

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Modern aquaculture zones to expand, boosting exports and fish supply



This photo features a fish farming operation in progress. Contracts have already been signed for exports to the United States and China, and preparations are underway to begin exports this year.

**A**CCORDING to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, modern aquaculture zones will be expanded across the country to reduce shortages of fishery products and increase foreign exchange earnings.

While the aquaculture sector is being developed extensively in foreign countries, Myanmar could also increase its foreign income and reduce shortages of fishery products if modern aquaculture zones are expanded domestically. In addition, the federation stated that

the establishment of a modern fisheries and aquaculture zone could generate nearly US\$200 million in annual revenue.

At present, declining marine fish resources and rising production costs have led to a reduction in offshore fishing activities, which has become a major challenge for countries such as Myanmar that rely heavily on both freshwater and saltwater fisheries. Therefore, if Myanmar can further expand and develop its freshwater and saltwater aquaculture

sectors, the country will not only be able to meet domestic consumption demands but also secure continuous foreign exchange earnings through exports.

Currently, butterfish are being farmed using modern technology at a deep-water fish farming site covering more than 3,000 acres in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. Contracts have already been signed for exports to the United States and China, and preparations are underway to begin exports this year. — ASH/MKKS

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Yangon palm oil wholesale reference price on upward trajectory

## Myanmar exports over 160,000 tonnes of rice in Apr

**M**YANMAR shipped over 160,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice in April of the current financial year 2026-2027 (April-March) through maritime trade channels, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

China is the leading im-

porter of Myanmar rice with 59,750 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 33,330 tonnes, Madagascar with 20,000 tonnes, the Philippines with 19,858 tonnes, Spain with 10,200 tonnes, and Poland with 9,491 tonnes.

Myanmar delivered 81,142 tonnes of rice and 88,417 tonnes of broken rice to for-

ign trade partners in April, totalling 169,559 tonnes.

Myanmar's rice export in the financial year 2025-2026 exceeded 2.7 million tonnes, bagging US\$861 million, MRF's data showed. Myanmar generated income of over \$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports

in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants As-

sociation, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

# NATIONAL

## Announcement to Farmers

- As part of the new Union Government's priority plans to be implemented within 100 days, the Ministry of Planning and Finance has already announced to farmers regarding the programmes for increasing agricultural loans and providing loans for agricultural machinery and equipment.
- Starting from the 2026-2027 financial year monsoon loan season, agricultural loan rates will be increased, and the increased loan amounts by crop type, interest rates, and loan disbursement periods are as follows;
  - Loans to the disbursed
 

No	Crop type	current loan	increased loan
(1)	paddy, wheat, and long-staple cotton (seed production)	K150,000	K300,000
(2)	18 other crops varieties	K100,000	K250,000
(3)	niger, canola, jute	K100,000	K150,000
  - Loan types and period
    - Monsoon loan from May to September 2026
    - Winter loan from October 2026 to January 2027
    - pre-monsoon loan from January to March 2027
  - Interest rates 5 per cent per year
  - Loan disbursement date - 12 May 2026
  - Collateral Requirement - Original Farmland Use Certificate (Form-7)
- Requirements for agricultural machinery loans are as follows: -
  - Loan Amounts - from K10 million to K300 million
  - from K300.1 million to K500 million
  - Interest rate - 6 per cent per year
  - term - one year, short-term (three years), long-term (five years)
  - Eligible persons - farmers, owners of the farming industry
  - Agricultural machinery eligible for loans - Power-tillers, trailers, water pumps/lift pumps, solar water pumps, seeders, small tractors, small combine harvesters, bean grinding machines, rice transplanters, dryers, silos, rice mills, and related machinery and equipment.
  - Collateral - Form-7, ancestral land, grant land, Lana-39, and buildings, machinery, industrial vehicles, and other fixed assets located on such land (more than one type of machinery may be purchased if the collateral is perfect)
  - Priority - farmers, cooperative society numbers
  - Loan disbursement date - May 2026
- The government aims to help rural residents and farmers increase agricultural production, improve socioeconomic development, and establish agro-based industries based on agriculture and livestock farming. Therefore, farmers and farming business owners wishing to obtain agricultural and agricultural machinery loans are respectfully advised to contact the relevant district/township branches of the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank nationwide as quickly as possible.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

## Myanmar showcases Thanaka and Laphet culture at UNESCO Vesak Day Ceremony in Paris



This photo depicts the Myanmar Embassy in Paris showcasing traditional Myanmar's Thanaka and Laphet culture at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in Paris showcased Myanmar's traditional Thanaka and Laphet culture at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris during a Vesak Day ceremony held on 6 May.

The event was attended by embassy officials led by Chargé d'Affaires and Am-

bassador U Kyaw Nyunt Oo, as well as UNESCO officials, permanent representatives, diplomats and invitees.

Myanmar is currently preparing to submit its traditional fermented tea culture for inclusion on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Myanmar's tra-

ditional Thanaka culture was also resubmitted to UNESCO in 2025, with a decision expected later this year.

Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for the first time in 2024. — ASH/KZL

## Monsoon enters Myanmar in mid-May

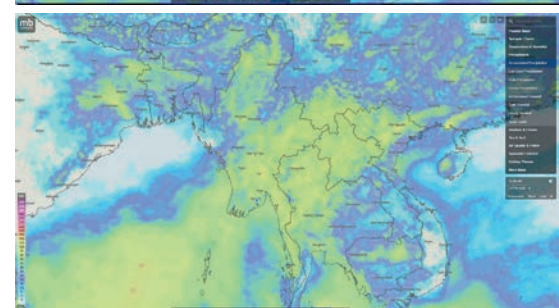
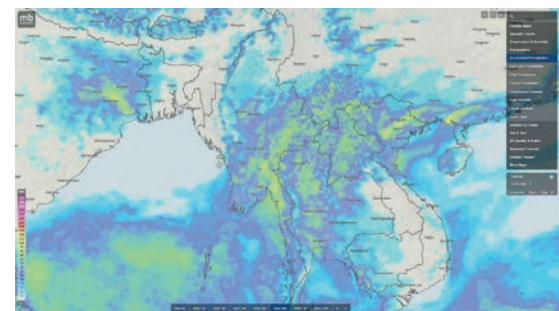
AS of the end of the second week of May, the formation of monsoon in the Bay of Bengal will be greater, and the monsoon will enter Myanmar in mid-May, according to meteorologist U Win Naing.

Under the animation of the weather forecast from 9 to 23 May by the AIFS-ENS Model from the Tropical Tidbits, the cyclonic vorticity has been sharply stronger off the east coast of Sri Lanka, with a direction to the central Bay of Bengal, between 10 and 13 May, he said.

Between 14 and 18 May, cyclonic vorticity is expected to increase over the central and northern Bay of Bengal. Southwest winds are forecast to strengthen and flow more actively into the Bay after 13 May. The onset of the southwest monsoon over southern Myanmar, covering Taninthayi Region and the Andaman Sea, is expected between 14 and 17 May, guided by prevailing wind patterns.

The early monsoon's rainfall will be widespread in southern Myanmar, the Delta and the Rakhine Coast, with expected high rainfall, between 15 and 23 May. At the beginning of the monsoon, the

inland heat and the sea's humidity will lead to more frequent thunderstorm formation, so lightning and strong winds require caution across Myanmar in mid-May, he said. — MT/ZS



Weather forecast chart for May's second week.

# NATIONAL

## Training depots assess Tatmadaw members according to correct qualifications

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo yesterday afternoon held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that training is of great importance, and obedience, which is the lifeblood and essence of military personnel, is rooted in training, and discipline, together with obedience, are defining characteristics of a good soldier.

Graduation qualification standards are important because they play a key role in duty assignments. As they also have an impact on the organizations being commanded, training depots need to assess and designate Tatmadaw members according to the correct qualifications.

Leadership in administration is also important because poor leadership can weaken the trust and confidence of subordinates and harm unity within Tatmadaw. Before taking disciplinary action or imposing punishment on subordinates,



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo meets Tatmadaw members and their families of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office yesterday.



careful consideration and thorough assessment are required. Undesirable errors in judgment can cause harm to the individuals concerned as well as losses for Tatmadaw.

Matters that can be forgiven should be understood, forgiven, guided and corrected accordingly. However, offences related to financial matters, social misconduct and narcotic drugs are unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

Starting from the 2026-27 academic year, the Tatmadaw Youth Education Schools will be opened in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon to provide high school

education to the trainees. Tatmadaw will help students who have a good transition of learning grade and qualification in line with the criteria of the Ministry of Education attend universities, institutes, Tatmadaw medical training courses and computer diploma Sergeant/Clerk courses.

People's military service personnel are individuals who are dutifully serving the nation in times of need with the qualities of good citizens, and they deserve recognition, gratitude and honour. Necessary arrangements have also been made to provide employment

opportunities for those who have faithfully fulfilled their duties, and appropriate benefits and entitlements have been awarded to them.

In addition, there are also individuals who, of their own volition, have chosen to continue serving in Tatmadaw because they wish to carry on undertaking national defence and security duties, and they are warmly welcomed. Therefore, responsible officials need to guide and work together with these people's military service personnel with the spirit of a father, brothers and comrades-in-arms.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief fulfilled the requirements of Tatmadaw members and families.

Also, present at the meeting were Daw Nilar, the wife of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo and his wife, and officials. — MNA/TTA

## MoFA Union Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador



The Pakistani ambassador calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe yesterday.

U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They held cordial discussions on matters relating to the strengthening of long-

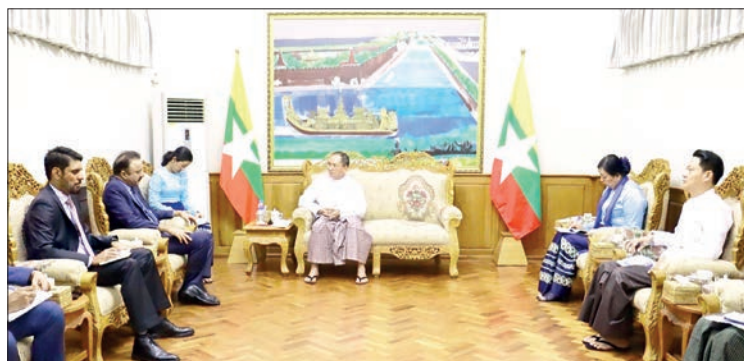
standing relations between the two countries, the promotion of trade and cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. — MNA

## MNPIFER Union Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw,

yesterday.

