

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union Government Meeting at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MSME Activities Require Enhanced Focus and Support

Priority should be accorded to the production of MSME goods using locally available raw materials.

THE government plans to continue the implementation of the reform process under the democratic principles, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting of the Union Government at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the President said that some countries are still exerting pressure by imposing restrictions and economic sanctions on the current government,

which is carrying out its duties in accordance with democratic principles chosen by the people. The government plans to continue the implementation of the reform process under the democratic principles.

In the agriculture sector, the President stressed that as Myanmar is one that cultivates oilseed crops, reliance on imported edible oils should not be necessary.

SEE PAGE 3

Other key highlights from the President's address at the Union Government Meeting

1. It is necessary for all activities to be carried out carefully and in accordance with established rules and procedures.
2. Efforts should be made to develop solar energy-based electricity generation according to local conditions. Similarly, thermal power generation should also be carried out.
3. Strict measures must be taken at all levels to prevent illegal trade and the transportation of narcotics, and to ensure that inspection checkpoints carry out proper and disciplined checks.

NATIONAL PAGE 3



Hluttaw conveys people's will to government to meet public needs

NATIONAL PAGE 6



Mandalay-Myitkyina Corridor Reopens as Northern Route Returns to Normalcy

BUSINESS PAGE 7



Myanmar's marine export amounts 70% for saltwater, 30% for freshwater products

NATIONAL

Public Notice

1. Due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, global fuel prices have increased, affecting transport costs for essential goods distributed by diesel-powered vehicles. To help stabilize prices of basic commodities, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue had previously announced a tax exemption on imported High-Speed Diesel (HSD 500 ppm), including customs duty, special commodity tax, commercial tax, and a two per cent advance income tax, effective from 1 to 30 April 2026, as published in state-owned newspapers on 2 April 2026. This tax exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 May 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 May 2026 and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of HSD (500 ppm).

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. To ensure continuous development of the agricultural sector, which is a key foundation of the State economy, and to reduce production costs for farmers, a two per cent advance income tax on imported fertilizers will be exempted from 1 to 30 April 2026, and announced in the state-run newspapers on 2 April 2026. This exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 May 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 May 2026 and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of fertilizers.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. Due to rising global fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East, the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has also increased. To reduce electricity production costs from gas-fired power plants and help stabilize electricity tariffs for the public, measures are being taken to manage these impacts.
2. Therefore, to support power generation and reduce electricity costs, customs duty, commercial tax, and advance income tax on imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be exempted from 1 to 31 May 2026.
3. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas within the specific period.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

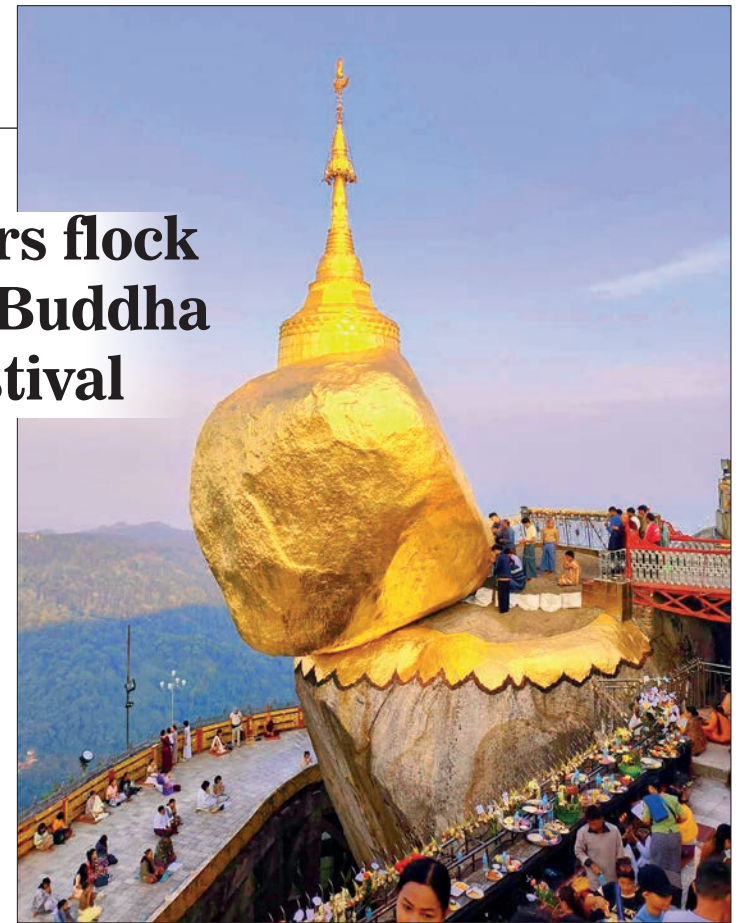
Gold Market Rate as of 6 May 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,100,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

1.4M+ visitors flock to Kyaiktiyo Buddha Pujaniya Festival

A total of more than 1,400,000 travellers visited the pagoda between October 2025 and May 2026 during the Buddha Pujaniya Festival. During this period, visitors from both within the country and abroad – particularly from neighbouring Thailand and Vietnam – travelled to the pagoda, according to U Soe Hla, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Mon State.

In October 2025, when the Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda began, 155,239 local visitors and 430 foreign tourists visited the site. In November, 200,335 local visitors and 582 foreigners were recorded. In December, the number rose to 339,833 local pilgrims and 806 foreign visitors. In January 2026, there were 209,460 local visitors and 474 foreigners, followed by 168,566 local and 732 foreign visitors in February. In March,



This photo showcases the Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

212,169 local visitors and 804 foreigners visited the pagoda. In April, up to the full moon of Kason, 145,134 local visitors and 395 foreign tourists were recorded.

In total, 1,430,736 local visitors and 4,232 foreign visitors came to the pagoda, bringing the overall number of visitors to 1,434,959, according to the

Board of Trustees.

Hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and stalls around the pagoda precinct remain open as usual. Approximately 250 mountain vehicles transport pilgrims daily to Kyaiktiyo Hill, while hotels, rest houses and restaurants operate around the clock to accommodate visitors. — ASH/MKKS

Historic German printing press, photos showcased at Sixth Buddhist Council 70th Anniversary Exhibition



This photo shows the German-made printing press used during the Sixth Buddhist Council displayed at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

THE exhibition commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council is being held daily at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, from 9 am to 5 pm until 10 May and is crowded with a large number of visitors.

The exhibition features 10 booths, covering the First to the Sixth Buddhist Councils and contemporary religious activities. In booth 8, a German-made printing press used during the Sixth Buddhist Council is displayed, along with metal types and printed editions of the Tipitaka.

The printing machine, a Heidelberg Letter

Press from Germany, was valued at K13,544, has a printing size of 13 inches by 18 inches, and was brought to Myanmar in 1954. Now it is 72 years old, and it was used to print the Tipitaka books with metal type during the very first Sixth Buddhist Council.

Students from Yankin Education Degree College and Hlegu Education Degree College, members of the Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central), monks, and people visited the exhibition yesterday. The event was lively with exhibition booths, book stalls, and quiz competitions.

Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central) Chairman U Wunna said it is important for younger generations to understand and appreciate the invaluable efforts made to preserve the religious-related things. By doing so, they can better value Buddhism and understand the important parts to propagate the Sasana and the essence of Buddhism, and recognize the religious heritages that have been carefully preserved.

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

NATIONAL

MSME Activities Require Enhanced Focus and Support

FROM PAGE 1

There is market demand for oil crops such as sesame, sunflower, and soybean, and efforts must be made to improve the quality of Myanmar Pawsan rice and Myanmar coffee – both of which have strong demand – and to ensure they meet market requirements for export.

Regarding the rising prices of meat and fish, he stated that if self-sufficiency can be achieved nationwide through ensuring sufficient local consumption, the prices of meat and fish could also decline.

He noted that relevant ministries need to coordinate and cooperate, and local authorities, as well as residents, must also work together in collaboration in order to promote the growth of both domestic and international tourism.

In order to strengthen the national economy, it is necessary to actively support and promote MSME businesses, as even some developed countries continue to rely on SME enterprises. In the regions and states as well, MSME activities should be given special emphasis and encouragement, and priority should be placed on manufacturing based on locally available raw materials.

During the previous second democratic government term, the President recounted that the country suf-

fered financial losses amounting to US\$13.344 million and K226.107 billion due to reckless actions by state and union-level officials. In order to prevent such occurrences, it is necessary for all activities to be carried out carefully and in accordance with established rules and procedures.

