

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Renewed Resolve to Eliminate Child Labour for the Nation's Future

The government, employers and workers unite in a tripartite drive to build a skilled workforce and expand employment opportunities.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark International Workers' Day which falls on 1 May 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

Esteemed workers,

International Workers' Day is a historic and significant occasion that honours the value of labour of workers around the world, including those in Myanmar; a day on which fair and appropriate working hours are recognized; and a milestone

in the history of the global labour movement. On this auspicious day, I extend my warm and respectful greetings, wishing all workers across the nation fulfilment of blessings and prosperity, and good health and physical and mental well-being.

International Workers' Day has been

commemorated worldwide yearly since 1 May 1890. Myanmar has also held annual ceremonies to recognize and honour the contributions of both blue and white collar workers, and this year marks the 88th such observance.

The development of a country de-

pends on increased productivity and improved service quality. Therefore, the government would first like to respectfully express its recognition and honour for the workforce, which plays a key role in creating high-quality products.

SEE PAGE 4

Gala Event Commemorates 70th Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council

Venerable Sayadaws and lay devotees must work together to promote the flourishing and worldwide propagation of Buddhism.



At the Gala Ceremony marking the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council, President U Min Aung Hlaing offers a religious affairs supplication to venerable Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

THE grand ceremony commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Successful Convocation of the Sixth Buddhist Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the Maha Pasana Cave on the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in

Yangon yesterday morning, and with reverence by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla in attendance.

The President unveiled the stone archive inscription and sprinkled

scented water on it together with his wife.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima

Bhivamsa lit an oil lamp to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council.

Members of the Sangha, the President and attendees watched a documentary video clip on the Sixth Buddhist Council. **SEE PAGE 3**

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 50/2026

15th Waxing of Kason 1388ME
30 April 2026

Amnesty Order

TO mark the occasion of Buddha Day, which falls on the full moon of Kason, 1388 ME (30 April 2026), and with the aims of promoting public peace of mind, emphasizing humanitarianism, and demonstrating the State's benevolence and goodwill, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has, under Section 401 (1) of Code of Criminal Procedure, granted a remission of one-sixth of the remaining sentences for prisoners currently serving time in prisons, detention centres, and camps for offences committed before that date.

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 51/2026

15th Waxing of Kason 1388ME
30 April 2026

Amnesty Order

TO mark the occasion of Buddha Day, which falls on the full moon of Kason, 1388 ME, and with the aims of promoting public peace of mind, emphasizing humanitarianism, and enabling participation in nation-building, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has granted amnesty to 1,508 prisoners currently serving sentences in prisons, detention centres, and camps. This pardon, issued under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, remits the remainder of their sentences, subject to the condition that if they commit a subsequent offence, they will be required to serve the remaining portion of their current sentence in addition to the punishment for the new offence.

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 52/2026

15th Waxing of Kason 1388ME
30 April 2026

Amnesty Order

TO mark the occasion of Buddha Day, which falls on the full moon of Kason, 1388 ME, and with the aims of maintaining friendly international relations and emphasizing humanitarianism, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has granted amnesty to 11 foreign prisoners currently serving sentences in various prisons, detention centres, and camps. This pardon, issued under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, remits the remainder of their sentences, subject to the condition that if they commit a subsequent offence, they will be required to serve the remaining portion of their current sentence in addition to the punishment for the new offence.

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

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Moved to Designated Residence to Serve Remaining Sentence

TO mark the occasion of Buddha Day, which falls on the full moon of Kason, 1388 ME, and in consideration of humanitarian concerns as well as the State's benevolence and goodwill, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has, under

Section 541 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, granted that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently serving her term in Nay Pyi Taw Prison, serve the remainder of her sentence at a designated residence. — MNA/GNLM



This photo shows Daw Aung San Suu Kyi conversing with relevant officials during the amnesty process.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement 5/2026

1. On 30 April 2026, on the auspicious occasion of the Full Moon Day of Kason (Buddha Day) 1388 ME, and with due regard to the peace of mind of the people, humanitarian consideration, and to foster understanding of the State's kindness and goodwill, as well as to enable participation in the nation-building process, and in consideration of friendly relations between nations, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, by Order 50/2026 on Remission of Sentence, has remitted one-sixth of the remaining prison sentences of the prisoners, and by Order 51/2026 on Amnesty, has granted amnesty to 1,508 prisoners by reducing their remaining sentences under specified conditions, and furthermore, by Order 52/2026 on Amnesty, has granted amnesty to 11 foreign prisoners by reducing their remaining sentences under specified conditions and deporting them.
2. Such grants of remission of sentence and amnesty will contribute to the peace processes and the development of the nation's human resources, and granting amnesty to foreign prisoners and deporting them will promote peaceful coexistence among nations.
3. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission warmly welcomes the Order on Remission of Sentence and the Orders on Amnesty, expressing joy as do those who have received remission of sentence or amnesty and their family members, and strongly urges them to be able to participate wholeheartedly in the State's development processes.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 30 April 2026

Gala Event Commemorates 70th Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council

FROM PAGE 1

The Chairman Sayadaw delivered a Saraniya Katha while State Ovadacariya Shwegyin Nikaya Ganadhipati 16th Sangharaja of Shwegyin Nikaya Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanisara administered Sammodaniya Katha.

As part of honouring the venerable Sayadaws at the Sixth Buddhist Council, Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vayaminda Bhivamsa and Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññavamsa Bhivamsa held a question-and-answer session for the Vinaya Pitaka, and members of the Sangha recited it.

President U Min Aung Hlaing spoke about religious affairs, saying that the first Buddhist Council was held over three months after the Parinibbana of the Lord Buddha; 100 years after the Parinibbana of the Lord Buddha, the Second Buddhist Council was held at the Valikārāma monastery in the city of Vesali, India, with 700 Arahats led by the Venerable Mahāyasa Thera. Furthermore, 235 years after the Buddha's Parinibbana, the Third Buddhist Council was convened in the city of Pataliputta, India, with 1,000 Arahats led by the Venerable Mahāmoggaliputta Tissa Thera. In addition, 450 years after the Parinibbana of the Buddha, the Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Sri Lanka at the Aloka Cave in the Matula-Malaya region, where 500 Arahats led by the Venerable Mahādhammarakkhita Thera compiled the teachings into written form on palm leaves.

In 2415 Religious Era and 1218 Myanmar Era, a total of 2,400 members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa of Dekkhinayama Phayagyi Monastery held the fifth Buddhist Council at the ground royal hall of Mandalay Royal Palace with the assistance of King Mindon. They then put the Pitakat as a stone inscription. Although this Council was conducted approximately 2,000 years later, it is a matter of pride and joy for Myanmar.

The Sixth Buddhist Council was held with the participation of 2,500 members of the Sangha led by Nyaungyan Sayadaw of Mogaung Monastery from Mandalay from the full moon of Kason in 2498 RE and 1316 ME to the full moon

of Kason in 2500 RE and 1318 ME. And it turns 70 years old.

Kaba Aye Hill, where the sixth Buddhist Council was convened, was located on 168.157 acres of land in Yeku Ywama Ward of Thamaing Township, Insein District, in the past. Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda was built on the land in 1950, and Maha Pasana Cave, four halls, a three-storey refectory, the Maha ordination hall, the Pitaka press and the Buddha Sasana Sangha Hospital in 1953. Moreover, the Pitakat Chamber was constructed there in 1954.

