

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Nation-Building Hinges on Healthy, Resilient, Capable Youth

While not every young person will become a national leader, all youth constitute vital human resources who will shape the future of the State.



President U Min Aung Hlaing views exhibits at yesterday's event for outstanding youth of the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

try's human resources who will shape the future of the State. Hence, the Government emphasizes the enhancement of the youth and education sectors so as to produce capable, educated, outstanding youth with high morals.

Being a primary force of the future State, youth must have knowledge and techniques, and they must serve the interests of the people and the nation with a patriotic spirit. Youth have to preserve the fine traditions and customs of the country with national spirit, historical evidence, and natural resources.

Maritime youth, aviation youth, scouting youth and outstanding youth are being turned out under training for many years, in order for a deep love for the nation and a desire to preserve and

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Key highlights from the President's address at the meeting with outstanding youth

1. Youth will be able to meet peers from various regions who value education and exchange knowledge with them, as well as gain local knowledge.
2. They will also develop teamwork and cooperation skills, learn to adapt and live harmoniously with others, and build mutual understanding, trust, respect, and friendship.
3. Youth have to preserve the fine traditions and customs of the country with national spirit, historical evidence, and natural resources.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the ceremony for outstanding youth of the 2025-26 academic year to seek advice from the President at the Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The President unveiled the launching "The driving forces of the new nation"

programme and visited the exhibitions of relevant ministries.

In the second session, the President and attendees watched a video clip "From Outstanding Youth towards the Developed Future State".

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the outstanding youth have overcome challenges in different assessments on literature, health and fit-

ness, morality, discipline, perseverance, diligence, constant training, physical and mental capabilities. As such, they can bring honour to their families, schools and regions.

A developed country must be built upon the strength of healthy, resilient, and capable young people. **Not every young person will become a leader of the nation, but all youth are the coun-**

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Fire Brigade members emphasize enhancement of individual capability

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BUSINESS

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China-Myanmar B2B pact to boost rice export to China

NATIONAL

70th Anniversary Sixth Buddhist Synod exhibition extended to 10 May



Photo depict the exhibition commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council.

THE Department of Religious Affairs has announced that the exhibition marking the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, currently being held at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba

Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, since 30 April, will be extended until 10 May and will continue to open daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

“This exhibition features

photographs and videos of the Sixth Buddhist Synod held from 1954 to 1956, records of the buildings associated with its inauguration and their maintenance status, and more than

500 scanned copies from the 31 volumes of the Pitaka compiled at the Synod. It also includes a commemorative stone pillar, historical literary records, and books containing poems, arti-

cles and documents published to mark the 70th anniversary. In addition, there are exhibits related to the Synod and seven types of postage stamps issued to commemorate the anniversary.

The commemorative shop sells T-shirts, mugs and key chains, as well as Buddhist-related materials, including quizzes on the history of the Sixth Buddhist Synod and presentations of recitation results,” said an official from the Department of Religious Affairs.

The ceremony marking the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon from 30 April to 2 May. — ASH/MKKS

Toungoo's Ketumati to build 210-foot moat bridge

THE 210-foot moat bridge will be built between the Mawgun gate and the moat across the northern wall of the ancient city, Ketumati. The land between the moat and the wall is currently being landscaped.

The ancient walls and moats of Ketumati ancient city in Toungoo, Bago Region, are invaluable cultural heritage sites, as they are being preserved and excavated annually with the budget of

the regional government. It also includes the restoration and preservation of buildings and city gates, carried out in collaboration with relevant departments.

The moat, city walls and buildings, which were built by King Mingyi Nyo over 500 years ago, will be restored and preserved in the current situation, and the ancient city walls, moats and ancient buildings of Toungoo Ketumati, founded by

King Maha Thiri Zeyathura Mingyi Nyo (1486-1531 AD), are being taken to preserve them as cultural heritage.

In addition, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, in accordance with the Notification 2/2025, stated that the area where the city walls and moats of the ancient city of Ketumati, Toungoo, Bago Region, was designated as a cultural heritage area on 29 May 2025. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows officials inspecting construction work.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday, 5 May 2026

BAY INFERENCE: The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 6 May 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in (southern and eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and northern Shan State, scattered in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan states. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail 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 Myanmar waters. The wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, (northern and eastern) Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 May 2026: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 May 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 May 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.—DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 10:50 hours MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5(M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 13 miles west of Kamaing), latitude 25.50°N, longitude 96.51°E, with a depth of 10 kilometres, about 60 miles west of the Myitkyina Seismological Observatory was recorded at 10 hours, 40 minutes, and 55 seconds MST on 5 May 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL

Nation-Building Hinges on Healthy, Resilient, ...



President U Min Aung Hlaing, along with attending dignitaries, watches a performance presented by the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

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protect it to remain permanent within the youth.

The outstanding youth plan aims to produce healthy, fit and capable youth with good morality who can serve the interests of the State through the practical education development initiatives.

The outstanding youth selected in the past are serving the high capacity of the State at present and participating in different arenas. Currently, the government cabinet comprises 12 outstanding youths of the past.

The State selected 478 outstanding youths in 2023, 554 in

2024 and 728 in 2025. This year, 96 students of Grade 9, 132 of Grade 10, 133 of Grade 11 and 99 of Grade 12 were selected in the basic education sector, while 148 outstanding youth from the first year and 143 from the second year university students were chosen in the higher education sector, totalling 751.

The Government has arranged to honour those outstanding students by sending Grade 9 to PyinOoLwin camp, those of Grade 10 to Inlay camp, those of Grade 11 to Ngwehsaung camp, those of Grade 12 to Nay Pyi Taw camp and those of first and second year university students

to Chaungtha camp this year.

During the trip, the President said that the youth will be able to meet peers from various regions who value education and exchange knowledge with them, as well as gain local knowledge. They will also develop teamwork and cooperation skills, learn to adapt and live harmoniously with others, and build mutual understanding, trust, respect, and friendship. As a result, they will gain valuable life experiences for their future.

To face the challenges of the 21st-century knowledge era, lifelong learning and full competence are required. There-

fore, one must continuously engage in self-learning and read books and literature to gain external knowledge and information.

The President stressed that basic education schools and universities need to host youth debates, literary talks, paper-reading sessions and education symposiums to help develop the capabilities of the youth.

The President presented commemorative flags for relevant camps to outstanding youth who returned commemorative gifts to the President.

The President had lunch together with outstanding youths

for the 2025-26 academic year, maritime and aviation youths and cordially greeted them.

Also, present at the ceremony were Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief(Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw council chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

Union Health Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in the health sector between the two countries, experiences by sending medical experts, collaborating in medical research, academic cooperation between the two medical universities, importing pharmaceuticals and surgical equipment from Pakistan, and investing in building pharmaceutical factories in Myanmar.



Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister and directors-general from the Ministry of Health, and representatives from the Embassy of Pakistan. — MNA/MKKS

Volume I of Continuous Myanmar Historical Series Released

THE Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture has written and published Volume 1 of the Continuous Myanmar Historical Series, featuring the newly discovered findings from field surveys, excavations, and research on Myanmar's geological formation, primate fossils, and Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age cultures, as well as scientifically determined dating results. It has been reviewed and edited by the Myanmar Historical Commission.