They frankly discussed issues related to enhancing bilateral relations and bilateral economic cooperation, as well as promoting cooperation in the trade and investment sectors between Myanmar and Pakistan. — MNA



Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe meets Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## MoC Union Minister calls for double export target this FY

EFFORTS must be made to double the export target this financial year, while identifying and addressing the challenges faced by export entrepreneurs to promote exports and ensuring coordination among relevant ministries and organizations to assist exporters, said Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, who is also Chairman of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods.

The Union minister remarked this at the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade

and Goods Work Coordination Meeting 1/2026 held yesterday afternoon at the committee office meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

He added that efforts must be made to ensure the timely repatriation of export earnings, the smooth distribution of fuel and edible oil, and an increase in exports of CMP products. — MNA/MKKS

Union Commerce Minister U Tun Ohn addresses the work coordination meeting 1/2026 of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods.



## MoH Union Minister urges MRCS to expand public health promotion and strengthen emergency preparedness



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win views exhibits at yesterday's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2026 Event.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, needs to expand public health promotion activities and strengthen preparedness for emergencies, said Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win at the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2026 commemoration ceremony held yesterday morning at the Myanmar Red

Cross Society headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw.

The president of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the resident representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the resident representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross delivered congratulatory remarks at the ceremony.

Afterwards, the Union minister, deputy minister, and officials presented awards and medals of honour to the 2025 Outstanding Red Cross Award winners from the Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw, as well as to Red Cross members aged 65 and above, and to those who received the State Social Excellence Medal for the 2025-2026 financial year. — MNA/TH

## CBM Governor receives Nepali Ambassador



Nepal's Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire calls on CBM Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo yesterday.

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Central Bank of Myanmar meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They held cordial and frank

discussions on bilateral banking and financial cooperation between Myanmar and Nepal, matters related to the development of digital banking, and the upgrading of banking systems through modern ICT technologies. — MNA/MKKS

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# NATIONAL

## Sixth Buddhist Council 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition showcases detailed religious efforts

THE exhibition commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council is being held daily at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, from 9 am to 5 pm and is crowded with a large number of visitors.

Teachers and students from Hlegu Education Degree College, Hmawby monastic schools, staff and families, nuns, monks and people visited the exhibition yesterday.

The exhibition features 10 booths, covering the First to the Sixth Buddhist Councils and contemporary religious activities. In booth 10, it displays stone inscriptions of Shwedagon, Maha Muni Buddha Image, Uppatasanti, Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthotaw pagodas,

religious activities of the National Defence and Security Council, and efforts of the kings who made propagation of Sasana.

Moreover, people can see the efforts of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in religious affairs at the exhibition.

The director of the Yangon Region Religious Affairs Department elaborated, "Although we were not alive during the Sixth Buddhist Council, we are fortunate that the President organized this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, allowing all Buddhists to once again pay homage and gain many benefits. Since the exhibition presents detailed historical endeavours of the Sixth Buddhist Council, people can now learn about re-

ligious history and records that they previously did not know or had never experienced. If Buddhists observe, study, and feel inspired to continue preserving and safeguarding the Sasana, then this exhibition becomes a great source of strength for Buddhism. It is both an encouragement for Theravada Buddhism and an opportunity to revisit and appreciate the great Sixth Buddhist Synod. From my point of view, being able to pay homage to these historical records is a special meritorious deed." — MNA/KTZH

Monks and visitors explore exhibits at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition of the Sixth Buddhist Council.



## Grade-10 outstanding students at Inlay Khaungdaing visit historic places



A total of 132 Grade-10 outstanding students from the Inlay Khaungdaing Outstanding Student Camp in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, along with their supervisors, teachers, and officials, visited Pindaya in the Danu Self-Administered Zone yesterday morning.

Outstanding students visited the iconic Shwe Umin Natural Cave Pagoda and purchased local traditional food and souvenirs from stalls within the pagoda compound.

In the afternoon, they explored the historic Boktalok Lake. The Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body chairman gave the welcoming speech. — Sai Al Bel/MKKS

Grade-10 outstanding students visit historic landmarks in Shan State.

## NMA College confers diplomas on 858 students

NMA College held its 11<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony yesterday at the Novotel Hotel in Kamayut Township, Yangon.

The event took place in the morning and evening sessions, with speeches delivered by senior lecturer Dr Nyi Min Htay and Career Connect CEO U Lin Myat Ko, who discussed job opportunities.

Outstanding students were awarded prizes, and diploma certificates were presented to 858 graduates, with 429 students receiving their diplomas in the morning session and another 429 in the evening.

Certificates and appreciation gifts were also presented to lecturers and faculty members in recognition of their contributions. — Oktha/KZL



The 11<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of NMA College is underway yesterday. PHOTO: KO LWIN

## Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 8 May 2026

THE number of foreign currencies in the Foreign Exchange market was used for the imports of edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare parts, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, consumer goods, animal feed, wheat, industrial raw materials, construction materials, fertilizers, and agricultural inputs. From the revenue of the CMP sector, US\$1.30 million was contributed to the edible oil sector and US\$0.33 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653~3,669	557~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.6
Trading amount in the market	19,762,283.23	7,985,609.99	66,832,877.30	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

# NATIONAL

## Week-long Pedestrian Traffic Discipline Campaign Underway in Yangon



The proper traffic use campaign is underway in downtown Yangon.

