

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Maha Bodhi Temples see UNESCO World Heritage list

Archaeological experts from Myanmar, India, and Thailand collaborate on transnational UNESCO World Heritage nomination for Maha Bodhi temples.



Maha Bodhi Temple in Bagan.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum has announced that Myanmar, India, and Thailand are collaborating to submit a tentative list for the transnational nomination of Maha Bodhi temples in the Indian Ocean region to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The three countries are working together on a “serial nomination” for the Maha Bodhi temples, which includes the Maha Bodhi temples in Bagan and Bago in Myanmar, the Maha Bodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya in India, and Wat Chet Yot

(Wat Ched Yod) in Chiang Mai in Thailand.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) is actively preparing the necessary documentation, conducting preservation and research, and facilitating coordination meetings to ensure the success of the nomination. Last March, at the Bagan Branch office, a meeting was held involving members of the Mandalay Region Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee, members of the Maha Bodhi Temple Board of Trustees, representatives from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI),

and officials from the Bagan Branch. They discussed completed research and conservation efforts, as well as future requirements for the temples.

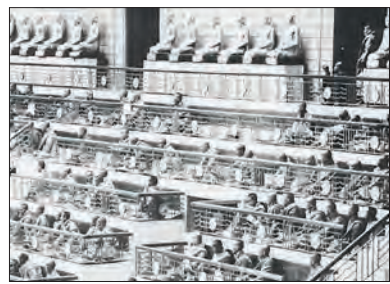
To facilitate the submission of the tentative list, teams formed by the Department are currently gathering data, documenting sites, capturing drone footage, and preparing maps.

Furthermore, from 20 to 22 April 2026, officials from the Yangon, Bagan, and Bago branches, along with representatives from the Bagan Heritage Trust and the Archaeological Survey

of India (ASI), held meetings at the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Yangon Branch). Led by Deputy Director-General (Museums) and archaeological advisor Dr Thein Lwin, the team discussed the drafting of the nomination dossier, the preparation of boundary maps, the selection of criteria, data assessment, and the collection of photographic and video documentation. They also reviewed necessary research and conservation projects and conducted a field visit to the Maha Bodhi temple in Bago. — ASH/KNN

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Grand celebration marking 70th anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council to feature special sermon, and paper reading

NATIONAL

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MGMA's advanced sewing machine operator training batch 14 continues

Salon fishermen in Kawthoung earn higher income in sale of squid

THE Salon ethnic group living in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region is currently earning a good income from squid fishing due to favourable prices in Thailand, with the catch being sent to Kawthoung depots before being sold to Thailand.

“We are used to fishing for squid all year round. We catch more squid during the rainy season, but the price has gone down. This season, there are fewer squid and they are more expensive, so we mainly focus on catching squid. The weather is good and the price of squid is good, so it is convenient,” said Ko Zan Moe, a Salon ethnic resident fishing for squid in the sea near Zadetgyi island.

Squid is usually caught in the sea from the 3rd waning to the 3rd waxing of every month, and fishermen return to shore after 15 days. The most popular times to see the Salon ethnic people on the

islands are during the Thadingyut period and the Salon Nat (Sprit) Festival in February and March.

In the shallow waters near the shores of Kawthoung, Salon fishermen often fish, while others go out to sea with their families on boats. At night, they dive underwater using oxygen equipment and electric lights to catch shrimp, sea cucumbers, and fish, which are then sold the following day. Currently, lobsters weighing more than four kilogrammes are selling for over K40,000 per kilogramme, while small shrimp are selling for K25,000 per kilogramme. At the Ranong fish market in Thailand, lobsters are priced at 1,000 baht per kilogramme. Meanwhile, squid, which used to sell for K12,000 per kilogramme during the season, are now fetching a higher price of K20,000 per kilogramme. — Thitsa (MNA)/TH

NATIONAL

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the FM concludes visit

THE delegation led by Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, departed Nay Pyi Taw for China by special flight yesterday morning, following the completion of his official visit.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, departmental officials, and members of the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association. — MNA



Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi shakes hands with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw before departure for China at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday.

Air Quality Measurements in Yangon on 25 April

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

No	Air quality monitoring sites in Yangon Region	Parameters					
		PM 2.5	PM 10	SO ₂	NO ₂	O ₃	CO
1	Botataung Township, Yangon	Good					
2	International Business Centre, Hline, Yangon	Good					
3	Dagon Township, Yangon	Good					

Air Quality Index - AQI

0-50	Good air quality
51-100	Acceptable air quality
101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very unhealthy
301-500	Hazardous

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

Environmental Conservation Department

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4 pm Saturday 25 April 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 26 April 2026: The rain or thundershowers will be widespread in southern Shan State, fairly widespread in eastern Shan State, scattered in Mandalay Region and Kachin, Kayah and northern Shan states and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin and Mon states. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. The weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. The wave height will be about 3-5 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 April 2026: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 April 2026: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 April 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

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NATIONAL

UM for Transport visits modern storage facility project in Thilawa port, meets BOT officials

UNION Minister for Transport U Mya Tun Oo, along with Deputy Minister U Tun Lu and Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport Dr Myo Thaw, visited the construction site of the modern warehouse project being implemented under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system in the Thilawa port area, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, and met officials from the BOT jetties yesterday morning.

At the construction site of a modern warehouse project to be implemented by the Myanmar Port Authority and Myanmar Agricultural & General Development Public Limited (MAG-DPL) at the plot 29 in Thilawa Port Area, the Union minister inspected the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) port facilities, including ongoing port service operations



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo meets officials from jetties being implemented under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system in the Thilawa port area, Kyauktan, Yangon Region, yesterday.

and planned works under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system for the remaining jetties to be constructed. The Union minister coordinated the necessary measures.

The Union minister then said that since Myanmar's annual maritime trade accounts for an average of 70 per cent of total international trade, it

is necessary to promote public-private cooperation for the sustainable development of the entire port sector, including Yangon and Thilawa ports as key maritime gateways; to increase freight handling capacity at Yangon Port beyond domestic demand by effectively utilizing the country's strategic geographical location and

developing a land-water multimodal transport system for regional imports and exports; to continue expanding and constructing port facilities to support transshipment and transit trade services through Yangon Port; and, to ensure national energy security, to encourage private investors who have already allocated land for fuel terminals

and storage facilities to continue development, to modernize port operations through digital systems, to adopt solar energy to reduce power consumption, and to shift to battery-powered freight handling equipment and vehicles.

Next, the Union minister met officials from departments under the Ministry of Transport at the Myanmar Port Authority head office, where they discussed the activities to be implemented by each department and provided necessary information and coordination.

In the afternoon, he visited the construction site of a new 1,500 BHP harbour tug at the Theinbyu Shipyard under the Myanmar Port Authority for inspection and instructed the construction team to prioritize workplace safety, timely completion, and compliance with standards. — MNA/TH

Deputy Minister inspects conservation and restoration of historical sites in Toungoo and Bago

DEPUTY Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Aye Tun inspected the conservation and restoration of historical sites in Toungoo yesterday morning.

He first examined the maintenance of the city walls, moat, earthen embankments, and gate structures of the ancient Ketumati city, including the Myolay fortress, Yodaya Gate, and sections from the Yan Aung Myin Gate to the northwestern corner. He also reviewed arrangements made between the city walls and moat for public recreation and exercise, as well as plans to construct a modern bridge at the archival gate crossing using Toungoo-era architectural designs.

