

independent university on 1 June 1958.
—ASH/KNN

Foodstuff sold at
reasonable prices for quake-
affected people in three
cities

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NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

MoE coordinates reorganization of 2025 matriculation exam in earthquake-affected areas

A coordination meeting to reorganize the 2025 matriculation examination for regions and states whose answer sheets were damaged by the Mandalay earthquake was held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe announced that the matriculation exam will be retaken starting from 16 June. To ensure fairness among students, the exam will be conducted again in regions and states where answer sheets were destroyed. There are approximately 63,000 students who have sit for all subjects in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Kachin State. The min-

istry will provide these students with essential school supplies, including textbooks, stationeries, and other necessary materials. He emphasized that all efforts must be made to boost the confidence of students. Pro-rectors, professors, associate professors, and lecturers from universities will teach at designated schools for students retaking the matriculation exam, while basic education teachers will continue to teach and prepare them.

Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint explained the need to carefully prepare the schools, teacher lists, timetables, and lessons to be taught, while Deputy Minister U Nay Myo Hlaing emphasized the importance of ensuring that



A coordination meeting to reorganize the 2025 matriculation examination for regions and states where answer sheets were damaged by the Mandalay earthquake in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

schools and camps designated for students have sufficient drinking water and access to toilets.

After that, officials from each department discussed their activities and needs, and the Union minister addressed those needs, according to reports.

The meeting was also attended by, directors-general, departmental officials, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Education Officer, along with other responsible persons. — MNA/TH

Union Health Minister inspects functions of quake-affected hospitals in Mandalay Region

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win visited Kyaukse General Hospital in Mandalay Region yesterday morning and inspected the conditions of patients receiving treatment at the general medical ward, orthopaedic ward, X-ray department, laboratory, and emergency department, and offered words of encouragement.

Following this, the Union minister inspected the supply of medicines purchased with funds allocated by the State for the support of patients. He instructed officials to ensure that the State's allocated funds and donated supplies are properly distributed to the public and systematically managed.

The Union minister con-



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win encourages a patient at the temporary treatment facility built by the Ayeyawady Foundation.

tinued to Mandalay General Hospital, where he inspected emergency patient admissions, medicine distribution, treatment of orthopaedic and injured patients, general medical patients, and cancer patients, as well as the use of specialized equipment for treating cardiovascular dis-

eases. He also inspected wards and departments damaged by the earthquake and discussed with the heads of departments and specialist doctors the need to restore these facilities and ensure the smooth operation of all healthcare services.

In the afternoon, the Union

minister delivered a speech at a meeting held at the Ziwaka lecture hall of the University of Medicine (Mandalay). The meeting was attended by officials from the Public Health Department and the Medical Services Department of Mandalay Region, medical superintendents from general hospitals in Mandalay, rectors, professors, department heads, and principals from the University of Medicine (Mandalay), allied medical universities, training schools, and officials from the regional Food and Drug Administration Department.

During the meeting, attendees of respective departments reported on the earthquake-related damage, the progress of restoration efforts, arrange-

ments for staff accommodation, and ongoing needs. The Union minister and directors-general coordinated to address the requirements raised.

Later, the Union minister visited the Orthopaedic Hospital-Mandalay and inspected the Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Workshop within the hospital compound. He checked the arrangements being made to provide prosthetic limbs to those who had lost limbs due to the earthquake. They also inspected the temporary treatment facility built and donated by the Ayeyawady Foundation, where they observed the ongoing treatment of earthquake-affected patients and offered words of encouragement. — MNA/KNN

NATIONAL

Rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures tirelessly carried out in quake-affected areas



Lt-Gen Thet Pon encourages a patient at Malaysian medical team's temporary hospital in Sagaing (left photo) and Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung visits the quake-stricken Sky Villa cleanup site in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay on 27 April 2025.

TATMADAW members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams from foreign countries, departmental personnel, social welfare associations and residents participate in rescue, relief and rehabilitations in the earthquake-affected areas.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials viewed round healthcare services provided by a Malaysian medical team at the relief camp in Parami Ward of Sagaing, clearing of debris at Thutethaka nunnery in Thawtapan Ward, healthcare services by a Tatmadaw medical team to members of the Sangha, nuns and people

at Thanponnarama Monastery.

They also looked into functions of the Tatmadaw water purifier and Sagaing Region government's water purifier and supply of drinking water to the people.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) received a medical team and an engineering squad led by Col Suthawut Naksri of Thailand at ibis Styles Hotel in Mandalay and cordially exchanged views on provision of necessary aid for loss and damage caused by the earthquake.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected removal of debris at

Sky Villa in Aungmyethazan Township, and handover of property found in damaged parts of the building to relevant owners, and presented foodstuff to the rescue teams.

He also viewed round conditions of the No 4 water filtering tank in front of Sky Villa and supply of water. He also inspected clearing of debris at Great Wall Hotel in Mahaaungmyay Township and instructed officials to swiftly demolish the building with safety for people and vehicles. He also looked into removal of dangerous buildings in Mahaaungmyay and Chanayethazan townships and repairing of buildings recommended by the board.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing

from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) visited Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill in Aungmyaythazan Township and inspected repairing of the terrace, the Gandakuti Chamber and the lift and the escalator.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) also inspected removal of the dangerous buildings in Kyaukse Township with the use of heavy machinery and instructed officials to prioritize worksite safety.

The inspection boards have checked 2,869 buildings in Kyaukse District and recommended 2,614 repairable buildings and 255 dangerous

buildings. Of them, 183 dangerous buildings have been demolished. He viewed damage to Yuzana Bridge at milepost 354/3-354/4 on Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay Highway and inspected removal of debris.

At Shwemuhtaw Pagoda in Kyaukse, he met with local authorities, departmental officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees and engineers and coordinated drafting SOPs in accordance with international standards for granting construction permits for buildings capable of withstanding an earthquake of 8 magnitude, conducting geophysical surveys for the Kyaukhitta area, and carrying out topographic surveys (measurement of land elevations and depressions).