After conducting the preparations, the gala opening ceremony of the Sixth Buddhist Council was held three days from 18 to 20 May 1954. Nyaungyan Sayadaw served as the Chairman of the Sangha Maha Nayaka of the Working Committee, and Bagaya Sayadaw as the Secretary. The Sixth Buddhist Council was organized by President Dr U Ba Oo and sponsored by Sir U Thwin, Chair of the State Buddhist Sasana Organization.

The ceremony was attended by President Dr U Ba Oo, Prime Minister U Nu, Attorney-General U Chan Tun, Minister for National Planning and Religious Affairs U Win, Chair Sir U Thwin of the State Buddhist Sasana Organization and Vice-Chair U Theim Maung, who supplicated religious affairs and read the papers of appreciation.

In addition, it is also known with great joy that kings, prime ministers, ministers, and government representatives, as well as individual delegates and Buddhist representatives from foreign countries such as Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, India, Nepal, Japan, and the United Kingdom, along with senior monastic leaders from various monastic orders, sent congratulatory messages, attended the ceremony, and participated in the proceedings of the Buddhist Council.

The Buddhist Council editing the Buddhist Tipitaka scriptures lasted for two years, from the first session of coordination, scrutiny, and approval in 1954 to the fifth in 1965.

These Pali texts were edited and approved in the five sessions, and Athakatha treatises in the four sessions from 1956 to 1959, and Tika treatises from 1960 to 1962, along with the Buddhist Council.

As such, the Maha Pasana Cave and ordination hall where the Sixth Buddhist Council was held on a grand scale,

four great halls such as Uttarakuru, the Maha ordination hall, the three-storey refectory, the Pitakat press, the Pitakat chamber, the Paha Nayaka Hall, and the Wizayamingala Dhamma Thinbin Hall were renovated in their original state with expanded construction before holding the ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council.

The Sixth Buddhist Council texts were compiled under the guidance of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws. The group led by the Most Venerable Shwethuwun Sayadaw Bhaddanta Saddhiya prepared the computer-based edition of the Tipitaka in Pali, while another group led by the Rector of the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University in Yangon, the Most Venerable Dr Bhaddanta Silanandā Bhivamsa, prepared the Tipitaka in Pali and Roman script versions. These texts were then inscribed and carved on stone and dedicated within the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw. During this process, the Vinaya Piṭaka, Suttanta Piṭaka, and Abhidhamma Piṭaka were enshrined in the form of 720 stone stupas, using Myanmar script, Pali, and Roman script. Each stupa contains inscriptions on both sides – one side in Myanmar script Pali and the other in Roman script Pali – resulting in a total of 1,440 engraved stone inscription panels.

In addition, the efforts made to publish the stone inscriptions in internationally standardized book form, as well as to digitize and preserve them in mobile tablets, represent an additional historic record of the successful convening of Myanmar's Fifth and Sixth Buddhist Councils.

If members of the Sangha and lay devotees work together in harmony, it is certain that the noble Theravāda Buddhist Sāsana will remain pure, stable, and widely propagated for as long as

the world exists, and will undoubtedly flourish and spread across all countries of the world.

Sayadaws read out the messages sent by Masoeyein Taikthit of Mahaungmyay Township in Mandalay, Maha Gandayon Monastery of Amara-pura Township and Anu Nayaka Bhaddanta Kotapitiye Rahul Maha Thera of Sri Lanka.

The President and his wife donated offerings to the Chairman Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and his wife donated alms to Masoeyein Taikthit Sayadaw, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, to the Sayadaw of MyoU Monastery in Tatkon, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and to members of the Sangha.

Secretary of SSMNC Masoeyein Taikthit Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the merits gained.

The President unveiled the exhibition to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council.

The Union Minister for Religious Affairs presented a commemorative gift to the President.

The President, his wife and attendees visited the exhibition, where the President asked about something he wanted to know.

Also, present at the ceremony were Sangharaja Sayadaws from foreign countries and venerable Sayadaws, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, the Yangon Region Chief minister and his wife, ambassadors from international embassies to Myanmar, military attaches and officials, and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

Key highlights from the President's supplication at the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council

1. Efforts were made to publish the stone inscriptions in internationally standardized book form, as well as to digitize and preserve them in mobile tablets, which represent an additional historic record of the successful convening of Myanmar's Fifth and Sixth Buddhist Councils.
2. The texts of the Tri Pitakat treatises were then inscribed and carved on stone and dedicated within the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

Renewed Resolve to Eliminate Child Labour for the Nation's Future

FROM PAGE 1

Esteemed workers,

Myanmar became a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on 18 May 1948. From then on, Myanmar has been protecting and uplifting the rights of workers while following the basic principles and provisions of the ILO.

Myanmar has been implementing work plans in line with existing laws to meet international employer and employee standards. In order to support efforts to eliminate forced labour, an ILO liaison officer has been accepted and appointed since 2002.

In Myanmar, cooperation is being carried out with the ILO liaison officer based in the country, and the necessary information and support are being provided to the ILO liaison office. Complaints related to forced labour are being resolved in collaboration with the ILO through a national-level complaints mechanism. In addition, employer and employee organizations are being allowed to be freely formed in accordance with ILO Convention 87, from basic-level groups to township, region/state federations, and up to national-level organizations.

Esteemed workers,

Myanmar is among the countries with a large working-age population, and this abundance of employable people constitutes a strong human resource base that is essential for national development and economic growth.

In order to develop human resources, skills training courses are being conducted at seven skills training schools under the Ministry of Labour, 22 accredited workplace-based training centres that have been granted official registration certificates, and 26 training schools recognized by the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) of Myanmar.

Young people who complete skills training courses will advance from the level of unskilled labourers to become high-value skilled workers capable of taking practical leadership roles in the workplace, thereby improving their standard of living.

The National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) issues competency certificates in accord with the standards to

skilled workers. These certificates serve as recognized credentials that support their ability to work both domestically and abroad, and to receive wages commensurate with their skills and qualifications.

Efforts are being made to promote and enhance education in order to nurture a strong human resource base equipped with knowledge and skills. Upon completing at least the KG+9 level in the education system, vocational training is also provided to enable individuals to become skilled in agriculture, livestock breeding, and industrial fields.

The Government is making efforts to effectively deploy the country's natural resources and to enhance agricultural and livestock products through the integration of modern technologies, transforming them into value-added products. It is also promoting domestic micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In addition, measures are being implemented to increase workers' incomes, create employment opportunities, provide skills training programmes to produce skilled workers, attract investments to expand labour-intensive production industries, and support access to overseas employment opportunities. The government is also working to ensure workers receive social security and other benefits, improve occupational safety and health standards, and fairly resolve labour disputes. These efforts are being carried out continuously with the interests of workers in focus.

The rural people, amounting to some 70 per cent of the total population of Myanmar, are engaging in agriculture and livestock activities. Hence, it is necessary to strive for the development of MSME businesses so as to improve the socioeconomic lives of the people, boost the State economy and manage substitution for imported goods through the development of the industrial sector based on agriculture and livestock farming activities.

Esteemed workers,

The Government is conducting domestic skills competitions with the aim of developing the skills of the workforce, promoting widespread knowledge of technical and vocational competencies, and ensuring that occupational skill standards

can keep pace with international benchmarks. Outstanding young participants who win awards in these competitions are also being prepared and supported to participate in the ASEAN Skills Competition, which is held once every two years.

