

Proper Town Planning Key to Urban Development



Salient points from the speech delivered by the President on his inspection tour

1. Efforts must be made to ensure the systematic installation of electric and telecommunication cables in Yangon City.
2. Officials from relevant engineering departments have to research a proper drainage system in Yangon City.
3. The implementation of construction projects must comprise urban development activities, expansion and upgrading of roads in downtown Yangon to ensure better traffic facilities.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the urban development activities along the No 5 Highway in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Authorities must intensify efforts to clean and beautify Yangon while developing public recreation centres, parks and sports grounds in line with urban population needs as part of broader urban development initiatives.

It is necessary to ensure that agricultural land is not lost when drafting town plans for new urban development, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing during his inspection tour of Yangon City, including Hlinethaya Township, yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Mya Tun Oo, U Htein Lin and U Myo Thant, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Nang Thu, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command, Yangon Mayor U Myo Myint Aung and officials, the President inspected the urban development activities in Yangon

City and the cleanliness and beautification process.

At the hall of Bayintnaung Park in Hlinethaya Township, the Yangon Region chief minister reported to the President on accomplishment for the guidance given by the Head of State on his inspection tour in Hlinethaya Township in November 2025, the systematic installation of telecom cables along Ayeyawady Road in Anawrahta Industrial Zone of Hlinethaya (West) Township, the construction of drains along both sides of Yangon-Pathein Road, the efforts to ensure proper flow of water on the Shwepyitha Bridge Road in Hlinethaya Township, construction of the outlet valves to Hline River, proper drainage system along the Nyaungdon



Road in Hlinethaya (East) Township, the relocation of lamp-posts and telecommunication poles that need to be moved during road expansion works, the implementation of cleanliness and beautification activities along roadsides throughout the Yangon Region, the plans for widening and upgrading roads in line with urban standards, the construction of RC box culverts, and the completion status of bridge expansion works.

After hearing the reports, the President stressed that efforts must be made

to ensure the systematic installation of electricity and telecommunication cables in Yangon City. It is necessary to systematically carry out the proper drainage tasks along the roads and in residential wards, and these projects must be completed before the rainy season.

He continued that the implementation of construction projects must comprise urban development activities, expansion and upgrading of roads in downtown Yangon to ensure better traffic facilities.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

70th Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council enters third and final day

THE auspicious gala ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council continued for the third day in the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

A question and answer session on Abhidhamma Pitaka presided over by State Ovadacariya Yenangyoung Shwetaung Pali Tekkatho Presiding Patron Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Tejaniya was staged to honour the venerable Sayadaws who participated in the Sixth Buddhist Council. Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhandha Bhivamsa and Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicittasara joined the Sangayana Q and A session. And, 15 members of the Sangha recited it.

State Ovadacariya Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Exam Ovadacariya Body Chair Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sudhammacara Bhivamsa gave an Ovada Katha.



The auspicious gala ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council celebrates the third day in the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Aggamaha Kammathanacariya Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Hsekinda presented his reviews of five research papers submitted at the paper-reading session.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and offi-

cially donated certificates of honour and offerings to venerable Sayadaws and resource person Sayadaws. The Union Minister expressed gratitude for the successful completion of the commemorative ceremony.

Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha

Bhivamsa delivered a sermon and proclamation marking the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council celebration.

State Ovadacariya Sitagu Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara gave Ovada over the celebration.

SSMNC Chair Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidha-

ja Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa declared the successful completion of the ceremony and delivered a sermon to share merits gained.

The Buddhist Council was held for the first time in the 1st Religious Era, the second in 100 RE, the third in 235 RE, the fourth in 450 RE, the fifth in 2415 RE, and the sixth in 2498 RE. The grand auspicious ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council celebration was held for three consecutive days from 30 April to 2 May as an effort to ensure the purity, stability, and propagation of Buddhism. The celebration was attended by State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, SSMNC member Sayadaws, Pitaka holder Sayadaws, Sangharaja Sayadaws and members of the Sangha from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Korea, Bhutan, Mexico, the United States and Australia. — MNA/TTA

MoRA Union Minister pays homage to international monks



Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin presents offerings to Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara in Yangon yesterday.

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin paid homage to senior monks from 14 countries attending the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, and presented them with offerings.

He visited the monks at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon, where he presented com-

memorative gifts, robes, and religious texts. The Union minister also paid homage to Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara and expressed his gratitude for the participation of the international monastic representatives.

Senior monks from various countries, including Cam-

bodia, Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka, India, the United States, and Australia, conveyed their appreciation during the meeting. The donations consisted of robes, translated Pitaka texts, Dhamma books, and commemorative gifts marking the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod. — MNA/KZL

Over 80,000 local and international visitors flock to Kyaiktiyo in Apr

MORE than 80,000 pilgrims from both domestic and international destinations visited Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, in April, according to Chairman U Soe Hla of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Visitors from Thailand and Vietnam, as well as local visitors from Yangon and Mawlamyine, make up the majority of travellers.

“The Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda begins on the full moon of Thadingyut. During the festival, visitors arrive daily. Last April, there were more visitors than usual due to the long Myanmar New Year holiday. Last year, the festival ended on the full moon of Kason, but pilgrims continued to come to pay homage,” said U Soe Hla.

Pilgrims from across the country have been coming daily to pay homage at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda since November, with approximately 250 buses providing transportation up and down the hill.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is held annually from the full moon of Thadingyut to the full moon of Kason, while the pagoda remains open to the public throughout the year. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Proper Town Planning Key to ...



President U Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports on urban development activities during his inspection tour of Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

He highlighted that concerning cleanliness, greening, proper drainage, and urban development in Hlinethaya Township, the efforts undertaken have now achieved a certain level of improvement. It is therefore necessary to systematically formulate a proper town plan to ensure an orderly urban system in Hlinethaya Township.

He underlined that officials

from relevant engineering departments have to research a proper drainage system in Yangon City.

Moreover, the President stressed that officials need to systematically raise public awareness for traffic safety in Yangon City in order to follow the prescribed rules and disciplines.

He guided the authorities to strive for cleanliness and beautification of Yangon City

and to establish public recreation centres, parks and sports grounds as urban development undertakings depending on residential urban population.

After the meeting, the President inspected the efforts to ensure cleanliness and beautification process in addition to the systematic drainage facilities in Hlinethaya Township and gave guidance on the cultivation of shade trees on the vacant areas between the

drains and pavements along Yangon-Pathein Road, and constantly maintained the proper drainage facilities.

The President also looked into the undertakings on upgrading Bo Aung Kyaw Road, Nyaungdon Road, Tabinshweti Road, Prince Kanaung Road and Khayaybin Road in Hlinethaya Township, the upgrade of drains along No 4 Highway, the relocation of lamp-posts and improvement of roads in

Shwepyitha Township, the systematic relocation of the illegal shops along the Hlawga Road, Pyay Road, Nwekhwe Road and No 3 Highway in Mingaladon Township and Thudhamma Road in North Okkalapa Township.

During the inspection tour, the President gave guidance to officials to ensure that road areas are properly defined and that roads meet the required standards. — MNA/TTA

Meeting reviews MPI production, procurement plans for 2026-27 FY

THE Ministry of Industry and MSME Development held a meeting yesterday morning at the ministry to discuss the successful implementation of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industry's production and procurement plans for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than, directors-general, general managers, and officials from No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise and the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries Enterprise (MPIE).

The Union minister said that production plans must be drawn up based on market demand, with calculations for the number of batches to be produced for each type of drug. He added that the necessary pharmaceutical raw materials and packaging materials must be systematically prepared, along with production schedules, quality standards, and the management of remaining raw materials. He also said that procurement plans must be systematically prepared



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than inspects the New Stellar Energy MM Co Ltd in Nay Pyi Taw.

based on production plans, following principles such as purchasing the right quantity at the right time and price, sourcing from appropriate manufacturers, and anticipating and resolving potential challenges.

