

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Agriculture Dept to host Myanmar Durian Festival

THE Agriculture Department will host the Myanmar Durian Festival in the second or third week of May 2026, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP), with a view to promoting export, penetrating foreign markets under strength of the country's name, exchanging growing methods, post-harvest technologies, expanding durian market, creating investments and business network, and exploring commercially valued premium-quality durian.

MFVP notified its members to participate in the festival, and the specific location and time for the event will be announced. — NN/KK



Myanmar's durians.



This image presents workers meticulously processing shrimp at a cold storage facility. Shrimp exports generated over US\$33 million in FY 2025-26.

Shrimp Exports Break 10,000 MT Barrier in FY 2025-26

Myanmar exports over 300 types of fisheries products to more than 40 countries, with authorities and exporters working together to ensure sustainable, market-responsive, and standards-compliant trade.

The Department of Fisheries stated that over 10,500 metric tonnes of shrimp worth over US\$33 million were shipped to international markets in the past financial year 2025-2026 (1 April-31 March).

“Myanmar sent over 9,500 metric tonnes of shrimp by sea, while over 980 metric tonnes of shrimp were exported to neighbouring countries at the border, totalling over 10,580 tonnes worth

over \$33 million. The export volume of shrimp in 2025-2026 FY is up by over 1,430 tonnes compared to that of the corresponding period last year,” said an official of the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar exported over 460,000 metric tonnes of fisheries products, including fish and shrimp, in the last FY 2025-2026, bagging over \$689 million.

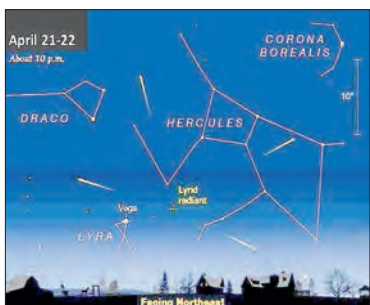
Myanmar's fisheries products have been steadily flowing to Japan, the Middle East countries, Malaysia, Tai-

wan Province of China and Australia. The Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Department of Fisheries are closely working together for seafood export promotion.

Myanmar has been delivering over 300 types of fisheries products to over 40 countries. The department and exporters are joining hands to ensure sustainable exports, depending on market conditions and meet the standards of importing countries. — ASH/KK

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Lyrid meteor showers visible worldwide, including Myanmar, until 29 Apr

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AI-Driven Innovation Centres Set for Key Universities

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UMFCCI Sets Reform Agenda, Urges Shift to High-Value Economy

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Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred and appointed Rector Dr Nyunt Soe of Technological University (Sagaing) of the Department of Advanced Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as Rector of West Yangon Technological University from the date he assumes charge of duties.

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Appointment of Kazakhstani Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Margulan Baimukhan as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Margulan Baimukhan was born on 6 September 1974. He graduated from Cracow University of Economics in 1997 and 1998 and the University of Vancouver in Canada in 2017. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1999 and held various diplomatic capacities, including Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Poland from 2017 to 2019, to Belgium and Luxembourg, head of mission to the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from 2021 to 2025. He also served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan from 2019 to 2021.

He has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since August 2025.

Mr Margulan Baimukhan is married with four children. — MNA

During the Myanmar New Year holiday period of the year 1387 ME, more than 96,000 domestic and foreign travellers visited Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha, Shwethaungyan, Gawringyi beaches and Pathein township in Ayeyawady Region, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of Ayeyawady Region.

More than 37,000 visitors travelled to Ngwehsaung beach, around 40,000 to Chaungtha beach, more than 12,000 to Shwethaungyan beach, and 158 visitors to Gawringyi beach, totalling over 89,000 individuals within the nine-day holiday from 11 to 19 April. Moreover, more

than 7,400 domestic and international tourists visited Pathein, bringing the total number of visitors to Ayeyawady Region to over 96,000 during the holiday period.

During the five-day Thingyan festival period from 13 to 17 April, including Myanmar New Year Day, over 4,000 tourists visited Pathein, more than 24,000 to Ngwehsaung, over 25,000 to Chaungtha, around 800 to Shwethaungyan, and 94 to

Gawringyi, totalling more than 53,000 visitors.

“This year’s visitor numbers during the New Year holidays and Thingyan festival have increased by nearly 50 per cent compared to last year. The rise in tourism has contributed to improving the socioeconomic conditions of the region, and all tourism-related businesses have benefited. We are pleased that visitors were able to relax and enjoy their holidays peacefully

at the beaches. As there will be another four-day holiday period at the end of this month, including the Full Moon Day of Kason, we invite travellers to come and relax at the beaches,” said U Aung Thu Oo, director of the directorate.

During the Thingyan holiday period, 24 hotels and guesthouses and 68 municipal guesthouses were opened in Pathein, whereas 38 hotels and guesthouses and 70 municipal guesthouses

were opened at Ngwehsaung beach, 32 hotels and guesthouses and 55 municipal guesthouses at Chaungtha beach, one hotel and three municipal guesthouses at Gawringyi Beach, and six hotels and guesthouses and three municipal guesthouses at Shwethaungyan beach.

The hoteliers also expect high arrivals of travellers during the upcoming four-day holiday by the end of April. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Ayeyawady Beaches Beckon 96,000 During Thingyan Festivities



Beachgoers enjoy the Thingyan holiday break. PHOTO: KANU

Lyrid meteor showers visible worldwide, including Myanmar, until 29 Apr

THE Lyrid Meteor Showers, a celestial event occurring in the Myanmar New Year sky, will be visible across almost the entire world, including Myanmar, until 29 April, according to the Myanmar Astronomy & Science Enthusiasts Society (MASES).

This phenomenon can be observed starting from 15 April. A meteor shower occurs when

the Earth passes through a trail of debris and rocky particles left behind by comets orbiting the Sun. The Lyrids are named after the Lyra constellation, the point from which the meteors appear to radiate. This annual event is visible to skywatchers globally.

The debris causing this showers comes from the Thatcher Comet. It was dis-

covered in 1861 by an amateur astronomer named AE Thatcher, and the comet was named in his honour.

To view the meteor showers, observers should look toward the northeast at an altitude of approximately 30°. Its brightest star is Vega, which is located about 25 light-years away from Earth.

As the heavy light of cities makes it difficult to see, it is recommended to find a spot with minimal light. This year’s peak occurs shortly before the First Quarter Moon (the 8th waxing day), and as the moon will be only about 30 per cent bright, moonlight interference will be low, making for good viewing conditions. — MT/ZN



The meteor shower as captured on 20 April.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Ordinance 1/2026

8th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
23 April 2026

Announcement on the State of Emergency

1. The State of Emergency was declared in the following townships of regions and states under Section 412 (a) of the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to end the armed terrorism and effectively take measures on the restoration of peace and stability of the regions with the rule of law: -

(a) Kachin State

- (1) Sumparabum Township
- (2) Shwegu Township
- (3) Ingyanyan Township
- (4) Sawlaw Township
- (5) Chipwe Township

(b) Kayah State

- (1) Shadaw Township
- (2) Pasawng Township
- (3) Meisei Township

(c) Kayin State

- (1) Kawkareik Township
- (2) Kya-in-Seikkyi Township

(d) Chin State

- (1) Kanpetlet Township
- (2) Thantlang Township
- (3) Paletwa Township
- (4) Tonzang Township

(5) Mindat Township

- (6) Matupi Township
- (7) Falam Township

(e) Sagaing Region

- (1) Kawlin Township
- (2) Pinlebu Township
- (3) KhinU Township
- (4) Wetlet Township
- (5) Kani Township
- (6) Dabayin Township
- (7) Pale Township
- (8) Indaw Township

(f) Magway Region

- (1) Pauk Township
- (2) Myaing Township
- (3) Saw Township
- (4) Htilin Township
- (5) Yesagyo Township

