

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



President U Min Aung Hlaing receives the delegation led by Mr Xu Qin, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Congress and Secretary of the CPC Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the People's Republic of China.

## Myanmar, China's Heilongjiang Deepen Bilateral Ties

Myanmar and China's Heilongjiang Province plan to further expand bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including science and technology, industry, agriculture, security, tourism, healthcare, culture, youth affairs, education and energy.

**P**resident of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Xu Qin, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Congress and Secretary of the CPC Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the People's Republic of China, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the prolonged friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China and the leaders of both countries through the Pauk-Phaw kinship relations, the efforts of building a shared community through the five principles of Peaceful

Coexistence between the two countries, and the promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and Heilongjiang Province to further strengthen bilateral relations.

They also emphasized the conditions and prospects for designating Harbin in the People's Republic of China and Yangon in Myanmar as sister cities, as well as plans to further enhance comprehensive cooperation across various sectors between Myanmar and Heilongjiang Province of the People's Republic of China, and the exchange of goodwill visits of senior leaders of both countries.

They also talked about the prospects for further expanding cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including science

and technology, industry, agriculture, security, tourism, healthcare, culture, youth affairs, and education, as well as the potential to enhance cooperation in the energy sector.

Both sides frankly exchanged views on the conditions to cooperate in manufacturing agricultural machinery and agricultural technologies for the development of agricultural activities between the two countries, and efforts to expedite cooperation in investment and bilateral trade through the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP).

The President and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Heilong-

jiang Provincial People's Congress and Secretary of the CPC Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of China exchanged commemorative gifts and had documentary photos taken together with the attendees.

Also, present at the meeting were Union Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than. The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Congress and Secretary of the CPC Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of China was accompanied by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia and delegation members. — MNA/TTA



### NATIONAL PAGE 6

Fertilizer prices cut based on summer paddy acreage needs



### NATIONAL PAGE 7

Shift to aquaculture urged to restore marine resources

## OPINION

Save our Mother Earth from plastic waste

# NATIONAL

## Thai Deputy PM and Foreign Affairs Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Sihasak Phuanketkeow is seen upon his arrival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MR Sihasak Phuanketkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, accompanied by his delegation, arrived in Nay Pyi

Taw on the evening of 21 April 2026 by special aircraft for a visit to Myanmar from 21 to 22 April 2026. They were warmly welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw

International Airport by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

## Magway's Myathalun Pagoda to host rice offering and banyan tree watering festival

THE Board of Trustees of the Myathalun Pagoda has announced that a rice offering ceremony for more than 1,000 monks and the banyan tree watering festival will take place at the Myathalun Pagoda in Magway on Vesak Day (the Full Moon Day of Kason).

The festival will be organized by the Rice Offering Festival Committee in Magway Region, in collaboration with donors from various departments and town-

ships, on the morning of 30 April.

U Ohn Kyaing, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Myathalun Pagoda, said: "On the morning of Vesak Day, there will be a rice offering ceremony at Myathalun Pagoda. We will provide offerings to more than 1,000 monks from monasteries. In the evening, we will mark Vesak Day by watering the banyan trees within the pagoda precinct, as we have done in previous years."

— ASH/MKKS



Devotees are seen taking part in a banyan tree watering ceremony last year.

## Ayeyawady Region draws nearly 700,000 tourists in 3 months



Beachgoers enjoy their time joyfully.

AYEYAWADY Region recorded nearly 700,000 domestic and international visitors during the first three months of 2026, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

From January to 31 March 2026, the region welcomed around 700,000 travellers. In comparison, more than 1.9 million visitors were recorded in 2024, while over 1.5 million visited in 2025.

At the beginning of this year, Ngwehsaung Beach re-

ceived over 220,000 visitors, while Chaungtha and Shwethaungyan beaches together attracted more than 160,000 tourists.

The region currently has 126 hotels and guesthouses licensed by the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture, offering 5,475 rooms, along with 443 guesthouses licensed by municipal authorities, providing 6,813 rooms.

In total, Ayeyawady Region has 5,069 hotels and guesthouses with 12,088 rooms available for visitors. — ASH/KZL

## Myanma Economic Bank branch reopens in Thabeikkyin

THE Myanma Economic Bank branch in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, which was temporarily closed, resumed banking services at 9 am yesterday, as the region has been stabilized.

With the reopening, the branch will be able to pay salaries to departmental staff and local Tatmadaw members serv-

ing in Thabeikkyin Township, pensions to retired staff members, accept savings, transfer money to various regions and provide other banking services, according to Manager U Ye Naing of the Myanma Economic Bank in Thabeikkyin Township.

The opening ceremony was attended by U Naing Aye, Chairman of Thabeikkyin Dis-

trict Administration and Governance Committee, District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Win, and Thabeikkyin Township Myanma Economic Bank Manager U Ye Naing, who cut the ceremonial ribbon and sprinkled incense, while district and township-level departments attended. — Township IPRD/MKKS



The opening ceremony of the Myanma Economic Bank branch office is underway yesterday in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region.

# NATIONAL

**P**resident of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing highlighted measures related to PDF terrorists and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) in initiating the peace and stability of the State at the first meeting of the National Defence and Security Council at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the President stated that PDF terrorists committed sabotage and violence in certain areas between 2021 and 2023. Since 2024, they have come to better understand the positions of the State and Tatmadaw and have gradually begun to return to the legal fold. At present, the government is implementing the multiparty democratic system that the entire people aspire to. Therefore, it is necessary to work towards bringing PDF terrorists onto the path of peace to ensure national peace and stability.

He added that some EAOs have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), but some have not signed it yet. The government and some EAOs have held talks and agreed on some points. These agreements will be discussed and approved in the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Some EAOs wish to hold peace talks, but some are in the armed struggle line for their interest.

The President underscored the security sector with the plans to enhance the capabilities of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force. He stressed that although the Myanmar Police Force is primarily responsible for internal security, the current situation in the country has necessitated Tatmadaw's involvement in



President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the first meeting of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to Debate Government-EAO Agreements

It is necessary to work towards bringing PDF terrorists onto the path of peace in order to ensure national peace and stability.

addressing these matters in cooperation with police members. He noted that in other countries, Tatmadaw takes part in resolving internal armed conflicts.

The President explained that there are two types of police forces: the armed forces police and the law enforcement police. During the past five years, MPF members secured greater success in internal security and combatting the conflicts. If systematic training can be provided, police members will have higher capabilities in serving their responsibilities. As such, it is necessary to build

the military and police forces as well as enhance their capacity.

Concerning the enhancement of the capacity, the President unveiled that during the current five-year term of duty, it is necessary to enhance the capabilities and capacities of both Tatmadaw and MPF to ensure national stability and peace. It is also essential to cultivate strong discipline by establishing and practising good standards of conduct. Measures must be taken to ensure proper behaviour in daily movement, living, and dress, as well as to uphold integrity and prevent corruption.

The President also underlined that administrative bodies at ward/village and township levels must be capable of following the rules and regulations, laws and basic administrative ideologies adopted by the State, and they must be free from corruption. Hence, it is necessary to provide systematic training to shape the capable administrative bodies.