As part of the ground survey, officials carried out installation of transmission cables for electrical discharge, driving steel electrodes into rocks/soil, connecting the cables and steel electrodes with clips, and conducting measurements by discharging electricity through measuring devices. Upon completion of the ground measurements, findings from the subsequent calculations will be submitted to the Myanmar Engineering Council. — MNA/TTA

Rescue, relief efforts ongoing for Myanmar quake survivors

AS of 27 April, six regions and states affected by the Mandalay earthquake reported 3,769 fatalities, 5,106 injuries, and 107 missing persons.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, alongside domestic and

international responders, have been conducting rescue missions in the affected areas. These efforts have successfully rescued 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings and recovered the bodies of 777 deceased individuals.

Local donors have provided financial support and essential supplies to those affected, while international communities, organizations, and individual contributors have extended additional assistance. Between 8:10 pm on 26 April and 5 pm on

27 April, mosquito nets and bed sheets weighing 7.689 tonnes donated by China, household goods weighing at 0.971 tonne donated by the Myanmar-Chinese Taipei Traders Association, and kitchen goods, buckets, tarpaulin sheets and solar

lights weighing 80.168 tonnes provided by UNHCR arrived at Yangon International Airport.

These relief supplies are being distributed swiftly to earthquake victims to ensure timely support. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Foodstuff sold at reasonable prices for quake-affected people in three cities



Photos show market trucks selling foodstuffs at affordable prices to residents in quake-affected areas.

UNDER the arrangement of the Ministry of Commerce and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), market trucks have been selling rice, oil, salt, pulses, fish paste and various goods directly to earth-

quake-affected staff housings in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Mandalay since 30 March. Yesterday marked the 28th day of continuous service, with seven trucks operating across the areas. Since 30 March 2025, trucks

have been visiting several locations including the Yezin University of Agriculture, Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, the staff housing of Locomotive Shed, Nursing Training School, Ottarathiri Hospital Staff Housing, Padauk Housing, Gangaw Housing, resi-

dential wards, an education staff housing, Department of Consumer Affairs office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Zeyathiri District General Administration Department, Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), the Ministry of Information, Pobbathiri Town-

ship's Department of Agriculture and General Administration Department. Sales of goods include export quality sacks of rice, packs of chickpeas, fish paste, along with various types of dried fish, bottles of cooking oil and packets of instant noodles. Chicken and duck eggs were also made available. In a similar effort, four trucks also operated in Sagaing. Up to now, they have sold 283 bags Shwe Wah Tun rice, 4,565 viss of cooking oil and many others dried foodstuffs at affordable prices. Meanwhile, four trucks are running daily in Mandalay, selling 548 bags of Manawthukha rice, 50,600 viss of cooking oil, many dried foods, chicken and duck eggs, and packets of instant noodles. Daily sales will continue in the coming days. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar Red Cross Society offers first aid training for earthquake relief

FIRST aid training courses are being conducted in the Yangon Region to equip individuals with first aid techniques for assisting those injured in earthquake-affected areas, according to the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in Yangon Region. The MRCS is offering the courses free of charge to provide first aid to those injured in the Mandalay earthquake-affected areas and to promote first aid knowledge among the public. Each course lasts one

day and is conducted for 11 trainees who are interested in social work. The course will include both theoretical and practical training on common first aid topics related to earthquakes, such as bleeding, fractures and dislocations, shock, difficulty breathing, and head injuries. The MRCS is also establishing a mobile clinic to provide primary healthcare in areas affected by the Mandalay earthquake. — ASH/TH



This photo captures a training session conducted by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (Yangon Region) as part of a first aid training course.

Chit Kaung and May Khalar to stage “80’s Going on 20’s” music concert

SINGERS Chit Kaung and May Khalar will stage a music concert titled “80’s Going on 20’s” at the Inya Lake Garden Hotel in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, according to May Khalar. May Khalar said, “This is a concert by two childhood friends. Both we have been close since the 1980s stereo era. We will sing many songs that have remained evergreen and unchanged through the years. It will be a concert that brings back childhood memories, so we warmly invite everyone to come and join us”. The concert is scheduled to take place from 6 pm on 3 May. The Daily Gita Band will provide live instrumental backing to support the singers’ performances.— ASH/KZL

Poster for “80’s Going on 20’s” music concert by Chit Kaung and May Khalar.



Gold Market Rate as of 27 April 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,660,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Drugs seized in Mingaladon, Tachilek

A combined team comprising members of the Drug Enforcement Division of Myanmar Police Force searched a Harrier driven by Thet Naing (aka) Ko Hnget, accompanied by Kyaw Khaing Linn (aka) Moe Di, near Thingangyungyi Village in Thingangyungyi Village-tract, Mingaladon Township, at 1 pm on 23 April. The police seized 350,000 stimulant tablets worth K350 million. A 6-wheel Canter Isuzu, that carrying those tablets from Yadashe Township, was seized in Chitteegon Ward in Mingaladon Township on 24 April. Acting on a tip-of, at 6:30 pm on 24 April, the police further arrested Nay Lin Tun who forced the above-two to carry the tablets at 158th-mile checkpoint on Yangon-Manda-

lay Expressway. Additionally, the police searched Aung Aung in Ma-caokham Ward, Tachilek, and seized 10,000 stimulant tablets worth K7 million at local price at 8 am on 26 April. Tin Min Ko (aka) Pyone Cho, who was selling those tablets, was further arrested in Phontun Ward, Tachilek at 8:20 am on that day. According to the investigation, at around 8:45 am on that day, the police seized 50,000 more stimulant tablets worth K35 million at local price hidden by Maung Tuu (aka) Tuu Gyi near Mae Sai creek in Yanaungmyay Ward of Tachilek. The offenders are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL



The 8th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar in progress last year.

9th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar to be held in May

THE 9th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2025, in which prestigious universities in Thailand will be exhibited, has been scheduled to hold at Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 24 May, organized by the Association of Myanmar Alumni from Universities in Thailand and

sponsored by the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon. Attendance can be registered at <https://forms.gle/Hvt-NMpBF4WKjXW7> or scan the QR code on the poster. Those who sat the matriculation exam, international students with O level, A

level and university students and those who want to attend master's degree and doctoral degree and those interested in scholarships can join with free admission. Further questions can be sent through AMAUT Alumni Network. — MT/ZS

Illegal goods confiscated across Myanmar

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, authorities continued efforts to combat illegal trade across the country.