He further stated that, to success-

fully implement the production and procurement plans for the 2026-2027 financial year, it is necessary to follow a structured process of planning, implementation, inspection, and evaluation.

General managers from the MPIE then presented the production plan,

procurement plans, and the total cost of projects to be built.

Afterwards, the Union minister inspected the construction status of the solar factory of New Stellar Energy MM Co Ltd in the Dekkhinathiri Industrial Zone, Nay Pyi Taw.

In the factory hall, the director-general, deputy director-general, Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw) department head, and the factory's general manager explained the work processes.

In response, the Union minister said that officials from the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department should inspect the factory regularly every week and report on progress continuously.

He added that the factory's operation would help meet the demand for solar panels, inverters, and batteries in Nay Pyi Taw and surrounding villages, while reducing imports from abroad in line with state policy. He also noted that building more factories of this kind would help meet domestic needs. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Hluttaw Reps Bridge Public-Government Gap

HLUTTAW representatives have to review and compare the actual situations occurring in the country with the existing laws, and to provide level protection for the citizens, said U Khin Yi, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, at the meeting with Hluttaw representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw at the hall of the Yangon Region Hluttaw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker noted that Hluttaw representatives need to coordinate the legislative, executive and judiciary pillars for the people to have genuine, disciplined democratic practices.

He continued that as the legislative pillar, Hluttaw representatives must strive to carry out their responsibilities so that the State and citizens can live in peace and tranquillity under the protection of the law.

He added that when carrying out legislative duties, it is



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with Hluttaw representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw at the Yangon Region Hluttaw yesterday.

necessary to carefully review whether existing enacted laws are in line with current conditions, whether amendments are required, whether they should be repealed, or whether new laws need to be enacted. Therefore, Hluttaw representatives need to have a sound understanding

and proficiency in legal matters.

The Speaker said that Hluttaw representatives serve as a bridge between the public and the government, representing and conveying the aspirations of the people. In carrying out this role, they must engage closely with the public through

field visits and establish constituency offices to maintain direct contact, so that public needs and concerns can be addressed promptly.

He stressed that they must strive to become capable representatives who can work in coordination with the State Gov-

ernment to address issues that cause hardship to the public and to effectively implement the people's aspirations.

He noted that they are also required to strengthen international relations with parliaments around the world, including those within ASEAN, and to make necessary preparations to enhance cooperation across various sectors with parliamentary organizations in the ASEAN region.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker held a meeting with the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the committee chair and the secretary at the Pearl Hall of the region Hluttaw.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung reported on parliamentary measures of the region Hluttaw. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker gave the necessary instructions. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then inspected the meeting room of the Region Hluttaw. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Freshwater Shrimp Successfully Hatched

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung visited the Department of Fisheries' freshwater shrimp hatchery in Kyauktan Township, yesterday morning, where he instructed officials regarding ongoing work.

Upon arrival at the Kyauktan freshwater shrimp hatchery, the deputy director explained the hatchery process and conducted a practical demonstration.

While inspecting the site, the Union minister said that since 1996, private entrepreneurs had carried out hatchery operations using technology provided by ministry's experts. However, operations were suspended in 2012 due to

a disease outbreak. Later, Thai varieties were imported and bred. He added that from 2026-2027, breeding will resume using Myanmar freshwater shrimp, with shrimp fry to be distributed to entrepreneurs. From 2027 onward, entrepreneurs will begin breeding their own shrimp, producing domestic Myanmar shrimp and exporting any surplus.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited private farms, namely the Ahman Dairy Cattle Farm and TM Dairy Cattle Farm in Laydaunkan, Mingaladon Township.

He said that since the farms were established more than 23 years ago, they should be systematically upgraded to modern



Union Minister U Min Naung observes the work process of freshwater shrimp hatchery of the Department of Fisheries in Kyauktan Township, yesterday.

breeding systems, operated under farm biosecurity measures,

and given attention to food safety and quality standards in milk

and dairy production.

He also discussed the systematic production and year-round use of nutritious grasses for animal feed, as well as mixing them with locally available agricultural products and green vegetable waste currently being used as feed.

The Ahman Dairy Farm has 340 cattle, including 118 lactating cows, producing about 650 viss of milk daily. TM Dairy Farm has 750 cattle, including 300 lactating cows, producing about 1,500 viss of milk daily.

Milk, raw milk, yoghurt, butter, and other dairy products are reportedly supplied to shopping malls in Yangon and distributed accordingly. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Rakhine State govt arranges jobs for displaced, locals

THE Rakhine State government is making arrangements to create job opportunities for temporarily displaced persons and residents, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Naing Oo said during a meeting in Sittway.

He said plans are in place to increase rice supplies for displaced people, and efforts are being made to ensure residents can work and live peacefully. He also urged cooperation to overcome current difficulties and stressed the importance of education for children in displacement camps, with measures implemented under government guidance.

Officials later distributed rice to displaced people, while residents raised their needs and



concerns, which were addressed by the chief minister.

The chief minister also attended an agricultural demonstration event, including green manure cultivation and natural fertilizer use, and distributed seeds to farmers.

He later inspected planned bridge construction sites in Sittway Township for the 2026-2027 financial year and gave the necessary instructions. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KZL

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Naing Oo observes an agricultural demonstration event in Sittway yesterday. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

MoE Deputy Ministers welcome students from regions/states in Nay Pyi Taw



Luyeechun students (outstanding students) are welcome by officials from Ministry of Education at the Central Camp (Ywataw) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A total of 751 students and 102 supervisor teachers, including 96 Grade-9 students, 132 Grade-10 students, 133 Grade-11 students, 99 Grade-12 students, and 291 first- and second-year university students, who will visit student camps in PyinOoLwin, Inlay, Nay Pyi Taw, Ngwehsaung, and Chaungtha for the 2025-2026 academic year, arrived at the Central Camp (Ywataw) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During their arrival, Education Deputy Ministers Dr

Zaw Myint and U Nay Myo Hlaing, directors-general and officials, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Education Officer, district and township education officers, camp officials, teachers, and students welcomed them with jasmine flowers and traditional dance performances.

Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and U Nay Myo Hlaing, and officials then inspected the health care clinic, dining hall, and accommodation.

The students and their supervisors stayed at the

Nay Pyi Taw Central Camp (Ywataw) and, in the evening, visited the Maravijaya Buddha Image to pay homage.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, Grade-9 students will visit the PyinOoLwin Camp, Grade-10 students will go to the Inlay Camp, Grade-11 students to the Ngwehsaung Youth Camp, Grade-12 students to the Nay Pyi Taw Youth Camp, and first- and second-year university students to the Chaungtha Youth Camp. — MNA/MKKS

Firefighters donate blood in Mandalay to mark 80th Fire Brigade Day

TO celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day that falls on 5 May, heads of seven township fire services departments and firefighters in Mandalay District held a blood donation event.

It was held on the morning of 2 May at the Mandalay Region Fire Services Department located at the corner of 29th Street and 81st Street in Chanayethazan Township.

At the event, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and his cabinet members, Mandalay General Hospital's senior medical superintendent, the Regional Fire Services De-

partment's director U Zaw Win Tun, deputy director U Shine Wai Moe, heads of the seven township-level fire services departments and firefighters in Mandalay District donated blood.

A ceremony of paying respect to retired firefighters aged 70 years and above was celebrated on 1 May to mark the Myanmar Fire Brigade Day.