The Deputy Minister inspected archaeological excavation findings, such as brick structures, flooring, roof tiles, and iron artefacts, and instructed officials to ensure their systematic preservation. He continued his inspection of the Sin Gate and Thityin Gate on the



This photo shows Thityin Gate on the western wall of the ancient Ketumati city. PHOTO: ZAW KO KO (TOUNGOO)

western wall, as well as conservation work at brick monasteries and religious buildings in nearby villages.

During the inspection, he directed officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum to continue uncovering and preserving cultural heritage sites with funds

allocated by the Bago Region Government, while also maintaining a clean environment and linking heritage conservation with tourism development in cooperation with relevant organizations.

Ketumati Royal Palace was established in 1510 by King Mingyi Nyo and is recognized as a

historically significant city that contributed to the establishment of the Second Myanmar Empire.

The Deputy Minister then travelled to Bago and, in the afternoon, inspected conservation work at the ancient Hanthawady city. He reviewed the restoration of city walls and moats at the Hsenwi Gate, Inwa Gate, and

other sections, as well as public recreational areas integrated with heritage sites from the Hanthawady and Toungoo periods.

He also inspected conservation work at Yodaya Gate on the northern wall and the Zimmè and Mogaung gates on the southern wall. These works were carried out with funding from the Bago Region Government. The Deputy Minister emphasized the importance of long-term preservation, environmental cleanliness, and cooperation among relevant departments to promote cultural tourism.

Bago is home to the historic Hanthawady capital, where Queen Shin Saw Pu and King Dhammazedì once ruled, as well as the Kanbawzathadi Palace, rebuilt in 1553 by King Bayintnaung. During his reign, the powerful Toungoo Empire was consolidated, making Kanbawzathadi an important administrative centre of the Second Myanmar Empire. — Zaw Ko Ko (Toungoo)/KZL

NATIONAL

New flight routes launched in Dawei to boost regional connectivity

NEW flight routes have been launched and expanded in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, as part of efforts to strengthen regional connectivity and development.

The inauguration ceremony, held at Dawei Airport at 9 am yesterday, was organized by Myanmar National Airlines under the guidance of the President.

Officials formally opened the ceremony with a ribbon-cutting and performed a traditional blessing of the aircraft with scented water. The Taninthayi Region Chief Minister also presented awards to the band and dance troupe that performed at the event.

At the ceremony, the Chief Minister said the expansion of air routes in the Taninthayi



Officials sprinkle scented water on the passenger airplane of Myanmar National Airlines in Dawei Airport yesterday.

Region marks an important milestone not only for the aviation sector but also for regional economic growth, tourism, healthcare access, and overall development. He noted that cities such as Dawei, Myeik, Bokpyin, and Kawthoung have strong potential for both domestic and international trade and tourism, and that expanded air connectivity is vital infrastructure for regional progress.

The first flight of the newly launched route was operated by Captain Aung Zaw Lin and co-pilot Captain Aung Thin, who presented commemorative gifts to the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister and the officials concerned also exchanged souvenirs to mark the occasion. — Taninthayi Region (IPRD)/KZL

MNA launches Myeik-Dawei-Myeik flight route

MYANMAR National Airlines launched a Myeik-Dawei-Myeik flight service to improve connectivity for travellers in remote areas.

Under the guidance of the President, the airline operates L-410 aircraft to provide easier access for passengers. Flights from Yangon also run

to Manaung and Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State, while services based at Myeik Airport connect to Dawei, Bokpyin and Kawthoung starting from the morning of 24 April.

The L-410 aircraft departed Myeik at 8 am yesterday carrying 14 passengers and arrived in Dawei at 8:45 am.

Officials, including the Taninthayi Region Chief Minister welcomed the new service at Dawei Airport.

The aircraft then departed Dawei at 10 am with 16 passengers and arrived back in Myeik at 10:52 am, according to the Ministry of Transport. — MNA/KZL



Myanmar National Airlines celebrates Myeik-Dawei-Myeik flight launching service event.

EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.0 M with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 18 miles southwest of Paungpyin), latitude 24.13°N, longitude 94.57°E, depth 46 kilometres, about 18 miles southeast of Tamu Seismological Observatory was recorded at 3 hour 57 minute 21 second MST on 26 April 2026. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.2 M with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 15 miles south-southeast of Pauk), latitude 21.28°N, longitude 94.62°E, depth 100 kilometres, about 20 miles west-northwest of NyaungU Seismological Observatory was recorded at 21 hour 45 minute 11 second MST on 25 April 2026. — DMH



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NATIONAL

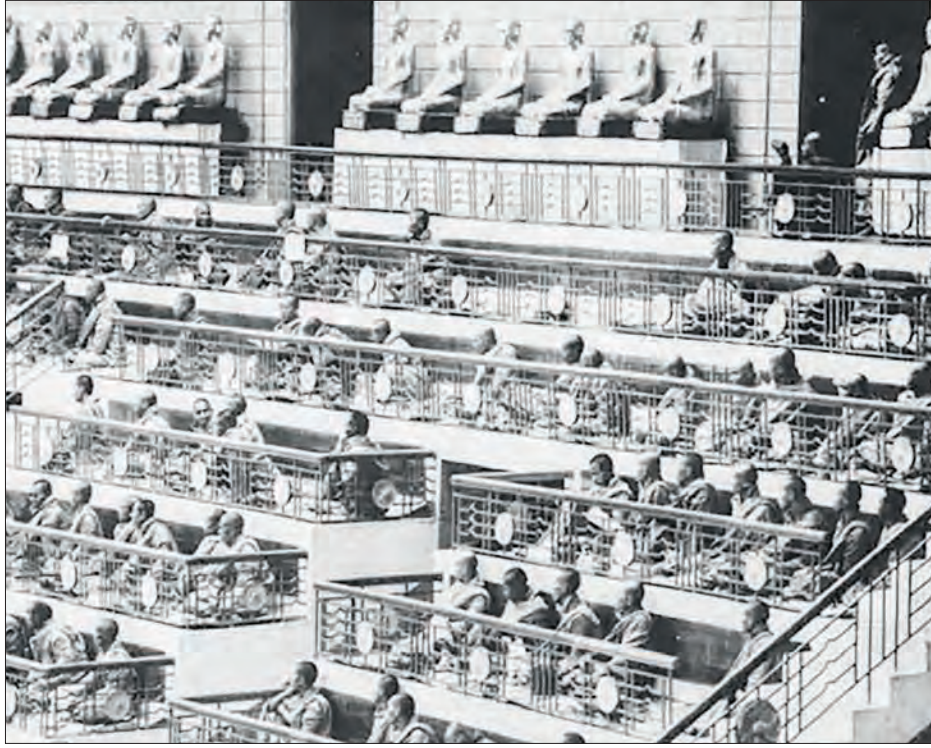
Grand celebration marking 70th anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council to feature special sermon, and paper reading

THE grand auspicious ceremony to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council will be held over three days, from the full moon day of Kason 1388 Myanmar Era to the 2nd waning from 30 April to 2 May, at the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The grand ceremony will begin on the evening of 30 April, with a special sermon by Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw, and paper readings on 1-2 May.

The ceremony will feature a grand procession of the Tri Pitakat treatises carried on a ceremonial elephant, along with entertainment programmes, and will also include historical photo gallery, statues, and quiz competitions.