Union ministers discussed the distribution of urea fertilizer and fuel to farmers in time for growing summer paddy and monsoon crops, the efforts to meet the target yield of sunflower, sesame and edible crops and export of rice through the export zones, cultivation of soya bean, hatching shrimps and breeding of dairy cows, effective prevention of using farmlands in other ways without permission, and encouragement of cooperative societies to farmers for systematic agriculture and livestock activities.

Moreover, they reported on the production of oil and natural gas, implementation of offshore projects, upgrade of the Thanlyin oil refinery to ensure local fuel security, distribution of fuel at home through the digital system, generating electricity from natural gas and hydropower, as well as solar energy, and plans set to increase the generation of electricity and supply of electricity without loss.

Furthermore, they presented reports on beefing up MSME businesses, disbursement of capital to MSME

industries, efforts to improve cotton cultivation and production, as well as manufacturing value-added bamboo products, conducting the placement test for children outside the learning society to admit them to the government schools, and inspection for private schools to follow the systematic procedures.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw gave a supplementary report on the expansion of Union ministries and the need to finish the work process in the financial year.

In his response, the President stated that sunflowers, soybeans, and sesame are cultivated in Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Mandalay, and Shan State, and it is desired that efforts be made to achieve the target yield per acre based on the current cultivated acreage.

He noted that crops including rice, beans, sesame, and maize are being successfully cultivated in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago regions.

He stressed that it is necessary to effectively implement the cooperative system based on the five key principles of rural development, namely education, health, economy, access to electricity, and water supply.

Regarding electricity, the President urged all to work towards ensuring local self-sufficiency in each region. At present, efforts should be

made to develop solar energy-based electricity generation according to local conditions. Similarly, thermal power generation should also be carried out.

In his concluding remarks, the President said that it is necessary to systematically supervise and manage operations in each region and state in order to ensure the safe and smooth flow of goods. Likewise, strict measures must be taken at all levels to prevent illegal trade and the transportation of narcotics, and to ensure that inspection checkpoints carry out proper and disciplined checks.

During the period of their respective duties, he underlined that it is necessary to ensure the successful implementation of tasks at the union, regional, and state levels by taking a long-term perspective. For regional development, while some activities are carried out at the union level, others must be implemented at the local level, and it is emphasized that all such work should be systematically planned and executed with a focus on long-term benefits.

Also, present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Union ministers and the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Hluttaw conveys people's will to government to meet public needs

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi frankly met residents in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory at the religious hall of Thukha Yadana Monastery in Seinsabin Village yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that the Hluttaw is an institution combined with the voters and people's representatives. The Hluttaw will emphasize the legal protection for the people to live in peace and prestige. Moreover, the Hluttaw will review, amend, add and

revise the existing laws for the sake of the people.

Moreover, he added that the Hluttaw will convey the voice and will of the people to the government to implement them. Currently, the government is implementing the 100-day development initiatives for the people. Hence, the Hluttaw will coordinate with the government to fulfil the needs of people in the development process.

Local people discussed the repair of damaged stupas and temples caused by the earth-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi warmly greets residents from Zeyathiri Township in Seinsabin Village, Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

quake, the construction of concrete roads in rural areas, and the supply of electricity and fuel for cultivation measures.

The Speaker responded that he will coordinate with relevant departments to address some measures. And, for the long-term

process, he will make field trips to check the necessary measures to be fulfilled on priority. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker urges inter-agency coordination at Mandalay Hluttaw meeting

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn met the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw, along with representatives from the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and the Region Hluttaw, yesterday at the Regional Hluttaw Office in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, regional ministers and officials also attended the meeting.

The event began with the screening of a video presentation titled "Myanmar's Future in the New Political Landscape".

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn then delivered the opening address, followed by a presentation



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn meets the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw and representatives from the Pyithu, Amyotha and the Region Hluttaws in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, yesterday. **PHOTO: MYINT MAW HTUN(IPRD)**

by Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Moe.

Following presentations by Hluttaw representatives,

the Deputy Speaker said that, in the context of the evolving

political landscape and national development, the three branches of government – the executive, legislative and judicial – must work in coordination to ensure the stability of the State.

He added that the Hluttaws and the public should work together to promote national development, assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current political situation, and strive to meet the needs of voters by using their full capacity and knowledge to advance the interests of the State, the government and the people.

Afterwards, U Maung Maung Ohn toured the regional Hluttaw meeting hall and warmly greeted attendees. — Myint Maw Htun(IPRD)/MKKS

CGS (Army, Navy, and Air) attends dinner aboard Indian warship



The Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air), the Indian Navy Chief of the Naval Staff, and officers pose for a group photo on board the Indian warship INS Satpura (F-48) in Thilawa Port, Yangon, on 5 May.

THE Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo, accompanied by the Indian Navy Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who is on a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended a dinner held on board the Indian warship INS Satpura (F-48), which was moored at MITT jetty in Thilawa Port,

Yangon, on the evening of 5 May.

The dinner was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, senior military officers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Army Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Jaswinder Singh Gill, Indian Naval Attaché to Myanmar Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, and other officials.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo arrived on board the warship INS Satpura (F-48) and was welcomed by naval personnel. The ceremony then opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and India. Officers and sailors on board the warship also performed traditional Indian songs and dances.

The Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air), the Indian Navy Chief of the Naval Staff, and the Indian Ambassador then delivered their respective greetings. The Indian Navy Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) exchanged mementoes, posed for a group photo with attendees, and attended dinner together.

After the dinner, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo signed the guest book on board the Indian warship INS Satpura (F-48).

— MNA/TH

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



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

President's Office Union Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador

NATIONAL Security Advisor and Union Minister for the President's Office U Tin Aung San received Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar Mr Tariq Karim and his delegation at the hall of the President's Office yesterday afternoon.

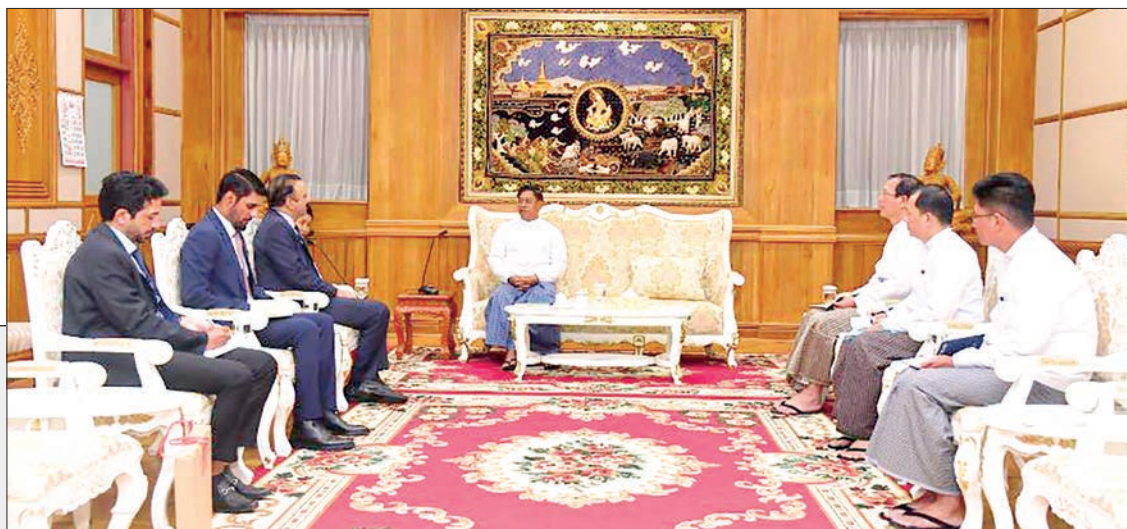
They exchanged views on enhancing Myanmar-Pakistan bilateral relations, as well as on economic and trade matters, investment and cooperation, the promotion of tourism between the two countries, and human

resource development and training.

Officials from the Ministry of the President's Office and the Embassy of Pakistan to Myanmar attended the meeting.

— MNA/TH

National Security Advisor and Union Minister for the President's Office U Tin Aung San meets Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Indian Navy goodwill delegation returns to India

A goodwill delegation led by Indian Navy Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, who had been on an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, departed from Yangon yesterday morning by air. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Senior officers of the Tatmadaw (Navy), the Indian Naval Attaché to Myanmar, and other officials.

During the visit, on 2 May, the delegation visited the Thanlyin Naval Base, where they received a guard of honour and held discussions with the commander. They also visited the Naval Training Command Headquarters in Thanlyin, where officials welcomed them. The Indian Navy Chief inaugurated a Small Arms Simulator at the training centre, visited the historic warship Mayu, and planted a commemorative tree.



