNAMESE manufacturers recorded a decline in new orders in April as inflationary pressures rose to their highest level in 15 years, driven by surging fuel and oil costs, according to a report released Monday by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The S&P Global Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell to a seven-month low of 50.5 in April from 51.2 in March. The reading signalled a tenth consecutive monthly improvement in overall business conditions in the sector, the report said. Andrew Harker, economics director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said the price and supply disruptions stemming from the Middle East conflict continued to bear down on growth in the Vietnamese manufacturing sector in April, with rising costs for fuel, oil and transportation hampering both demand and supply. — Xinhua



Boxes to collect used clothing and goods are installed at a convenience store operated by FamilyMart Co in Tokyo on 13 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FamilyMart stores start collecting used clothing, goods to reduce waste

SELECT FamilyMart convenience stores in Tokyo have installed boxes to collect used clothing and household goods for reuse, joining similar initiatives taken by retailers, as a step to reduce waste and attract more customers.

In a trial launched jointly with Bookoff Group Holdings Ltd, which buys and sells used goods, boxes were installed in

around 30 FamilyMart stores in residential areas of Tokyo. Bookoff plans to sell some of the collected items overseas, including to Malaysia.

FamilyMart Co said that clothing deemed unsuitable for reuse will be recycled into new fibre.

The drive is the first collaborative project since Itochu Corp, the parent company of

FamilyMart, formed a capital tie-up with Bookoff Group in February.

The project builds on FamilyMart's existing food drive charity programme, which has been implemented in about 4,900 of its 16,400 stores nationwide, where people can drop off excess household food items to be donated to those in need. — Kyodo

Dubai airport passenger traffic drops 66% over Mideast war



(File) A picture shows passengers walking towards the gates at terminal 3 at Dubai international Airport in the Gulf emirate of Dubai on 16 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

DUBAI airport's passenger traffic plunged by two-thirds in March following Iran's attacks on the United Arab Emirates during the Middle East war, the emirate's media office said in a statement on Monday.

Traveller numbers at Dubai International, usually the world's busiest for international passenger

traffic, sank to 2.5 million, down 66 per cent year on year, Dubai Media Office said.

The airport endured "a period of regional disruption that significantly constrained airspace capacity and flight schedules", it said.

"With airspace within the UAE now fully restored, Dubai Airports is moving decisively to scale up operations, increasing flight movements in line with available regional routing capacity."

Dubai International was targeted several times by drones as the oil-rich UAE bore the brunt of Iran's retaliation for US-Israeli strikes. — AFP

Singapore's regulator works with banks, agencies to use AI in fight against financial crime

THE Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said Monday it is working with the banking industry, the Government Technology Agency of Singapore and the Singapore Police Force to strengthen the detection of financial crime using artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) tools.

MAS said in a statement that as part of broader efforts to explore industry-wide use cases, it has launched a Proof-of-Value (POV) initiative to test AI/ML techniques for early detection of scams. The initiative brings together

data from five banks to develop models aimed at identifying higher-risk transactions and accounts.

MAS said earlier identification of suspicious activity could support faster assessment and intervention, potentially reducing customer losses to scams.

To support the initiative, MAS has established a secure data-sharing environment governed by industry protocols to safeguard customer information. Data used in the exercise will remain confidential and protected using cryptographic techniques. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WANTONG SUMMER VOY.NO. (SW2606)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WANTONG SUMMER VOY.NO. (SW2606)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NJ CALLISTO VOY.NO. (03/2026)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NJ CALLISTO VOY.NO. (03/2026)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR/SPW** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0B80ZS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0B80ZS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2609E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2609E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2026** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26016)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26016)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2026** 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 CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB616A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB616A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2026** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Indonesia Sets Sights on Transforming Bali Into Global Financial Centre

WITH global geopolitical instability on the rise, Indonesia is exploring the possibility of turning Bali into a safe international financial haven — a move aimed at attracting foreign capital, according to Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto.

The government is already laying the regulatory groundwork to set up a special economic zone (SEZ) dedicated to the financial sector on the island, with the Kura Kura Bali SEZ identified as a key site, Hartarto said.