In addition, there are plans to display 500 scanned copies of the 31 books recorded during the Sixth Buddhist Council, publish commemorative magazines and pamphlets, and distribute commemorative items such as T-shirts,



This photo features the Sixth Buddhist Council which began on 24 April 1954.

mugs, keychains, and calendars.

The Sixth Buddhist Council was started on 24 April 1954, at the Maha Pasana Cave, with the participation of monks from five countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Laos.

It is reported that the Council was led by venerable Naungyan Sayadaw, and, following his passing, venerable Masoeyin Sayadaw continued in that role, while the questions and answers were conducted by Mahasi Sayadaw and Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw.

At the Council, Atthakatha, Tika, and commentaries on the Buddha's teachings were recited and reviewed in stages over eight years, and the process was completed in 1962. Previously disparate versions of the teachings were consolidated into a single standardized text, which was later printed, published, and recorded on phonograph records. — ASH/TH

Myanmar administers 13 vaccines in line with global standards



The commemorative ceremony for World Immunization Week 2026 in progress.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, Myanmar is currently administering vaccines for 13 diseases, matching international standards, and has no major outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Union Minister for Health shared these updates during the World Immunization Week 2026 ceremony held on 24 April at Office No 4, Nay Pyi Taw. He noted that this year's theme is "For Every Generation, Vaccines Work," and immunization activities in My-

anmar began as early as 1889.

The Union Minister reviewed the progress of national vaccination coverage: 2021– Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, coverage fell below 50 per cent; 2025– Coverage rebounded to over 80 per cent.

Immunization remains a priority under the President's "100-Day Plan". The Union Minister highlighted the rapid response within seven days following the major Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025—administering tetanus

vaccines and diarrhoea vaccines.

The Union Minister attributed the lack of disease outbreaks to the strong collaboration between health workers, volunteers, related departments, and parents. To sustain these efforts, the State spends approximately US\$10 million annually through two main funding methods: self-financing entirely by the State budget and co-financing between the State and GAVI (The Vaccine Alliance). — MT/ZN

Dental university teams provide oral healthcare in Einme, Heho

A team from the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) provided dental and oral healthcare services in Ywathit village, Einme Township, Ayeyawady Region at 9 am yesterday.

The team, led by Professor Dr U Thein Tun Oo included four teachers, six intern doctors and 30 fourth-year-passed students who gave oral healthcare services to local residents.

The dental team conducted health education talks, question-and-answer sessions with knowledge-sharing, distributed gifts, provided dental treatment and carried out field surveys in the village. Responsible officials attended and observed the activities.

The team continues to provide oral healthcare ser-

vices and conduct surveys for residents from Ywathit village-tract and nearby villages.

Similarly, a team from the University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) provided dental and oral healthcare services to local residents in Heho Township, Shan State (South) yesterday.

The team, including professor and post graduate students of University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay), carried out oral healthcare services for local residents. The dental team collaboration with Heho township medical officer Dr Arkar Myint and officials conducted dental healthcare services and health education talks. — Chit Thet Lel (Einme)/ Heho Township IPRD/KZL

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NATIONAL

Mei Nu Brick Monastery in Ancient Inwa to be renovated to international standards



THE Mei Nu Brick Monastery in Ancient Inwa, TadaU District, Mandalay Region, will be renovated in accordance with international standards, the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture has announced.

The Aungmyay Bonsan Brick Monastery, popularly known as the Mei Nu Brick Monastery, was damaged by the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025 and will be restored as per international standards.

During the renovation, the entire northern section of the monastery, which was damaged by the earthquake, will be restored in consultation with local and international archaeologists and construction experts to preserve its original design and structure. — ASH/MKKS

The Mei Nu Brick Monastery is seen after the Mandalay earthquake.

Tourism digital marketing basic online course opens in May



This image displays an advert for UMTA's tourism digital marketing basic online course.

LED by the Union of Myanmar Travel Association's Human Resources Development (UMTA-HRD), the tourism digital marketing basic online course, which is designed to upgrade Myanmar's tourism sector with the help of digital technology, will be opened in May, according to UMTA.

It will run online during the period that the country

manages to save energy consumption, and the course will cover the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in influencer marketing. During the 10-day duration from 23 May to 1 June, the class will take three hours per day – two hours for theory and one hour for practical. The curriculum will include tourism marketing, marketing mix (7P), digital marketing situation anal-

ysis and planning, AI in digital marketing, content marketing and content calendar writing, online booking and reservation systems, AI workflow, AI tools for tourism, social media marketing, email marketing and influencer marketing strategies.

It will be led by master mentors who have more than 20 years of work experience in the Myanmar tourism industry. It is specifically designed for those who want to take a new step in the tourism industry and those who want to leverage their current business.

The fee is K50,000 for members and K70,000 for non-members. Individuals can register via this Google Link: <https://forms.gle/txTt1m1bdBBE-Hi4w7> or through the following phone numbers: 09 2005648 and 09 5007447. — MT/ZS

MGMA's advanced sewing machine operator training batch 14 continues

THE batch number 14 of the advanced sewing machine operator training has been scheduled to start in the last week of April, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA).

The training course includes six sewing methods—button hole machine, button attached machine, bartack ma-

chine, overlock 4-thread, overlock 5-thread and 2-needle, and the duration is from 27 April to 8 May, it said.

Interested persons can register at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC) located in Insein Township or can dial 09 940858350 and 09 403912570. — MT/ZS



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NATIONAL



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are seen being warmly welcomed back in the Western Command.

Frontline Tatmadaw members welcomed back

A ceremony to warmly welcome back the triumphant frontline Tatmadaw members who diligently served duties in Kyaukpau Township, Rakhine State, was held at the local battalion in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday.

Officers of the Sittway Station of Western Command, members of Myanmar Police Force and relevant departmental officials, and local ethnic people

welcomed back returnee soldiers with heartfelt enthusiasm.

The attendees of event welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia and presented the cash prizes to the returnees. The event included traditional dance and music performances.

Officials had lunch together with the victorious Tatmadaw members. — MNA/KZL

More than 60 PNLO members return to the legal framework along with arms and ammunition

THE State government has been inviting individuals within various groups, including PDF, who are engaged in armed opposition, to return to the legal fold. It is also providing necessary assistance and support to those who have re-entered within the framework of the law.

As a result of these efforts, members of PDF groups have been re-entering the legal fold one group after another. At the same time, Tatmadaw columns have been able to systematically retake and control areas across regions and states that had been temporarily occupied by armed terrorist groups and PDF groups. Consequently, local people, in support of stability and peace in their areas, have warmly welcomed and backed Tatmadaw members who are carrying out their duties at great personal risk. With strong public encouragement, support, trust, and cooperation alongside the Tatmadaw, members of terrorist groups have become demoralized and no longer willing to continue resistance. As a result, PDF members who wish to abandon the armed struggle, gain a correct understanding, and live peacefully have been reporting to officials at nearby military camps and re-entering the legal fold group by group, where



A ceremony welcoming 61 PNLO members who returned to the legal fold, along with the provision of cash assistance, is underway in Taunggyi, Shan State, yesterday.

they have been welcomed by responsible authorities in the respective areas.

Yesterday, a ceremony to hand over the returnees to parents and guardians took place at Thanlwin Hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters, attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe, Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Naing Oo, departmental officials, those returnees, their parents and

guardians, and guests.

