

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

President, First Lady Join Public in Celebrating Maha Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw

In the year 1387 ME, the Traditional Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival will be celebrated courteously and serenely, in keeping with Myanmar customs, Myanmar style, and Myanmar traditional cultural heritage, to usher in the New Year.

On the first day of the Maha Thingyan festival, President U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, participated in the Thingyan festival at the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion yesterday.

The President and First Lady, along with the attendees, enjoyed and encouraged performances featuring traditional Myanmar New Year songs and elegant Yain dance Myanmar synchronized group dance performances by artistes from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Culture, and artistes from MRTV under the Ministry of Information.

The President and First Lady sprinkled New Year Thingyan water on the Union-level dignitaries, attendees, and Yain troupes in pursuance of the traditional Myanmar customs.

The President and First Lady, along with the attendees, then proceeded from the Mayor's Pavilion to the venue where the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan opening ceremony would be held, and they were welcomed and greeted by Thingyan Yain dance troupes.

At the opening ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Information U Htein Lin, and Union Minister for Hotels, Tourism, and Culture U Maung Myint, cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan archway.

The President and First Lady, alongside attendees, watched the Yain dance performances and then toured and encouraged the Satuditha (charity food) pavilions serving traditional Myanmar foods such as tea leaf (Laphet) and Htamane (glutinous rice delicacy).



President U Min Aung Hlaing is seen pouring traditional Thingyan water at yesterday's Maha Thingyan celebration in Nay Pyi Taw.

the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan, is being organized to enable the government, members of parliament, departmental staff, and the public to jointly participate and celebrate cheerfully while highlighting the essence of Myanmar's traditional culture.

At the central pavilion of the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan, renowned Myanmar artistes and groups from South Korea and Belarus will take part in entertainment performances and programmes.

Moreover, the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan includes pavilions featuring traditional Myanmar Thanaka, pickled tea (Laphet), and Htamane, allowing Myanmar's traditional culture and cuisine to be showcased to the world.

Similarly, various ministries set up their own water-splashing pavilions, along with ethnic traditional pavilions and central Walking Thingyan stages. These venues are also providing Satuditha (food donations) to visitors. — MNA/KTZH

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Yangon Shields Streets with Shade Nets as Heat Rises

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Foreign missions offer Thingyan New Year greetings

THE GERMAN EMBASSY YAGON WISHES ALL THE PEOPLES OF MYANMAR A SAFE AND PEACEFULL THINGYAN AND ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR

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Thingyan trims ferry services, halts key routes

NATIONAL

Herbicide treatment conducted at four Pyu pagodas in Bagan

ACCORDING to the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum and the Bagan Heritage Trust, herbicide treatment was carried out on trees growing atop the four Pyu pagodas located north of Thiripyitsaya Ward, Bagan, NyaungU Township to ensure their long-term structural integrity.

On 11 April, as part of continuous efforts to preserve the ancient, historical, and cultural value of Bagan's monuments, officials from these organizations applied chemical herbicides to

eliminate Banyan trees, *Capparis flavicans*, and *Capparis zeylanica* growing on the four Pyu pagodas north of Thiripyitsaya Ward.

To support these efforts, U Zaw Weik and Daw Htay Win's family (Zaw Travel & Tours) donated K500,000 to the Bagan Heritage Trust on 11 April.

The Bagan Heritage Trust previously conducted similar operations from 26 July to 11 August 2025, during which they successfully treated over 290 plants, including the above-mentioned trees, growing on monuments such as the Taungbi Pitaka



Herbicide treatment is in progress at the four Pyu pagodas north of Thiripyitsaya Ward.

Chamber (1969), the northern wall of Sulamani, Temple No 1152, Tabatkya Pagoda, Lawka

Okshaung Temple, Temple No 1468, and Temple No 1469. Officials also confirmed that these

preservation efforts for other pagodas are still ongoing. — MT/ZN

Yangon Shields Streets with Shade Nets as Heat Rises

DUE to a noticeable rise in daytime temperatures in early April, green shade nets are being installed along streets in townships across the Yangon Region to help people cope with the heat, it is reported.

"In Yangon, daytime temperatures have risen significantly in recent days. As more people are suffering from intense heat and needing medical treatment, many townships are setting up green shade canopies along streets in individual wards. Water is also being sprayed underneath, which helps to reduce the heat," said U Hla Myint, a resident of Botahtaung Township in Yangon Region.

During the first ten days of April 2026, daytime temperatures in the Yangon Region were about one to two degrees



Green shade net canopies are under installation alongside a street in Yangon Region to help reduce the heat.

Fahrenheit higher than usual. For the second ten-day period of April 2026, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has forecast that daytime temperatures are likely to remain around the April average.

As temperatures con-

tinue to rise, the Ministry of Health has also made preparations in four major hospitals across the Yangon Region to provide necessary healthcare for patients suffering from heat-related illnesses. — ASH/MKKS



This image highlights a petrol station of Max Energy.

Max Energy stations open from 6 am to 8 pm during Thingyan

MAX Energy stated in an announcement that its filling stations in Yangon will be open from 6 am to 8 pm during the Myanmar New Year celebration.

An announcement has been issued regarding the opening and closing hours of Max Energy filling stations during the Myan-

mar New Year Thingyan period, from 13 to 17 April.

It added that filling stations in the remaining regions and states will be open according to the time limit set by local authorities. Fuels will be sold on the regular timetables after Thingyan, it said. — MT/ZS

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Thingyan pavilion of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Office families inaugurated

FOR the Myanmar people, Thingyan symbolizes transition — the end of the old year and the beginning of a new one. During this period of transition, the traditional Thingyan Water Festival, which symbolizes washing away impurities of the past year, has been celebrated in line with Myanmar's cultural traditions and customs in a grand and lively manner up to the present day. The Thingyan Water Festival is one of the largest and most vibrant festivals among Myanmar's twelve seasonal festivals, held nationwide with water pavilions and widely participated in by the public.

Families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) inaugurated the water-throwing pavilion of the 1387 ME Traditional Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening in pursuit of the Myanmar traditions.

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo and his wife Daw

Nilar, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Union-level officials, senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives, Tatmadaw officers and other ranks, artistes, dance groups and invitees attended the ceremony.

On arrival at the ceremony, senior Tatmadaw officers and their families welcomed the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and party.

Senior Tatmadaw officers of the Commander-in-Chief Office and the party cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the pavilion.

Belles from the choral dance troupes performed dances with the song 'Hnitthit Mingala' and sprayed the guests with Eugenia sprigs.

The guests were served the Maha Thingyan festival refreshments and entertained with the songs and choral dances by renowned artistes and choral dance troupes.

Similarly, senior military



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo sprinkles Thingyan water using Thabyay sprigs (Eugenia) at yesterday's event.

officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) enjoyed the water-throwing festivals at Seinpan, Makyiyeik and Nay Pyi Taw pavilions near

the housing of Tatmadaw members in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

Choral dance troupes and

vocalists will reportedly present dances at the pavilions from the Akyo Day to Atet Day of the Maha Thingyan festival.

— MNA/KTZH

Ministry of Home Affairs sets Thingyan Festival in motion



Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe delivers the opening address at the Ministry's pavilion for the Traditional Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival.

THE Ministry of Home Affairs celebrated the Maha Thingyan Festival following with Myanmar culture and tradition to mark the transition from the Myanmar calendar year 1387 to 1388.