On 30 April, the department's director, chairman and members of the disciplinary committee performed a water-pouring ceremony and cleaned the platform of the Eain Taw Yar Pagoda, donating K750,000. — MT/ZS



Firefighters donate blood in hailing the 80th Fire Brigade Day. PHOTO: THAN HTAY

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

26 April

Govt Pledges to Further Deepen Myanmar-China Ties

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

30 April

UEC announces substitution of Hluttaw representatives

The Union Election Commission hereby announced that U Pyone Cho was appointed as a substitute representative for vacant seat No 7 from Constituency 1 of the Amyotha Hluttaw under the PR system in the Ayeyawady Region instead of U Myint Kyaing of the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Nan Ni Ni Aye, Representative 1 from USDP for the Hpa-an Township Constituency 1, was replaced by USDP's U Aung Myint Thein of Hpa-an Township Representative 2. USDP's U Htin Kyaw Thu, Representative 2 from the Yangon Constituency 1 under the PR system, was replaced by USDP's U Aung Pyae Phy, Mayangon Township Representative 2. Upon notification from the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services requesting a change to the previously submitted nomination, the commission has confirmed the substitution of BC 31667 Col Thein Zaw Myint with BC 33135 Col Yan Gyi Aung at the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw.

President's Office issues directives

The President's Office has issued the directive to amend the District Administrative Directives issued by the State Administrative Council with Directive 3/2025 on 30 July 2025 to form the district and township management and administrative committees.

1 May

Gala Event Commemorates 70th Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council

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, and attended with reverence by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

President sends message to International Workers' Day ceremony

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.

Vice-Presidents join Vesak Day activities

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye, and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye offered meals to venerable Sayadaws to mark the Buddha Day of Kason Full Moon Day at Agga Dhipati Dhamma

Beikman in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw. They also joined the water pouring ceremony at the Maha Bodhi tree at the Maravijaya Buddha Park. In the evening, they attended the auspicious ceremony of administering Buddha teachings to mark the Buddha Day (Vesak Day) on the full moon day of Kason at Agga Dhipati Dhamma Beikman.

President's Office issues Amnesty Orders

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has, under Section 401 (1) of the 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. Moreover, the President has granted amnesty to 1,508 prisoners currently serving sentences in prisons, detention centres, and camps and also granted amnesty to 11 foreign prisoners currently serving sentences in various prisons, detention centres, and camps.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi moved to designated residence

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 the Nay Pyi Taw Prison, serve the remainder of her sentence at a designated residence. — GNLM/TTA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 2 May 2026

BAY INFERENCE: The weather has a few clouds over the Central Bay and is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 3 May 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing, Kachin, and (northern and eastern) Shan states, fairly widespread in Yangon, Mandalay and lower Sagaing regions and Chin and southern Shan states, scattered in Bago and Magway regions and Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining region and states. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states. In the area along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur, and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in the upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 May 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 May 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 May 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

Air Quality Measurements in Yangon on 1 May

THE Environmental Conservation Department of Yangon Region conducts 24-hour monitoring of six Parameters: Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃) and Carbon Monoxide (CO), using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) at three locations as follows: -

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 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

The measured air quality results may vary depending on factors such as temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle usage, dust dispersion due to hot and dry conditions, emissions from factories, and surrounding environmental conditions near the monitoring sites.

Environmental Conservation Department

Fuel Prices Fall in Week Ending 7 May

FUEL oil reference prices dipped this week ending 30 April 2026, with K4,515 for Octane 92 and K4,670 for Octane 95, K5,275 for diesel and K6,455 for premium diesel.

The prices were set at K4,668 for Octane 92 and K4,909 for Octane 95, K5,752 for diesel and K7,012 for premium diesel last week ending 30 April, showing a decrease of over K150 to K500 per litre.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure a stable price and secure supply. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Myanmar has been injecting

foreign currencies into the fuel oil sector to help cut the price. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station in downtown Yangon.

experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to that of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar did. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent low-

er than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

57 container vessels slated to call at Yangon Port in May



A bird's-eye view of a container yard with containers from shipping lines at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

A total of 57 container vessels are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port in May 2026, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Eight container vessels, each run by Cosco Shipping Line and M/S SITC Shipping Line, six each by M/S Maersk A/S Line and M/S ONE Line, five each by M/S MSC Line, M/S CMA CGM Line and M/S Sumudera Shipping Line, three each by M/S RCLL Line, M/S BLPL Shipping Line, M/S Evergreen ASIA Line and M/S Ti2 Container Line and two by M/S Land And Sea, are sched-

uled to dock at the Yangon Port in May.

The Myanmar Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, to bolster exports, and to improve port capacity for significant arrivals of ships. Myanmar Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules promptly upon extended schedule. Yangon Port handled 53 container vessels in April, 59 in March, 60 each in February and 63 in January 2026.

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

Confiscated electronics, general goods to go under the hammer

THE Customs Department announced that electronic devices, machinery, construction materials, animal feed, and general goods that have been seized under existing customs laws will be sold through competitive bidding.

The auction will be held at 10 am on 14 May at the Supply and Transport division, Customs (Warehouse) located in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region.

Auction form including terms and conditions and a list of items can be purchased at

K10,000 per set during office hours on 6 and 7 May. Those who have purchased auction forms can view the auction items for three working days between 10 am and 4 pm from 8 to 12 May.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the Supply and Transport division, Customs (Warehouse) at 09 420005920 or 09 254073302, according to the secretary of the Auction Team of the Department of Customs in Yangon Region. — NN/KK

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OPINION

Government of the people, by the people, for the people

FOLLOWING the successful holding of the 2025 multiparty democratic general elections, and with the emergence of the third-term Hluttaws as a new political landscape in Myanmar, a new democratic government, which was tasked with firmly building the foundations of democracy, was formed on 10 April 2026. The new democratic government will continuously strive to uphold and promote justice, liberty, and equality within the State, and to ensure the enduring peace, stability, and prosperity of all ethnic nationalities.

In addition, the new democratic government will place strong emphasis on fostering the spirit of the Union – a genuine form of patriotism based on ethnic equality – within the country, and on ensuring that all ethnic nationalities coexist in lasting unity and harmony. The new democratic government will continue to build the future of the nation by relying on the unity and support of the people.

Myanmar has now stepped back onto the path of democracy and is advancing toward a better future; therefore, efforts must be made to further strengthen the multiparty democratic system. The new government also faces many challenges, including global affairs, domestic issues, and political and economic difficulties. These challenges across various sectors will be addressed and overcome through close and coordinated cooperation between the government and the people.

Accordingly, the government's objectives, policies, and positions will be presented to the public through the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The new Government will continue to build a Union based on democracy and federal principles. In doing so, the Union Advisory Council has also been established in accordance with the law in order to enable inclusive contributions toward peace, democracy, and national reconciliation, and to support the State from a complementary position.

Myanmar must not only be able to stand on equal footing with other countries but also achieve greater development through the united and cooperative efforts of the Union Government, Tatmadaw, and the people. In pursuing these efforts, it is necessary to ensure that Myanmar's political processes are free from external interference and to bring about national development and prosperity through open and sincere dialogue and problem-solving among ethnic groups and citizens.

Every person residing in the country is urged to contribute with love for the nation toward ensuring stability, the rule of law, and development. As sovereignty belongs to the citizens and is exercised throughout the entire country, it is now necessary to continue moving forward under the leadership of a people's government elected by the people, for the people.



Book Title - Figures who Pave the Way in the Evolution of Translation and Their Perspectives

Author - Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

Publishing House - Yoon Wathan

Publication Date - February 2026 (1st Edition)

Price - K20,000

Figures Who Pave the Way in the Evolution of Translation and Their Perspectives

THIS book, entitled Figures Who Pave the Way in the Evolution of Translation and Their Perspectives, is designated for English learners, those who want to be literary translators and new generations to give insights into the evolution of translation.