The Government will implement basic vocational training programmes for those who have faithfully completed their public military service duties, as well as for individuals who are out of school at the primary, middle, and high school levels. It will also provide opportunities for those who have entered the workforce with incomplete education to continue their studies and return to the formal education pathway. In this regard, arrangements will be made to enable a transition from workplace skills development back into the education system.

Myanmar migrant workers who go abroad for employment are required to live under the laws of the countries where they work, and it is known that some workers face unfair treatment and oppression. Rather than going abroad for work, there are already opportunities for prosperity and development by working within the country, where there is greater security in life. Therefore, instead of seeking employment overseas, I would like to urge that people work within the country so that all citizens can live peacefully and happily under the protection of the State, and relevant ministries and organizations are encouraged to facilitate this.

To ensure safe migration and mobility, Complaint Mechanism Centres have been established in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon to receive and address the difficulties faced by Myanmar workers employed both domestically and abroad in labour-related matters. In addition, complaints are also received and handled through relevant embassies, agencies, Migrant Workers Resource Centres, media outlets, and social organizations. Labour attachés have been appointed in countries where a large number of Myanmar workers are employed, including the Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand, and Malaysia, and efforts are made to resolve their difficulties in coordination with the respective host countries.

Workers, who are the country's

main productive force, are able to enjoy greater social security and healthcare services. By increasing public trust in the social security system, productivity can be improved, which in turn significantly contributes to the national economy. With this objective, workers' hospitals, social security clinics, departmental clinics, traditional medicine clinics, mobile medical units, as well as contracted clinics have been established to provide healthcare services to insured workers.

Inspections and enforcement are being carried out in accordance with labour laws to ensure that workers are able to work in safe and healthy workplaces, and that they receive fair wages based on their skills and efforts, as well as equal rights in the workplace.

In addition, efforts to eliminate child labour have been carried out through five-year plans since 2019, with the industrial manufacturing sector and the trade and commerce sector designated as priority areas for implementation. School dropouts who enter the workforce prematurely reduce the number of knowledgeable and skilled professionals needed for the country's future. Therefore, it is urged that everyone cooperate and participate in efforts to eliminate child labour.

In conclusion, the role of the workforce remains highly significant in efforts for the development of an industry based on agriculture and livestock to the improvement of the socioeconomic lives of all citizens, including workers, and to enabling people to live in peace and well-being while meeting the basic needs of the public. For this purpose, the Government, employers, and workers are cooperating through a tripartite approach to develop a skilled labour force and to create more employment opportunities. In honour of International Workers' Day, I send this message, urging that workers contribute actively to the development of the nation and work hand in hand with the Government with energy and dedication.

Agga Maha Thray Sithu
Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma
U Min Aung Hlaing
President of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar

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NATIONAL

Day meals offered to Sanghas to mark Buddha Day of Kason Full Moon Day (Vesak Day) 1388 ME

A ceremony to offer alms and day meals to venerable Sayadaws who attended the ceremony to mark the Buddha Day of Kason Full Moon (Vesak Day) 1388 ME took place at Agga Dhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park yesterday morning, with Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye in attendance.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Presiding Patron of Sasana Wepulla Monastery in Meiktila of Mandalay Region Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kovida and Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Administrator Sayadaw of Maha Withokdayon Shwegyin Taikthit of Bahan Township in Yangon Region Aggamaha Pandita Dvipitakadhara Pitakattaya Paragu Bhaddanta Sirikanabhivamsa.



A ceremony to offer alms and day meals to venerable Sayadaws is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye, and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw offered alms in the emerald alms-bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lamps to the Maravijaya Naungdawgyi Buddha Image in the Beikman building.

The congregation took the Nine Precepts from the SSMNC Vice-Chairman Sayadaw, and members of the Sangha recited

the Metta Sutta.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife donated offerings to Presiding Patron of Meiktila Sasana Wepulla Monastery SSMNC Vice-Chairman Sayadaw, while Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye offered alms to the Joint Secretary Sayadaw.

Chief Justice of the Union

U Tha Htay, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein and his wife, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe and his wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Union ministers

and attendees donated offerings to venerable Sayadaws.

The SSMNC Joint-Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye and attendees offered day meals to members of the Sangha led by the SSMNC Vice-Chairman, Presiding Patron of Meiktila Sasana Wepulla Monastery.

Also, present at the ceremony were the Auditor-General of the Union, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

Water poured at Maha Bodhi trees on Kason full moon day (Buddha Day) in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Kason Banyan Tree Water-Pouring Ceremony organized by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, was held in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye, and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image with flowers, water and oil lamps.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein and his wife, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U

Than Soe and his wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives sprinkled the scented water on the Maha Bodhi banyan tree and watered it. They also offered water to the Buddha images kept around the banyan tree.

The Vice-Presidents and attendees cordially greeted the people who came to pay homage to the Buddha images and visited religious edifices such as the Gandakuti chambers, Kyauksayon Pagoda, Mucalinda Lake, and Nagayon Pagoda in the Buddha Park. They also viewed round the decorated floats to mark the Buddha Day – Kason Full Moon Day.



The Kason Banyan Tree Watering Event is underway at the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Vice-President U Nyo Saw.

Kason Full Moon Day (Buddha Day) is traditionally referred to as the Day of the Buddha Who conquered Mara. On this day each year, people pour water on Bodhi trees, which are regarded

as sacred (paribhoga cetis), with the sincere wish that the original Maha Bodhi tree – believed to have emerged at the same time as the birth of the Buddha-to-be – and its descendant trees

remain evergreen, healthy, and flourishing. The act of watering the banyan tree is performed in reverence, with reflection on the Buddha's attainment of victory over the five Maras. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Administering Buddha's teachings mark Buddha Day on Kason Full Moon Day 1388 ME

AN auspicious ceremony to administer Buddha's teachings to mark the Buddha Day on Kason Full Moon Day 1388 ME was held at Agga Dhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The congregation, led by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye, and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, took the Five Precepts from Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Administrator Sayadaw of Maha Withokdayon Shwegyin Taikthit Monastery of Bahan Township in Yangon Region Aggamaha Pandita Dvipitakadhara Pitakattaya Paragu Bhaddanta Sirikancaabhivamsa, who also administered a Dhamma Katha on the full moon day of Kason (Buddha Day).

Vice-President U Nyo Saw



Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, and the congregation respectfully listen to a sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirikancaabhivamsa.

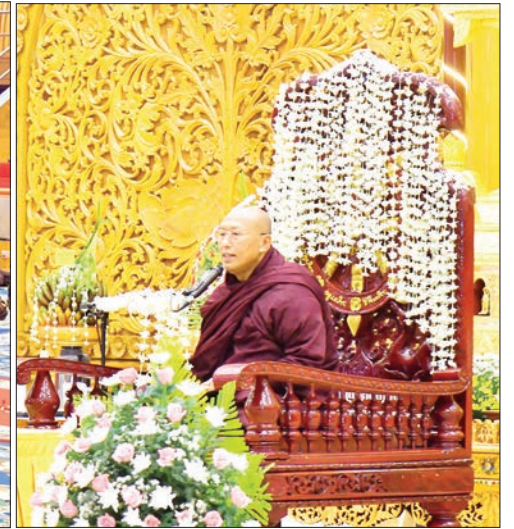
presented cash for nine prerequisites, and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Lin Aung accepted the donations.