Regarding ASEAN, the President stated that, in his inaugural address delivered upon taking the presidential oath, he had already affirmed

that efforts would be made to cooperate in the best possible manner with the Association of South-East Asian Nations. In line with the Five-Point Consensus agreed within ASEAN, efforts have been made, to the extent possible, to cooperate on humanitarian matters and other related provisions. He noted that there have been instances where pressure has been exerted based on inaccurate information circulated on social media, and that some ASEAN member states are seeking revisions to certain aspects. Therefore, continued efforts will be undertaken to ensure the best possible cooperation within ASEAN.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw discussed that Myanmar is making utmost efforts for the Five-Point Consensus of ASEAN, endeavours to initiate the internal peace in various ways and means, ASEAN's humanitarian aid to the disaster-affected areas and the evolving situation in which some ASEAN member states are adopting more positive attitudes and perspectives towards Myanmar, and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye talked about the emergence of the qualified administrative

bodies and the needs to give capacity-building courses for them.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi participated in discussions on the invitation extended by the President to initiate the internal peace at the Hluttaw sessions, and participation of all stakeholders to join the internal peace talks; Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe highlighted the emphasis placed by Myanmar on internal peace and stability and the rule of law, and the situation to hold parliamentary talks between Myanmar and ASEAN member states; Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo spotted the situations to launch military operations in relevant regions and take measures on security, control of areas and rule of law, and hold talks with EAOs. He explained that the terrorist group members return to the legal fold continuously, efforts to combat narcotic drugs, telecom frauds and gambling, and holding ceremonies by relevant military commands to honour the people's military servicemen who had completed their term of service.

SEE PAGE 4

### Some key points of the speech delivered by the President at the NDSC meeting

1. It is necessary to build the military and police forces, as well as enhance their capacity.
2. Efforts would be made to cooperate in the best possible manner with the Association of South-East Asian Nations.
3. The government practises an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy aimed at world peace and friendly relations with nations.
4. Administrative bodies at ward/village and township levels must be capable of following the rules and regulations, laws and basic administrative ideologies adopted by the State and must be free from corruption.

# NATIONAL

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to Debate ...

### FROM PAGE 3

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin also reported on the serving the State defence duties under the law, Union Minister for Defence General Tun Aung on the conducting the people's military service courses, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe on the positive attitudes of some ASEAN countries over Myanmar, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe on the criminal cases in the Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival period compared to the previous year's, further formation of the local security and terrorism combatting

squads to ensure the peace and stability and uphold the rule of law, seizures of narcotic drugs, and arrangements to enhance capacity of ward and village administrators, and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat on returning of internal displaced people to their natives, efforts to close the temporary displaced camps, and prevent and monitor transboundary haze pollution.

In the concluding remarks, the President stated that due to the current global political landscape and ongoing conflicts, many countries are facing fuel shortages, and Myanmar is also experiencing similar challenges. Therefore, it is necessary for the country to address domestic fuel

shortages and crises, and to make preparations through various means to ensure the availability of fuel and essential inputs required for agriculture, livestock breeding, and manufacturing sectors.

The President noted that it is necessary to address and combat telecommunication fraud and illegal gambling activities strictly and effectively. Similarly, in relation to drug eradication efforts, it is important to eliminate the main production areas and carry out decisive countermeasures against them.

He stressed that the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that the Union practises an independent, active and non-aligned foreign

policy aimed at world peace and friendly relations with nations and upholds the principles of peaceful coexistence among nations. Hence, the government has to precisely understand the foreign policy and uphold it in its relations.

The President pointed out that it is important for the development of border regions, which are closely linked to national stability and peace. Only by giving it due priority can it also contribute to peacebuilding efforts. It is also necessary for ethnic armed organizations to clearly distinguish between border area development activities and the peace process, so that the two are not conflated. — MNA/TTA

## Union Information Minister urges unity and family spirit in service

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Lin met staff members of the Printing and Publishing Department and the News and Periodicals Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the need to inform the public regarding the policies of the President and government, including orders and guidance in a timely manner, activities of the legislative and judiciary pillars, and actions

implemented within 100 days by the new government.

He also instructed staff to perform duties with a family spirit in unity, conduct proper measures for the students, including the youths from rural areas, to pursue reading and raise their reading habits, help each other, utilize the machinery and tools systematically and to be aware of fire in summer.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint explained the operations of the



Union Minister U Htein Lin (2R) is pictured during his inspection tours of the Printing and Publishing Department and the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

two departments, and the Union minister inspected the editorial departments and printing houses

of the Kyemon and Myanma Alinn dailies. On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory, the Union

minister inspected the printing operations and staff housing. — MNA/KTZH

## Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 21 April 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai Baht	India rupee
Exchange rate	3,648~3,669	555.30~ 558.70	125.30~125.70	43.6
Trading amount in the market	18,622,125.48	8,403,378.79	34,780,446.81	
The amount sold by CBM to the market			3,015,066.00	

THE amount of foreign currencies traded in the foreign exchange market was sold for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, indus-

trial raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, medicines and pharmaceutical raw materials, fertilizers, packaging materials

and corn seeds. From the CMP sector revenue, US\$ 2.23 million to the edible oil sector, and the Central Bank of Myanmar

provided THB 3.02 million to the industrial raw materials sector and farm equipment sector. -- MNA

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](mailto:gnlmnews@gmail.com),  
[newsroom@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:newsroom@gnlm.com.mm)  
[www.gnlm.com.mm](http://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](mailto: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

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee

### Announcement 1/2026

6<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason, 1388 ME  
21 April 2026

1. The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, led by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, believes that it is particularly necessary to end armed conflicts and resolve political issues through political means in the implementation of the peace processes.
2. The following are strongly urged to hold free and open-ended discussions for the implementation of peace processes aimed at national development and stability:
  - (a) The ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA should meet and discuss the joint implementation of the NCA agreements until their successful completion, based on responsibility, accountability, and transparency, to achieve lasting peace.
  - (b) Ethnic armed organizations that have not yet signed the NCA should work together with the government in pursuance of the agreements reached between them for the development of their respective regions and the country, and hold meetings and discussions to build enduring peace.
  - (c) Ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA but have deviated from the NCA path for various reasons should resume political dialogues to find solutions through peace talks and negotiations.
  - (d) Ethnic armed organizations should conduct talks in response to the peace invitation from today until 31 July 2026.
3. Therefore, it is urged that relevant organizations, in pursuit of the peace interests and aspirations of the ethnic people, communicate with the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, which is tasked with conducting the Union Government's peace talks, and that relevant organizations and stakeholders make concerted efforts to hold effective peace talks.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee

## ME Seoul warns no third parties authorized for embassy affairs

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul issued an announcement on 20 April stating that it has not authorized any individual or organization to act as an intermediary in embassy matters.

According to the Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea, it handles all consular services and general administrative affairs directly. No person or organization has been commissioned to facilitate these processes. The embassy further clarified that it processes applications in accordance with official procedures, verifying

the completeness and accuracy of the submitted documents to prevent unnecessary delays.

Consequently, the embassy officially announced that it maintains no third-party representatives for its consular or diplomatic functions.

Additionally, the embassy noted that it continues to provide necessary assistance and coordination for Myanmar citizens residing in South Korea, including legal migrant workers, scholars, and those visiting for various other reasons, based on reported issues and needs. — MT/ZN



The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

## Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman hosts dinner for high-level Heilongjiang delegation



The dinner hosted by the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman for the Heilongjiang delegation is underway yesterday.

NAY Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than hosted a dinner yesterday evening at the Jasmine Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw for a delegation led by Mr Xu Qin, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Heilongjiang Province and Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The dinner was attended by Union Minister at the President's Office U Tin Aung San, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, the vice-mayor of the Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee and departmental officials, officials from

the Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Commerce, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Chairman and members of the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP).