Copies of Volume I were distributed to libraries of State-level organizations, ministries, de-

partments, universities, degree colleges and colleges, training schools, as well as regional and state governments. The copies of the book are being kept at the National Libraries and the national museums in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, and the libraries of branches of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Volume 1 of the Continuous Myanmar Historical Series is available at K55,000 per copy at branches of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. The department arranges sales of the book at private literary houses. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Fire Brigade members emphasize enhancement of individual capability

THE tasks carried out by the fire brigade cannot be fully accomplished by their own efforts alone, and they can become more effective and stronger only with the cooperation and participation of the public, said Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw at the ceremony to mark the 80th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day which took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Vice-President recognized and honoured the efforts and sacrifice of members from the Myanmar Fire Brigade in carrying out rescue and rehabilitation operations not only in the outbreak of fire but in natural disasters the State has experienced.

He highlighted that the Fire Brigade, in line with the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs, has set and is implementing four major objectives. Firefighting duties require immediate and timely emergency response and action. In the present day, the fire brigade is not limited to firefighting alone; it must also promptly respond to and carry out public service functions such as search and rescue operations, disaster management, and emergency medical response.

He continued that the tasks carried out by the fire brigade



The 80th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day is underway yesterday, addressed by Vice-President U Nyo Saw.

cannot be fully accomplished by their own efforts alone, and they can become more effective and stronger only with the cooperation and participation of the public.

Concerning natural disaster incidents, the Vice-President noted that fire brigade members, together with members of Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force, other relevant departments, and social organizations, have been able to cooperate and coordinate effectively, swiftly, and to the best possible extent in responding to every disaster encountered in the affected areas under the management of the State.

He emphasized that les-

sons have been drawn from the Mandalay earthquake incident, and the State has already granted approval to form two Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Medium Teams in line with international standards. Efforts must be made to continuously train and prepare in order to enhance the operational capacity of firefighters. It is also a source of great satisfaction that members of the Fire Brigade have won medals in international skills competitions, thereby bringing honour to the nation. He urged all to maintain these fine traditions.

The future Fire Brigade needs to continue standing as an organization with a stronger structure, higher capabilities,

and the ability to keep pace with international standards. Therefore, all fire brigade members must maintain discipline and continuous training while striving to improve their individual capability, and they must continue to carry out their duties with a strong sense of responsibility as dedicated public servants.

He said that, in recognition and honour of the dignity of fire brigade members who, throughout successive eras, have sacrificed and risked their lives and limbs in the line of duty, efforts must be made to build and sustain the Fire Brigade for many years to come as a reliable force on which the public can depend, with protecting the lives, homes,

and property of the people.

The Vice-President presented honorary awards to renowned vocalist U Tun Shwe, who sings the song titled "Beware of Fire", former auxiliary and permanent fire brigade members above 90 years old, Fire Sergeant U Tun Kyi and U Thaug Myint, Deputy Commanding Officer (Retd) of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade U Chit Hlaing and Deputy Fire Staff Officer (Retd) U Tin Nyunt.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe presented a commemorative gift to the Vice-President. The Union minister awarded the Ye Bala medallists.

The Vice-President watched a documentary video clip on the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day. He viewed round documentary photos, ancient fire extinguishers, modern emergency response communication facilities, modern equipment for fire extinguishing, and devices for search and rescue operations displayed at the hall and observed the search dog demonstration.

Also, present at the celebration were Union-level dignitaries, deputy ministers, the Chairman of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, senior Tatmadaw officers, departmental heads, officers, and members of Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters, and retired senior fire officers. — MNA/TTA

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 5 May 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653.00~3,669.00	557	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	17,891,425.72	-	38,615,534.24	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE number of foreign currencies traded in the Foreign Exchange market was used for the imports of edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare parts, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, wheat, consumer goods, and industrial raw materials. From

the revenue of the CMP sector, US\$1.9 million was contributed to the edible oil sector and US\$0.03 million to the CMP sector.

US\$135.31 million may be sold to the fuel industry in the foreign exchange market. — MNA

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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

6 PDF members reintegrate into society

A total of six PDF members entered the legal fold yesterday. The handover ceremony took place at Tine Yan Aung Hall of Coastal Region Command Headquarters with the attendance of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han and other relevant officials.

Returnees handed over one M4A1, one MA5 pistol, three magazines, 57 bullets and two MG-1 grenades. Officials rewarded K5 million for one ri-

file, K2 million for one pistol, K300,000 for two grenades and K1.5 million per returnee. There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold.

Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH



The handover ceremony for six PDF members who rejoined the legal framework is underway yesterday.

Meeting discusses wide use of natural and bio-fertilizers



Yangon Region Agricultural Department leads the discussion on the use of natural and bio-fertilizers, and agri-related issues. PHOTO: KOLWIN

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture office between regional officials and companies producing natural and bio-fertilizers. The discussion focused on improving the development of farmers in Yangon Region, increasing crop yields, enhancing product quality and safety, promoting long-term use of natural soil

nutrients and bio-fertilizers, and producing goods that can be exported abroad.

During the meeting, Region Department Head U Tint Naing stated that 32 companies are producing natural fertilizers in Yangon Region. Efforts are underway to encourage farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers during the monsoon paddy season

and to adopt a combined use of chemical and natural fertilizers. Demonstration plots are being implemented across townships to promote the wider use of compost and to share agricultural techniques with farmers.

Attendees delivered briefings on the production and distribution processes of the fertilizers. — Oktha/KTZH

2026-27 School Enrolment Fee-Free as Students Receive Free Supplies

THE Ministry of Education has announced that, during the enrolment period for the 2026-2027 academic year, head-teachers, teachers and staff have been instructed not to accept any fees whatsoever, nor to receive money or gifts of any kind, and not to sell class badges, school badges or any other items.

Arrangements are being made for enrolment at basic

education schools for the 2026-2027 academic year to begin on 22 May, with schools scheduled to reopen on 1 June.

It is also reported that the examination results for all grades, except Grade 12, will be announced on 14 May.

During the enrolment process, no fees will be charged at all, including school fees, Parent-Teacher Association fees, sports fees, stationery fees or

library fees. Instead, students from Kindergarten (KG) to Grade 12 who will follow the new curriculum will be provided free of charge with textbooks, exercise books, school uniforms and stationery. There are currently 1,680 primary schools, 665 middle schools, 409 high schools and 232 monastic education schools operating across 45 townships in Yangon Region. — ASH/KNN

World Press Freedom Day ceremony held in Yangon

THE World Press Freedom Day ceremony was held yesterday morning at the training hall of the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) office on Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon Region.

The World Press Freedom Day message from Union Minister for Information U Htein Lin was first read by U Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director-General of the Media Development Department under the Ministry of Information. Then, MPC Chair Dr Tin Tun Oo delivered the opening speech.