The opening ceremony of the Ministry of Home Affairs family's traditional Myanmar Thingyan Festival was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry's water-throwing pavilion in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by the Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, and his wife; Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Min Thu and his wife; Chief of the Myanmar Police Force, Maj-Gen Soe Hlaing, and his wife; Permanent Secretary U

Khaing Tun Oo and his wife; as well as directors-general, senior officers, staff members, families, and dance troupes.

To begin the proceedings, Union Minister Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe delivered a New Year greeting. Following this, the Union minister, the deputy Minister, and the chief of the Myanmar Police Force cut the ribbon to officially open the Ministry's traditional festival.

The Union minister and his wife then led the attendees and dancers in the ceremonial sprinkling of water. Personnel from various departments, along with their families, participated joyfully in the festivities, upholding Myanmar's cultural heritage. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion kicks off

THE opening ceremony of the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion for the Traditional Myanmar New Year Maha Thingyan Festival, marking the transition from Myanmar Era 1387 to 1388, was held yesterday morning in front of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee City Hall.

The ceremony was attended by Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers and their wives, departmental officials, representatives from ministries and organizations, Thingyan dance troupes from districts and townships, well-known artistes and singers, invitees, and members of the public who cherish the Thingyan festival.

The Tekkatho Arman of the Department of Fine Arts read out 1387 ME Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Yatu, and Mayor U Kan Myint Than delivered a New Year speech.



The inauguration ceremony of the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Festival is underway in a vibrant and cheerful atmosphere.

Union ministers and the mayor cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion, and the dance troupes performed, and the Union min-

isters and party the sprinkled guests with sprigs of Eugenia.

At the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion, renowned Myanmar artistes, performers from Belarus, rep-

resentatives from ministries and organizations, and Thingyan dance troupes from districts and townships presented lively performances in collaboration with the modern band of MRTV.

These performances will continue grandly and festively from the Akyo day through to the Atet day of 16 April of the Thingyan festival. — MNA/KTZH

Foreign missions offer Thingyan New Year greetings

ON 11 April, embassies from countries including the United States, Germany, Denmark, Canada, and Norway collectively extended their best wishes to all the Myanmar people for a safe, secure, peaceful, and happy Thingyan period. — ASH/MKKS

The US Embassy hosted a New Year's event to capture the spirit of the water festival, with staff personally participating in the making of 'Mont Lone Yay Paw', a popular traditional Myanmar snack enjoyed during Thingyan. The five nations: the US,

Germany, Denmark, Canada, and Norway collectively extended their best wishes to all the Myanmar people for a safe, secure, peaceful, and happy Thingyan period. — ASH/MKKS

New Year wishes and highlights from several foreign embassies based in Myanmar.



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NATIONAL

Yangon City Maha Thingyan Pavilion, People's Square Walking Thingyan Festival launched

THE opening ceremonies of the Yangon City Maha Thingyan Pavilion and the People's Square Walking Thingyan Festival took place yesterday.

The opening ceremony of the Yangon City Maha Thingyan Pavilion in front of the Yangon City Hall in Kyauktada Township was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and his wife, Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Tun Min Lat and his wife, regional ministers and their wives, Yangon Mayor U Myo Myint Aung and his wife, other relevant officials, artistes, dance troupes and invitees.

Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu delivered an opening speech, and he cut the ceremonial ribbon together with Commander Brig-Gen Tin Min Lat and Mayor U Myo Myint Aung to inaugurate the festival.

The artistes performed with music, and Thingyan Yain dance troupes performed elegant dances, cheerfully celebrating the Maha Thingyan Festival.

The chief minister and his wife, and the party also attended the opening ceremony of the Walking Thingyan Festival at People's Square in Dagon Township on the same morning.



This photo features the launch of the Yangon City Maha Thingyan Pavilion yesterday.

The Walking Thingyan Festival features water pavilions and food stalls for the enthusiastic revellers.

In the 1387 ME water

festival, there are many water-throwing pavilions and walking Thingyan areas in different districts and townships of Yangon on the first day of

Thingyan.

Similarly, the Yangon Command and Police Force provide security measures, whereas the health workers and Red Cross

Society members are ready for healthcare services for the revellers to participate in the festival peacefully. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Akyo Day Buzz Lights Up Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan

THE Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan festival at the Nay Pyi Taw Square was packed with people on the first day of the 2026 Maha Thingyan Festival yesterday.

The Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan Festival featured various pavilions such as Myanmar Thanaka and Laphet (tea leaf), Htamane, ministries concerned, Satudi-

tha (charity food), entertainment and water-spraying pavilions. The famous artistes, singers, artistes from Belarus performed with DJs and music concerts, attracting large crowds of revellers.

Similarly, the pavilions and food donation areas of ministries concerned were also crowded with visitors.

During the Maha Thingyan festival days, Yain traditional group dance troupes and renowned artistes will continue to perform daily with popular songs and cultural dances for public enjoyment. The Shwe Than Lwin Group will provide Satuditha (food donations) to visitors attending the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan.

On the first day of Thingyan, the famous sites in Nay Pyi Taw, such as the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden and Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, among others, were crowded with people, and the Maravijaya Buddha Image and other religious sites were also thronged with people doing good deeds. — Min Kyaw Swa/KTZH



The images show crowds of revellers taking part in the Akyo Day of the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan celebration yesterday.

NATIONAL

Thingyan Pavilions Spring Up Nationwide, Including Military HQs



The unveiling ceremony of the Maha Thingyan Pavilion takes place yesterday at the Triangle Region Command.

To mark the transition from the Myanmar calendar year 1387 to 1388, this year's festival is being celebrated as a peaceful and civilized event in keeping with Myanmar's unique style and cultural traditions.

On the eve of the festival yesterday, opening ceremonies for water-throwing pavilions were held across various regional commands. These ceremonies took place at several locations, including the Nay Pyi Taw Command Water Festival Pavilion, the Northern Command Traditional New Year Thingyan Central Pavilion, and the respective pavilions of the North-East, Eastern (Shwe Naykya), and Eastern-Central Commands.

Similar ceremonies were held at the Golden Triangle Family Maha Thingyan Pavilion (Triangle Region Command), the South-East Command Pavilion, and the Central Pavilion in Myeik, which included a Walking Thingyan event. Other openings occurred at the Coastal Region Command's Pearl Shwepyi Pavilion, the Yangon Command's Family Pavilion, the South-West Command's Central Pavilion, and the central pavilions in Sittway, Monywa, and Mandalay. At the Southern Command's Cultural Festival Pavilion, the opening ceremonies were officiated by the chief ministers of the regions and states, along with military commanders, who cut the ceremonial ribbons.

To conclude the opening festivities, the water festival commenced cheerfully with dance competitions, the serving of traditional refreshments (charity feasts), and the playful throwing of water. — MNA/MKKS

Thingyan marks the transition from the old year to the new. On such occasions, people sprinkle water on one another to wash away the impurities of the previous year and usher in good fortune. As water is fluid and cohesive, it symbolizes the

unity and love with which people should live together. Consequently, the Traditional Myanmar Thingyan Festival is celebrated with joy throughout the country, with participants throwing water to provide respite from the summer heat.



Mandalay.



Mohnyin, Kachin State.



Haka, Chin State.



Myawady, Kayin State.



Taunggyi, Shan State (South).