Senior officers of Tatmadaw (Navy) see off Indian Navy Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

On 3 May, the delegation travelled to the Inlay region, where they paid homage at the PhaungdawU Pagoda, observed traditional weaving activities, and toured Inlay Lake. They later arrived in Nay Pyi Taw and visited the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

On 4 May, the delegation visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw)

and laid a wreath to the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country and Tatmadaw. Then, they met with Commander-in-Chief (Navy) at Bayintnaung Guesthouse and held a discussion. The Indian delegation visited the Defence Services Museum and attended the dinner event hosted by Commander-in-Chief (Navy).

— MNA/KTZH

Indian Navy warships depart Yangon after goodwill visit



Indian Navy warships INS Satpura (F-48) and INS Sunayna (P-57) are seen departing Myanmar yesterday.

INDIAN Navy warships INS Satpura (F-48) and INS Sunayna (P-57), which had been on a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, departed yesterday evening from the MITT Bridge at Thilawa Port in Yangon.

They were seen off by senior officers, officers and other ranks from the Myanmar Navy, along

with the Indian Naval Attaché to Myanmar and other officials.

During their visit from 4 May until yesterday, officers and personnel aboard the warships toured notable landmarks in Yangon and took part in friendly naval sports competitions between the two countries. — MNA/MKKS

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 6 May 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,664.8~3,669	558.4~558.7	125.3~125.5	43.6
Trading amount in the market	23,332,84664	43,424,814.46	85,011,394.03	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE market traded edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare parts, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, wheat, consumer goods, industrial raw materials, construction materials, telecommunications

equipment, and fertilizer. From the revenue of the CMP sector, US\$1.74 million was contributed to the edible oil sector and US\$0.25 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

NATIONAL

Mandalay-Myitkyina Corridor Reopens as Northern Route Returns to Normalcy

TATMADAW is carrying out national defence and security duties to ensure the stability of the State, which is a fundamental requirement for national development. In areas where terrorist groups have temporarily gained control and carried out acts of violence, counter-terrorism operations have been conducted to retake towns and villages and to reopen key transport routes vital to the public. As a result, full control has now been restored, and the entire Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsee Aung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina transport corridor has been reopened, and it is expected to contribute to the recovery and development of the socioeconomic lives of local ethnic communities.

The transport route linking Mandalay and Myitkyina is a fundamental piece of infrastructure for the development of northern Myanmar. Its use facilitates easier and faster travel for both residents and travellers, improves the flow of goods, and creates greater economic opportunities. It also enables more efficient transportation, reducing logistics costs and allowing local people to purchase goods at more affordable prices, while strengthening connectivity between regions. In addition, the route plays a vital role in transporting agricultural produce from rural areas to urban markets and supports access to education, healthcare and social services. Therefore, it is a highly beneficial corridor for the socioeconomic development of local ethnic communities.

Joint groups of PDF terrorist temporarily seized control of certain towns, villages and areas for their own interests and carried out acts of violence, blocking this key transport corridor. As a result, difficulties arose in the transportation and flow of goods, leading to shortages of food and daily necessities, disruptions in the supply of medicines and emergency items, and a lack of raw materials for businesses, while finished goods were unable to reach markets. Consequently, the daily socioeconomic lives of local ethnic communities deteriorated, and residents suffered oppression and



This map, including an inset, illustrates Tatmadaw columns advancing to reopen the Mandalay-Madaya-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Mogaung-Myitkyina connecting route.

abuse by the terrorists, forcing them to flee their homes.

In order to reopen the route, Tatmadaw columns carried out the necessary administrative and logistical preparations, organizing their forces systematically and conducting coordinated operations based on military strategy. They gradually recaptured and secured areas that had been under temporary terrorist control. Thabeikkyin and surrounding areas were retaken on 23 July 2025; the Phayaung Taung mining area east of Madaya on 24 August; the Alpha cement factory on 28 August; the Setaunggyi area on 7 November; and the Singu area on 19 December, thereby restoring the Mandalay-Madaya-Singu-Thabeikkyin route. Tagaung was retaken on 12 March 2026, reopening the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung section; the Tagaung-Htigyaing route on 25 March; the Htigyaing-Katha route on 16 April; and Indaw on 30 April, restoring the route from Mandalay to Indaw.

Through continued and difficult operations, Mawlu was recaptured on 5 May. Subsequently, Tatmadaw columns linked up with units conducting regional security operations in Nantsee Aung village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, enabling the full reopening of the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsee

Aung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina transport corridor. Passenger vehicles and freight transport have now resumed normal operations along the route.

To reopen the said transport corridor, Tatmadaw columns conducted successive military operations based on sound strategy, placing little regard for their own lives and demonstrating unwavering determination, effort and discipline, while also receiving cooperation from the public. The operations lasted for over one year and three months, during which a total of 322 major and minor engagements were fought with terrorist groups. During these clashes, 138 enemy bodies, 332 assorted weapons, as well as ammunition and related materials, were seized. Some Tatmadaw officers and members also made the ultimate sacrifice for the State and Tatmadaw.

During their temporary control of these areas, the terrorist groups used religious buildings, schools, departmental offices, hospitals, clinics and residential houses as cover to construct bunkers. They launched attacks on Tatmadaw columns, planted mines among residential buildings and along public transport routes, and carried out explosions targeting state-owned factories and workshops. They also misappropriated factory products for personal gain and deliberately de-

stroyed roads and bridges along transport routes. As a result, the flow of goods in the region was completely disrupted, and the socioeconomic conditions of residents, including economic, social, health and education sectors, deteriorated significantly. This caused substantial losses to the State and the public, and brought severe hardship to the people.

Due to the violent actions of terrorists, local people whose socio-economic conditions had deteriorated in all respects came to directly experience the hardships of conflict and increasingly rejected such acts of violence. In their desire to see their communities restored to peace and stability, some residents began to secretly provide information on terrorist activities to Tatmadaw and cooperated with it. In addition, some members of PDF groups and ethnic armed organisations who had returned to the legal fold, having come to accept and trust the peace process of the State and Tatmadaw, also contributed by sharing intelligence on terrorist activities to support efforts to suppress violence.

Following Tatmadaw's successful recapture and reopening of towns, villages and transport routes previously under temporary terrorist control, vehicles are now able to travel normally again. The flow of goods and trade within the region has resumed

smoothly and efficiently, and the socioeconomic conditions of the public, including education and healthcare, are expected to recover and develop once again. As a result, local people have expressed deep gratitude and pride towards Tatmadaw.

Victorious troops, who fought courageously and relentlessly day and night for the sake of regional stability, without regard for their own lives, were warmly welcomed along the route by residents of towns and villages, who greeted them with Thabyay branches and garlands of honour. These scenes reflect the heartfelt joy and appreciation of local people who themselves have experienced the value of peace and stability.

Tatmadaw columns are carrying out necessary area security and stabilisation operations in those regions and, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, are assisting with the repair and reconstruction of government buildings, residential houses of residents, schools, roads and bridges that were destroyed by terrorists.

The Government is inviting ethnic armed organizations to hold unconditional peace talks, to end armed conflict and resolve political issues through political means. It also urges them to engage in peace discussions without preconditions.

Due to instigation and encouragement by the NUG and CRPH, members of PDF groups have committed acts of violence. In reality, these actions have caused significant harm and losses to the socioeconomic lives of local people who had previously been living peacefully.

If they genuinely wish to contribute to national peace, stability and development, they are urged to contact the nearest security forces or military units and enter the legal fold as soon as possible.

Along the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsee Aung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina transport corridor, passengers are now able to travel normally and peacefully once again. — MNA/KNN

Myanmar's marine export amounts 70% for saltwater, 30% for freshwater products

ACCORDING to the 2023-2024 fisheries production statistics, 70 per cent of Myanmar's fishery exports consist of saltwater products, while 30 per cent are freshwater products.

Myanmar exports fish and shrimp to 42 countries, including European countries. During the 2023-2024 financial year, a total of 522,565.814 metric tonnes of fishery products were exported, earning US\$729.422 million.

This year, due to the high production cost, the saltwater product arrivals to Yangon ports may depend on the availability of diesel when the fishing season reopens in July.

"A total of 70 per cent of fishery exports are saltwater products, while 30 per cent are freshwater products. We are exporting to 42 countries at present. Due to declining marine resources and high production costs, there may be fewer fishing operations at sea this year, which could reduce marine exports. Therefore, we are seeing a shift toward prioritizing aquaculture in foreign countries.