The congregation listened to the sermon delivered by the SSMNC Joint Secretary Sayadaw of Maha Withokdayon Shwegyin Taikthit Monastery and shared the merits gained.

Also, present at the ceremony were Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein and his wife, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe and his wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-

er-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the Chief

of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, and religious association members. — MNA/TTA



Tatmadaw families water Maha Bodhi trees 11 times on Kason full moon day

FAMILIES of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) held the Kason Maha Bodhi tree water-pouring ceremony for 1388 ME for the 11th time at Maha Bodhi trees in Lawka Chantha Hsutaungpyae Association's Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku pour water at yesterday's event.

the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander

of Nay Pyi Taw Command and his wife, Tatmadaw members

and families.

The General and his wife

paid homage to the pagoda of the association with oil lights, flowers and water.

The General and his wife, together with senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and Tatmadaw members and families, poured water at the banyan trees and sprinkled scented water.

The full moon day of Kason is one of the significant days for Buddhists. Moreover, the month of Kason is the hottest period of the summer season. Therefore, scented water is sprinkled and offered to Bodhi banyan trees to keep them from withering and to keep them cool, in reverence to the Bodhi tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Uppatasanti Pagoda, Maravijaya Buddha Image offered with candle lighting

ON the full moon day of Kason (Buddha Day) in the Myanmar calendar year 1388, a ceremony was held yesterday evening at the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda and the Maravijaya Buddha Park, featuring a candle-lighting procession.

The event began at the Taboung ground, where ministry staff and students set off to circumambulate the Uppatasanti Pagoda. They were accompanied by ceremonial vehicles depicting scenes from the life of the Buddha. From there, the procession, including the vehicles, staff, and students, proceeded to the Maravijaya Buddha Park.

Upon arrival, the ceremonial vehicles were stationed within the park for pilgrims to view and pay their respects. Holding religious flags and oil lamps, the staff and students followed

a designated clockwise route, offering candlelight to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

Following the procession, the participants poured water on the Maha Bodhi tree near the image before attending the Kason Full Moon religious ceremony. The event was graced by the presence of the Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Yangon Region. The congregation respectfully listened to a Dhamma sermon delivered by the Venerable Aggamaha Pandita, the Administrator Sayadaw of the Maha Withodayon Shwegyin Taikthit Monastery.

In total, 1,200 staff and students from various ministries paid homage to the Uppatasanti Pagoda and the Maravijaya Buddha Image on this sacred day. — MNA/MKKS



Decorated floats are seen in the candle-lighting procession during the Buddha Day ceremony yesterday.

Preaching Dhamma marks 70th Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council



The second session of the commemorative ceremony of the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council is underway yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin.

THE second session of the ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council took place at the Maha Pasana Cave in Mayangon Township yesterday afternoon.

The Sayadaw of Maha Vihara Monastery in Hmawby Township, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, Rector (Retd) of Nalanda University of India Maha Saddhamamajotikadhaja Dr Ravindapansi, Professor (Retd) of Colombo University

of Sri Lanka Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Acingatarane, the venerable Sayadaws from Bhutan, Nepal, Mexico, the United States and Indonesia read out the message to mark the Buddha Day.

Prominent Sayadaws from Myanmar also read out the message in honour of the Buddha Day.

Dr Bhaddanta Hsekinda, Rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, explained the plans to stage the paper-read-

ing session.

Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara gave a concluding Katha.

In the evening, the Dhamma Thabin to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod followed. Sitagu Sayadaw administered Dhamma Desana while well-wishers handed over cash for nine prerequisites to the lay person.

The Sitagu Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained. — MNA/TTA

Union Ministers attend 18th Maha Bodhi Tree Watering Ceremony

ON the full moon day of Kason in the Myanmar calendar year 1388, the 18th water-pouring ceremony was held yesterday evening.

Union Ministers and their wives poured water on the Maha Bodhi trees in the northern part of the Uppatasanti Pagoda precinct. The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers and their wives, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board and his wife, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, and

the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and his wife. Also in attendance were members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, various officials, and religious organizations.

The ceremony commenced with the chanting of “Namo Tassa” three times. Following this, the Union Ministers and their wives poured water onto the Maha Bodhi trees at the designated locations, sprinkled incense, and circumambulated the pagoda. — MNA/MKKS



The 18th Kason Banyan Tree Watering Ceremony is in progress yesterday, attended by Union ministers and dignitaries.

OPINION

ARTICLE ESSAY

Study maritime and aviation knowledge during the summer holidays

YOUTH are those who will bear responsibilities in the future of the nation. In carrying out these duties, it is crucial that they do so conscientiously and with sound knowledge and skills. Young people must not waste their time but should instead study and learn subjects that will contribute to their own development and benefit.

With the aims of enhancing the knowledge of the younger generation of students, enabling them to make effective use of their spare time, allowing them to pursue subjects of their interest, and fostering

the emergence of future youths skilled in maritime and aviation fields for the country, the Tatmadaw (Navy) has opened the Basic and Advanced Maritime Youth Training Courses while the Tatmadaw (Air) has opened the Basic and Advanced Aviation Youth Training Courses, starting from 27 April. Through these courses, the enthusiasm and unity of the participating youths can be witnessed. With disciplined lifestyles and conduct, valuable life skills and knowledge will be taught and imparted by Tatmadaw members.

With the objectives of nurturing outstanding and capable young people who are interested in maritime studies, possess good discipline, strong morale, and sound health for the benefit of the nation; raising awareness among youths of the importance of the maritime transport sector in building a modern nation; and producing talented athletes in rowing and sailing, the Tatmadaw (Navy) is opening maritime youth training courses for male and female students.

Similarly, the Tatmadaw (Air) is opening aviation youth training courses aimed at fostering greater interest in aviation and aerospace studies through learning the history of aviation; enabling participants to understand aviation-related knowledge so that they can contribute to national defence processes; cultivating strong morale, discipline, and physical fitness, as well as habits of unity and teamwork; nurturing and developing the interests of young people; and producing a new generation of youths with strong convictions and values who can serve as human resources for the future of Tatmadaw and nation-building.

The State and Tatmadaw are enhancing the abilities and morale of young people so that they can broaden their knowledge and gain access to opportunities. Tatmadaw stand together with the people, and all of its actions are solely for the benefit of the country and its citizens. Therefore, successive generations of youth are expected to continue taking responsibility for and safeguarding the nation. The reason maritime and aviation youth training courses are being conducted for young men and women is to pass on the responsibilities and heritage that future generations will continue to carry forward.

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THERE is a quiet truth we often overlook in our fast-moving, status-conscious world: not all work is praised equally, but all honest work deserves dignity. We say it easily, sometimes even teach it to children, yet in practice, we hesitate. We measure, compare, rank, and label. And in doing so, we forget something essential.

On this occasion of International Labour Day, I find myself reflecting not on grand achievements or celebrated professions, but on the everyday efforts that sustain our lives, often unnoticed, often underappreciated.

I have seen many forms of work in my lifetime. Some were physically demanding, others mentally exhausting. Some carried prestige; others did not. But what stayed constant was this: work, when done with sincerity, carries its own quiet honour.