NATIONAL

Thingyan Pavilions Spring Up Nationwide, Including Military HQs



Myeik, Taninthayi Region.



Wuntho, Kawlin District, Sagang Region.



Magway, Magway Region.



Pyi, Bago Region.



Yenangyoung, Magway Region.



Kyaukme, Shan State (North).



Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.



Thaton, Mon State.



Lashio, Shan State (North).



Inlay Lake, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

OPINION

Avoid behaviours of tarnishing image of the Thingyan festival

THE Thingyan water, while bringing coolness and freshness and washing away physical impurities from the body, also provides mental strength for those who take part in the water festival. However, true inner purification cannot be achieved merely through the festive celebrations; it can only be attained by reflecting more deeply on profound principles beyond the enjoyment of the water festival.

The Thingyan water brings joy to those who take part in the festivities. Moreover, it transforms the entire surroundings – reversing the heat and dryness into a cool, moist, and refreshing atmosphere. During the intensely hot summer season, it helps reduce the heat and reflects the environmental awareness of the elders, whose foresight in creating the Thingyan water festival is truly worthy of respect.

In celebrating the traditional Thingyan festival, people should take part with enjoyment while preserving their country's cultural values. One's behaviour should not tarnish the dignity of the traditional festival. Individuals must exercise self-restraint to ensure that inappropriate conduct does not lead to foreigners looking down on the country's traditional Thingyan festival. People should avoid rude, aggressive, or insulting behaviour, as well as any form of violence, especially towards women and children, and any actions that are contrary to the cultural traditions and values of the Thingyan festival.

women and children, and any actions that are contrary to the cultural traditions and values of the Thingyan festival.

Moreover, participants should take part in a coordinated and orderly manner under the guidance of relevant local authorities. Reckless behaviour caused by alcohol or substance abuse leads to traffic accidents and conflicts, which not only harm the lives and well-being of those involved but also tarnish the image of the festival. Such actions can also give rise to criminal activities and increase resentment and hostility among people.

Therefore, people who take part in the Thingyan festival should foster mutual understanding, patience, forgiveness, and loving-kindness so that they, their families, and the people around them can celebrate the festival in happiness and peace. Only in this way will Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival remain joyful and delightful. Those who participate will be able to enjoy the celebrations safely and free from harm, and the Thingyan festival will bring with it a spirit of peace.

Thingyan is celebrated in several Southeast Asian countries, particularly in nations where Buddhism and Hinduism are widely practised, where it is observed annually as a traditional festival. Each country holds its own version of the festival in accordance with its cultural customs and traditions, resulting in histories that span thousands of years. Therefore, these festivals are proudly regarded as part of each country's intangible cultural heritage.

In celebrating the traditional Thingyan festival, people should take part with enjoyment while preserving their country's cultural values. One's behaviour should not tarnish the dignity of the traditional festival. Individuals must exercise self-restraint to ensure that inappropriate conduct does not lead to foreigners looking down on the country's traditional Thingyan festival. People should avoid rude, aggressive, or insulting behaviour, as well as any form of violence, especially towards

The Grace and Wisdom of Years

By Junior Thin

AGEING is one of the few truths in life that no one can escape. From the moment we are born, time gently carries us forward, shaping our bodies, our minds, and our experiences. While many people fear growing old because of the physical decline it brings, ageing itself holds a deeper and more meaningful value that is often overlooked. To grow old is not simply to become weaker; it is to become richer in wisdom, clearer in judgement, and fuller in humanity. If we can learn not only to grow old, but to grow well, ageing becomes one of life's greatest achievements.

It is true that as people age, their physical strength gradually declines. The body no longer responds as quickly as it once did. Once simple tasks may require more effort, and energy becomes limited. This reality cannot be denied. However, to judge ageing

only by physical ability is to see only one side of the truth. While the body may weaken, the mind and the heart often grow stronger in more meaningful ways. Experience, gained over many years, becomes a powerful guide. It teaches patience, sharpens decision-making, and deepens understanding of life. As the saying goes, "Wisdom does not come with age alone, but age opens the door to wisdom."

An elderly person may not be able to run as fast as a young person, but they can see farther in terms of life's direction. Their decisions are not rushed; they are thoughtful and grounded in experience. They have seen success and failure, joy and sorrow, and through these experiences, they have learned how to face life with calmness and clarity. In this sense, ageing is not a loss, but a transformation – from strength of body to strength of mind.

As for me, I am an old teacher.



Though I am no longer as energetic as I once was, I continue teaching. However, my way of teaching has changed. In the past, I taught with strength and enthusiasm, focusing on completing lessons and guiding students through their studies. Now, my motivation has become deeper and more meaningful. I teach with the awareness that my time is limited. I often think to myself: "Before I leave

this world, I want to pass on as much useful knowledge and wisdom as I can to the younger generation." This thought has become the driving force behind my teaching. As long as I still have the strength, I will continue to give what I have learned in life.

One of the greatest blessings of growing old is seeing the impact we have made on others. As a teacher, nothing brings me

more joy than the success and gratitude of my former students. Their achievements are not only their own, but also a reflection of the seeds that were planted in the classroom many years ago. When those students remember me and show their appreciation, I feel a deep sense of happiness and fulfilment.

I still remember one of my former students who became a

doctor. Whenever I fall ill and cannot go to the clinic, he comes to my house without hesitation, no matter whether it is day or night. He treats me with care and respect, and he never accepts any payment – not for his service, nor for the medicine. His kindness is not something I could have demanded or expected. It is a gift born from gratitude and respect. Moments like these remind me that the true value of teaching lies not in salary or recognition, but in the lasting relationships we build with our students.

Another former student of mine lives in Yangon and runs a gold shop business. Once, I mentioned that I wanted a keyboard instrument but could not travel to Yangon to buy one. Without hesitation, he purchased a keyboard worth nearly K3 million with his own money and personally delivered it to my town. I was deeply moved by his generosity. It was not just the value of the instrument and that touched me, but the sincerity and respect behind his action. For

me, these experiences are among the greatest rewards of growing old. They are proofs that the love and effort we give to others will one day return to us in unexpected and beautiful ways.

These moments have taught me that ageing is not a period of loneliness or decline, but a stage of reflection and reward. It is a time when we begin to see the true meaning of our lives – not through what we have gained for ourselves, but through what we have given to others. The kindness, knowledge, and care we share become seeds that grow in the lives of others, and in time, they return to us as respect, gratitude, and love.

Philosophically, ageing should not be feared but embraced. There is a saying: "It is not enough to grow old; we must learn how to grow old." This means that ageing gracefully requires awareness, acceptance, and purpose. If we live our lives meaningfully, then growing old becomes a valuable achievement, not only for ourselves but also for the world around us. An elderly person who carries wisdom, compassion, and generosity is like a guiding light for the younger generation.

Moreover, growing old gives us a unique perspective on life. We begin to understand what truly matters and what does not. Material possessions lose their importance, while relationships, memories, and values become more meaningful. We learn to forgive more easily, to appreciate simple moments, and to live with gratitude. In this way, ageing refines our character and brings us closer to the essence of humanity.

In conclusion, ageing is an inevitable part of life, but it is also a meaningful journey filled with valuable lessons and rewards. Although physical strength may decline, wisdom, experience, and emotional depth continue to grow. As an old teacher, I have come to realize that the greatest wealth in life is not money or power, but the love and respect we receive from those we have helped. If we can follow the philosophy of "learning how to grow old", then ageing becomes a treasure – not a burden. It enriches both our own lives and the lives of others, making the world a more meaningful place.

To grow old, therefore, is not merely to live longer, but to live deeper – and that is the true value of ageing.

Practical Ways to Work Out the Meaning of New Words

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

IN THEORY, whatever we do not know yet will only be new to all of us. Mostly, there is still a lot to know in a language, particularly new vocabulary usages. I have once heard that a scholar read by heart a whole dictionary of English words in the language. But is it possible to be able to learn the English language well by doing so? In actual fact, there is no need to have read an entire dictionary by rote so that we will develop proficiency in lexical items. Herein, based on the British Council, the five practical ways to work out the meaning of new words will be described.

The first way is very simple; it is nothing but to use what we already know. What I mean is that we can try to think about the situation due to a sentence if we do not know a word in the sentence. For example, when we are on a bus, and the driver says "Last stop. Alright here," we can guess "alight" means "get off" just be-

cause that is what usually happens at the bus stop! Similarly, when a person says "Do you mind if I use the phone?" and the other replies "Be my guest", we can find that the meaning of "guest" is not a person, which we normally refer to, but it says "No, you may", which additionally means that we are permitted to use the phone with the owner's willing consent. In my opinion, however, considering the situation tends to hold the clue to get the meaning of new words in English, even though it does not always work. Of course, most words of a language have no dictionary meaning or considerably differ in meaning, depending on the situation. To think it candidly, words are constructed on a situation, and then those words are composed into sentences. This way too will do some good for the guessing ability of students with poor English in answering comprehension questions, such as "Read the passage".

The second way is to break the word into parts, which means

that we must take a closer look at the word. As we know well, many English words often consist of prefixes, suffixes or both together with roots. For instance, the prefix "inter-" can help us understand that it means something "in-between". With the help of this prefix, we can easily guess the meanings of the words "intermolecular" and "intercultural", each referring to "between molecules" and "between cultures" respectively. And the suffix "-ed" shows it is a verb in the past form or in the adjective form. For example, we can know the parts of speech of the words "walked" and "interested" thanks to the suffix, expressing the fact that the former is a past verb and the latter is a verb-turned-adjective. Really, the root of a word with a prefix or suffix will tell the literal meaning of the word to the half-full extent. Thus, when we see a word anywhere in sentences or texts, we first try to break it down and guess the meaning.

Just using nearby words for

clues is the third way to find out the meaning of new words. Truly, the words around a new word can give us hints, so-called "contextualized meaning". For example, in the sentence "The film was deemed appropriate for children", if we know "appropriate" means "suitable", we can quickly guess that the word "deemed" represents "judged" or "considered". Also, as in the sentence "Pathology is the scientific study of diseases", if we know the two words "diseases" and "study", the word "pathology" can be seen to mean that it is a systematic discipline of medicine. Clearly, getting the contextualized meaning is probably the most effective and most efficient way to be able to absorb the connotations of a word simply because most words of a language, in my experience, bring more derivative meanings due to context in a sentence rather than their main meanings. For instance, in the sentence "Did you always want to be a doctor?", "always" means "before" due to the past

tense of the verb; in the sentence "He is always criticizing me", "always" means "very often" due to the present continuous tense of the verb; in the sentence "I have always loved not talking about others", "always" means "for a long time" due to the present perfect tense of the verb; in the sentence "We will always be strangers", "always" means "forever" due to the future tense of the verb; and at last, in the sentence "If he can't help, there is always Ko Ko", "always" means "possibly" due to the modal verb "can".

The fourth way of working out new meanings for us is spotting link words for meaning. Words like "because" and "whereas" connect ideas as well as help us work out tricky phrases. In the sentence "We didn't enjoy the day because the weather was so awful", "awful" has a negative meaning since the conjunction "because" is a reasoning word and the negative verb "didn't enjoy" points out the meaning of "awful" straight away. In the

same way, in the sentence "We thought that she was arrogant, whereas in fact she was very shy", "arrogant" certainly has the opposite meaning (not proud) to "shy" for the conjunction "whereas" is known to be a word of comparison and contrast. Additionally, if we see "It was touch and go whether she'd lose her job", the word "whether" signals uncertainty – so "touch and go" means it was unpredictable.

The final way of seeking the meaning of new words is to look only for explanations in a passage. Sometimes the meaning of a word is explained directly to readers by writers, as the readers often find it difficult to understand very quickly. Hence, while reading, we can watch phrases such as "which is", "which means that", "that is", "that is to say", and "in other words". For example, in the sentence "I tried matcha, which is a type of green tea", we can see fast that matcha means something to drink, namely a sort of tea. Simple,



right? If not so, when the sentence is "I tried matcha" only, understanding what matcha means will be no easy task for a person who does not know the meaning of matcha at all.

After all, it is always impossible for us to look up words in the dictionary unless we know their meanings correctly, especially

when sitting the examination in language. Therefore, we can choose any one of the above-mentioned ways as we wish for our guessing ability on a language, not bluffing. I am strongly of the opinion that the above-shown ways will lead our lifelong learning journey of English vocabulary to a certain extent. Try to start it now.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, China aim to fast-track green energy, LNG projects



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin and Yunnan Province Deputy Governor Mr Liu Yong exchange gifts during their meeting in Kunming, China.

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin departed from Mandalay International Airport on the afternoon of 12 April to visit the Russian Federation via China, at the invitation of Mr Anton Kobayakov, Adviser to the President of Russia, and Mr S E Tsivilev, Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation. The visit, scheduled from 12 to 18 April 2026, aims to enhance cooperation between Myanmar and Russia in the electricity and energy sectors.

The Myanmar delegation, led by the Union minister, arrived in Kunming, China, in the evening, where they were welcomed with a working dinner hosted by Mr Liu Yong, Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province. During the dinner, both sides exchanged views on cooperation in the electricity and energy sectors.

During their stay in Kunming, the delegation also held discussions with representatives from Chinese state-owned companies cooperating with Myanmar's Ministry of Electricity and Energy, including China Southern Power Grid, Yunnan Energy Group, Union Resources & Engineering Co Ltd, and Yunnan Xiangshan Export and Import Co Ltd.

During the discussion with China Southern Power Grid, the two sides discussed the ongoing China-Myanmar cross-border power transmission line, plans to conduct feasibility studies for hydropower projects along the Mekong River on the Myanmar-Laos border, opportunities to participate in the Laos-Myanmar cross-border hydropower project, the need to plan and develop a power transmission network to deliver electricity from northern hydropower projects to southern consumption

areas once completed, reducing power losses in Yangon electricity distribution system, and developing a practical system design for EV charging stations integrated with solar energy to align with Myanmar's power system.

During the discussion with Yunnan Energy Group and Union Resources & Engineering Co Ltd, they discussed the potential to develop solar and wind power plants in Myanmar and to accelerate ongoing hydropower, solar, wind, and LNG power plant projects in the country.

In discussions with Yunnan Xiangshan Export and Import Co Ltd, matters related to securing long-term fuel oil imports into Myanmar at more affordable rates were discussed.

— MNA/KTZH

— MNA/KTZH

— MNA/KTZH

Thingyan trims ferry services, halts key routes

ACCORDING to the Inland Water Transport (Delta Division), ferry services for the Pansodan-Dala, Wardan-Dala, Yangon-Khanaungto, Shwelaung-Myaynu, and Wakema-Htawkanwet routes will operate with reduced frequencies during the traditional Myanmar New Year Thingyan holidays.

Furthermore, the Yangon-Kyonpyaw service will be suspended from 11 to 18 April for

the New Year public holidays and will resume its regular schedule on 25 April. Similarly, the Yangon-Kyakan service will be suspended from 9 to 16 April, resuming its original schedule on 23 April.

The Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) ferry service transports a large number of commuters from Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyan-gon townships in Yangon South District, as

well as various parts of the Ayeyawady Region. Additionally, the Yangon (Wartan-Dala) Z-craft ferries transport goods and various motor vehicles, while ferry services are also provided on the Yangon-Khanaungto, Shwelaung-Myaynu, and Wakema-Htawkanwet routes. These services traditionally operate with reduced trips during the annual New Year Thingyan holiday period. — ASH/KNN



One of the Cherry ferries operating the Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) route on the Yangon River.

Frontline Troops Home from Shan, Kayah Ops to Warm Welcome

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members, who completed security operations in Hsihseng Township, Shan State, and Pruhsso Township, Kayah State, were warmly welcomed back to their local battalions yesterday by military commanders, relevant officials,

and residents.

The troops were honoured for their roles in restoring security, stability, and peace for the ethnic populations across various regions and states. The commander and his party greeted the returning members with Thabyay

(sprigs of Eugenia), accompanied by traditional music and dance performances. Following the welcome, the commander presented cash awards to the service members in recognition of their successful mission. — MNA/MKKS



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

Applications for Japanese-language test close early amid surging demand

APPLICATIONS for certain levels of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test, widely used as a requirement for foreign nationals' employment or study in Japan, have closed ahead of schedule, the organizer disclosed Monday, highlighting a surge in demand that has outpaced available test capacity.

The Japan Educational Exchanges and Services, which administers the tests in the country twice a year, said it halted applications early after struggling to secure enough venues to accommodate a sharp rise in test takers, raising concerns that many prospective applicants have been shut out.

The original deadline to apply to take the test on 5 July was 7 April, but the organizer stopped accepting applications for N4 and N3 levels of the five-tier exam on 25 and 27 March, respectively.

Foreign nationals seeking to work under the specified skilled worker programme in labour-strapped industries are, in principle, required to pass a Japanese-language proficiency test.

The organizer has been urging employers and educational institutions to consider alternative Japanese-language tests in place of N4 and N3 where possible.

But a government source said N3 in particular has no practical substitute, meaning affected applicants may have to wait until the next test in December.

With N1 the most advanced and N5 the most basic, N4 measures the ability to follow conversations spoken slowly and read simple Japanese, while N3 reflects practical everyday Japanese, including the ability to follow conversations at near-natural speed and understand common written materials. — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows notice of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test. (Screenshot from official website of JLPT) PHOTO: KYODO

Asia-Pacific Community: Shot of hope: China partnership expands HPV vaccine access for Indonesian women

AS an Indonesian mother with a daughter, Ita has always firmly believed that every young woman deserves the opportunity to receive the HPV vaccine — and the earlier, the better.

“The HPV vaccine is very important for women in Indonesia because it can protect us from cervical cancer,” said Ita.

Yet for many families, affordability and availability remain formidable hurdles.

Across the world's largest archipelagic country, those seeking to protect their daughters often face the triple barriers of high costs, limited supply and uneven distribution.

“If the vaccine is produced locally and becomes more affordable, it will be easier for parents to access it and recommend it to others,” Ita added.

Her daughter, Alena, who received the vaccine at school, said early protection is crucial, reflecting growing awareness of HPV prevention among younger generations.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Taruna Ikrar, head of Indonesia's Food and Drug Authority (BPOM), said the urgency of HPV vaccination is closely tied to the country's cancer burden.

“Indonesia has nearly 300 million people and more than 17,000 islands, which creates unique challenges in delivering healthcare and vaccines,”



Laboratory staff members of Indonesian biopharmaceutical company Etana work in Jakarta, Indonesia, 10 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Ikrar said, noting that immunization remains the frontline defence, with HPV vaccination serving as a cornerstone in protecting women's health.

Cervical cancer remains a pressing concern in Indonesia. To address this, BPOM is promoting the nine-valent HPV vaccine, which offers over 90 per cent effectiveness in preventing infection.

To fast-track availability, Indonesia has been deepening cooperation with China through technology transfer and know-how sharing, alongside partnerships with other international players,

Ikrar said, highlighting that collaboration with Chinese biotech firms has played a key role.

Such cooperation enables Indonesia to bypass the early-stage trial-and-error phase and move more quickly toward building its own manufacturing capacity, he added.

The partnership is also evolving into a multi-tiered ecosystem spanning government, industry and academia, further strengthening the country's public health resilience, the official said. — Xinhua

Pop-up store of Mexico's iconic character Dr Simi opens in Japan

A Japanese pop-up shop dedicated to Mexico's iconic, lab-coated cartoon mascot Dr Simi opened on Monday, offering plushies and other merchandise featuring the character, known for his bushy white moustache and viral dance moves on social media.

The three-floor shop, located in Tokyo and open through 10 May, boasts a life-size figure of Dr Simi dressed as a sushi chef with Mexican papercraft banners and Japanese bonsai decorating each space.

Kumamon, the popular black bear-like mascot of southwestern Japan's Ku-



Kumamon (L), the black bear-like mascot of southwestern Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture, and Mexican pharmacy chain's mascot Dr Simi are seen together at a launch event for a pop-up store in Tokyo on 13 April 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

mamoto Prefecture, joined the launch event and danced together with a mascot of Dr Simi, drawing cheers from the audience.

The character was created in 1997 by Mexico's largest pharmacy chain, Farmacias Similares, to symbolize accessible healthcare. With 5.6

million TikTok followers, it has since become a cultural phenomenon both in Mexico and elsewhere, fuelled by its social media presence and the trend of fans tossing Dr Simi plushies onto the stage at pop events.

“Dr Simi is not just a character but represents the idea of caring for others,” Victor Gonzalez Herrera, CEO of Farmacias Similares, said at the event. “Mexicans and Japanese share values like respecting others and we hope that through our store, we can deliver the message that life is about helping others.” — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan toilet maker Toto halts some orders due to naphtha shortage

LEADING Japanese toilet maker Toto Ltd said Monday it has suspended new orders for some products including modular bathrooms, as escalating Middle East tensions have disrupted the supplies of solvents such as crude oil-derived naphtha.

The company notified its contractors the same day about the suspension, with the timing for resuming orders unclear.

The production of key products such as toilet bowls, though, remains unaffected, according to Toto.

Naphtha is a feedstock used to produce plastics.

"The procurement of raw materials has become extremely unstable partly due to traffic restrictions around the Strait of Hormuz," the toilet manufacturer said.

Toto cited the difficulty in

securing adhesives used to attach films to walls and ceilings as well as coating materials for some bathtubs.

As for major housing equipment manufacturer, Lixil Corp, it noted last Friday about possible "restrictions in production, shipments or orders," due to the potential price hike of petroleum-based materials and aluminium. — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows a modular bathroom made by Toto Ltd. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China's Wuhan launches direct passenger route to Jakarta

A new direct air route linking central China with South-East Asia was launched on Sunday, with the inaugural flight departing from Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, to Jakarta. The route marks the first direct connection between the two cities.