(g) Mandalay Region

- (1) Ngazun Township

(h) Rakhine State

- (1) Yanbye Township
- (2) Pauktaw Township
- (3) Ponnagyun Township
- (4) Rathedaung Township
- (5) Gwa Township
- (6) Maungtaw Township
- (7) Buthidaung Township
- (8) Kyauktaw Township
- (9) Minbya Township
- (10) Myebon Township
- (11) MraukU Township
- (12) Thandwe Township
- (13) An Township
- (14) Taungup Township

(i) Shan State

- (1) Namtu Township
- (2) Mabein Township
- (3) Kutkai Township
- (4) Namkham Township
- (5) Hsenwi Township
- (6) Kunlong Township
- (7) Namsang Township
- (8) Mantung Township
- (9) Hopan Township
- (10) Laukkai Township
- (11) Kongyan Township
- (12) Mongmit Township
- (13) Kyaukme Township
- (14) Hsipaw Township
- (15) Mongla Township

2. This ordinance shall remain in force for 90 days from today.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Leadership Anchors Tatmadaw Chain of Command

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo met Tatmadaw members and families of Kengtung Station at the Pyi Nyein Aye Hall of the Triangle Region Command on 22 April and held separate meetings with Tatmadaw members and families of Mongkhat and Mongyang stations at the hall of Mongkhat Station yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the General stressed that leaders of relevant military units have to be a model in disciplined lifestyle and systematically control the subordinates. If so, all will be good Tatmadaw members on whom the people rely.

The General noted that all Tatmadaw members are responsible for continuously preserving the fine traditions of Tatmadaw. Tatmadaw has to primarily serve the defence duty of the State and try hard to improve its combat power and combat capability. As such, they have to strictly follow the motto: 'study, practise and comply' to become healthy and fit Tatmadaw members to be able to apply the military techniques skillfully.

He pointed out that Tatmadaw members need to constantly study changing military warfare and military equipment



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo meets Tatmadaw personnel and their families.

and apply them on the battlefield. They have to strive to become capable military units reliable to the people.

The General emphasized that the administrative capability is of great importance in Tatmadaw as it plays a key role in achieving success in military operations, security and training measures. Only when individuals completely manage administrative measures will they carry out welfare tasks for Tatmadaw members

effectively.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief underscored that leadership is very important as Tatmadaw is an institution with a chain of command. Hence, it is necessary to submit correct reports at different levels, and officials need to take correct actions over the reports of subordinates.

He underlined that Tatmadaw always emphasizes the supplies for basic needs

of Tatmadaw members and families, and other general requirements, in addition to giving necessary awards and welfare measures to Tatmadaw members.

The General continued that Tatmadaw is carrying out the promotion of educational qualifications not only of offspring of Tatmadaw members but also of those Tatmadaw members. As such, officials and parents need to emphasize education

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Ordinance 2/2026

8th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
23 April 2026

Announcement of Martial Law Order

1. To restore administration, ensure community peace and uphold rule of law in the townships where the State of Emergency has been declared under Ordinance 1/2026, the martial law order was issued under Section 413 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the executive and judicial power for these townships was entrusted to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.
2. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services shall exercise the power and responsibilities by himself or shall transfer them to any appropriate military authorities.
3. This ordinance remains in force for 90 days from today.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office

Martial Law Order 2/2026

8th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
23 April 2026

1. The President's Office released Ordinance 1/2026 to end the armed terrorism and effectively carry out measures for regional stability and the rule of law, declared a state of emergency in the townships of the regions and states mentioned in that ordinance, and transferred the executive and judiciary responsibilities of the said townships to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services transferred the executive and judiciary responsibilities of the prescribed townships mentioned in that ordinance to the commanders of the relevant military command headquarters under Section 413 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. The relevant commanders may exercise the powers themselves or delegate them to commanders of military regions to exercise and carry them out, depending on the situation.

Sd/ Ye Win Oo
General
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Leadership Anchors Tatmadaw Chain of Command

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promotion of Tatmadaw members and children. All offspring of Tatmadaw members have to try hard to complete at least the KG+9 level.

He highlighted that as Tatmadaw members take the four-point oath, they have to serve the 24-hour duties under orders and duties, and they need to diligently serve their duties by applying the experiences of military training.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services asked about the requirements of Tatmadaw members and families and attended to their needs.

The General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families of relevant military stations to the commander and the station commanders, while the wife of the General gave cash awards for the station maternal and child welfare associations to the wife of the commander and wives of the station commanders.

After the meetings, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, his wife and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.

Also, present at the meetings were Daw Nilar, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and the commander of Triangle Region Command.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected breeding of dairy cows, cattle, DYL pit, fish, layers and broilers, ducks and domestic chicken at the agriculture/livestock zone of the Triangle Region Command, and the undertakings in agriculture and livestock breeding farms and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA/TTA



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo presents foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and their families.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office

Martial Law Order 3/2026

8th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
23 April 2026

1. In the townships where martial law was declared according to the Ordinance 1/2026 and Ordinance 2/2026 of the President's Office, and Martial Law Order 2/2026 of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office issued on 23 April 2026, 8th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME, the powers were transferred to the relevant commanders of military headquarters for the prescribed townships to effectively carry out security, the rule of law and regional peace and tranquillity under Section 413 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. Local authorities in the areas which have been placed under Martial Law shall carry out the tasks assigned to them under the command of the relevant commanders of the regions.
3. The relevant commanders shall designate the martial law areas in the regions under martial law, and can appoint the military region commanders with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, under the martial law orders.
4. The relevant commanders shall accomplish the following tasks by themselves, or military region commanders or an appropriate person or a body he transferred the power:

(A) Administration

- (1) Security issues
- (2) Social issues
- (3) Trade issues
- (4) Transport issues

(B) Judiciary

- (i) Formation of courts: The relevant Commanders shall decide criminal cases that occurred during the martial law period at courts formed under the existing law or the Military Tribunal.
- (ii) Deciding cases at the Military Tribunal: Criminal cases can be heard and decided by the Military Tribunal in a summary way.
- (iii) Punishment: The following punishments shall be imposed by a Military Tribunal in accordance with the existing laws for anyone who is found guilty of crimes mentioned in Appendix (A)
 - (AA) Death Sentence
 - (BB) Prison sentence with hard labour for an unlimited number of years
 - (CC) The severest punishment is designated in accordance with the respective crimes
- (iv) Approval: The decisions and sentences handed down by the Military Tribunal shall be final. However, a death sentence shall be approved only with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. An unlimited years' prison sentence shall be approved with the approval of the relevant Commanders. The following are the rights to exercise the right for approval.
 - (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
 - (BB) Commuting a sentence
 - (CC) Changing a sentence to another, lesser one
 - (DD) Approving the conviction
- (v) Appealing: No appeal for decisions or convictions handed down by the

Military Tribunal

- (vi) Applying for reversal of decisions: If a death sentence is handed down by a Military Tribunal, an application to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services can be made for reversal of the decision within 15 days from the day of conviction. Reversal for other punishments can be applied to the relevant commanders within 15 days after the convictions. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services or relevant Commanders can reverse the decision. Following the rights for exercising power for the reversal of the decision.
 - (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
 - (BB) Commuting a sentence
 - (CC) Changing a correction to another lesser one
 - (DD) Approving the conviction
 - (vii) The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services or relevant commanders not only can exercise the rights mentioned in the above sub-para (6) but also can increase the punishment.
5. The relevant Commanders can form an advisory body for martial law to get assistance for performing their duties.
 6. The relevant Commanders shall report to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on the situation of the martial law areas.