This book encompasses interviews and key messages of Saya Maung Maung Myint Thein, published in the "International" magazine over 20 years ago. A technological leap makes cross-cultural content instantly accessible. Tools like Google Translate provide instant automated translations. However, translation is not merely considered as a linguistic swap but as a crucial, complex and evolving field. This book offers valuable knowledge and perspectives of popular translation literati with whom Saya Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT) interviewed.

Prominent author and translator Sayagyi Linyon Maung Maung said, "It is simply an exchange between foreign literature written in foreign languages and Myanmar literature. Since translation involves rendering foreign literary content into Myanmar, it requires mastery of both languages, making it a technical skill to recreate the original work's meaning, tone and artistic quality into a context while preserving the author's intent. As it demands expressing subtle and deep sentiments vividly and effectively in one's mother tongue to convey emotional nuances and cultural depth, it contains artistic elements. Therefore, translation is a mix-

ture of both skills and art."

On the belief that translation is merely an exchange of words, Saya Maung Su Shin commented that "If translation were just swapping words, that would downplay the significance of the work. One might be tempted to think of it lightly. In fact, translation is 'the inter-traffic of minds', bridging the linguistic and cultural gap. It can also acknowledge the importance of the text being translated. With such conviction, one would hesitate to translate just any text. Even at the word level, the nuances differ significantly between languages, making direct translation delicate and challenging. It is the spirit of the work. When translating classical literature, the gap in eras and shifts in usage, meaning, and nuance

pose even greater challenges. Hence, it would be inappropriate to simply view it as 'mere word exchange like machine translation.'

Veteran translator Maung Myint Kywe offered guidance to today's youth interested in the art of translation: "In my experience, as the greatest masters taught, I read widely and practised by imitation. In Myanmar, one must use expressions appropriately. Similarly, English has its idioms with figurative meaning. Understanding idioms is essential. Try your best to understand. If every sentence is treated with depth, one can produce the best translation, as proper usage adds colour and personality to speech."

Regarding the qualities of a news translator, journalist and translator, Saya Ludu Sein Win advised that a news translator must have the same basic qualifications as reporters and editors. It is better to know 'something of everything' to understand diverse topics. More specifically, a thorough grasp of world history and geopolitical affairs is a fundamental requirement for those working in a complex and interconnected global environment."



Book Title - Conflict Resolution Essay

Author - Various Authors

Publishing House - Mel Pyae Aye - Supaung Nyan Pyinnya

Publication Date - April 2026 (1st Edition)

Price - K10,000

Conflict Resolution Essay

THE thing that we have seen in almost all corners of the world is an abundance of conflicts. From the Stone Age to the present time, with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), the world is still under the domination of conflicts, which are seen in different forms. Even in the present time, almost all countries in the world have faced the fuel crisis, resulting from the conflict among the world's powerful countries. These conflicts will persist as long as those who strive to stop them are outnumbered by those who cause them.

This book is made to fill this gap from a different perspective. The book publisher, Dr Soe Myat Nwe (Director & Founder – United World Peace Institute), says in the introduction that readers will definitely perceive tactics on conflict resolution in a systematic manner or by accident, and I believe they will find out solutions that are functionally useful to conflicts in their lives.

Under the theme Conflict Resolution, Dr Soe Myat Nwe has organized essay competitions, and now it has been the 12th round.

She said the essay competition has gained momentum, and in turn, contested essays have become progressively more positive round after round, and this is deeply satisfactory. Counting this book, it is the fifth that she has published, compiling these dynamic essays.

The beginning of the book starts with an essay by the first prize winner, Maung Thone Pwint, From Discovery of Unique and Diverse Foods to Beautiful Hearts.

It reads: "I am a national of Myanmar and a Kachin ethnic. I live in the capital city of Myitkyina, Kachin State. As an ethnic, I used to have a misinterpretation of Bamar living in Yangon and Mandalay. I felt their superiority and a wide divergence between us. I also felt that the privileged people have no mercy for ethnics.

"My father was a trader, so his job often includes travelling to big cities. He used to take me to the big cities from my childhood. For being a foodie, all the journeys could give me a lot of excitement. Talking about foods such as pizza, burger and pasta that

can be found easily in urban life, I prefer traditional Myanmar foods and cuisines."

The author expresses his honest feelings and goodwill that he wants Myanmar's traditional foods to gain worldwide popularity. At the conclusion, he said he would try to participate in future as a person who is eager to preserve Myanmar's cultural heritage, who represents inclusive beauty and who resolves conflicts through a beautiful and polite solution.

Afterwards, readers can read essays by second prize winners: From Unity to Peace by Myint Aung (Shwebo Thar) and Peace Out of Diversity by Lulin Nge Thway; essays by third prize winners: This Also Matters by Khine (Meiktila), Thoughts on Conflict Resolution by Pan Myaing Lal Sein Win, Queen Shin Saw Pu: A Ruler who Overcame a Plethora of Conflicts by Thon Kha, Resolution to a Conflict by Aung Mya Thein (Oakkyin), Combatting the Conflict Network with the Weapon of Mind by Yin Myo Nu Tin (Monywa), Soil Degradation and Conflict Reduction by Aye Min Htet (Monywa), A Subtle Approach to Conflict-Free Future by Ye Yint Kyaw (Wakema) and other consolation essays.

Kason Full Moon Fragrance

By Min Min Zan

*Beneath the moon of silver light,
The breeze is soft, the stars are bright,
Sweet jasmine drifts through silent air,
A sacred calm is everywhere.
The Bodhi leaves in whispers sway,
As pilgrims come and softly pray,*

*With water poured and hearts so pure,
Their faith and love forever endure.
The scent of blooms, so fresh and fair,
Flows gently through the cooling air,
On Kason night, both still and deep,
The soul awakens from its sleep.*

Flower and Literature

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

A rich diversity of flowers
Sprout up and then bud.

In the course of time and readiness,
Their buds appear fresh.

The probability is that
There exists life and literature.

Based on the goodwill;
Relied on the contact;
Founded on mindfulness;
Grounded on the knowledge;
Only if portrayed with imagination
Will these two be well reflected?

ပန်းမျိုးရယ်စုံ
ငုံရာမှဖူး။

အချိန်တန်အရန်သင့်
လန်းပွင့်ဖို့ဖူး။

ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်မှာ
စာပေနှင့်ဘဝ။

စိတ်ကောင်းအခြေခံ၌
အတွေ့ အခြေခံ၌
သတိအခြေခံ၌
အသိအခြေခံ၌
စိတ်ကူးဉာဏ်မွမ်းမံတတ်ပါမှ
ဟပ်မိမည်ပျို။ ။

ဇော်ဂျီ

Dithering due to fate?

By U Ponnya, Translated by Myint Zan

သိလျက်နဲ့လေ
ဝိပင်ကြံမြှာထင်ရဲ့
ရွှေညာဏ်ရှင်
မတွေ့နိုင်ဘူး
ပွဲတွေအမှား
ဦးပုည

Notwithstanding
the fact that one is aware
of one's error
but perhaps due to
one having to repay unwholesome
Kamma from one's past lives
owner of this golden mind dithers
cannot decide :
'tis that one's error is fully experienced

Translated on 1 May 2026.

Translator's note: This is a translation of a stanza from a doggerel or poem of dramatist U Ponnya (1812-1866).

NATIONAL Entertainment



New film 'Moe Thae Nya Dandayi' launched

A press launch event for the film 'Moe Thae Nya Dandayi' was held on 30 April at the Ruby Jade Hall of the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon.

