

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife attend final rites of Pali Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi



Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife and dignitaries observe the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kovida at the final rites of the Pali Sayadaw in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The final rites of Presiding Patron of the Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery in Pyinmana of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Ovadacariya of the Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Pali Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, aged 79, 59 vasa, who passed away at 1:19 pm on 9 April, were held at the monastery yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanah-

itadhara Masoeyein Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw and his wife, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe, Union

ministers and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, disciples and residents.

SSMNC Secretary Masoeyein Sayadaw read out the letter of record for the deceased Sayadaw.

Secretary of the Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kittisara read out the letter of Samvega for the deceased Sayadaw, while Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo

Lwin read out the letter of condolences.

The Vice-President and his wife, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and his wife, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and senior military officers offered alms to members of the Sangha led by the Masoeyein Sayadaw, who shared merits gained.

The Vice-President and attendees paid homage to the remains of the Pali Sayadaw with supplication to forget any sins.

Senior military officers and Union ministers conveyed the remains of the Sayadaw onto the decorated float and conveyed them to the Tabaung Ground

of Uppatasanti Pagoda, where the incineration ceremony will take place.

Along the route to Tabaung Ground, members of the Sangha, disciples, people and nuns paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw.

The Vice-President and the congregation finally paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited Samvega Gatha, and the remains of the Sayadaw were incinerated.

A ceremony to float and pay homage to the ashes of the Pali Sayadaw will be held at the Paunglaung River jetty at 6:30 am on 13 April. — MNA/TTA

Fish supply surges in Yangon markets as April harvests increase, trade slows

THE inflow of fishery products to markets in the Yangon Region has increased in April, according to U Aye Ko, Vice-Chairman of the Market Administration Committee at Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township, Yangon Region.

“This month, the volume of fish entering the market has been high on a daily basis. More than 100 truckloads arrive each day. Although supply is abundant, trading remains slow. This is because there are no export shipments abroad

during this period. The increased inflow of fish this year is due to rising feed prices and shortages of raw materials. In addition, to prevent fish losses caused by the April heat, farmers are harvesting their ponds and selling their stock, which has led to a continuous supply of fishery products to the market,” said U Aye Ko.

In Yangon, freshwater and marine products from Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township and Sanpya Fish Market in Kyimyindine Township are distributed to upper and lower parts of

Myanmar, as well as to border areas with good transport links. At present, due to the early harvesting of fish ponds ahead of the summer season, freshwater products from the Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions are continuously flowing into Shwe Padauk Fish Market.

More than 350,000 viss of freshwater fish enter Shwe Padauk Fish Market daily, including over 30 varieties such as rohu, carp, butter fish, pomfret, snakehead, catfish, small catfish and seabass. — ASH/KNN



25 Myanmar EPS workers arrive in Seoul in Apr; embassy assists injured workers

NATIONAL

Foreign state dignitaries send congratulatory messages to President U Min Aung Hlaing on his election as President

THE following are congratulatory messages from Anton Kobyakov, Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation, Indra Mani Pandey, the Secretary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Mr Toshio Nishimura, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nagoya, Japan, Mr Noriatsu Otomori, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kobe, Japan and Ricardo Cateb Cury, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in São Paulo/Brazil sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing on his election as President.

Dear Mr President,

Please allow me to cordially congratulate you on your election as President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We know you as an experienced politician and a talented statesman and military leader who has repeatedly demonstrated through actions your dedication to the interests of your country and the aspirations of the people of Myanmar, upholding its values and centuries-old traditions. You have built a distinguished military career, rising from service in the land forces to the rank of Senior General and Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's armed forces — steadfastly defending the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

With your personal support, the partnership between our nations continues to develop steadily across numerous areas, including economic, social, cultural, scientific, and others.

I am confident that the close ties between Russia and Myanmar will steadily grow stronger.

Wishing you all the best and every success in this highly responsible position.

Taking this opportunity, please accept my assurances of the highest respect.

Anton Kobyakov
Adviser
to the President of the Russian Federation

Excellency,

I have the honour and privilege to extend, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Secretariat of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, our heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency on your successful election and appointment as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar has been a steadfast supporter of the BIMSTEC. It has been contributing immensely to strengthening the growing regional cooperation under BIMSTEC, not only in the Agriculture and Food Security Sector, including fisheries and livestock, which it leads, but also in other Sectors on BIMSTEC's Agenda.

Excellency,

BIMSTEC is poised to evolve into a vibrant and efficient regional organization. I am confident that, under your able leadership, Myanmar will continue to attach its highest priority to BIMSTEC and contribute towards BIMSTEC achieving new heights and transforming itself into a dynamic regional Organization.

As Secretary General of BIMSTEC, I am looking forward to calling on Your Excellency at the earliest opportunity to seek your valuable guidance and advice. I would like to assure you of the full cooperation of the BIMSTEC Secretariat in assisting the member States, including Myanmar, in the implementation of the decisions emanating from BIMSTEC Summit Declarations and BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030 towards expanding regional cooperation under BIMSTEC.

I extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your personal well-being, good health and continued success in your future endeavours.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Indra Mani Pandey
Secretary-General of the BIMSTEC

Your Excellency, Mr Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on your inauguration as President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Since assuming the position of Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nagoya, I have had the privilege of visiting your country on ten occasions. On each visit, I have had the opportunity to hold discussions with ministers from various ministries and senior military officials.

I am deeply grateful for the highly meaningful time I have been afforded on these occasions.

I offer these words of congratulations and pray from the bottom of my heart that, under your leadership, the Union of Myanmar will achieve further stability and development, and that peace and prosperity will be realized for all its people.

Honorary Consul Toshio Nishimura
Honorary Consulate of Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nagoya

Your Excellency, Min Aung Hlaing, The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your inauguration as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

As your nation enters a new chapter, I extend my heartfelt wishes for your leadership and for Myanmar's continued stability and development.

Myanmar and Japan have long maintained a relationship of friendship, and I hope that this partnership will further deepen and contribute to peace and prosperity in the region.

I wish Your Excellency good health and continued success, as well as happiness and well-being for the people of Myanmar.

Honorary Consul Noriatsu Otomori
Honorary Consulate of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kobe

Your Excellency, Mr President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Min Aung Hlaing

It is with high regard that I offer my sincerest congratulations for your election as the Presidency of Myanmar. This important milestone reflects the confidence your people have placed in your leadership and vision for the nation's future.

I wish you every success in your term, with achievements that promote the prosperity, stability, and well-being of the people of Myanmar, as well as the strengthening of friendly and cooperative relations with the international community.

May your government be guided by wisdom, dialogue, and commitment to sustainable development and social harmony.

I renew my expressions of esteem and distinguished consideration.

Ricardo Cateb Cury
Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
São Paulo/Brazil

NATIONAL

Ministry of Legal Affairs holds Thingyan feast and celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw

A charity feast and festive celebration for the officers and staff serving was held at the Ministry of Legal Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning in front of the Ministry's office to mark the eve of the Maha Thingyan Festival for the year 2026 (1388 Myanmar Era).

First, Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo delivered a New Year message. She stated that the tradition of splashing water symbolizes the cleansing of impurities from the old year, bringing clarity, freshness and coolness to the mind. She expressed her wishes for happiness and good health in the New Year and encouraged all to fulfil their national and family responsibilities with renewed spirit and



Ministry of Legal Affairs celebrates charity feast and pre Maha Thingyan Festival at the ministry office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

strength. She also wished that all people around the world, as well as all citizens of Myanmar, may be free from danger and enjoy peace and prosperity.