There was a time when I worked closely with people whose jobs would rarely make headlines. Dock workers unloading cargo under the harsh sun. Cleaners begin their shifts before dawn. Mechanics with grease-stained hands, patiently fixing what others had discarded. They did not speak of dignity, yet it was visible in their discipline, their resilience, and their pride in doing a job well.

In another setting, I have sat behind a desk, editing words, refining sentences, and preparing stories for publication. It is a different kind of labour – less visible, perhaps less physically taxing –

I Say What I See: All Honest Work Is Honourable

Not all work is celebrated - but all honest work deserves respect.

By @Editor



but it, too, demands care, responsibility, and integrity. And in those moments, I am reminded that the value of work does not lie in how it looks, but in how it is done.

Society, however, has a tendency to draw invisible lines. We admire certain professions while overlooking others. We attach status to titles and income, forgetting that every role, no matter how small it may seem, contributes to a larger whole. A city does not function because of one type of worker alone. It moves because everyone plays a part.

The truth is simple: there is no such thing as “low” work – only low regard.

When we begin to see work through this lens, something changes. Respect becomes more inclusive. Gratitude becomes more genuine. And perhaps most importantly, people begin to take pride not only in what they do, but

EVERY human being has aspirations. These aspirations define the purpose of life and play an important role in building the future. Achieving aspirations depends on clarity of purpose, effort, patience, and continuous learning. By following these principles and striving diligently, one can successfully realize their goals. To achieve aspirations, living a long, healthy life is of utmost importance.

Human life expectancy, based on biological structure, is generally estimated at around one hundred years. However, only a very small number of people live to that age. Life expectancy varies from country to country and among different ethnic groups depending on lifestyle, environment, climate, geography, and level of development. In developed countries, life expectancy tends to be higher, while in developing countries it is often lower. For example, Myanmar’s average life expectancy is about 67 years,

Improving Life Expectancy

By Dr Zeyar Win

while Japan’s is around 85 years. To improve life expectancy, not only healthcare but also community-based interventions are crucial.

Fundamental Factors for Improving Life Expectancy

In developing countries, improving life expectancy remains a major challenge for governments, NGOs, and communities. Fundamental factors must be addressed broadly and systematically.

In rural areas of developing countries, shortages of healthcare workers often lead

to high maternal and child mortality rates. Expanding basic healthcare services, hospitals, clinics, and vaccination programmes are key steps toward improving life expectancy.

Lack of access to clean water causes widespread diseases such as diarrhoea and hepatitis. Communities need easy access to clean water, and waste management systems must be improved to support longer life expectancy.

Malnutrition among children leads to stunted growth and poor cognitive development. Nutrition knowledge and food

safety assurance are necessary. Similarly, improved education raises health awareness, encouraging hygiene and vaccination practices. Education is, therefore, a fundamental factor in improving life expectancy.

Poverty limits access to healthcare, nutrition, and education. Job creation and economic development are essential for longer life expectancy.

Reducing pollution and creating clean environments are vital for public health. Urban development and infrastructure improvements also enhance access to healthcare services.

in how they do it.

Of course, this is not to ignore the realities many workers face. Fair wages, safe conditions, and equal opportunities remain critical concerns. To say that all honest work is honourable is not to romanticize hardship, but to affirm human worth within it. Dignity should not be a consolation; it should be a given.

In Myanmar, we often hear the saying that all work carries honour. It is a simple phrase, but it holds deep meaning. It reminds us that dignity is not assigned by society; it is inherent in effort, in honesty, and in purpose.

Yet, like many good sayings, it is easier spoken than practised.

We still hesitate to treat all workers equally. We still make assumptions based on appearance or occupation. And we still, at times, forget to acknowledge the people whose efforts make our own lives

easier.

Perhaps International Labour Day is not only a time for recognition, but also a moment for reflection. A chance to ask ourselves: Do we truly believe in the dignity of labour, or do we merely repeat it?

For me, the answer lies in observation, seeing people as they are, not as society ranks them. It lies in recognizing that behind every job is a human being striving, enduring, and contributing in their own way.

Work, in its many forms, is a reflection of life itself. It demands patience, discipline, and sometimes sacrifice. It shapes character. It teaches responsibility. And when done honestly, it becomes something more than just a means of survival; it becomes a source of self-respect.

Not everyone will hold a prestigious title. Not everyone will be publicly recognized. But that does not diminish the value of their effort. Honour is not reserved for the few; it belongs to all who work with integrity.

So today, as we mark International Labour Day, perhaps the most meaningful tribute we can offer is not just praise, but perspective. To look beyond titles and appearances, and to see the dignity that exists in every honest task.

Because in the end, it is not the kind of work that defines us; it is the honesty within it.

Honour does not lie in the job; it lies in the honesty behind it.

Collective Action

“Collective action” plays an important role in community development. While individual efforts are limited, collective partic-

ipation strengthens outcomes and leads to better results. Therefore, collective action is essential for success in any endeavour.

SEE PAGE 10



NATIONAL

Kason Full Moon Day draws large crowds to Yangon's pagodas



This photo shows devotees and pilgrims thronging the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. **PHOTO: ZML**

ON the Kason Full Moon Day, also known as Buddha Day, devotees thronged the Shwedagon Pagoda and other pagodas across Yangon, performing meritorious deeds and pouring water on sacred Bodhi trees.

The 43rd Kason water-pouring ceremony, organized by the Pagoda Board of Trustees, commenced at 5:30 am on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda, where offerings, religious ob-

servances and recitations were conducted.

Members of the Sangha, officials and pilgrims took precepts, made donations, listened to sermons and shared merits before carrying out the traditional water-pouring ritual at the Maha Bodhi tree.

Similar ceremonies took place at other prominent pagodas in Yangon, including Botahtaung Pagoda and Kaba

Aye Pagoda, attracting large numbers of worshippers, while

donors offered charity meals, adding to the festive atmos-

phere. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/KZL

Mandalay Marks Kason Full Moon Day

THE Full Moon Day of Kason (Buddha Day) is an auspicious occasion for Theravada Buddhists. Accordingly, ceremonies were held at well-known pagodas in Mandalay, including consecration rites and the traditional pouring of water on the Maha Bodhi trees revered at these pagodas. Across the city, devotees offered rice and alms to monks.

At 4 am yesterday, the Mahamuni Buddha image underwent the ceremonial face-washing ritual, led by venerable Sayadaws and attended by members of the public, the Dhamma Cakka Associations, boards of trustees, and various religious organizations.

Pilgrims from across the country came to offer gold foils, alms, water, and flowers. They also performed the ritual pouring of water on the Buddha



Devotees are seen pouring water on the Maha Bodhi tree in Mandalay yesterday.

images and on the Bodhi tree within the Mahamuni Pagoda precinct.

In addition, under the leadership of the Mandalay Region Government, a donation cere-

mony was held at Maha Atulawaiyan Monastery in Aungmyaythazan Township, where rice, cooking oil, onions, and greamwere offered to monks and nuns from various monas-

teries in Mandalay.

On this auspicious day, government departments and members of the public participated in the ceremonies and made offerings to monks and

nuns with great devotion.

Similarly, merit-making ceremonies marking the Full Moon Day of Kason were held in townships and wards in accordance with religious traditions. Visitors also flocked to well-known pagodas, including Shwe Kyi Myin Pagoda and Phayani Pagoda in Mandalay.