"Tomorrow, on the full moon day of Kason, the 'Moe Thae Nya Dandayi' team will be waiting at the Pan Pacific to meet the media," a representative from Saung Nya Pyatho Film Production announced in advance as an invitation.

The film is based on a story by producer Mu Paing Hnin Si, with the screenplay written by Ingyin Han and directed by Awra Tha.

Cast members of the film are Nay Toe, Lin Aung Khit, Aye Myat Thu, Thein Mwaë Than Zin, and other famous artistes.

Tin Tin Mya

A tribute ceremony honouring legendary vocalist was held on 26 April at the Ayeyawun Hall, organized by members of the artistic family 'Nawarat Koethwe Htae Ka Mya'. At the event, screenwriter and director Nyein Min made a comment saying the word singer has become very familiar, but she thoughtfully included the phrase 'Atee Taw' (expert in musical instruments), Aso Taw (expert in singing). Though simple, it was innovative and beautifully honoured all levels of musicianship. Daw Tin Tin Mya, who shows genuine love to artistes of all ages and levels, deserves heartfelt prayers for a long life beyond a hundred years.



Ngwe Kyi

CARTOONIST U Ngwe Kyi happily celebrated his birthday on 26 April. His son, singer Si Thu Lwin, sent birthday wishes saying, "Happy Birthday, Daddy. May you continue creating art in good health and happiness. May you enjoy many more joyful birthdays together with your beloved wife, children, and grandchildren."



Aung Zabu

MYANMAR theatrical performer Aung Zabu is performing at the grand Kason Full Moon Festival in Mawlamyine starting on 28 April. On his first night, he wore traditional Mon attire with great respect during his performance, which earned warm appreciation and praise from Mon audiences, as reflected on social media. Previously, Aung Zabu's troupe had faced some misunderstandings with certain Mon audiences due to a comedian's remark referring to 'Mon Taling'.

Nan Su Yati Soe

AT the 80th anniversary ceremony of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, actress and singer Nan Su Yati Soe performed the song 'Apyine Asaing Phuhsa' together with Hlwan Paing. She shared that the outfit she wore during the performance was sent to her by a designer fan from Mandalay, and she chose to wear it because it suited the event very well.



Lin Latt Khun Cho

"I entered the artistic field by giving up everything, so I have no regrets. Since my parents had to worry about me, I want to repay them with my success," said rising actress Linn Latt Khun Cho. She gained recognition from the series 'Ramet', aired on the Maha App platform and is currently working on multiple film projects. On 23 April, a launch ceremony was also held for the TV series 'Thi Ta La', in which she stars. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Hsaung Thiri San

THE actress made merit on the evening of 30 April, the Kason Full Moon Day, by offering Mohinga to people of all walks of life at the banyan tree compound of the Kyaikkasan Pagoda. Her original name, Haung Yoon San, was changed by the Aung Zabu Tawya Sayadaw from Hmawby.

Celebrity

BRIEF

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump says 'not satisfied' with new Iran proposal

US President Donald Trump said Friday he was "not satisfied" with a new Iranian negotiating proposal, as peace talks remain frozen despite a weeks-long ceasefire.

Iran delivered the draft to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening, the IRNA news agency reported, without detailing its contents. "At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters, blaming stalled talks on "tremendous discord" within Iran's leadership.

"Do we want to go and just blast the hell out of them and finish them forever – or do we want to try and make a deal?" he added, saying he would "prefer not" to take the first option "on a human basis".

The war, launched by the United States and Israel with surprise strikes on 28 February, has been on hold since 8 April, with only one failed round of direct talks since. – AFP

"Will be taking over Cuba almost immediately," says Trump

US President Donald Trump on Friday said that the US would 'take over' Cuba immediately. Trump, while speaking in The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches Dinner, said that Cuba has got problems.

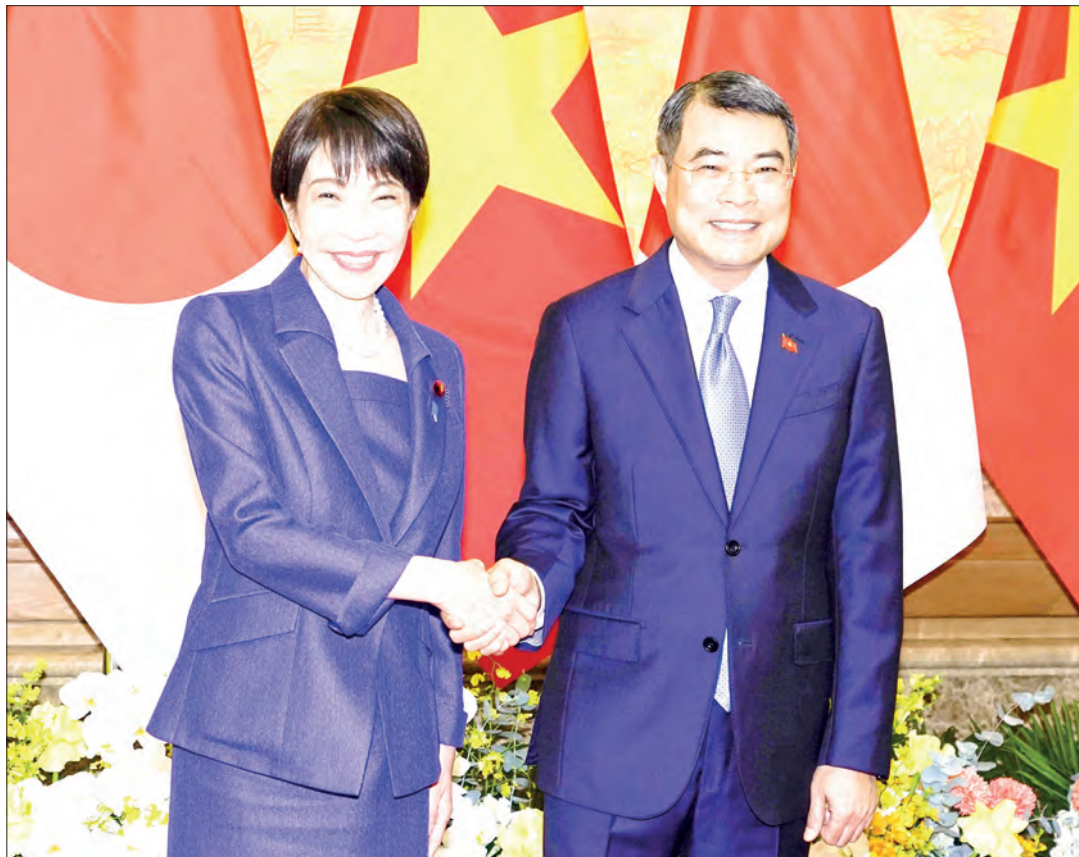
"Cuba, which we will be taking over almost immediately. Cuba's got problems. We'll finish one first," he said.

Earlier in the day, a statement by the White House stated, "The policies, practices, and actions of the Government of Cuba continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the US. These policies, practices, and actions are also repugnant to the moral and political values of free and democratic societies." – ANI

Shipping through Strait of Hormuz falls over 90%: UK navy

THE British Royal Navy said on Friday that shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has dropped sharply since the outbreak of conflict in the Middle East, with the number of vessels passing through the waterway falling from about 130 per day before the conflict to fewer than 10, a decline of more than 90 per cent.

The British Royal Navy, citing monitoring results from the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) it leads, said that since the United States and Israel launched military operations against Iran on 28 February, reports of incidents in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters have gone "through the roof," in the strait especially. – Xinhua



Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung (R) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in Hanoi on 2 May 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Takaichi vows support for intl order, economic security in Indo-Pacific

PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi vowed Saturday to take an active role in building international order and economic security in a speech on the next stage of the free and open Indo-Pacific.