Next, Deputy Minister and

Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo, the Permanent Secretary, and directors-general from the respective departments also delivered New Year goodwill messages and prayers.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and Union Attorney-General and party, observed and encouraged the provision of charity meals for the ministry's officers and staff. They also

watched and appreciated performances of Thingyan songs and traditional dance troupes, and presented honorary cash awards in recognition of the performances. — MNA/KNN

People's Square prepares Thingyan festival pavilions

WATER-SPLASHING pavilions, walk-through Thingyan pavilions and charity feast pavilions have been set up at the People's Square in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, ahead of the Myanmar Traditional New Year Thingyan Festival

starting on 13 April 2026.

To ensure public participation and comfort, the walk-through Thingyan area has been systematically arranged with shaded coverings to reduce heat, while security and healthcare services will also

be provided.

The Thingyan festival will be held from 13 to 16 April, featuring traditional dance performances and charity feast donations for visitors from four corners of the nation. — Nyan Min Pyae (IPRD)/KZL



These photos show the pavilions being prepared for walking Thingyan water festival in People's Square. PHOTO: NYAN MIN PYAE (IPRD)

Frontline Tatmadaw members welcomed back



This photo shows victorious troops receiving a warm welcome at the local battalion in Kalaw, Shan State (South).

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members who successfully carried out security measures in Thingyan-Nyinaung and Kawkaik Township, Kayin State, were warmly welcomed back by Eastern Command Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Nang Oo, relevant officials, and residents at the local battalion in Kalaw Township of southern Shan State yesterday.

Troops were honoured for restoring security, stability and peace for the ethnic people in different regions and states. The commander and party welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia, including traditional dance and music performances. The commander presented cash prizes to the victorious Tatmadaw members. — MNA/KZL

Advertise
with us/ Hotline:

09 454237515
09 255597511

NATIONAL

Personnel urged to systematically restructure the ministry, following MSME role expansion

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than said the Ministry must systematically review and restructure its organizational framework following its reorganization into the Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Development, stressing that the change significantly expands the role of MSMEs and requires all personnel to work with full commitment to ensure more effective and successful implementation of duties.

He made the remarks at a follow-up briefing session on the guidance provided by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, held on the afternoon of 11 April at the Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

The session followed the President's meetings and guidance delivered to Union-level officials, members of the Union government, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of Region and State governments, and deputy ministers. These meetings took place on the sixth day of the first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the morn-



Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development, Dr Charlie Than, delivering his remarks at the ceremony for the follow-up briefing on the guidance provided by the President.

ing of 10 April, as well as during the oath-taking ceremony and the President's address at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall that same afternoon.

The Union minister stated that the ministry must compile the points included in the President's guidance according to their respective operational sectors and develop plans to implement them while also enhancing existing activities, and he urged that, in accordance

with the President's guidance, the ministry continue to implement its vision, objectives, and duties and encouraged all officers and staff to work together cooperatively as they have done in the past.

Furthermore, he pointed out that the ministry must continue to carry out its existing operational duties such as industrial development, human resource development, the systematic development of indus-

trial zones and businesses, and the supervision and inspection of electricity and boiler usage to ensure public safety and efficient operation in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders, and directives.

He underscored that the ministry must plan and implement measures to ensure the production of high-quality, marketable essential medicines, consumer goods, clothing, cement, and other accessories

for the public, emphasizing that all necessary factors including personnel, machinery, raw materials, processes, and quality standards must be fully ensured through advance planning; he further instructed that, to maintain continuous production and increase output, plans for procuring spare parts and raw materials must be prepared and implemented from the beginning of the current financial year, that factories and workshops must systematically implement disaster management plans to ensure uninterrupted production, and that the two ongoing ministry projects must continue according to their designated timelines, noting that production activities can commence only after their completion and therefore all tasks must be carried out systematically and with the utmost seriousness.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Ministers U Thwin Aung and Dr Aung Zeya, and responsible officials. Directors-general, managing directors, deputy directors-general, general managers and officials participated virtually. — MNA/TH

MRTV to broadcast live coverage of Myanmar's traditional Maha Thingyan Festival celebrations

DURING this year's Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan Festival, which will be celebrated across the country, festivities in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay will be broadcast live on four TV channels of Myanma Radio and Television. In addition, celebrations in other locations will be covered and broadcast as news segments and special programmes.

On 13 April, the eve of the Maha Thingyan Festival, the opening ceremonies for various festivities will be broadcast live: the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan Central Pavilion will be shown on the MRTV Parliament Channel at 9 am, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion on the MRTV Farmers' Channel at 8 am, the Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion on

the MRTV NRC Channel at 5 pm, and the Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion on the MRTV Entertainment Channel at 7:30 am, along with the subsequent celebratory programmes following each opening.

Furthermore, these four channels will continue to broadcast live daily from 9 am to 12 noon and from 3 pm to 7 pm on Thingyan Akyo Day (14 April),

Thingyan Akyet Day (15 April), and Thingyan Atet Day (16 April).

In addition to these events, festivities held at various other locations from the eve of Thingyan through to the final day of Thingyan (Atet Day) will also be covered and broadcast daily in news programmes on MRTV-HD and the MRTV News Channel. — MRTV/TH

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

NATIONAL

MOEE, North Petro-Chem ink deal on Htaukshapin-Kanni oil field

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy has been inviting international tenders to carry out exploration, drilling, and production of onshore and offshore oil and natural gas, and also systematically reviewing and signing contracts with successful local and foreign companies to ensure no loss to the State.

A signing ceremony for the contract between the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and North Petro-Chem Corporation (Myanmar) Limited of China for increased oil production at the Htaukshapin-Kanni oil field was held at the Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 April.

In his remarks, the Union Minister stated that it is a matter of great pride for the new government to be able to sign a contract aimed at increasing crude oil production, which is urgently needed for the country and its people at the beginning of a new chapter. He added that increased crude oil production



A signing ceremony for the contract between the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and North Petro-Chem Corporation (Myanmar) Limited of China for increased oil production at the Htaukshapin-Kanni oil field in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 April.

would help boost the availability of petroleum products required by the country, bringing immediate benefits to the public.

He further explained that Myanmar's oil fields have existed for about 100 years. The Htaukshapin-Kanni oil field, for which the contract has

been signed, is also about 50 years old. Therefore, modern technologies must be applied to increase production. It is essential to select appropriate technologies, suitable equipment, skilled human resources, sufficient investment, and experienced organizations.

Based on these requirements, the most suitable organization was selected, and the contract was signed.

He continued that the hand-dug wells were prohibited to ensure systematic operations and environmental conservation, and 36 local entrepreneur

groups were permitted to operate standard wells, and they are expected to begin operations soon, which will contribute to increased crude oil output.

The country currently imports about 97 per cent of its fuel consumption. Due to the global fuel crisis, the public is facing significant difficulties. To overcome these challenges, efforts are being made to increase the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. Moreover, the Ministry is working to refine domestically produced crude oil within the country. Plans are also underway to establish new refineries, and the Thapayakan refinery, built in 1982, will be upgraded and renovated to operate at full capacity.

Then, the North Petro-Chem Corporation (Myanmar) Limited Chairman expressed gratitude and pledged to carry out to achieve good results. — MNA/KTZH

Insignia, honour certificates awarded to Batch 1/2024 People's Military Service graduates



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than presents servicemen with certificates of completion, insignia of people's military service, and certificates of honour.

SECTION 385 of the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stipulates that every citizen has the duty to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Ceremonies to honour members of the People's Military Service Batch 1/2024 who had fulfilled their duties were held yesterday at respective commands. These events were attended by Chief Ministers of the regions and states, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders, departmental officials, members of the security forces who had completed their military service, and their families.