MPC First Vice-Chairman U Khin Maung Zaw discussed issues related to global press freedom, while MPC Second Vice-Chairman U Khin Maung

Kyaw Din discussed issues related to press freedom in Myanmar.

Participants then discussed topics related to World Press Freedom Day. The theme of this year's 33rd World Press Freedom Day is "Shaping a Future at Peace", and the event is being held with four objectives.

The ceremony was also attended by MPC Secretary U Hla Htut Oo and council members, officials from the Department of Information and Public Relations, invitees from the Myanmar Journalists Association and media, and third-year interns from the Department of Journalism, National Management Degree College. — Myo Min Thura/TH



The World Press Freedom Day event is in progress yesterday in Yangon.

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw Regains Control of Mawlu



Images from top to bottom show triumphant troops following the recapture of Mawlu and locals welcoming them.

TATMADAW makes efforts to ensure national stability, peace, and development and conducts counter operations in areas where terrorists groups had temporarily taken control and were carrying out violent activities. With the cooperation of residents, Tatmadaw has been progressively regaining control of such areas. After fully recapturing Indaw in Katha District on 30 April, it also regained control of Mawlu in Indaw Township yesterday, which had been temporarily held by insurgents.

Mawlu is a town in Indaw Township, Katha District. It is located about 20 miles north of Indaw and lies along the Shwebo-Myitkyina road, a key inter-regional route connecting Sagaing Region and Kachin State, making it strategically important for transportation and trade flows.

After controlling Indaw, Tatmadaw columns continued operations and expanded the territory strategically to regain control of Mawlu. Meanwhile, they regained Namak-

yaing, Pinttin and Nabagyi villages between Indaw and Mawlu on 2 May, whereas Point-305 hill and Pinwel Ywathit on 3 May and Tonlon and Phapan villages on 4 May, and Sipain, Nakhwinkyin villages and Mawlu town yesterday.

During the operations to fully secure Mawlu and the surrounding areas, clashes occurred between security forces and terrorists. Weapons and bodies of insurgents were seized. Moreover, fuel storage sites operated illegally by insurgent groups were seized, including fuel containers, storage tanks, and vehicles.

Locals, who had suffered from abuses under insurgent control, welcomed Tatmadaw columns along the way with flowers, expressing their support.

Tatmadaw columns continue security operations in the area, with efforts underway to quickly reopen and secure the Mawlu-Nantsiaung Road section and to strengthen the control. — MNA/KTZH

Foreign nationals linked to telecom fraud deported; 8 more detained

AUTHORITIES have deported three foreign nationals involved in telecom fraud and criminal activities to their respective countries and detained eight more for further investigation.

The three – two Russians and one Nepali – had entered Myanmar illegally via border routes, transiting through neighbouring countries including Thailand, and were involved in illegal online gambling and fraud operations in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State. They were transferred via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in line with legal procedures, with consideration for humanitarian principles and international relations.

Officials led by the Myawady District Administration and Management Body supervised the handover process to ensure accuracy of records and smooth coordination. Representatives from relevant embassies and immigration authorities also attended, and documents were formally handed over.

In addition, authorities identified and detained eight more

foreign nationals – four from Burundi, three from Kenya and one from Uganda – who had entered illegally into areas around Myawady. They are currently under investigation for deportation.

From 30 January 2025 to 5 May 2026, a total of 14,634 illegal foreign entrants were detained in Myawady Township. Of these, 13,422 individuals have already been systematically deported to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures. Among the remaining 1,212 individuals, 746 have been prosecuted under immigration and drug-related laws. The remaining 466 individuals are ready for deportation and are being properly housed and managed. The government continues to cooperate actively with neighbouring countries, regional partners and international organisations to combat online scam operations and to identify and take action against those involved, while also facilitating the repatriation of trafficked and distressed foreign nationals as swiftly as possible. — MNA/KZL

Over 93 kg of methamphetamine seized at Yangon International Airport



Images reveal offenders being arrested along with seized drugs.

A combined team, including members of the Drug Enforcement Division, seized 26.6 kilogrammes of ice (methamphetamine) at Yangon International Airport at 8:30 am on 26 April from two passengers – Myo Nyi Nyi Hein (32) and Ma Hnin Thazin Oo (29), residents of Tamway Township – who were preparing to board a flight from Yangon to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Further investigation led to the arrest, at around 11 am the same day, of four additional passengers due to travel on the same flight: Tin Aung Than (32), Ma Khin Thandar Win (33), Khin Maung Than (41), and Chan Myae Paing (24), from Mingala Taung-

yunt Township. A further 56.05 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine) were seized from them.

Follow-up operations at 11:30 am led officers to an international freight forwarding company office in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, where two women – Ma Htet Ekari (23) and Ma Kyal Sin Lin Lei (19) – were arrested along with 9.5 kilogrammes of methamphetamine.

Based on their statements, two additional suspects – Aung Kyaw Win (a) Aung Aung (41), and his wife Ma Thandar Lwin (46), residents of Aungmyaythazan Township – were apprehended at a hotel in Lashio, where a

kilogramme of methamphetamine was seized.

In total, 93.15 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine), with an estimated local value of K2.31 billion, were confiscated during the operation.

Investigations revealed that the drugs were intended for trafficking to Malaysia and had been arranged by an individual identified as Lauk Chi from Linti Village in Hsipaw Township, who remains at large. Legal action has been taken against those arrested, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and further investigations are ongoing to identify additional offenders involved in the network. — MNA/KNN

China-Myanmar B2B pact to boost rice export to China

MYANMAR and China will soon establish a Business-to-Business (B2B) pact to boost rice export, said Myanmar's Commercial Attaché in Kunming, China.

Guokee Bio-Tech Company Limited from Yunnan Province, China, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agricultural Research, has been implementing trials to improve agricultural seeds, including rice, corn and secure pedigree seeds

Guokee Bio-Tech Company showed willingness to sign a B2B Memorandum of Understanding with a rice exporting company from Myanmar. They will provide seeds and persuade farmers to grow them. The rice milling process will be conducted in Myanmar. Guokee Bio-Tech Company will import the rice to



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto an overseas-going merchant vessel.

Myanmar.

China has adopted a new Export to China policy to encourage imports and to meet domestic consumption, according to officials from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce in China.

At present, that company is carrying out a trial run for four varieties of lowland paddy seeds (Yar 8, UPLRi, ZKMUR-5, and M20) in Nay Pyi Taw. These rice varieties are already registered with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Thus, Myanmar rice and paddy traders who wish to collaborate with Guokee Bio-Tech Company to cultivate these seeds domestically and export the rice to China can contact km-mhtway@gmail.com or Viber 09 943602357. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$5.35M to edible oil, LNG-importing companies



Greenbacks are seen at the money exchange counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3.35 million to edible oil-importing companies and US\$2 million to LNG-importing companies on 4 May, along with transactions of 1.2 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold over \$3.6 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$234,487 to CMP companies on 29 April, in addition to

transactions of over 6.2 billion baht in the market.