Sd/ Ye Win Oo
General

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Crimes to be heard by Military Tribunal

1. High Treason (Section 122 of the Criminal Procedure Code)
2. Attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government (Section 124-A of the Penal Code)
3. Sabotage or hinder the performance of the Defence Services of the Union or law enforcement organizations (Section 124-C of the Penal Code)
4. Disrupts or hinders Defence Services and Government employees (Section 124-D of the Penal Code)
5. Section 505 of the Penal Code
6. Cause fear, spread false news, agitate directly or indirectly a criminal offence against a Government employee (Section 505-A of the Penal Code)
7. Cases against the Unlawful Associations Act
8. Cases against the Weaponry Act
9. Murder cases
10. Death cases
11. Rape cases
12. Robbery cases
13. Banditry cases
14. Corruption cases
15. Cases against the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993)
16. Cases against the Protection of Public Property Act
17. Cases against the Protection of Public Property Law (1963)
18. Cases against the Press and Media Law
19. Cases against the News and Media Law
20. Cases against the Myanmar Immigration (Provisional) Act (1947)
21. Cases against the Electronic Communications Law
22. Cases against the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law
23. Cases against the Anti-terrorism Law

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 23 April 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653~3,669	558.20~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	33,949,851.60	17,527,903.55	13,274,535.83	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE amount of foreign currencies traded in the Foreign Exchange market was sold for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, industrial raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical raw materials, fertilizers, electronic goods, wheat, consumer foodstuffs and vegetable seeds. From the CMP sector revenue, US\$3.76 million was contributed to edible oil, US\$4 million for the LNG sector, US\$0.05 million to the CMP sector and US\$0.95 million to the non-trade sector. — MNA

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C pays visit to comfort Tatmadaw personnel, families in Kengtung



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife Daw Nilar, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Triangle Region Command and officials, visited the local Tatmadaw hospital in Kengtung on 22 April and comforted Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members and people's militia (local) who are receiving medical treatments.

The General asked about

the health conditions of those individual patients based on their diseases and the progress of their health conditions, and presented foodstuffs and cash awards.

The wife of the General visited the female medical ward and the child ward, comforted the patients and provided aid for them and cash for the hospital.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the hospital and gave necessary instructions. — MNA/TTA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo offers comfort to a patient at Kengtung's Tatmadaw hospital.

Contact Channels for Rejoining Legal Framework

1. The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee has invited ethnic armed organizations to engage in open-ended peace dialogues to end armed conflicts and resolve political issues through political means, and also urged PDFs to rejoin the legal framework as quickly as possible, as per the invitation of the government. Those who wish to make contact in relation to this invitation may do so during office hours via the respective National Solidarity and Peacemaking Work Committee member offices in regions and states listed below:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| (a) Work Committee Office (Nay Pyi Taw)
Phone: 032 30037, 032 30155, 067 4550488, 067 4550499
SMS: 09 661198554, 09 261179005 | (g) Work Committee Member Office (Taninthayi Region)
Phone: 037 40005, 09 696711577, 059 2023624, 059 2023625
SMS: 09 698477111, 09 695117676, 09 256480295 | (k) Work Committee Member Office (Mon State)
Phone: 037 30048, 037 30011, 057 2027910, 057 2027911
SMS: 09 695932320, 09 426276305 |
| (b) Work Committee Member Office (Kachin State)
Phone: 09 39101669, 09 39101817, 01 3331635
SMS: 09 695436787, 09 261179022 | (h) Work Committee Member Office (Bago Region)
Phone: 032 33143, 032 33146, 052 2201800, 052 2200789
SMS: 09 455542186, 09 899623866 | (l) Work Committee Member Office (Rakhine State)
Phone: 032 31777, 032 31711, 09 899621420
SMS: 09 5376269, 09 899641921 |
| (c) Work Committee Member Office (Kayah State)
Phone: 034 32131, 034 37305, 034 37306, 034 37314
SMS: 09 664380707, 09 885604545 | (i) Work Committee Member Office (Magway Region)
Phone: 032 31046, 032 32610, 063 2028877, 063 2026638
SMS: 09 693052580, 09 261179167, 09 255002510 | (m) Work Committee Member Office (Yangon Region)
Phone: 031 25936, 031 25944, 01 8301205, 01 8221017
SMS: 09 250788216, 09 443440113 |
| (d) Work Committee Member Office (Kayin State)
Phone: 037 36408, 037 36207, 058 2023437, 058 2023438
SMS: 09 425294351, 09 893337575 | (j) Work Committee Member Office (Mandalay Region)
Phone: 033 33053, 033 33147, 02 4024982, 02 4039081
SMS: 09 670109797, 09 455365171 | (n) Work Committee Member Office (Shan State)
Phone: 09 39104670, 034 38612, 034 33104, 081 2201922
SMS: 09 672273312, 09 252798859 |
| (e) Work Committee Member Office (Chin State)
Phone: 033 32314, 033 60534, 01 3336600
SMS: 09 400724899, 09 254948754 | (o) Work Committee Member Office (Ayeyawady Region)
Phone: 031 21121, 031 21003, 042 23675
SMS: 09 692126801, 09 971095050 | |
| (f) Work Committee Member Office (Sagaing Region)
Phone: 033 32366, 033 31212, 071 2032531 | | |

2. It is hereby announced that communications made with goodwill will be received and responded to, necessary procedures will be clearly explained, and coordination with relevant committees and organizations will be carried out accordingly.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Work Committee

AI-Driven Innovation Centres Set for Key Universities



Naypyitaw State Academy to be conducted as a research pilot university.

THE Ministry of Education has announced that Centres for Research and Innovation (CRI) will be established and implemented at Naypyitaw State Academy, University of Yangon, and University of Mandalay.

It is also reported that plans are already underway to develop Naypyitaw State Academy, located in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, into a leading research university.

In establishing it as a research-focused institution, the acad-

emy has already been equipped with the necessary human resources and internationally standard research equipment to carry out research and innovation activities. As a result, implementation will be undertaken within 100 days to ensure the production of effective and beneficial research outcomes for the country.

In carrying out these initiatives, work will also be integrated with artificial intelligence (AI) technology. AI tools will be used to improve

lessons, while efforts will also be made to develop digital education, including the establishment of a digital learning platform and the systematic implementation of a Learning Management System (LMS).

In the teaching and learning sector, training programmes will also be provided to ensure that teachers become proficient in the use of LMS platforms. — ASH/MKKS

NSPNC members meet to discuss peace process implementation

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) met yesterday afternoon at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the peace process, aiming to strengthen internal peace and build a Union based on democracy and federalism, as the government accelerates dialogue with ethnic armed organizations to establish more effective processes and find practical ways to implement the outcomes of the dialogue.

A total of 18 committee members, including NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, and five Union Ministers, attended the meeting.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Chairman of the NSPNC Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, said that the NSPNC was established in 2021; that it had met with seven ethnic armed organizations that had signed the NCA and three ethnic armed organizations that had not yet signed the NCA; that it had been established together with the UPDJC and JMC to implement peace under the previous NCA framework and



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee holds the meeting, chaired by NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae yesterday.

had been operating in accordance with the ToR and SOP; that the JMC included provisions for humanitarian assistance, which was being provided to those in need through JMC civilian representatives and the JMC-TSC; and that now, with the elected government and Hluttaw representatives in place, the UPDJC and JMC processes would be resumed with the ethnic armed organizations that had signed the NCA.

Continuing, the Secretary

of the NSPNC, Lt-Gen Min Naing, explained that the meeting was attended by newly appointed members of the NSPNC. He said that the NSPNC held the meeting to ensure the effective implementation of the Union government's peace process in accordance with the State's policies. He added that the JMC provided humanitarian assistance to people in need as a trust-building measure in the peace process. He also noted that the 72 agreements from

Parts 1, 2, and 3, approved by the Union Peace Conferences and ratified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, would be reviewed for consistency with the Constitution and other existing laws before implementation. Finally, he stated that the new members of the NSPNC would also propose and discuss ways to advance the peace process.

The committee members discussed matters pertaining to the development of border regions contributing to nation-

al stability and peace, the importance of national solidarity, the implementation of the NCA as an effective framework for peace, the inclusion of individuals who participated in the previous peace process in negotiation teams, the need to seek assistance from neighbouring countries, the need for discussions to focus on constructive solutions rather than criticism, the selection of peace mediators, the greater inclusion of the public's voice, the continuation of humanitarian assistance, the promotion of education and information dissemination to improve socioeconomic conditions, the principle that peace is the foundation of development, the need to seek support from experts and professionals, the utilization of residents' participation in conflict areas, and the use of the media to reach people in areas controlled by ethnic armed organizations.