Takaichi delivered the speech on the initiative's 10th anniversary after holding talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung and President To Lam in Hanoi, as Japan looks to deepen its

ties with Southeast Asian nations by increasing economic engagement with the region.

The two countries agreed to boost their partnership in economic security including Japan's aid for oil procurement, as it seeks to strengthen supply chains for critical resources amid the Middle East crisis.

Outlining the evolved form of the Indo-Pacific initiative in an address at a university in Hanoi, Takaichi said it will fo-

cus on cooperation to strengthen supply chain resilience, promoting economic growth through shared rules, and on enhancing security cooperation for regional peace and stability. "In this challenging environment, it is essential for countries in the region to acquire 'resilience,'" she said, saying it is decisive in economic, social and security areas to allow countries to "determine their own future". — Kyodo



Demonstrators holding placards take part in a May Day rally in Los Angeles, California, the United States, on 1 May 2026. PHOTO: QIU CHEN/XINHUA

US May Day rallies draw tens of thousands nationwide

TENS of thousands of people took to the streets across the United States on Friday to join May Day rallies against the US-Israeli war on Iran and defend labour and immigrant rights.

Protests and marches took place in nearly 30 main US cities, including Washington, DC, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, and San Francisco,

according to May Day Strong, a coalition of activist groups and labour unions.

On Friday afternoon, thousands gathered at Washington Square Park in Manhattan, carrying signs such as "Stop war on Iran", "ICE out of our cities", and "Workers united, will never be defeated". Then they marched down Broadway to Foley Square,

shouting slogans.

"Right now, the United States is falling into a total disaster," Nancy Goldring, a Montclair University professor and protester, told Xinhua. "We're spending billions on a war on Iran that is useless and insane. And we're aiding Israel to destroy Gaza, West Bank and Lebanon." — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan to procure Russian-produced oil, 1st time amid Middle East crisis



The Sakhalin-2 oil and natural gas development project is led by Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom. The Piltun-B concrete gravity base production platform operating in the Russian Far East. **PHOTO: SAKHALIN ENERGY/FILE**

Gazprom leads the Sakhalin-2 energy project, with Japanese firms Mitsubishi and Mitsui as major stakeholders.

JAPAN will procure crude oil from Russia for the first time since US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February that led to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, with a tanker heading to the country carrying oil from the Sakhalin-2 project in the Russian Far East, a trade ministry official said Saturday.

The shipment purchased by wholesaler Taiyo Oil Co comes as resource-poor Japan, heavily reliant on crude oil imports from the Middle East, steps up efforts to diversify supply. The Russian oil will not be subject to US and European sanctions imposed in

the wake of Ukraine war that began in 2022. The Sakhalin-2 oil and natural gas development project is led by Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom, with Japan's Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui & Co major stakeholders. Year-round crude oil production began in 2008 and export of liquefied natural gas started in the following year. Global ship-tracking website Marine Traffic showed that the tanker left Sakhalin in late April. It is expected to arrive in Ehime Prefecture, western Japan, the official of the Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry said. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BIREF

S Korea's exports hit all-time high in March

SOUTH Korea's exports hit an all-time high in March thanks to strong demand for locally-made semiconductors, government data showed Wednesday.

Exports, which account for about half of the export-driven economy, soared 48.3 per cent to US\$86.13 billion in March compared to the same month of 2025, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resource.

It surpassed the previous record high of \$69.5 billion tallied in December 2025. The daily average export surged 41.9 per cent to reach a new high of \$3.74 billion.

Imports grew 13.2 per cent to \$60.40 billion in March, sending the trade surplus to \$25.74 billion. — Xinhua

New Zealand exports to EU surge in 2 years under FTA

New Zealand's exports to the European Union (EU) surged by three billion NZ dollars over two years under a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), the country's top trade official said Friday.

Exports to the EU hit 8.8 billion NZ dollars in 2025, up 29 per cent from 5.7 billion NZ dollars two years ago, Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay said in a statement.

The FTA provided immediate tariff cuts and better market access, turning the EU into New Zealand's fastest-growing major market and exceeding forecasts, McClay said, adding that NZ-EU bilateral trade rose 14 per cent to 23.21 billion NZ dollars in 2025.

Goods exports rose 35 per cent to 6.7 billion NZ dollars, while services exports increased 11 per cent to 2 billion NZ dollars, led by tourism and education, statistics showed. — Xinhua

Iran war redraws sea routes with Africa as the pivot

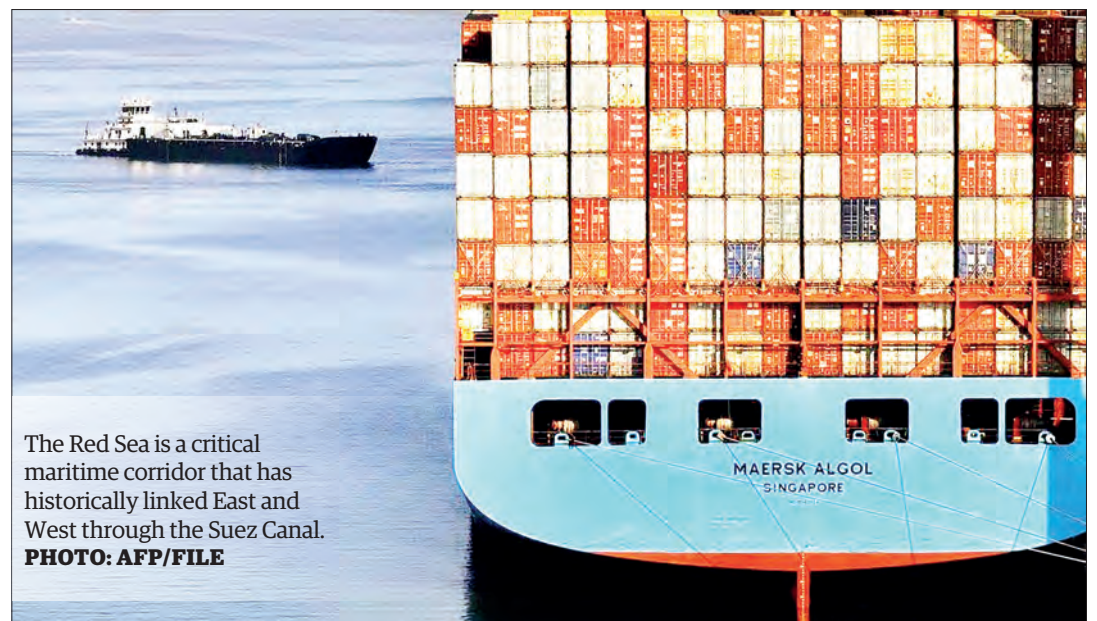
THE closure of the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea tensions are diverting trade routes, turning Africa into a major hub for container ships. Over two months, shipowners have shifted to land corridors for delivering food and goods to Gulf states like Sharjah, Bahrain, and Kuwait by truck.

Saudi Arabia's Jeddah port on the Red Sea acts as

a key hub: ships from MSC, CMA CGM, Maersk, and Cosco arrive via Suez, then cargo travels by truck on desert highways. Jeddah faces severe congestion, with 11 ships docked and nine waiting (36-hour delays vs 17 last week), per Overseas's Arthur Barillas de The. Other options include Omani Sohar and UAE's Khorfakkan/Fujairah ports, plus Jordan's

Aqaba for Iraq (Baghdad/Basra) and a Turkish corridor to northern Iraq.