A week-long awareness campaign titled “Proper Use of Pedestrian Crossings, Underpasses, and Overpasses in Pursuit of Traffic Rules” is currently being held in high-traffic areas across

Yangon, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

This initiative follows the President’s guidance to ensure Yangon residents travel systematically and adhere to traffic regulations.

“The Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law and its rules explicitly state that pedestrians must use the provided zebra crossings, underpasses, or overpasses. We are conducting this campaign to urge the public to cross only at designated spots. Failure to comply can result in a fine not exceeding K30,000 under the existing law,” said U Lian Cin Mang.

The campaign began on 7 May at busy landmarks such as

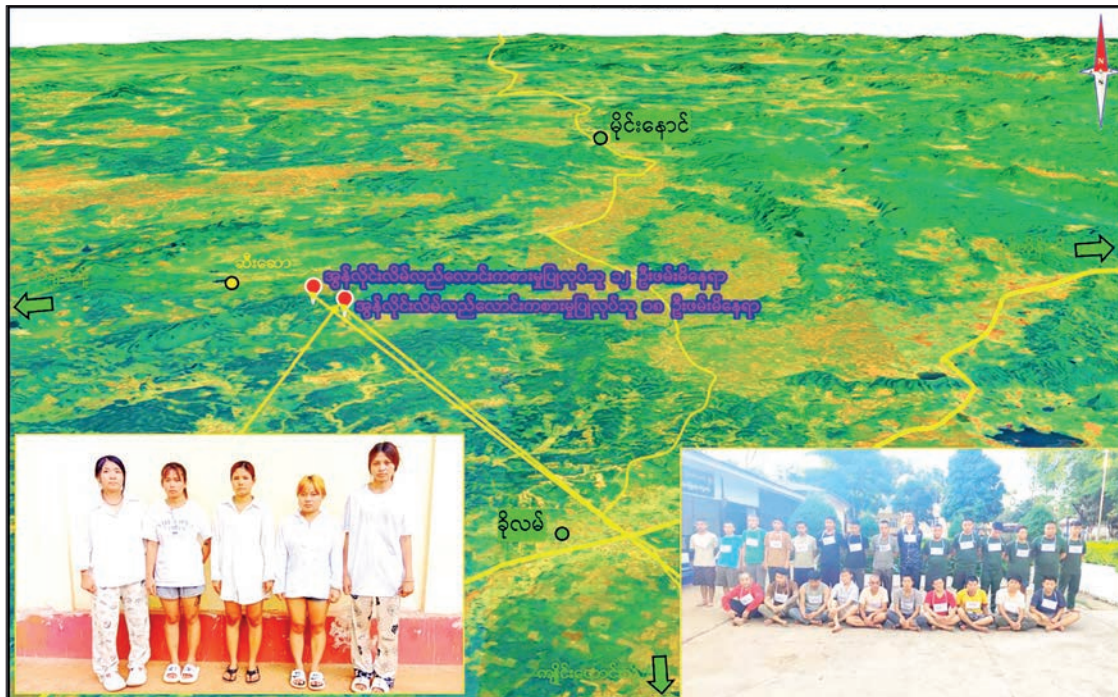
Sule, Mahamyaing, and Pyay Road. Officials are distributing educational pamphlets on road safety and guiding pedestrians on how to cross the streets systematically. These activities will continue at various pedestrian crossings throughout the city.

He further noted that once the one-week educational period concludes, legal action will be taken against those who fail to follow the rules. Safety guidelines include: Walking on the left side facing oncoming traffic in areas without sidewalks; pedestrians should use traffic facilities and look left, look right, and look left again to ensure the road is clear before crossing; prohibiting the use of mobile phones and earphones while crossing. — MT/ZN

## Crackdown on online scam and gambling operations in Shan State intensified

THE Myanmar Government is giving serious priority, as a matter of national responsibility, to combating online scams and online gambling activities that pose threats worldwide. In order to prevent such operations from taking root within Myanmar, the authorities are actively cooperating not only with domestic organizations but also with neighbouring governments through coordinated efforts.

Joint security teams have been carrying out area clearance operations, searches and inspections in relevant areas to ensure that individuals involved in online scam and gambling activities are not based there and that such activities are not being conducted. During operations conducted yesterday morning, security forces reached a location about 6,800 metres southeast of Hseehsaw Village in Laihka Township, Shan State (South), where they arrested 18 suspects involved in online scam and gambling operations



Images, including insets, show detained suspects, seized scam-related materials and facilities during an intensified crackdown on telecom fraud and online gambling in Laihka Township, southern Shan State.

– 13 Chinese nationals and five Myanmar women. The authorities also seized two residential tents measuring 120 feet by 30 feet, one operational tent of the same size, one kitchen tent

measuring 80 feet by 30 feet, two all-in-one computers, one medium-sized generator, two large power stations and 90 destroyed mobile phones of various types.

Security teams continued

their security operations and later arrested an additional 12 Chinese male suspects involved in online scam and gambling activities at a location approximately 6,000 metres south-east

of Hseehsaw Village.

Similarly, yesterday afternoon, security forces arrested another six Chinese male suspects involved in illegal online gambling activities near the Mongpan-Kengtawng road, about 12,000 metres south of Kengtawng in Mongpan Township, Shan State (South).

After the necessary investigations are completed, those arrested for involvement in online scams and gambling activities will face effective and severe action in accordance with existing laws. The seized operational equipment will also be dealt with in line with established procedures.