CBM sold over \$4.78 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$5 million to LNG-importing companies, and over \$168,400 to CMP companies on 28 April.

CBM sold over \$4.6 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$13,400 to CMP companies on 27 April, along

with transactions of over 2.3 million baht in the market.

CBM injected over \$44.84 million, 61 million baht and 700,000 yuan in March 2026, \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February and \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM injected forex into the market, with a view to curbing the instability 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

Chinese Firm Seeks Myanmar Partners to Export Dried Ginger, Konjac Powder

GUOKEE Bio-Tech Company wants to collaborate with Myanmar entrepreneurs to export dried ginger to the Republic of Korea and Konjac powder to Japan, along with providing technical assistance, according to Myanmar's Commercial Attaché in Kunming, China.

Guokee Bio-Tech Company Limited, based in Yunnan Province, contacted the Myanmar Consulate General in Kunming, stating that they want to purchase dried ginger from Myanmar for export to South Korea. The company wants to cooperate with Myanmar entrepreneurs who are currently producing dried ginger or who are interested in doing so, and will provide technology for drying ginger as well.

Moreover, the company also wants to purchase konjac from

the Myawady and Mawlamyine areas to process them into powder for export to Japan, in collaboration with entrepreneurs. The company will also provide training and konjac powdering methods.

The company has already secured markets not only in China but also in South Korea and Japan. Myanmar companies can receive better incentives when exporting.

Guokee Bio-Tech intends to establish joint ventures with Myanmar entrepreneurs and export Myanmar goods.

Myanmar entrepreneurs interested in partnering with Guokee Bio-Tech to export dried ginger to Japan and konjac powder to South Korea may contact km-mhtway@gmail.com or Viber 09 943602357 — NN/KK



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OPINION

Enhance the capacity of administrative bodies with corruption-free

WARDS and villages are the most fundamental units of the country, and ward and village administrative bodies are organizations that interact directly with the public on a daily basis and carry out administrative functions, thereby playing an important role.

Administrative bodies at the ward/village and township levels, which work in closest contact with the public, must strive to possess a clear understanding of the rules, regulations, laws, and fundamental principles of administration established by the State. In addition, administrative organizations must be free from corruption, and systematic training should be provided to ensure they become capable and effective institutions.

Across Myanmar, there are 330 townships. According to data from December 2019, there are 3,470 wards and more than 13,590 village-tracts, which were formed with 63,214 villages. Altogether, there are 17,809 wards and village-tracts nationwide. In carrying out administrative functions at the ward or village-tract level, the Towns Act (1907, Burma Act No 3) and the Village Act (1907, Burma Act No 6), which were enacted during the colonial period, were previously applied. However, at present, administration is being conducted in accordance with the Ward or Village Tract Administration Law (2012, Pyidaungsu Hlut-taw Law No 1).

For residents within a ward or village tract, the relevant ward or village tract administrator must carry out administrative responsibilities in accordance with applicable administrative laws, including submitting reports to the township administrator to obtain the necessary support to effectively perform their duties. In doing so, to ensure that work processes are smooth and efficient, it is essential to study, learn, and thoroughly understand the relevant laws.

Under these laws, community administrative bodies, residents, township administrative authorities, and the township police force must work together in unity to ensure peace and stability, the rule of law, and systematic development within communities. Any involvement in one or more of the four forms of corruption by responsible officials can disrupt the balance of community administration. A community administration that is not free from corruption not only loses the respect and trust of the people but also tarnishes the image of the government serving the nation.

That is why ward/village and township administrative bodies, which live among the people and interact with them on a daily basis, should strive to strengthen their capacity and avoid corruption in order to earn the trust, reliance, respect, and goodwill of the public.

MAY is a period when the intense heat of summer has not yet subsided, but it is already at the threshold of the rainy season. As it marks the beginning of the early rains and winds, the public needs to remain cautious during this seasonal transition in order to cope with potential natural disasters and the spread of communicable diseases that may arise.

Precautions against possible impacts of natural disasters

Myanmar is a country where regions with hot and humid climates coexist with areas that are cool and dry. As a result, seasonal changes tend to be more intense compared to other countries. Being aware that such severe weather conditions can occur, it is the responsibility of the public to make preparations and take preventive measures. Authorities concerned have to urge the people to raise awareness about climatic conditions and weather forecasts released by relevant departments to make necessary preparations against the possible impacts of natural disasters.

A key point is that, in order to prepare for the impacts of tropical storms that may accompany the summer winds, the public must follow the warnings and instructions issued by the relevant authorities. In the event of unexpected natural disasters, guidance on protective measures to minimize damage is being disseminated through broadcasting and press releases by the State through the media, and these should be carefully observed and followed.

Collective efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters

By Aung Kyaw Thant



If earthquakes are possible to cause a tsunami, people from beaches or shores must move to highlands. PHOTO: MOI WEBSITE

Raising public awareness of intense heat

Across Myanmar, during the pre-summer, summer, and pre-monsoon periods, daytime temperatures gradually rise, leading to the formation of convective clouds, which can develop into cumulonimbus clouds in the afternoon or evening. As these storm clouds move, they may generate strong downdrafts and gusty winds along their path, accompanied by heavy rain, thunder, lightning, hail, and localized thunderstorms. Therefore, this is a period during which the public needs to remain cautious and take care.

Raising public awareness of intense heat

As the intense heat of summer has not yet subsided, people should follow the instructions issued by the relevant authorities to prevent the effects of extreme heat. During the hot season, high temperatures can cause the loss of water and electrolytes in living beings, especially in humans. If these losses become significant, they can affect health; therefore, it is necessary to keep essential medicines on hand and follow the advice of healthcare workers and doctors.

To avoid the adverse effects of excessive heat, the public should study and adhere to the dos and don'ts being broadcast through state media. In cases of heat-related emergencies, such as fainting, it is important to promptly contact and seek treatment at the nearest health facilities.

During seasonal transitions, it is necessary to take advance precautions by considering the possible occurrence of storms, strong winds, heavy rains and flooding, landslides, and erosion, as well as earthquakes that may occur during periods of rapid and extreme temperature changes from intense heat to heavy rainfall. Even if such early seasonal changes do not oc-

cur, careful attention must still be given to preventing fire hazards caused by the lingering hot and dry conditions of the summer period.

As summer is also a time when both domestic and drinking water can become scarce, it is important to use water and food supplies sparingly and to store them carefully. Only by preparing in advance, including for potential fire risks, can families and communities ensure a secure and stable situation.

Public participation to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters

For a developing country like Myanmar, preventing and mitigat-

ing the impacts of severe weather requires modern equipment and materials. Although the government is making efforts to provide such resources as much as possible, it is only through the active participation of the public, using their collective strength and determination in disaster prevention efforts, that these challenges can be successfully overcome.

In Myanmar, even within Tatmadaw structured under a chain of command, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has already instructed relevant regiments and units that, in the event of natural disasters, they are not to wait for higher orders but to carry out search and rescue operations in a timely manner. Therefore, whenever natural disasters occur, it can be seen that military personnel and security forces, together with government staff and volunteers, work tirelessly – risking their lives – to conduct search, relief, and rescue operations, as well as to distribute food and essential supplies in the affected areas.