The initiative comes on the heels of President Prabowo Subianto's earlier announcement — made against the backdrop of the Iran conflict — to create a financial hub specifically for investors moving capital out of more volatile areas.

Authorities anticipate that the project will boost Indonesia's status as a "safe haven for international capital", building on Bali's image as a stable global destination. Bali Turtle Island Development reports that the Kura Kura Bali SEZ is developing a knowledge district ecosystem featuring an innovation hub and an international mangrove research centre.



Tourists walk along Kuta beach near Denpasar on Indonesia's resort island of Bali on 8 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

In Q1 2026, the SEZ drew 1.62 trillion IDR (around US\$93 million) in investment and created more than 2,100 jobs.

Another economic engine on the island is the Sanur SEZ, which is devoted to medical tourism. In Q1 2026, it drew 5.37 trillion IDR (around \$310 million) in in-

vestments, created more than 5,400 jobs, and welcomed nearly 280,000 visitors.

Official statistics show that foreign direct investment in Indonesia reached 250 trillion IDR (approximately \$14.4 billion) in January–March 2026. — SPUTNIK

Japan astronomers launch group to look for aliens, radio observations eyed



Shinya Narusawa (2nd from L) and others announce the launch of the Japanese Society for SETI in Kobe on 8 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ASTRONOMERS in Japan have recently launched what they say is the country's first organization dedicated to the search for alien life, with radio observations planned in the summer next year.

"They must exist somewhere in the universe. I'm excited to be putting this into action," said Shinya Narusawa, an astrophysical expert at the University of Hyogo and head of the Japanese Society

for SETI — the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

Narusawa, a 61-year-old leading expert in the SETI field, was behind the initiative, bringing together some 10 people such as astronomers and observatory researchers to form the group.

It is planning to conduct observations in August next year in the direction of the Sagittarius constellation at the Misato

Observatory in Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, to mark 50 years since a strong radio signal believed to have come from space was detected by an Ohio State University telescope in the United States in 1977.

Dubbed the "Wow! Signal," it originated from near the Sagittarius constellation and is known as the strongest candidate for an alien radio transmission ever detected. The signal continues to be studied in the United States as a potential sign of extraterrestrial intelligence, but it remains a mystery.

"We will call on the world to conduct concentrated observations toward the source of the radio wave," the group launched in April said on its website.

In the future, the group aims to build a domestic antenna network to enable constant observation, in the hope that sustained monitoring would improve the reliability of the search. "We want to eventually build a research network in Japan comparable to that in the United States," Narusawa said. "I hope people learn about our efforts to search for extraterrestrial civilizations, and that it can also prompt us to rethink Earth, where wars between humans continue." — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's child population falls for 45th straight year to new low 13.29 mln

JAPAN'S child population has shrunk to an estimated 13.29 million as of 1 April, down 350,000 from a year earlier and marking a new record low, the government said Monday.

The ratio of children under 15 dropped 0.3 percentage point to 10.8 per cent of the total population, also the lowest since comparable data became available in 1950, according to data released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications ahead of the national Children's Day holiday on Tuesday.

The figures, including foreign residents, were calculated using population estimates that are based on a national census conducted every five years.

While the Japanese government has prioritized measures to address the declining birthrate and designated the period through 2030 as a "final opportunity to reverse the trend", the decline has continued for 45 years despite steps such as expanding financial support for child-rearing households.

By gender, there were 6.81 million boys and 6.48 million girls, according to the data.

By age, 3.09 million children were 12 to 14, whereas 2.13 million were 0 to 2, indicating a trend of fewer children being born. — Kyodo

6.1-magnitude earthquake strikes central Philippines

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Eastern Samar Province in the central Philippines, at 2:09 pm local time on Monday, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10.0 kilometres, was initially determined to be at 11.76 degrees north latitude and 125.37 degrees east longitude, according to the institute.

Residents have evacuated to open outdoor areas, and no casualties have been reported so far, according to local media.

The Philippines experiences frequent seismic activity due to its location along the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a zone of major tectonic plate boundaries known for earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar athletes intensify training for 20th SEA Bodybuilding & Physique Championships

MYANMAR national bodybuilding athletes are currently in training camp in preparation for the 20th South-East Asia Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships, which Myanmar will host from 14 to 18 May.