In Myanmar, saltwater products are exported for foreign income, while freshwater products are consumed domestically. Fishing vessels are seen docking at jetties. **PHOTO: KANU**

If modern aquaculture zones are developed domestically, Myanmar can secure steady foreign income and overcome shortages in fishery products. Establishing a modern aquaculture zone could generate nearly \$200 million annually," said an official of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

In Pantanaw Township of

Ayeyawady Region, fish farming is being carried out using modern technology in a water area of over 3,000 acres. This project has now reached its seventh year, and agreements have already been signed with the US and China to export fishery products. Preparations are underway to begin exports this year. Under

modern aquaculture systems, the fish population has increased significantly from 2,000-5,000 fish per pond to around 120,000 using scientific methods, and each pond can produce up to 120 tonnes.

In Myanmar, saltwater products are exported for foreign income, while freshwater prod-

ucts are consumed domestically. However, natural disasters and rising costs may disrupt production. Strengthening both marine and freshwater aquaculture will ensure a stable domestic supply and continuous export earnings, helping Myanmar become a reliable regional exporter. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

CSAE set for 11-16 June in Kunming invites Myanmar entrepreneurs

MYANMAR entrepreneurs are invited to participate in the 10th China-South Asia Expo (CSAE) and the 30th China Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair scheduled to take place on 11-16 June at Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

CSAE is co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and the Yunnan provincial government, bringing diplomatic representatives, domestic and foreign associations from Sichuan, Chongqing, Quanzhou, Guangxi, Xicheng, Chengdu and other provinces and cities. It will act as a trade platform between China and South Asian countries.

This year's expo will feature 13 pavilions, including trade

service, green energy, manufacturing, biomedicine and healthcare, culture and tourism, sports, coffee business, and agriculture, attracting exhibitors from South Asia and domestic businesses. The event aims to create new drivers of cooperation and promote exchanges and industrial collaboration.

Myanmar entrepreneurs and associations interested in participating in this exhibition can showcase their products in Section 6 (the South-East Asian Countries Pavilion). The cost for a Standard Shell Scheme Booth (three metres by three metres by 3.5 metres, including table and chairs) is 7,100 yuan per booth. Raw Space (without table and chairs) costs 710 yuan per square metre.

ASEAN member countries can benefit from a free one-booth promotion if every 15

Standard Shell Scheme Booths are booked.

A deposit is set at 3,300 yuan per Standard Shell Scheme Booth, and a minimum of 300 yuan per square metre for Raw Space.

ASEAN countries that exhibit 28 or more Standard Shell Scheme Booths, or Raw Space of 252 square metres or more, will receive complimentary accommodation for six nights/seven days at a designated hotel in Kunming for government officials, government-appointed organizations, trade associations, or exhibition representatives. Shuttle transportation will also be provided between the hotel and the Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Interested individuals can contact MyanTrade for further information. — NN/KK

CBM to inject over US\$135M into fuel oil industry

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 5 May that it would inject US\$135.31 million to fuel oil businesses. CBM sold over \$1.9 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$25.79 million to CMP companies on 5 May, on the same day.

CBM sold over \$3.35 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$2 million to LNG-importing companies on 4 May, along with a transaction of 1.2 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold over \$3.6 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$234.487 to CMP companies on 29 April, in addition to a transaction of over 6.2 billion baht in the market.

CBM sold over \$4.78 million to edible oil-importing companies, and \$5 million to LNG-importing companies and over \$168,400 to CMP companies on 28 April.

CBM sold over \$4.6 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$13,400 to CMP companies on 27 April, along with transactions of over 2.3 million baht in the market.

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 at the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

OPINION

Take preparedness against climate change

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has announced that the southwest monsoon may enter the southern parts of Myanmar between 13 and 18 May, the delta regions between 19 and 24 May, the central regions between 25 and 30 May, and the northern regions between 31 May and 5 June.

The early monsoon period in Myanmar begins from the time the southwest monsoon enters the country and lasts until the end of June. The late monsoon period starts on 1 September 2026 and continues until the southwest monsoon withdraws completely from the entire country. During both the early and late monsoon periods, low-pressure systems commonly form in the Bay of Bengal. Some of these low-pressure areas may intensify further and develop into tropical depressions or storms.

In various parts of Myanmar, during the pre-monsoon period starting this May, and before the arrival of the southwest monsoon, unstable atmospheric conditions are expected. As a result, cumulonimbus clouds may form during the afternoons and evenings each day. Due to these conditions, weather events such as strong winds, thunderstorms with gusty winds, lightning and thunder, hail, tornadoes, and scattered heavy showers may occur. During periods of strong winds, surface wind speeds may reach between 40 and 50 miles per hour, according to the advisory.

Recently, due to rising temperatures and the formation of convective cloud systems, some upper parts of Myanmar experienced unusually heavy rainfall and sudden strong winds. Some lower regions of Myanmar also experienced strong winds. Since natural disasters are experienced annually, there is no need for special preparations beyond normal precautionary living for residents. However, it is important not to neglect preparedness measures against unforeseen and unpredictable weather conditions.

preparedness measures against unforeseen and unpredictable weather conditions.

According to weather forecasts, about two low-pressure systems may form over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. One of these may intensify further and develop into a tropical depression. Consequently, the southwest monsoon is expected to remain at a moderate strength. Scattered thunderstorms with rainfall around normal levels may occur in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions. In Lower Myanmar, Central Myanmar, and in Chin, Rakhine and Shan states, scattered thunderstorms are expected during the second week of May.

Due to high temperatures in summer, people have been hoping for rainfall with the arrival of the southwest monsoon to relieve the heat, and it is necessary to prepare in advance and take precautions during both the early and late monsoon periods in accordance with official announcements regarding natural disaster risks.

THE arrival of the New Year in Myanmar, marking 1387 to 1388 in the Myanmar Era, has brought with it a renewed sense of calm and collective hope after years of difficulty. This year's celebrations carried a deeper emotional tone, as people across the country embraced not only tradition but also a gradual return to normalcy.

From the northern regions to the southern coastal towns, the spirit of the Thingyan Water Festival was visible everywhere. Streets once quiet came alive again with laughter, music, and the gentle splashing of water symbolizing purification. What stood out most was the balance-celebrations were joyful and spontaneous, yet there was a noticeable sense of discipline and respect. Communities organized events thoughtfully, ensuring safety and harmony while still preserving the vibrant essence of the festival. Across cities like Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and extending to regions such as Bago Region, Sagaing Region, Shan State, and Rakhine State, this year's New Year celebrations unfolded with a remarkable sense of unity and revived cultural spirit.

In Yangon, beautifully decorated water pavilions (Mandat in the Myanmar Language) once again lined the streets, where families, youth groups, and community organizations gathered in large numbers. Music, traditional dance, and acts of merit such as free food distribution and drinking water donation created a warm, inclusive environment. In Mandalay, often regarded as the cultural heart of the nation, the celebrations carried a deeply traditional flavour. Monasteries were filled with devotees offering alms, while young people performed classical dances and participated in cultural shows, blending joy with devotion. In Nay Pyi Taw, organized public events and performances highlighted a disciplined yet lively celebration,

New Year, Renewed Horizon: Myanmar Advances with Harmony and Hope

By Dr Myint Soe Aung

Reports indicated that over 4,500 detainees were released, allowing open hearts. Monasteries and elders encouraged people to forgive and to start fresh. It created a softer atmosphere in society, where healing and understanding became more visible. Such actions help people believe that change is possible and that peace can slowly

where people gathered peacefully, reflecting both national pride and social harmony. Meanwhile, in Shan State and Sagaing Region, local traditions added unique colours — ethnic communities celebrated with their own customs, music, and rituals, strengthening the sense of unity in diversity. In Rakhine State, traditional practices such as sandalwood grinding and offerings at pagodas continued, emphasizing the spiritual essence of the New Year.

What truly defined this year's celebration was the collective participation of people after a period of uncertainty. Streets that had once been quiet saw a return of smiling faces! Children and students playing with water, and elders blessing the younger generation. The joy was not chaotic, but meaningful — there was a visible discipline, a mutual respect, and a shared understanding that this was not just a festival, but a moment of healing.

During this significant period, the leadership under President U Min Aung Hlaing also made significant efforts to restore a sense of stability and solidity. The newly formed government and leadership have emphasized peace, unity,



ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT GRAPHIC ART

and gradual progress. One notable gesture during the New Year was the release of thousands of prisoners as part of a traditional amnesty, an act often seen as a symbol of compassion and a fresh start.

A team of environmental and public health scientists is raising concerns about a largely overlooked group of microscopic organisms that may pose a growing danger worldwide: free-living amoebae.

many families to reunite during this meaningful time.

The impact of this decision could be felt throughout Myanmar. In many places, communities welcomed those who returned with

give and to start fresh. It created a softer atmosphere in society, where healing and understanding became more visible. Such actions help people believe that change is possible and that peace can slowly

frastructure, and limited systems for detecting and tracking them.