In reality, although nature shapes and influences the world and humankind, people do not simply submit passively to everything that occurs under natural forces. Instead, by relying on human intelligence and ingenuity,



People can seek help and healthcare from relevant departments after a natural disaster. PHOTO: MOI WEBSITE

they strive to reduce the harmful impacts of nature as much as possible and continue to endure and confront it.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of each generation to make efforts to utilize modern tools, equipment, and technologies developed by humans, and to live resiliently against nature within increasingly advanced infrastructure. At the same time, the admirable human tradition of offering help across nations, regardless of race, religion, or political differences, whenever natural disasters occur, should be preserved and passed down for generations to come. In this way, no matter how severe natural disasters may be, humanity can overcome them and sustain its existence by harnessing collective strength.

Whenever natural disasters occur – whether severe or mild – they inevitably cause damage to the lives, homes, and property of the people. However, the ability to reduce and mitigate such damage is, in itself, a victory for the State, the government, and the people, and serves as a testament to their collective strength. Therefore, in order to overcome natural disasters that may occur in every season, the government and the people must work together in unity, with shared purpose and determination, making continuous and coordinated efforts.



People residing along beaches should watch information about tsunamis in the aftermath of earthquakes. PHOTO: MOI WEBSITE



ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

Space To Decide Future Wars: DRDO Chief Urges National Push

SPACE is no longer just a supporting tool for national security, it has become the dominant domain that will determine the outcome of future conflicts, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Chairman Samir V Kamat said recently, calling for a “whole-of-nation” approach to close India’s capability gap with rivals whose space programmes are expanding at an alarming pace.

Speaking at the 4th Indian DefSpace Symposium at Manek-

shaw Centre on “Strengthening India’s Defence and Space Industry Synergy”, Kamat outlined DRDO’s growing role in military space while stressing that catching up will be a “Herculean challenge” without greater investment and collaboration.

While ISRO remains the lead agency for India’s civilian space programme, Kamat said DRDO was entrusted with addressing the military aspects of space after the formation of the Defence Space Agency. The

responsibility, he noted, is still a small part of DRDO’s overall mandate but is expanding rapidly. “It needs to grow much more if we have to keep pace with our rivals,” he said.

To bridge the gap, DRDO is adopting a collaborative model that brings in startups, MSMEs and academia. The organization has already set up DRDO Industry Academia Centres of Excellence in three to four of its 15 DIA COEs, with space identified as a priority domain.

“There is a lot of interest among academia and startups to contribute to the defence part of the space programme,” Kamat said, adding that he is optimistic India will gain the necessary impetus and sovereign capabilities in critical technologies over the next few years.

Kamat made it clear that while some space technologies can still be sourced from abroad, several areas remain restricted and require indigenous development. DRDO’s

current focus includes space situational awareness to protect India’s space-based assets, development of the restricted service of NAVIC for military operations, and capabilities in space-based surveillance and imaging radar. The organization is also working on early missile launch detection systems, a capability highlighted by Chief Marshal Bhaduriya.

Civil-military fusion will be essential, particularly in areas like imaging radar where civilian

and military applications overlap, he noted.

The Chairman underlined that India’s current investment in research and development remains inadequate to sustain this push. As a nation, India spends only 0.65 per cent of GDP on Research and Development, and within defence, only five per cent of the budget is allocated to R&D. “We definitely need to scale this up if we have to catch up with our rivals,” he said.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL



This image shows attendees and officials at the workshop.
PHOTO: US EMBASSY

Next-Gen Digital Mastery workshop opens at Jefferson Centre Mandalay

THE Next-Gen Digital Mastery workshop, which will directly deliver US business skills to local businesses, has opened at the Jefferson Centre in Mandalay, said the US Embassy to Myanmar.

As part of the Freedom 250 initiative, the workshop, which opened on 29 April, will teach 50 young people the technologies required to become successful

in the digital business world, from Google Analytics to Canva, it said.

The workshop will help the next generation of youth boost their own brands, develop income ideas and strengthen business connections. US marketing strategies will encourage talented young locals to stand out as young business-people.

Charge d’Affaires Douglas E Sonnek organized a special event on 29 April to celebrate the complete renovation of the Jefferson Centre, a heritage building, following the 2025 earthquake. The Jefferson Centre has existed as a significant connection between the United States of America and upper Myanmar for many decades. — MT/ZS

Efficient verification of re-entry-on-leave applications ensured: Labour Department



Applicants at the OWIC issuing office.

THE Department of Labour says it will allow departure and renewal of Overseas Worker Identification Card in a week (including holidays) for applications for re-entry on leave if they can provide complete documents.

On 4 May, the department issued rules on re-entering the home country for Myanmar migrant workers holding a PJ passport. It said Myanmar

workers who would return to Myanmar will have to seek a recommendation from the Myanmar Embassy, consulate or consulate-general in their host country and apply for departure along with required documents and an official-issued recommendation, starting from 1 May.

Among those who have already arrived back in Myanmar just before the rule takes effect

on 1 May, workers on leave for more than a month and those whose host countries and workplaces are different from OWIC will have to prove the reason for taking a long leave with complete evidence, it said.

Apart from maternal leave, family care leave, and sick leave, out of leave types allowed by relevant countries, other normal leave types, including annual leave, are limited to a maximum of one month, so the re-entry rules are intended to verify that a worker is officially granted permission to return on leave. It added that the verification on the employer and workplace is intended to protect Myanmar workers under the legal protection of the respective country if there is something difficult at the designated workplace.

Through a thorough and efficient verification, the department will allow departure and OWIC renewal for Myanmar PJ passport holders so that they can go back to their work abroad in time. — MT/ZS

Over 5,000 traffic offences penalized on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Jan-Apr

ACCORDING to the Expressway Police Force, a total of 5,137 traffic offenders were taken action against on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway during the first four months of 2026.

From January to April 2026, 4,806 drivers were penalized for exceeding the speed limit, while 331 were fined for failing to wear seat belts.

The prescribed speed lim-

its on the expressway are 100 kilometres per hour for private vehicles, 90 kilometres per hour for long-distance passenger vehicles, and 60 kilometres per hour for commercial vehicles.

In addition, during the same period from January to April 2026, a total of 52 road accidents were recorded on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, resulting in 32 fatalities and 63 injuries. — ASH/KZL



Officials are seen inspecting a vehicle on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



“The Devil Wears Prada 2” tops North American box office in opening weekend

“THE Devil Wears Prada 2”, from 20th Century Studios, led ticket sales at the North American box office with an estimated three-day cume of US\$77 million in its opening weekend, data from measurement firm Comscore showed on Sunday.

The comedy drama added another \$156.6 million internationally, pushing its global debut total to \$233.6 million.