“We selected the athletes in January and February 2026. For the competition, we have chosen two athletes for each category based on the specified standards across 22 events. Together with officials and coaches, we are conducting training sessions twice a day. Many of the participants in this competition are new-generation athletes. Only about two or three have previous international competition experience. As the host country, we are aiming to win medals. Our main competitors are Vietnam and Malaysia,”

said Daw Tin Ma Ma Myo, women’s coach and joint secretary of Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation.

“I have been engaged in bodybuilding for about ten years, and this will be my first time competing in the South East Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships. My younger brother, Tun Min Aung, will compete in the 70-kilogramme category. As the host nation, we will strive to win gold medals,” said Aung Htut, who will compete in the 60-kilogramme category.

“I have previously competed in South-East Asian and Asian competitions and won a silver medal. I have been training for about three months for this competition. The selected male and



Myanmar athletes are seen undergoing intensive training sessions.

female athletes are striving to win championship titles for the country,” said Mie Mie Kyaw Nang, a female athlete competing in the 160 cm category.

Myanmar will compete in all

weight categories of the competitions, which will be held at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC), Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon. More than 100 athletes from

ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and the Philippines, will participate in the competition. — Bala/KTZH

Sinner routs Zverev to win Madrid Open, claims fifth straight Masters title

WORLD No 1 Jannik Sinner needed less than an hour to defeat Alexander Zverev and win the Mutua Madrid Open title on Sunday.

Sinner required just 58 minutes to seal a 6-1, 6-2 victory over the second seed, who was chasing his third Madrid title.

The win made Sinner the first man to claim five consecutive Masters 1,000 titles, following triumphs in Paris last year and in Indian Wells, Miami and Monte-Carlo in 2026.

His performance was so dominant that Sinner did not face a single break point against an opponent well suited to Madrid’s clay conditions.

“I’m very happy that I’ve continued to believe in myself. I’m showing up every day, at every practice session, trying to put in the right work with the right discipline. To do so, you need to have the right team behind you, which I have. I’m very happy about me, but also the team, and this means a lot to all of us,” Sinner said. — Xinhua

Inter seals Serie A title as top-four race tightens

INTER Milan clinched its 21st Serie A title with three rounds to spare on Sunday after a 2-0 win over Parma at San Siro.

Goals from Marcus Thuram and Henrikh Mkhitaryan secured the victory, sealing Inter’s second league title in three seasons.

Inter entered the match with a nine-point lead over second-placed Napoli, which had been held to a 0-0 draw by Como on Saturday, meaning a single point was enough to confirm the title.

The home side dominated early but struggled to break

down Parma until first-half stoppage time, when Piotr Zielinski’s pass found Thuram, who fired home.

Inter maintained the pressure after the break and doubled its lead in the 80th minute, as Lautaro Martinez set up fellow substitute Mkhitaryan for a close-range finish.

“I’m happy for these players, for the club and for the fans, because they had to put up with the narrative and the teasing from those who always tried to downplay the work they had done,” said coach Cristian Chivu. “The team did well to

roll up their sleeves, rebuild, and find the right motivation to have a competitive season.”

Elsewhere, AC Milan lost 2-0 to Sassuolo despite playing more than an hour with 10 men, while Juventus was held 1-1 at home by already-relegated Hellas Verona.

The results leave the race for Champions League places wide open, with just nine points separating Napoli and sixth-placed Roma, which has a game in hand.

Also on Sunday, Bologna and Cagliari drew 0-0. — Xinhua



Inter Milan’s players celebrate after a Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Parma in Milan, Italy, 3 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

IOC puts esports activities on hold under new president Coventry

THE International Olympic Committee has put its Esports Commission’s activities on hold, a source close to the matter said Sunday.

Future involvement of electronic sports at the Olympics was seen as a possibility under previous IOC President Thomas Bach, but the drive is set to slow down under incumbent Kirsty Coventry, who places more emphasis on existing sports.

Coventry, who assumed her role last June, sent letters to the Commission members in January and suggested an impending review of the IOC’s stance towards esports.

Esports are popular among younger generations but divide public opinion on whether they should be regarded as a sport.