Although most people have never heard of free-living amoebae, scientists say they deserve far more attention.

SOURCE: ANI

political step, but also a human one, touching many lives deeply.

In these overall contexts, the effective governance of Min Aung Hlaing and the administration can be seen as an attempt to guide My-

anmar towards stability and progress. Over the past year, there has been a visible emphasis on restoring a sense of normal life across the country through public events, administrative coordination, and efforts to maintain peace during large gatherings. The successful and orderly celebration of the New Year, especially during the Thingyan Water Festival, reflects this intention. Streets filled with people once again, not in unrest, but in shared joy and cultural pride. This itself became a powerful symbol that the nation is slowly regaining its rhythm.

The administration's role in organizing and ensuring the smooth conduct of these celebrations has been significant. From city centres to smaller towns and rural areas, there was a noticeable effort to maintain discipline, safety, and inclusiveness. Water pavilions were set up with proper arrangements, public gatherings were monitored with care, and cultural programmes were encouraged across regions. This created an environment where people could celebrate freely yet responsibly. At the same time, traditional practices such as offering alms, performing merit-making deeds, and engaging in community service were actively supported. These are not just cultural acts,

but also social bridges that reconnect people with values of compassion, patience, and mutual respect. One of the most meaningful steps during this period was the New Year amnesty, where thousands of prisoners were released. This act added a deeper emotional layer to the celebrations. It reminded people that governance is not only about control, but also about mercy and second chances. Families reunited, communities welcomed their members back, and many individuals were allowed to rebuild their lives.

Beyond these visible actions, there is also a growing sense that the leadership is trying to rebuild confidence among the people. Stability does not come overnight, especially after challenging times, but small and steady steps can create a foundation for long-term peace. The return of the Thingyan festival at this level of spirit, the reopening of social spaces, and the encouragement of unity across different regions all play a role in this process. These efforts may seem simple, but they carry deep importance in restoring collective trust and hope.

In this gentle phase of renewal, the efforts of the present administration and military governance can be seen in the return of order, cultural life, and a sense of collective beneficiaries across Myanmar. By supporting peaceful celebrations, encouraging long-held traditions, and taking thoughtful steps like the New Year amnesty, the leadership has tried to create space for healing and togetherness. These actions reflect a wider intention to rebuild trust, strengthen unity, and guide the nation towards stability.

With such quiet and steady progress, Myanmar appears to be moving forward — slowly but gracefully — towards a more peaceful and hopeful future.

Scientists raise concern as dangerous amoebas spread globally

FREE-LIVING amoebae are emerging as a global health concern, fuelled by warming temperatures and outdated water systems. While many are harmless, some can cause deadly infections and even protect

other dangerous microbes.

Their ability to survive heat and disinfectants makes them especially hard to control. Scientists say improved surveillance and water treatment are urgently needed.

In a recent perspective article published in *Biocontaminant*, researchers explain that these tiny life forms are becoming an emerging global health risk. Their spread is being driven by rising temperatures, ageing water in-



A team of environmental and public health scientists is raising concerns about a largely overlooked group of microscopic organisms that may pose a growing danger worldwide: free-living amoebae. While many are harmless, some can cause deadly infections and even protect other dangerous microbes. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/BRITANNICA

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

Departments Arrive in Falam to Restore Government Administration

TATMADAW conducts Counter-Terrorism Operations to restore stability and the socio-economic status of locals in certain areas under the control of insurgents, and Tatmadaw fully regained Falam on 25 April.

During the period of control by armed groups, many residents were displaced and faced hardships, including loss of property and access to healthcare, education, and livelihoods. Some residents have now begun returning to their homes.

Tatmadaw columns continue efforts in Falam Township and surrounding areas to ensure that temporarily displaced local ethnic residents can return and live peacefully, rebuild their livelihoods, and restore socioeconomic activities. In order to enable the resumption of government administrative mechanisms and allow residents to return to their homes, work is being carried out to repair government offices, residential buildings, and religious, educa-



Departmental personnel and residents pose for the documentary group photo (R), and local ethnic people warmly welcome departmental personnel.

tional, and healthcare facilities that were destroyed by armed groups during their temporary control. Moreover, mine clearance operations and necessary security measures are being conducted in towns and villages to eliminate the threat of landmines planted by the insurgents.

To provide necessary assistance to residents and to facili-

tate the reopening of government offices, schools, and hospitals, departmental organizations departed from Kalay by vehicle yesterday morning with relief supplies and arrived in Falam in the same evening, where they were warmly welcomed by local ethnic communities.

The local ethnic people want only peace, as they personally

encountered the impacts of conflicts, and they also hope for the restoration of healthcare services, socioeconomic development, and access to education for children, similar to the previous peaceful period. Moreover, they show their willingness to cooperate with the Tatmadaw in reconstruction efforts to rebuild Falam, which has suffered exten-

sive damage due to violent acts.

Similarly, Tatmadaw columns, in cooperation with locals, will carry out rapid reconstruction of schools, hospitals and clinics, government offices, religious buildings, and homes that were destroyed. Security operations will also continue for people to be able to live in peace and stability. — MNA/KTZH

Air Quality Monitoring in Yangon on 5 May 2026

THE Environmental Conservation Department of Yangon Region has issued a statement regarding the study of ambient air quality in Yangon on 5 May 2026.

The department stated that it is continuously monitoring air quality in the city at three designated locations using the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65).

A total of six key parameters are being measured on a 24-hour continuous basis. These include PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5), PM10 (particulate matter 10), sulphur

Air Quality Index - AQI

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

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

Air quality measurement results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle usage, dust dispersion caused by hot and dry conditions, emissions from factories, and the surrounding environment of monitoring locations. It is therefore assessed that the recorded ambient air quality results may change according to these conditions.

Environmental Conservation Department

Union Minister: Gas use for power generation increased as reservoir levels fall

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin said that natural gas is being used more for electricity generation as water levels in reservoirs decline due to rising temperatures.

He made the remarks during a coordination meeting on electricity generation, transmission and distribution for the

upcoming rainy season, held at the ministry's Office 27 in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 May.

Myanmar's power generation mainly relies on hydropower and gas-fired plants, and some hydropower facilities and main transmission lines have been damaged under the current conditions.

With the rainy season approaching, the Union minister instructed officials to ensure that operational hydropower plants run at full capacity. This includes conducting advance inspections of major dams to ensure structural stability, checking hydropower stations and carrying out necessary repairs, and prepar-

ing spare parts in the respective regions to enable a rapid response to any breakdowns.

He added that, if hydropower generation can be increased and natural gas use reduced, the saved gas could be redirected to other sectors, including fertilizer factories and industrial operations, thereby supporting

national production. The Union minister also stressed the need to inspect and strengthen transmission lines and substations to handle increased power output, and to implement measures that will allow hydropower plants to operate efficiently at full capacity during the rainy season. — Htun Htun/KZL

NY's Met museum to add Japanese designer Tamae Hirokawa to collection

Among the pieces chosen are seven bodysuits from Hirokawa's signature "Skin Series" line.

GARMENTS designed by Japanese artist Tamae Hirokawa, who is known for creating seamless knitwear based on the concept of "skin", will be added to a permanent collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and shown as part of a new exhibition. Hirokawa will join fellow Japanese designers such as Issey Miyake, Rei Kawakubo and Hanae Mori, whose works are part of the collection at the museum's Costume Institute, known as one of the world's largest fashion curatorial departments.

Among the pieces chosen are seven bodysuits from Hirokawa's signature "Skin Series" line, through which the designer

has sought to embody a "second skin".

The garments will be displayed at the spring 2026 Costume Art exhibition, which opens to the public Sunday. The Met says the show, held in the vast new galleries adjacent to the museum's Great Hall, aims to pair garments with works of art "to reveal the inherent relationship between clothing and the body."

Andrew Bolton, curator in charge at the Costume Institute, described Hirokawa's work as "extraordinary", saying "not only does she engage with the body on a symbolic level, she also uses advanced technology to advance the craft of fashion". — Kyodo



Japanese designer Tamae Hirokawa, photographed during a press event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 4 May 2026, poses by garments she designed that were selected for the New York museum's upcoming Costume Art exhibition. **PHOTO: KYODO**

New Zealand to introduce citizenship test from late 2027



Currently, applicants meet the requirement by signing a declaration confirming their understanding of citizenship obligations.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

NEW Zealand announced on Wednesday that it will introduce a citizenship test from late 2027 to strengthen requirements for applicants seeking citizenship by grant.