The sequel to the 2006 film “The Devil Wears Prada” reunites the original main cast with director David Frankel. Almost 20 years after their iconic performances as Miranda, Andy, Emily and Nigel, Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and

Stanley Tucci return to the fashionable streets of New York City and the sleek offices of Runway magazine in the film.

“The Devil Wears Prada 2” has received an approval rating of 77 per cent based on 226 reviews to date on review-aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes. It earned an “A-” on an “A+” to “F” scale from audiences polled by market research firm CinemaScore.

Lionsgate’s Michael Jackson biopic “Michael” slipped to second place in its second weekend, earning \$54 million. The film has grossed \$183.8 million in North America and \$423.9 million worldwide. — Xinhua

Social media addiction suspected among 7% of Japanese adolescents

SEVEN per cent of Japanese young people aged 10 to 19 are suspected to be “pathological users” of social media, according to a recent survey by a medical institute, suggesting they are too addicted to reduce their screen time.

The nationwide survey conducted by the National Hospital Organization Kurihama Medical and Addiction Centre also found the figure for that age group was the highest.

Some research findings suggest links between social media use and crime and mental health issues among children.

To protect young people from social media harm, countries such as Australia and Indonesia have moved to ban those under 16 from using social media. Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Children and Families Agency have also been discussing how to handle the issue. — Kyodo



Workers erect an Oscar statue ahead of the 98th Annual Academy Awards outside the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, on 14 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

AI actors and writers not eligible for Oscars: Academy

ACTORS created with artificial intelligence will not be eligible for an Oscar, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences said Friday as it launched a crackdown on the use of AI.

New rules include a requirement that only real, live human performers — not their AI avatars — are eligible for the film world’s biggest prizes, and screenplays must have been penned by a person, rather than a chatbot.

“In the Acting category, only roles credited in the film’s legal billing and demonstrably performed by humans with their consent will be considered eligible,” the Academy said.

“In the Writing categories, the rules codify that screenplays must be human-authored to be eligible.”

The ruling comes days after an AI version of the late Val Kilmer was unveiled to an audience of cinema owners, a year after the “Top Gun” star’s death.

A youthful, digital version of Kilmer appeared in the trailer for archaeological action pic “As Deep as the Grave”, telling another character: “Don’t fear the dead and don’t fear me”.

The project was created with the enthusiastic support of the actor’s family, who granted access to Kilmer’s video archives, which were

used to recreate the actor at multiple stages of his life.

The use of artificial intelligence remains one of the most sensitive issues in the entertainment industry and was central to the 2023 strikes that shut down Hollywood, as actors and writers warned that unchecked technology threatened their livelihoods.

Other updates to the Academy’s rules include a change in the way that films can be nominated for best international feature. Until this year, only a film selected by an official national grouping could be entered — a problem for any critical movie made in an authoritarian state. — AFP



A child reads a book at the Chinese pavilion at the 40th Tunis International Book Fair, held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 2 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Chinese culture draws attention at 40th Tunis intl book fair

THE 40th Tunis International Book Fair concluded Sunday in Tunis, drawing steady crowds to the Chinese pavilion, where books in Chinese, Arabic, and French covered topics ranging from society and politics to culture.

Since the fair opened on 23 April, the pavilion has attracted sustained interest from visitors exploring language-learning

materials, children’s stories, and academic works.

Among them was Kalthoum, who was seen carefully leafing through a Chinese textbook. She said she recently rekindled her interest in the language after more than a decade.

“The last time I encountered the Chinese language was in middle school, more

than 10 years ago. I still love this language,” she said.

Hela Maarouf, a master’s student in international relations, focused on works dealing with political theory and China’s development. She said she was interested in China’s social progress and its role in global affairs, describing openness as a defining feature of the country. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Stocks diverge as traders eye US-Iran ceasefire



The logos of HSBC, DBS and Standard Chartered are seen on buildings in the Marina Bay financial centre in Singapore on 5 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

GLOBAL stocks diverged Tuesday as investors weighed first-quarter corporate earnings alongside uncertainty over the fragile US-Iran ceasefire.

Oil prices pulled back but held on to most of Monday's sharp gains, after the two sides traded fire as they vie for control of the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

London's FTSE 100 index fell one per cent as traders returned from the UK bank holiday.

The index was weighed by a sharp drop to the share price of banking giant HSBC, whose first-quarter earnings missed expectations as profits were hit by a surprise \$400 million fraud-related charge and economic risks from the Middle East crisis.

Markets fared better elsewhere in Europe, with Paris up 0.5 per cent and Frankfurt advancing more than one per cent

in midday deals.

Italian bank Unicredit jumped around six per cent in Milan after it reported a sharp rise in first-quarter net profit.

"First-quarter corporate earnings have largely been robust so far which has helped to sustain global equities despite the uncertain backdrop," said AJ Bell head of markets Dan Coatsworth.

"However, the longer the situation goes on without any sign of a lasting resolution, the harder it will be for investors to remain positive," he added. International oil benchmark Brent North Sea fell around one per cent to about \$113 per barrel after sharp gains the previous day. Crude prices surged Monday after the US military said it hit six Iranian boats threatening commercial shipping and its forces repelled missile and drones. — AFP

Singapore's retail sales rise 4.8% in Mar

SINGAPORE'S retail sales increased 4.8 per cent year on year in March 2026, following the 8.3 per cent growth in February 2026, official data showed Tuesday.

Within the retail trade sector, most industries recorded year-on-year growth in sales in March, the Singapore Department of Statistics said in a statement.

Sales of recreational goods

surged 13.1 per cent, while motor vehicles, parts and accessories rose 12.9 per cent.

The computer and telecommunications equipment segment posted an 11.9 per cent increase, driven in part by higher mobile phone sales. However, some categories remained under pressure. Food and alcohol retailers recorded a six per cent decline, while department stores saw sales fall 5.7 per cent. — Xinhua

Avocado farming rises as citrus-making Japan city eyes global warming

FUMINORI Arita once farmed "iyokan," a Japanese citrus variety, but about 10 years ago he switched to growing avocados, revelling in the challenge of producing crops of what he describes as a "sensitive and difficult to grow" fruit.

The 67-year-old is symbolic of efforts by the western Japanese city of Matsuyama in Ehime Prefecture, long known primarily for citrus cultivation, to shift more to avocados, partly as a strategy to adapt to rising temperatures amid global

warming.

Given the challenge of cultivating avocados, the "joy of success is huge", said Arita, who started with seedlings he acquired from the city government. His avocados now sell for around 5,000 yen (\$32) per kilogramme.

Aided by the local push, output of Matsuyama avocados began gaining momentum in 2009 and in the past decade has jumped over 12-fold from about 600 kilogramme in fiscal 2015 to about 7,300 kilogramme

in fiscal 2024.

While suitable areas for cultivating mandarin oranges will gradually shift northward, many areas that are deemed too warm for citrus fruit will become suitable for avocados, according to the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization. Global warming is expected to expand areas suitable for avocados in Japan 2.5-fold or more by the middle of the century, according to a projection by the institute affiliated with the agriculture ministry. Similar efforts to develop avocados, known in Japan as "the butter of the forest", have been underway in the central Japanese prefecture of Shizuoka. A subsidy programme by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from fiscal 2026 is designed to accelerate local efforts to promote the cultivation of crops suitable for higher temperatures.