Flight MF8683, carrying more than 150 passengers, took off from Wuhan Tianhe International Airport at 4:40 pm and headed to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in the Indonesian city.

The route is operated by a Boeing 737-800 Max aircraft and operates four times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

According to Wuhan Tian-



Passengers walk at the Terminal 2 of Wuhan Tianhe International Airport in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, 15 April 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

he International Airport, the launch filled a gap in direct passenger capacity between Wuhan and Indonesia's core city,

further expanding the central Chinese city's network of routes to Southeast Asia. — Xinhua

World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit opens in HK to muster cohesive digital strategy

THE two-day 2026 World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit opened on Monday in Hong Kong, convening policymakers, digital industry leaders and scholars from some 50 countries and regions for a cohesive digital strategy in building a community with shared future in cyberspace.

Hosting the summit underscores Hong Kong's growing prominence as an international innovation and technology hub, John Lee,

chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said while addressing the event.

"We are putting together a comprehensive strategy combining world-class infrastructure, cutting-edge research and development and a culture of responsible innovation," Lee said, outlining efforts to enhance Hong Kong's computing power and make artificial intelligence accessible to all.

This year's event features

discussions on integrating digital technologies with finance, health and cultural heritage preservation, as well as platforms for public-private dialogues.

As a "super connector" and a "super value-adder," Hong Kong is nurturing coordinated, efficient and practical mechanisms to empower sci-tech companies, Ren Xianliang, secretary-general of the World Internet Conference, said at the event. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BIREF

Total foreign investment in Armenia up 88% in 2025

ARMENIA saw total foreign investment swell 88 per cent year-on-year to US\$2.23 billion in 2025, Arka news agency quoted Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan as saying on Monday.

Papoyan said total foreign investment reached \$2.23 billion in January-December 2025, compared with \$1.18 billion in 2024. Direct investment stood at \$605 million, up from \$131.6 million a year earlier.

Portfolio investment totalled \$564.8 million versus \$106.1 million in 2024, while other investment amounted to \$1.06 billion, compared with \$947.3 million previously, he said.

The minister said the largest net investment inflows into Armenia's real sector came from the United States, Luxembourg, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Switzerland and France. — Xinhua

South African finance minister not accredited to attend G20 meeting in US

SOUTH African Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana has not been accredited by the United States to attend the upcoming Group of Twenty (G20) finance chiefs meeting, local media reported on Monday.

Both he and South African Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago will not be attending the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting scheduled for 16 April in Washington, Godongwana said on Sunday at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, as he travelled to the United States to take part in the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"We are members of the G20," he was quoted as saying. "However, the US has not accredited us, which means that South Africa will not be part of the G20 for the whole of this year."

The United States assumed the G20's annual rotating presidency from South Africa in late 2025, and will hand it over to Britain next.

"We have taken a view that for us it is a holiday from the G20 this year," Godongwana added. "We are beginning in November with the UK presidency."

South Africa's Ministry of Finance spokesperson Mfuneko Toyana confirmed the development to Xinhua later on Monday. "Neither the minister nor any South African officials will be attending," he said. On 26 November 2025, Trump said in a social media post that South Africa would not be invited to the G20 summit 2026 to be held in Miami. — Xinhua

Malaysia's palm oil set for higher output, softer exports ahead

MALAYSIA'S palm oil market is expected to see a seasonal rise in production and softer export demand in the coming months, with inventories likely to rebuild gradually despite near-term price support from energy-linked factors, analysts said Monday.

Malaysia's palm oil production is expected to continue its month-on-month upward trend heading into the peak production season, research house UOB Kay Hian said in a note.

The strong rebound in March is likely to give

way to softer exports in April, as the absence of festive demand and weaker buying interest from key markets such as India weigh on shipments amid a sharp rise in crude palm oil (CPO) prices, it said.

"That said, inventory levels are expected to remain broadly flattish in April, as export volume should still be sufficient to offset the anticipated increase in production," it said, adding that stocks are likely to trend higher from May onwards as the seasonal production cycle gathers momentum. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks fall, Japan govt bond hits over 27-year high on oil surge



A monitor in Tokyo shows the yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond briefly rising to 2.490 per cent on 13 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOKYO stocks fell Monday, while the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond briefly rose to the highest level in over 27 years on Monday, as sentiment was dampened by a surge in crude oil futures after weekend peace talks between the United States and Iran ended without a deal.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 421.34 points, or 0.74 per cent, from Friday at 56,502.77. The broader Topix index finished 16.84 points, or 0.45 per cent,

lower at 3,723.01.

On the top-tier Prime Market, the main decliners were rubber product, air transportation and electric power and gas issues.

The US dollar strengthened to the upper 159 yen range, as traders bought it for its perceived safety over the currency of oil-importing Japan following the unsuccessful high-level US-Iran negotiations in Pakistan.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 159.60-62 yen compared with 159.21-

31 yen in New York and 159.34-35 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1696-1697 and 186.68-72 yen against \$1.1719-1729 and 186.77-87 yen in New York and \$1.1679-1680 and 186.10-14 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond ended up 0.030 percentage point from Friday's close to 2.465 per cent after marking 2.490 per cent at one point, its highest level since February 1999, on concerns about possible disruptions to the oil supply.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures surged, with prices again surpassing \$100 per barrel after President Donald Trump said the United States will impose a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

However, the decline in stocks was limited, underpinned by hopes for further talks between the United States and Iran after Pakistan expressed its intention to continue mediating.

With the Middle East situation in a flux since the war broke out on 28 February most market participants are starting to adopt a wait-and-see stance until there is a clear agreement on ending hostilities, analysts said.

"As the situation becomes too theatrical, investors are growing reluctant to buy or sell on each piece of news," said Shota Sando, equity market analyst at the Tokai Tokyo Intelligence Laboratory Co. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2607N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2607N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (160W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (160W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-4-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (282N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (282N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-4-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (171N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (171N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Hungary's Tisza party wins parliamentary elections as 98.13% votes counted: NEO

HUNGARY'S opposition party Tisza, led by Peter Magyar, defeated Prime Minister Viktor Orban's ruling coalition by securing a majority in Sunday's parliamentary elections, according to preliminary results released by the National Election Office (NEO).

With 98.13 per cent of votes counted by the NEO, Tisza had won 53.62 per cent of the vote and was projected to win 138 of the 199 parliament seats, exceeding the two-thirds threshold. Orban's ruling Fidesz-KDNP alliance received 37.79 per cent and was projected to win 55 seats.

The far-right Our Homeland Movement won 5.89 per cent and is projected to take six seats. Other parties failed to clear the five-per-cent threshold required to enter parliament.

Preliminary statistics showed that turnout reached about 77.8 per cent among roughly 8.1 million eligible voters, marking a record high.

On social media, Hungarian President Tamas Sulyok expressed his congratulations to "the winning party of the



Peter Magyar, leader of Hungary's opposition party Tisza, casts his ballot at a polling station in Budapest, Hungary, 12 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

elections and to all the candidates of the parliament".

Addressing supporters in Budapest, 45-year-old Magyar hailed his party's "decisive victory", saying it was a win seen "from every Hungarian window".

He added that Hungary will once again be a strong ally in the European Union and NATO.