Afterwards, committee secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing provided a brief explanation of the discussions, after which committee chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered a concluding speech. — MNA/TH

Notice to Farmers

1. President the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, during the Government Oath-Taking Ceremony held on the morning of 10 April 2026, and the ceremony for Union-level officials to hear the President's address and take their oaths of office on the afternoon of the same day, gave the following guidance: "Reducing poverty among the public and improving the lives of farmers is a key priority. As the majority of the rural population relies primarily on agriculture and livestock farming, plans will be implemented to uplift the lives of farmers and develop rural areas."
2. The Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, provides annual agricultural loans and development loans to farmers across Myanmar at affordable interest rates, in accordance with state policies and guidelines, to ensure they have access to agricultural capital.
3. As part of the Government's '100-day Quick Win' programme, which commences on 20 April 2026, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue will implement a scheme to increase agricultural loans for farmers. The interest rate on these loans will remain unchanged at five per cent per annum, and the increased loan amounts per acre, categorised by crop type, will be disbursed as follows:

No	Crop Type	Current Loan Rate	Increased Loan Rate
(a)	Paddy, Wheat, and Long-staple Cotton (Seed Production)	K150,000	K300,000
(b)	18 other types of crops	K100,000	K250,000
(c)	Niger, Canola, Jute	K100,000	K150,000

4. Furthermore, to support the establishment of agro-based industries, agricultural equipment will be made available to farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs at affordable interest rates. This includes everything from low-cost items such as power-tillers, water pumps, and water lifting machines to high-value equipment such as dryers, silos, and rice mills. These loans will be disbursed in two categories: a loan amount of up to K300 million and a loan amount exceeding K300 million, both at an interest rate of six per cent.

The 2026 monsoon agricultural loans will be disbursed from 12 May 2026 to ensure they are available in time for the monsoon planting season. Farmers who have fully repaid their previous loans are advised to contact their respective district or township branches of the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank as soon as possible to ensure they receive their 2026 monsoon agricultural loans in a timely manner. Farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs wishing to apply for agricultural equipment loans are also advised to contact the aforementioned bank branches at their earliest convenience.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

OPINION

ARTICLE

Step up rehabilitation in disaster-hit areas

MYANMAR has, within a relatively short period since 2021, had to endure and overcome severe natural disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic began in Myanmar in late 2020 and intensified in 2021. Through the joint efforts of Tatmadaw members and healthcare workers in prevention and treatment activities, the country was able to overcome the pandemic with comparatively limited losses.

On 14 May 2023, due to the extremely powerful Cyclone Mocha, there were casualties in Rakhine State, and numerous office buildings, residential houses, schools, hospitals, and religious buildings were severely damaged and destroyed. The Government and Tatmadaw jointly and immediately carried out rescue and reconstruction operations for the local people affected by the cyclone, with particular emphasis on restoring conditions to better than their original state.

Through the cooperation of the Government, relevant departments, volunteer groups, and Tatmadaw members, the country was able to mobilize strong capabilities to overcome the difficulties it faced. Thanks to their rehabilitation efforts within a short period, people in Rakhine State affected by the cyclone were able to regain access to food, shelter, and necessities and quickly return to safe housing. Whenever emergencies arise, it is hereby reiterated with appreciation and recognition that efforts will be continuously and energetically made to serve the interests of the State and the people in cooperation with the public, in all respective sectors, in accord with the motto: "Mother Figure People, Father Figure People".

Furthermore, on 11 September 2024, Super Typhoon Yagi, which originated in the South China Sea, caused the heaviest rainfall in 70 years in Nay Pyi Taw, Kayah State, Shan State, Mandalay Region, and Mon State, resulting in widespread flooding. In response, Tatmadaw worked in cooperation with the Government and the public to carry out intensive rescue and rehabilitation operations. Similarly, following the extremely powerful Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025, which caused casualties and extensive structural damage in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and the Sagaing Region, rescue, clearance, and reconstruction efforts were carried out with the participation of both Tatmadaw members and the public.

At the ceremony held on 8 April to present commemorative awards in recognition of disaster rehabilitation efforts, senior officials who had dutifully carried out their responsibilities were formally acknowledged and honoured.

The Head of State also stated that, in the future, whenever national emergencies arise, arrangements should be made for Tatmadaw to effectively contribute to the public interest; that Tatmadaw members are actively and energetically carrying out public welfare activities in their respective roles.

Through the cooperation of the Government, relevant departments, volunteer groups, and Tatmadaw members, the country was able to mobilize strong capabilities to overcome the difficulties it faced. Thanks to their rehabilitation efforts within a short period, people in Rakhine State affected by the cyclone were able to regain access to food, shelter, and necessities and quickly return to safe housing. Whenever emergencies arise, it is hereby reiterated with appreciation and recognition that efforts will be continuously and energetically made to serve the interests of the State and the people in cooperation with the public, in all respective sectors, in accord with the motto: "Mother Figure People, Father Figure People".

A Pilgrimage to the Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda

(Five-Terraced Paya) in Insein

By Maung Maung Aye

Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda

When I was a boy, I lived with my family at a house on Insein Railway Station Road and frequented the Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda that was near our house. Thus, I had a strong desire to visit the Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda, which I had not reached for a long time since our family moved to a house in another town. An opportunity was offered to me last week.

That day, I alone took YBS No 6 bound from South Dagon for Hlinethaya. I got off at Sawbwaygion junction. I noticed some men calling out "Bago! Bago!" as they mistook me for a traveller heading towards their buses. Nearby, hawkers were selling snacks and drinking water. Passing by them, I hurried towards the archway gate of the pagoda as the sun grew increasingly intense. I quickly walked across Sawbwaygion Park. No time, I entered the precincts by the eastern archway gate.

The history of this pagoda goes thus: The Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda was founded on a five-acre wide estate on the 5th waxing day of Kason in 1320 ME by Sayadaw U Suriya, a monk of Kayin ethnicity. The then president, U Win Maung, laid the cornerstone. During his 35 Vasa (Rains Retreat), Sayadaw U Suriya undertook the missionary works seriously. He practised insight meditation seriously and preached the sermons on the four Noble Truths. He donated Buddha images, pagodas or stupas, monasteries, and hospitals for the Sangha. Thus, he became widely known as 'Maha Sae Winkabar Sayadaw', a revered figure across Myanmar during the 1960s. He demised at the age of 55 in his 35th Vasa. After his demise, Sayadaw U Panna Vumsa, and then Sayadaw U Agga Dhamma, succeeded him. Now, Venerable Sayadaw U Panna became a Presiding Sayadaw and proceeded to carry out the missionary undertakings.

I walked directly to the two-storeyed building that preserved the undecayed body of Sayadaw U Suriya,



Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda

near the eastern archway gate. As I walked upstairs, I saw a glass coffin containing his gilt body lying peacefully. Even after many years, his body remained unchanged, which I understood as a symbol of spiritual purity and the eradication of mental defilements (Kilesa). I paid homage with deep reverence and looked up at the old photographs, including images of the Sayadaw preaching at Kyaikkasan Pagoda, as well as portraits of him and his parents. This experience filled me with faith and inner peace.

Glass coffin in which undecayed body of Sayadaw U Suriya is placed

The precincts of the pagoda were serene and refreshing. Surrounded by leafy and branching trees, the environment was cool and quiet, accompanied only by the gentle calls of birds. I observed many significant religious features, including about 126 pagodas, an-



Glass coffin in which undecayed body of Sayadaw U Suriya is placed

cient Tazaung with fine architectural designs, sublime Buddha images, figures of alchemists, figures of the king and his subjects, a shrine in which Maha Pinnwe Nat (Ganesha) was housed, a sacred Bodhi tree where devotees pour water on Kason Full Moon Day, the Naga Yon Buddha image, Arlein Nanmyint, and Nat shrines. Altogether, these elements made the precinct a spiritually enriching place.