The State Chief Minister spoke words of honour whereas the Commander explained necessary clarification to the returnee youth. The Commander of Shan State Police Force also shared legal knowledge with the returnees. The returnee handed over three pistols, 14 Type-81s, four M-16s, four M-22s, two M-79s, two MA-11s, one carbine, 42 assorted magazines, 2,219 rounds of ammuni-

tion, three mines, 15 grenades, 13 detonators and two walkie-talkies to the Commander.

The Shan State Chief Minister and the Commander rewarded a reward of K6 million for three pistols, K135 million for 27 automatic rifles, K4.5 million for 15 grenades, K900,000 for three mines, K400,000 for two walkie-talkies, and K100,000 for each returnee totalling K6.1 million for 61 returnees. At the ceremony, the

rewards amounted to K152.9 million and aids. Those returnees signed the pledge and were handed over to their parents and guardians systematically.

Those returnee PNLOs were two male members from Taunggyi Township, one from Nyaungshwe Township, 30 from Hsihseng Township, 12 from Pinlaung Township, 10 from Maukmai Township and six from Loikaw Township, totalling 61.

On 24 April, a press release was issued that 470 male members and 47 female members, totalling 517 from KIA, AA, PLA and PDF groups had returned to the legal fold at the Central Command.

Those who have re-entered the legal fold are being welcomed and accepted, provided with necessary assistance and support, and systematically handed back to their parents or guardians. It is learned that there are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are urged to promptly contact and report to the nearest district and township administrative bodies, military camps, or police stations, where they will be received and given the necessary assistance. It is also understood that appropriate rewards will be granted for arms and ammunition. — MNA/TTA

OPINION

Put investments into the improvement of the education sector

ACCORDING to data from the 2024 Population and Housing Census, there are weaknesses in Myanmar's education sector. Therefore, in order to promote the national education sector, the government has changed the compulsory education system up to KG+9.

In the past, education among a small segment of the population was of a high standard, and internationally qualified experts also emerged. Therefore, to improve education for the wider population, it is necessary to implement reforms in the education sector and further promote its development. Despite the good objectives of the education system, the national level of education could not be improved due to the limited number

of learners. As a result, in order to develop the country's education sector, the current government must increase investment in the State budget in education. For the development of the education sector, in the 2026-2027 financial year, 6.92 per cent of the State budget will be allocated to the Ministry of Education. If education-related expenditures in other ministries are included, a total of 9.22 per cent of the State budget will be utilized for education. In the coming financial year, spending on the education sector will be increased to no less than 10 per cent of the State budget, and within the next year and a half, it will be further raised to as much as 15 per cent. During the five-year term of this government, the allocation will be increased up to 20 per cent. Such investment in the education sector is, in effect, an investment in the future development of the country.

Across different eras, schools have been expanded and newly opened; however, it is found that some basic education schools do not meet the required standards set for their respective levels. Therefore, all basic education schools must be upgraded and renovated to comply with the established standards. Such improvements will help foster better foundational attitudes and character development among young people.

It is necessary for basic education schools to nurture young people who possess patriotism and good discipline. For the future of the country, reforms should begin at the basic education level. When weaknesses in education lead to a lack of knowledge, political problems may arise. Therefore, in order to develop the education sector, efforts must be made to promote both the physical and mental development related to education. Accordingly, it is necessary to enhance the country's education sector and work towards improving the mindset and knowledge of citizens.

A Covenant with Tomorrow: The Union Government's 100-Day Blueprint for National Resurgence

By Soe Khant Lin

IN the intricate and often tumultuous history of Myanmar, certain moments transcend the conventional mechanisms of governance and offer a profound glimpse of hope. The President's articulation of a 100-day plan culminating on 31 July is not merely a compilation of bureaucratic items or budgetary percentages. It is a commitment that acknowledges the complexity and conflict of the path behind while paving the road ahead with unity, purpose, and prosperity. The address presents a framework that connects the abstract aspiration for a 'better nation' with the tangible, quantifiable steps required to achieve it. This address should instil renewed optimism and anticipation among the people of Myanmar for the years ahead.

A Peace Founded on the Courage to Communicate

For decades, the spectre of armed conflict has been the primary impediment to Myanmar's realization of its full potential. It has depleted the national treasury and, more tragically, depleted the spirit of the people. The President's 100-day framework for peace is a masterful demonstration of strategic empathy and resolve. By extending an explicit invitation not only to NCA signa-

tures such as the KNU, CNF, and ABSDF but also to non-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations and even PDF groups, the government is exhibiting a magnanimity that is essential for national healing.

This is the brighter future that now appears on the horizon: a Myanmar where the energy of the nation's youth is spent building businesses in Myitkyina and Mawlamyine, not hiding in the periphery of conflict. A future where the 31 July deadline is remembered not as an ultimatum, but as the expiration date of national estrangement. When the President states that "hundreds" have already returned to the legal fold in the Central and Southern Commands, it is not merely a statistic; it is the first trickle of a coming flood of national reconciliation. When the guns fall silent, the schools will rise higher, and the trains will run faster. The 100-day plan finally places "construction" ahead of "destruction" as the primary national objective.

The Golden Era of KG+9: Investing in the National Mind

If peace is the soil, education is the seed. The President's fiscal commitment to the education sector stands as perhaps the most revolutionary aspect of this



The establishment of Centres for Research and Innovation (CRI) at Nanyipitaw State Academy (NSA), Yangon University, and Mandalay University is a central component of Myanmar's plan to transition from a technology consumer to a contributor. The photo shows the facade of the Nanyipitaw State Academy. PHOTO: NSA

address. The nation is witnessing a paradigm shift from mere literacy to Human Capital Supremacy. The trajectory of funding, from 9.22 per cent to an eventual 20 per cent of the national budget, constitutes a declaration of war on ignorance and intergenerational poverty.

Envision a future where a child in a remote village in Chin State or Ayeyawady Region receives the same quality Kindergarten through Grade 9 education as a child in Yangon. The intro-

duction of Industrial, Agriculture, and Livestock subjects in middle school is not a downgrade; it is an upgrade to Practical Sovereignty. This curriculum will nurture a generation of young innovators who will not merely seek employment but will create it. The designation of Nanyipitaw State Academy, Yangon University, and Mandalay University as research hubs signifies that Myanmar is no longer content to be a consumer of global technology but is determined to be a contribu-

tor. A brighter future is a smarter future, and this budget ensures that future is fully and sustainably funded.

From Subsistence to Prosperity: The Rural Renaissance

For too long, the farmer, the veritable backbone of the Union, has borne the brunt of global volatility and local hardship. The President's recognition that rural poverty is the crucible of national suffering is both sobering and galvanizing. The 100-day loan

disbursement plan serves as a liquidity lifeline.

The specific figures K300,000 for paddy, K250,000 for other crops, may appear as simple numbers on a ledger. Yet, in the hands of a farming family, that capital represents the difference between planting on time or missing the monsoon; the difference between a child attending school or staying home to labour.

In tandem with the deployment of solar-powered water pumping systems, this initiative heralds the dawn of a Green Agrarian Revolution. Myanmar is now visible on the horizon, where the poverty rate does not merely decline incrementally but plummets. A future where villages are electrified not only by solar panels but by the economic vitality of their own people. When the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development empowers MSMEs with fewer restrictions and increased loan access, it unlocks the innate entrepreneurial genius that has always resided in the Myanmar psyche.