Orban, 62, conceded defeat. "The election results, though not yet final, are clear and understandable; for us, they

are painful but unambiguous," he told reporters, adding: "We have not been entrusted with the responsibility and opportunity to govern. I congratulated the winning party."

The victory of the centre-right Tisza party signals the imminent end of Orban's 16 consecutive years in power. Orban served as Hungary's prime minister from 1998 to 2002 and has remained in office since returning to power in 2010.

During the campaign, Tisza focused on anti-corruption and institutional reform, calling for the restoration of the rule of law and transparent governance. It also advocated repairing relations with the European Union and urged Hungarians to unite in building a sovereign, civic, modern and European Hungary.

Under Hungary's electoral law, parliamentary elections are held every four years. Hungary's parliament has 199 seats, including 106 elected directly in single-member constituencies and 93 allocated among parties that enter parliament. — Xinhua

Non-nuclear states urge unity, arms control ahead of NPT review meet

A group of 12 non-nuclear weapon states, including Japan, called Monday for closer cooperation and urgent arms control efforts ahead of a key conference on the global nuclear order, warning that rising security risks threaten decades of progress.

The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, launched in 2010 by Japan and Australia, issued a joint statement urging all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to engage in constructive dialogue with a forward-looking approach.

The statement came ahead of the 11th NPT Review Conference, which will open in New

York on 27 April and run for nearly a month, at what the group described as "one of the most critical junctures" for sustaining and advancing nuclear disarmament.

The other NPDI members are Canada, Chile, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates.

The NPDI countries said they remain committed to achieving the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, while warning of the growing risk of nuclear war just over 80 years after the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The group underscored the importance of the NPT as the cornerstone of global

non-proliferation efforts, essential foundation for disarmament and basis for the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, stressing its credibility depends on the full and balanced implementation of those three pillars.

They also voiced concern over the expiration of the New START treaty between the United States and Russia in February, which leaves the world without legally binding and verifiable limits on their nuclear arsenals.

Calling for urgent action, the group urged nuclear weapon states to pursue new agreements that ensure "predictability, transparency, and restraint" and help prevent a renewed arms race. — Kyodo

Vietnam, Slovakia upgrade ties to strategic partnership

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Le Minh Hung and his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico on Monday agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a strategic partnership as part of the latter's official visit to the Southeast Asian country, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

At a press briefing following their talks, Hung said he and his Slovak guest adopted a joint statement on the upgrade and tasked their foreign ministries with swiftly developing an action plan to implement the new partnership, according to the report.

The two sides agreed to deepen the partnership across areas, including trade, investment, defence and security, science and technology, innovation, digital transformation, and people-to-people exchange, Hung said.

Fico affirmed that the bilateral political ties are strong and mutually beneficial, noting Vietnam is Slovakia's largest trading partner in Southeast Asia, while calling for stronger economic and trade collaboration, the report added. — Xinhua



Doves are released during a memorial ceremony held at Peace Park in Nagasaki on 9 August 2025 to mark the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the southwestern Japan city in World War II. PHOTO: KYODO

SPORTS

Man City opens Premier League title race, Tottenham drops into bottom 3

MANCHESTER City threw the Premier League title race wide open with a 3-0 away win over Chelsea on Sunday, moving to within six points of Arsenal with a game in hand.

The first half was relatively even, with Chelsea's Marc Cucurella having a goal ruled out for offside, but Manchester City took control with three goals in 17 minutes after the break. Nico O'Reilly powered onto the end of Rayan Cherki's cross to head home the opener in the 51st minute.

Marc Guehi made it 2-0 after excellent work from Jeremy Doku, who later added the third

after Chelsea made a mess of trying to play the ball out from defense.

Next Sunday's game between Manchester City and Arsenal now looks as though it could be crucial in the title race.

Sunderland beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 thanks to Nordi Mukiele's deflected shot just after the hour, leaving Tottenham in the relegation zone. Tottenham also lost defender Cristian Romero, who limped off in tears with 20 minutes remaining.

Nottingham Forest took another point in its battle to avoid relegation with a 1-1 home draw against Aston Villa.



Manchester City's Italian goalkeeper (25) Gianluigi Donnarumma makes a save during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Manchester City at Stamford Bridge in London on 12 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Murillo's own goal gifted Aston Villa a 23rd-minute lead before Neco Williams finished from Callum Hudson-Odoi's assist to level the score before halftime.

Crystal Palace came from behind to beat Newcastle United 2-1 at home.

Crystal Palace striker Jean-Philippe Mateta scored twice,

including a 94th-minute penalty, to overturn William Osula's 43rd-minute opener for Newcastle, which dropped to 14th in the table. — Xinhua

Stuttgart routs Hamburg to stay in Champions League hunt

VFB Stuttgart returned to winning ways with a commanding 4-0 victory over Hamburger SV on Sunday, keeping pace in the race for a UEFA Champions League spot.

After a 2-0 defeat to Borussia Dortmund, Stuttgart took control from the outset against Hamburg, which had won only one of its previous seven matches.

Stuttgart broke the deadlock in the 21st minute when Deniz Undav sent Jamie Leweling through, and the latter's square pass found Angelo Stiller, who guided his finish into the left corner.

Chris Fuhrich doubled the lead in the 32nd minute after a turnover high up the pitch, with Ermedin Demirovic providing the assist.

Stuttgart maintained its

advantage after the break, with Maximilian Mittelstadt scoring from distance in the 56 minute, his effort taking a deflection off Jordan Torunarigha.

Demirovic had a goal ruled out for offside in the 66th minute. Undav then missed a penalty after a VAR review, but substitute Bilal El Khannouss completed the scoring in 86 minute. — Xinhua

Villarreal closes in on Champions League spot

VILLARREAL strengthened its grip on third place in La Liga with a 2-1 away win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, moving four points clear of Atletico Madrid and 15 ahead of fifth-placed Real Betis as it closed in on qualification for next season's UEFA Champions League.

First-half goals from Sergi Cardona and Alfon Gonzalez put Villarreal 2-0 ahead and left Athletic Bilbao struggling.

The home side pushed for a route back into the game in the second half, but Villarreal

defended in an organized manner and also had chances to extend its lead on the counterattack.

Gorka Guruzeta pulled a goal back for Athletic Bilbao in 84 minutes, but Villarreal held on for the win, while Athletic remains just six points above the bottom three.

Osasuna and Betis drew 1-1, with Ez Abde putting Betis ahead against his former club before Ante Budimir's penalty earned a point for Osasuna, which created the better

chances over the course of the game.

Vedat Muriqi scored twice as Mallorca cruised to a 3-0 home win over Rayo Vallecano to move further away from the bottom three.

The powerful striker scored his 20th and 21st goals of the season in the 36th and 40th minutes respectively, with Jan Virgili rounding off the scoring against a rival still feeling the effects of its Conference League game against AEK Athens on Thursday. — Xinhua

Star names inspiring Barca teen Yamal for Atletico comeback

BARCELONA'S teenage winger Lamine Yamal said Monday he was taking inspiration from basketball great LeBron James and Brazilian footballer Neymar to try and inspire a Champions League comeback against Atletico Madrid.

The Catalan giants fell 2-0 last week in the quarter-final first leg at home but are aiming to reach the final four for a second consecutive year by fighting back on Tuesday at the Metropolitan stadium.

Yamal changed his profile picture on Instagram to a photo of James with the NBA finals

trophy in 2016 after he led the Cleveland Cavaliers to victory over the Golden State Warriors despite trailing 3-1 to mount a historic comeback.

"He's one of the reference points that can inspire me for tomorrow's game, that's why I put him there," Yamal told reporters.

"I will think about what he did and I hope it goes the same way for me."

Closer to home, winger Neymar shone as Barcelona made the biggest comeback in Champions League history in 2017 against Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16. — AFP



Barcelona's Spanish forward (10) Lamine Yamal plays with the ball during a training session on the eve of their UEFA Champions League quarter final second leg football match against Club Atletico de Madrid at Metropolitan Stadium in Madrid, on 13 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP

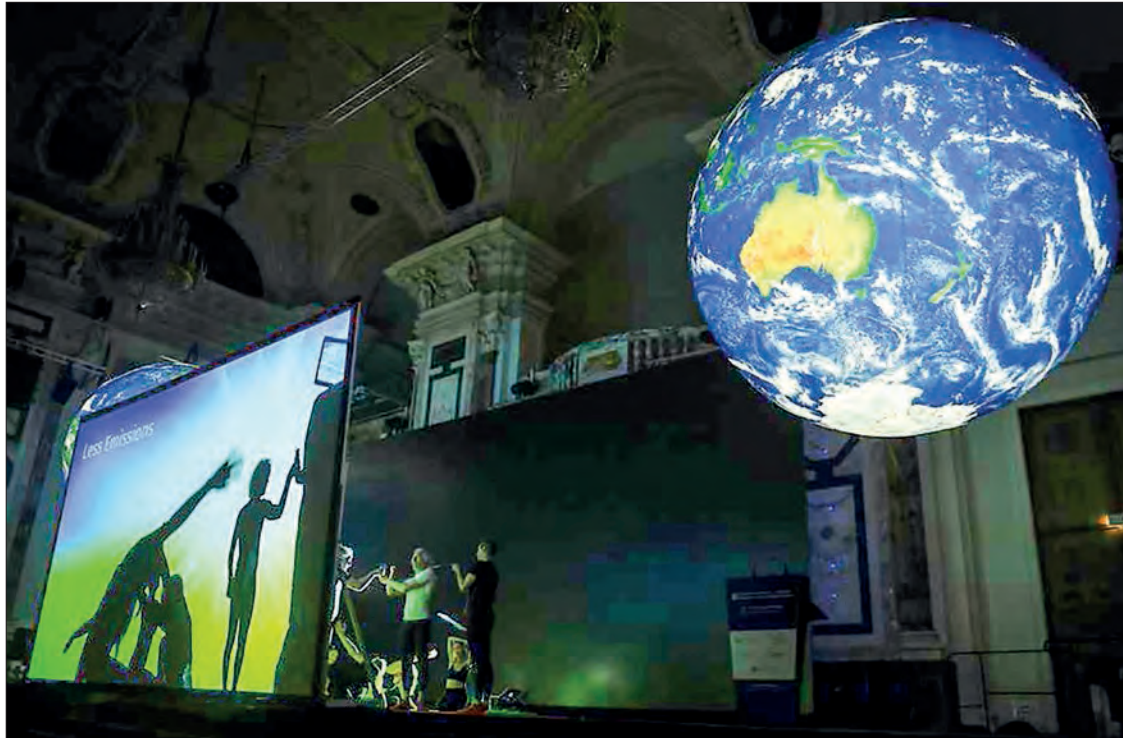


Energy crisis strengthens case for green transition

THE International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum, which concluded over the weekend, marked the first major global energy gathering since the latest US-Israel-Iran tensions, a conflict that erupted on 28 February and sent global energy prices sharply higher amid fears of supply disruptions.

Under the theme “Powering Prosperity, Security and Stability”, discussions focused on energy access, transition pathways and climate goals. Set against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, the forum underscored a key message: while the Middle East crisis has exposed vulnerabilities in Europe’s energy system, it is strengthening the case for accelerating the global shift towards clean energy.

The latest conflict, which is under a fragile ceasefire, has posed a fresh stress test for Europe, still grappling with the fallout from the Ukraine crisis. Participants at the two-day



This photo taken on 9 April 2026 shows an art performance at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum in Vienna, Austria. Under the theme “Powering Prosperity, Security and Stability”, the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum 2026 opened here on Thursday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

forum underscored that such shocks can generate political momentum for long-term energy transformation.

In fact, on 2 April, just days

before the forum, the French government launched a major renewable energy tender aimed at adding 15 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2035,

alongside expanded onshore wind and solar projects. According to official targets, fossil fuels’ share in France’s final energy consumption is set to fall from

about 60 per cent currently to 40 per cent by 2030 and 30 per cent by 2035.

“Renewables are the clear solution for most countries because they are universally available,” said Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, director general of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

Austrian Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger similarly framed renewable energy as “freedom energy”, arguing that true energy security depends on reducing reliance on a limited number of resource suppliers.

Spain, Portugal and Iceland, which are less dependent on imported fossil fuels and more structurally aligned with renewable energy, have weathered the current crisis better, according to Rana Adib, executive director of REN21. “This crisis is accelerating change,” she said, pointing to European Commission plans to expand electrification and decarbonization across all energy-consuming sectors. — Xinhua

ASEAN urges Iran peace talks, reopening of Hormuz



Jag Vasant, an Indian-flagged tanker carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) that transited through the Strait of Hormuz amid the Middle East war, remains docked at an offloading terminal along the coast in Mumbai on 1 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASEAN encouraged the United States and Iran on Monday to press ahead with talks to end the Middle East war and ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

South-East Asian nations like the Philippines and Malaysia rely heavily on oil from the Middle East, much of it exported through the key strait that’s been effectively closed

during the conflict.

Foreign ministers of the 11-member Association of South-East Asian Nations met online to discuss the US-Israeli war against Iran, hours before the US Navy was to start a blockade of Iranian ports.

US President Donald Trump ordered the blockade of the key chokepoint for seaborne oil trade after negoti-

ations between the warring sides in Pakistan collapsed over what the American leader said was the Islamic republic’s refusal to abandon its ambition to develop its own nuclear weapons.

ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to urge the United States and Iran to “continue negotiations that will lead to the permanent end of the

conflict and lasting peace and stability in the region”, said a joint statement issued after the meeting.

They also called for the “full and effective implementation” of an ongoing two-week ceasefire and the “restoration of the safe, unimpeded, and continuous transit passage of vessels and aircraft in the Strait of Hormuz”.

Around 20 per cent of the world’s seaborne oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz, according to the International Energy Agency, 80 per cent of it bound for Asian markets.

The Philippines, which holds ASEAN’s rotating chairmanship, last month adopted a four-day work week for civil servants in a bid to conserve fuel, while Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam encouraged public employees to work from home. — AFP

Ceasefire between US, Iran intact, Pakistan to continue peace efforts: PM

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that the ceasefire between the United States and Iran remains intact, adding that Pakistan will continue efforts to facilitate dialogue and promote lasting peace in the region.

“Today, the ceasefire still stands. Efforts are underway to resolve outstanding issues,” Sharif said in a televised address to the federal cabinet.

He described the recent Islamabad Talks as a “historic moment”, saying they offered an opportunity to turn “looming clouds of war into lasting peace”.

Referring to the Islamabad talks, he said the Iranian and US delegations held direct, face-to-face negotiations for 21 hours, calling it a significant step forward in diplomatic engagement. — Xinhua