At the ceremonies, the chief ministers, senior military officers and commanders delivered congratulatory speeches

and presented the servicemen with certificates of completion, insignia of people's military service, and certificates of honour. This was followed by tea receptions and lunches hosted by the respective authorities.

Those who had completed their military service demonstrated loyalty to the State through their conduct. They were recognized for their exemplary performance, discipline and selfless service. Throughout their service, the State and Tatmadaw systematically provided them with salaries, food, benefits and other necessary support.

Civil servants who have completed their military service may, if they so wish, continue serving in Tatmadaw. Those employed in companies will be reinstated to their previous positions or appointed to similar roles, with appropriate benefits

granted by the State. Relevant authorities will also continue to cooperate with local and overseas employment committees to ensure that those who have completed their service are placed in suitable jobs in accordance with existing regulations.

Furthermore, some individuals have voluntarily chosen to continue serving in Tatmadaw, motivated by a desire to contribute further to the defence and security of the State.

These ceremonies, held to honour citizens who have faithfully served their country, represent a meaningful recognition of their contributions. They mark a significant milestone reflecting the mutual trust and responsibility between the State and its people, and serve as a positive example for current personnel, trainees, and the younger generation. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

YGH prepares to treat minor fever patients during Thingyan



The Yangon General Hospital is seen preparing for heatstroke and fever patients.

THE Yangon General Hospital has made preparations to treat patients with minor fevers during the Thingyan period in Yangon Region, according to its Emergency Department.

Similarly, the hospital has opened special treatment rooms for heatstroke patients to provide emergency care during the Thingyan festival.

In addition, the Emergency Department has arranged to provide healthcare services to people participating in the Thingyan festival, including emergency treatment in case of accidents, as well as care for those with minor

illnesses.

“Yangon General Hospital has prepared treatment protocols, medicines, and special facilities for heat-related illnesses. During the Thingyan period, children, the elderly, people with chronic diseases, and those who consume alcohol or drugs are more likely to suffer from heat-related conditions. As private clinics are closed during the festival, we have also made arrangements to treat general patients,” said an official from the hospital’s Emergency Department.

As daytime temperatures continue to rise, heat exhaustion can lead to de-

hydration and increased body temperature, causing dizziness, excessive sweating, nausea, and vomiting, while severe heatstroke may result in loss of consciousness.

As the Thingyan Festival coincides with high temperatures, people are advised to avoid harmful ultraviolet rays. The Ministry of Health has urged the public to stay in shade areas such as trees, parks, pavilions, and buildings between 11 am and 4 pm, and to refrain from consuming alcohol, as it can increase body temperature and contribute to heat-related illnesses. — ASH/MKKS

25 Myanmar EPS workers arrive in Seoul in Apr; embassy assists injured workers

THE Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea has announced that 25 additional Myanmar workers arrived in South Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS) during April, and the embassy is actively assisting citizens who have sustained workplace injuries.

Through the Government Overseas Employment Agency, three new agricultural workers arrived on 6 April by TG658 and 17 new manufacturing workers and five new construction workers on 8 April by TG656.

The Labour Attaché welcomed the workers at the airport, and Chargé d’Affaires/Am-

bassador U Myo Myint Maung greeted the new workers via a video call, offering a warm welcome and advising them to contact the embassy at any time should they face difficulties.

Furthermore, the embassy reported on a Myanmar worker who sustained a hand injury while on the job. The chargé d’affaires connected with the worker via video call to inquire about his medical treatment, encourage and assure him to request assistance whenever needed. The Labour Attaché is currently coordinating efforts to ensure that the injured worker receives all entitled benefits. — MT/ZN



New Myanmar workers arriving at Incheon International Airport on 8 April.

Foodpanda Myanmar marks 6th anniversary, honours riders, partners, customers



This photo features foodpanda staff and officials at Foodpanda Myanmar’s sixth anniversary celebration.

IN honour of foodpanda Myanmar’s sixth anniversary, a series of events was held to recognize delivery riders, partner businesses, and customers.

In commemoration of the sixth anniversary, programmes were held nationwide to promote safety systems, recognize the achievements of women, and implement initiatives that benefit the community.

“This sixth-year milestone is only possible because of the continuous support of our rid-

ers, partners, and customers, who support foodpanda every day. Our vision for 2026 is clear: we will continue to invest in safety training for riders, digital skills development, and partner capacity building to create a stronger and safer business network. When all our riders, partners, and customers are successful, the entire community will benefit,” said U Zeyar Min, Chief Executive Officer for foodpanda Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

In 2025, foodpanda Myanmar expanded its support programmes for delivery riders and introduced new services to provide customers with a better experience at fair prices.

The foodpanda Myanmar, which began as a food delivery service in December 2019, has grown into a technology platform operating in 16 cities and creating income opportunities for 25,000 restaurants, grocery stores, and delivery riders. — ASH/TH

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515, 09 255597511

MoC sets peanut standard to ensure food safety, quality uniformity

THE Ministry of Commerce declared key standards for blanched peanuts encompassing moisture control, physical appearance and chemical safety limits, guided by Codex Alimentarius guidelines and ASEAN Harmonized MRLs for Pesticides.

The Ministry of Commerce issued notification 43/2026 dated 31 March 2026, establishing quality standards for blanched peanuts, in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (b), of the Export and Import Law, to ensure safety and quality uniformity in the market.

The peanuts are classified into three grades; Special Grade, First Grade, and Second Grade. Special Grade must be of premium quality compared to First Grade and Second Grade.

The allowable defect percentages per 100 grammes of Special Grade blanched peanuts are also specified at 0.5 per cent for special grade, 1.5 per cent for first grade and lower than three per cent for second grade (hard, translucent, or discoloured kernel parts), 0.5 per cent for special grade, one per cent for first grade and two per cent for second grade (Shrivelled, twisted, underdeveloped, or small ker-

nels), zero per cent for special grade, one per cent for first grade and two per cent for second grade (Damage from insects or pests), 0.5 per cent for special grade, zero per cent for first grade and two per cent for second grade (Damage from splitting), zero per cent for special grade, one per cent for first grade and two per cent for second grade (Sprouted kernels), zero per cent for special grade, two per cent for first grade and three per cent for second grade (dark yellow or small yellow spots on kernel parts), one per cent for special grade, three per cent for first grade and five per cent for second grade (Dark blue, dark grey, or dark brown discoloration of the seed coat not exceeding one quarter of the kernel) and three per cent for special grade, five per cent for first grade and 10 per cent for second grade (Broken or split kernels) and zero per cent for special grade, one per cent for first grade and two per cent for second grade (Moldy, rancid, or sour kernels).

The size requirement of blanched peanuts is an individual kernel diameter of 8 mm or above, or 20 or fewer kernels per 100 grammes for special grade, 7 mm to 8 mm or 20 to 50 kernels per 100 grammes for first grade and 6

mm to 7 mm, or 50 to 150 kernels per 100 grammes for second grade, with a tolerance of up to three per cent for special grade and five per cent for first and second grade.

Furthermore, First Grade and Second Grade peanuts must meet the following requirements: be well-formed; possess the distinct intrinsic characteristics of the peanut variety; be dry; have a maximum moisture content not exceeding eight per cent; be clean, free from visible foreign matter; be in good condition, free from deterioration or quality defects making them unfit for consumption; be free from physical damage; be free from abnormal external moisture; be free from mycotoxin contamination; be free from pests; and be free from external odors or flavours.

Blanched peanuts must also comply with the maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides by either the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the ASEAN Harmonized MRLs for Pesticides, or both.