The new measure would require applicants to demonstrate "sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of being a citizen" through an in-person, multiple-choice test, according to a government statement.

Applicants will need to achieve a score of at least 75 per cent to pass. Currently, applicants meet the requirement by signing a declaration confirming their understanding of citizenship obligations. — Xinhua

100 years on Earth: Iconic naturalist Attenborough marks century

DAVID Attenborough, a leading voice on climate change and biodiversity loss whose landmark documentaries transformed popular understanding of the natural world for a global audience, marks his 100th birth-

day on Friday. Attenborough's natural history series, such as "Life on Earth", in which he had a famous encounter with mountain gorillas in Rwanda, have brought the most remote corners of the planet into living

rooms worldwide.

"He's taken us all to places that we would never otherwise go. That's a huge gift," botanist Sandra Knapp, director of research at London's Natural History Museum, told AFP. — AFP

Afghan children receive continued educational support

MILLIONS of children in Afghanistan are benefiting from continued education support, with about four million of them having received essential learning materials, said the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, the local media Tolo news reported on Wednesday.

According to the report, a total of 232 public schools have also been rehabilitated, providing safer and more conducive environments for students. The progress comes amid ongoing challenges facing Afghanistan's education sector, including resource shortages and infrastructure limitations. — Xinhua



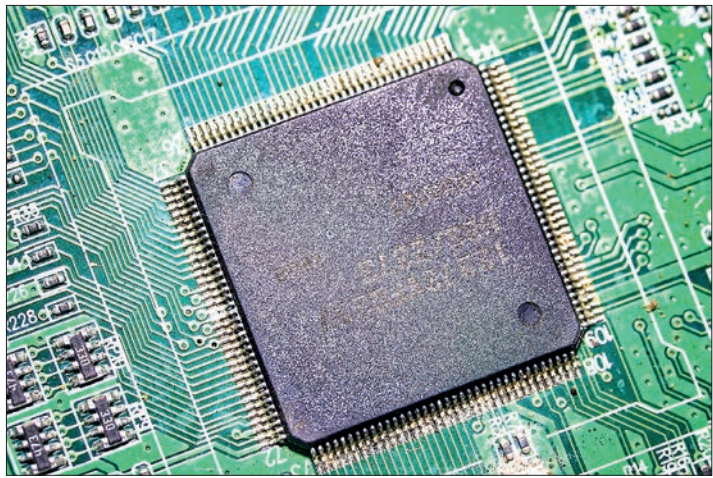
A total of 232 public schools have also been rehabilitated, providing safer and more conducive environments for students.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/UNICEF

ECONOMY WORLD

Demand for chips remains robust despite geopolitical tensions, says business group

Worldwide semiconductor sales are forecast to hit US\$1 trillion this year, doubling to US\$2 trillion by 2035.



The global semiconductor industry is reaching a historic milestone, with sales projected to hit \$1 trillion in 2026. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

A recent surge in demand for semiconductors is expected to be sustained despite supply chain disruptions stemming from the Middle East crisis and other trade uncertainties,

an industry group has said.

Worldwide semiconductor sales are forecast to hit US\$1 trillion this year, doubling to 2 US\$trillion by 2035, fuelled by booming growth in data centers used to power artificial intelligence technologies, said Ajit Manocha, global chip industry group SEMI chief executive, on the sidelines of SEMICON South-East Asia 2026 here on Tuesday.

Ajit downplayed risks arising from geopolitical tensions, which he said were unlikely to curtail the boom this year, though persistent shortages of raw materials may affect the longer-term outlook. — Xinhua

Australia to boost fuel reserves with over US\$7 bln security package

AUSTRALIA'S government will allocate more than 10 billion Australian dollars (US\$7.24 billion) in next week's federal budget to strengthen fuel security, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday.

The package will include the creation of a national fuel reserve and lift the minimum

stockholding obligation by around 10 days for every type of fuel, according to a government statement.

"This will support an overall expansion of Australia's on-shore fuel reserves to ensure at least 50 days of fuel supply and storage of diesel and aviation fuel," Albanese told a press

conference in Sydney.

The plan includes 7.5 billion Australian dollars to establish a fuel and fertilizer security facility, offering financial support such as loans, equity, guarantees, insurance and price support to increase domestic supply and storage capacity. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 26 October 2024 shows a view of Port City Colombo, Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PORT CITY COLOMBO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Sri Lanka approves US\$250 mln climate-resilient water project

SRI Lanka's cabinet has approved a US\$250 million climate-resilient water supply and sanitation project to improve reliable access to water and strengthen water infrastructure against climate risks, the Department of Government Information said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Asian Development Bank is expected to finance

New Zealand welcomes Costa Rica's accession to CPTPP

NEW Zealand on Wednesday welcomed Costa Rica's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Costa Rica's entry into the CPTPP offers opportunities for Kiwi exporters, with more than 94 percent of New Zealand exports to Costa Rica becoming duty-free immediately and rising to over 99 per cent within a decade, Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay said in a statement.

Key New Zealand exports, including sheep meat, seafood, horticultural products, wine and therapeutic respirators, will face zero tariffs from day one, the statement said, adding that tariffs on beef will be eliminat-

ed over eight years, and dairy duties shall fall to zero over 13 years.

The move also improves protections for investors and simplifies business procedures between the two countries, noted the statement.

"The continued expansion of the CPTPP is important for growing New Zealand's preferential access to markets, as well as in response to increased challenges to the rules-based trade system," McClay was quoted as saying.

Costa Rica will become the CPTPP's 13th member, following Britain's accession in December 2024. The protocol is expected to be signed in November, with ratification to follow in member countries. — Xinhua



A man shows a famed New Zealand rock lobster. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ FIORDLAND/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/ FILE**

US\$200 million of the project, the statement said.

The project aims to improve access to reliable and sustainable water supply and sanitation services, strengthen the climate resilience of water sector infrastructure, and reduce non-revenue water in several areas of Sri Lanka's Western Province, the most populous region of the country.

The government said the project will include five sub-projects: improving the Ambatale water treatment system, upgrading the Jubilee water supply system, managing non-revenue water in Kolonnawa, implementing the Lunugamvehera integrated water supply scheme with a capacity of 20,000 cubic metres, and carrying out the Jaffna wastewater project. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's used car market expands to record 5.3 trillion yen in 2025

JAPAN'S used car market hit a record high in 2025, surging 54.8 per cent from five years earlier to 5.32 trillion yen (\$34 billion), as consumer resistance to secondhand goods waned and rising raw material costs pushed up prices for new vehicles, according to a recent survey by an automobile think tank.

The average price of a used vehicle purchased during the previous year also hit a record high of 1.75 million yen, up 397,000 yen from 2020, the research institute affiliated with staffing service group Recruit Holdings Co found.

The average price of a new vehicle stood at 3.50 million yen.

"There are more people opting for pre-owned vehicles that are relatively new due to the increasingly widespread use of flea market apps," said the institute's Yoshiko Yokota.

Nearly 40 per cent of automobiles purchased in the past year were used cars, according to the survey. — Kyodo

Industry leaders discuss future of Sri Lanka's real estate sector

Sri Lanka has the potential to position itself as a stronger regional real estate destination, but policy stability, transparency, project delivery, and investor confidence will determine how far the sector can go, industry leaders said at a forum hosted by a Sri Lanka-based consultancy firm Research Intelligence Unit on Tuesday.

Speakers noted that Sri Lanka's property prices per square foot remain lower than many comparable developing markets, creating an opening for investors entering at the right time. However, they stressed that foreign investors look beyond pricing. Construction progress, accountability, timely delivery, and clear exit mechanisms, including capital repatriation, are critical to sustaining interest.

Namal Peiris, managing director of Sri Lankan real estate developer International Construction Consortium, said while Sri Lanka has advantages in location, weather, hospitality, and lifestyle potential, the country's recent fuel shortage, credit rating, exchange rate pressure, debt sustainability concerns, and political stability remain important factors. He also noted that higher fuel, material, and logistics costs had placed the construction sector under pressure.

Home Lands Group Executive Director Amaya Herath said remote work and changing lifestyle preferences were supporting demand for serviced apartments, second homes, luxury villas, and beachfront properties. She added that land near airports and ports was also attracting stronger interest. — Xinhua

Honda to freeze plan for EV plant construction in Canada

HONDA Motor Co will freeze its plan to build an electric vehicle factory in Canada due to slow US demand for such cars, sources close to the matter said Wednesday.

The company, which earlier canceled development of three EV models for production in North America, originally planned to invest 15 billion Canadian dollars (\$11 billion) to build the EV plant and another factory to make batteries in the country.

The automaker last year decided to postpone the start of EV production in Canada from 2028 by about two years.