I, through the accessible staircase, ascended Arlein-nga-sint Pagoda (five-terraced Pagoda). The level one was in the basement. The remaining levels or terraces were above the ground. Rising 180 feet to its sacred umbrella, with an equal circumference, its five terraces symbolize the five levels of Mount Meru. Each level is believed to be guarded by celestial beings such as Naga (Celestial Serpent), Garuda (Roc), Kumbhāṇḍas (Celestial Ogre), Gandharva (Celestial Being) etc. On the uppermost terrace, I saw a standing seven-foot-two-



Seated emerald-green Buddha Image

inch teak image of the Bodhisatta Ariya Metteya facing eastwards, and I paid homage to it. Then, I, to my heart's content, enjoyed a panoramic view of the surrounding pagodas, missionary buildings, Sawbwaygion Park, where some people were resting peacefully under the shade of large leafy trees and high-rise buildings that appeared recently. Then, I walked downstairs.

I entered a wide place that was like a maze well known as "A-Kwe-ta-thaung, A-kauk-ta-thaung" (အေ့တေ့တေ့ထောင်အေ့ကော့တေ့ထောင်) in Myanmar. With thousands of paths, this place was very complicated. I found some small brick buildings in which only one person could meditate. I walked across this place.

Soon, I arrived at a large hall housing a colossal emerald-green seated Buddha image. This sublime image, said to have been donated by Sayadaw Venerable. Agga Dhamma, according to a dream, is believed to fulfil wishes. I paid homage and donated. Then, I looked

around the wide hall in which many seated Buddha Images were housed. I looked up at the paintings of Buddha's life on the ceiling. Then, I quietly moved on.

Seated emerald-green Buddha Image

I then visited another building where ancient royal crafts were displayed. There, I studied priceless artefacts once used in the courts of Myanmar kings. I paid homage to the Su-taung-pyi (wish-fulfilled) Buddha image, which had been worshipped by a line of six successive Myanmar kings, as well as the standing Adhithan Aung Buddha image once revered by King Pyu Saw Hti. These encounters deepened my appreciation of Myanmar's rich religious and cultural heritage.

I got again to the place near the eastern archway gate to find a stage reading 'Kayin New Year Day'. Suddenly, I had thought of a Kayin New Year Festival held in the precinct when I lived on Insein Railway Station Road. On Kayin New Year Day, Kayin New Year Festival was held on the grand scale. The precincts was live and agog with many pwe-goers. Kayin people performed their Kayin Donyein, a Kayin traditional team-dance, on this stage and sang their traditional songs, showcasing their cultural identity. Fund-raising ceremonies were also organized, and temporary galleries displayed portraits of Karen national leader Saw Ba U Gyi and other prominent figures. Numerous stalls sold souvenirs at reasonable prices, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. When thousands gather, the event becomes both joyful and meaningful, strengthening cultural unity. During the festival, there was a long row of food stalls along Lantit Road.

In conclusion, I obtained the religious benefits and came to know something about the culture of the Kayin people. The serene environment, remarkable architecture, historical significance, and vibrant traditions combined to leave a lasting impression on my mind. This visit strengthened my faith, broadened my understanding of Myanmar's heritage, and filled me with a profound sense of peace and devotion.

From Sankranti to Thingyan: The Story Behind the Festival

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

THINGYAN is more than just a joyful celebration filled with water, music, and laughter — it is a festival deeply rooted in history, language, and cultural meaning. The question "Why do we call Thingyan?" opens the door to understanding

the origins and significance behind one of Myanmar's most important traditions.

The word "Thingyan" is believed to come from the Sanskrit term "Sankranti", which means "transit" or "movement". Specifically, it refers to the transition of

the sun from one zodiac sign to another. In Myanmar tradition, this transition marks the end of the old year and the beginning of a new one. Over time, the word evolved linguistically into "Thingyan", adapted into the Burmese language while retaining its original meaning of change and passage.

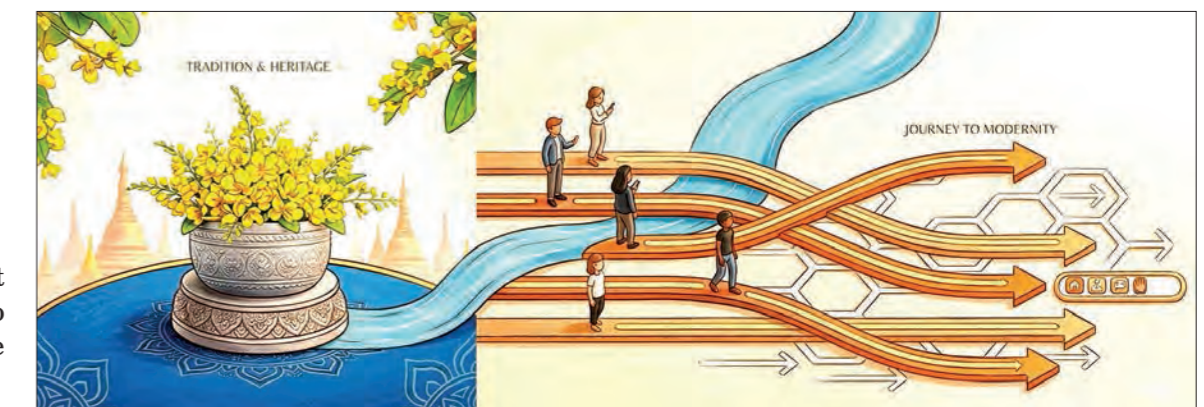
This idea of transition is central to the festival itself. Thingyan is not simply about celebrating the

new year — it represents a shift, a moment of transformation. Just as the sun moves into a new position, people are encouraged to move forward in life by letting go of past mistakes, negativity, and hardships.

The use of water during Thingyan also connects to this meaning. Water symbolizes cleansing and renewal. By pouring water on one another, people are not only

participating in a fun activity but also expressing a deeper wish — to wash away the old and welcome the new with a pure heart.

Historically, Thingyan has been influenced by both Hindu and Buddhist traditions. While its name and astronomical roots come from ancient Indian culture, its practices in Myanmar are closely tied to Buddhist values such as merit-making, kindness, and



respect. This blend of influences has shaped Thingyan into a unique cultural identity that reflects the spirit of Myanmar.

Today, although Thingyan is widely known for its lively cele-

brations and public festivities, the meaning behind its name remains important. It reminds people that life is constantly changing, and each new year is an opportunity to start again — with hope, positivity,

and a renewed sense of purpose. In essence, we call it "Thingyan" because it represents transition — not only of time, but of the human spirit.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

UMFCCI Sets Reform Agenda, Urges Shift to High-Value Economy

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is currently drafting a set of recommendations on future economic development to submit to the new government, in order to move towards its intended strategic directions, according to its President, U Aye Win.

He made these remarks during his opening speech at the Second Executive Committee Meeting of the federation, which was held in hybrid format at the UMFCCI Mingala Hall on the afternoon of 19 March.

The President also stated that, in response to changing global conditions, the federation must shift from a traditional networking approach to one that aligns with the new economic landscape and strengthens supply chain resilience.

He further explained: "This is a period of transition for our country, a time to turn a new page. At the same time, both global geopolitics and geo-economics are undergoing significant changes. Therefore, during our current



The Second Executive Committee Meeting, Yangon, of the new term of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is in progress. **PHOTO: UMFCCI**

term, national reconstruction and the survival of the private sector are the most important tasks. To support this, a decision was made at the Central Executive Committee meeting to amend the federation's constitution so that it is in line with current circumstances. In accordance with that decision, all necessary actions have already been carried out.

Given the ongoing global changes, many Chambers of Commerce in ASEAN countries are shifting from traditional trade facilitation towards supply chain resilience and further towards digital integration," he said.