On 24 April, combined teams seized various illegal goods and vehicles at checkpoints in Mandalay Region, including industrial materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs, transported without official documents. The confiscated items included Hyundai Starex, Mitsubishi Fuso Trucks, Mitsubishi Canter Truck, King Long Bus, and Nissan Condor Truck, with a total estimated value of K732.684 million.

In Magway Region, authorities seized illegal timber weighing 1.318 tonnes and an unlicensed Toyota Wish, valued at K5.071 million. In Shan State, combined teams seized 44 types of untaxed consumer goods worth K6.508 million near Muse's Sinphyu Gate.

On 25 April, illegal tim-



seized illegal goods.

ber and charcoal, totalling approximately 20.842 tonnes and valued at K2.909 million, were seized in Nay Pyi Taw. In Taninthayi Region, further inspections resulted in the seizure of additional illegal timber. Moreover, trawlers and related materials were also seized.

Combined teams from the Customs Department, Sagaing Region and Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Forces

conducted search and inspection over the goods and seized vehicles and undocumented materials approximately K370 million on 25 and 26 April. Action was taken against offenders for their smuggled and undocumented goods under the laws.

During the period, authorities seized smuggled and undocumented materials approximately K1.138 billion in 40 cases. — MNA/KZL



Offenders are seen along with seized stimulant tablets and vehicles.

Public Notice

THE companies that participated in the construction of offices and departmental buildings, special buildings, staff housing, administrative buildings and other construction projects included in the Nay Pyi Taw Construction Special Development Project shall contact the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee via the following persons: -

Contacts

- (1) U Zaw Tun, Head, Engineering Department (Buildings) Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee (09 696006999)
- (2) Daw Cherry Hla Maung, Deputy Head, Engineering Department (Buildings) Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee (09 5005678)

Address

City Hall, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Buildings Restoration, Utilization, and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee

NATIONAL

MYANMAR is known as one of the countries with the richest bird diversity and the highest number of bird species found among Southeast Asian nations. Among these species, 12 endangered bird species seasonally take hibernation at the Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary hosts water birds like darters, black-headed ibis, storks, and endangered bird species such as crested serpent eagle, plain-backed sparrow and black bulbul. Especially in winter, the water birds and other bird species reside in the sanctuary.

The survey is conducted on the resident bird and migratory bird population yearly, and also the wetland and ecosystem. Depending on the survey, it can record the bird species in the lake,

12 endangered bird species spotted in Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary



conduct conservation activities in the wetland ecosystem and study the endangered species including the relationship between the nature of migratory and resident water birds and the wetland ecosystem.

In December 2024, it found 20,232 birds of 115 bird species in the wildlife sanctuary and its vicinity areas. Moreover, it recorded the whistling ducks, northern pintail, garganey and Asian openbill in Moeyungyi Lake and its surrounding areas. However, the digits show a decline in bird populations to 644 birds of four bird species compared to the previous year. There were 20,232 birds of 115 bird species — 3,702 birds of 30 migratory bird species, 8,987 birds of 19 domestic bird species and 7,513 birds of 66 land bird species. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



Migratory birds hibernate at Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary. PHOTOS: ZWE MARN

Thai Expo Yangon 2025 set for June



This image reveals the Thai Expo Yangon 2025 commercial poster with actor Paing Ta Khon.

THE most crowded Thai event in Myanmar, Thai Expo Yangon 2025, is scheduled to be held at Yangon Convention Centre

(YCC) from 9 am to 5 pm on 6-8 June. Thailand's top companies, which have been popular in the ASEAN market and delegates from corporates and purchasers, importers and distributors from Myanmar will meet at the event and create better opportunities. Thailand-made food and beverage, fashion, cosmetics, home appliances and healthcare, which are trusted in Myanmar, will be displayed. The event aims to introduce more products to the Myanmar market, build partnerships with buyers, distributors and decision-makers from Thailand and join networking and business-matching activities. It will help businesses secure media coverage for brand visibility before and after the event and promote brands through product demonstration. It will also be created into a joyful event using the cultural sharing between Thailand and Myanmar. — MT/ZS

‘Our Love’ MV to be released on 1 May



SINGER Nay Min Eain's music video (MV) for the song "Our Love" will be released on 1 May. The song, composed by composer May Thaw, features Academy Award-winning actress Soe Pyae Thazin and actor Sai Si Tom Kham. The MV was directed by Pyae Phy Naing (PPN). The production was supported by Magical Face Luxury Aesthetic & Leapmotor and was produced by V7 Entertainment. — ASH/MKKS

"Our love" MV shooting.

OPINION

ARTICLE

Polytechnic Institutes:
Learning opportunity
for students

IT is to reform our education system. It is true that the education of all citizens is weak. And nobody denies that many things are being affected because of educational weakness. That's why individuals need to participate in educational reforms. Hence, the entire population should support the education sector and the learning of students.

If a nation is to be built with individuals who are lacking in education and technical skills, it will inevitably face many challenges. Those who have learnt an education at school and those who did not learn at school may differ in terms of mindset, discipline, and social interactions. In the future, it has been observed that their level of education will have an impact on political stability.

It is essential to enhance the knowledge and skills of the citizens of the country. Myanmar has a population of approximately 51 million, with around 30 per cent living in urban areas and about 70 per cent in rural areas. When analyzing the literacy and educational attainment rates, the literacy rate is close to 90 per cent, while the level of technical and academic proficiency is found to be less than 50 per cent of the population.

Therefore, it should not neglect those who are weak in formal education. Instead, individuals should support and promote non-formal education and general knowledge acquisition by establishing libraries in different regions, encouraging library activities, organizing reading circles, and similar initiatives outside the school system. As such, arrangements have been made to open Polytechnic Universities in regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, as well as to establish government technological colleges, government technical institutes of industrial centres, and government technical high schools.

From the year 2012 to 2024, the average matriculation examination pass rate was only about 35 per cent, meaning that approximately 65 per cent of students did not pass. It is necessary to consider how support can be provided for those who did not succeed. For students who completed high school education but did not pass the matriculation exams, plans are underway to establish Polytechnic Institutes. The first institute will be opened in Nay Pyi Taw and then in other states and regions, to conduct one-year programmes at first and gradually expand to multi-year programmes, allowing students who did not pass the matriculation examinations to attend. Preparations must be made in advance for the upcoming academic year to support this initiative. It will be a brighter light for students.