Aomori Prefecture, known for its apples, has been expanding peach production, while Oita Prefecture wants to grow more shine muscats. — Kyodo



This photo taken in December 2025 shows avocado cultivator Fuminori Arita in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Indonesia's economy grows 5.61% in Q1

INDONESIA'S economy grew 5.61 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2026, driven by broad-based expansion across sectors and a surge in government spending, Statistics Indonesia (BPS) said Tuesday.

Amalia Adininggar Widyananti, head of BPS, told a press conference that the figure was higher than the 5.39 per cent recorded in the fourth quarter of 2025 and 4.87 per cent in the

same period last year.

Nearly all sectors posted positive growth, except mining, as well as electricity and gas. Manufacturing, which has a dominant share in the economy, expanded by 5.04 per cent.

The accommodation and food services sector recorded the fastest growth at 13.14 per cent, followed by transportation and warehousing at 8.04 per cent. — Xinhua

Malaysia factory outlook clouded despite strong PMI data

MALAYSIA'S manufacturing outlook is becoming more challenging despite resilient near-term activity, as easing geopolitical risks offer only partial relief from elevated costs and supply chain pressures, economists said Tuesday.

Business confidence among manufacturers has slipped to an eight-month low and remains below historical norms, according to BIMB Securities, reflecting lingering concerns over Middle East tensions.

"Malaysia's diversified and consumption-led economic structure should provide a degree of resilience, with industrial production and goods exports projected to expand by 3.4 per cent and 3.5 per cent, respectively, in 2026, supporting a gradual normalization of activity amid a softer global growth environment," it added.

Still, MBSB Research warned that the manufacturing outlook is turning more challenging, with recent gains in purchasing managers' index (PMI) readings partly driven by precautionary stockpiling

ahead of a tougher operating environment.

"Energy price shocks and elevated oil prices, driven by the West Asia conflict, are likely to worsen material shortages, disrupt supply chains, and keep production costs elevated, thereby constraining manufacturing momentum in the near term," the research house noted.

While Malaysia's near-term outlook remains firm, underpinned by domestic demand and stock building, Kenanga Research cautioned that high logistics, energy and material costs, alongside delivery delays, will remain key headwinds as second-round effects from prolonged Middle East tensions begin to surface. "Growth should remain robust in the first half, supported by a festive boost, resilient domestic demand and stock building activity. However, downside risks are rising in the second half as cost pressure and supply chain disruptions intensify," the research house said. — Xinhua

BioNTech to cut up to 1,860 jobs as COVID jab sales drop

GERMANY'S BioNTech said Tuesday it will halt operations at several sites, in a move affecting up to 1,860 jobs, as sales of its blockbuster COVID vaccine drop.

The biotech company plans to stop operating at three manufacturing sites in Germany by the end of 2027, it said, while a site in Singapore would cease work in the first quarter of next year.

Sites of former competitor CureVac — which BioNTech acquired last year — would also stop making vaccines, BioNTech added.

The moves will save up



Employees in cleanroom suits test the procedures for the manufacturing of the messenger RNA (mRNA) for the COVID-19 vaccine at the new manufacturing site of German company BioNTech on 27 March 2021 in Marburg, central Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

to 500 million euros (\$585 million) in costs annually by 2029, BioNTech said,

adding that about 1,860 jobs would be affected.

"BioNTech plans to

align and consolidate its manufacturing network further where excess capacity is expected," the company said.

"For each of these manufacturing sites, BioNTech is exploring divestment options, including a partial or total sale," it added.

Reporting earnings for the first quarter, BioNTech said sales had fallen 35 per cent to 118.1 million euros, hit by lower sales of its COVID vaccines.

BioNTech's loss widened to 531.9 million euros from 415.8 million euros for the same period last year. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (243N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (243N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (616W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (616W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (6601S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (6601S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2026** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (161W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (161W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2609N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2609N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



This photo taken on 30 November 2023 shows the headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

OPEC expresses gratitude to Russia for commitment to balancing oil market

OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais has thanked Russia for its dedication to collective efforts aimed at maintaining stability in the oil market during a meeting with Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, the organization said on Monday.

"His Excellency Al-Ghais highlighted the value of the strong

and constructive relationship between OPEC and the Russian Federation since 2016 and expressed his appreciation for Russia's ongoing commitment to the collective efforts aimed at safeguarding balanced oil markets amid evolving global dynamics," OPEC said in a post on X.

The organization also noted that Russia remains a key partner

in the Declaration of Cooperation since its inception in 2016.

The statement added that the conversation between the OPEC chief and Ulyanov placed particular emphasis on the importance of continued efforts to support oil market stability for the benefit of both producers and consumers as well as the wider global economy.

— SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Passengers evacuated from flight at Indian airport after smoke seen in cabin

An emergency evacuation of a flight was launched at an airport in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh Tuesday after an onboard passenger's power bank caught fire and smoke filled the aircraft.

The incident occurred on an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad to Chandigarh, triggering an emergency response and evacuation upon landing. According to officials, all 198 passengers and six crew members were evacuated using sliders. "All customers have been safely moved to the terminal," IndiGo Airlines said in a statement. — Xinhua

Indonesia warns of high waves up to 4 metres

INDONESIA'S Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) has warned of high waves of up to four metres in several waters across the country from Tuesday to Friday, urging seafarers and coastal communities to remain vigilant. BMKG said in a statement that waves of 2.5 to 4 metres could occur in the western Indian Ocean off Lampung, as well as waters south of Banten, West Java, Central Java, and Yogyakarta.

"Potential high waves in these areas may pose risks to shipping safety," the agency said Tuesday. — Xinhua

Laos aims to promote sustainable water management

Laos' Ministry of Public Works and Transport, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), organized a national workshop on strengthening the financial sustainability of water assets through institutional development and capacity building in the urban water sector. The workshop, held in Vientiane on Tuesday, aimed to exchange lessons learned and promote good practices among provincial water utilities, as well as identify practical solutions to strengthen financial and asset management, the local Pasaxon newspaper reported on Tuesday. — Xinhua

Race to find port for hantavirus-stricken cruise ship

HEALTH authorities were racing to find a port for a cruise ship battling a suspected hantavirus outbreak Tuesday, as it remained off Cape Verde with passengers isolating after three people died.

The MV Hondius will head to Spain's Canary Islands, the World Health Organization said, though Spanish authorities said no decision would be made on which port would receive the ship until epidemiological data on board had been analyzed.

The priority is to evacuate two crew members who require urgent care — po-

tentially to the Netherlands — and "then the ship can move", the WHO epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director Maria Van Kerkhove told reporters in Geneva. So far, two hantavirus cases have been confirmed and there have been five other suspected cases among the 147 people who were on the cruise from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde off west Africa, the WHO said.