The report added that the State will continue actively cooperating with neighbouring countries, regional nations and international organizations in efforts to eradicate online scam and gambling activities and prevent such operations from being established within Myanmar. — MNA/KZL

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# NATIONAL

## Efforts made to produce sanitary napkins from banana fibre

**AS** the government promotes and supports MSMEs, which are considered one of the backbones of the national economy, Green Banana Myanmar from Hlegu Township in Yangon Region is planning to begin producing sanitary products for women using banana fibre.

To manufacture the sanitary products, the company plans to invite an expert from India. With a small-scale machine, it will be able to produce between 5,000 and more than 10,000 sanitary products per day. Since such production has not yet emerged within the ASEAN region, the project is expected to become a pioneering innovation from Myanmar, creating eco-friendly and health-supportive products for women without harmful side effects.

“We have aimed to produce women’s sanitary pads from banana fibre. We have been waiting for investors, and only now has the opportunity become possible. If supported by the government, it could develop further as a commercial entity. During the recent Union-level MSME exhibition, the Head of State encouraged us by saying bananas could become value-added products beyond traditional uses such as snacks, pig feed, and cattle feed. That



Images depict a thriving banana plantation (above) and the banana fibre production process. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**



guidance gave us the motivation to move forward with production. Machinery is very important for entrepreneurial businesses in addition to handicrafts, so we are currently working on importing the machines and obtaining business permits. India has already been producing these products for many years. In ASEAN, Myanmar would be the first country to pioneer this innovation. It will also contribute to women’s health,” said U Myint Thein, founder of Green Banana Myanmar.

After bananas are harvested for consumption, the remaining banana stems and fibres are re-used to manufacture consumer

goods. This contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supports eco-friendly entrepreneurship without harmful side effects, benefiting both the country and its people. A machine costs about US\$60,000. A single machine can process about 10,000 banana plants per day and produce banana yarn, enabling the manufacture of between 5,000 and over 10,000 women’s sanitary pads daily.

The sanitary pads made from banana fibre are believed to help reduce the risk of cervical cancer to a certain extent. Current sanitary products are mostly imported and may contain plastics and chemical substances that can negatively affect health. Therefore, banana fibre is a 100 per cent natural material free from chemicals and has strong absorbent qualities, which may help reduce the risk of cervical cancer and other diseases.

Green Banana Myanmar, which produces value-added consumer products from banana fibre, has already won three international awards and two domestic awards for its innovations. If the work proceeds smoothly, it is expected to begin producing sanitary products within six months. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

## Press Release on Study and Analysis of Ambient Air Quality in Yangon on 7 May 2026

THE Yangon Region Environmental Conservation Department is continuously conducting a 24-hour regular monitoring and analysis of ambient air quality in Yangon using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) at the following three monitoring locations in Yangon City, measuring six key parameters: Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and Carbon Monoxide (CO).

No	Air quality monitoring locations in Yangon Region	Measured parameters					
		PM2.5 (fine particulate matter – 2.5 microns)	PM10 (particulate matter – 10 microns)	Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	Ozone	Carbon-monoxide
1	Botahtaung Township, Yangon	Good					
2	International Business Centre, Hline Township, Yangon	Good					
3	Dagon Township, Yangon	Good					

### Air Quality Index - AQI

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

It is assessed that the measured ambient air quality results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall conditions, vehicle usage, dust dispersion caused by hot and dry weather, emissions from factories, and the surrounding conditions of the air quality monitoring locations.

**Environmental Conservation Department**

# OPINION

## Cultivating outstanding youths in the education sector

**T**HE Outstanding Youth Development Programme aims to nurture well-rounded individuals who are physically healthy, morally sound, and highly capable, possessing the five strengths, as well as educated young people who can contribute to national development through practical educational activities.

It also seeks to foster among students a spirit of admiration and emulation toward those selected as outstanding youths, encourage their own efforts to achieve such distinction, and promote healthy competition along with a strong willingness to learn and develop in all aspects.

The State selected 478 outstanding youths in 2023, 554 in 2024, and 728 in 2025. The Ministry of Education has been consistently training and nurturing outstanding youths, laying a strong and solid foundation for the “knowledge infrastructure” needed for the country.

During the Outstanding Youth camp trip, participants will have the opportunity to meet peers from various regions who value education, exchange knowledge, and explore local insights. They will also develop teamwork and collective cooperation skills, learn to live in harmony with others, and build mutual understanding, trust, respect, and friendship. As a result, they will gain valuable life experiences for their future.

Outstanding youths must strive to enhance their speech, conduct, and actions in a manner befitting the titles and standards they have achieved. While it is necessary to continuously seek methods for progress in line with modern systems, it is equally important to preserve and safeguard Myanmar’s identity, traditions, and cultural practices so that they do not fade or disappear. They are urged to make sustained efforts to become exemplary individuals worthy of respect and emulation by others.

They do not fade or disappear. They are urged to make sustained efforts to become exemplary individuals worthy of respect and emulation by others.

To meet the challenges of the 21st-century knowledge era, life-long learning and full competence are essential for youths. Therefore, they must continuously engage in self-learning and read books and literature to acquire broader knowledge and understanding.

At educational institutions such as basic education schools and universities, it is necessary to organize youth forums, literary talks, research paper reading sessions, educational seminars, and activities that help young people become well-rounded and develop the five strengths.