Furthermore, blanched peanuts must comply with the maximum limits for other contaminants established by either the Codex Alimentarius Commission or the relevant importing country. — NN/KK

Myanmar Timber Enterprise to sell teak, hardwood through auction

LOCAL Marketing and Milling Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation called for open tender to sell 2,817 tonnes of logs and sawn timber of teak and hardwood.

Open tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 28 April at Taw Win Hall, Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Those logs and sawn timber are sourced from Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State (South), Bago, Ayeyawady and Magway regions.

Interested bidders can observe details of open tender through official website of Myanmar Timber Enterprise www.mte.gov.mm or calling 09-795700439 and 09-402705515. — NN/KK

MTB rolls out Pay Merchant Solutions with zero MDR to spur digital payments

THE Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB) introduced MTB Pay Merchant Solutions on 9 April to support business operations and promote modern digital payment systems across the country.

The MTB Pay Merchant Solutions offer key services, including MTB Pay QR acceptance, which enables customers to make fast, real-time payments using mobile phones, and MTB POS terminals, which accept MPU cards, providing greater convenience for card

users.

For the first year of service, all Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) fees for MTB Pay QR and MTB POS (MPU card) transactions will be waived, set at zero per cent. In addition, business owners will receive support in the form of a seven per cent interest benefit.

Users can also conveniently withdraw cash not only at MTB Bank branches but also through nearby super agents, according to MTB. — ASH/KZL



The Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB) introduces MTB Pay Merchant Solutions.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Preserve Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival

THE Thingyan festival, one of Myanmar's most treasured cultural celebrations, marks the transition from the old year to the New Year. It is a time of joy, renewal, and cultural expression, with people playfully sprinkling water on one another as a symbol of cleansing and goodwill. The festival also coincides with the blossoming of flowers, whose fragrance spreads through the surroundings, reflecting Myanmar's rich heritage and traditional New Year customs.

Thingyan takes place as the heat of Tagu subsides, bringing cooler and fresher weather. During the month of Tagu, people partake in water-splashing traditions that have been carefully

preserved and respected for generations. Fragrant water is poured on family, friends, and neighbours in a spirit of cleansing and joy, while the playful water activities are carried out in a safe and orderly manner, ensuring the festivities are wholesome and enjoyable for all participants.

In addition to water splashing, traditional Thingyan songs are sung and enjoyed throughout the festival. These include age-old folk tunes passed down over generations, helping to preserve the musical heritage of Myanmar. Depending on local customs, daytime activities include singing, dancing, and decorating public spaces, while evenings feature organized performances and friendly competitions arranged by community groups and government departments.

During the festival, participants use scented and seven-coloured water, offering

blessings and performing acts of merit for living beings. They are careful to release birds, fish, and other creatures in safe ways, ensuring that all activities promote compassion and respect for life. Myanmar people observe ethical principles during Thingyan, refraining from harming animals such as cows, chickens, and livestock, and practising restraint, kindness, and acts of merit throughout the New Year celebrations.

The Traditional Myanmar New Year Thingyan Festival has been officially recognized for its rich cultural and traditional value. To promote its international significance, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture submitted the festival's nomination to UNESCO on 24 July 2023, for inclusion in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The nomination was successfully approved and officially inscribed at the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 2 to 7 December 2024.

Alongside the festive activities, people perform acts of merit such as practising the Eight Precepts, giving donations, caring for elderly family members, releasing cows in fields, and conducting fish-release ceremonies in rivers and canals. These practices link the New Year celebrations to Myanmar's longstanding religious and cultural traditions, uniting the community in joy, devotion, and respect for life.

This article written by Atul Aneja, a veteran journalist, was published in StratNew Global, headquartered in New Delhi, India, on 7 April 2026. The author underscored Myanmar's New Look as the current political landscape in Myanmar, and the full text of the article is as follows:-

Will President Min Aung Hlaing become the face of a New Myanmar?

By Atul Aneja

AFTER battling more than five years of a bitter Western-backed insurgency, Myanmar appears set for a new beginning.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the face of the resistance against externally backed Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and affiliates, has been elected by a brand new parliament as president. His ascent followed month-long parliamentary polls that began in Myanmar towards the end of December 2025.

Critics have labelled the ongoing elections as a sham, pointing out that free and fair polls were impossible due to violence raging in many parts of the country, and the decision by the National League of Democracy (NLD), still on paper, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, to boycott the polls.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Before raking mud at the government, these analysts have to understand that elections in Myanmar have, since its independence, always been held in troubling political contexts, and have never been perfect. This one was no exception.

Take, for instance, the 1951 poll, Myanmar's first founding elections. It took place at a time when the country was encountering multiple insurgencies that had immediately followed Myanmar's independence in 1948.

The post-independence government of U Nu was labelled as the "Yan-gon Government", as it was unable to extend its writ beyond Yangon, the former capital.

But in a bold counteroffensive that was launched in 1950, government forces succeeded in wresting control over major urban centres. Here, India supported Myanmar in coordinating cross-border patrolling and stemming the flow of Naga and Mizo tribesmen into Myanmar from the northeast.

Consequently, a decision was taken to hold elections as promised in 1951. Those landmark elections, too, were held in three phases, but lasted an extended period of over fourteen months. Starting in June 1951, they concluded in April 1952.

However, polls could not be held

in many border zones, where ethnic states had been formed. In fact, polling failed to materialize in nearly 11 per cent of central Myanmar's regions due to fighting. But, despite the odds, U Nu's Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League won handsomely. A decade of peaceful and prosperous democratic rule followed.

Fast forward to 2010, when another imperfect but highly consequential poll took place. In that year, the military-led State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) convened elections, following the adoption of the 2008 Constitution through a referendum.

Sceptics then too slammed those elections, which were being held after decades of military rule. National morale too was quite low, as the people had been suffering from the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.

Amid the pessimism, some major political parties, including the NLD, boycotted these elections. In fact, polling could not be held in the entire Wa Self-Administered Division.

But beating all odds, these elections yielded the government led by U Thein Sein, who assumed office in 2011. The Thein Sein administration introduced path-breaking 360-degree reforms covering political, economic and humanitarian domains.

Consequently, for another decade, Myanmar plugged into the international mainstream. Foreign investments poured in, imparting forward momentum to the economy. Besides, political stability returned following the "Nation-wide Ceasefire Agreement" with eight Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

Though the international context has entirely changed — the Western-dominated unipolar world hurtling towards multipolarity now — the 2025 elections do faintly echo the 2010 situation.

Several international organizations say the polls are not credible, as the majority of the country's remote regions are still engulfed in serious armed conflicts.

Yet, it is important to peer through the international media haze in order to evaluate the factual situation. For

By Atul Aneja - April 7, 2026

★ Select Preferred on Google News



instance, the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC) held elections in 265 townships. This is a big success as it covers 80 per cent of the total 330 townships in the country.

The 2024 national census shows that only 13 per cent of the total population lives in the 65 townships where elections have been cancelled.

Not only are these 65 townships sparsely populated because of their remote location, but they have also suffered heavy migration to neighbouring countries due to the conflict, further reducing the population density there.

According to the narrative pursued by the so-called "international community", the latest elections are illegitimate because they are rooted in a so-called military coup mounted by the recently elected President.

This is a mischievous argument which deliberately ignores the provisions of Myanmar's 2008 Constitution,

which was invoked to remove and arrest Aung San Suu Kyi, the supposed winner of the 2020 parliamentary elections.

Understanding the context of the February 2021 military takeover and details about Myanmar's Constitution is imperative.

The 2020 polls took place when the second wave of COVID was raging. This health emergency was bound to negatively impact campaigning. Besides, the military contested the 70 per cent turnout figure declared by the previous election commission, which overwhelmingly favoured Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).