In this context, he added

that the federation must also move beyond traditional networking to adopt approaches that are compatible with the real, evolving economic environment, including strengthening supply chain resilience. Referring to remarks made by the Head of State at the Myanmar New Face Forum held on 13 March at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw, he noted that preparations must be made to transition from an eco-based economy to one that enhances production capacity, promotes high-value processing, and builds resilient supply chains. — Htun Htun/KNN

UMTA invites business leaders from travel and tourism industry to Travel Fair 2026

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) has invited business leaders in the travel and tourism industry to attend the exclusive UMTA Travel Fair 2026 on 13-14 June at the Sedona Hotel.

It will be a unique opportunity to meet with potential business partners and create new travel plans. Airlines, travel companies, hotels, banks, travel insurance companies, tour guides, travel bloggers and those engaged in the travel industry are invited to join the Travel Fair.

This travel fair, hosted by the UMTA, also aims to recover Myanmar's tourism industry and create positive impacts on the industry's growth. Travel destination promotion booths, B2B networking meetings to facilitate global market expansion, Quiz & Gifts programmes, and fun events will be included.

Invited overseas buyers interested in selling Myanmar trips in their countries are tourism boards, outbound tour operators, individual travellers, corporate travel managers, tour operators, travel agents, online travel agencies (OTAs), participants of MICE (meetings,

incentives, conferences and exhibitions) and travel promoters.

Furthermore, overseas sellers operating to sell overseas trips to Myanmar include National Tour Operators (NTOs), Hotels, Theme Parks, Airlines, Travel Agencies, Destination Management Companies (DMCs), Online Travel Agencies (OTAs), Travel Clubs, Corporations and Independent Agents.

Buyer/Seller Meetings will be held on Trade Day (13 June). Interested individuals can register through https://www.umtatravelfair.com/register_local.html. Local Buyer Fees are set at K250,000, while Local Seller/DMC Fees are K800,000, and Local Seller/Outbound Fees are K1.3 million. Services and benefits under the fee can be observed on the website in detail.

First-come, first-served: early registration is advised. Interested business entities can contact the UMTA office at 09 2005648, 095170456, email office@umtanet.org, secretary@umtanet.org or the organizing committee at 09 782395649, 09 5059866 or email secretariat@umtatravelfair.com. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$4M to edible oil, LNG-importing companies



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

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3 million to edible oil-im-

porting companies and US\$1 million to LNG-importing companies on 22 April.

CBM sold over \$2.22 million to edible oil importing companies on 21 April, in addition to transactions of over three million baht in the market.

CBM has been continuously injecting US dollars into the edible oil import sector, with \$2.48 million on 20 April, along with a transaction of 3.86 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold three million baht in the forex market, in addition to an injection of \$881,250 to edible oil-importing companies on 10 April.

CBM announced on 9 April that it would inject \$49 million into the fuel oil sector and \$8.16 million into edible oil businesses. CBM made transactions of over 2.39 million baht on that day, in addition to sales of \$1.36 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1 million to fuel oil-importing companies.

CBM sold over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February. CBM sold over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

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

At Sydney's wharf library, books travel as far as ferries do

There's no check-out, no obligation to return a book, not even a lock or a door — just an unspoken understanding: take one if you like, leave one if you can.

FROM the bustling crowds at Sydney's Circular Quay, the F8 ferry pulls away. Ten minutes later, the noise fades. The boat glides into Thames Street Wharf in the suburb of Balmain, quiet, unhurried, tucked away from the city's rush.

Passengers step off. A few look at their phones. Some gaze out at the water. But there are always those who pause, bending down to browse the bookshelves inside the ferry shelter. Some take a book, or leave one behind.

There's no check-out, no obligation to return a book, not even a lock or a door — just an unspoken understanding: take one if you like, leave one if you

can.

This is the Thames Street Library, a tiny street library hidden inside a red wooden ferry shelter, with blue water stretching out behind it. Running entirely on trust, it has become a beloved landmark in this part of Sydney.

Its founder and sole librarian is Imma Thiel, 88, a retired English teacher who lives nearby. A lifelong reader, she had too many books which were taking over her home. So about seven years ago, she had an idea: people were always passing through the wharf; why not put the books there?

Thiel painted a small book-



This photo taken on 21 April 2026 shows an interior view of the Thames Street Library in Sydney, Australia.

PHOTO: MA PING/XINHUA

shelf red, filled it with books, and left it inside the ferry shelter. The next day, a pile of books ap-

peared next to it. So she painted another shelf red. Soon, that one was full too.

"No, I haven't got any more shelves," she remembered thinking. — Xinhua

S Korea's population mobility hits 5-year high for Mar

SOUTH Korea's population mobility hit a five-year high for the month of March amid the surging housing transactions, statistical ministry data showed Wednesday.

The number of those who changed residence to a different province or town was 609,000 in March, up 11.0 per cent compared to the same month of last year, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

It reached the highest for any March since

2021 on the back of a fast increase in home sales, the number of which jumped 30 per cent for the first two months of 2026 from a year earlier.

The figure was also affected by policies to attract new residents and pilot programmes for rural basic income.

The population mobility rate, which gauges the number of people moving to a different region for every 100 people, gained 1.4 percentage points over the year to 14.1 per cent in March. — Xinhua



The number of Koreans relocating to new homes reached its highest level for any March period in five years. PHOTO: PIXABAY

One month phone-free: Young Americans try digital detox

GETTING around without Google Maps. No longer scrolling Instagram at the bus stop. Ditching your headphones to hear the birds sing.

In March, a group of 20- and 30-somethings in the US capital swapped their smartphones for basic flip phones and embarked on a one-month digital detox, part of an emerging movement of young Americans seeking to break free from the harmful effects of social media.

"I was waiting for a bus, and I didn't know when it would come," recalled Jay West, 29, who took part in the Month Offline challenge organized by a small startup with support from a local community group.

Old habits die hard, and West, who works as a data analyst for Washington's metro system, said he would often find himself reaching into his pocket



Some users are ditching their smartphones for low-tech alternatives to take part in digital detox. PHOTO: PIXABAY

for his cell phone, only to realize there was nothing on it.

But in the end, he said, it was liberating. "I was bored sometimes, and that's okay," West recalled one recent evening at a city community garden where detox participants met to share their struggles and joys of disconnecting. "It's okay to be bored." — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan plans to urge EU to revise proposed policy favouring bloc-made EVs



File photo taken on 1 December 2025 shows the European Commission headquarters in Brussels. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Under the proposal, at least 70 per cent of components would need to be made in the bloc for EVs to qualify for subsidies offered when companies introduce them as corporate vehicles.

JAPAN plans to urge the European Union to revise a proposed policy favoring electric vehicles made in the bloc as it could put Japanese makers at a disadvantage, a source close to the matter said Thursday.

The government will raise the issue at the Japan-EU High-Level Economic Dialogue in Brussels in May and urge that vehicles made outside of the bloc be treated fairly when sold in the market, the source said.

Following the ministerial meeting, Japan hopes the issue will be discussed at a regular

bilateral summit, to be held possibly in June, the source said.

The European Commission proposed the Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) on 4 March 2026, as a central component of its Clean Industrial Deal. The Act aims to boost the EU's industrial competitiveness by creating "lead markets" for low-carbon and European-made products through public procurement and subsidy.

The proposal requires the approval of EU member states and the European Parliament and could be revised. — Kyodo

Africa faces 86 mln tonne fuel shortfall by 2040: AFC

THE Iran war has exposed Africa's vulnerability to fuel chokepoints and is heading for a 86 million tonne fuel shortfall by 2040, the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) said Thursday.

Africa imports over 70 per cent of its refined fuel and some \$230 billion worth of essential goods, including fuel, food, plastics, steel, and fertilizer each year, the AFC said in a report released in Nairobi.

Its dependence on fuel imports will continue to rise from 74 million tonnes in 2023 to 86

million tonnes in 2040, said the report by the pan-African finance institution.

That is equivalent to almost three of the giant refineries run in Nigeria by the Dangote group — by far the biggest in Africa.