Honda will provide details when it reports fiscal 2025 financial results on 14 May, the sources said.

Citing the rethink of its EV strategy, Honda has projected a net loss of between 420 billion yen (\$2.6 billion) and 690 billion yen for the year ended March. — Kyodo

Russia completes import substitution of its aircraft in under 5 years



MC-21 aircraft. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

THE Russian aviation industry has completed an implementation of import substitution of aircraft in less than five years, Russian Minister of Industry and Trade Anton Alikhanov told Sputnik.

"What our aviation industry has done is truly unique. We fully substituted the aircraft in less than five years," Alikhanov said.

The minister added that according to the global exper-

tise, it takes up to 10 years to build an aircraft, even with groundwork like engines. This period is spent on from start to first flight with existing engine, he added. — SPUTNIK

Britain's new car market up 24% in Apr: industry body

BRITAIN'S new car market recorded an expansion of 24 per cent year on year in April, with electrified cars account-

ing for more than half of all sales, according to data released Tuesday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and

Traders (SMMT).

A total of 149,247 new cars were registered last month. Although April is usually a month with lower volume, this was the strongest April performance since 2019, when registration reached 161,064.

Electrified vehicles, including battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric and hybrid electric vehicles, continued to gain ground. Battery electric vehicle registrations surged 59.1 per cent, taking a 26.2 per cent share of the market. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle registrations rose 46.4 per cent, accounting for 13.8 per cent of sales, the SMMT said. — Xinhua



A total of 149,247 new cars were registered last month. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China calls for immediate full ceasefire, opposes renewed conflict, stresses priority of talks on Iran situation: Chinese FM

The Iranian foreign minister briefed Wang on the latest developments in Iran-US negotiations and Iran's considerations for the next steps.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, holds talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi in Beijing, capital of China, 6 May 2026. **PHOTO: CAI YANG/XINHUA**

CHINA calls for an immediate and full ceasefire, opposes renewed conflict, and stresses the priority of talks on the Iran situation, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi in Beijing. Noting the international community's common concern over restoring normal and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, Wang urged relevant parties to respond to global calls as soon as possible.

The Iranian foreign minister briefed Wang on the latest developments in Iran-US negotiations and Iran's considerations for the next steps. He said that Iran will firmly safeguard national sovereignty and dignity, while contin-

uing to build consensus through peaceful negotiations in pursuit of a comprehensive and permanent solution. Araghchi stressed that at present, the issue regarding the opening of the Strait of Hormuz should be handled properly and resolved as soon as possible.

Iran highly appreciates and endorses China's four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, and commends China for its unremitting efforts to play a constructive role in preventing the situation from deteriorating and spilling over, Araghchi said.

He added that Iran places its trust in China and expects China to continue its active role in promoting peace and ending hostilities. Iran also supports the establishment of a new post-war regional architecture that can balance development and security, Araghchi said. — Xinhua

Human-to-human transmissible Andes strain detected in 2 hantavirus cases in S Africa

SOUTH Africa has detected the human-to-human transmissible Andes strain in two hantavirus cases in the country who disembarked from a cruise ship linked to an outbreak of the disease, according to the health minister's presentation to parliament on Wednesday.

The Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi was virtually briefing the Portfolio Committee on Health in the National Assembly on the implications of the outbreak.

In a presentation made available to Xinhua, he said the cases were linked to a cluster of severe acute respiratory illness reported by a Dutch-flagged cruise ship carrying 147 tourists. The vessel departed Ushuaia, Argentina, on 1 April and sailed across the South Atlantic

with multiple stops. Two deaths and one critical case were reported on board. The presentation said two passengers

later died after disembarkation, while a third was hospitalized in South Africa following medical evacuation. — Xinhua



The cases were linked to a cluster of severe acute respiratory illness reported by a Dutch-flagged cruise ship carrying 147 tourists. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US, Iran closing in on one-page memo to end war: Axios

THE United States and Iran are closing in on a one-page memo to end their war, Axios reported on Wednesday.

A potential deal would involve Iran committing to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment and the United States agreeing to lift sanctions, with both sides lifting restrictions on transit through the Strait of Hormuz, it said.

The duration of the moratorium on uranium enrichment remains under negotiation, with an estimated period of 12-15 years, said the report, adding that Iran initially proposed a five-year suspension while the United States demanded 20. — Xinhua

France denies being target of Strait of Hormuz ship attack

FRANCE was not the target of Tuesday's attack on a container ship operated by French shipping company CMA CGM in the Strait of Hormuz, a French government spokesperson said after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

"The CMA CGM vessel was not flying the French flag. It was a Maltese-flagged ship with a Filipino crew," French government spokesperson Maud Bregeon told reporters after the meeting.

"As things stand, France was therefore in no way the target," she said. Bregeon said France had not participated in the US operation related to the regional conflict and had maintained a consistent position since the beginning of the crisis. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Mickelson pulls out of PGA Championship for family issues

SIX-TIME major winner Phil Mickelson has withdrawn from next week's PGA Championship at Aronimink, citing a personal health matter within his family, the tournament announced on Tuesday. The 55-year-old left-hander will be replaced in the field by fellow American Max Homa, who had been the first alternate in line for the year's second major tournament.

Mickelson also missed last month's Masters over a personal family health matter. He also had missed the first two events of the LIV Golf season. Mickelson won the Masters in 2004, 2006 and 2010 as well as capturing the 2013 British Open and taking the PGA Championship in 2005 and 2021,

becoming the oldest men's major winner at age 50 when he took the title at Kiawah Island five years ago. — AFP



Six-time major winner Phil Mickelson has withdrawn from the upcoming PGA Championship at Aronimink, citing a family health matter. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Myanmar lose opening match to Saudi Arabia in AFC U17 Asian Cup

THE AFC U17 Asian Cup 2026 group stage began on 5 May in Saudi Arabia, where the Myanmar U17 national football team suffered a heavy defeat to the host nation in their opening Group A match.

Saudi Arabia defeated Myanmar 4-0, while in other Group A fixtures, Tajikistan beat Thailand 2-0. In Group B matches, Japan defeated Qatar 3-1, and Indonesia edged China 1-0.

Myanmar started the match under pressure as Saudi Arabia took an early lead through Alimaki in three minutes. The host team maintained control and doubled their advantage in 23 minutes through the same player, ending the first half 2-0 ahead.

In the second half, Saudi Arabia was awarded two penalties. Myanmar goalkeeper Htet Wai Yan saved the first attempt, but the rebound resulted in a goal. Further goals were scored by Paris in 58 minutes and Dawasari in 74 minutes, sealing a 4-0 victory.



Players from Saudi Arabia and Myanmar contest a hard tackle during the AFC U17 Asian Cup match. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar will play their second Group A match against Tajikistan on 10 May at midnight Myanmar Standard Time. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Carreras denies Real Madrid dressing-room bust-up reports

REAL Madrid defender Alvaro Carreras has denied reports of a dressing-room bust-up, saying recent claims about him "do not correspond to reality".

The 23-year-old, who joined from Benfica last summer, has fallen out of favour with coach Alvaro Arbeloa in recent weeks. Spanish radio station Onda Cero reported that Carreras had been struck by a teammate following an argument

between La Liga games against Alaves and Real Betis. Carreras responded with a statement on social media.

"In recent days certain insinuations and comments have arisen about me that do not correspond to reality," he wrote.

"My commitment to this club and to the coaches has been absolute from day one and will continue to be so.

"Regarding the incident with a teammate, it's a minor, isolated matter that's already been resolved. My relationship with the whole team is very good. Hala Madrid!"

Carreras was overlooked in Sunday's 2-0 win away to Espanyol, with Fran Garcia preferred at left back after Ferland Mendy suffered a season-ending muscle injury. — Xinhua

Forest to make late decision on Gibbs-White fitness for Villa Europa semi

NOTTINGHAM Forest will make a late call on Morgan Gibbs-White's fitness as they prepare for the second leg of their Europa League semi-final at Aston Villa on Thursday.