In fact, the military argued that millions of voter names were inaccurate on electoral rolls, and claimed that advance voting and postal ballots were manipulated. It demanded a rerun of the elections, or a recount, which was not granted.

"In 2020, one-third of the eligible

per cent over time. Besides, it sought to remove a provision in the 2008 constitution that barred anyone with foreign family members from becoming President.

This clause was directly impacting Aung San Suu Kyi, whose late husband and children are British citizens.

Consequently, in February 2021, the military, under its then commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing, assumed power, invoking Section 417, Section 418 and Section 420 of the 2008 constitution.

Section 417 allows the President to declare a state of emergency if there is a threat of disintegration of the Union, loss of sovereignty, or attempts to take power by unlawful means. Once declared, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services assumes all state power.

Section 418, on the other hand, transfers legislative, executive, and judicial powers to the Commander-in-Chief during the emergency, while Section 420 grants the military authority to administer the country until the emergency is resolved.

With the military now exercising dominance in much of the heartland, mainly because of massive deployment of drones, air strikes and manpower expansion, Myanmar authorities felt comfortable enough to order elections and return to civilian rule under the 2008 constitution.

In tune with the success of the latest poll, followed by the election of the new President, Myanmar has reasons to look forward to a better future.

As the post-election phase dawns, both houses that have converged have elected former Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the new President. He will shed his previous positions.

Having weathered the storm of a vicious externally backed insurgency and imparting political stability, it is anticipated that the newly anointed President will leverage his experience, discernment, organizational capabilities, and diplomatic rapport with major partner nations to steer the reconstruction of Myanmar into a stable regional state.

During the five years of emergency, Myanmar's leader had fully grasped

that the unipolar world led by the United States was rapidly giving way to multipolarity. In tune with the global shift, Myanmar's foreign policy under him pivoted towards Russia, China and India — three civilizational states that are likely to anchor the multipolar world.

Along with this troika, Myanmar warmed up to Belarus, a country that was close to Russia but whose leader, Lukashenko, like Viktor Orban of Hungary, had a close personal rapport with US President Donald Trump. In other words, the leader of Belarus could provide a first-rate channel to influence the US President.

Besides, on Min Aung Hlaing's watch, Myanmar had opened diplomatic channels with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and sought membership of the BRICS+ grouping.

In the post-election phase, Myanmar's President has established a competent core team to advance the country's national goals. They include First Vice-President U Nyo Saw, a retired General with a reputation for strategic thinking and deep influence in Myanmar's economic sector.

The Second Vice-President is Nan Ni Ni Aye, an ethnic minority representative. She is expected to make significant strides in promoting ethnic reconciliation and enhancing social welfare, healthcare, and the development of women and children.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that the President may form a National Advisory Council to provide strategic advice on administrative, defence, and security matters.

While serious challenges remain, there is considerable optimism that Myanmar is driving pillars of hope for its future. If the President's plans are well executed, including turning the country into an international hub of Theravada Buddhism, Myanmar, which borders India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand, can majorly contribute to the stability of the entire Indo-China region.

Atul Aneja is a veteran journalist who has covered some of the world's hot spots, including West Asia and China.

NATIONAL

IMCC, ICIB sign MoU to boost Indo-Myanmar business cooperation

THE Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) and the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 10 April in Kolkata, India, at a ceremony attended by U Aung Aung Myo Thein, Consul-General of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Kolkata, as a special guest.

The MoU between IMCC and ICIB was signed with the aim of helping Kolkata-based business associations and entrepreneurs interested in investing in and doing business in Myanmar gain a better understanding of the country's ease of doing business.



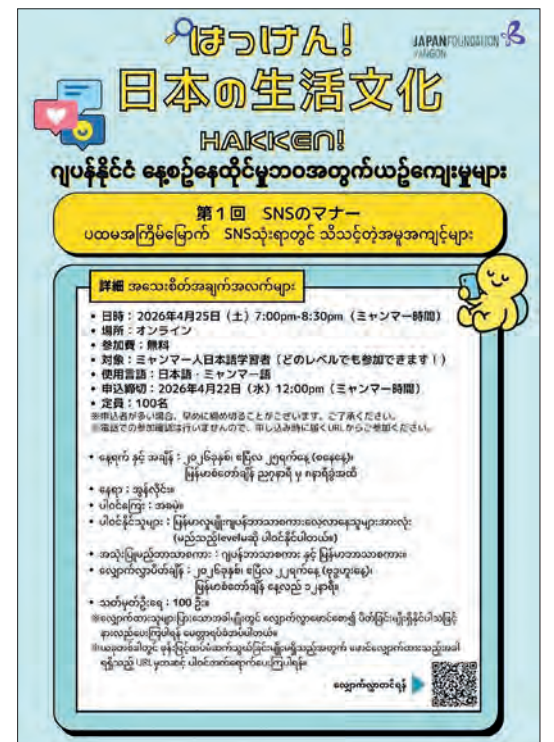
This photo features the MoU signing ceremony between the Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) and the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB).

The MoU signing ceremony was held under the theme "Explore Business Opportunities in Myanmar", during which participants discussed opportunities and established business connections in the healthcare, education services, food products, children's clothing, cotton and textile, handicrafts, and hotel and tourism sectors. — ASH/TH

JFYG introduces new online session called Hakken

THE Japan Foundation, Yangon (JFYG), has announced that it will be introducing a new online session called Japan cultures for daily life: Hakken, which will be helpful for those planning to visit Japan.

Participants can learn about the cultures of Japan and daily life. The first online session under the theme "practices for SNS" will be hosted starting this month.



Japan Foundation, Yangon, announces the online session called Hakken.

As practices differ between Myanmar and Japan, the session is designed to help participants avoid difficulties when living in Japan and will be held in both Japanese and Myanmar languages, that is why those who are not confident in Japanese language can join as well.

Online registrations are welcomed between 7 pm and 8:30 pm on 25 April and any Myanmar nationals learning Japanese language are eligible to join free. Learning levels are not considered.

A total of 100 participants will be accepted and registration can be made through <https://forms.office.com/r/4qCArAYPMQ> by 12 pm until 22 April.

JFYG won't make phone calls so participants are requested to attend through the link of the form. Details can be requested from JFYG phone numbers: 01-430920 and 01-430921, it said. — MT/ZS

C of I stations to close operation during Thingyan

CERTIFICATE of Identity (C of I) issuing stations, which are being set up in Thailand, will be closed during five-day Thingyan holidays, according to the Labour Attaché Office.

During the Thingyan holidays from 13 to 17 April, the stations will be temporarily closed and all processes will stop, it said. The stations will reopen as normal after the holiday ends.

For Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand to be eligible for living officially and having entitlements by the law, C of I stations have been set up in Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Surat Thani, Chaing Mai and Chonburi.

Just paying 2670 baht for C of I book fee, Myanmar migrant workers can apply it at nearby 7-Eleven stores and then choose expected station name and date. If there is something inconvenient through the C of I process, workers can contact the phone numbers of the Labour Attaché Office call centre: 020030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 0618108454, Labour Officer (Bangkok): 0652206952, Labour Attaché (Mae Sot): 0652206953, Labour Officer (Chang Mai): 0945866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong): 0634818121. — MT/ZS

Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust, Sein Lan So Pyay Garden hold Thingyan pre-festival event

THE Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust and Sein Lan So Pyay Garden jointly held a traditional Myanmar New Year Thingyan pre-festival event on the evening of 11 April.