Mandalay Hill was particularly crowded with people taking part in the water-pouring ceremonies. Similar rituals were also held at the Maha Bodhi tree at the foot of Mandalay Hill, where devotees gathered to perform acts of merit.

In the evening, people throughout Mandalay continued the tradition by pouring water on Maha Bodhi trees at pagodas in various townships and wards, engaging in merit-making activities. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/MKKS

Improving Life Expectancy

FROM PAGE 9

Community-Based Approaches to Improve Life Expectancy

- **Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Together**
 - o Public sports grounds and parks: Creating safe, clean spaces for walking and exercise.
 - o Group exercise: Forming walking clubs, Tai Chi, or yoga groups to

improve both mental and physical health.

- **Improving Nutrition and Eating Habits**

- o Ensuring access to nutritious food for all.
- o Community farms: Growing fresh vegetables locally to provide chemical-free nutrition.
- o Public health talks: Educating communities to reduce salt, sugar, and oil consumption and

adopt balanced diets.

- **Primary Healthcare**

- o Preventive care and health check-ups are critical before hospitalization.
- o Free community health screenings: Regular checks for hypertension, diabetes, and obesity to enable early treatment.
- o Vaccination programs: Providing essential vaccines for children and the elderly through

community-based systems.

- **Social Relationships and Mental Health**

- o Loneliness is a factor that shortens life expectancy.
- o Elderly care groups: Allowing seniors to socialize, share hobbies, and improve mental health.
- o Support groups: Forming networks for people with chronic illnesses or stress to provide mutual encouragement.

- **Environmental Cleanliness**

- o Access to clean water reduces infectious diseases.
- o Proper waste management lowers pollution and prevents disease outbreaks.

Improving life expectancy depends not only on government policies but also on active community participation. Building a healthy environment collectively ensures a better legacy for future generations.

NATIONAL

Prisoners in Regions, States Receive Amnesty

A total of 1,519 prisoners, including 1,508 citizen prisoners and 11 foreign prisoners serving sentences in various prisons, detention centres, and camps, were pardoned yesterday.

Yesterday, a total of 1,508 prisoners serving sentences in various prisons, detention centres, and camps across the regions and states were granted amnesty. Under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, their remaining sentences were remitted, subject to the condition that if they commit a subsequent offence, they will be required to serve the remaining portion of their current sentence in addition to the punishment for the new offence. Furthermore, 11 foreign prisoners were granted amnesty for their remaining sentences and deported under Section 204 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

During the release of the prisoners, a group comprising the minister for Security and Border Affairs of the respective region or state, the Region/State Police Force Commanders, the director of the Prison Department, the

Prison officer-in-charge, relevant district and township administrators, heads of the District and Township Police Force, and officials from the Special Branch (SB), the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI), and officials

of Immigration and Population delivered words of counsel and presented release certificates.

The released individuals were provided with full travel and meal allowances from departmental funds. Additionally, those released from camps received labour bonuses calculated based on their days of work at prescribed rates, which were fully disbursed from the manufacturing team fund generated by prisoner labour.

Of the 1,519 released individuals, the breakdown by state and region is as follow: 49 from Kachin State, five from Kayah State, 70 from Kayin State, 19 from Sagaing Region, 59 from Taninthayi Region, 110 from Bago Region, 41 from Magway Region, 257 from Mandalay Region, 91 from Mon State, 44 from Rakhine State, 486 from Yangon Region, 142 from Shan State, and 146 from

Ayeyawady Region.

The released individuals and their family members, who had gathered in front of the prisons to greet them, shared joyful and emotional reunions. For those travelling long distances, the respective state and regional governments arranged motor vehicles to transport the released persons to railway stations, jetties, and bus terminals.

Similarly, 11 foreign prisoners were granted amnesty and deported with the aim of maintaining friendly international relations and emphasizing humanitarianism. Their remaining sentences were remitted, subject to the condition that if they commit a subsequent offence, they will be required to serve the remaining portion of their current sentence in addition to the punishment for the new offence. — MNA/TH



This image features inmates being released from Pathein Prison.



Family members, relatives, and loved ones warmly welcome those released from Mandalay Prison yesterday.



This image shows those released from Toungoo Prison.

Buddha Day Amnesty: 423 Prisoners, Including Foreigners, Released from Insein



This photo depicts those released from Insein Prison on the Full Moon Day of Kason. PHOTO: KANU

ON the occasion of the Full Moon Day of Kason (Buddha Day), to promote peace of mind and compassion among the public, to encourage understanding of the State's goodwill and benevolence, and to foster friendly relations between countries, prisoners serving sentences in various prisons, detention centres and labour camps were granted amnesty under Sub-section (1) of Section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

A total of 423 prisoners, including foreign nationals who met the required criteria, were released from Insein Central Prison yesterday morning.

At the gymnasium within

the compound of Insein Central Prison, officials, including Director U Myo Oo of the Yangon Region Prison Department, Insein District Administrator U Ye Htun Zaw, and Police Lt-Col Myo Myint Aung of the Insein District Police Force, delivered words of guidance.

Following this, 302 male prisoners and 114 female prisoners released from Insein Prison were transported by YBS bus according to their respective districts and townships. In addition, seven foreign nationals were duly handed over to the Immigration and Population Ministry in Insein Township. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS

NATIONAL

Frontline troops welcomed back home at Kalay Township Ceremony

A ceremony to honour and welcome back Tatmadaw soldiers who had returned from the front-line after carrying out duties for regional security and stability in and around Tamu Township, Sagaing Region, was held yesterday evening at a local battalion in Kalay, Sagaing Region.

The event was attended by officials from the Kalay Station, officers, soldiers and their family members, members of the Myanmar Police Force, members

of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, departmental officials, and local ethnic residents.

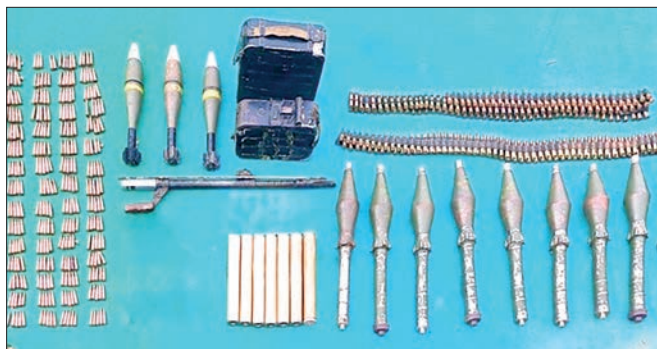
The returning soldiers had diligently carried out military operations on the front lines, day and night, in order to ensure that ethnic communities across various regions and states could live and work in peace, with the security of their lives and property safeguarded, as well as to maintain national stability and regional peace.



Triumphant Tatmadaw members are seen being warmly welcomed home.

Those in attendance warmly welcomed and honoured the returning troops with sprigs of Eugenia, accompanied by traditional music and dance. — MNA/MKKS

Tatmadaw Regains Control of Indaw and Nearby Areas



Photos highlight Tatmadaw troops following the recapture of Indaw (R) and seized weapons and munitions from combined terrorist groups.

TATMADAW columns yesterday reoccupied Indaw, where terrorists had temporarily controlled. Tatmadaw columns reopened the route connecting Tagaung and Htigyaing on 25 March and marched to Katha from Htigyaing.