Post-Earthquake Recovery Public Health Measures
to Prevent Infectious Outbreaks

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

EARTHQUAKES are sudden, devastating events that disrupt not only the built environment but also the fundamental systems that support public health. In their aftermath, populations are frequently displaced, infrastructure is damaged, and basic services such as water, sanitation, and healthcare become severely limited. These conditions provide fertile ground for the rapid spread of infectious diseases. Therefore, timely and effective public health measures are essential to prevent and control these diseases and protect the health of affected populations.

Post-earthquake environments are characterized by collapsed buildings, overcrowded shelters, inadequate hygiene, and a lack of clean water. These conditions significantly increase vulnerability to communicable diseases. Waterborne diseases, such as diarrheal diseases, may spread through contaminated water supplies. Respiratory infections, including pneumonia and tuberculosis, can flourish in overcrowded shelters. In some areas, stagnant water left behind by disrupted infrastructure can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, leading to outbreaks of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever and also wound-related infections such as Tetanus, and skin and soft tissue infections.

Rapid Needs Assessment: Conduct immediate health assessments to determine Disease risks, Health infrastructure damage, and Vulnerable populations, prioritize interventions and allocate resources effectively.

Disease Surveillance and Early Warning Systems: Establish emergency disease surveillance systems to monitor and detect outbreaks. This enables early detection of outbreaks and timely responses.

Mobile clinics and rapid response teams should be deployed to monitor symptoms, collect data, and provide basic treatment and referrals.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Ensure access to safe drinking water via purification tablets, clean water tanks, or bottled water, promote hygiene through hand washing stations and hygiene kit distribution, construct emergency toilets and waste disposal systems and provide health education on safe food handling and personal hygiene.

Immunization Campaigns: Administer vaccines to prevent outbreak-prone diseases such as Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) (especially in vulnerable populations) and tetanus (especially in injured individuals) and use mobile vaccination units in camps and shelters.

Vector Control: Implement mosquito control measures, drain stagnant water, use insecticide-treated bed nets and monitor and report vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria.

Health Education and Risk Communication: Deliver clear and appropriate public health messages, including how to prevent infections, symptoms of common diseases, when and where to seek medical care and use radio, posters, community volunteers, and local leaders to disseminate information.

Community Engagement and Participation: Involve community members in hygiene promotion, vector control activities, disease surveillance, and community ownership to increase compliance and effectiveness of interventions.

Coordination and Multisectoral Collaboration are also important for public health intervention. In addition, post-disaster recovery public health measures are vital for preventing and controlling infectious diseases in the aftermath of an earthquake. A proactive, coordinated, and community-based approach can significantly reduce the risk of disease outbreaks and save lives.



Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) for children.



Health Education.



Abate.

Government Funding Foreign Consulates?

I AM talking about everybody's second favourite subject here: private cars. Myanmar citizens and residents pay between 175 per cent and 200 per cent of a vehicle OMV (Open Market Value) in import taxes when getting a car into Myanmar. For a car with an OMV of \$30,000 (Say, a fully loaded Camry), the locals ended up paying

close to \$90,000 to ride that saloon brand new.

Foreign consulates and embassy staff pay no such duties. They can buy the car right now at \$30,000, import it into Myanmar and enjoy a brand-new vehicle. The issue is what happens when the diplomats leave at the end of their terms? And we are saying the government is subsidizing them at the expense of the country and local citizens.

There are two alternatives at the end of the diplomat's term; one is simple, selling the used car to anyone within the diplomatic community. The other is more complex, selling the car to a local broker, who in turn registers the car for a black number plate (non-diplomatic use).

The latter process first requires approval from MOFA. It is normally given if the price is reasonable and the diplomat has



When diplomats depart, they typically have two options for their vehicles: selling them to another diplomat or selling them to a local broker who can facilitate registration for local use. ILLUSTRATION FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

been in the country for around three years. The second checkpoint is a little more complicated. It has to go through Ka Nya Na (aka) Road Transport Authority (RTA), the governing body responsible for road transport and vehicle registration. The purpose is to compute the tax required to be paid in relation to vehicle model, type and age, for re-registration.

Even though the first checkpoint may not necessarily be prone to misconduct, the person in charge can still abuse their authority by denying or approving the transfer or sale to a local. The second checkout is where the risk of corruption is high. The assessment of tax is in the hands of a senior RTA official, and as such, dealers can pay him handsomely to lower the tax bill measured in millions of Kyats. Having spoken to such a dealer, he acknowledged paying the officials in millions prior and his willingness to bribe 10 million Kyats, if he can lower his tax assessment by 20 million, which is not uncommon for even ordinary cars. The variations can even be wider if the cars are top-of-the-range luxury cars such as Range Rovers or Mercedes S-Class.

With such profits at the dealer's end, he is able to pay the diplomatic staff more. Some of the diplomatic staff that I have spoken to, said owning diplomatic cars in Myanmar is a once in a life time opportunity. They never lose money. In fact, they will make profits out of their vehicles after using and abusing the cars comfortably for three years. They will never have that opportunity in other parts of the world.

As a practical example, let's see how RTA taxes play a role in determining dealers' and diplomats' profitability...

This loophole has to be shut by making the system of converting white plates to black plates more transparent or making sure that the diplomatic cars (white plates) can only be sold among the diplomatic community or to the government. Else government and the people would continue to subsidize the private enterprise - the brokers and dealers, a few bad apples of civil servants and the whole diplomatic community.

Exchange rate @4500	Kyats (millions)	\$	Dealer Net Revenue	Dealer Net Profit
Market Price of a three-year-old Camry now	200	44,444	To sell domestically.	
RTA Taxes (case 1 - 10%)	20	4,444	40,000	7,000
RTA Taxes (case 2 - 15%)	30	6,666	37,778	4,778
Dealer payment to a diplomat for a three-year-old car		33,000		
Original cost to the diplomat		30,000		
Diplomat profit, after using the car for free for three years		3,000		

SCI/ENVIRON:
WORLD

Austria trials DNA testing to uncover honey fraud

This method helps identify adulteration, such as the addition of sugar syrups, and protects both consumers and beekeepers.