At the event, participants took part in merit-making activities, including the release of birds and fish. They also prepared and enjoyed traditional mont-lone-yay-baw together, while charity feast donations were distributed. Visitors applied Thanaka and enjoyed traditional Thingyan dances, celebrating the richness of My-

anmar's cultural heritage.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the importance of preserving Myanmar's traditional culture, while promoting happiness and unity ahead of the Thingyan New Year festival. — ASH/KZL

Scenes from the Myanmar traditional Thingyan pre-festival jointly organized by Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust and Sein Lan So Pyay Garden.



Mideast war takes a bite out of Filipino street food vendors

FILIPINOS like their “pares”, a traditional beef stew, served hot — but the soaring cost of liquefied petroleum gas has made that prospect increasingly difficult since war erupted in the Middle East.

To save a few pesos 20-year-old Eric Garcia delicately turned a knob to adjust the flame under his warming trays to the lowest setting as he grapples with fuel costs that have nearly doubled in price.

While sticker shock at petrol stations has garnered the biggest headlines since the war forced the partial closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the rising price of LPG has hit the import-dependent archipelago’s humble street food vendors.

A day before speaking to AFP, Garcia said he had been forced to raise the price of a bowl of pares to 65 pesos (\$1.08) after fuel costs reduced his daily earnings by a quarter.

“I’m only earning 1,500 pesos (per day), because the rest is spent on LPG,” he said.

Garcia, who begins cooking at 3 am every morning before hauling his stew to a middle-class neighbourhood on a converted motorbike, said an 11 kilo tank of fuel, which typically lasts four days, that once cost 870 pesos (about \$14.50) now costs 1,600 pesos. — AFP



Women cook at a curbside canteen in Manila on 7 April 2026. The rising price of LPG has hit the import-dependent archipelago’s humble street food vendors hard. **PHOTO: AFP**

Laos tightens road safety measures for Lao New Year 2026

The measures aim to lower accident risks during the Lao New Year holiday.



Passengers are seen at the Vientiane Station of the China-Laos Railway in Vientiane, Laos, 13 April 2024. The Lao New Year is the most important festival in the Lao calendar. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA/FILE**

IN an effort to strengthen road safety during the Lao New Year 2026, Lao officials plan to deploy additional traffic police officers and enforce stricter road safety measures to ensure the celebrations are peaceful and safe, while reducing the loss of life and property caused by traffic accidents.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Khamson Sidavong, head of the traffic police department under the Lao Ministry of Public Security, said the ministry has made comprehensive preparations to prevent and reduce road accidents. Traffic police officers will be deployed at key locations to help ensure safe and secure travel for all road users.

The measures aim to lower accident risks during the Lao New Year holiday, when travel typically increases, Lao News Agency reported on Thursday. — Xinhua

Narita airport reopens part of Terminal 1 with footbath deck, tatami area

NARITA airport near Tokyo reopened part of the Terminal 1 building on Thursday, drawing visitors to a revamped observation deck with footbaths and a tatami mat area for travellers to relax.

The renovation project, which cost about 2.5 billion yen (\$15.7 million), involved the fifth floor of the Central Building of Terminal 1, and is part of an effort to have domestic and overseas passengers experience Japanese culture and changes of the seasons, according to Narita International Airport Corp.

The observatory area, named “Garden Walk”, is equipped with a stepped viewing platform, enabling visitors to watch airplanes take off and land without a fence blocking the view, as well as with footbaths.

The tatami space makes up part of the relaxation area, which also offers various types of seating including sofas



Photo taken on 9 April 2026, shows a tatami mat area where travellers can relax at Narita airport’s Terminal 1 building in Chiba Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

for 130 people.

Yuka Sagawa, 47, from Chiba Prefecture, where the airport is located,

welcomed the renovation as she visited the airport with her family to watch the airplanes. — Kyodo

Justin Bieber fans flood Coachella festival for headlining show

“BELIEBERS” were celebrating the return of pop superstar Justin Bieber on Saturday, ahead of his return to major stages with a headlining appearance on the second day of the Coachella music festival.

The Canadian singer of “Sorry” will appear at the event in Indio, California as festival season kicks off in the United States.

“This is what I’ve been looking for-

ward to for months,” 28-year-old Alexis Sierra said as she entered the venue just after gates opened.

Held in the scorching California desert, where the beating sun pushed the

thermometer to 86 F (30 C) early Saturday, thousands of the “Baby” singer’s fans — known as Beliebers — took over the festival grounds sporting clothing, hats and banners paying tribute to their idol. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's rural towns tap booming pet economy to spur growth

Shuxin Town in Shanghai is transforming its rural economy by leveraging the surging Chinese pet market, which is expected to reach 405 billion yuan by 2028.



A staff member assembles a pet home at the Caoxian Penghui Crafts Co, Ltd in Caoxian County, east China's Shandong Province, 28 November 2025. **PHOTO: GUO XULEI/XINHUA**

A latte topped with cat-shaped foam, a guest room designed for boarding dogs and a pet-themed obstacle race are among the scenes drawing attention in Shuxin Town in Shanghai, where local authorities are betting on the fast-growing pet economy to revitalize rural areas.

In Yuejin Village, a former village committee office has been transformed into a pet-friendly cafe. Outside, a courtyard features designated dog parking spots equipped with leashes, water dispensers and cleaning supplies.

"Many cafes in urban areas now allow pets, but we offer larger spaces and more comprehensive services," said Chen Yinghao, a barista.

Nearby, a boarding facility has filled more than 30 per cent of its 70 dog kennels within

two months of opening, with an average stay of around 20 days.

The scenes reflect a broader shift taking shape in the town.

China's pet economy has surged in recent years, fuelled by urban lifestyles and rising spending on companion animals. According to a 2026 industry report, the number of pet dogs and cats in China's urban areas reached 126 million in 2025, driving the pet consumption market to 312.6 billion yuan (about US\$45.5 billion). The market is expected to expand further to 405 billion yuan by 2028.

Experts say rural areas, with lower costs, more space and better ecological conditions, are increasingly attractive for pet-related businesses seeking new growth opportunities. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BIREF

Vietnam adopts resolution cutting fuel taxes to zero through June

VIETNAM'S National Assembly on Sunday morning approved a resolution cutting environmental protection, value-added and special consumption taxes on gasoline, oil and aviation fuel to zero through June, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

The resolution will take effect from 16 April to 30 June, with the government tasked to adjust its duration and tax provisions in line with global price developments and report to the parliament, according to the report. Earlier, the government applied the cuts from 26 March to 15 April, the Government Portal said.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, VAT accounts for about 7.4 per cent of fuel base prices, environmental protection tax for between 2.7 and 6 per cent, and special consumption tax for 6.7 per cent, making the cuts a move to curb inflation and support socio-economic growth this year amid rising global energy prices due to Middle East tensions, local media VnExpress reported. — Xinhua

IMF says Libya's fiscal path unsustainable

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday depicted Libya's current fiscal trajectory as "unsustainable" due to persistent high deficits and increasing pressures on the exchange rate, foreign reserves and inflation.

The assessment was published in a report on the agency's official website following its consultations with the Central Bank of Libya.

The report said Libya urgently needs fiscal policy adjustments, warning that continued high spending of oil revenues could deepen vulnerabilities, particularly if oil prices return to normal levels in the future, making expenditure adjustment more difficult.

Libya has significant economic potential, but current indicators point to growing risks in the balance of payments, particularly regarding foreign currency shortages, which could negatively affect citizens' living conditions, it added.