The Olympic Esports Series was held in Singapore in 2023 during Bach’s tenure, but the Olympic Esports Games scheduled for 2027 in Saudi Arabia were cancelled last October.

The move saw the IOC’s 12-year contract with Saudi Arabia — agreed under a condition that it host events regularly — scrapped. — Kyodo



Iran warns will attack US forces in Hormuz after Trump announces plan to guide ships

IRAN'S military warned on Monday that US forces would be attacked if they entered the Strait of Hormuz, after President Donald Trump said the United States would help guide ships through the waterway.

Shortly after, Iran's Fars news agency reported that a US warship in the strait was hit with missiles and forced to turn back, but the US military's Central Command denied any ships had been hit.

Negotiations between the two countries have been deadlocked since a ceasefire in the US-Israeli war against Iran took effect on 8 April, with Tehran's stranglehold on the strait a main point of contention.

Trump said on Sunday that the new US maritime operation, which he dubbed "Project Freedom", was a humanitarian gesture for crews aboard the many ships stuck in the Gulf who may be running low on supplies.

He said the US would help ships from countries not involved



In this picture obtained from Iran's ISNA news agency on 24 April 2026, Iranians are seen at Suru Beach in Bandar Abbas along the Strait of Hormuz. **PHOTO: AFP**

in the conflict.

"For the good of Iran, the Middle East, and the United States, we have told these Countries that we will guide their Ships

safely out of these restricted Waterways," the president posted on Truth Social, saying operations would begin on Monday.

Once out, "they will not be

returning until the area becomes safe for navigation," Trump added.

US media reported that the US Navy would not enter the

strait but would provide guidance on traversing the narrow seaway. News site Axios said US ships would be "in the vicinity" to prevent Iranian attacks on commercial vessels.

CENTCOM said it would use guided-missile destroyers, over 100 land and sea-based aircraft, multi-domain unmanned platforms and 15,000 service members in the effort.

As of 29 April, more than 900 commercial vessels were located in the Gulf, according to maritime intelligence firm AXSMarine.

In response to Trump, the Iranian military's central command said any safe passage through Hormuz must be coordinated with its forces "under all circumstances". "We warn that any foreign armed force — especially the aggressive US military — if they intend to approach or enter the Strait of Hormuz, will be targeted and attacked," said Major General Ali Abdollahi in a statement carried by state broadcaster IRIB. — AFP

ASEAN shares crude oil supply concerns with Japan, China, South Korea



Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama (front, C) speaks during a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from Japan, China, South Korea and the Association of South-East Asian Nations in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 3 May 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE finance chiefs of the Association of South-East Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea shared their concerns Sunday about crude oil supplies amid the Middle East conflict, agreeing

to unite further in addressing shared challenges.

"The escalation of conflict in the Middle East has amplified downside risks to the regional outlook significantly," the

finance ministers and central bank governors said in a statement adopted at their talks on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The representatives of the ASEAN-plus-three countries said they "remain attentive to risks stemming from excessive volatility and disorderly movements in financial markets" and "stand ready to respond" in line with domestic conditions, the statement said. The ADB's four-day meeting from Sunday came with many Asian nations that are heavily reliant on oil imports from the Middle East hit by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran following US-Israeli attacks.

Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama, who cochaired the meeting along with the Bank of Japan's Deputy Governor Ryozi Himino and representatives from the Philippines, said the countries agreed on the need for regional cooperation and vowed to help each other in diversifying supply chains. — Kyodo

Cape Verde bans passengers from cruise with suspected virus deaths

PASSENGERS aboard a cruise ship on which a suspected outbreak of hantavirus has killed three people will not be allowed to disembark in Cape Verde where it is anchored, authorities said, expressing concern for the local population.

The refusal came even as WHO Europe said the risk to the wider public remained low.

In its first statement on the crisis, the vessel's operator Oceanwide Expeditions confirmed three deaths on board the MV Hondius, travelling across from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde off the coast of west Africa. Two died on board and one after disembarking the ship. One passenger is in intensive care in Johannesburg and two others "require urgent medical care", the statement said. The president of Cape Verde's National Institute of Public Health (INSP) said that the ship "was not granted authorization to dock at the port of Praia" off which it is anchored, in an interview with RTC public broadcaster late Sunday. — AFP