Tatmadaw members from relevant columns took the re-control of Pinmaluk Village on 24 April 2026, Naba Junction and

Naba village on 29 April, Kanni, Nayakhaung, Kya-in, Kyuntaw and Kuseik villages on 30 April and Indaw and its surrounding areas yesterday afternoon.

After 17 clashes during seven days, 33 dead bodies of enemies, 18 assorted arms and accessories were seized. Some Tatmadaw members sacrificed their lives for the State and the people.

While combined terrorist

groups were temporarily controlling Indaw and its surrounding areas, they constructed bunkers in religious buildings, schools, government offices, hospitals, and residential houses within towns and villages, and used them to launch attacks against Tatmadaw columns. They also carried out attacks by using the homes of residents, who had been temporarily displaced, as defen-

sive positions. As a result, local civilians were forced to abandon their homes and property and flee to safer areas free from fighting. School-age children and youth also lost access to education.

Tatmadaw columns will carry out repairs to residential homes, roads, bridges, and government buildings that were damaged or destroyed due to the violent acts of the terror-

ist groups. Tatmadaw will also promptly undertake mine-clearance operations to ensure safety in public roads and around buildings where explosives were planted by those groups. Furthermore, once schools are repaired as quickly as possible, priority will be given to ensuring that all school-age children and youth can resume their education. — MNA/TTA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

India opens \$4 billion expressway covering nearly 600 km in Uttar Pradesh

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated \$4 billion worth 594-kilometre Ganga Expressway, one of India's largest greenfield infrastructure projects that was completed in less than 3.5 years, connecting Meerut with Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

For decades, eastern UP has remained underdeveloped despite its demographic and economic potential. According to a release, the expressway is set to unlock this latent

potential by improving access, reducing distances and integrating the region more closely with the state's growth corridors.

The project will reduce travel time from about 11 hours to nearly six hours and open new economic opportunities across the state. The expressway has deployed AI-enabled camera systems to provide advanced alerts and enhance road safety. A 3.5-kilometre stretch in Shahjahanpur district has been developed as a dedicated Emergen-

cy Landing Facility (ELF) for the Indian Air Force (IAF), facilitating aircraft landing and strengthening the corridor's strategic capabilities.

Spanning 12 districts, the six-lane expressway, expandable to eight lanes, will improve access to markets, healthcare, education and tourism hubs. For families, this means quicker access to essential services, and for businesses, faster connections to markets, the press release stated. — ANI



The Ganga Expressway has been envisioned as a major economic corridor, with Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Corridors. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ GETTY IMAGES**

Air France-KLM trims 2026 outlook over Middle East war impact

AIR France-KLM cut its 2026 outlook, saying higher fuel prices caused by the Middle East war would expand its fuel bill by more than a third.

The airline group, which also includes budget airline Transavia said it now expects to expand capacity by two to four per cent this year, down from its earlier forecast of three to five per cent. Air France-KLM announced a net loss of 252 million euros (\$294 million) in the first quarter, an increase of one per cent from the same period

last year.

"While fuel price increases are not yet reflected in the results we present today, they are expected to weigh on the coming quarters," said chief executive Benjamin Smith. The war, triggered by US and Israeli attacks on Iran at the end of February, has nearly halted shipping traffic via the Strait of Hormuz, through which around a fifth of the world's oil normally passes. Jet fuel prices more than doubled in the first few weeks of the war. — AFP

China's logistics sector sees steady growth in Q1

CHINA'S logistics sector maintained steady momentum in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, with major indicators posting solid growth, according to data released by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

From January to March, China's total social logistics value came in at 96.4 trillion yuan (about US\$14 trillion), up 6.2 per cent year on year based on comparable prices. The growth rate accelerated by 1.1 percentage points

from the full-year level in 2025 and by 0.5 percentage points from the first quarter of 2025, respectively, the federation said.

The industrial sector was the biggest driver of logistics growth. The value of industrial goods

logistics rose 5.8 per cent year on year, contributing more than 80 per cent of the increase in total social logistics value over the period. Within the sector, manufacturing accounted for over 80 per cent of logistics demand. — Xinhua

Carmaker Stellantis swings back into profit as sales climb

GLOBAL automaker Stellantis — owner of the Jeep and Fiat brands — said Thursday it had swung back into profit in the first quarter, but failed to convince investors ahead

of presenting its new strategy.

The 14-brand group, which also include Peugeot and Chrysler, posted a net profit of 377 million euros (\$440 million) in January

through March, compared to a loss of 387 million euros in the same period last year.

However, the carmaker's shares slumped more than eight per cent at one

point on the Paris stock exchange before recovering slightly as the profit missed the analyst consensus forecast of 387 million calculated by Bloomberg. — AFP



Higher jet fuel prices caused by the Middle East war will likely weigh down Air France-KLM's annual fuel bill by an additional third. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (846N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (846N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **01-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0092N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0092N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **01-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Putin directly supervises Russia's nuclear shield upkeep and new arms development: Rosatom CEO

Rosatom's main service is the nuclear shield, the nuclear 'sword' remains our key task.



State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom (Rosatom) is a multi-industry holding company which comprises assets in power engineering, machine building, and construction. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ROSATOM**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin personally oversees both the maintenance of Russia's nuclear shield's combat readiness and the development of next-generation weapons based on new physical principles, Alexey Likhachev,

CEO of state nuclear corporation Rosatom revealed on Thursday. "Rosatom's main service is the nuclear shield, the nuclear 'sword' remains our key task. The president personally supervises the creation of weapons

based on new physical principles, and the upkeep of the combat capability of our existing solutions," Likhachev said at the Russian federal educational marathon Znanie (Knowledge). — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU says troop deployments in Europe 'in US interest'

THE EU said Thursday that the deployment of US troops in Europe was in Washington's interest, after President Donald Trump threatened to cut force numbers in Germany.

European Union spokeswoman Anitta Hipper said the United States was "a vital partner in contributing to Europe's security and defence".

"The deployment of US troops in Europe is also in the US interest in support of its global role," she added.

Trump said the United States was considering reducing its troop deployment, following a row with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the Iran war. — AFP

Israel detains 175 Gaza flotilla activists

ISRAEL'S Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the Israeli Navy has detained 175 Gaza flotilla activists on more than 20 boats overnight near the Greek island of Crete, hundreds of nautical miles from Israel.

In a post on social media platform X, the ministry published a video showing some of the activists.

The flotilla, carrying humanitarian aid to Palestinians in war-battered Gaza, departed from Barcelona, Spain, on 12 April, aiming to challenge the Israeli blockade. — Xinhua

India, Sri Lanka reaffirm maritime partnership

INDIA and Sri Lanka reaffirmed their growing maritime partnership through the fourth edition of the bilateral diving exercise, IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, conducted at Colombo on 21-28 April. The exercise witnessed participation of the Indian Navy's Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, INS Nireekshak, alongside diving teams from both navies- underscoring enhanced operational coordination and professional synergy, the Indian Navy said in a statement. — ANI

Oil crisis fuels calls to speed up clean energy transition

THE oil crisis triggered by the Middle East war has underscored the need for the world to accelerate the clean energy transition, the COP31 president-designate and the UN's climate chief said Thursday.