Outstanding youths have to take part, each in their respective roles, in contributing to the advancement of national interests; to consistently strive for the nation to stand with dignity as a modern and developed country within the international community; and to work with patriotism, love for the country, and unity to help build a peaceful, stable, and developed future nation.

“NEVER discredit your gut instinct. You are not paranoid. Your body can pick up on bad vibrations. If something deep inside of you says something is not right about a person or situation, trust it.” – often circulated online as “Buddha’s Teaching”

**Between Superstition and Science**

Across Burmese culture, intuition has long occupied an uncertain territory between wisdom and superstition. Older generations spoke of “bad air”, “heavy presence”, or an uneasy feeling before misfortune. Mothers warned children not to enter certain places at dusk. Elders interpreted subtle behavioural changes, dreams, facial expressions, or the atmosphere surrounding a person as signs that something was “not right”. In village life, these perceptions were often woven into astrology, omens, Nat worship, and traditional beliefs.

Modern education sometimes dismisses such customs as primitive superstition. Yet neuroscience now offers an intriguing perspective: beneath many cultural rituals may lie a sophisticated biological survival system.

**The Neuroscience of Intuition**

The human brain constantly processes enormous amounts of information beneath conscious awareness. Facial micro-expressions, tone of voice, posture, environmental tension, inconsistencies in speech, and memories of past experiences are analysed silently by neural circuits before conscious reasoning catches up.

What people describe as a “gut feeling” may therefore be the brain recognizing patterns too quickly or subtly for language. Evolutionarily, this mechanism was crucial. Human beings who sensed danger early were more likely to survive conflict, betrayal, predators, or environmental threats.

Neuroscience also highlights the close relationship between the brain and the enteric nervous system – often called the “second brain” in the gut. Through pathways such as the vagus nerve, emotional stress and unconscious fear can produce genuine bodily sensations: tightness in the chest, abdominal discomfort, muscle tension, or a sudden feeling of unease. The body often reacts before the mind can explain why.

**Burmese Customs and Psychological Wisdom**

Many Myanmar customs may therefore contain psychological insight beneath their symbolic language. Traditional warnings about avoiding certain companies, paying attention to “energy”, or listening to inner discomfort were not always irrational fears. They may have reflected generations of accumulated social observation encoded into cultural practice.

Even Myanmar proverbs hint at this understanding. Expressions warning that “a smiling face may hide a knife” or that “still water may conceal depth” reveal an awareness that appearances alone cannot be trusted. Human beings evolved not merely to listen to words, but to read emotional

incongruence.

This does not validate every superstition, horoscope, or paranormal belief. Fear-driven thinking can easily become paranoia. Anxiety is loud, repetitive, and chaotic. Genuine intuition, by contrast, is often quiet, calm, and persistent.

**The Silence Beneath Conscious Thought**

# The Quiet Intelligence of the Human Gut

By Khin Maung Myint



Modern society encourages people to suppress instinct in favour of politeness, appearances, or social convenience. Many individuals ignore internal discomfort because they fear seeming rude, suspicious, or irrational. Yet psychology repeatedly shows that survivors of manipulation or abuse often sensed danger long before they could intellectually explain it.

Ancient Buddhist thought approached this differently. Mindfulness was never merely a religious ritual; it was disciplined observation of the body and mind. Calm awareness of internal signals was regarded as insight rather than weakness.

The challenge today is balance. Instinct alone may become impulsive superstition. Pure in-

tellect, however, may become detached arrogance that ignores emotional reality. Wisdom lies in allowing intuition and rational analysis to work together.

Instinct alerts us that something may be wrong. Wisdom decides what to do next – calmly, ethically, and without panic. In an age overloaded with performance, persuasion, and artificial appearances, the quiet intelligence of the human nervous system may remain one of humanity’s most underestimated guides.

**Conclusion: Listening Without Losing Reason**

The deeper lesson may be that human beings are neither purely rational machines nor prisoners of superstition. We are biological, emotional, social, and cultural creatures whose survival has always depended upon the subtle cooperation between intellect and instinct. Modern neuroscience does not necessarily validate every traditional belief, but it does remind us that ancient societies often observed truths about human behaviour long before science developed the vocabulary to

explain them.

The danger lies at both extremes. Blind superstition can imprison the mind in fear, suspicion, and magical thinking. Yet excessive rationalism can become equally dangerous when it dismisses all emotional signals as weakness or irrationality. A society that loses the ability to feel caution may become technologically advanced yet psychologically naive.

The practical lesson is simple but profound: when discomfort repeatedly arises around a person, environment, or decision, it deserves calm attention rather than immediate dismissal. One need not panic, accuse, or react impulsively. Instead, pause, observe, gather evidence, and allow both reason and intuition to converse with one another.

In clinical psychology and neuroscience, emotional awareness is increasingly recognized not as the enemy of intelligence, but as part of intelligence itself. The nervous system remembers patterns that conscious thought may temporarily overlook. The body often whispers before catastrophe shouts.

Burmese culture, despite its mixture of folklore and superstition, has long carried quiet reminders of this reality. Elders warned against ignoring subtle unease, not because they understood neural circuitry, but because generations of lived experience taught them that danger rarely announces itself openly.

The ultimate take-home message is therefore balance. Trust

instinct, but verify with wisdom. Respect intuition, but do not become enslaved by fear. Listen carefully to the quiet signals of the mind and body, especially in an age where appearances are increasingly manufactured, emotions manipulated, and sincerity often performed rather than lived.