Three of those people had died, while one was critically ill and three others had reported mild symptoms, it said. — AFP



A general view of the cruise ship MV Hondius stationary off the port of Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, on 5 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS



This image shows Myanmar's young football talents training at the National Football Academy. **PHOTO: MFF**

Six youths picked for AIA-Spurs camp in Thailand

SIX standout players from the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Summer Football Skills Course 2026 (Yangon Batch 1) have been selected to join the AIA-Spurs Football Camp in Thailand.

The players earned their spots through the "Score with Spurs (AIA Coaching Clinic

2026)" programme organized by AIA Myanmar. They were among seven finalists from the initial selection, and six were chosen for the six-day overseas training camp.

The selected youths are Khant Nyi Nyi Lin, Zay Ye Paing, Pyae Phyo Zaw, Phone Pyae Lyan, Myu Hnin Cho and

Yoon Yoon.

At the camp, they will receive direct training from international development coaches of Tottenham Hotspur, gaining exposure to international-level techniques and valuable experience to further develop their skills. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

MFF U19, U16 futsal leagues kick off on 9-10 May

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) will launch the 2026 U19 and U16 futsal league competitions on 9 and 10 May, organized by its Futsal and Beach Football Committee.

Both leagues will feature 12 teams each. The U16 league will run its first round from 10 May to 19 July and the second round from 26 July to 4 October. The U19 league will hold its first round from 9 May to 18 July and

the second round from 25 July to 3 October. All matches will take place at the MFF Futsal Indoor Stadium at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

MFF introduced both youth futsal leagues last season, with Winner Soccer winning the U19 title and Kyaung Saya Thar Htwe claiming the U16 crown. However, neither defending champion will compete in this year's editions. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Players are seen contesting the ball in a hard tackle during a futsal match. **PHOTO: MFF**

MNL to hold 5 domestic competitions in 2026-2027 season

THE Myanmar National League (MNL) has officially announced that five domestic competitions will be held in the 2026-2027 football season.

The Myanmar National League will organize four league competitions and one knockout competition in the upcoming season. The league competitions will include the MNL top-tier league, MNL-2 (first division) league, MNL U20 youth league and the Myanmar Women's League. In addition, a knockout competition involving clubs from both MNL and MNL-2 will also be held.

The knockout tournament was last staged in the 2019 season and has not been held for several years, but it will return in the upcoming season. Instead of the knockout competition, the MNL League Cup was held in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 seasons, but it will not be organized in the 2026-2027 season as the knockout format returns. According to the league's announcement, 12 teams will compete in the MNL, eight teams in MNL-2, nine teams in the Women's League, and the MNL U20 youth league will feature either 13 or 14 teams.

Among the domestic competitions for the 2026-



Myanmar's football players are seen in action in a match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

2027 season, the youth league will be the first to begin and is scheduled to start in May. The upcoming MNL season is expected to be more competitive, and fan interest is likely to increase compared to previous seasons. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

China's Wu Yize wins World Snooker Championship in Crucible thriller

WU Yize became the second Chinese to win World Snooker Championship following Zhao Xintong's triumph last year, defeating England's Shaun Murphy 18-17 at the Crucible Theatre here on Monday.

Wu, 22, also became the second-youngest Crucible winner after Stephen Hendry who was 21 in 1990. He lifted the trophy after the final, with his parents standing by his side.

"They are the true champion, since the moment I devoted myself to snooker, my father has always been my company, my mother also went through ups and downs in these years. They are and always will be my motivation," said Wu, who moved to Sheffield at 16 years old and lived in a tiny room with his father for a long time. — Xinhua



Thailand to borrow \$12.2 bln as Mideast crisis bites

THAILAND approved a \$12.2 billion emergency borrowing package on Tuesday to cushion the economic impacts of the Middle East war, marking one of the country's largest borrowing plans in decades.

The cabinet said the funding would be used to boost domestic spending and ease economic hardships as inflation rises and growth slows, with the finance ministry last week cutting its GDP growth forecast to 1.6 per cent, from 2.4 per cent last year.

The loan of about 400 billion baht will be deployed from June to September, and include aid for more than 20 million low-income people under the government's "Thais Helps Thais" scheme to ease living costs.

It will also be used to support alternative energy, Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas said at a news conference after a cabinet meeting. The US-Israel war against Iran that began in late February has roiled global energy prices, resulting in rising prices for oil and gas, shipping and consumer goods.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul called the loan "a tool to move the country forward and prevent economic weakening".

"We will get through this crisis together," he told reporters. The borrowed sum is among the highest in recent history, but below levels seen during the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic years.

Public debt stood at 66.38 per cent of the country's GDP in March, below the 70 per cent ceiling, and the new loans will not breach the limit, the finance minister said.

Thailand's core inflation was forecast to hit 3.0 per cent this year, up from an earlier estimate of 0.3 per cent. — AFP

India's Modi expands reach, clinching opposition stronghold



India's Prime Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Narendra Modi (2L) waves to supporters as he arrives at party headquarters in New Delhi on 4 May 2026. PHOTO: AFP

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dominated national politics for years, but analysts say this week's election victory in opposition-held West Bengal state could mark a watershed moment for his party's Hindu nationalist agenda.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept polls in the key eastern state of more than 100 million people, winning 206 of the 294 assembly seats, according to results announced Monday, for its first-ever victory in West Bengal.

Analysts say the BJP's victory is one

of its most significant since Modi was first elected prime minister in 2014, expanding its dominance beyond the Hindi-speaking heartland of north and central India.

While many voters were drawn by a campaign that focused heavily on development and employment, the election also caps a determined party push to win over Indians apprehensive about Modi's nationalist agenda, fearing it would come at the expense of minority groups.

"It's a consolidation of the BJP in the east of India," political analyst Sushila

Ramaswamy told AFP.

"It... establishes the BJP as the dominant party. No doubt about that."

Other election results announced on Monday gave the BJP a thumping win in northeastern Assam state and another term in power in the small coastal territory of Puducherry, representing a "spectacular comeback" after failing to secure a majority in the 2024 general election, according to Rasheed Kidwai, a visiting fellow with the Observer Research Foundation think-tank. — AFP



A man shields his face from the sunlight as he leaves a BTS train station in Bangkok on 29 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP

'Super El Nino' raises fears for Asia reeling from Middle East conflict

ALREADY reeling from the effects of conflict in the Middle East, Asia is now facing the prospect of strong El Nino conditions that could spike energy demand, sap hydropower, and damage crops.

El Nino is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that brings worldwide changes in winds, air pressure, and rainfall patterns.

Last week, the United Nations' weather and climate agency said El Nino conditions could develop as soon as May to July. The World Meteorological Organization, meanwhile, said early signs

indicated the event could be particularly strong, with some dubbing the impending event a "super El Nino", although the term is not used by scientists.

That is not good news for Asia, parts of which are traditionally heavily affected by the heatwaves, drought and heavy rains that El Nino can bring.

The phenomenon essentially shifts traditional weather patterns around, for example moving rain that normally falls over Indonesia out to sea, leaving the country vulnerable to drought and wildfires. — AFP