Supermarket chain SPAR ordered DNA tests for their honey. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN Austria's Tyrol province, scientists at Sinsoma are testing around 100 honey samples each month to check their quality and detect adulteration. With fake honey becoming a problem, Sinsoma started offering DNA tests two years ago, as few European labs provide this service.

EU laws prohibit adding ingredients like water or cheap sugars to honey, but recent investigations revealed that 46 per cent of honey entering the

EU was potentially adulterated, with 74 per cent of these samples coming from China.

This issue threatens beekeepers' livelihoods, as they struggle to compete with cheaper imported honey. To combat fraud, Austria's health agency has begun using DNA testing, and the supermarket chain SPAR has also conducted tests on its honey.

New EU regulations will require honey labels to specify the countries of origin by mid-

2026, which beekeepers hope will raise consumer awareness.

Sinsoma specializes in DNA testing, which can reveal the unique DNA profile of honey based on the plants bees visit. The company charges beekeepers €94 for a basic test, providing a QR code for consumers to trace the honey's origins.

While DNA testing can detect some fraud, experts emphasize the need for standardized methods to keep up with counterfeiters. — AFP

Just Stop Oil activist group holds final march

BRITISH environmental activist group Just Stop Oil held its final demonstration in London on Saturday, ending three years of high-profile climate protest stunts as they moved their focus away from civil disobedience.

Several hundred supporters walked peacefully through the centre of the British capital, from parliament to the headquarters of oil and gas giant Shell, where they removed their familiar high-vis orange vests.

The group announced in March it would halt its headline-grabbing protests, arguing it had accomplished its initial aim of stopping Britain approving new oil and gas projects.

More than 3,000 Just Stop Oil protesters have been arrested since it was founded in 2022 and 11 of them are currently in jail, including 58-year-old co-founder Roger Hallam. Five more are due to be sentenced in May.

Stunts by its activists included targeting Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" painting with tomato soup and daubing the historical landmark Stonehenge with orange paint powder.

They also disrupted theatre and sporting events, including tennis matches at Wimbledon.

Over the years the action has drawn condemnation from politicians, police and some sections of the public. — AFP



Just Stop Oil climate activists marched for the last time. **PHOTO: AFP**

On the horizon? Wave of momentum for high seas treaty

A treaty to protect the high seas will not come to life by the time the UN Oceans Conference opens in June, but persistence by member states has nudged the landmark pact towards enactment.

Adopted in June 2023 after years of exhausting negotiations, the pact aims to protect marine habitats vital to humanity but threatened by pollution in vast waters beyond any national jurisdiction.

It now has 113 signatories, but just 21 have ratified it.

After the past two weeks

of United Nations meetings in New York — with the conspicuous absence of the United States — negotiators came "one step closer to shaping the institutional backbone" of the agreement, said Nichola Clark of the Pew Charitable Trusts after the first preparatory commission for the treaty's entry into force.

However, as the treaty can only take effect 120 days after the 60th ratification, there is no chance of its enactment happening before the UN Oceans Conference gathers in Nice, France on 9-13 June.



Experts now hope the 60-ratification threshold can be reached by June so the treaty can still take effect this year.

The Nice summit will feature dozens of heads of state and will be preceded by a conference bringing together 2,000 scientists from around 100 countries. — AFP

In Tunisia, endangered sea turtles, like the loggerhead species, are rescued and rehabilitated at centers such as the "Sea Turtle First Aid Centre" in Sfax. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Actors with Down syndrome tear down barriers in London show

A group of Peruvian actors with Down syndrome is performing Shakespeare's Hamlet at London's Barbican Centre, breaking stereotypes and showcasing inclusivity in theatre.

IT'S one of Shakespeare's most existential questions "to be or not to be?" Now a group of globe-trotting Peruvian actors with Down syndrome are tackling it head-on, breaking down prejudice and barriers.

Cristina Leon, Jaime Cruz and Manuel Garcia are members of the eight-strong group currently performing William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at the Barbican centre in London this week until Sunday.

"This play shows that we can be included in everything at work, and in education. There are no barriers, we can do lots of things, and people must open their eyes to the fact that we can do anything they ask us," Leon, 32, told AFP.

The project was launched seven years ago born out of Cruz's dreams of becoming an actor.

He was working as an usher



Jaime Cruz, a member of the Peruvian company Teatro La Plaza, who has Down syndrome, performs during a dress rehearsal of their production 'Hamlet' at The Barbican Theatre in London. PHOTO: AFP

in the Teatro La Plaza in Lima and had never thought that his

Down syndrome was an obstacle in life.

"I have always wanted to be an actor. One day there was

an event (at the Lima theatre) in which you had to introduce yourself, and I said my name and said I was an actor," the 30-year-old said.

He added that he wanted to overcome "prejudices, myths and barriers".

His words inspired the theatre's artistic director Chela de Ferrari, who has now adapted the play for the eight actors and brought it to the land of Shakespeare's birth.

"He really caught by attention, and I thought to myself I really need to have a more in-depth discussion with him," she told AFP.

"We went to a cafe, and while we were talking I had a vision of him wearing the prince's crown and I thought about the meaning that Jaime could bring to Hamlet's famous words 'to be or not to be'," she said. — AFP

Justin Bieber's new album nears completion



Justin Bieber is gearing up to complete his highly anticipated new album. PHOTO: ANI

JUSTIN Bieber is gearing up to complete his highly anticipated new album, sources close to the singer have revealed to The Hollywood Reporter.

The pop sensation is planning to travel to a Nordic country to "vibe out" with musical collaborators and finalise his upcoming project.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Bieber has been hosting "jam sessions" at his Los Angeles home, bringing togeth-

er talented artists like DJ Tay James, HARV, Carter Lang, and Eddie Benjamin.

He has also collaborated with UK singer-songwriter Sekou and producer Dylan Wiggins, among others. These sessions have been instrumental in shaping the sound of his new album. Bieber's recording contract with Def Jam Records calls for four more albums, and the label is eagerly awaiting the release of his new project. — ANI

Tina Knowles reveals why she put Beyonce, Solange in therapy

MUSIC sensation Beyonce's mother Tina Knowles has shared a heartfelt story about her decision to put the singer and her sister Solange in therapy when they were children.