In the end, wisdom may not lie in choosing between science and tradition, but in recognising that both are attempting to understand the same mysterious human condition from different directions.

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## The POWER Writing Technique for Better Essays

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)

**W**HAT is an essay? Even different writers have diverse opinions on the answer to this question. As we may all know, the word ‘essay’ comes from the root ‘essai’ in Old French, whose meaning is ‘attempt’ in English. Essay writing originated with Montaigne, a French writer; then followed by Francis Bacon. As mentioned above, since an essay means trying to write something only, it is natural for many teachers to ask

their students to write essays in the range of about once a week, particularly at weekends. In actual fact, essays are supposed to be the beginning of all writing; that is, if anyone can write an essay well, he or she will be able to compose a poem, a short story, an article, and even a novel. Saya Maung Tha Noe once stated that a person who cannot write a poem straight away is unable to compose prose writing, to be sure, where he wanted to mean that it



is essay writing. Hence, all works of literature can be said to come out of essay writing.

Also, an essay does not have a definite frame of writing and

ideas; its composition is free and easy, except that it has an introduction, the main body or bodies and a conclusion as in most other types of writing. In my personal opinion, essay writing is often seen between article writing and story writing. But an essay is neither an article nor a short story at all. We cannot surely expect that facts and figures or twists will be included in an essay like an article or a short story. Unless an essay can be written to the core, this non-essay writing will become just an article or a short story. Moreover, an essay may or may not involve a definite aim or

a clear figure, either.

Most of the time, essay writing is based on thoughts quick as a flash that writers then seize to create a nice essay in no time. Thus, almost all essays tend to offer an aesthetic sense, pleasure, enjoyment, ecstasy and/or food for thought at least to readers. As the name goes, an essayist likes to honestly make a special effort to point out any light, gentle subject matter of which readers are sometimes unwittingly unaware.

So, how in the world is a good essay produced with accuracy and fluency? In the main, excellent essay writing is the lifeblood

of most language testing, especially written tests, and linguistic achievement, including other fields of study. As regards the methodical approach to a beautiful essay, the POWER writing technique for better essays will be shared step by step. There are only five steps in this method, and if we can follow these steps to the letter, I am strongly of the opinion that, unlike other regularities, our essays will apparently go differently from day to day.

**P is for plan:** Before we write, we must take a few minutes to plan as usual, no matter whether or not we are a professional author. Sometimes it should take decades of years even for a seasoned writer to create a novel in particular. However, writing an

essay must not last; while any experience or feeling appears in our mind’s eye, we will certainly have to compose it in the form of an essay very quickly. If not, the theme of an essay will fly out of our heads like a chick, as the Myanmar proverb says. For an essay plan, we can easily conduct brainstorming, mind-mapping, note-taking and discussion, maybe with our friends who are preparing for essay writing.

Great writers mostly plan for writing in their imagination only, not writing down on a pencil and paper. Despite this, we students had better not get bored with taking the potential key points of an essay down in shorthand. At that time, we ought to decide our opinion, note our main points and

think of examples.

**O is for organize:** Organization is the life of an essay, we know. A poor organization can destroy the beauty of essays to a certain extent. After a planning process, should come the organizational ability of an essayist, therefore. While organising an essay, we need to put our ideas in order into paragraphs. Each of the paragraphs should focus on one clear idea to help the reader follow our ideas easily. And importantly, the facts that should be in the main body and conclusion of an essay must not be written in the introduction section in a hurry or vice versa. Like a short story, an essay does not consist of a distinct organizational scheme,

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# ARTICLE

## Great Patriotic War: Memory, Lessons, Responsibility

Embassy of the Russian Federation,  
Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**T**HIS year is highlighted by the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, one of the defining chapters of the Second World War and a pivotal moment in the history of the Soviet Union. Victory Day, observed in Russia annually on 9 May, holds deep and lasting significance for the people of many countries, especially across the post-Soviet space. It remains a deeply meaningful day firmly rooted in collective memory and national identity, honouring resilience and shared victory over Nazism.

The legacy of the Great Patriotic War endures as a heroic yet tragic episode. It is passed down within families and preserved in personal stories. On 9 May, we pay tribute to the past generations who defended our Homeland, crushed Nazism and Fascism, liberated Europe and demonstrated exceptional courage on the battlefield and in the rear under the harshest of conditions. Their feat is fundamental to the outcome of the war and the formation of the modern world.

We recall the origins of the aggression. The Nazi Germany invasion of the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 marked one of the darkest days in our history. It was not only the attack, but the attempt to wipe out the entire nation. The USSR lost more than 27 million lives – soldiers, guerrillas, resistance fighters, civilians, prisoners of war and

those who bore the hardships of occupation and sieges, including the tragic Siege of Leningrad. We bow our heads in memory of all who gave their lives for peace. Their sacrifice is remembered in every family, every city and every corner of Russia.

The fate of humanity was determined in decisive battles across vast territories – from Moscow and Leningrad to Stalingrad, Kursk and beyond, from the Arctic to the Caucasus and Crimea. The Soviet Union bore the primary burden of resistance while much of occupied Europe was incorporated into the Nazi war economy.

At the same time, the contribution and the courage of all who fought against this evil across Europe, South-East Asia and the Pacific remain a significant component of the shared historical inheritance and responsibility.