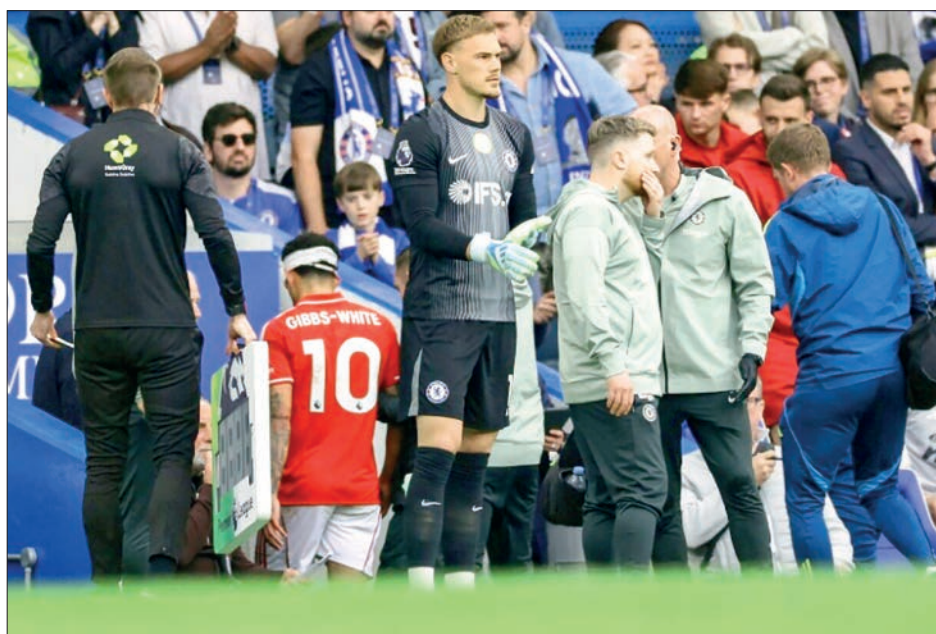
In-form Forest, leading 1-0 after the first leg against their Premier League rivals, are seeking to reach their first European final since 1980.

Gibbs-White suffered a sickening cut to his forehead during Monday's impressive 3-1 win at Chelsea, which forced him off in the second half.

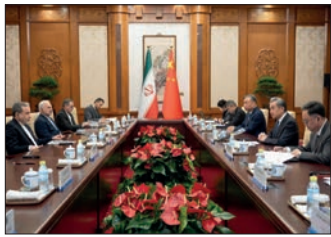
The England international posted a photo on social media thanking people for their messages and showing the stitches across his forehead and nose.

There are no concussion protocols regarding the midfielder's injury but there is doubt over whether the wound will heal quickly enough.

Forest boss Vitor Pereira said headwear has been made for Gibbs-White in the event that he plays at Villa Park. — AFP



Nottingham Forest midfielder Morgan Gibbs-White leaves the pitch after being injured against Chelsea. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



P RIME Minister Narendra Modi met the President of Vietnam, To Lam, at the historic Hyderabad House in the national capital on Wednesday. The meeting followed a ceremonial welcome accorded to the Vietnamese President at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan earlier in the day, marking the formal commencement of his first State Visit to India.

The visiting leader was received by President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a gesture that underscores the “growing strategic partnership” between the two nations.

The ceremonial reception saw a cultural display with children in traditional attire waving the Vietnamese flag alongside the Indian Tricolour.

President To Lam arrived in India on Tuesday, beginning his visit in Bodh Gaya where he offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple. He was welcomed in Bihar by Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary before flying to the national capital. At the Delhi airport, the Vietnamese leader was received by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to hold “wide-ranging discussions” with President To Lam, spanning bilateral cooperation alongside regional and global issues.

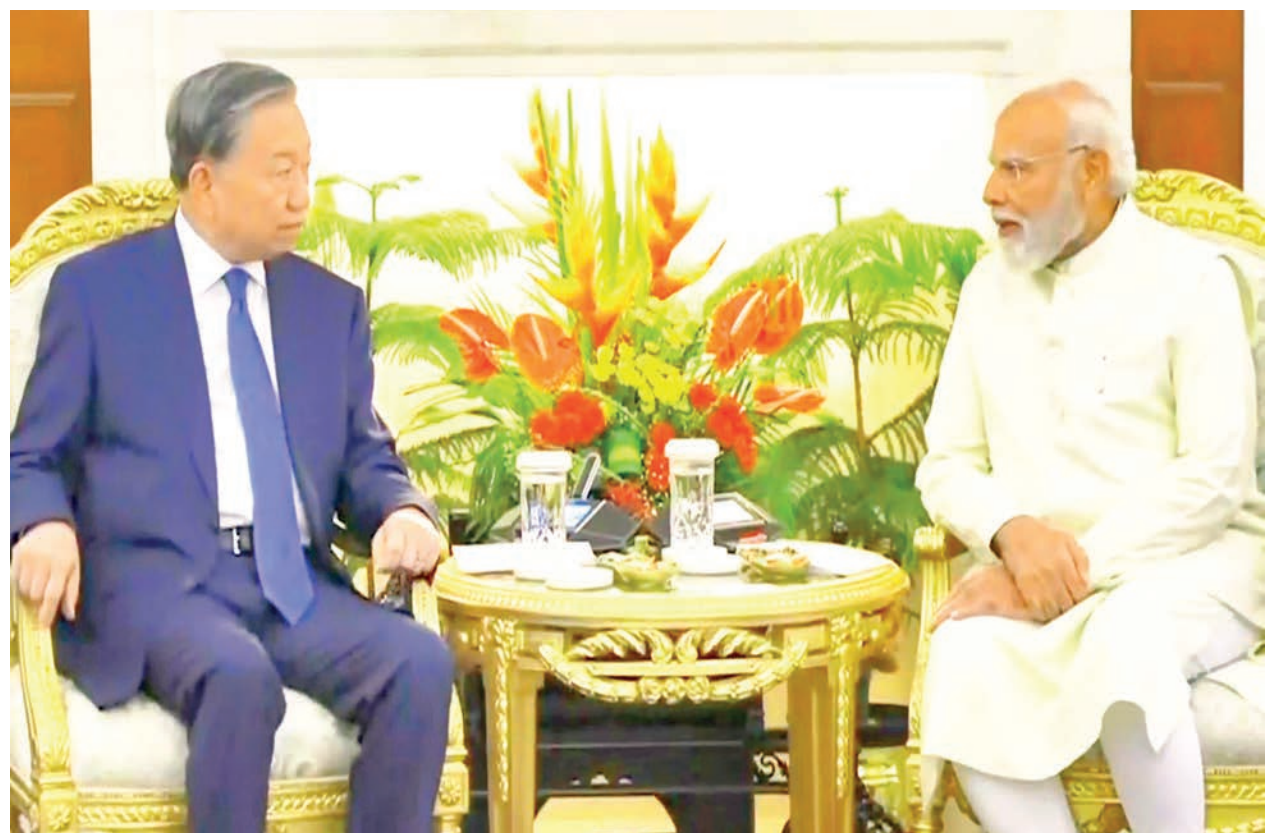
President Droupadi Murmu will also hold separate talks with the leader, while other senior officials are scheduled to call on him. Ahead of the primary engagements, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval called on the President to discuss the “comprehensive strategic partnership”.

“NSA Shri Ajit Doval called on General Secretary, President Mr To Lam of Vietnam. They exchanged views on strengthening the multifaceted, comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Mr To Lam looked forward to his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the engagements scheduled over the next two days. — ANI

PM Modi meets Vietnam President To Lam at Hyderabad House in Delhi

President To Lam arrived in India on Tuesday, beginning his visit in Bodh Gaya where he offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple.



PM Modi, Vietnamese President To Lam hold bilateral talks at Hyderabad House. **PHOTO: ANI**

Afghanistan registers 15 new heritage sites in 1 year



Herat is the third-largest city in Afghanistan. It is famous for its beautiful Islamic buildings and shows a strong Persian influence. Because of its stunning architecture, it is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ADOBE STOCK**

AFGHANISTAN’S Ministry of Information and Culture has reported substantial progress in documenting and preserving the country’s rich historical heritage in the past year, the ministry announced on Wednesday.

Professional surveys of around 70 historical monuments across the nation led to the identification and official registration of 15 newly discovered heritage sites, the ministry said in a statement.

In a parallel effort, 23 important historical monuments were successfully restored in multiple provinces, while conservation work on several others continues.

Afghanistan possesses one of the world’s richest and most diverse cultural heritages, a living testament to ancient civilizations along the Silk Road. From monumental Buddhist sites and Islamic architecture to historic citadels and archaeological treasures, these monuments represent the soul of the nation’s identity. — Xinhua

China’s position on situation of Hormuz quite clear

CHINA’S position on the situation of the Strait of Hormuz is quite clear, and the Chinese side will continue to make efforts to promote the deescalation of the situation and safeguard the safety and security of Chinese ships and crews, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday.

Lin made the remarks at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on some US officials’ remarks that China should support the US-led military operation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Lin said that China hopes all relevant parties will act prudently, avoid escalating the situation and resolve disputes through dialogue, in order to restore peace and tranquillity in the strait as soon as possible. — Xinhua