In a recent interview with CNN, Knowles revealed that she took proactive steps to prevent a divide between

her daughters after noticing a "wall between them coming."

Knowles explained that as Beyonce and Solange grew older, their differences began to cause tension.

Beyonce, who was part of a singing group, would sometimes allow others to talk down to Solange, who wanted to be

involved.

Knowles knew she had to act fast to preserve their relationship.

Despite initial reservations from her ex-husband, Matthew Knowles, Tina Knowles found a child therapist who could help her daughters work through their issues. — ANI



Tina Knowles put her daughters, Beyoncé and Solange, in therapy during their childhood to prevent a growing divide between them. PHOTO: ANI

ECON:
WORLD



These exporters modify labels and documents in bonded warehouses to disguise the goods' origin, enabling them to bypass trade restrictions and sell at higher prices while avoiding scrutiny. **PHOTO: ANI**

Indian goods worth over USD 10 billion reach Pakistan via third-country routes: GTRI

Following the 22 April terror attacks in Pahalgam, trade restrictions have led some Indian firms to use ports like Dubai, Singapore, and Colombo to send goods to Pakistan.

INDIAN goods worth over USD 10 billion reach Pakistan via third-country trade routes, according to the estimates of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).
In the wake of trade restrictions arising following the dastardly 22 April terror attacks in Pahalgam, GTRI said

in a note that some firms are using ports like Dubai, Singapore, and Colombo to send Indian goods to Pakistan, allowing Indian products to reach Pakistan despite trade restrictions. “GTRI estimates India’s Goods worth over USD 10 billion reach Pakistan via this route, annually,” the note

added. Explaining the creative ways adopted by the exporters, the GTRI added that Indian firms send goods to these ports, where an independent firm of floods and keeps the products in bonded warehouses at the port-places where goods can be stored without paying duties while in transit. — ANI

Turkiye’s opposition says Erdogan’s canal plan behind latest arrests



From his prison cell, jailed opposition mayor Imamoglu has denounced the latest arrests. **PHOTO: AFP**

PROSECUTORS in Turkiye announced dozens more arrests Saturday as part of an ongoing corruption probe, denounced by opposition leaders as a pretext to remove resistance to an ambitious Istanbul canal project.
The Istanbul general prosecutor’s office said Saturday it had issued warrants for 53 people, 47 of whom had been detained, over a corruption probe into opposition mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, who was himself arrested last month.
Imamoglu’s party, the main opposition CHP, said the arrests were to counter its efforts to block the proposed Istanbul canal project, intended to connect the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The project is backed by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — AFP

Trump says tariff deal with Japan “very close” to completion

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Friday that the United States is “very close” to a deal with Japan as the two countries continue talks over US tariffs.
His remarks came as Ryosei Akazawa, Japan’s chief representative in tariff negotiations with the US administration, is set to make a three-day trip to Washington from Wednesday for a second round of talks.
Akazawa has requested the United States reconsider duties that have hit various exports, including those from the nation’s large automobile industry.
“I’m getting along very well with Japan. We’re very close to a deal,” Trump told reporters

at the White House ahead of his trip to Rome for Pope Francis’ funeral, though he did not elaborate further.
Trump is said to be viewing tariff talks with Japan, a major trade partner and key security ally, as a top priority, and the process is being considered a test case for other countries also seeking relief from wide-ranging US tariffs. Pitching tariffs as a means to reduce massive US trade deficits and to address what he views as unfair trade practices, Trump imposed higher import duties on cars, steel and aluminum following his return to the White House in January. — Kyodo



For Japan’s five biggest automakers, the new tariffs are expected to total roughly \$25 billion a year (3.6 trillion yen), according to a report by Kohei Takahashi, Japan auto analyst at UBS Securities. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

India and Pakistan’s Kashmir fallout hits economy too

RAPIDLY deteriorating relations between India and Pakistan over a deadly shooting in Kashmir are starting to have small but prickly economic consequences for both nations.
India has unveiled a series of mostly symbolic diplomatic measures against Pakistan, after accusing its regional rival of supporting “cross-border terrorism”.
Islamabad, which rejected the allegations, responded Thursday with similar tit-for-tat measures — but upped the ante by halting trade with New Delhi and closing its airspace to Indian airlines.
Experts say that while the retaliatory moves will not have an immediate or far-reaching impact, it will likely result in longer and more expensive flights for Indians, while forcing Pakistan to increase pharmaceutical imports from other countries. — AFP

“Flying car” demos at Osaka Expo halted as part falls mid-flight

The event’s organizing body confirmed that there were no injuries resulting from the incident.

DEMONSTRATIONS of one of the “flying cars” at the World Exposition in Osaka have been suspended for safety checks after a part fell from a vehicle mid-flight but with no injuries reported, the event’s organizing body said Sunday.

With other flying vehicle operators yet to finalize their schedules for public showcases at the six-month event, demonstration flights at the expo will be suspended until their safety is confirmed.

According to the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, on Saturday afternoon a part of a motor propeller fell mid-flight from a Hexa single-seater electrical vertical take-off and landing vehicle developed by US firm Lift Aircraft Inc.

and operated by Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp.

The aircraft was flying above the expo’s take-off and landing area and landed safely. An investigation into the cause is ongoing.

Four operators initially aimed for commercial flying taxi to provide access to the event’s venue on Yumeshima, an artificial island in Osaka Bay. But all the operators later gave up on carrying passengers in their electric aircraft due to safety challenges. — Kyodo

File photo shows a Hexa flying vehicle demonstration at the World Exposition in Osaka on 14 April 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**



Engineering goods exports from India reach record high in 2024-25, hit US\$116.7 billion

REGISTERING a year-on-year growth of 6.74 per cent, engineering goods exports from India reached its all-time high of US\$116.67 billion in fiscal 2024-25, surpassing the previous high of US\$112.10 billion achieved in fiscal 2021-22.

The value of total engineering exports stood at US\$109.30 billion in 2023-24.

While the US remained the top destination for Indian engineering exports in 2024-25, significant export growth was also noted in the UAE, Singapore, Nepal, Japan, and France, according to the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC), which issued a statement on Sunday.