Connecting the Golden Land: The Arteries of Progress

A vision without infrastructure is merely a dream. The

100-day plan provides the necessary infrastructure to realize these dreams. The upgrade of Anisakhan Airfield, the repair of the Myitkyina-Mogaung-Mohmyin railway, and the prioritization of the Yangon-Mandalay corridor are not merely engineering projects; they represent the reconnection of the national family.

The benefits will manifest as greater ease of travel, a reduction in the cost of goods, and the joy of families reunited with greater speed. Furthermore, the extension of 27 new mobile stations and 4G LTE services constitutes a commitment to Digital Democracy. In the 21st century, information is power, and by expanding this network, the government ensures that the young minds of Myanmar are not left behind in the global digital race.

A Heart for National Health

The collaborative effort with the People's Republic of China to screen and treat 100,000 heart patients is a profound example of humanitarian diplomacy and targeted care. A nation cannot be strong if its people are ailing. By elevating nursing schools to institutes and placing deputy health officers across 50 townships and

districts, the administration is establishing a safety net of care designed to provide assistance to the most vulnerable members of society. A healthier population is inevitably a happier, more productive population. This is the foundation of a truly Resilient Union.

The Dawn is Worth the Effort

President U Min Aung Hlaing has outlined a roadmap. The 100 days between now and 31 July are not merely a countdown; they are a sprint toward credibility and a marathon toward national greatness. The path is clear: Peace, Education, Prosperity, and Connectivity.

Examining this plan reveals more than policy. The outline of a Myanmar where unity transcends slogans and becomes a lived reality is emerging. This is a vision of a nation where children acquire essential skills, where farmers reap the rewards of their labour, and where the nation's railways transport not only cargo but the collective aspirations of a united people.

The future is not guaranteed, but it is now undeniably plausible. And for Myanmar, that is a brilliant and promising place from which to commence the work ahead.



To cultivate inner peace, it is important to reduce negative tendencies such as greed, anger, and ignorance. ILLUSTRATION: GRAPHIC ART

You Can't Buy Peace of Mind, But You Can Build It

By Kyaw Ye Aung

IN today's fast-changing world, many people find themselves overwhelmed by the pressures of daily life. While material success continues to attract attention, inner peace remains something that cannot simply be purchased. It must be developed with care and awareness.

The human mind is both delicate and powerful. It shapes how we perceive the

world and determines how we respond to challenges. When properly nurtured, it becomes a source of strength; when neglected, it can lead to confusion and distress. Therefore, maintaining a balanced and resilient mental state is essential for a meaningful life.

True beauty does not lie in outward appearance alone. It originates from within –

through kindness, compassion, and integrity. A person with a gentle and sincere mind naturally reflects these qualities in their actions and expressions. Such inner beauty often leaves a deeper and more lasting impression than physical appearance.

Productivity and personal growth are also closely linked to one's mental condition. A discouraged mind can weaken motivation, while a positive and determined mindset can inspire remark-

able achievements. Even in difficult times, the willingness to persevere plays a vital role in moving forward.

Achieving success requires harmony between the mind and the body. The mind provides direction, while the body acts. When these two work together in balance, individuals are better able to reach their full potential.

To cultivate inner peace, it is important to reduce negative tendencies such as greed, anger, and ignorance.

In modern society, many people are preoccupied with personal ambitions and responsibilities, often overlooking their mental well-being. However, peace of mind is a personal responsibility – it cannot be entirely dependent on external circumstances.

When faced with confusion or emotional conflict, taking time for self-reflection can help restore clarity.

A calm and thoughtful approach allows individuals to respond wisely rather than

react impulsively.

Ultimately, inner peace extends beyond the individual. A peaceful person contributes to a peaceful family, which in turn influences the wider community and society. Like ripples spreading across water, calmness and understanding can gradually create a more harmonious world.

Although peace of mind cannot be bought, it can be built – step by step – through awareness, discipline, and compassion.

DELICACY

Mohinga (Myanmar Rice Noodle Soup)

This week, we have chosen to talk about Mohinga, a dish beloved by nearly all Myanmar people and one that holds a top place among Myanmar cuisine. Mohinga is a favourite food enjoyed by people across the country, often eaten even without rice. Depending on the region, the cooking methods vary — such as Mawlamyine Mohinga, Chickpea-flour Mohinga, Catfish Mohinga, Rural-style Mohinga, Kayin Mohinga, Mon Mohinga, Dawei Mohinga, Tharthatlut (without fish) Mohinga, Bamar Mohinga, Delta Mohinga, and Toungoo Clear Mohinga. Among these, the most commonly eaten version is the Bamar-style Mohinga, and that is the recipe being presented here.

Ingredients

1. Rice noodles (enough for 1 viss)
2. 40 ticals of fish (Ngagyin – carp)
3. 1 banana stem (Remove the tough outer layers, slice the tender inner part thinly, and soak it in water with 1 teaspoon of turmeric powder to prevent discolouration.)
4. A bundle of coriander leaves, long beans, and mint leaves (Thinly sliced)
5. Rice flour and chickpea flour

Optional fritters of your choice

Ingredients for the Aromatic Oil

1. 30 Kyattha (tical) of red onions (pounded)
2. 15 Kyattha of garlic (pounded)
3. 5 Kyattha of ginger (pounded)
4. 3 stalks of lemongrass (crushed)
5. 10 Kyattha of cooking oil
6. 5 dried red chillies (pounded and strained for chilli paste)
7. 1 teaspoon turmeric powder
8. 1 tablespoon black pepper

9. 20 small shallots (peeled)

Preparation

1. Boil the fish with fish sauce (half a cup), turmeric powder (¾ teaspoon), and 1 stalk of lemongrass (crushed).
2. Once cooked, debone the fish and shred the meat.
3. Pound the fish bones together with

Traditional Myanmar Cuisine



thinly sliced lemongrass, then strain with water to extract the broth. Set aside.

Cooking Method

1. Heat oil in a pot and sauté the pounded garlic, onions, lemongrass, and ginger.
2. Add chilli paste and turmeric powder, stirring well.
3. Add the shredded fish and black pepper, mixing thoroughly.
4. In a large pot, combine the sliced banana stem, sautéed fish mixture, fish

broth, bone broth, and two crushed lemongrass stalks. Mix well.

5. Let it simmer so the banana stem absorbs the flavours.
6. When the banana stem softens, add seven litres of hot water.
7. When the soup begins to boil, gradually add rice flour and chickpea flour mixture while stirring continuously to avoid lumps. Adjust the thickness to your preference. Add chicken powder, one cup of fish sauce, and a little salt for taste.

8. Add the small whole shallots.

9. Continue simmering until the soup thickens and the flavours develop. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Your Mohinga broth is now ready.

Serving

Place rice noodles in a bowl, pour the hot Mohinga broth over them, and top with chilli flakes, garlic oil, and fresh herbs. If you prefer, you may add boiled duck eggs (prepared earlier while cooking the broth). You can also enjoy it with assorted fritters. — MOON

New specialist hospital to enhance cardiac and neurological care in Yangon

A new specialist hospital, currently under construction in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region, will provide treatment for cardiac, brain, and neurological patients in line with international standards, according to reports.