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than first delivered a welcome speech, followed by Mr Xu Qin, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Heilongjiang Province and Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, who delivered a vote of thanks.

Union Minister U Tin Aung

San and the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council had a friendly dinner with the guests. During the dinner, the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Culture presented musical performances.

After the dinner, the Union minister, together with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Heilongjiang Province and Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, presented flowers to the artistes from the Department of Fine Arts who performed and exchanged souvenirs with them.

— MNA/TH

Advertise

with us /  
Hotline



09 255597511,  
09 454237515

# NATIONAL

## First batch of People's Military Service graduates receive warm welcome



Images show the first batch of People's Military Service graduates receiving a warm welcome from families and residents.

ACCORDING to the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it stipulates that every citizen has the duty to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the individuals who voluntarily and enthusiastically enlisted for military service have been recruited and trained in batches, and are now serving in various battalions and units.

Ceremonies to honour members of the People's Military Service Batch 1/2024 who

had fulfilled their duties were also held at different military commands and allowed them to return to their families and native towns.

During their returns, these servicemen, who fulfilled their duties as responsible citizens and as capable soldiers, were warmly and proudly welcomed not only by their families but also by local communities. In respective townships, wards, and villages, they were received with ceremonial flowers, traditional musical ensembles, and lively

celebrations. Scenes of these homecoming events, showing pride, joy, and emotional reunions with family members, have been widely shared on social media platforms.

During their service, these good citizens who are also soldiers carried out defence and security duties assigned by the government and Tatmadaw. They also participated in rescue and relief operations during natural disasters, working selflessly together with the permanent military personnel and fulfilling



their responsibilities with dedication.

Therefore, the government and Tatmadaw have systematically managed for these servicemen to receive their entitled benefits during their service period, including salaries, rations, and other support. Moreover,

upon completion of their service, efforts are being made to assist them in securing employment. Relevant authorities are coordinating with domestic and overseas employment working committees to help place them in jobs of their choice in accordance with set criteria. — MNA/KTZH

## Fertilizer prices cut based on summer paddy acreage needs

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation stated that fertilizer requirements will be calculated based on the summer paddy acreage currently under cultivation in each region and state, and that the fertilizer will be sold at a special discounted price.

Currently, the first batch of fertilizers covering 30 per cent of the remaining summer paddy cultivation areas in the regions and states has been sold at a special discounted price, based on the recommendations of the respective region and state governments following field inspections. It is also reported that efforts are underway to supply the fertilizers required for the remaining



Officials oversee the distribution of fertilizers.

areas at a special discounted price before they are needed.

In this manner, pearl fertilizer is being sold directly at

the workplace at a cash-on-delivery price of K100,500 per

bag. Similarly, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Nay Pyi Taw Council, is distributing locally produced diesel fuel to farmers in Nay Pyi Taw at a special price.

Currently, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is distributing locally produced diesel fuel directly to farmers in Nay Pyi Taw, targeting villages yet to be planted for the 2025-2026 financial year summer paddy and oilseed crop season. The fuel is sold at K10,000 per gallon through a cash-on-delivery system to help ease fuel shortages and improve affordability. — ASH/TH

## Shift to aquaculture urged to restore marine resources

THE marine resources in Myanmar's waters have significantly declined compared to 30 years ago. As a timely response to the shortage of fishery products, it has become necessary to focus more on aquaculture rather than capture fisheries in order to restore marine resources, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Surveys conducted in 2013, 2015, and 2018 showed that about 90 per cent of surface fish resources and 60 per cent of underwater fish resources remained in Myanmar waters, whereas in 2022, only about 30 per cent of both surface and underwater fish resources were left. These declines are mainly attributed to two key factors: overexploitation of fishery resources and marine pollution.

About 80 per cent of marine pollution originates from land-based and coastal activities, including waste disposal such



This photo shows fishing vessels docking at the port. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

as garbage, plastics, foam, single-use items, agricultural fertilizers, industrial wastewater, urban sewage, and other pollutants. According to reports by the Norwegian research organization NIVA (2011 and later), marine pollution can be significantly

reduced through systematic and effective management.

"Globally, countries are reducing the fish resources and implementing aquaculture. They are also exploring what species can be farmed and produced. In our country, aquaculture already

exists, but there are still requirements to be fulfilled. Research is needed to determine how much aquaculture can increase marine resources. If we continue extracting natural resources while they are becoming scarce, it could lead to extinction. As both

surface and underwater fish are declining, it is necessary to improve fish and shrimp farming. Both freshwater and marine aquaculture should be developed. Balanced efforts are also needed to replenish declining marine resources. If marine conservation and aquaculture are implemented in harmony, marine fish resources will eventually recover," said Dr Toe Nanda Tin, senior vice president of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar is a country rich in fishery resources. According to 2022 data, it ranks 14<sup>th</sup> globally in fishery resource ownership and has the highest freshwater fish production in Southeast Asia. Marine resources in Myanmar can recover within a decade through reducing pollution, protecting coral reefs, controlling overfishing, and expanding freshwater and saltwater aquaculture zones. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

## MPA to sell 3 tugboats through open tender

MYANMA Port Authority will sell three tugboats individually through an open tender system.

Of these, Tug Cathay-3 (steel hull), IMO 9447500, has a registered tonnage of 153 tonnes, a length of 21.96 metres, a beam of 7.32 metres and a draft of 3.20 metres, while Tug Cathay-7 (steel hull), IMO 9489132, has a registered tonnage of 144 tonnes, a length of 21.96 metres, a beam of 7.32 metres and a draft of 3.20 metres. Meanwhile, Tug Cathay-21 (steel hull), IMO 9311933, has a registered tonnage of 122 tonnes, a length of 21.81 metres, a beam of 7.00 metres and a draft of 2.90 metres.

Tender applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Directive of the Office of the President 1/2017 paragraphs 23/24. These three vessels are currently maintained within the Patheingyi Port yard in Ayeyawady Region. Interested domestic and international companies can inspect the vessels in person. If foreign companies

want to compete, they must have the endorsement of the relevant Myanmar embassies in their country.

Tender application forms can be purchased at the Central Store Depot in Botahtaung until 5 May. Tender applications must be submitted to the MPA by 1 pm on 7 May. The preliminary opening and acceptance of tenders is scheduled to take place at 2 pm on 7 May.

This tender is an auction sale conducted under Section 11 of the Ports Act 1908 and Section 66(b) of the Myanmar Port Authority Law 2015. Therefore, MPA has the right to cancel the tender in whole or in part if any cause arises under the provisions of these laws. Such cancellation will be publicly notified.

Individuals can enquire about details from the Maritime Department by dialling 01 8246380, 01 8387117, extension 211, or the Central Store Depot at 081610230. Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee stated. — NN/KK

## CBM injects US\$2.48M to edible oil import sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$2.48 million to edible oil-importing companies on 20 April, along with a transaction of 3.86 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold three million baht in the foreign exchange market, in addition to an injection of \$881,250 to edible oil-importing companies on 10 April.

CBM announced on 9 April that it would inject \$49 million into the fuel oil sector and \$8.16 million into edible oil businesses.

CBM made transactions of over 2.39 million baht on that day, in addition to sales of \$1.36 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1 million to fuel oil-importing companies.

CBM has been continuously injecting US dollars into the edible oil import sector, with \$750,000 on 8 April, in addition to transactions of 3.3 million baht.

CBM sold over \$1.22 mil-



Greenbacks are seen at the money changer counter.

lion to edible oil-importing companies on 7 April.