"Not only is it importing fuel, but on the eastern side of the continent, those imports are vulnerable to chokepoints — we've all learned about the Strait of Hormuz this year, and it's not the only chokepoint," said the AFC's chief economist Rita Babihuga-Nsanze at the report's launch. — AFP



Africa's fuel import gap will be worth almost three Dangote refineries by 2040, the AFC said. **PHOTO: AFP**

India's private sector gains momentum in Apr: HSBC PMI

INDIA'S private sector grew faster in April, with strong expansion in both manufacturing and services, according to HSBC's latest flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data.

The HSBC Flash India PMI Composite Output Index rose to 58.3 in April, up from 57.0 in March, indicating solid growth compared to the long-term average. The improvement comes after a slower March. Businesses reported better demand and a pickup in activity. The survey noted that overall output and new orders increased at a faster pace at the start of the new fiscal year, supported by capacity expansion, stronger demand, more new work, and technology investments 'Aggregate activity and new orders in India's private sector expanded at quicker rates at the start of this fiscal



Aggregate activity and new orders in India's private sector expanded at quicker rates at the start of this financial year. **PHOTO: ANI**

year, after growth receded in March due to the Middle East war,' The report noted, Manufacturing emerged as the key driver of growth.

The report highlighted that 'manufacturing led the

resurgence with notable rebounds in rates of increase for output and sales,' while goods producers recorded faster increases in both output and new orders compared to services firms. — ANI

Rising Indian climate rules hike industrial costs

INDIA'S Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) is expected to become much stricter by FY2027, increasing compliance costs—especially for cement and aluminum companies—according to an ICRA ESG analysis.

The study looked at 14 major companies (10 cement and 4 aluminium) and found that while FY2026 will be a relatively manageable transition year, FY2027 will bring tighter rules and higher financial

risks if companies don't reduce emissions fast enough.

In FY2026, cement companies can mostly meet targets if they reduce emission intensity by about 1.5 per cent. But if emissions stay the same or increase, companies could face shortfalls, forcing them to buy carbon credits. Some firms may still benefit by cutting emissions early and selling surplus credits. — ANI



The study looked at 14 major companies (10 cement and 4 aluminium) and found that while FY2026 will be a relatively manageable transition year, FY2027 will bring tighter rules and higher financial risks if companies don't reduce emissions fast enough.

PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

New Zealand firms lift R&D spending slightly

NEW Zealand's business research and development (R&D) spending was 4.1 billion NZ dollars (about US\$2.41 billion) in 2025, marking a modest 0.4-per cent increase from the previous year, Stats NZ reported Thursday. Despite higher nominal spending, the volume of R&D activity decreased slightly between the March 2024 and March 2025 quarters, as inflation outpaced spending growth, with labor costs up 2.5 per cent and input prices up 5.3 per cent, the statistics department noted.— Xinhua

Vietnam's electronics exports hit US\$30.72 bln in Q1

VIETNAM'S exports of computers, electronic products and components reached US\$30.72 billion in the first quarter of this year, up 45.5 per cent year on year, local media VnEconomy reported Thursday. The United States remained the largest export market with shipments worth \$12.36 billion, followed by China with \$4.39 billion and the European Union with \$2.89 billion, said the report, citing the Department of Vietnam Customs. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2608E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2608E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2026** 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

"MYANMA SHIPYARDS-AMECC JOINT VENTURE COMPANY LIMITED"

Official Notice of Liquidation and Dissolution by Court under Section 164 of the Insolvency Law

This is to inform that the above-mentioned "MYANMA SHIPYARDS-AMECC JOINT VENTURE COMPANY LIMITED" has already been ordered by the Kamayut District Court on March 31, 2026, to be liquidated and dissolved under Sections 161(a)(2) and (4) of the Insolvency Law.

Daw Khin Than Oo

Liquidator

(Winding Up by Court)

(5/B), Hninsi Condo, No. (182/194), Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon.

Ph: 09 250507101

U Win Htay Nyunt

Joint-Liquidator

(Winding Up by Court)

No.(401), Sabal Phyu Condo(B), Lay Htaung Kan Road, Zawana Quarter, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.

Ph: 09 5123080

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2605N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2605N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2026** 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: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

"MYANMA SHIPYARDS-AMECC JOINT VENTURE COMPANY LIMITED"

Notice of Appointment of Liquidators under Sections 29, 166, and 167 of the Insolvency Law, and Sections 9, 15(b), and 79(c) of the Insolvency Rules

It is hereby notified that, in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Insolvency Law and Rules, the following liquidators of Myanma Shipyards-AMECC Joint Venture Company Limited have been appointed by order of the Kamaryut District Court, District Judge U Zaw Min Htut, on 20 April 2026.

1. Daw Khin Than Oo
(B.Com.(Q), CPA., D.B.L, ACPA)

Liquidator

(5/B), Hninsi Condo, No.(182/194), Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazuntaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 09 250507101

2. U Win Htay Nyunt
(B.Sc.(Hons.), HGP., RL., D.B.L)

Joint-Liquidator

No.(401), Sabal Phyu Condo(B), Lay Htaung Kan Road, Zawana Quarter, Thingangyun Township, Yangon. Ph: 09 5123080

Liquidator

Daw Khin Than Oo

MYANMA SHIPYARDS-AMECC JOINT VENTURE COMPANY LIMITED

(Winding Up by Court)

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Chinese FM holds talks with Cambodian counterpart



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Defence Minister Dong Jun in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, 22 April 2026. Wang and Dong are in Cambodia for the first meeting between foreign ministers and defence ministers of China and Cambodia under the "2+2" strategic dialogue mechanism. **PHOTO: VAN POV/XINHUA**

Wang said that the first meeting between foreign ministers and defence ministers of China and Cambodia under the "2+2" strategic dialogue mechanism was a success.

WANG Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and foreign minister, held talks with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn in Phnom Penh on Thursday.

Wang said that the first meeting between foreign ministers and defence ministers of China and Cambodia under the "2+2" strategic dialogue mechanism

was a success, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to being long-term, reliable good friends and partners.

Wang said that China is willing to work with Cambodia to coordinate development and security, deepen all-around cooperation between the two countries, and strengthen coordination and cooperation within multilateral mechanisms such as China-ASEAN cooperation and Lancang-Mekong cooperation. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

18 injured in head-on train crash in Denmark

TWO commuter trains collided head-on near the Danish capital early Thursday leaving five critically hurt and 13 others with lesser injuries, officials said. Police were unable to provide information about the cause of the accident, which occurred near a level crossing in a rural wooded area about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Copenhagen, near the town of Hillerod. "Eighteen people have been injured in the accident. Of these, five are currently considered to be in critical condition," police said in a statement, citing health authorities.

Police said they were alerted to the crash at 6:29 am (0429 GMT).

The yellow and grey locomotives of the two trains could be seen smashed and buckled in, the glass from their windshields and windows shattered. Both trains and their carriages remained upright on the rails. — AFP

US Secretary of Navy resigns

US Secretary of the Navy John Phelan has resigned, the Department of War said.

"Secretary of the Navy John C Phelan is departing the administration, effective immediately," the department said in a statement on Wednesday.

Undersecretary Hung Cao will serve as acting head of the Navy, the statement added.

Phelan's dismissal came as a surprise to many, the Axios news portal reported. Phelan did not "get along" with Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, but reportedly had a good relationship with President Donald Trump.

"Phelan didn't understand he wasn't the boss. His job is to follow orders given, not follow the orders he thinks should be given," a source was quoted as saying by the news portal. — SPUTNIK

Semiconductor boom drives S Korea to fastest economic growth in 5 years

SOUTH Korea recorded its most significant economic expansion in more than five years during the first quarter, fuelled by a global surge in demand for semiconductors and artificial intelligence technology.

According to a report by The Korea Herald, data from the Bank of Korea released on Thursday indicated that the nation's gross domestic product grew by 1.7 per cent.

This rate marked the fastest pace of growth since the third quarter of 2020, when the economy rebounded following the easing of pandemic restrictions. On a year-on-year basis, the economy expanded by 3.6 per cent.