The hospital is being built to meet international standards for medical facilities, with a strong focus on structural quality, including radiation safety measures. Officials are closely supervising the

construction process to ensure high-quality workmanship and timely completion. Once finished, the new hospital will deliver internationally standardised treatment for patients with heart, brain, and neurological conditions. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Construction are working together to complete the project on schedule.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health plans to implement cardiovascu-

lar risk assessment systems and treatment programmes for a population of 100,000 people through cooperation between Myanmar and Chinese medical experts at cardiac care departments in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay. — ASH/KZL

Officials check the construction of the new Yangon Specialist Hospital in Lanmadaw Township.



‘Dancing in their hands’: Japan wig masters set stage alive

Kabuki, a 17th century fusion of dance, drama and music, relies on ornate costumes, heavy makeup, and wigs styled from human hair.



This picture taken on 13 April 2026 shows kabuki wig master Tadashi Kamoji (not pictured) helping kabuki actor Tanenosuke Nakamura to put on his wig before his performance at the Kabuki-za Theatre in Tokyo. **PHOTO: YUICHI YAMAZAKI / AFP**

IN Japan’s kabuki theatre, every actor is transformed by one final, essential element: the wig. At Tokyo’s famed Kabukiza, wig master Tadashi Kamoji, 60, carefully places a topknot on a young performer in a flamboyant kimono, stressing that “only when he puts on a wig does he truly become a kabuki performer.”

Kabuki, a 17th century fusion of dance, drama and music, relies on ornate costumes,

heavy makeup, and wigs styled from human hair. Kamoji, a fourth-generation “tokoyama”, shapes hairstyles that convey age, status, occupation and personality, from a righteous middle-aged man to a high-ranking courtesan.

For a sumowrestler role, he spends hours sculpting a traditional “mage” topknot, using a comb and steaming irons on a tatami floor.

Nakamura Tanenosuke,

33, calls such specialists “truly indispensable”, noting there are roughly 400 female and 1,000 male wigs, each customised per actor and often taking up to a month. For Kamoji, four decades of work still feel like a learning curve, with his 85-year-old father still guiding him.

The craft’s reward comes when the audience roars, and the wigmaster feels the applause is shared with those hidden backstage. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian beaches close as sharks feed on whale carcass

GREAT white sharks and bull sharks feeding on a washed-up whale carcass have forced the closure of a string of beaches south of Sydney, Australian wildlife and surf rescue authorities said Sunday.

The eight-metre (26-foot), 25-tonne sperm whale carcass was reportedly spotted on Saturday lying on wave-swept rocks at Era beach in the coastal Royal National Park, leading to immediate beach closures.

“There’s some great white sharks and there’s also some bull sharks being sighted there,” said Brendon Neilly, area manager for the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

“While they can be fairly dramatic and confronting events for people, they are eminently natural events, and so the whale carcass is being moved back into the food chain by the sharks,” he told AFP.

“So I wouldn’t be swimming there, but it’s a pretty interesting process.” — AFP

New York art museum showcases Raphael’s rare prints

NEW York-based Murray Hill Art Museum on Saturday unveiled an exhibition of rare prints of works by Italian Renaissance master Raphael.

Raffaello di Giovanni Santi (1483-1520), known as Raphael, is widely regarded as one of the masters of the Italian Renaissance.

The exhibition brings together 100 rare engravings and lithographs from its own collection, along with loans from private collectors across the United States. A number of artists and collectors from the New York metropolitan area attended the opening ceremony.

After closing at the end of June, the rare prints will travel to Shanghai, Xi’an, and Wuhan in China, organizers said. — Xinhua

India’s master photographer Raghu Rai dies aged 83

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Indian master photographer Raghu Rai died on Sunday, his family announced. He was 83.

A construction engineer by training, Rai, born in a village in Pakistani Punjab before the partition of the Indian subcontinent, went on to become an iconic photographer documenting the complex social and political life of India. — AFP

Eurovision, venerable institution where art meets politics

THE Eurovision Song Contest is famous for celebrating everything from cross-dressing ballad singers to heavy metal bands in monster masks, but geopolitics is threatening its 70th anniversary edition.

More than 1,000 artists this week urged a boycott, and several countries have already said they are staying away in protest over Israel’s participation.

Just eight years ago in Lisbon, the competition managed by Europe’s public broadcasters featured artists from 43 countries, but only 35 will be vying for the top prize on 16 May this year in Vienna, marking the smallest edition in recent years.

While Israel’s presence poses a challenge this year, the world’s larg-



est live music event has long been interwoven with politics, experts say.

Hungary quit the contest in 2020, a decision widely seen as linked to its increasingly conservative political line.

Belarus was suspended in 2021 for suppressing media freedom, while Russia got kicked out after its 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, other countries including North Macedonia have pulled out in past years citing financial issues. — AFP

Austrian-Hungarian singer Benjamin Gedeon, aka Cosmo, will represent Austria at the 2026 Eurovision Song Contest. **PHOTO: APA/AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

Tanker carrying US oil arrives in Japan for 1st time since Iran war

The tanker departed Texas on 22 March and transited the Panama Canal, which can accommodate smaller vessels.

A tanker carrying US oil arrived in Japan on Sunday, marking the first such shipment from the United States since the Iran war began in late February.

According to Cosmo Energy Holdings Co that procured the crude oil from the United States, the tanker, which arrived in Tokyo Bay, transported 145,000 kilolitres, equivalent to half a day of domestic consumption.

The US-Israeli conflict with Iran has led to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for global energy shipments. Japan relies on the Middle

East for more than 90 per cent of its crude oil imports, most of which pass through the strait.

The tanker departed Texas on 22 March and transited the Panama Canal, which can accommodate smaller vessels.

The Japanese government and oil wholesalers have been trying to secure oil from alternative routes to bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

In addition to the United States, the government will also be procuring oil from other sources such as South America and Central Asia. — Kyodo



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a tanker carrying US oil as it arrives in Tokyo Bay, Japan, on 26 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

IMF official says Asian economies should promote energy supply diversification



The Middle East remains the main source of oil supplies for many Asian economies, but greater energy diversification — reducing reliance on any single source by expanding the mix of energy supplies — would strengthen Asia's long-term energy security. **PHOTO: IEA**

THE global energy supply disruption caused by the war in the Middle East has heightened Asia's concerns about energy diversification, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official has said.

"I think the shock has brought to the fore concerns about energy security," Thomas Helbling, deputy director in the IMF's Asia and Pacific department, told Xinhua.

According to the IMF's latest Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific released last

week, Asia's growth is projected to moderate from five per cent in 2025 to 4.4 per cent in 2026 and 4.2 per cent in 2027.

The report noted that the region's oil and gas use amounts to about four per cent of GDP, nearly double Europe's share. It exceeds 10 per cent in economies such as Malaysia and Thailand, where transport and industry play larger roles. The Middle East remains the main source of oil supplies for many Asian economies, but greater

energy diversification — reducing reliance on any single source by expanding the mix of energy supplies — would strengthen Asia's long-term energy security, Helbling said. "We also say economies that are more fossil fuel-intensive are more affected," Helbling said, adding that Asia serves as a major manufacturing hub for the world and therefore consumes a significant amount of energy in producing goods that are also exported globally. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BIREF

Australian minister to raise energy security on Asia tour

AUSTRALIA'S Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Sunday she will tour Japan, China and South Korea this week to shore up trade and energy ties as an oil supply squeeze pressures the Asia-Pacific region.