CBM sold over \$2.99 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$260,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 6 April, in addition to a transaction of \$279,000.

CBM sold over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February. CBM sold over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market, with a view to curbing the insta-

bility in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Save our Mother Earth from plastic waste

MOTHER Earth is facing different types of degradation due to environmental impacts based on the undisciplined use of plastics and extreme extraction of natural resources, including fossil fuels, and man-made acidic impacts.

As such, Mother Earth is clearly urging a call to action. Now is the time for all global people to save Mother Earth as well as conserve the natural environment. Especially, we have to avoid the use of plastics and plastic products as much as possible. If unavoidably, we need to systematically use the least volume of plastic products and dispose of them carefully in ways without harming the society.

As for Myanmar, in order to help protect the Earth from pollution, it is necessary to reduce the widespread use of plastic packaging materials. Efforts should be made to minimize plastic waste, reuse it as much as possible, and recycle such waste into consumer products. In other words, if the government provides full support - through necessary technologies and other forms of assistance - to micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises which develop environmentally friendly alternative materials to replace plastics, it would contribute, in part, to reducing the threat of plastic pollution currently faced by our planet.

support - through necessary technologies and other forms of assistance - to micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises which develop environmentally friendly alternative materials to replace plastics, it would contribute, in part, to reducing the threat of plastic pollution currently faced by our planet.

The theme for Earth Day 2026 is 'Our Power, Our Planet'. Find out how to get involved now and on Earth Day, which falls on 22 April 2026. For this International Mother Earth Day, let's remind ourselves that we need a shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. Let's promote harmony with nature and the Earth. Join the global movement to restore our world!

In truth, for human beings, the Earth is the one that bears the weight of trees, the one that cradles the seas and oceans, the one that nourishes blooming flowers with the milk of its heart. Yet now, because of human neglect and disregard, that very Earth has long been showing signs of illness and declining health due to uneasily decayed plastic waste.

For this, we have to simply reduce the use of plastics and dispose of them properly. We should cut down on the excessive use of chemicals that harm Mother Earth and human society. We must use freshwater carefully and avoid wasting it. As much as possible, we should prioritize and make use of renewable energy. Above all, we should help restore the Earth's beauty by planting and caring for the trees we cherish, and work together to reduce rising global temperatures and the degradation of the natural environment.

As for Myanmar, in order to help protect the Earth from pollution, it is necessary to reduce the widespread use of plastic packaging materials. Efforts should be made to minimize plastic waste, reuse it as much as possible, and recycle such waste into consumer products. In other words, if the government provides full

# Success, Stagnation, and the Quiet Arrest of Growth

By Khin Maung Myint



### The Modern Puzzle

Many individuals today reach what society calls success - security, status, and recognition - yet experience a subtle inner stagnation. Psychology describes this as a plateau; in Maslow's terms, it resembles a "maturation arrest": development halts after lower and mid-level needs are fulfilled.

From a Buddhist perspective, this is less surprising than it appears.

### Maslow: When Motivation Falls Silent

Abraham Maslow observed

that once basic and psychological needs are satisfied, motivation weakens. The individual is no longer *driven* but merely *invited* to grow.

At this stage:

- Survival is secured
- Esteem is established
- Social identity is stable

Yet self-actualization - the highest level - requires **voluntary engagement**. Nothing compels it. Hence, many stop short.

This stopping point is what we may call **maturation arrest**: not failure, but **unfinished development**.

### Buddhism: Attachment as the Hidden Brake

Buddhist thought adds a crucial layer: the role of **attachment (upādāna)**.

A successful person may:

- Adhere to the Five Precepts
- Live ethically and responsibly
- Earn their rightful place in society

None of this is problematic. In fact, it reflects discipline and right conduct.

The difficulty arises when success becomes **something to hold onto**.

Not crude greed, but subtle forms:

- Attachment to reputation
- Identification with a role
- Fear of losing position

This quiet clinging acts as a **psychological brake** - not visible, but effective.

### The Five Precepts: Necessary, Not Sufficient

The Five Precepts stabilise behaviour and reduce harm. They create the conditions for a well-ordered life.

But they do not, by themselves, dissolve:

- Ego attachment
- Identity fixation
- The illusion of permanence

Thus, a person may be:

- Morally disciplined
- Socially successful

Yet remain **internally un-free**.

### The Noble Path and the Missing Movement

The Noble Eightfold Path points beyond conduct to the transformation of mind:

- Right View challenges illusion
- Right Mindfulness observes attachment
- Right Concentration steadies the mind

Without these, life remains externally complete but internally static.

In Maslow's language, the person has fulfilled **deficiency needs** but has not entered **sustained growth (being) motivation**.

### Where the Two Frameworks Meet

Maslow and Buddhism converge on a striking insight:

- Maslow: Growth at higher levels is not enforced
- Buddhism: Liberation requires letting go of



### "Deserving One's Place" - Not the Problem

Striving, achieving, and occupying one's rightful place are not in conflict with either framework.

Effort aligns with growth. Responsibility aligns with ethical living.

The issue is not achievement itself, but **identification with achievement**.

One may:

- Work diligently
- Succeed legitimately
- Contribute meaningfully

and continue to grow - if **one does not cling**.

### The Resolution: From Possession to Participation

The way forward is neither withdrawal nor rejection of success, but a shift in relationship:

- From having to being
- From holding to engaging
- From identity to awareness

In Maslow's terms, this is the movement into self-actualisation. In Buddhist terms, it is the loosening of attachment.

### Closing Reflection

What appears as "maturation arrest" is not a failure of success, nor a flaw in discipline.

It is the natural point where: Motivation grows quiet, And attachment grows subtle.

Beyond this point, growth is no longer driven by need, but awakened by insight.

attachment  
Together, they explain the same phenomenon:  
The individual stops growing not because they cannot,

But because nothing pushes and something subtly holds.  
That "something" is attachment.

IN THE field of teaching language, there are loads of useful methods to apply depending on the likes of teachers or the strengths of students. However, it is no easy task to say which method of teaching is the best in language instruction, such as the direct method, the grammar-translation method or the lecture-discussion method. As far as I can see, each method of language teaching has both its related advantages and weaknesses, but differs to a greater or lesser degree. Here, one of the applied teaching methods of language will be shown with an explanation. This method is nothing but a diamante poem. The organization of the poem is not the same as that of regular poems at all.

A diamante is an unrhymed seven-line poem whose lines are structured to form a diamond shape. Of course, 'diamante' is the Italian word for diamond, which is stylishly so named and also pronounced dee-uh-MAHN-tay. Writing diamante poems is a five-minute

activity guaranteed to bring fun and joy to any classroom. As a matter of fact, the history of diamante poems is like this. The diamante poem was invented more than half a century ago, the form of which was developed by Iris McClellan Tiedt in an article 'A New Poetry Form: The Diamante' in 1969.

How does the diamante get diamond-shaped? The seven-lined poem follows a specific structure, which gives it a unique diamond shape as below.

Line 1: One noun - the beginning subject of the poem

Line 2: Two adjectives that describe the subject in line 1

Line 3: Three-ing verbs related to the subject in line 1

Line 4: Four nouns - two about the subject in line 1; two about the subject in line 7, or two phrases - one about the subject in line 1; one about the subject in line 7

Line 5: Three -ing verbs related to the

## Diamante: An Applied Method of English Language Teaching

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

subject in line 7

Line 6: Two adjectives that describe the subject in line 7

Line 7: One noun - the ending subject of the poem

Word count on each line: 1,2,3,4,3,2,1

Where line 4 is the link between the two nouns in lines 1 and 7.

There are two variations of Diamante poems. The first one is Synonym Diamante, which begins with a noun and ends with a synonym of the noun. On the other hand, the second one is Antonym Diamante, which begins with a noun

and ends with the antonym of this noun. We can study the following examples.

teacher  
qualified, intelligent  
reading, lecturing, innovating  
experience, method, readiness, effort  
studying, questioning, creating  
resilient, happy  
student  
sun  
fiery, warm  
glittering, colouring, dominating  
lights daytime, illuminates nighttime

reflecting, shimmering, floating  
cool, peaceful  
moon

What can diamante poems be used for? The theme purposes include to reinforce the definitions and uses of nouns, adjectives and -ing verbs or gerunds, to compare and bring out the similarities between two nouns, to compare and bring out the contrast between two nouns, and to enhance vocabulary. In this way, students may then try to compose rhyming poems.

How do teachers begin the five-minute

activity of writing diamante poems in class? The method procedures are as follows.

- 1) Recapitulate the various parts of speech - noun, adjective and verb.
- 2) Share the examples of diamante poems.
- 3) Brainstorm the common points of the diamante poems, such as the number of lines, parts of speech used in each line, the 4<sup>th</sup> line, which links nouns in line 1 and line 7, and the shape of the poem and the relevance of the name Diamante.
- 4) Construct a synonym or antonym diamante poem using simple nouns like parents and children or fire and water.
- 5) Make a list of adjectives and verbs.
- 6) Compose the diamante poem using the list of words.

By the method, students can be paired and the nouns in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> line taken up by each one. Setting a time limit, they may construct their portion of Diamante, and the resulting poem can be read out in the class.

# NATIONAL

## Russian held in scam crackdown; 5 foreigners face charges



Immigration process is underway for the deportation of foreign immigrants.

AUTHORITIES have detained a Russian national linked to online scam operations near Myawady and are processing his deportation, while five foreign nationals face legal action, according to reports.

The government continues to investigate illegal online gambling and telecom fraud networks involving foreign nationals entering border areas through unlawful routes. Offenders are being deported to their home countries in line with legal procedures.

Two Chinese nationals were charged with visa violations on 12 April, two others with illegal entry

on 15 April, and one Chinese Taiwan national with drug-related offences on 15 April.

From 30 January 2025 to 21 April 2026, a total of 14,626 illegal foreign entrants were detained in Myawady Township. Of these, 13,405 have been repatriated via Thailand, while 1,221 remain under processing, including 746 who have already been punished under existing laws.

Authorities said efforts are ongoing, in cooperation with regional partners, to crack down on scam networks and facilitate the return of affected foreign nationals. — MNA/KZL

## Frontline troops honoured at Shan State (East) welcome ceremony

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members who carried out security operations for State stability and regional peace around the Muse area in Shan State (North), were warmly welcomed back at a ceremony held at a local battalion in Monghsat, Shan State (East), yesterday afternoon.

The event was attended by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Naing Soe of the Triangle Region Command, along with

officials, officers, soldiers, family members, members of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, departmental personnel and local ethnic residents, who gathered to honour the returning troops.

The personnel had served tirelessly on frontline duties to ensure public safety, safeguard lives and property, and maintain peace and stability across regions and states. Attendees welcomed them back with tra-

ditional ceremonial gestures, including the presentation of auspicious leaves and performances of traditional music and dances.

During the ceremony, the deputy commander delivered a congratulatory speech and presented honorary cash awards to the returning personnel. Then, the Deputy Commander and officials had lunch together with victorious troops. — MNA/KZL



Tatmadaw's triumphant troops are pictured being warmly welcomed in Monghsat, eastern Shan State.

## Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon route to be operated by DEMU air-conditioned express trains No 5/No 6

IN accord with guidance of the President, Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Transport will operate the Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon route with modern DEMU passenger air-conditioned express trains No 5/No 6 from 1 May, under the following schedule: -

The stations along the Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon route are Toeyyounggale, Bago,

Sr	Train No	Journey		Departure/Arrival Time		Total Duration
		From	To	Departure	Arrival	
1	No 5 Up	Yangon	Mandalay	06:00	16:00	(10) hrs
2	No 6 Down	Mandalay	Yangon	06:00	16:10	(10) hrs (10) mins



Nyaunglebin, Toungoo, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, Yamethin, Thazi, and Kyaukse.

The fare for the upper class is K48,000 and for the first class K34,000.

The modern air-conditioned DEMU passenger express train No 31 Up/No 32 Down will run on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route as per the following schedule.

It will stop over at Toeyyounggale, Bago, DaikU, Toungoo, and Pyinmana stations

along the route, and the fares will remain the same.

Sr	Train No	Journey		Departure/Arrival Time		Total Duration
		From	To	Departure	Arrival	
1	No 31 Up	Yangon	Nay Pyi Taw	10:00	15:00	(5) hrs
2	No 32 Down	Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	10:00	15:00	(5) hrs

The No 7 Up/No 8 Down air-conditioned modern DEMU passenger express train will run on the Yangon - Nay Pyi Taw - Yangon route as per the schedule below. It will stop at Toeyyounggale, Bago, Pyu, Toungoo, and Pyinmana stations along the route, and the fares will remain the same.

Sr	Train No.	Journey		Departure/Arrival Time		Total Duration
		From	To	Departure	Arrival	
1	No 7 Up	Yangon	Nay Pyi Taw	12:30	17:30	(5) hrs
2	No 8 Down	Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	12:30	17:30	(5) hrs

No 5 Up/No 6 Down DEMU passenger express trains are running on the Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon route and No 31 Up/No 32 Down on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route. Seat tickets for No 7 Up/No 8 Down air-conditioned DEMU passenger express trains can be purchased through the Online Railways Ticketing and Payment (ORTP) System.

As the number of train passengers increases, Myanmar Railways will expand train routes and connect additional trains to provide convenient travel for rail passengers. — MNA/MKKS

## Romanian AI music sensation Lolita sparks racism debate

THE sultry songs of Lolita Cercei, an AI-generated singer, are a sensation in Romania, racking up millions of views online — but angering real-life musicians and drawing criticism from the Roma minority as a racist cliché.

Since debuting late last year, “Lolita” has given TV interviews, landed representation by a top booking agency and had a cabinet member use the digitally generated singer’s telegenic image to promote his ministry’s projects.

But the videos’ popularity has stirred debate in Romania about artificial intelligence replacing humans, and has raised

questions about ethnic stereotypes in a country with a history of discriminating against the Roma.

Lolita is “a very sexualized” character, “a non-Roma man’s fantasy of what a Roma woman might look like”, Bogdan Burdusel, a 35-year-old Roma activist, told AFP, criticizing “latent and unaddressed racism” in Romanian society.

Real-life Roma singer Bianca Mihai, a contestant on the Romanian version of reality TV show “The Voice” last year, called Lolita’s overnight success “unfair”.



Tom, the creator of AI generated singer Lolita, works on a new music video of his character in Bucharest, Romania, on 9 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

“I’m trying to build a career right now, and I feel like there’s no room for me,” said Mihai, 25, who juggles a full-time job as an IT consultant with studio rehearsals

and an acting gig.

In reality, Lolita is the work of a man who calls himself Tom, a 32-year-old visual designer who said he did not necessarily mean

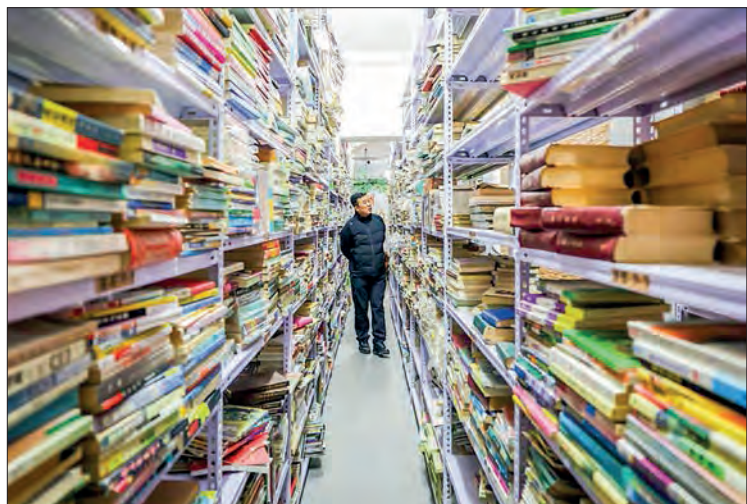
for his creation to have a Roma identity. Tom, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Lolita “doesn’t necessarily belong to a specific culture”. — AFP

## Bookstore owner turns hidden shop into haven for book lovers

FANMO Bookstore, a second-hand book store, lies in an alley of an old residential area in Changchun. Spanning 400 square metres, it houses more than 100,000 books. Most of its space is given to books, with just over a dozen seats set aside for free reading.

The bookstore is run by Ma Ruofan. In 2020, she met her hus-

band, who has already run the place. Together, they took over his mother’s collection of second-hand books, and have been tending to the store with their devotion ever since. Ma turned the online-only store into a real destination by redesigning its layout and upgrading services. Today, the bookstore has become a haven for book lovers. — Xinhua



A book lover selects books at Fanmo Bookstore in Changchun, northeast China’s Jilin Province, 15 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

## 10<sup>th</sup> Aswan Intl Women Film Festival opens in Egypt

THE 10<sup>th</sup> Aswan International Women Film Festival (AIWFF) opened Monday evening in the southern Egyptian city of Aswan with a red-carpet ceremony along the Nile Riverbank, launching a six-day event dedicated to women’s issues, stories, and cinematic achievements.

Running from 20 to 25 April, the festival is showcasing 68 films from 34 countries, in-

cluding the host country Egypt, France, the Netherlands, China, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Tajikistan, Bolivia and Peru.

The festival lineup features 10 titles in the Feature Film Competition and 21 in the Short Film Competition, both of which are international categories. The local Egyptian programme highlights national talent through three special-

ized contests: Films with Impact (nine films), South Films (10 films), and Workshop Films (18 films).

AIWFF president Mohamed Abdelkhalik said that one of AIWFF’s main achievements over the past decade has been building a real filmmaking base in Upper Egypt, depicting the festival as a growing pool of young filmmakers and technicians from the south. — Xinhua

## Tomb dating back to 4<sup>th</sup> century discovered in NW China’s Shaanxi

CHINESE archaeologists have excavated a large-scale tomb dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century in Shaanxi Province, northwest China, according to the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology.

Suspected to be a royal tomb from the Sixteen Kingdoms period (304-439), the tomb, despite having been looted, has retained its complete

layout and structure. During excavation, only 17 artefacts have been unearthed from it, including a porcelain vessel with tea-dust glaze, a type of artifact rarely found in other tombs of the same period. Yu Chunlei, associate researcher at the academy and head of the excavation effort, said that among the three earthen

architectural structures discovered in the tomb, the one on the ceiling of the front chamber is a mock-wood pyramidal roof featuring a flat top. At its centre is a carved nine-square grid caisson ceiling, representing the first such example found in Sixteen Kingdoms archaeology and which holds significant research value. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## US March retail sales surge past expectations on energy cost spike



People shop at a supermarket in New York, the United States, on 10 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

RETAIL sales in the United States soared past expectations in March, government data showed Tuesday, as gasoline prices surged on fallout from war in the Middle East.

Sales rose by 1.7 per cent from the prior month to \$752.1 billion, rising more than analysts expected with its biggest jump in a year, Commerce Department data showed.

From a year ago, retail sales bounced 4.0 per cent.

The acceleration came on the back of a 15.5 per cent month-on-month increase in gasoline station sales, as energy costs climbed in March.

US-Israeli strikes target-

ing Iran from 28 February had triggered Tehran's retaliation in virtually blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for energy transit.

Since then, oil and gas prices have surged, and gasoline costs have risen in the world's biggest economy as well.

Steeper costs — which have added pressure on households and businesses — have in turn fuelled fears of a broader inflation uptick, and an impact on consumer demand and growth.

Excluding gasoline stations, overall retail sales were up by just 0.6 per cent on a month-on-month basis. — AFP

## Vietnam's CBU vehicle imports top 56,000 in Q1

VIETNAM imported 56,012 completely built-up (CBU) vehicles in the first three months of 2026, up nearly 21 per cent from the same time last year, local media VnExpress reported Tuesday, citing the Department of Vietnam Customs.

Among the top three suppliers, China recorded the fastest growth, with shipments surging 73.3 per cent year on year to 17,168 units, while Indonesia remained the largest with 23,402 vehicles, up 27.5 per cent, and Thailand

saw shipments fall 18.7 per cent to 13,077 units, the report said.

For years, trucks imported from China have dominated imports, while more Chinese automakers have expanded into passenger cars with electric and hybrid models, contributing to Vietnam's rising vehicle imports, the report added.

The total value of vehicle imports in the three-month period reached about US\$1.33 billion. — Xinhua

## EU weighs US imports, minimum reserves for jet fuel crunch

THE European Union said Tuesday that it was considering importing more jet fuel from the US and requiring member states to hold minimum reserves as the Middle East war squeezes supplies.

While saying there is no evidence of "actual shortages" currently, EU transport commissioner Apostolos Tzitzikostas said stocks were "under pressure" in parts of Europe, and the bloc needed to be prepared.

"We are working on secur-

ing an alternative jet fuel supply for Europe, such as type-A jet fuel produced in the United States," Tzitzikostas said at a press conference after video talks between EU transport ministers.

Type-A is primarily used in the United States due to differences in standards and compatibility issues with aeronautical infrastructure.

The European Commission is "assessing" how the fuel could be used in Europe, Tzitzikostas said.

### No emergency, yet

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran has sent energy prices soaring and threatened supplies of jet fuel across the globe.

About 20 per cent of aviation fuel consumed in the 27-nation EU relies on imports via Hormuz, according to the European Commission.

"Europe maintains emergency stocks. These stocks can be and will be released only if necessary. At this stage, however, the market is managing the pressure, and there is no evidence of actual shortages," Tzitzikostas said.

But Brussels will lay out a series of measures to deal with the crisis and its potential protracted effects on Wednesday, he added.

They include guidance on "flexibilities" allowed by current rules on the handling of airport slots and of anti-tankering — provisions limiting how much fuel a plane can uplift.

Guidance on passenger rights and public service obligations are also planned. — AFP



Aircraft by German airline Lufthansa Cargo takes off at Frankfurt Airport (FRA) as a Boeing 737-800 is parked at Frankfurt Airport (FRA) in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany on 16 December 2025. PHOTO: AFP

## New Zealand reports 3.1% annual inflation

NEW Zealand's annual inflation held steady at 3.1 per cent in the March 2026 quarter, Stats NZ reported Tuesday.

The annual rate was unchanged from the previous quarter, remaining just above the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's 1-3 per cent target band, said the statistics department.

Electricity prices, up 12.5 per cent over the year, were the largest contributor to the annual inflation rate, marking the third consecutive quarter they led in-

flationary pressures, it said.

Local authority rates and payments, up 8.8 per cent, and meat and poultry, up 8.6 per cent, also drove the rise. Rent increased 1.2 per cent, its slowest annual growth in 16 years, figures showed. On a quarterly basis, the consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.9 per cent in the March 2026 quarter, with petrol prices the biggest contributor; increasing 3.5 per cent despite earlier declines in January and February, Stats NZ said. — Xinhua

# Sony, Honda to scale down mobility joint venture after EV plan scrapped

SONY Group Corp and Honda Motor Co said Tuesday they have decided to scale down operations at their joint venture after they recently scrapped plans to develop and market two electric vehicle models.

Some 400 employees at Sony Honda Mobility Inc will be "reassigned" to its parent companies, Sony and Honda, or related entities, as the joint venture has concluded that it would be difficult to roll out products and services under the current structure in the short to medium term. "Based on these conclusions, the companies have decided to review the current struc-

ture of SHM for the time being and scale down its operations," they said in a joint statement.

The decision follows Sony Honda Mobility's announcement in March that it had scrapped planned electric vehicle models after Honda reviewed its electrification strategy amid a changing market environment.

The Tokyo-based venture will remain as a company, though its operations will effectively be put on hold.

Set up in 2022, the venture had aimed to release its first model, Afeela 1, this year and another EV model

sometime in or after 2028, both in the United States.

Japan's second-largest automaker by volume has been forced to rethink its EV push amid slowing US demand and fierce competition with Chinese rivals. For the fiscal year through March, Honda is expected to have incurred its first net loss since listing in 1957.

Automakers are facing headwinds in the EV market after US President Donald Trump abolished tax incentives for EV purchases last year, while the European Union has also revised its planned 2035 ban on the sale of gasoline and diesel cars. — Kyodo



File photo shows Sony Honda Mobility Inc's Afeela 1 electric vehicle model displayed in Las Vegas in January 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

## Chinese automaker Chery opens NEV manufacturing plant in Thailand

CHINESE automaker Chery and its subsidiary OMODA & JAECOO officially inaugurated their new energy vehicle (NEV) production facility in Thailand on Monday, marking a milestone in expanding their global manufacturing footprint.

Located in the eastern Rayong province, the plant is equipped with advanced manufacturing capabilities, including aluminium body welding and comprehensive battery production lines, with a target annual production capacity of 80,000 units by 2030. During the opening ceremony, Chen Chunqing, executive vice president of Chery International, said that the new factory highlighted the company's localization efforts, positioning Thailand as its regional NEV hub.

He emphasized that Chery will continue to introduce its newest models to the Thai market while

rapidly deploying cutting-edge innovations, including autopilot, valet parking systems, and AI interactive technologies.

Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Supamas Isarabhakdi, underscored that the investment aligns with the Thai government's goal of having zero-emission vehicles comprise 30 per cent of total automotive production by 2030.

She noted that accelerating the procurement of alternative energy is a crucial long-term solution amid global energy uncertainties, adding that the foreign investment will bring advanced technology transfer, elevate Thai labour skills, and create local jobs. To ensure long-term industrial growth, OMODA & JAECOO Thailand also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chonburi and Rayong technical colleges during the ceremony. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B80RS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B80RS1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2026 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  
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

IT is hereby announced that the bridges, warehouses and docks at Yangon Port will be closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (Full Moon Day of Kason) and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 (International Workers' Day). If you wish to load/unload or unload goods, you will have to pay a holiday Fees.

Advertise  
with us/

Hotline: 09 2555 97511  
09 4542 37515

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (361W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (361W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2026 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  
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26014)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26014) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Renewables key to buffer fossil fuel energy shock: COP31 co-hosts

THE hosts of the COP31 climate summit said Tuesday that a major energy shock rattling the global economy reinforced the need to invest in renewable alternatives to fossil fuels.

Dozens of climate ministers are in Germany to discuss priorities ahead of the UN-sponsored negotiations being held in Türkiye and co-hosted with Australia in November.

The two-day Berlin meeting takes place as nations struggle with energy shortages and soaring prices, with some governments rationing fuel and looking to coal to shore up supply.

Global energy supply chains are facing a historic upheaval as the Iran war disrupts shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, the key transit point for Gulf oil and gas exports.

Türkiye's climate minister and COP31 president Murat Kurum said the crisis "has shown us, once again, that fossil fuels



Türkiye's Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Murat Kurum addresses delegates at the start of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) conference, on 21 April 2026 at the Westhafen Convention Centre (WECC) in Berlin. **PHOTO: AFP**

do not guarantee energy supply security".

"Investment in alternative

energy sources, in particular to support energy diversity, means stability, resilience and clean de-

velopment," Kurum said through a translator.

"This is what we must all

pursue," he added, stressing that nations would respond differently given individual economic circumstance.

Australia's Climate Minister Chris Bowen, who is steering the negotiations at COP31, said nations could shore up energy security and "block the impacts of future fossil fuel shocks" through renewables.

"Renewable energy is a proven proposition and the cheapest form of energy ever known," said Bowen, who spoke via video link after cancelling his trip to Berlin over the fuel crisis in Australia.

"As our energy supply and economies face headwinds, now is not the time to hesitate, but the time to act with clarity and conviction to continue our transition to clean, cheap, reliable energy," he added. Roughly twice as much investment goes into clean energy as fossil fuels, which are the primary driver of human-caused climate change. — AFP

## JAXA mulls launching H3 test rocket in June after last year's failure

THE Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency is considering launching a test model of its H3 rocket on 10 June, following a failed attempt to send a satellite into orbit last December, a source familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The test rocket would lift off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, with components identified as the cause of the 22 December failure having been fixed.

The failure of the eighth

H3 rocket was likely caused by an adhesion problem in the satellite mounting structure, which led it to break apart during flight, according to an investigation by JAXA.

Similar issues were found in other units, prompting the space agency to fix them so the components can maintain their structural integrity. In the June launch, a dummy satellite will be mounted on the test vehicle to collect data and verify the effectiveness of the measures. For future launches of actual satellites or space probes, JAXA plans to review the mounting structure design to reduce the risk of failure.

Japan aims to create the seven-orbiter geolocation system to provide highly accurate positioning services vital for smartphones and vehicle navigation without relying on satellites from other countries. — Kyodo



File photo taken on 22 December 2025 shows the eighth H3 rocket lifting off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Indonesia allocates fund to boost irrigation against El Nino impact

INDONESIA has earmarked over three trillion Indonesian rupiahs (around US\$175 million) to bolster the irrigation system ahead of a forecast prolonged dry season, the country's Agriculture Minister Andi Amran Sulaiman said Tuesday.

Amran said the programme targets 1.5 million hectares of farmland. It focuses on strengthening infrastructure, optimizing land use, and deploying water pumps.

Despite the climate outlook, Amran said that national food stocks remain sufficient for 11 months, well beyond the projected six-month duration of the El Nino phenomenon. — Xinhua

#### Cuba confirms recent meeting with US delegation

A meeting was recently held here in Cuba between delegations from Cuba and the United States, Alejandro Garcia del Toro, deputy director-general for US affairs at Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Cuba's state daily Granma on Monday.

"The US side was represented by assistant secretaries of the State Department, while the Cuban side participated at the level of deputy minister of foreign affairs," Garcia told the Cuban Communist Party's newspaper. He said the talks have been handled "with discretion", as they are considered by the Cuban government to be "a sensitive matter". Garcia stressed neither side set deadlines or made any coercive demands, and all exchanges took place respectfully and professionally. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Myanmar to compete in Asian Beach Games Tagball

MYANMAR'S national tagball team departed on the morning of 21 April to compete in the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Beach Games, which will be held in Sanya, China, from 24 to 27 April.

According to the competition format, Myanmar will compete in three events: men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. The group-stage draw will be conducted one day before the competition.

In the men's doubles event, Saw Friday and Si Thu Tun will represent Myanmar, while Naing Naing Win and Su Mon Aung will compete in the women's doubles. Ko Ko Lwin and Khin Su Wai will take part in the mixed doubles event.

The current squad has been formed by combining experienced players who won two silver and



Members and officials of the Myanmar national tagball team are seen before departing for China.

two bronze medals at the 2015 SEA Games with two new players, aiming to strengthen the team's overall performance. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## PSG and Luis Enrique sweat on Vitinha ahead of Champions League semis

PARIS Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said Tuesday he was unsure if midfield metronome Vitinha would be fit to play against Bayern Munich in the Champions League semifinals.

The Portuguese central midfielder will miss PSG's Ligue 1 clash against Nantes on Wednesday due to a heel inflammation.

"We'll take a calm and measured approach to see how the injured players can make a comeback. But I don't know," he told reporters when asked if Vitinha would be back in time for next Tuesday's semi-final first leg at

the Parc des Princes.

"We need to manage Vitinha's minor injury; some players are a bit tired or have a few niggles," the Spaniard also told PSGTV.

Should the 26-year-old be unavailable, his place at the heart of the PSG midfield could be filled by the returning Fabian Ruiz.

Alongside Vitinha and Joao Neves, Ruiz formed the midfield trio that anchored much of PSG's success last season as they won a maiden Champions League title and lifted the Ligue 1 trophy.

The Spaniard returned for the final 18 minutes of PSG's 2-1 league loss at home to Lyon last weekend as he continues his comeback from a knee injury.

Luis Enrique cooled expectations on the 30-year-old, however, as he said Ruiz would need "time to regain fitness" after spending three months on the sidelines.

"Fabian Ruiz needs more matches and minutes to recover," Luis Enrique insisted, before adding he was nonetheless "happy" with his return against Lyon. — AFP

## Myanmar Plaza to host Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup

THE Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup, organized by the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation with support from Myanmar Plaza, will be held in Yangon.

The tournament will take place from 23 to 26 April at Myanmar Plaza on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, with free admission for spectators.

Top national players, experienced veterans, and promising young talents will compete in the four-player open category. Participating teams include leading clubs such as Seltel Bo, Leik Thone Kaung, Khit Kyaung Thar, YRG, Shwe Kyun Thar, Dwe Mal Naw, USL and San Nyunt.

A team managers' meeting and the fixture draw will be held at 10 am on 22 April at the federation office in Thuwunna.

Cash prizes will be awarded: K5 million for first prize, K3 million for second prize, and two joint third prizes of K1.5 million each. — Bala/KZL



This image features a poster for the Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup.



## Alcaraz, Sabalenka win Laureus awards

SPANISH tennis player Carlos Alcaraz was named World Sportsman of the year at the 2026 Laureus World Sports Awards on Monday night.

Alcaraz beat candidates including cyclist Tadej Pogacar, who won his fourth Tour de France in 2025, along with numerous other races, and his main tennis rival, Jannik Sinner.

There was further success for tennis

Carlos Alcaraz poses with the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award during the 2026 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Madrid, Spain, 20 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

when Aryna Sabalenka was named World Sportswoman of the Year.

"There are so many strong, great and inspiring women in sport at the moment," she said, expressing gratitude in a room where there were "so many stars".

The ceremony was held in Madrid for the second year running, with tennis player Novak Djokovic and Chinese freestyle skier Gu Ailing on presenting duties. Gu likened her new role to skiing by saying both gave her "butterflies" in her stomach.

FC Barcelona's Spain international Lamine Yamal was named World Young Sportsperson of the Year, with Gu explain-

ing one reason for his win was the impact he has had "on a whole generation".

"I hope this helps me carry on, as there is a long road ahead," said Yamal.

There was another footballing triumph as European champion Paris Saint-Germain was awarded the Laureus World Team of the Year, beating rivals including the England women's football team and the India women's cricket team.

The World Comeback of the Year went to defending US Masters golf champion Rory McIlroy, who also helped Europe win the Ryder Cup in the United States. — Xinhua



# Counting a billion people: Inside India's mega census drive

**S**UKHWINDER Kaur battles the scorching sun as she trudges door-to-door in New Delhi as part of India's colossal exercise to count more than one billion citizens.

Kaur is among three million census enumerators fanning out across cities and villages in an exercise that will help shape policy for the country's estimated 1.4 billion people for years to come.

Billed as the world's largest population count, the census is being held in two phases at a cost of \$1.25 billion, according to the government.

Last week, the heat became overwhelming for Kaur, a government school teacher.

"I went back home, but returned again in the evening," said Kaur, who will be paid 25,000 rupees (\$270) for the assignment, like other census enumerators.

Feebly knocking on a door in the servants' quarters of an upscale housing society, Kaur, 38, tried to explain the purpose of her visit to an elderly resident.

"Because we have been handling children, we have, in a way, learned how to deal with all kinds of people," she said.

"Some speak politely, some behave strangely but we know how to handle them."

In the first phase, census takers ask 33 questions related to water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel and internet.

The second phase next year will focus on economic status as well as the more contentious question of caste —



Sukhwinder Kaur (L), a census enumerator and a school teacher, collects details of housing and amenities during a door-to-door survey in the first phase of the census at a residential area in New Delhi on 20 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

the millennia-old social hierarchy that is deeply entwined with Indian politics and welfare entitlements.

As in the past, census results will be released in phases starting late next year.

The Hindu-majority nation faces mounting challenges in providing housing, electricity and other basic needs to its growing population.

Many of its megacities are already grappling with water shortages and

overcrowded slums.

The government says the first phase "forms an essential foundation for evidence-based planning and formulation of welfare and development programmes."

— AFP



A marine robot is on display during the Singapore Maritime Week (SMW) 2026 in Singapore on 21 April 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Singapore launches new platform OCEANS-X to enhance maritime digital connectivity

SINGAPORE on Tuesday launched a new platform, OCEANS-X, at the opening ceremony of Singapore Maritime Week (SMW) 2026, aimed at enhancing maritime digital connectivity and supporting global trade flows. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Jeffrey Siow, Singapore's Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance, announced the launch of OCEANS-X, a new data and Application Programming Interface (API) exchange platform developed by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

Siow said the platform will facilitate

data exchange between regulators, port operators, shipping lines, and international partners, so that different maritime systems are interoperable.

According to MPA, OCEANS-X provides secure system-to-system connectivity across the maritime ecosystem, allowing maritime companies and government agencies to exchange trusted data directly. This, in turn, enables integrated digital services for better service delivery, more efficient port operations, smoother trade flows, and stronger connectivity with global ports. — Xinhua