Engineering goods exports to the US grew 8.7 per cent to US\$19.15 billion in 2024-25 from US\$17.62 billion in 2023-24. — ANI



The value of total engineering exports stood at US\$109.30 billion in 2023-24. **PHOTO: ANI**

China’s air passenger trips hit 190 mln in Q1

CHINA’S air passenger trips reached 190 million in the first quarter (Q1) this year, representing a year-on-year increase of 4.9 per cent, data from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) showed Sunday. The civil aviation sector completed 3.58 million flight hours and 1.36 million flights in Q1, up 4.8 per cent and 2.6 per cent year on year, respectively, Li Yong, an official with the CAAC, told a press conference. The sector’s total transportation turnover topped 38.59 billion tonne-kilometres in the first three months, up 10.5 per cent from a year earlier. Cargo and mail transported by air in the period reached 2.24 million tonnes, up 11.7 per cent year on year. China’s civil aviation sector achieved a punctuality rate of 94.5 per cent in Q1, up 4.9 percentage points over the same period last year. — Xinhua

ADB to hold business summit for Bangladesh projects worth billions of US\$

THE Bangladesh Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was set to host a mega business gathering in the capital Dhaka.

Over 500 participants, including suppliers, contractors, consultants, government officials, representatives of development partners, and members of the diplomatic community, were expected to attend the day-long “Business Opportunity Seminar” on Monday.

The event will provide a valuable platform to access information on ADB-financed projects, the Manila-based lender said in a statement.

The ADB said it organizes the flagship event annually to attract quality suppliers, contractors, and consultants from Bangladesh and abroad. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (083W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (083W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2509E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2509E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Japan PM Ishiba kicks off trip to Vietnam, Philippines to boost ties

This marks Ishiba's third visit to Southeast Asia since he took office in October.

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba arrived in Vietnam on Sunday, kicking off a four-day trip that will also take him to the Philippines to boost security and economic ties with the Southeast Asian countries.

It is Ishiba's third visit to Southeast Asia since taking office in October.

"We hope to further strengthen security cooperation" with the two Southeast Asian countries, Ishiba told reporters before departing Haneda airport in Tokyo.

Noting that tariffs would have a "large impact" on the



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba speaks to reporters at the premier's official residence in Tokyo on 27 April 2025, before departing for a four-day trip to Vietnam and the Philippines. PHOTO: KYODO

economies of both Vietnam and the Philippines, Ishiba also said he plans to hear from Japanese companies operating in the two countries so he can address their concerns and opinions through government policies.

Later Sunday in Hanoi, Ishiba is slated to hold a meeting with Vietnamese leader To Lam, who is general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party. He will also meet Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Monday. — Kyodo

Trump failing to resolve US budget deficit but slightly slows debt growth

US President Donald Trump has not yet managed to tackle the federal budget deficit during his time in office but has slightly curbed the growth of the national debt, Sputnik has calculated based on US Treasury data.

The US budget remained in deficit for the fifth consecutive month in March, closing with a shortfall of \$160.5 billion, nearly half of February's \$307 billion deficit but roughly in line with the average under Trump's predecessor Joe Biden (\$159 billion).

At the same time Trump has

managed to slow down the rise in US national debt. In November 2024, it reached \$36.2 trillion and has since fluctuated near that level.

Meanwhile, at the end of February, the share of foreign holders of US debt in its total volume increased by 0.8 percentage points, reaching 24.3 per cent. Among the five largest "investors" only Japan increased its positions - by 0.11 percentage points compared with January, up to 12.8 per cent. The Cayman Islands fixed their investments at 4.7 per cent. — SPUTNIK



March's deficit was nearly half of February's \$307 billion deficit. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Greenland PM visits Denmark as Trump threats loom

GREENLAND'S freshly elected prime minister begins his first official visit to Denmark on Sunday as US President Donald Trump eyes the Danish autonomous territory.

Jens-Frederik Nielsen leads Greenland's new coalition government, after his centre-right Democrats party won a legislative election in March. It will be his first visit to Denmark since taking office.

It also follows a visit to the Arctic territory by Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in early April, when she told the United States "you cannot annex another country".

"First and foremost, I will resume discussions with the Prime Minister about the geopolitical situation and co-operation," Nielsen said in a



This visit follows Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's trip to Greenland in early April, where she addressed US interests in the territory. PHOTO: AFP

statement this week, referring to Frederiksen.

"It is important that we make plans for our future co-

operation in these times," he added.

Tensions between the United States and Denmark

have soared after Trump repeatedly said he wanted to take control of the resource-rich Arctic island. — AFP

DPRK top leader attends launching ceremony of new-generation destroyer

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) unveiled a new-generation destroyer at the Nampho Dockyard on Friday, as its top leader lauded the launching of the advanced warship as a major step to modernization for the country's naval forces, state media said Saturday.

The new-type multipurpose destroyer, which has a displacement of 5,000 tonnes and is equipped with "the most powerful weapons," is the first in a new class called "Choe Hyon," named after a late military activist and veteran of the DPRK armed forces, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Junior Lions edge Falcon in MNL U-21 opener

JUNIOR Lions kicked off their Myanmar National League (MNL) U-21 Youth League campaign with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Falcon on 27 April at South Dagon Ground.

In a clash of Myanmar's youth national teams, both sides played out a goalless first half before finding the breakthrough after the restart. Junior Lions, coached by a Japanese manager secured all three points with goals from Sai Moe Han at 72 minutes and Khant Win Aung seven minutes later.

Falcon pulled one back deep into stoppage time through Myo Khant Kyaw at 90+2 minute, but it was too late to change the outcome.

Matchday 1 wraps up today 4 pm at South Dagon Ground, with defending champions Shan United set to face Yadanabon FC. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Junior Lions vie for the ball with Falcon players during their opening fixture. PHOTO: MNL



Liverpool primed for Premier League title party

LIVERPOOL are primed for a Premier League title party as they aim to seal a record-equaling 20th English top-flight crown against Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday.

A draw with Tottenham will take Liverpool to a title-clinching 80 points — mathematically out of reach of second-placed Arsenal, who would be 13 points adrift with just four games left.

Arne Slot's men have been hot favourites to land just their second title in the Premier League era for months and the manager believes they have a "big responsibility" to seal the deal in front of their own fans.