Iran choked off crude oil shipments through the key Strait of Hormuz after the United States and Israel launched a war against the Islamic republic on 28 February sparking a worldwide surge in energy prices.

"The Middle East conflict and closure of the Strait of Hormuz continue to disrupt global energy markets, with Asian refineries and the Indo-Pacific region disproportionately affected," Wong said in a statement.

"Direct, in-person engagement with counterparts across our region will help ensure we are coordinating effectively as these disruptions continue to unfold," she said. — AFP

Iran president calls on people to save energy

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian called on his people Saturday to conserve electricity, warning that while there were no shortages at present, the US and Israel aimed to sow "dissatisfaction" among the Iranian people.

"We have asked our dear people, who are now ready and present on the ground, a simple request. And that is to reduce their own electricity and energy consumption," the president said on state TV.

"We do not need people to sacrifice for the time being, but we do need to control consumption. Instead of 10 lights, two lights should be turned on in the house — what is wrong with that?" he added. — AFP

Japan outbound travel remains at 70% of pre-pandemic levels amid weak yen



OVERSEAS travel from Japan has been recovering but remains at more than 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels amid a weak yen, a Kyodo News analysis of government data showed Saturday.

In 2025, Japanese nationals made a total of 14.73 million trips abroad, compared with a record

20.08 million in 2019. The government had set a goal of surpassing the 2019 figure in 2025.

The target was reset in March this year to exceed the 2019 figure by 2030. As part of efforts to promote overseas travel, the government will lower passport issuance fees for applications filed on or after 1 July.

Airlines need to maintain a certain number of outbound travellers to sustain their international routes.

After peaking in 2019, the number of overseas trips from Japan plunged to 510,000 in 2021 at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, then began to recover the following year, rising to 13.0 million in 2024, according to data for the past 76 years.

Tokyo saw the smallest drop at 19.5 per cent, while Fukushima in north-eastern Japan saw the largest, down 43.0 per cent from 106,000 departures in 2019 to 60,000 in 2025. — Kyodo

Photo taken on 18 April 2026, shows people departing Japan from Haneda airport in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

India's indigenous bullet train push gathers pace

RAILWAY Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said India is moving ahead with its indigenous bullet train programme, with the "Atmanirbhar version B-28" now being designed and manufactured domestically, as he inaugurated a high-speed train manufacturing facility in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the development, Vaishnaw said, "The bullet train's Atmanirbhar version B-28 is being designed

jointly by ICF and BEML. Manufacturing will take place at BEML's specially designed facility, Aditya Plant, equipped with advanced, high-precision machines, including robotic laser welding systems."

India's "swadeshi" bullet train push is moving towards speed, scale and self-reliance. The train is on track for April 2027 debut. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor will be the first to run it. — ANI

TotalEnergies refinery working full tilt to keep France fuelled



The refinery has long focused on jet fuel and diesel — one half of France's diesel consumption is imported — so the Middle East war has tightened supply even further. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOCATED at the mouth of the Seine where it meets the Channel, the TotalEnergies refinery in Le Havre forms a maze of more than 40,000 kilometres of pipes and towers, running at full capacity to keep planes

flying and trucks moving across France.

Perched halfway up a 40-metre-high metal structure, technical head Elise Thomazo explains the hydrocracking unit, which converts crude into as much diesel and kerosene as possible for road and aviation use.

After distillation, a network of pumps and compressors separates fractions into petrol, diesel and jet fuel, stored in giant reservoirs painted by weight: black for heavy

crude and bitumen, light colours for petrol.

The refinery has long focused on jet fuel and diesel — one half of France's diesel consumption is imported — so the Middle East war has tightened supply even further.

The site supplies roughly 12 per cent of fuel sold at French petrol stations and about 11 per cent of the country's plastics, relying on tankers from the US, Europe and Africa instead of the now-sidelined Gulf. — AFP

Hello Kitty theme park in southwest Japan celebrates 35th anniversary

A Hello Kitty theme park in southwestern Japan commemorated its 35th anniversary on Sunday, as over 1,300 fans gathered in the rain to watch the global pop icon and other beloved Sanrio characters dance in celebration.

The Sanrio Character Park Harmonyland in Hiji, Oita Prefecture, which features a myriad of characters from Hello Kitty to My Melody, was also set to hold a special night performance later

in the day. "I feel grateful. They were cute today as well," said 32-year-old visitor Yuka Ouchida, whose favorite Sanrio character is Pompompurin.

Operating company Sanrio Entertainment Co. plans to develop the area into a resort, including construction of a hotel, with President Aya Komaki saying at a commemorative ceremony that she hoped "everyone is looking forward to it". — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (283N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (283N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (101W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (101W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2026** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia-North Korea combat brotherhood has glorious history: Putin

Putin said that Korean soldiers and officers, fighting shoulder to shoulder with their Russian brothers in arms, demonstrated courage and selflessness.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Sunday highlighted the combat brotherhood between Russia and North Korea, emphasizing the countries' glorious his-



The "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty" between Russia and North Korea, signed by Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un in June 2024, officially went into force on 4 December 2024, after ratification documents were exchanged. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

tory and Pyongyang's assistance when part of the Kursk Region came under occupation.

Putin on Sunday sent greetings to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and participants in ceremonies marking the opening of a memorial complex and museum dedicated to heroes of a foreign military operation in Pyongyang.

"Russian-Korean combat brotherhood has a glorious history. In the final stages of World War II, Soviet troops, together with Korean patriots, liberated your country from Japanese colonial domination, and in the 1950s they helped defend the independence of North Korea in the fight against foreign interventionists. And in our time, when part of the Kursk Region fell under enemy occupation, Pyongyang, for its part, resolutely and without hesitation came to our aid," Putin said in the statement, published on the Kremlin's website. — SPUTNIK

ASEAN officials convene to address Middle East risks to energy supply



Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz announced on Monday, 6 April 2026, that Israel carried out a powerful strike on Iran's largest petrochemical facility in Assaluyeh. This site, located in the southern Bushehr province, is a critical energy hub responsible for roughly 50 per cent of Iran's total petrochemical production. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Philippines, this year's chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened senior officials to assess the impact of the evolving Middle East situation on global and regional energy markets, focusing on oil and gas supply stability, price volatility

and potential supply chain disruptions, the Department of Energy said Sunday.

During a virtual meeting on Friday, ASEAN member states and dialogue partners shared updates on current supply conditions and explored co-operation on supply diversification,

access to energy resources, market transparency and emergency response coordination.

Technical briefings highlighted constraints in key supply routes and shifting global trade flows affecting the region. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian FM arrives in Oman for regional diplomacy following Pakistan visit

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi arrived in Muscat on Saturday for talks with senior Omani officials on bilateral relations and regional developments, Iran's Foreign Ministry said.

The visit is the second stop on a regional tour that began Friday in Islamabad and will end in Russia. Araghchi is leading a diplomatic delegation. In Islamabad, Araghchi met with Pakistan's army chief, Asim Munir, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to the semi-official Tasnim News Agency. He discussed Iran's position on ending the war involving the United States and Israel, as well as bilateral ties and broader regional developments. — Xinhua

6 injured as Swiss flight engine catches fire at Delhi airport

AT least six passengers were injured early Sunday when a flight of the Swiss International Airlines had to suspend takeoff after one of its engines caught fire on one of the runways of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, the airport said.