The report noted that in February, the Bank of Korea projected a growth rate of 0.9 per cent. The actual results nearly doubled that forecast,

highlighting a sharp recovery.

Exports acted as the primary engine for this growth, rising 5.1 per cent on the back of high demand for IT products and memory chips. Fa-

cility investment also saw a significant boost, climbing 4.8 per cent as companies invested heavily in semiconductor manufacturing equipment." — ANI



Company and national flags fly outside the SK hynix Bundang office in Seongnam. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup kicks off in Yangon

THE Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup officially opened at 4 pm yesterday at Myanmar Plaza on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The tournament is organized by the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation with support from Myanmar Plaza. Opening remarks were delivered by the federation's vice-president, U Aung Myint Myat, and Myanmar Plaza's sales promoting manager, Ma Han Su Yin, before officials

declared the competition open.

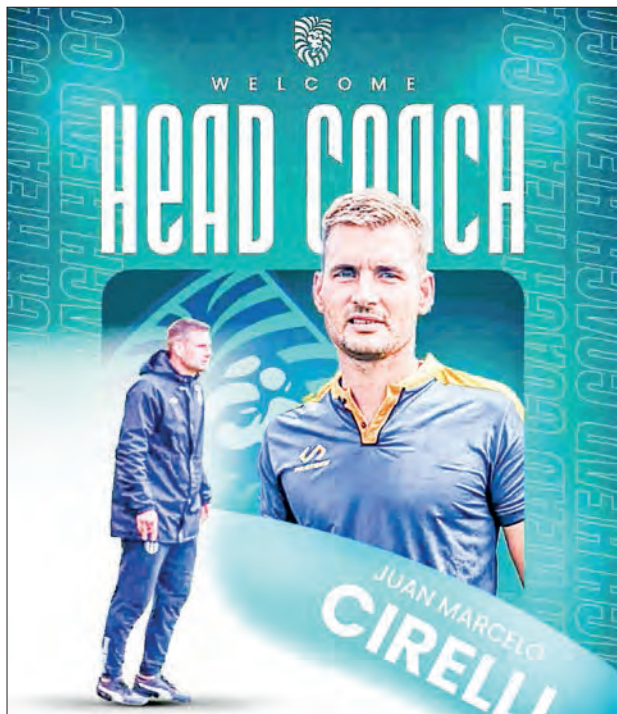
Opening matches saw teams including San Nyunt versus USL, YRG versus Dway Mal Naw, Shwe Kyun Thar versus Soe Lin, and Hse Tel Bo versus Leik Thone Kaung competing.

The tournament runs from 23 to 26 April with free entry. It features Myanmar national players, experienced veterans and promising young talents competing in four-player open-category matches. — Bala/KZL



The Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup is in action yesterday.

Yangon United appoint new head coach for upcoming season



New head coach – Juan Marcelo Cirilli. PHOTO: YUFC

MYANMAR National League club Yangon United have made a coaching change ahead of the new season, parting ways with Japanese coach Yuki Tsutsuro and appointing Argentine coach Juan Marcelo Cirilli as his replacement.

The club announced on 23 April that both sides mutually agreed to terminate Yuki's contract. He had taken charge midway through last season and led the team to an impressive run of 10 wins and one draw in 11 league matches. However, Yangon United finished as runners-up, missing out on the championship.

New head coach Juan Marcelo Cirilli previously played in the Myanmar National League with Zeyar Shwe Myay and has coaching experience across clubs in Argentina, Indonesia, Bolivia and Ecuador. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Yadanabon FC kicks off MNL U20 talent search

FOR the Myanmar National League, MNL (U20) Youth League 2026 to be held in May, Yadanabon FC recruited young players in Yangon and Mandalay this month, according to the Myanmar National League.

As preparation for the coming football tournament, the club held an audition at an artificial turf in Bahan starting on 22 April, and about 80 young players audi-

tioned on the morning of 23 April.

Separate auditions also took place in Mandalay for three consecutive days on 5, 6 and 7 April. The final selection will be made from 26 players chosen in Mandalay recruitment and 25 players in Yangon audition.

The new recruitment for the MNL (U20) team of Thitsa Arman FC was held on 23 April at a football ground in Dagon



This image shows Yadanabon FC holding an audition for the U20 team for the MNL Youth League 2026.

Myothit (South) Township, and Maha United FC also held the audition from 22 to 24 April at Kyaukkasan sports ground in Yangon. — MT/ZS

JGM holds 3-day Junior Open Championship in PyinOoLwin

ACCORDING to Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM), the Junior Open Championship (Road to Myanmar

Junior National Team) will be held in PyinOoLwin for three days.

Under the guidance of the

Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF), JGM will organize the PyinOoLwin Junior Open Championship (Road to Myanmar Junior National Team) from 2 to 4 May 2026 at PyinOoLwin Golf Club.

Matches are categorized into men under 12, under 14 and under 18 and women under 18 and under 14. It will be held in accordance with R&G and USGA rules of golf 2023 and local golf rules, said JGM.

Junior golf players across Myanmar can register for the tournament not later than 4 pm on 30 April, and details can be requested through 09 5193423. — MT/ZS



This image depicts a poster for the PyinOoLwin Junior Open Championship.



Moscow contributing to stabilizing prices on energy markets amid Hormuz blockade: Kremlin

Russia continues to supply oil amid the energy crisis, even as global demand for oil continues to grow.

Moscow is contributing to stabilizing prices on energy markets and minimizing the consequences of the crisis amid the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday.

“At the moment, you know, we are contributing to this price stabilization and minimizing the consequences of the crisis for the global energy sector,” Peskov told reporters, when asked if Moscow plans to offer additional solutions to OPEC+ partners amid the resumption of the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, adding that there are no other initiatives on the agenda right now.

Russia continues to supply oil amid the energy crisis, the official said, adding that demand for oil is growing, and its quantity on the world market is decreasing.

On G20 Summit

A decision on the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the G20 summit in the United States has not yet been made, and the format of Moscow’s participation will be determined closer to the forum, Peskov said.

“So far, no such decisions have been made [about Putin’s participation in the G20 summit in the United States], but Russia participated in each summit at the appropriate level... A decision will be made on the format of our participation closer to the time of the summit,” Peskov told reporters, adding that Russia continues to work through the G20 format. — SPUTNIK



A worker walks by an air gas cooling unit at the Russkaya Compressor Station of the TurkStream gas pipeline in southern Russia’s Krasnodar region. PHOTO: DMITRY FEOKTISTOV / TASS / FILE

Two Pakistanis picked for space training

TWO Pakistani candidates have been selected as the first foreign astronauts for China’s space mission training, the China Manned Space Agency announced on Wednesday afternoon, calling it a landmark achievement in international cooperation on the Chinese space station. The agency said in a statement that Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud will come to China soon as reserve astronauts for training. After completing all training and evaluations, one of them will participate in a space mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut onboard the Tiangong space station.

In February 2025, China and Pakistan signed a cooperation agreement on the spaceflight of a Pakistani astronaut to the Chinese space station in Islamabad, officially launching the selection process for Pakistani astronauts. After three rounds of rigorous screening, two Pakistani reserve astronauts were ultimately chosen. — Xinhua

Japan seeks Saudi Arabia’s cooperation to increase energy supplies

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Thursday sought Saudi Arabia’s further cooperation for Tokyo to secure more energy supplies amid the continued tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Takaichi, speaking with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the phone, also thanked Riyadh for supplying crude oil to Japan via the Red Sea after the US-Israeli strikes prompted Iran to block the Strait of Hormuz, according to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo.

On Tokyo’s fresh request, the crown prince said he is willing to respond positively to ensure stable energy supplies to markets including Japan, the ministry said, adding that the two leaders confirmed their commitment to coordinating efforts toward an early de-escalation of the Middle East situation. — Kyodo



Tokyo is pursuing a dual strategy of diplomatic engagement to aid de-escalation while simultaneously seeking alternative, long-term supply sources.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE