

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**



Kalaw welcomes 31,900 visitors in early 2025

A stunning view of Kalaw from Shambhala, Yayyaungma viewpoints.

Kalaw in southern Shan State hosted a total of 31,972 home-grown visitors and tourists in January-May 2025, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Taunggyi).

Kalaw is famous for its enchanting, serene beauty, fun activities like trekking

and camping through a picturesque landscape, colonial architecture, laid-back atmosphere, refreshing climate, peaceful country sites, rich culture of ethnic people in rolling hills and breathtaking Kalaw sightseeing. It is a popular trekking place and a summer retreat. Visitors can choose different options for accommodation:

hotels, motels, home-stays, bungalows and camps. After the flood inundated the Kalaw area, the number of visitors drastically dropped.

Kalaw attracted 9,474 locals and 111 tourists in January, 6,002 locals and 45 tourists in February, 7,192 locals and 69 tourists in March, 6,130 locals and 50 tourists

in April and 2,866 locals and 33 tourists as of 9 May.

The most popular tourist destinations in Kalaw are Kalaw Shambhala Viewpoint, city viewpoint, Thein Hill, Yayyaungma Viewpoint, Ohsi Hill, Byike Hill, Myinmugon and Ahlantaung, among others. — ASH/KK

MCEF and partners join Construction Materials Fair

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) under the Ministry of Commerce exhibits their products at the Construction Materials (iron, steel, cement, and other materials) Fair held on 12-18 May 2025 in Tabaung Ground, Nay Pyi Taw.

MCEF and member companies showcase their products at Truss Tent J2-J3-J4 stalls.

Participating member companies are Fortune International Co Ltd, Grand Imperial Co Ltd, Sika Myanmar Co Ltd, CHID Bank, Myanmar Pipe and Ac-



Steel beams and reinforcement bars neatly arranged for sale.

cessories, Marga Land Co Ltd and Mata Group Co Ltd.

The objective behind the fair is to ensure the right prices for

construction materials and contribute to reconstruction activities in the earthquake-stricken areas. — NN/KK

BUSINESS

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Yangon palm oil reference prices dip

NATIONAL

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Hlawga Park hosts free SUP water activities for visitors this May

NATIONAL

Boosting Agriculture-Based Industries to Strengthen the State Economy and Increase Output

TO promote manufacturing and industries rooted in agriculture and livestock farming – the country’s primary economic sectors – supporting the development of the State economy and enhancing product output.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Bago Region government on 30 August 2024)

Nampon declared protected public forest



THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exercising the powers granted under Sub-section (e) of Section 6 of the 2018 Forest Law, has officially designated a 325-acre area within Tangyan Township, Tangyan District, Shan State, as the “Nampon Protected Public Forest” by Notification No 46/2025, effective from the 4th waxing of Kason, 1387 ME (30 April 2025).

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has established this protected forest to conserve former commercial (pine) plantations and adjacent areas,

intending to protect biodiversity, maintain climate balance, and ensure the sustainable extraction and use of forest products.

By designating the Nampon Protected Public Forest, the Forest Department will be able to effectively safeguard the restricted teak trees planted within the area and prevent illegal encroachment and destruction. Additionally, it will help preserve the habitats of wildlife, including squirrels, jungle fowls, partridges, and various bird species, within the area.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 12 May 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a partly cloudy over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 13 May 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and Kayah, Rakhine and Northern Shan States and widespresd in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 mph. Wave height will be about 7 - 9 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Deltaic areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 May 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 May 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

COVID-19 report,
12 May 2025

NEW TESTS

2,754

NEW CASE

NIL

CASUALTIES

NIL

Myanmar National Centre for Diseases Control
Department of Public Health

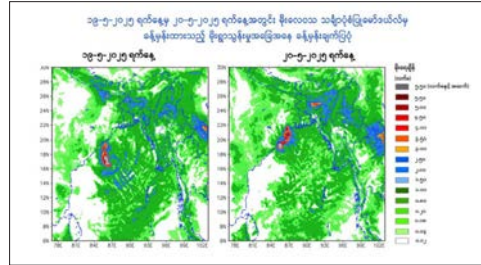
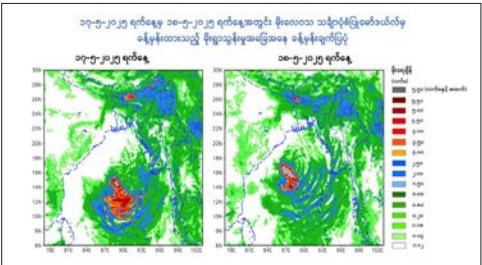
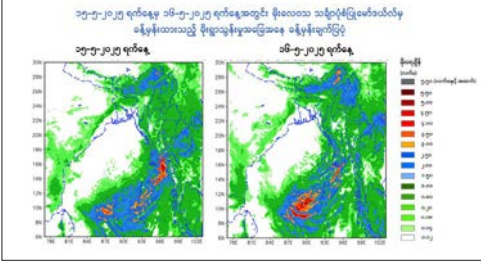
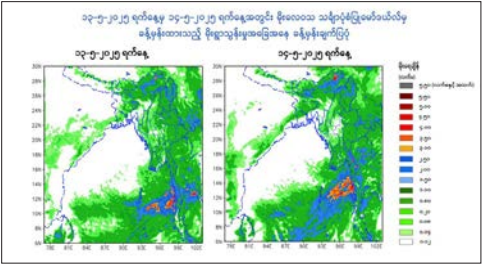
Heavy Rainfall Warning 6

Issued at 5:30 pm MST on 12 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal, likelihood of advancement of southwest monsoon and development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls from today evening to 20 May 2025.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

DMC holds 4th coord meeting

THE National Disaster Management Committee’s Vice-Chairs presided over the fourth coordination meeting of the Disaster Management Centre yesterday.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, who is also First Vice-Chair of the National Disaster Management Committee, said the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts are being carried out rapidly in the quake-stricken areas. The ministries concerned also reviewed the requests for container offices and houses promptly. Temporary shelters have been constructed for the staff who are currently residing there comfortably. It also needs to construct the required number of temporary shelters. Moreover, it is also necessary to select locations and make proper arrangements to ensure water, electricity and sanitation.

Second Vice-Chair Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win then discussed the allocation of container offices, container houses and rehabilitation processes for the quake-victims and staff.

Afterwards, attendees coordinated the discussion. — MNA/KTZH



The fourth coordination meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee in progress, presided over by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Dr Soe Win.

Fair-priced construction supplies offered for quake survivors



Union Ministers, deputy ministers, and officials review the booths at yesterday’s construction materials exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Mayor U Than Tun Oo yesterday visited the event to sell iron, steel, cement and construction materials to the people affected by the earthquake being organized in Taboung Ground near the Uppatasanti Pagoda from 12 to 18 May.

The opening ceremony of the event was held yesterday and it was attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min, Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Zeyar Lin and other relevant officials.

Union Minister U Tun Ohn, Deputy Ministers U Min Min and U Kyaw Shwe Tun and officials attended the talk under the topic “From Repair to Prepare”, and Secretary-General Daw Khine Khine Nwe of UM-FCCI, Myanmar Iron and Steel Association Chair Dr Kaythi Lwin, Founder and Managing Director of Alpha Power Engineering Co Ltd U Thet San and Department Head (Rtd) of Mandalay City Development Committee Daw Khin May Htay coordinated the discussion.

A total of 61 companies will participate with 74 booths, and people can buy iron, steel, cement and construction materials at fair prices freely. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister surveys sites for emergency shelters and offices



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn oversees the plan to place prefabricated offices and container houses.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn heard the report made by the Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung regarding the locations to place the container houses, prefabricated office installation and accommodation of staff at the temporary shelters yesterday.

Plans are underway to place ten 20-foot prefabricated offices beside the entrance road to the ministry, seven 20-foot container houses and ten 20 by 10-foot container houses in a land plot beside the car park.

The Union minister and party also observed the lo-

cations for container hoses, installation of prefabricated houses and the current condition of staff accommodation arranged in the 21-room temporary building on the lawn in front of the office, and also met with the staff and families.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn instructed officials to consider the upcoming rainy season to ensure the accurate measurements of the ground conditions before placing prefabricated offices and container houses, and also to ensure access to water, electricity and sanitation and cleanliness around the temporary Basha.

— MNA/KTZH

4 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: Daw Khin May Yi, U Thaung Naing, U Thein Ko Ko and Daw Thin Thin Nwet was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for four special civil appeal cases — Nos 80/2024 (Yangon), 1/2025 (Magway), 2/2025 (Yangon) and 3/2025 (Mon).

In addition, four special civil appeal cases — Nos 5/2025 (Taninthayi), 6/2025 (Magway), 8/2025 (Shan) and 12/2025 (Yangon) were heard. — MNA

Bangladesh Pharma Group sends lifesaving aid to MRCS

A donation ceremony was held yesterday at the MRCS Yangon branch office, where the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society in Myanmar donated medicines to support earthquake response efforts.

During the event, Dr Md Monwar Hosain, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar,

presented medicines worth K15 million on behalf of the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society in Myanmar. The donation was received by President Dr Myo Nyunt of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, who expressed gratitude and presented a certificate of appreciation. — MNA/MKKS



A group documentary photo is recorded at yesterday's donation event.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

NATIONAL

Volunteers continue rescue and rehabilitation in quake-affected areas

TATMADAW members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams from foreign countries, departmental personnel, members of social welfare associations and residents tirelessly participate in ongoing rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the quake-affected areas.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) overviewed the removal of debris at collapsed buildings at Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing with the participation of Tatmadaw members, police members and other volunteers. He also visited the sites of clearing debris at Aungmyaylawka Pagoda, Mahiyingana Pagoda, SunU Ponnyashin and Shinpin Nankaing Pagodas, the brick bridge of Buddha Museum and Cultural Museum and the nunnery in Ananda Myitta Corner in Sagaing. Lt-Gen Thet Pon cut the ribbon to open the construction materials sale for the earthquake victims at the 700th Anniversary Stadium in Sagaing and viewed the construction of the affordable house. At the practising high school of Sagaing University of



Lt-Gen Thet Pon looks into the display at the construction materials fair in Sagaing.

Education, he inspected preparations for students to conveniently learn education in the 2025-26 academic year and the construction of the temporary school building. He also fulfilled the needs of quake-affected people at the relief camp in Htonbo Ward with healthcare services. Lt-Gen Thet Pon inspected the beautification of Basic Education Middle School Branch in Htonbo Ward and the construction of the extended building of

the BEHS Branch in Yannaing Ward of Sagaing.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) observed reconstruction measures at BEHS No 1 in Amarapura Township, clearing of debris at the collapsed buildings at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Ohdaw Ward, Nagayon Pagoda and Maha Wizayayanthi Stupa. He also oversaw the reconstruction of pagodas and stupas in

their original state.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) attended the ceremony to provide relief supplies to families from the damaged houses at the hall in Singaing. Officials from the Kyaukse District General Administration Department presented bags of supplies containing 16 construction items to the earthquake victims. He visited the fibre cement plate factory

of Sannshinn & Brother Co Ltd in Taungyin Village-tract of Singaing Township and viewed the production of Target brand fibre cement plates. He observed sales of construction materials to the people for the ninth day to rebuild damaged pagodas and religious structures. In the afternoon, he inspected the clearing of dangerous buildings with the use of heavy machinery in Ayemya Kyilin Ward of Kyaukse.

The inspection boards formed under the SOP have examined 6,947 earthquake-affected buildings under the standard operation procedure in Kyaukse District. They have classified 6,611 buildings of public residence to be repaired. A total of 336 out of 321 dangerous buildings have been cleared. Three of the remaining 15 buildings are being cleared under the relevant organizations, while 12 departmental buildings have been submitted to ministries for inspection. Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing inspected the damaged staff housing of District GAD in Kyaukse and the land plot donated by well-wishers for the construction of temporary staff housing. — MNA/TTA

Fundraising variety show for Mandalay quake victims concludes

THE final day of the fundraising variety show for the communities affected by the Mandalay earthquake took place at the National Theatre in Yangon, with the attendance of Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, invitees and guests yesterday.

The Myanmar Theatrical Organization presented the dances, and the participants observed a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the disaster.

The cash donated by the well-wishers and the Yangon Region government was handed over to Chairman U Phoe Chit of the organization.

The members of organi-



The Myanmar Theatrical Organization performs on stage during yesterday's grand finale.

zation performed the Myanmar traditional dance, dual dance and opera, and it also

included the entertainment of Arzani San San Circus. — MNA/KTZH

Sixteen hotels collapse due to Mandalay earthquake, damage assessment underway

DUE to the major earthquake in Mandalay, 16 hotels in Mandalay Region have collapsed, and assessments are underway to determine the extent of damage to the affected hotels, according to the Mandalay Region Hotel Entrepreneurs' Association.

"A total of 16 hotels have collapsed. Although some buildings did not collapse, we are still inspecting those with structural damage. The assessment is not yet complete. The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism is also conducting inspections, while some hotels are already carrying out repairs. There are four hotels near the highway bus terminal. Since the first floor of a hotel collapsed, the entire five-storey structure will need to be demolished. Another structure was originally planned as a 12-storey hotel but currently has only eight storeys. As its foundation is stable, there is no significant damage to the structure, and both the lift and glass panels remain intact. The Aung Myint Mo Guesthouse and residential buildings are also being re-inspected," said an official from the Mandalay Region Hotel Entrepreneurs' Association.

Due to the impact of the major Mandalay earthquake, 16 hotels in the region have collapsed. Although some hotels did not collapse, they sustained damage, and their status is currently being documented. Some of these affected hotels are fully insured and some continue to operate as they have sustained only minor damage. — ASH/KNN

NATIONAL

MPC rolls out second journalism training course



Myanmar Press Council Chairman Dr Tin Htun Oo is seen delivering the opening speech at the Journalism Training Course 2/2025 inauguration ceremony.

THE Myanmar Press Council launched its second journalism training course for 2025, which began on 9 May and is being held weekly on Fridays at the Council's office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

At the opening ceremony, Council Chair Dr Tin Htun Oo delivered welcoming remarks. A total of 20 trainees from State-owned and private

print media, broadcast media, and online platforms are attending the course.

The programme includes subjects such as basic journalism, journalism English, mass communication, online journalism and print media journalism. Lessons are taught in both the Myanmar and English languages.

Veteran journalists U Ko Ko Oo (Executive Director,

MDEA), U Maung Maung Myint Thein (Satmhu Tekkatho), U Ye Min Soe (Maung Mauk-Wutlon) and U Myat Soe (Hlaing) are serving as voluntary instructors.

The Myanmar Press Council plans to continue organizing such training courses with future sessions to feature both internal and external journalism experts as instructors. — ASH/KZL

Dr Than Min Htut warns of scam: Fake Facebook account solicits donations

A famous philanthropist, Dr Than Min Htut, medical superintendent of Pyinmana Sangha Hospital, said there are charity scams by a fake Facebook account with his family's image.

He said the counterfeit account asked his donor to transfer money for a fundraising project.

"A donor made a video call via Messenger and told me about this fraud, along with screenshots of their conversation. She said the Facebook account's profile uses my family photo and has 11 friends in the friend list," he

said on his official account.

He said he uses two Facebook accounts: Than Min Htut and Than Minn Htut, and the Dr Than Min Htut (Pindaya Mee Eain Shin) page, and Than Min Htut account has 228K followers and 5000 friends and Than Minn Htut account has 32K followers and more than 4,200 friends, while the page has 47K followers.

He requested donors to verify first whether the account is real or not. He confirmed that the fundraising project has stopped, and his KPay number is 09 788202602. — MT/ZS



Screenshots reveal fake accounts that are making chats with a donor.

Mahar App premieres original film 'Summer 36' on 18 May

THE Mahar Application will release its original film 'Summer 36' on 18 May, according to actor Min Phone Myat, who stars in the film.

The story and screenplay of 'Summer 36' were written by Kaung Myat Thu Kyaw, who also directed the film for the Mahar Application.

According to Min Phone Myat, 'Summer 36' is a romantic film that stands out from the usual dramas seen on the Mahar Application. It is a love sto-

ry that resonates with summer, set against the backdrop of 36th Street in the heart of Yangon. The film beautifully portrays a love story commonly found among young people and is presented as a single-episode feature. He encourages viewers not to miss this new release.

The cast of 'Summer 36' includes Min Phone Myat, Htet Htet Htun, A Ni Zaw, Htoo Naing Lin, Ta Ta, Htet Aung Lin, Daw Wai Wai Khin, and many other supporting actors. — ASH/MKKS



A promotional poster for the 'Summer 36' series.

Yangon Zoo to host 3-day Back-to-School Special Event this month

THE 'Back-to-School Special Event' is coming soon, said Yangon Zoological Gardens, and it has been planned to be held for three days from 16 to 18 May at Yangon Zoological Gardens.

The event will include a trade fair and interesting programmes, so visitors can experience nature from close and can shop at the same time.

The "Back-To-School Special Event" will include photo opportunities, entertainment, and other programmes, and it is planned for visits during school holidays and family vacations.

Yangon Zoo is open daily from 8 am to 5 pm, and the public is invited to visit. For more information about promotion booths and food stalls, enquiries are welcome to the page messenger or 09 781430253 during office hours. — MT/ZS



This image depicts a poster for the 'Back-to-School Special Event'.

Rice flow map set for release

A rice map showing rice flow from producing districts to markets of each region and state must be reported, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Representatives of MRF and Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association met owners of rice depots and retail shops, and brokers on 9 May 2025 at the meeting hall of Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company in Yangon and discussed rice trade flow patterns from one region to another in the rice supply chain.

The meeting also focused on transactions as per the set reference price and seeking registration on the online registration platform: Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO).

Additionally, updating their monthly report of inventory list, checking warehouses and access to reference prices and rice flow



Export rice bags are organized at the warehouse.

pattern from producing areas to others were also discussed.

The Ministry of Commerce issued May's reasonable prices

for all varieties; K60,000-K72,000 per 108-pound bag of non-premium rice varieties (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein

Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatoe, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, and Nankauk, among others), K68,000-K78,000 per bag

of rice varieties (Zeeya, Ngwetoe, Minaya, Hnankauk, Shweman) that are consumed locally and exported, K75,000 to K99,000 to Shwethwe, Anyatha, Pakan, Hmawby 2, Hmawby 3, 90-day short matured rice, Manaw Thukha, Sinthuka, Byawtun, Ayeyapadetha, Ayeyamin produced from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions, K90,000-K150,000 to moderate quality rice including Magyantaw, Ayeyamin and Ayeyapadetha produced from Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and upper Myanmar regions, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan). The retailers are not entitled to make a profit of more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices. Non-compliance with the set prices is subject to legal actions, the ministry announced. — NN/KK

Yangon palm oil reference prices dip

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market was poised for a decrease to K6,620 per viss for a week ending 18 May from K6,700 per viss in the previous week (5-11 May), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.



A vendor seen organizing cooking oil for sale in the market.

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

1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

MMFA to offer Product Development Training (Batch 1) on 24 May

THE Myanmar Microfinance Association (MMFA) will conduct a Product Development Training (Batch 1) on 24-26 May 2025.

The course is tailored to Operation Managers, Senior Branch Managers, Branch Managers, Assistant Branch Managers, Supervisors, HR Department, Training Department and those who are interested in exploring a career in the micro-finance sector.

This training will cover Introduction, Icebreaker (Group), Training Roadmap (PowerPoint slides), MFT's role in Myanmar (Discussion), Financial Products (PowerPoint slides), Product Development (PowerPoint slides), Reviewing Existing Products (Dis-

cussion & PowerPoint slides), Competitor Analysis (Discussion & PowerPoint slides), Product Design (PowerPoint slides), Service Design (PowerPoint slides), Pilot Testing (PowerPoint slides), Product Launch (PowerPoint slides), Product Evaluation (Group Discussion) and Wrap Up (Group Discussion), with trainer Daw Phyu Phyu Pyae, Head of Product (Proximity Finance).

The training fee is K120,000 for non-members. Members can enjoy a K20,000 discount. Those enthusiastic can enrol in the course by 20 May 2025 through <https://shorturl.at/dDjSu>. Individuals can enquire about details via the contact number of MMFA at 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 12 May 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,710,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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Build safety families to be free from traffic dangers

THE UN General Assembly mandated the WHO and UN regional commissions to organize periodic UN Global Road Safety Weeks as platforms for global, regional, and especially national and local activities to raise awareness of road safety issues and promote appropriate responses.

The theme for the 8th UN Global Road Safety Week, taking place during the period from 12 to 18 May 2025, is “Streets for Life: Make Walking and Cycling Safe”. Such a theme highlights the importance of creating safe and accessible streets, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, who are disproportionately affected by road traffic injuries.

When walking and cycling are safe, these modes of transport promote health, contribute to sustainable cities, and support

more equitable societies. However, pedestrians and cyclists account for more than one quarter of all road traffic deaths. Proven, evidence-based measures must be implemented to ensure their safety. Walking and cycling are essential components of the multimodal transport systems promoted in the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030. Supporting and promoting policies that encourage walking and cycling is a cost-effective strategy. The 8th UN Global Road Safety Week presents a valuable opportunity to catalyze action at both national and local levels to make walking and cycling safer.

In Myanmar, the government has established the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) to oversee road safety initiatives across regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, with the aim of reducing traffic accidents, vehicle damage, and casualties. Meanwhile, law enforcement bodies such as the traffic police, in cooperation with local authorities, work to prevent traffic congestion and accidents. Local authorities also raise public awareness about traffic regulations by delivering lectures on key traffic rules to students in basic education schools, distributing pamphlets, and installing billboards in major cities.

awareness about traffic regulations by delivering lectures on key traffic rules to students in basic education schools, distributing pamphlets, and installing billboards in major cities.

Indeed, the human body is one of the most valuable assets throughout a person's life. No one wants to suffer injuries in a traffic accident, as the loss of life or physical harm cannot always be fully repaired. Therefore, it is essential for everyone to follow traffic laws and regulations carefully to avoid the dangers of potential accidents. By doing so, not only all road users, including drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and so on, but also their families at residences will have a better chance of leading safe and secure lives in the traffic safety society and avoiding regrettable accidents in advance.

Grassroots Actions and National Solutions for a Safer Future

By Yin Nwe Ko

MYANMAR is facing a dire public health crisis, with one of the shortest life expectancies among the ten ASEAN nations. This alarming situation stems from a combination of unsafe food practices, unhealthy dietary and lifestyle habits, weak regulatory oversight, and socioeconomic challenges like poverty and lack of awareness. The consequences are devastating, with a surge in chronic diseases, cancers, and autoimmune disorders, all of which are cutting lives short.

Some neighbouring countries exploit Myanmar as a dumping ground for substandard goods, flooding the market with dangerous products while lax regulations fail to protect consumers. To address this crisis, individual, community, and national-level changes are urgently needed, starting with safer food choices and healthier lifestyles.

One of the most pressing issues is the widespread adulteration of food products. Many imported goods, such as biscuits, arrive in Myanmar close to their expiration dates. Rather than being discarded, these products are repackaged with new labels and falsified date codes, deceiving consumers about their freshness and safety. This practice, common in the printing and packaging industry, prioritizes profit over public health, exposing people to potentially harmful substances.

Similarly, seafood like salmon, shishamo, freshwater prawns, and mackerel enter the country through informal border channels, primarily from Thailand's underground trade routes. These goods bypass any meaningful inspection by Myanmar's Food and Drug Administration (FDA), slipping into markets unchecked. For example, the Central Model Fish Market receives daily shipments from Thailand, with no regulatory barriers to ensure safety or quality.

The problem extends beyond expired goods to outright counterfeit and substandard products. Fake foods, beverages, and medicines are rampant, often produced in neighbouring countries where stricter regulations prevent their



sale domestically. In Myanmar, however, these items find a ready market. Artificial sweeteners, costing as little as K200 for a handful, are widely used in cooking, contributing to a rise in diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. These sweeteners, along with other chemical additives, are so pervasive that they've altered taste preferences, making it difficult for people to enjoy food without their intense sweetness. Reports of synthetic meat, eggs, and even plastic-like substances in products highlight the extent of this crisis. One shocking incident involved goat jerky that, when microwaved, melted into a plastic-like material, revealing the dangerous lengths to which some producers go to cut costs.

Agricultural practices further exacerbate the problem. Fruits and vegetables are treated with chemicals to accelerate growth, flowering, and ripening, allowing vendors to meet market demands for quick turnaround. For instance, tomatoes are often purchased green at wholesale markets and chemically ripened just before sale, ensuring they appear fresh. These substances, largely unregulated, pose significant health risks when consumed over time. Similarly, nearly all cooking oils available in Myanmar's markets — estimated at 99 per cent — consist of palm oil or reprocessed, low-quality oils imported from China. These oils, often recycled or chemically altered, are linked to

cardiovascular issues and other chronic conditions. The lack of access to fresh, unadulterated oils forces many households to rely on these harmful alternatives, further endangering public health. The FDA's inability to regulate effectively compounds these issues. At border checkpoints, inspections are minimal due to outdated equipment and limited expertise in detecting modern chemical additives. Even when harmful substances are identified, enforcement is weak, and violators face little consequence. The FDA frequently issues warnings about toxins in well-known food and beverage brands, yet these products remain widely available. The agency's struggles reflect broader systemic issues, including underfunding and a lack of political will to prioritize food safety.

As a result, Myanmar remains vulnerable to a flood of dangerous goods, with little protection for consumers. Dietary patterns in Myanmar are equally concerning. The staple diet, heavily reliant on rice, is high in carbohydrates, leading to obesity and related conditions like diabetes. Excessive consumption of salt, spices, and oil — common in traditional dishes — exacerbates hypertension and cardiovascular issues. In contrast, countries with longer life expectancies, such as Japan or Mediterranean nations, follow balanced dietary patterns. They begin meals with liquids like juices or soups, followed by light foods, and conclude with lean proteins, vegetables, and minimal oil or salt. For example, India's diet emphasizes greens, legumes, vegetables, and dairy, fostering physical development and resilience from childhood. Myanmar's habits, such as eating late, rice-heavy dinners after 5 pm, disrupt digestion and contribute to health problems. Cultural missteps, like brushing teeth before meals or bathing before brushing, also lead to dental issues, which can trigger systemic infections over time.

The health consequences of these practices are dire. Myanmar is witnessing a surge in non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and kidney failure, driven by artificial sweeteners, alcohol, and chemical-laden foods. Cancer rates are soaring, with rare and aggressive types becoming more common. Cases include melanoma in teenagers, anaplastic non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the knee, pancreatic cancer, and advanced liver and lung cancers, often diagnosed at stage 4. Autoimmune disorders are also on the rise, affecting multiple body systems and linked to dietary toxins and poor gut health. Even Burmese communities abroad are not immune, as many continue to consume imported Myanmar foods like fried fish paste, dried fish, pickled tea leaves, and fermented dishes, which carry the same risks.

Socioeconomic and systemic factors underpin this crisis. Poverty drives reliance on cheap, harmful products, while ignorance about food safety and health perpetuates risky behaviours. Greed fuels the production and sale of counterfeit goods, with unscrupulous businesses exploiting Myanmar's lax regulations. Neighbouring countries like Thailand, India, and China treat Myanmar as a dumping ground for substandard goods banned in their own markets, capitalizing on its weak enforcement. The government's failure to prioritize food safety, coupled with inadequate FDA resources, leaves the population vulnerable to traditional foods and habits, combined with a lack of awareness about healthier alternatives, further entrenches the problem.

To reverse this crisis, change must begin at the individual and family level. People should grow their own fruits and vegetables to ensure they are free of harmful chemicals. When buying produce, they should seek out local farmers selling naturally grown, pest-damaged goods or pick fresh fruits directly from trees. Fresh meat and fish should replace processed or preserved items, and sugary drinks, artificial sweeteners, ex-

cessive salt, spices, and oil should be avoided.

Households can opt for freshly pressed oils from trusted sources, such as local mills, or reduce oil use altogether. Healthier habits include drinking water or fresh juice in the morning to support gut health, eating rice-free dinners before 5 pm, brushing teeth after meals to prevent dental decay, and exercising regularly through brisk walking or climbing. Alcohol, tobacco, betel quid, and drugs must be eliminated entirely to reduce disease risk.

At the community and national level, broader action is essential. Raising awareness through schools, media, and local leaders can educate people about food safety and healthy lifestyles. The government must invest in modern FDA equipment, train staff, and enforce strict border inspections to block harmful goods. Promoting organic farming and incentivizing natural produce can shift reliance away from chemically treated products. Culturally, Myanmar must adopt dietary habits closer to those of longer-living nations, emphasizing vegetables, lean proteins, and minimal processed foods. Public health campaigns can encourage earlier bedtimes, regular exercise, and proper meal timing to align with global best practices.

The health crisis in Myanmar, rooted in unsafe food practices, harmful lifestyle choices, and systemic failures, demands urgent action. The alarming rise in chronic diseases, cancers, and autoimmune disorders underscores the need for change. By starting with individual and family-level actions — such as growing safe food, choosing natural products, and adopting healthier habits — Myanmar can begin to reverse this trend. Scaling these efforts to communities and the national level through education, stricter regulations, and cultural shifts is critical for building a healthier, longer-living population. Health is wealth, and it begins with informed choices, vigilance, and collective effort to protect the nation's future.

Heart rhythm disorder traces to bacterium lurking in gums: Study

Clinicians have observed a correlation between periodontitis, a common gum disease, and a higher likelihood of cardiovascular issues.



Researchers have identified DNA from harmful oral bacteria, including P. gingivalis, in heart muscle, valves, and arterial plaques, suggesting a link to various systemic diseases. **ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK**

NEW research shows that the gum disease bacterium P gingivalis can slip into the bloodstream and infiltrate the heart. There, it quietly drives scar tissue buildup — distorting the heart's architecture, disrupting electrical signals, and raising the risk of atrial fibrillation (AFib).

Clinicians have long noticed that people with periodontitis, a common form of gum disease, seem more prone to cardiovascular problems.

One recent meta-analysis has linked it to a 30 per cent higher risk of developing AFib, a potentially serious heart rhythm disorder that can lead to stroke, heart failure, and other life-threatening complications.

Globally, AFib cases nearly doubled in under a decade, rising from 33.5 million in 2010 to roughly 60 million by 2019. Now, scientific curiosity is mounting in how gum disease might be contributing to that surge.

Researchers have discovered DNA from harmful oral bacteria in heart muscle, valves, and even fatty arterial plaques.

Among them, P gingivalis has drawn particular scrutiny for its suspected role in a growing list of systemic diseases, including Alzheimer's, diabetes, and certain cancers.

It has previously been detected in the brain, liver, and placenta. But how it manages to take hold in the heart has

been unclear.

This study, published in Circulation, provides the first clear evidence that P gingivalis in the gums can worm its way into the left atrium in both animal models and humans, pointing to a potential microbial pathway linking periodontitis to AFib.

“The causal relationship between periodontitis and atrial fibrillation is still unknown, but the spread of periodontal bacteria through the bloodstream may connect these conditions,” said study first author Shunsuke Miyauchi, assistant professor at HU's Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

“Among various periodontal bacteria, P gingivalis is highly pathogenic to periodontitis and some systemic diseases outside the oral cavity. In this study, we have addressed these two key questions: Does P gingivalis translocate to the left atrium from the periodontitis lesion? And if so, does it induce the progression of atrial fibrosis and AFib?” added Miyauchi.

To simulate how P gingivalis might escape the mouth and create problems elsewhere, researchers created a mouse model using the bacterium's aggressive W83 strain.

They divided 13-week-old male mice into two groups: one had the strain introduced into the tooth pulp, the other remained uninfected.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

3-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K256M



Images display confiscated illegal goods across regions and states.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illicit trade continue effectively under the law.

On 9 and 11 May, combined teams seized illegal timber weighing 1.394 tonnes (worth K119,884) in Taungdwingyi Township, three unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K46 million) near the Yadana-bon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township, and two unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K13 million) in Htantabin and Insein Townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

Additionally, on 11 and 12 May, a combined on-duty team seized two trucks (estimated value of K70 million) carrying seven types of industrial materials valued at K124.5 million without official documents within the compound of the Yethaya temporary checkpoint. They also seized 2.609 tonnes of illegal teak, 0.936 tonne of illegal hardwood, and one tonne of other timbers (worth about K2.73 million) in Bago and Nyaunglebin Districts. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 13 arrests on 9, 11, and 12 May, confiscating illegal goods worth approximately K256 million. — MNA/MKKS

Stimulant pills seized in Kalaw and Tachilek



An offender is seen alongside seized drugs and related items.

TASK force members from Drug Enforcement Division of the Myanmar Police Force seized quantities of stimulant tablets in separate incidents in Kalaw and Tachilek townships, according to the MPF.

At around 9:30 pm on 8 May, a combined team searched Nay Htoo Aung near Nantpantak Village in Wat-

phyuyay Village-tract, Kalaw Township, under suspicious circumstances. The search led to the discovery of 30,000 stimulant tablets. Valued at K500 per tablet, the estimated local market value of the seized drugs is around K15 million.

In another operation at 5:15 pm on 9 May, the combined force stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Myint Myat Aung (aka) San Shay in Weinkyauk Ward, Tachilek. Authorities found 4,000 stimulant tablets, worth an estimated K2.8 million based on the local rate of K700 per tablet.

Authorities took action against both offenders under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL

Corrigendum

PLEASE read “Nanjing Massacre” instead of “Nanning Mas-sacre” in the 23rd line in the first paragraph of the first column in the interview story with the headline of “Replies by SAC Information Team Leader to media” on page 10 of The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily issued on 12 May 2025. The error is regretted. — Ed

Counter-argument to false information

False airstrike reports spread by malicious media

MALICIOUS media intentionally spread false information, claiming that the airstrike of security forces resulted in the death of 50 students, including two teachers, dead in Ohhteinkwin village in Dabayin Township, Sagaing Region.

According to the regional security officer, such news was invalid, and security forces conducted proper security measures to protect the lives and prosperity, and did not conduct an airstrike.

The government focuses on the promotion of the education quality of the new generation, and terrorists commit attacks and kidnappings.

Certain subversive media outlets disseminate false narratives to disrupt community peace and stability, aiming to conceal the collaborative efforts between security forces and residents in maintaining security.

— MNA/KTZH



Screenshots validate misinformation.

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NATIONAL

Rare fan-holding Buddha statue discovered in TadaU pagoda repository

A rare Buddha statue holding a fan was found in the repository of a pagoda in TadaU Township, according to historian and writer Bo Shake (Yadanapura).
“It was found on 11 May when a pagoda in the Shwe Tha Lyaung compound in TadaU collapsed. Its body parts and disciples were only found today (12 May) after debris was cleared,” he said.
As the unique statue consists of two headdressed Brahma figures holding umbrellas,

three Sakka statues with fly-whisks, and six monks worshipping, the meditators are not the usual first five disciples of Buddha.
“The strangest thing is the Buddha holding a fan. This type of statue is very rare. We tentatively guess that it is from the early Konbaung era, King Alaungpaya U Aung Zeya’s time, which was the transitional period,” he said.
With Brahma and Sakka together, the statue was believed

to be cast for the peace and prosperity of the country, he added.
“In our history, the country was not stable at that time, with many rebellions. They invaded Inwa several times. These enemies were all suppressed after King Alaungpaya came to power. I wonder if this statue was cast and worshipped with the symbol for peace. And it appeared on the Vesak day. So, I believe it is a good omen that Myanmar will be peaceful,” he continued. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



A rare statue of Buddha holding a fan.

Hlawga Park hosts free SUP water activities for visitors this May

THE Hlawga Park has offered a promotion for SUP water activities for visitors who come in May.
The park, situated on a vast area near Yangon and has nature worth exploring and gives a tranquillity, has invited the public to come to stay at bungalows to avoid the summer heat and enjoy exciting activities.
For visitors in May, a bungalow promotion, which includes a 30-minute free ride for SUP

water activities for a visitor per bungalow, is being offered. Prices are K65,000 for a lotus cabin + SUP, K75,000 for a module house + SUP, K90,000 for a lakeview cottage and K100,000 for a log cabin + SUP.
For booking or detailed information about the Hlawga Park, phone numbers are provided: 09 423104231 and 09 429998624, and individuals can call during open hours from 8 am to 5 pm. — MT/ZS

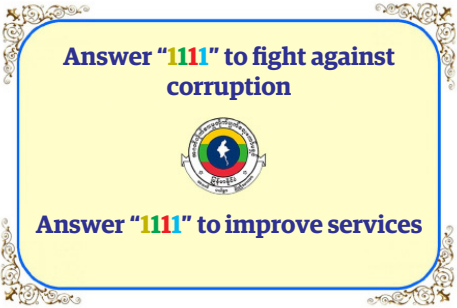


People are seen enjoying SUP touring at the Hlawga Park. PHOTO: HLAWGA PARK

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.
The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).
According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission



Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.
News and Periodicals Enterprise

ECONOMY

WORLD



Russian entrepreneur Svetlana Olkhovikova poses for a photo during an event in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, 12 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Russian entrepreneur finds her best era for entrepreneurship in China

IN her office located at the Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zone, 36-year-old Russian entrepreneur Svetlana Olkhovikova, dressed in a cream-coloured suit, gently sipped a matcha latte while checking orders from her business partners in Russia and Uzbekistan.

Leveraging her excellent communication skills and experience in international trade, she has established two foreign trade companies in north China's port city of Tianjin.

In September 2023, she founded a company focusing on exporting agricultural machinery. In March 2024, she launched another one specializing in the cross-border trade of medical devices, equipment and accessories.

The two companies have already built partnerships with enterprises in over 20 countries

and regions, including Russia, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea, said Olkhovikova in fluent Chinese.

"In China, I've found the best era for entrepreneurship," she remarked with deep emotion. From selecting a company location and registering her business to renewing her work visa and even arranging bank account setups, she was repeatedly impressed by the local government's combination of administrative efficiency and human-centred policies.

As a foreign entrepreneur in China, Olkhovikova faced challenges such as learning local laws and tax regulations. However, the "nanny-style" support from government agencies gave her a strong sense of reassurance.

"My grandfather used to say that the warmth of the Chinese

people is like an ever-burning fire. Now that I'm building my career in Tianjin, I realize this isn't an exaggeration — it's truly the warmth I feel every day," she said.

Olkhovikova's decision to start her business in China was driven not only by its excellent business environment but also by its vast domestic market, highly efficient industrial and supply chains, and continuously improving innovation ecosystem.

"The Chinese market is enormous. Many products manufactured here are increasingly in demand overseas, offering countless opportunities for people around the globe," said Olkhovikova, who has gained a deeper understanding of China's economic development through her entrepreneurial journey. — Xinhua

Struggling Nissan to cut 10,000 more jobs: media

NISSAN plans to cut 10,000 more jobs worldwide, Japanese media reported on Monday, a day before the struggling car-maker was expected to report a record annual loss of around \$5 billion.

Public broadcaster NHK said the decision, in addition to a November announcement that it would slash 9,000 positions, means Nissan is now aiming to reduce its total workforce by approximately 15 per cent.

Nissan, whose mooted merger with Honda collapsed earlier this year, declined to comment on the reports which also appeared in the Nikkei business daily.

The company — one of the top 10 automakers by unit sales — is heavily indebted and engaged in an expensive business restructuring plan.

Like many peers, Nissan is finding it difficult to compete against home-grown electric vehicle brands in China, while its profits are now under fur-



This file photo taken on 8 December 2023 shows a worker on a production line during a media tour of the "Nissan Intelligent Factory" at the Nissan Motor Tochigi plant, the company's largest in Japan, in Kaminokawa, Tochigi prefecture, some 105 kilometres (65 miles) north of Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

ther threat from US trade tariffs.

The possible merger with Japanese rival Honda had been seen as a potential lifeline.

But talks crashed in February after Honda proposed making Nissan a subsidiary instead of integrating under a holding firm.

Then last month Nissan

issued a stark profit warning, saying it expects an annual net loss of 700-750 billion yen (\$4.8-\$5.1 billion) for the 2024-25 financial year.

Its previous worst full-year net loss was 684 billion yen in 1999-2000, during a financial crisis that birthed its rocky partnership with French automaker Renault. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

WTO head to meet Japan PM Ishiba, officials amid global trade woes

WORLD Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will meet Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and other ministers during her three-day trip to Japan through Wednesday, the government said Monday, amid uncertainty over global trade and economy by aggressive US tariff policies.

The series of meetings, to take place on Tuesday, are aimed at further enhancing cooperation between Japan and the WTO to "maintain and strengthen the multilateral trading system", the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, describing the Geneva-based body as the "cornerstone" of a rules-based free and open trading system.

Okonjo-Iweala will also meet Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yoji Muto. — Kyodo

Iran Oil Show wraps up with global participation, agreements signed

THE 29th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition, also known as Iran Oil Show 2025, concluded Sunday in the Iranian capital Tehran after a four-day run.

More than 2,000 companies, including 150 foreign firms from 14 countries, showcased their latest products, technologies and services.

Iranian companies signed multiple agreements, memoranda of understanding, and contracts worth billions of US dollars during the exhibition, covering research, equipment production and procurement, and development services. The event also featured expert panels, conferences, educational workshops, and the unveiling of new books and scientific achievements in the oil and gas sector. — Xinhua

“Tech for good, tech for all” — China’s path to global branding

ACROSS diverse sectors, Chinese companies are turning inclusive and self-driven innovation into a common pursuit: building global brands through accessible technology and self-reliant strength. “Technology should be a public good that is accessible to every individual and affordable for every small business,” Wang Jing, general manager of public affairs at

Alibaba Group, said on the sidelines of the 2025 World Brand Moganshan Conference.

Held from 9 to 11 May in east China’s Zhejiang Province, the conference, themed “Brands Bring Better Future for the World,” is aimed at creating a Chinese platform for global cooperation, shared development and mutual benefit. On 29 April, Alibaba unveiled Qwen3, the latest iteration of its open-source large language model family. All Qwen3 models are freely available to developers worldwide, underscoring the company’s commitment to inclusive innovation in the AI space. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 10 May 2025 shows a scene of the main forum of the 2025 World Brand Moganshan Conference, held in Deqing County, east China’s Zhejiang Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Japan life insurer Dai-ichi Life to raise stake in British hedge fund

DAI-ICHI Life Holdings Inc said Monday it will raise its stake in British hedge fund Capula Investment Management LLP, a move that is expected to help the major Japanese life insurer beef up its asset management business amid market uncertainties in the wake of unpredictable US tariff policies. The Japanese company will raise its investment ratio to 15 per cent in the Capula group, known for its strength in strategic bond investment, from the current nearly five per cent and appoint the hedge fund an equity-method affiliate. Dai-ichi Life did not disclose the size of the investment, which it said will be completed by the end of May. — Kyodo

Error Correction

In the advertisement announcing the transferred distributor for registration pesticides on page (13) of this newspaper dated 18-3-2025, the Reg Type of Quasar (Registration No. P2023-4975) should be amended to read Provisional instead of Full.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DYNASTY VOY.NO. (02/2025)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DYNASTY VOY.NO. (02/2025)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301928** Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority Agent For: **M/S WILSELMSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD**

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In the Matter of Voluntary Winding-Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law SIKA MBCC MYANMAR LTD

In accordance with the resolutions passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Sika MBCC Myanmar Company Limited (“the Company”), held on 12 May 2025, it is resolved that:
1. The Company shall undergo voluntary winding-up in accordance with the Insolvency Law.
2. U Sai Aung Sar, CPA (No. 1105), is appointed as the official liquidator with full authority to carry out all procedures related to the winding-up and asset liquidation, in accordance with the Law.
Accordingly, it is hereby declared that all assets and liabilities of Sika MBCC Myanmar Ltd shall be settled or claimed through the liquidator no later than 10 June 2025. By the instruction of Sika MBCC Myanmar Ltd.
U Sai Aung Sar
Certified Public Accountant 1105
Liquidator
Ph No. – 09952211180

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2507S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2507S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-5-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301185** Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority Agent For: **M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (517W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (517W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301185** Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority Agent For: **M/S MAERSK A/S**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUTHERN VENTURE VOY.NO. (105656)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOUTHERN VENTURE VOY.NO. (105656)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301928** Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority Agent For: **M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD**

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China, US announce measures to ease tariff tensions

CHINA and the United States announced here Monday a series of tariff modification measures aimed at easing trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

The decision followed a two-day China-US high-level meeting on economic and trade affairs, where both sides recognized the importance of their bilateral economic and trade relationship to both countries and the global economy, a joint statement said, noting that both sides emphasized the need for a sustainable, long-term and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationship.

According to the statement, the United States will place a 90-day pause on 24 percentage points of the additional ad valorem rate of duty on articles of China (including articles of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region) starting from 2 April, while re-



A picture taken on 10 May 2025 shows the entrance of the residency of the permanent Swiss ambassador to the United Nations offices in Geneva, that is hosting the talks between Senior US and Chinese officials on tariffs, in Geneva, on 10 May 2025. PHOTO: AFP

taining the remaining rate of 10 per cent on those articles. It will also remove the additional tar-

iff rates on imports from China announced on 8 and 9 April respectively.

According to the Executive Order 14259 issued on 8 April by the White House, the United

States raised "reciprocal" tariff rate on China to 84 per cent. One day later, the White House in another executive order hiked rate to 125 per cent.

Ad valorem tax is a tax based on the assessed value of assets, goods or services being taxed.

China will modify accordingly the application of the additional ad valorem rate of duty on articles of the United States set forth in Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council No 4 of 2025, by suspending 24 percentage points of that rate for an initial period of 90 days, while retaining the remaining additional ad valorem rate of 10 per cent on those articles.

It will remove the modified additional ad valorem rates of duty on those articles imposed by the No 5 and No 6 announcements issued by the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on 9 and 11 April respectively. — Xinhua

Over 150 countries invited to Moscow for meeting organized by Russian Security Council

MORE than 150 countries and over 20 international organizations have been invited to the 13th international meeting of high representatives in charge of security issues, which will be held in Moscow from 27-29 May under the chairmanship of Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu, the council said.

"Invitations to participate in the forum have been sent to more than 150 states of the

Global South and East, the CIS, CSTO, EAEU, SCO countries, as well as to the leadership of more than 20 international organizations. The agenda of the 13th forum includes issues of international cooperation in the field of security," the statement says.

The Russian Security Council has been organizing an annual international meeting of high representatives re-

sponsible for security issues since 2010. The forum is an important international platform for exchanging opinions on all issues related to global security and mechanisms for strengthening cooperation between partner countries in the fight against international terrorism, extremism, transnational crime, drug trafficking, as well as new challenges and threats. — SPUTNIK



CSTO Secretary-General Stanislav Zas, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon pose for a family photo before the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) summit of the member states leaders at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. PHOTO SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

China advances AI curriculum to cover full basic education

CHINA will establish a tiered AI education system spanning primary, junior high, and senior high schools to guide students from foundational cognitive awareness to practical technological innovation, according to policy documents unveiled Monday.

At the primary school level, the Ministry of Education (MOE) prioritizes AI literacy through exposure to basic technologies, such as voice recognition and image classification. Building on this foundation, junior high school students will deepen their understanding of AI logic, examine machine learning processes, and develop critical thinking to identify misinformation in generative AI outputs. — Xinhua

Japan rice prices fall for 1st time in 18 weeks amid govt measures

JAPAN'S rice prices fell for the first time in 18 weeks to 4,214 yen (\$28.50) per five kilogrammes, the government said Monday, with the release of its stockpiles appearing to finally have an effect on stabilizing supply.

During the seven days through 4 May, the average price of rice sold at supermarkets across the nation fell by 19 yen per five kilogrammes from the previous week, when it hit its highest level since data collection began in March 2022, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

But with prices still sitting at around double from a year earlier, it remains to be seen whether the downward trend will continue.

The National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations, which has received the bulk of the released stockpiles, has been moving to bring them to market. — Kyodo

Alcaraz, Zverev march into Italian Open last 16

CARLOS Alcaraz joined reigning Italian Open champion Alexander Zverev in the last 16 in Rome after seeing off Laslo Djere 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 on centre court on Sunday.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz reached the fourth round at the Foro Italico for the first time after a battle with spirited Djere. In the next round, Alcaraz will face Karen Khachanov who knocked out Italian wild card entrant Francesco Passaro 6-3, 6-0. Alcaraz was playing in his second match since suffering a thigh injury in his Barcelona Open final defeat

by Holger Rune last month.

And the Spaniard was not at his best against Djere whose three career tournament wins have all come on clay, his most recent title in March, at the Chile Open in Santiago. The 22-year-old was broken twice in the first set which looked like going either way until he took control in the eventual tie-break, before sweeping Djere aside in the second. "I just thought that I had to stay there mentally strong, waiting for my chances because I was playing great," said Alcaraz. "I was playing

great, hitting the ball. It was just a few mistakes that I made." Zverev meanwhile barely broke a sweat against Lithuanian qualifier Vilius Gaubas, easing to a 6-4, 6-0 win to set up a last-16 clash with France's Arthur Fils. — AFP



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning his men's singles match against Serbia's Laslo Djere during the ATP Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome on 11 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**



German football coach and global head of Football at Red Bull, Jurgen Klopp (C) reacts after a goal during the French L2 football match between Paris Football Club (FC) and Ajaccio AC at the Charlety Stadium in Paris, on 10 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Unexpected challenges for Klopp as Leipzig trapped in stormy waters

EVEN for a multitasker like Jurgen Klopp, juggling multiple responsibilities appears increasingly challenging.

Four months into his role as Red Bull's "Head of Global Soccer," the 57-year-old former Liverpool manager has found himself acting as an emergency responder for the energy drink giant's flagship club: RB Leipzig. The two-time German Cup winner is enduring an uncharacteristically difficult season. Klopp's broad portfolio leaves limited time to personally manage the range of football operations under the Red Bull umbrella. While he and former German international Mario Gomez were in attendance last weekend for FC Paris' promotion to Ligue 1, Leipzig was dealing with a growing crisis.

In March, Klopp's associate Zsolt Low left his role as Head of Soccer Development to replace Marco Rose as Leipzig's interim head coach. However, despite the shuffle, the team failed to qualify for the UEFA Champions League for the first time in years. A major overhaul appears inevitable. Alongside a search for a new coach, Leipzig must rebuild its squad. The pressure is mounting on Klopp, who is now under scrutiny from both fans and media. Rumours have circulated that Klopp might take over coaching duties himself, but his agent Marc Kossicke quickly dismissed the speculation. "He is happy with his job," Kossicke said. — Xinhua

Dortmund spoils Alonso's Leverkusen farewell to stay in Champions League hunt

BORUSSIA Dortmund spoiled Xabi Alonso's farewell at the BayArena with a clinical 4-2 comeback win over Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Sunday, keeping themselves firmly in the race for a Champions League spot.

In Alonso's final home game as Leverkusen coach, the hosts dominated early on and took a deserved lead in 32 minutes through Jeremie Frimpong, who finished from close range after good work

from Florian Wirtz.

But Dortmund hit back immediately. Julian Brandt, playing against his former club, equalized a minute later with the visitors' first real chance. Before the break, Julian Ryerson completed the turnaround with a low shot after Dortmund had won possession deep in Bayer territory. Despite continued pressure from Leverkusen, with Wirtz, Nathan Tella and Amine Adli all going close, BVB goalkeeper Gregor Ko-

bel made a number of good saves to keep the visitors in front. The home side lacked the clinical edge that Dortmund displayed throughout.

Karim Adeyemi made it 3-1 in 73 minutes, racing past Jonathan Tah and finishing coolly. Four minutes later, Serhou Guirassy added a fourth, effectively ending the contest. Jonas Hofmann headed in a consolation in stoppage time, but the damage had already been done.—Xinhua

Champions League race still open as Newcastle beats Chelsea and Arsenal held

THE race to ensure the final Champions League places in the Premier League remains open after the 36th round of matches at the weekend.

Arsenal could have confirmed a top-five finish with a win away to Liverpool, but drew 2-2, although Mikel Arteta will be content after seeing his side fight back from 2-0 down after conceding quick-fire goals to Cody Gakpo and Luis Diaz midway through the first half.

Gabriel Martinelli pulled a goal back for Arsenal in 47 minutes, and Mikel Merino

levelled with 20 minutes left to play, before being sent off for two yellow cards 11 minutes from time.

Four other teams still have top-five hopes with two games left to play.

Newcastle United beat Chelsea 2-0 at St James' Park to move up to third above Manchester City.

The home side got off to a flying start when Sandro Tonali popped up at the far post to open the scoring after just two minutes. Things got better for Newcastle when Chelsea were reduced to 10 men after

35 minutes, as striker Nicolas Jackson was dismissed for using his elbow on Sven Botman.

Chelsea reacted well with a player less, and Marc Cucurella and Enzo Fernandez both forced Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope into good saves, but the game was decided in the last minute when Bruno Guimaraes' shot took a deflection to loop into the net.

Nottingham Forest had the chance to move above Chelsea, but was held to a surprise 2-2 draw at home to already-relegated Leicester City. — Xinhua



WORLD

Gaza faces 'critical risk of famine': UN report

GAZA is at "critical risk of famine", with 22 per cent of the population facing an imminent humanitarian "catastrophe" after more than two months of an aid blockade by Israel, a food security monitor warned Monday.

Gaza's entire population of around 2.4 million people is at risk of a food crisis "or worse" by September, the UN- and NGO-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) said in a report.

"Nineteen months into the conflict, the Gaza Strip is still confronted with a critical risk of famine," the IPC said.

It said there had been a "major deterioration" in the food security situation since its last assessment in October 2024.

"Goods indispensable for people's survival are either depleted or expected to run out in the coming weeks. The entire population is facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with half a million people — one in five — facing starvation," it said.

The consortium, which has developed a five-level famine warning system, found that from 1 April to 10 May, 244,000 people in Gaza were in the most critical food security situation — level five, or "catastrophe/famine".

It classified another 925,000 as level four, or "emergency".

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization warned that Gaza faced "imminent risk of famine", saying agriculture was "on the brink of total collapse".



Palestinians shove to get a ration of hot food from a charity kitchen set up at the Islamic University campus in Gaza City on 12 May 2025. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 12 May that the release of a US-Israeli hostage announced by Hamas would not lead to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip or the release of Palestinian detainees. **PHOTO: AFP**

It called for the "immediate" lifting of the blockade, saying aid like animal feed and veterinary supplies was urgently needed to maintain precious production of items such as milk and eggs, often the

last remaining food.

Israel, which launched its Gaza offensive after the 7 October 2023 attacks led by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, imposed its current aid blockade on 2 March.

Last week, the Israeli security cabinet approved plans to expand the military operation, including the "conquest" of Gaza and the displacement of its population. — AFP

Iran says latest nuclear talks "more serious", rejects US call to dismantle facilities

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that indirect negotiations with the United States in Oman to revive the 2015 nuclear deal had become "much more serious and frank," as President Masoud Pezeshkian rejected US demands for Tehran to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure.

The talks in Muscat, facilitated by Oman, mark the latest effort to salvage the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 under US President Donald Trump's first term, prompting Iran to reduce compliance with its nuclear commitments gradually.

Araghchi, speaking to Iran's state-run IRIB TV after the fourth round of negotiations in Oman's capital, said the discussions had shifted from general topics to more specific proposals. He characterized the talks as "forward-moving" but acknowledged the growing complexity of the issues. Both sides agreed to continue the discussions.

The latest round, lasting about three hours, follows previous sessions in Muscat on 12 and 26 April, and in Rome on 19 April. — Xinhua

S Korea kicks off official campaign for 3 June presidential election



Kim Moon-soo (1st R), presidential candidate of South Korea's conservative People Power Party, shakes hands with a stall owner during a campaign at a market in Seoul, South Korea, 12 May 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SOUTH Korea on Monday kicked off an official campaign for the snap presidential election on 3 June, caused by the ouster of former conservative President Yoon Suk-yeol from office over his botched martial law bid last December.

Registering with the National Election Commission were seven candidates, including Lee Jae-

myung of the majority liberal Democratic Party and Kim Moon-soo of the second-biggest conservative People Power Party.

Lee, who lost the 2022 presidential election to the ousted Yoon by the country's narrowest margin of 0.73 percentage points, launched his campaign at a square in central Seoul, where protesters had gathered to demand the removal of Yoon from office.

The human rights lawyer-turned-politician maintained his position as a presidential frontrunner in the 3 June election, taking a big lead over his conservative archrival.

Lee garnered a support rate of 54.0 per cent in a hypothetical three-way matchup with Kim and Lee Jun-seok of the minor conservative New Reform Party, according to local pollster Flower Research.

Kim won an approval score of 20.6 per cent, followed by the minor party candidate with 6.9 per cent.

The result was based on a poll of 2,002 voters conducted between Friday and Saturday. It had a plus and minus 2.2 percentage points in margin of error with a 95 per cent confidence level. — Xinhua