All passengers had to be immediately evacuated.

The Delhi-Zurich flight was abandoned at around 01:08 am local time. There were 232 people on board, and the injured passengers were later admitted to a local private hospital.

A full emergency was declared at Delhi Airport, said the airport's management in an official statement.

"In the early hours of this morning, a full emergency was declared at Delhi Airport involving Swiss International Airlines flight LX 147 (DEL-ZRH) on Runway 28/10," said the statement. — Xinhua

Oil tanker hijacked off Somalia

AN oil tanker has been hijacked off the coast of Somalia and taken into its territorial waters, the British maritime security agency UKMTO said on Saturday.

The development added to risks for navigating in the Red Sea, which has become a more important supply route given the Iranian stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf, on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula.

The tanker was seized northeast of the Somali city of Mareeyo on Tuesday, UKMTO said. — AFP

SPORTS



Ko Ko Lwin joins Thai club Port on loan

MYANMAR national futsal player Ko Ko Lwin will join Thai club Port Futsal Club on a one-season loan from YRG Futsal Club.

Ko Ko Lwin delivered strong performances in recent domestic league seasons and also impressed with the Myanmar national futsal team, prompting Port to sign him on loan. He moved from MIU to YRG at the start of last season and played a key role in helping YRG secure their first championship title.

This move marks his first opportunity to play for an overseas club and could open the door for more Myanmar futsal players to compete abroad. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Myanmar to compete in SEA Esports Nations Cup 2026

MYANMAR esports athletes will compete in the first-ever SEA Esports Nations Cup 2026 to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 8 and 9 May.

The Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation will take part in the tournament as a significant new step towards the development of esports in the South-East Asian region. The competition will be organized by the Vietnam Recreational and Electronic Sports Association.

The Myanmar esports team will compete in three events: PUBG Mobile, Teamfight Tactics (Women), and Total Football. Two players will take part in PUBG Mobile, two players in the Teamfight Tactics (Women) event, and one player in the Total Football competition. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

China, Thailand split relay golds as beach athletics conclude at Asian Beach Games

China pocketed gold at men's 4x60m relay final at the 6th Asian Beach Games here on Sunday, concluding the team's campaign of the beach athletics after taking two gold medals, eight silver medals and three bronze medals.

IN the final event of the beach athletics programme, Chinese sprinters Huang Youchao, Li Mengyuan, Wang Xinkai and Ailikuti Yishake crossed the line first in 26.06 seconds. Thailand took silver in 26.68, with Sri Lanka third in 27.57.

"We united as one and cooperated perfectly on the track, that's the key to our victory," Wang told Xinhua.

Barnokhon Sayfullaeva of Uzbekistan won the women's high jump with 1.85 metres. The 21-year-old cleared 1.70, 1.75, 1.78 and 1.81 at the first attempt, then, after a first failure at 1.83, composed herself to go over 1.83 and 1.85 in succession. China's Shao Yuqi, champion at the 15th National Games, and Hu Linpeng shared second place at 1.83. — Xinhua



(from L to R) Wang Xinkai, Li Mengyuan, Alikuti Shayike and Huang Youchao of China pose after the men's 4x60m relay of beach athletics at the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 26 April 2026. **PHOTO: PAN YULONG/XINHUA**

Assefa wins London Marathon in women's-only world record time

Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa defended her London Marathon crown on Sunday, breaking her own women's-only world record.

THE reigning Olympic and world silver medalist was locked in a three-way tussle with Kenyan pair Hellen Obiri and

Joyciline Jepkosgei, but pulled away in the closing stages to cross the line in a time of 2hr 15min 41sec. That time beat by



Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa crosses the line to win the women's London marathon in a new women's only world record. **PHOTO:AFP**

nine seconds her previous best, set on the same course last year. Obiri, a two-time former world 5,000m champion who

won marathon bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics, came in second in a personal best of 2:15:53. — AFP

Gauff overcomes stomach bug to beat Cirstea in Madrid

COCO Gauff became the latest victim of the stomach virus that has been sweeping through the draw at the Madrid Open but the ailing American still found a way to beat Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday and reach the round of 16.

Several players have been struggling with illness in the Spanish capital this week, including Iga Swiatek, who was forced to retire from her match against Ann Li on Saturday, and Marin Cilic, who had to withdraw ahead of his second-round meeting with Joao Fonseca on Friday.

Liudmila Samsonova also pulled out of the tournament on Sunday citing illness ahead of her third-round match with Linda Noskova. — AFP



New Zealand to sign Free Trade deal with India on 27 April

"It's a once-in-a-generation agreement that gives New Zealand exporters unprecedented access to 1.4 billion people, in an economy that is set to become the third largest in the world."

NEW Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Sunday said that New Zealand will sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India on Monday, calling it a "once in a generation agreement" that will open access to one of the world's largest markets for Kiwi exporters.

In a post on social media, Luxon said, "New Zealand's Free Trade Agreement with India will be signed on Monday night," while sharing a video outlining the expected benefits of the deal.

In the video message, he highlighted the scale of the opportunity, stating, "We are signing a Free Trade deal with India that opens one of the biggest markets in the world to Kiwi exporters."

"He underlined that the agreement would give exporters access to India's large consumer base and fast-growing economy."

"It's a once-in-a-generation agreement that gives New Zealand exporters



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon met at Hyderabad House on Monday, 17 March 2025, to discuss deepening bilateral ties. **PHOTO: DD NEWS/FILE**

unprecedented access to 1.4 billion people, in an economy that is set to become

the third largest in the world," he said. Luxon also stressed that the deal

would improve New Zealand's competitive position globally. — ANI

Trump safe after security incident at White House press dinner



Law enforcement and others respond to a shooting incident at the White House correspondents' dinner on 25 April 2026, in Washington. **PHOTO: KYODO**

US President Donald Trump and high-ranking officials of his administration were safely rushed out of an annual dinner of White House correspondents

at a Washington hotel Saturday night following suspected gunshots at the venue.

Trump told a press conference that

a suspected shooter apprehended at the scene was armed with "multiple weapons" before being stopped by Secret Service members at a security checkpoint.

Trump, still wearing a black tuxedo, said one officer was shot from close range by the male suspect, a California resident who is believed to have acted alone. He said the officer was protected by a "very good bulletproof vest."

Before speaking to the press, Trump wrote on social media that it was "quite an evening" and praised law enforcement authorities for doing a "fantastic job. They acted quickly and bravely".

Kyodo News reporters who were attending the dinner at the Washington Hilton hotel also heard multiple apparent shots. The head of the White House Correspondents' Association said no one was hurt and that the dinner, the first that Trump has attended as president, will be rescheduled. — Kyodo

China delivers largest domestic LNG carrier

CHINA on Sunday delivered its biggest independently designed and built liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier to date, marking a breakthrough in the country's ability to build large vessels for clean energy transport.

The carrier, Celsius Georgetown, departed for Singapore after completing delivery at 10:50 am at a dock of China Merchants Heavy Industry (Jiangsu) Co Ltd, the shipbuilder said.

The vessel, 298.8 metres long and 48 metres wide, has an LNG transport capacity of 180,000 cubic metres. It is equipped with a dual-fuel, low-speed propulsion system. Border inspection officers boarded the vessel in advance to expedite clearance procedures, helping ensure a timely and safe departure by taking advantage of favourable tidal conditions. — Xinhua