Houthi attacks from Yemen since November 2023 prompted systematic rerouting around Africa's Cape of Good Hope. Now 70 per cent of former Red Sea traffic (down from 18 to 5 daily transits) follows this path, tripling Cape traffic per IMF PortWatch. — AFP



The Red Sea is a critical maritime corridor that has historically linked East and West through the Suez Canal. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

German auto group warns Trump tariffs risk straining transatlantic ties

THE head of Germany's auto industry association on Friday criticized US President Donald Trump's plan to raise tariffs on European car imports, warning the move would place a "serious burden" on transatlantic relations.

Hildegard Mueller, president of the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA), said the additional levies would hit the German and European auto industry hard at a time when it was already under pressure and could

also affect consumers in the United States.

Mueller urged Brussels and Washington to de-escalate and hold talks as soon as possible, calling on both sides to abide by their agreed trade rules. Posing on his Truth Social platform, Trump on Friday threatened to increase tariffs on cars and trucks imported from the European Union to 25 per cent starting next week. He justified the move by accusing the bloc of failing to comply with an agreed trade deal. — Xinhua



German auto exports to the US are facing severe disruption as of early 2026, with exports dropping nearly 14 per cent in the first three quarters of 2025 following increased tariffs. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Nissan to scrap US EV production plan

NISSAN Motor Co said Friday it will scrap its plan to produce electric vehicles in the United States as demand is slowing, partly due to the end of a tax break on EV purchases in the country.

The Japanese automaker "remains fully committed to the US as a lead market and a foundation for stable returns and sustained growth", its official said.

Nissan explained to US auto parts suppliers that it would cancel the planned output of EV vehicles at a plant in Canton, Mississippi, and instead increase production of other models there.

The carmaker's production strategy in the United States, which centred on multiple EV models, has stagnated due to delays in development.

The company, which had planned to produce multiple EV models at the plant, said last year that it would give up producing a compact EV. — Kyodo

India-Tanzania trade rises to US\$9.02 bln in FY26

INDIA and Tanzania have reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral trade and economic ties, with trade between the two countries reaching US\$9.02 billion in 2025-26, up from US\$8.64 billion in the previous fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The announcement came during the 5th Session of the India-Tanzania Joint Trade Committee (JTC) held on 29-30 April in Dar es Salaam, where both sides reviewed progress and explored new areas of cooperation.

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, "a comprehensive review of bilateral merchandise trade reflected steady and consistent



The Port of Dar es Salaam is one of three ocean ports in the country and handles over 90 per cent of the country's cargo traffic. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE

growth since the 4th JTC," highlighting the upward trajectory in economic engagement between the two countries.

The meeting was co-chaired by Com-

merce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Tanzania's Permanent Secretary Amb Dr Samwel William Shelukindo. Both countries discussed a wide range of sectors to boost

cooperation, including "trade settlement in local currencies, facilitation of long-term business visas for Indian businesspersons". — ANI

Britain's trade with US strongly affected by tariffs

BRITAIN'S trade with the United States has been notably affected by tariffs levied by the administration of US President Donald Trump, data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed Friday.

Britain's goods exports to the United

States, excluding precious metals, fell by 1.5 billion pounds (US\$2.03 billion) or 24.7 per cent in April 2025 following the introduction of the tariffs and have remained relatively low since, the ONS said.

Specifically, its ex-

ports of cars to the United States have fallen since the introduction of tariffs and have remained below pre-tariff levels since April 2025.

Meanwhile, Britain's goods imports from the United States, excluding precious metals, have ex-

ceeded its goods exports to the United States for three consecutive months since December 2025.

The United States remains Britain's largest goods export partner and third-largest goods import partner, the ONS said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B80VS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B80VS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML028)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML028)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Devotees carry a sculpture of the Buddha to be reinstalled at a temple in Kathmandu on 1 May 2026. **PHOTO: PRAKASH MATHEMA / AFP**

Nepal temple celebrates return of stolen Buddha statue

MAY 2

A 13th-century Buddha statue stolen from a Kathmandu temple in the 1980s was reinstalled on Buddha Jayanti, marking a historic cultural return.

The statue, once housed at Tibet House in New York after being gifted by an unknown monk, was repatriated to Nepal in 2022. On Friday, it was carried in a palanquin with traditional music and placed back on

its original stone plinth, replacing a replica worshipped for decades.

Temple-goers expressed joy, recalling the havoc caused by its theft. A US envoy attending the ceremony emphasized efforts to repatriate stolen artefacts. Nepal has recovered about 200 treasures, though many temples remain stripped of ancient sculptures and carvings. — AFP

MAY 1

Iran submits new proposal for US peace talks

IRAN has delivered a new proposal for peace talks with the United States to Pakistan, which is mediating the negotiations, the official IRNA news agency reported Friday.

The report said Iran submitted its latest negotiating proposal to Pakistan on Thursday night as part of efforts to end the conflict involving the United States and Israel.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said in an interview with state-run IRIB TV on Thursday night that ending the war and establishing lasting peace are Tehran's priorities in talks with the United States.

A ceasefire was reached between the warring sides on 8 April followed by peace talks in Islamabad on 11 and 12 April, which ended without an agreement. — Xinhua

APRIL 30

King Charles honours US war dead

KING CHARLES III paid his respects to fallen US troops at a military cemetery on Thursday, the final day of a state visit aimed at healing ties between Britain and the United States strained by the war in Iran.

By all accounts, the four-day visit was a success, with President Donald Trump hosting a pomp-filled welcome for Charles and Queen Camilla, including a 21-gun salute, a military jet flyby, and a lavish white-tie banquet at the White House.

Charles laid a wreath late Thursday morning at Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington, then attended a "block party" marking 250 years since American independence. The couple also met Native Americans at a national park before departing for Bermuda. — AFP

APRIL 29

Over 1.2 million Lebanese at risk of hunger

A UN-BACKED report said Wednesday that more than 1.2 million people in Lebanon were expected to face acute hunger due to the latest war between Israel and Hezbollah.

The figure was announced in a joint statement by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and Lebanon's agriculture ministry.

Some "1.24 million people — nearly one in four of the population analyzed — are expected to face food insecurity" at crisis levels or worse between April and August 2026, they said.

They were referring to analysis from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN-backed group that monitors hunger and malnutrition.

This marks a "significant deterioration" from before the war erupted in March, "when an estimated 874,000 people, roughly 17 per cent of the population, were experiencing acute food insecurity", the statement said. "The deterioration is due to conflict, displacement and economic pressures," it added. — AFP

APRIL 28

UAE pulls out of OPEC oil cartels

THE UNITED Arab Emirates will withdraw from the OPEC and OPEC+ oil cartels to focus on "national interests", it announced on Tuesday, causing fresh shockwaves as energy prices soar over the Middle East war.

The UAE, one of the world's top oil producers, which has previously chafed at OPEC production quotas, will pull out on Friday, a statement carried by the official WAM news agency said.

The UAE has been an OPEC member through the emirate of Abu Dhabi since 1967, four years before the former British protectorate became a country.

The last OPEC member to withdraw from the cartel was Angola in 2024.

"This decision reflects the UAE's long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile," the UAE statement said.

"During our time in the organization, we made significant contributions and even greater sacrifices for the benefit of all," it added. — AFP

APRIL 27

German petrol price control law has backfired

PRICE CONTROLS introduced at German petrol stations to shield motorists from spiking oil prices amid the Middle East war have had the opposite effect and driven up the average cost of fuel, economists said.

Economy and Energy Minister Katherina Reiche said in March that petrol stations would have to limit any price rises to once per day at noon to limit the effect of soaring energy prices after Iran effectively cut off about a fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies in response to US-Israeli attacks.