The Reds' last title, five years ago, was slightly anticlimactic as it came during the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning Anfield was nearly empty when the trophy was presented due to restrictions.



Arne Slot's Liverpool are set to celebrate a record-equaling 20th English league title. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

"It's a big responsibility," said the Dutch boss. "We are aware that the last time this club won the league was during the Covid time, so everybody is looking forward to Sunday.

"We know there's still a job to do. We need at least one point. Our fans know as well.

When they come to the stadium they have to support us in the best possible way as they have done all season." On paper, Liverpool have little to fear from Ange Postecoglou's Spurs, who are 16th in the table and have not won at Anfield since 2011. — AFP

Barca edge Real Madrid in extra-time to win wild Copa del Rey final

BARCELONA defender Jules Kounde struck deep in extra-time to decide a gripping Copa del Rey Clasico final on Saturday in Seville, earning his side a 3-2 win over rivals Real Madrid.

The Catalans, aiming for a quadruple this season, won the first major trophy of Hansi Flick's reign as coach and a re-

cord-extending 32nd Spanish cup in dramatic fashion.

Three Real Madrid players were sent off during and after a fiery conclusion to the game, including England international Jude Bellingham.

Pedri sent Barcelona ahead at La Cartuja but two Real Madrid goals in seven second-half minutes, from Kylian

Mbappe and Aurelien Tchouameni, pulled the Spanish and European champions level.

However, Ferran Torres struck in the 84th minute to take the game to extra-time and Kounde drilled home to win it for the La Liga leaders. "Madrid pushed us to our limits but we showed great character and pride," said Kounde. — AFP

Thitsar Arman, Young Lionesses secure victories in women's league

THITSAR Arman and Young Lionesses claimed victories in their respective matches held as the opener of the 2025-2026 season of the Myanmar Women's League (MWL) on 27 April.

At the Padonmar Stadium, Thitsar Arman celebrated with a 5-0 win over Yangon Royals. This marked the first match for the newly-formed Yangon Royals, who faced a challenging defeat against the experienced Thitsar Arman team, which included many national team players. Thitsar Arman secured their second consecutive win with a hat-trick performance from midfielder Myat Noe Khin. Goals for Thitsar Arman came from Myat Noe Khin at 60, 65 and 81 minutes while Win Win made one goal at 74 minutes mark and Chit

Su Wai at 90+1 minute.

Meanwhile, Young Lionesses edged out Myawady with a 2-1 victory at Thuwunna Training Ground-1. Though it was their first win in the league, Young Lionesses faced a tough challenge from Myawady, who were on the losing side for the second match in a row. Myawady's May Sabei Phue scored first at the 4th minute, but Young Lionesses responded with goals from Pyae Paing Hmue Eain at 58 minutes and Nway Nway at 89 minutes to secure the win.

Matchday 2 of the tournament will continue today at the YUSC Ground with a match between Yangon United and Shan United, and Ayeyawady will face YREO at Thuwunna Training Ground-1. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Thitsar Arman and Yangon Royals compete in the match. PHOTO: MWL



WORLD

All eyes turn to conclave as Pope Francis tomb opens to public

Cardinals will hold their fifth meeting on Monday to set a date for the conclave, expected to occur on 5 or 6 May.



An estimated 400,000 people, including world leaders, attended the funeral at the Vatican, highlighting his popularity as a reformer.
PHOTO: AFP

WITH Pope Francis laid to rest, all eyes turn now to the conclave, the secretive meeting of cardinals set to convene within days to elect a new head of the Catholic Church.

Mourners were permitted to visit his tomb for the first time Sunday, a day after an estimated 400,000 people including world leaders turned out for the Argentine's funeral at the Vatican and burial in Rome.

The crowds were a testament to the popularity of Francis, an energetic reformer who championed the poorest and

most vulnerable.

Many of those mourning the late pope, who died on Monday aged 88, expressed anxiety about who would succeed him.

"He ended up transforming the Church into something more normal, more human," said Romina Cacciatori, 48, an Argentinian translator living in Italy.

"I'm worried about what's coming."

On Monday, cardinals will hold their fifth meeting since Pope Francis's death to set a date for the conclave, expected to occur on 5 or 6 May.

During the conclave, cardinal-electors will vote until a candidate secures a two-thirds majority, with results indicated by burning papers that emit white smoke.

Mourners have gathered to pay respects at Francis's tomb, expressing hope that the next pope will embody his kindness and openness.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin led a mass attended by 200,000 people, emphasizing the global presence of youth. The cardinals acknowledge the significant responsibility in choosing a successor amid diverse expectations. — AFP

CHEMICAL STORAGE INCIDENT

25 killed, 1,000 injured in huge Iran port blast

FIRES were still blazing on Sunday after a massive explosion tore through Iran's largest commercial port the day before, killing at least 25 people and leaving 1,000 others injured, according to state media.

The blast occurred Saturday at Shahid Rajaei Port in southern Iran, near the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

The port's customs office said in a statement carried by state television that the explosion probably resulted from a fire that broke out at the hazardous and chemical materials storage depot. A regional emergency official said several containers had exploded.

The New York Times quoted a person with ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters, as saying that what exploded was sodium perchlorate — a major ingredient in solid fuel for missiles. — AFP

China's wind, solar energy capacity surpasses thermal power for first time

CHINA'S installed capacity of wind and photovoltaic power reached 1.482 billion kilowatts by the end of March, exceeding that of thermal power for the first time in history, official data showed Friday.

As new installations continue to grow rapidly, wind and solar capacity will maintain the lead over thermal power, the National Energy Administration said.

In the first quarter of this year, electricity generated from wind and photovoltaics reached 536.4 billion kilowatt-hours, accounting for 22.5 per cent of China's total power use, up 4.3 percentage points from the same period last year.

Official data showed that China's to-

tal installed renewable power capacity reached about 1.41 billion kilowatts at the end of 2024, accounting for over 40 per cent of its total electricity capacity and surpassing coal-fired power installations.

The country's new energy industry has experienced rapid growth in recent years as it steps up efforts to decarbonize the economy. — Xinhua

An aerial drone photo taken on 6 January 2025 shows a partial view of the Shichengzi photovoltaic power station in Hami City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.
PHOTO: FENG YANG/XINHUA