Crude prices have soared since the United States and Israel launched the war against Iran in late February and Tehran closed the Strait of Hormuz in response. That has fuelled calls for the world to ditch its reliance on fossil fuels.

"The fossil fuel cost

crisis now has its foot on the throat of the global economy," Stiell said at a meeting on the energy transition hosted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris.

"From this tragedy, an immense irony is unfolding. Those who've fought to keep the world hooked on fossil fuels are inadvertently supercharging the global renewables boom," he said, without naming countries or companies.

The Paris meeting was being in held in the

lead-up to the UN's COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Türkiye, in November.

Diplomats and representatives from banks, oil firms and renewable energy companies attended the talks.

"The world is facing the biggest energy crisis in its history today," COP31 president-designate Murat Kurum said.

"We now know clearly that the global economy must transform its energy paradigm," said Kurum, who is also Türkiye's climate minister. — AFP



An Iraqi oil employee checks pipelines at the Bai Hassan oil field, west of the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Afghan women footballers celebrate 'historic moment'

A FIFA rule change allowing Afghanistan's women footballers to compete in official matches is a "historic moment" and "basic human right", former captain Khalida Popal told AFP on Thursday.

Afghanistan will in future be eligible to qualify for the Women's World Cup and the Olympics, something Popal said was the culmination of a "long fight".

"I woke up this morning imagining a young Afghan girl opening her eyes and saying, 'I've got the right to play'. This is a basic human right," Popal said from Copenhagen.

She added: "It's fantastic news, it's a historic moment we are trying to absorb."

The Afghanistan Women's National Team was founded by Popal and other players in 2007 in Kabul.

After the Taliban authorities retook power in 2021, about 100 players and family were evacuated to Melbourne in Australia, with team members also relocating to Europe, Britain and the United States.

Women in Afghanistan are banned from participating in sport, and the Taliban authorities have shut down clandestine exercise groups held behind closed doors.

A team of Afghan refugee players was formed between Europe and Australia, playing their first international matches at the FIFA Unites: Women's Series last year in Morocco. — AFP



Afghan football player Khalida Popal pictured in 2024. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Myanmar wins 3 bronzes at Asian Beach Games

Bronze medallists are pictured being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport.

THE Myanmar tag ball team returned after securing three bronze medals at the 6th Asian Beach Games Sanya 2026, held in China from 23 to 27 April.

Led by Vice-President U Soe Moe Kyaw and U Chit Ko Ko, the 12-member sports team, including officials, coaches and players, arrived back at Yangon International Airport at 10 am yesterday, where officials from the

Ministry of Sports, the Department of Sports and Physical Education, and family members welcomed them back.

In the Men's Doubles event, Thailand won first place, Iraq second, while Myanmar and Lebanon shared third place. In the Women's Doubles event, Thailand secured first place, DPR Korea second, while Myanmar and Cambodia shared third.

In the Mixed Doubles event, Thailand again claimed first, DPR Korea second, while Myanmar and China shared third place.

A total of 13 countries competed in the tournament, including Thailand, DPR Korea, Iraq, Lebanon, China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Kuwait. — Bala/KZL

Mainoo signs new five-year Man Utd contract

KOBBIE Mainoo has signed a new contract at Manchester United that will keep him at Old Trafford until 2031, bringing an end to months of uncertainty over his future.

The 21-year-old, who joined United's academy in 2014, has already made 98 appearances for the club, scoring seven goals, including in the FA Cup final win against Manchester City in 2024.

Mainoo fell out of favour under former boss Ruben Amorim and had a request to leave on loan in August rejected.

He started just one game all season — the League Cup loss to Grimsby on penalties — under the Portuguese, who was sacked in January.

That led to growing speculation that the future of the boyhood United fan could lie away from Old Trafford.

But Mainoo has been rejuvenated under Michael Carrick, who was appointed as head coach until the end of the season after Amorim was fired.

The midfielder has started all but one game since then, playing a key role as United have climbed to third in the



Manchester United midfielder Kobbie Mainoo is back in the England squad. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Premier League, all but securing a return to the Champions League. — AFP

Barcelona could wrap up La Liga title as relegation battle continues

THE 34th round of La Liga this weekend could see the title all but decided and another Champions League place confirmed.

FC Barcelona will be crowned champion if it wins away to Osasuna on Saturday and Real Madrid loses at Espanyol on Sunday night.

Barca travels to Pamplona without Lamine Yamal, though Raphinha and Marc Bernal could feature. Osasuna, ninth and

pushing for Europe, will be without winger Victor Munoz, who has reportedly attracted interest from both Barcelona and Real Madrid but is out with a calf injury. Espanyol hosts Real Madrid after a 0-0 home draw against second-from-bottom Levante, leaving the club winless in 2026 and sliding from European contention to 13th place, just five points above the relegation zone. — Xinhua



Iran to continue managing Persian Gulf, Hormuz Strait without US presence: Supreme Leader

Iran intends to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf region and put an end to the enemy's abuses through the practical ability to manage the Strait of Hormuz.

IRAN intends to continue to manage the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, ensuring security without the US's presence, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said on Thursday.

"Iran intends to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf region and put an end to the enemy's abuses through the practical ability to manage the Strait of Hormuz," Khamenei said in his address.

The Persian Gulf region has a bright future without the American presence, he added. — SPUTNIK



This handout photo made available by the Iranian army on 12 March 2025 shows Iranian navy personnel on a motor boat during a military drill in the Gulf of Oman. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

Study shows organic fertilizer lifts yields amid Mideast supply strains

REPLACING part of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer with small amounts of organic inputs can improve soil quality, crop yields and nutrient efficiency, a study



The study shows how adjusting fertilizer strategies with organic and inorganic inputs can maximize agronomic, ecological and economic outcomes. A man conveys grapes in Adelaide hills, Australia. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PAN XIANGYUE/XINHUA/FILE**

has found, as Middle East tensions disrupt global supplies.

The study, led by the University of Western Australia (UWA), comes as around 60 per cent of global urea-based nitrogen fertilizer supply passes through the Strait of Hormuz, where geopolitical disruptions have tightened supply and raised costs for Australian growers, said a UWA statement released Thursday.

"Australian growers are seeking efficient use fertilizer to ensure economic growth and food security," said Professor Kadambot Siddique from the UWA Institute of Agriculture.

The study, co-authored by Siddique and international research partners from China, shows how adjusting fertilizer strategies with organic and inorganic inputs can maximize agronomic, ecological and economic outcomes.

The research examined a winter wheat-summer maize rotation under different fertilizer strategies. — Xinhua

ADB cuts developing Asia, Pacific growth

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday downgraded its economic growth outlook and raised inflation projections for developing Asia and the Pacific due to severe and prolonged disruptions from the conflict in the Middle East.

The ADB forecasts regional growth at 4.7 per cent in 2026 and 4.8 per cent in 2027, down from the 5.1 per cent forecast for both years in early April, based on an assumption of earlier stabilization of the situation in the Middle East.

The bank projected the inflation in the region to accelerate to 5.2 per cent this year from three per cent last year, before easing to 4.1 per cent in 2027. While the early April forecast predicted a 3.6 per cent inflation in 2026 and 3.4 per cent in 2027.

The new outlook assumes that oil prices average around US\$96 per barrel in 2026 and will ease to around \$80 per barrel in 2027, both above the pre-conflict average of \$69 per barrel in January and February this year. — Xinhua