The report further stated that public spending has risen to unsustainable levels, with the budget deficit reaching around 30 per cent of GDP in 2025, while public debt has nearly doubled over the past two years to 146 per cent of GDP. — Xinhua



The measures include discounted products and lowered prices on key consumer goods. **PHOTO: AFP**

Thailand to increase essential goods allowance for 'vulnerable'

THAILAND will increase its allowance for essential goods starting Monday to help mitigate the economic impacts of the Middle East war, which are particularly affecting farmers, small business owners and "vulnerable" people.

More than 13 million Thais who hold a card entitling them to social benefits in the South-east Asian country will see their

monthly allowance increase from 300 baht to 400 baht (\$9.31 to \$12.42) for their daily expenses, the finance ministry said at a press briefing Saturday.

The measures are intended to "protect vulnerable groups of people and prevent the situation from spreading to other sectors", Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas said.

Farmers and small business owners will also be able to benefit from preferential-rate loans, as will people wishing to buy electric vehicles or install solar panels.

The government has also approved subsidies for transport operators, ahead of Thai New Year or "Songkran" celebrations. — AFP

Fuel supplies across India stable, no need for panic: Jio-bp MD

FUEL supplies across the country remain stable, and there is no need for panic buying despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, Akshay Wadhwa, CEO of Jio-bp, said.

Speaking on the current fuel situation, he stated that adequate availability of petrol and diesel is being maintained through a well-functioning supply chain. He noted that while there were instances of panic buying in certain markets earlier, the situation has now normalised with no unusual rush at fuel stations.

“We have enough product in our supply chain. There is no issue as far as availability is concerned. The panic seen in some areas earlier has now subsided, and things are back to normal,” he said.

On concerns around supply restrictions, the MD

clarified that the company has not imposed any caps on fuel sales. However, he acknowledged that there could be isolated, localised disruptions due to logistical challenges, including long-distance transportation of fuel to certain regions.

“There is no restriction from our side. Our objective is to ensure that fuel reaches every consumer and to avoid panic in the market,” he added.

Amid rising geopolitical uncertainties, the company has also refrained from increasing fuel prices, indicating a broader industry effort to support consumers during a volatile period.

“We are with the nation and with the consumers. At this point, it is important to meet the needs of the people,” he said. — ANI

Japan Rail Pass targeting foreign tourists to get price hike from Oct



File photo shows Hokkaido shinkansen travelling in Hokuto, Hokkaido, in March 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

JR group companies will raise prices for its Japan Rail Pass, a ticket aimed at foreign tourists that allows unlimited travel on trains across Japan, including most shinkansen bullet train services.

Prices for the pass offered by the six passenger railway operators will increase by around 5 to 6 per cent from 1 October under the first revision in three years,

they said.

The price of a pass depends on its validity period. An adult seven-day pass will increase by 3,000 yen (\$19) to 53,000 yen for travel in ordinary train carriages, and by 4,000 yen to 74,000 yen for premium Green Car carriages.

Other price changes for adult passes include an increase of 4,000 yen to 84,000 yen for a 14-day pass

for ordinary train carriages, and a 5,000 yen rise to 105,000 yen for a similar 21-day pass.

JR group companies last revised prices for its Japan Rail Pass in October 2023, when they were hiked by around 70 per cent. The companies said the latest revision reflects fare adjustments made by some of its member companies since then. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 11 June 2022 shows a price board at a gas station in Istanbul. PHOTO: SHADATI/XINHUA/FILE

Soaring energy costs squeeze Turkish businesses

GEOPOLITICAL tensions in the Middle East and disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz have triggered a new round of price increases that took effect in early April.

Türkiye’s energy reg-

ulator announced that electricity prices for businesses and public services on low-voltage connections would rise by 17.5 per cent, while household natural gas prices would increase by 25 per cent.

For a typical food busi-

ness in central Istanbul, that translates to monthly energy bills jumping from 18,000 liras to over 22,500 liras, roughly US\$504.

“Energy is one of the biggest costs for producers, and these increases show up on our shelves al-

most immediately,” said Cihan Kani, a longtime merchant in Istanbul’s Eminonu district. Once known for its affordable prices, the historic district is now a place where shop owners are struggling to stay afloat. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB614A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB614A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (613W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (613W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0B80NS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0B80NS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-4-2026** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Pakistan urges Iran and US to continue adhering to ceasefire: Foreign Minister

Vance announced that Iran and the United States had failed to reach an agreement during lengthy negotiations.



PAKISTAN has urged both Iran and the US to continue respecting the ceasefire, Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said.

“It is extremely important that both sides remain committed to the ceasefire,” Dar said, according to the media.

Iran and the US held talks in Islamabad on Saturday after US President Donald Trump announced an agreement with Iran on a two-week ceasefire on Wednesday night. On Sunday morning, the head of the American delegation, Vice President JD Vance, announced that Iran and the United States had failed to reach an agreement during lengthy negotiations and that the US delegation would return home without a deal. — SPUTNIK

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (R) meets with Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 11 April 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US military begins mine clearance in Hormuz

US Central Command (CENTCOM) forces began setting conditions for clearing mines in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, as two US Navy guided-missile destroyers conducted operations, the CENTCOM said on social media.

The post on X by CENTCOM said USS Frank E Peterson and USS Michael Murphy transited the Strait of Hormuz and operated in the Arabian Gulf as part of a broader mission to ensure the strait is fully clear of sea mines previously laid by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

“Today, we began the process of establishing a new passage and we will share this safe pathway with the maritime industry soon to encourage the free flow of commerce,” said Brad Cooper, commander of CENTCOM.

Additional US forces, including underwater drones, will join the clearance effort in the coming days, the post said.

However, Iranian media reported that no US vessels have crossed the Strait of Hormuz yet, and a US destroyer turned back from the Strait after Iran's warning. — Xinhua

Japan PM Takaichi keen on early constitutional amendment

PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi on Sunday expressed eagerness for an early amendment to Japan's pacifist Constitution, as the conservative leader, known for her hawkish security views, aims to stipulate the existence of the Self-Defence Forces in what would be the first revision to the supreme law.

“The time has come” to reform the Constitution, Takaichi said in a speech at the annual convention of her ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Tokyo. “We would like to hold next year's conference with a proposal for a constitutional amendment in sight,” she added.

Takaichi, however, did not elaborate on proposed constitutional changes, particularly to Article 9, which renounces war and prohibits Japan from possessing military forces or other “war potential,” at the party's first annual event since becoming LDP leader and prime minister in October.

The LDP also approved its 2026 campaign policy, which aims to submit a draft revised Constitution to parliament by establishing drafting committees within relevant commissions in both houses of the Diet. — Kyodo

Saudi says east-west pipeline, energy facilities restored after attacks



A partial view of Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil processing plant on 20 September 2019. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP/FILE**

SAUDI Arabia's energy ministry said on Sunday that its key east-west oil pipeline and other facilities had been restored following attacks by Iran on targets across the Gulf.

“Energy facilities and the east-west pipeline damaged by attacks have recovered and regained their operational capacity, enhancing the reliability of supplies,” the official Saudi Press Agency reported, citing an energy min-

istry statement.

Before Tuesday's start of a fragile, two-week truce between Iran and the United States, the Islamic republic had targeted critical energy infrastructure belonging to its oil-rich neighbours.

Tehran accused the Gulf states of allowing US forces to carry out attacks from their territories during the war, which was triggered by Israeli-US strikes on Iran on 28 February. — AFP

Seawater split directly into hydrogen fuel

A group of Chinese scientists have innovatively proposed a systematic assessment framework for the large-scale industrial application of direct seawater electrolysis for hydrogen production, providing theoretical support for the development of the marine green hydrogen industry.