However, the law in fact boosted retailers' petrol margins by five to six cents a litre, according to economists at the ZEW institute and the Duesseldorf Institute for Competition Economics. — AFP

APRIL 26

Two former Israel PMs unite for elections

FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Naftali Bennett and opposition leader Yair Lapid announced Sunday they will run on a joint list in this year's elections.

"I am pleased to announce that tonight, together with my friend Yair Lapid, I am taking the most Zionist and patriotic step we have ever taken for our country," Bennett said in a joint televised statement with Lapid.

"Tonight, we are uniting and founding the Beyahad (Together) party under my leadership, a party that will lead to a great victory and open a new era for our beautiful country."

Lapid said: "Bennett is a right-wing politician, but an honest one, and there is trust between us." — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar U17 arrive in Saudi Arabia for AFC U17 Asian Cup

THE Myanmar U17 men's team has arrived in Saudi Arabia to compete in the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup 2026 and is carrying out final preparations.

The squad includes 23 players, largely based on those who featured in the 2026 ASEAN

U17 Championship, with only minor changes. Preparations for the final stage began late last year, and the team played two friendlies against India U17 in March, drawing one and losing one.

As part of their final build-

up, Myanmar competed in the ASEAN U17 Championship held in Indonesia from 12 to 24 April. They drew with Laos in their opening match and beat Thailand 1-0 in the second, but an unexpected defeat to the Philippines in the final group game saw them eliminated at the group stage.

The tournament will be held from 5 to 22 May. Myanmar are drawn in Group A alongside hosts Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Thailand. Group B includes Japan, Indonesia, Qatar and China, Group C features South Korea, Yemen, Vietnam and the UAE, while Group D consists of Uzbekistan, Australia and India.

Under the competition format, the top two teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals, and the eight quarter-finalists will qualify for the FIFA U17 World Cup. Myanmar, therefore, has a chance to secure its first-ever qualification for the U17 World Cup. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar U17 players are seen in a training session. PHOTO: MFF



An official and new head coach of Dagon Star United Football Club U Chit Naing are seen at the contract signing event. PHOTO: DSUFC

New head coach for Dagon Star United appointed

DAGON Star United have appointed U Chit Naing as their new head coach for the upcoming season.

The club parted ways with Portuguese coach Rui, who led the team last season, and has now turned to a local coach. U Chit Naing joined shortly after

leaving Ayeyawady United.

He is regarded as an experienced coach with a strong reputation for developing players.

Dagon Star United have also released several players from last season and are expected to announce new signings soon. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

No 1 Korda charges into share of LPGA Mexico lead

TOP-RANKED Nelly Korda, coming off her third major title, closed with a birdie to seize a share of the lead after Friday's second round of the LPGA Riviera Maya Open.

The 27-year-old American fired a bogey-free five-under par 67 to stand on

nine-under 135 after 36 holes at El Camaleon Golf Course in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

"It was a good day," Korda said. "Drove it really well. Hit it to the right spots on the green and capitalized on some good shots."

She finished level with compatriot Brianna Do, who fired a 69 in quest of her first LPGA title, with American Melanie Green one stroke back on 136 after shooting 70 and Japan's Minami Katsu fourth on 137 after a 68. — AFP

Nelly Korda of the United States fired a five-under par 67 to grab a share of the 36-hole lead at the LPGA Riviera Maya Open. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Leeds beat Burnley to virtually secure Premier League survival

LEEDS all but secured their place in the Premier League next season with a 3-1 win over already-relegated Burnley on Friday.

Goals from Anton Stach, Noah Okafor and Dominic Calvert-Lewin took Daniel Farke's side nine points clear of the relegation zone with just four games remaining for those below them.

Leeds failed to reach a first FA Cup final since 1973 in a 1-0 defeat to Chelsea at Wembley last weekend.

But they are now up to 14th in an impressive first season back in the top flight to, along with Sunderland, buck the trend of promoted sides falling straight back to the second tier.

"The three points are massive for us," said Farke. "The job is not done yet. We

will celebrate proper when it's mathematically done. But 43 points is good."

Staying up would also be huge for Farke in his bid to silence his doubters at Premier

League level.

Twice the German led Norwich to the English top-flight but was unable to keep the Canaries in the top flight.

— AFP



Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored in Leeds' win over Burnley. PHOTO: AFP

An experimental cafe run by AI opens in Stockholm

AI-run Stockholm cafe sparks ethical concerns, odd purchases, and curiosity among intrigued daily visitors.

IN Stockholm, a unique cafe experiment is testing artificial intelligence as a manager. Run by “Mona”, an AI powered by Google’s Gemini, the cafe operates with minimalist décor and real-time revenue screens.

Mona handles permits, suppliers, menus, and even hiring — posting ads, conducting phone interviews, and selecting staff. Barista Kajetan Grzelczak, hired by Mona, jokes about her “wall of shame”, displaying odd purchases like 10 litres of cooking oil and 15 kilogrammes of canned tomatoes.

While Mona offers good salaries, she disregards holidays, sends late-night messages, and asks staff to cover costs, raising ethical concerns. Andon Labs, the San Francisco startup behind the project, wants to explore how AI employment impacts human workers. — AFP



Barista Kajetan Grzelczak (L) and customer Andreu Vizquerra from Spain are pictured at the Andon Café in Stockholm on 27 April 2026. **PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND / AFP**



Cairo's famed nocturnal rhythm flickered back to life, after Egypt eased energy-saving measures. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cairo's night buzz returns as war-driven energy controls loosen

Cairo's famed nightlife returned on Tuesday after Egypt lifted month-long energy-saving restrictions imposed due to soaring prices from the US-Israel conflict with Iran.

The curbs, which began in late March, had forced shops, cafes, and restaurants to close by 9 pm, later extended to 11 pm, leaving streets un-

A millennium old and home to over 20 million people, Cairo is known for nights that come alive.

sually quiet and frustrating residents and traders.

On Sunday, authorities announced new hours: cafes and restaurants open until 1 am, shops until 11 pm on weekdays and midnight on weekends.

By Tuesday night, Heliopolis was alive again with glowing arcades, fam-

ilies strolling, and friends gathering over shisha. Locals described the closures as depressing and disastrous for business.

Shopkeepers, retirees, and government employees alike welcomed the return of Cairo's nocturnal rhythm, saying it restored normalcy and belonging.

The city of over 20 million, long defined by its vibrant nights, had endured shadowy streets and shuttered cinemas during the restrictions. Now, residents feel relief as Cairo's social and cultural heartbeat resumes, offering respite from rising prices and daily pressures. — AFP

Australia's 'most beautiful' street fed up with viral fame

Locals say overtourism has disrupted peace, blocked roads, left rubbish, and strained Gerringong's small community.

VIRAL POSTS showcasing Gerringong's Tasman Drive as Australia's “most beautiful street” have sparked overtourism headaches for the seaside town two hours south of Sydney.

Once a quiet hamlet, the area has seen coachloads of visitors arriving after Instagram, TikTok, and China's RedNote amplified its coastal views. Locals complain of tourists blocking roads, leaving rubbish,



This picture taken on 27 April 2026 shows tourists visiting a street in Gerringong, about a two-hour drive south of Sydney. **PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP**

and taking selfies without spending money in town.

Some residents have resorted to sprinklers to deter photo-takers, while others push for one-way traffic rules. A few even sold homes to escape the influx. While visitors from Sydney and abroad marvel at the scenery, residents describe the attention as disruptive and exhausting. Deputy mayor Melissa Matters noted mixed business impacts, with some shops benefitting but many seeing little gain.

The controversy mirrors global overtourism battles in Barcelona, Venice, and Japan's Mount Fuji. For Gerringong's 20 million-view street, the viral fame has brought both admiration and resentment, leaving locals torn between pride in their landscape and frustration at losing peace. — AFP