According to a recent research article published in the journal *Nature Reviews Clean Technology*, the researchers from Sichuan University and Shenzhen University integrated the coupled effects of multiple factors in actual marine environments into the research system of seawater-based hydrogen production, extending the understanding from microscopic reaction mechanisms to macroscopic engineering scale-up.

Direct seawater electrolysis can use seawater and offshore renewable energy to produce hydrogen. However, the complexity of the composition and dynamics of seawater, such as composition fluctuations, wind-wave disturbances and salt spray corrosion, has hindered the transition from laboratory-scale breakthroughs to industrial scale.

This study systematically reviewed the key microscopic mechanisms of direct seawater electrolysis and critically analyzed the applicability and limitations of various approaches to engineering scale-up. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Arsenal suffer major title blow as Liverpool earn vital win

ARSENAL'S shock 2-1 defeat by Bournemouth on Saturday blew the Premier League title race wide open, as Liverpool beat Fulham to boost their chances of qualifying for next season's Champions League.

The Gunners could have opened up a 12-point lead at the top of the table, but a third straight domestic defeat for Mikel Arteta's men has put the destiny of the title back in Manchester City's hands.

City have two games in hand on the long-time lead-

ers, starting with Sunday's trip to Chelsea, and host Arsenal next weekend in a potential title decider.

Just a few weeks ago the Gunners were dreaming of an unprecedented quadruple but they lost to City in the League Cup final and were dumped out of the FA Cup by second-tier Southampton.

A wobble in the Premier League, which they have not won since 2004, raises major doubts about their staying power with six matches to go. — AFP

Arsenal suffered a damaging 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Bournemouth. **PHOTO: AFP**

Milan's Serie A title hopes in tatters after shock Udinese defeat, Juve fourth

AC Milan relinquished any remaining hope of winning the Serie A title on Saturday after falling to a shock 3-0 home defeat by Udinese, while Juventus beat Atalanta 1-0 to move into the Champions League positions.

A Davide Bartesaghi own goal and Jurgen Ekkelenkamp's glancing header in the first half, and Arthur Atta's superb low finish in the 71st minute, left Milan nine points behind Inter Milan ahead of the league leaders' clash at Como on Sunday.

With six matches remaining in their season, even an Inter loss at Como would leave third-placed Milan with a near-impossible gap to close.

And a Como win would not be good news either as the lakeside outfit currently sit fifth and five points behind Milan, who have lost three of four matches since winning last month's Milan derby, after Juve moved provisionally fourth.

Jeremie Boga bundled home the only goal in an uneventful match in Bergamo the day after coach Luciano Spalletti — hired with the aim of getting Juve into the Champions League — signed a new deal with the Turin club until 2028.

Milan host Juve in a fortnight, a match which looks likely to be key to the top-four positions come May, and Allegri described as "right" the loud whistles which accompanied the end of the game at the San Siro. — AFP

Former heavyweight king Fury outpoints Makhmudov, calls out Joshua

FORMER world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury marked his latest return to the ring with a unanimous points win over Arslanbek Makhmudov on Saturday before immediately challenging Anthony Joshua to a 'Battle of Britain' super fight.

Two-time former world champion Fury, back after a 16-month absence, won 120-108 on two of the judges' scorecards, with the other ruling he had defeated his Russian opponent 119-109 after the maximum 12 rounds.

Makhmudov made a strong start to the first round at the Tottenham Hotspur

Stadium in London, throwing a left and connecting with an overhand right.

But by the third round Makhmudov was already showing signs of fatigue, with Fury switching stances and hitting a one-two off the Russian's chin.

The fight, watched by Joshua at ringside, continued in similar fashion until the final bell.

Fury, who had walked out to the tune Blue Moon in honour of the late Ricky Hatton, who died in September, leaned over the ropes and invited Joshua into the ring after the bout. — AFP



Britain's Tyson Fury (R) throws a jab during his heavyweight bout against Russia's Arslanbek Makhmudov at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lavelle marks 100th cap with goal in US win over Japan

ROSE Lavelle celebrated her 100th international cap with a goal and set up another as the United States beat Japan 2-1 in the first of two friendlies between the two women's international football powerhouses on Saturday.

Gotham FC midfielder Lavelle, the reigning US Female Player of the Year, opened the scoring after just nine min-

utes at PayPal Park in San Jose, California, after hooking in a lobbed cross from Trinity Rodman.

The 30-year-old attacker, one of the stars of the USA's last FIFA Women's World Cup victory in 2019, also played a key role in the home side's second goal just after half-time.

A sweeping counter-attack ended with Lavelle steering a

pass into the path of midfielder Lindsey Heaps who duly tucked away a low finish into the corner past Japan goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita.

Japan, who clinched their third Women's Asian Cup title last month with a victory over Australia, rallied later in the half and pulled a goal back through substitute striker Riko Ueki in the 61st minute. — AFP



Rose Lavelle marked her 100th international appearance with the opening goal in the USA's 2-1 friendly win over Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**



Deployment of new low-orbital broadband communications satellite group 'major event': Putin

Putin noted that this year is the 65th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's space flight.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin called the deployment of the new low-orbital broadband communications satellite group a "major event."

"First of all, I want to congratulate you and all our cosmonauts, as well as everyone who has been or is involved in space activities, on this holiday. This year, we are also celebrating the 65th anniversary of Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin's



flight," said Putin.

The previous such meeting between the Russian leader and the head of Roscosmos took place at the end of March 2025, immediately after Bakhanov's appointment to the position. During the conversation, he informed Putin about the company's plans and his previous work at the Russian Ministry of Transport.

Every year on 12 April, Russia celebrates Cosmonautics Day. This holiday was established by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in honor of the first human spaceflight, made by Yuri Gagarin aboard the Vostok spacecraft on 12 April 1961. — SPUTNIK

Yuri Gagarin before a space flight aboard the Vostok spacecraft, 12 April 1961. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

No deal reached after hours of rare high-level US-Iran talks in decades

NO agreement was reached between the United States and Iran in the latest round of talks held in Islamabad, US Vice President JD Vance said here on Sunday, as negotiations concluded without a breakthrough despite intensive engagement.

Vance said the US side had presented its "final and best offer" after nearly a day of continuous communication, adding that a number of substantive

discussions were conducted in "good faith," but the proposal had yet to secure acceptance.

He said Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities have been "destroyed," shifting the focus of negotiations to securing a long-term commitment from Tehran not to develop nuclear weapons.

The US vice president said the key question now is whether Iran is willing to

demonstrate sustained intent to refrain from pursuing nuclear capabilities, not only in the immediate term but in the years ahead.

"The simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," Vance said. "That is the core goal of the

president of the United States and that's what we've been trying to achieve through these negotiations."

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency also reported on Sunday that negotiations between Iran and the United States in Islamabad have concluded without an outcome, as the US "excessive demands" hindered a common framework and agreement. — Xinhua

Vietnam breaks ground on 1st high-speed railway line

VIETNAM on Sunday morning began construction on its first high-speed railway, a 120-kilometer line, linking Hanoi, Bac Ninh province, Hai Phong city and Quang Ninh province, local media VnExpress reported.

The line is designed as a double-track, standard-gauge electrified railway with a maximum speed of 350 kilometres per hour, according to the report.

With a total investment of around 147.37 trillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$5.87 billion), the project is slated for completion in 2028, helping cut travel time between Hanoi and Quang Ninh from between 2 and 2.5 hours to between 25 and 30 minutes, while boosting regional connectivity and economic growth, the report added. — Xinhua



While no deal was agreed, Pakistan remains hopeful that the two sides will continue negotiating. PHOTO: WANG SHEN/XINHUA