Nations from all over the world contributed to the fall of the Third Reich. Among them, Myanmar (then Burma) became a part of the wider Asian theatre of the Second World War. The Burma Campaign turned the region into a critical battlefield. The developments in Myanmar accelerated decolonization and fuelled independence movements in Asia. During the Japanese occupation, anti-fascist and anti-colonial forces of Myanmar consolidated into a unified entity. The uprising of the Burma National Army in March of 1945



hastened the enemy's withdrawal and paved the way for Myanmar's independence from British rule on 4 January 1948. These processes resonate today in discussions on sovereignty and global struggle against neo-colonial practices in international relations, as reflected in the recently established International Day against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations.

The war demonstrated the profound power of solidarity. Nations with different sociopolitical systems, values and interests were able to unite for the common cause. In the post-war world, this cohesion gave rise to a new international architecture based on collective security and cooperation. However, present global tensions testify to the need to constantly reinforce and protect these principles.

Today, we witness worrisome trends in history interpretation, in particular, increasing

attempts to distort the truth about World War II and diminish the role of those who fought against the anti-humanitarian ideologies and practices of the so-called "Axis" powers, as well as to rehabilitate Nazi collaborators or to justify extremism. Russia rejects any narrative based on Nazi-like claims of exceptionalism. History has already demonstrated its dead-end nature.

The world is in the grips of new evolving challenges. All of us once again go through a difficult and defining period. People all over the world aspire for stability, security and the possibility of development in an environment free from conflict or external pressure. Amidst global turbulence, Russia emphasizes the importance of respect for international law and upholding the UN Charter as a precious heritage and timeless value of the post-World War II period.

The past holds particular relevance as societies seek a proper way in times of uncertainty, with nations turning to history as a source of guidance. The legacy of the Great Victory remains one of the most significant moral reference points in the modern era. Russia's war veterans remind us that strength lies not only in military might, but also in spiritual endurance, solidarity and the ability to defend truth.

Victory Day unites generations, reinforcing the belief that the future must be built on historical awareness, mutual respect and responsibility. Drawing upon centuries of tradition and experience, Russia moves forward with the understanding that peace should not be taken for granted – it is maintained through collective effort and cooperation.

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.)*

## The POWER Writing Technique for Better Essays

### FROM PAGE 9

but as shown above, its unity of interest will be diminished with an out-of-order organization to a greater or lesser degree.

**W** is for write: Shortly after planning and organizing an essay, we need to write the essay down, but not hesitantly. We can start essay writing simply with a short, clear introduction. As always, the sole function of an introduction is to draw the attention of a reader. We had best focus on getting our ideas down rather

than worrying about perfection. Nobody is perfect, needless to say. There is no writing that does not have any mistakes or flaws. Despite this, make sure that we make fewer careless mistakes in writing essays than normal. The common mistakes which we are most likely to make in essays are about spelling, grammar and even content.

**E** is for evaluate: Most essay writers rarely evaluate their essays – otherwise, they will do it once in a blue moon, I think. It

would be better if we essayists willingly accept or warmly welcome others' evaluation of our essay writing. Not only that, but we should do a self-evaluation of our essays. What on earth in essays do we evaluate? The ideas of an essay are free but limited, that is to say, 'limited freedom' for writers and readers. It does not matter whether readers agree on those ideas. Though a reader finds it easy to understand an idea, an essayist's perception may be blurred in

that idea. These are the mere freedom of the essayists and their audience. On the other hand, in exams, we have to ask ourselves if our writing has answered every part of the question. Have we presented a clear position? Make sure our essays stay on track!

**R** is for review: After an essay, it is best if we always leave time to check our work. Of course, every essayist should review their essay from others' points of view. In the nature of

things, essays may be subjective or objective, depending on their writers' position. Nevertheless, even though an essay is composed subjectively or objectively, it will be dead pretty if the writer can. Nonetheless, there can arise many arguments over an essay concerning whether it is good or bad from the perspective of both the essay's content and writing. Whatever is said, when reviewing an essay, even small corrections can make a big difference to our scores.

## Yangon palm oil wholesale reference price on upward trajectory

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market have indicated a steady rise since the first week of April 2026.

The prices were set at K7,499 per viss this week ending 14 May, up from K7,380 per viss last week ending 7 May. The reference price during a week ending 2 April was set at K6,680 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The rise in palm oil price was attributed to a sharp drop in the palm oil output in major producing countries starting from January 2026, strengthening Malaysia's ringgit, Indonesia's

tax hike in palm oil export from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent starting from 1 March, and the Department of Consumer Affairs' speculation on the market price.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed



consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the depart-

ment and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## China-Myanmar firms launch high-quality KN hybrid corn seeds



This photo features the hybrid corn seed launch ceremony.

HUBEI Kannong Seed Company, based in China, and Myint Moe Naing Company in Myanmar jointly launched three hybrid maize varieties – namely Kannong maize (KN-008), (KN-8), and (KN-909) – which will be produced locally. The event was held at the Grand Amara Hotel (Jade Villa) in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 5 May.

“This event aims to promote the production of maize seeds by Hubei Kannong Seed Company, based

in China and our company in Myanmar for distribution to farmers. The maize seeds we will jointly produce are suitable for Myanmar's tropical climate and resistant to pests. Kannong maize varieties (KN-008), (KN-8), and (KN-909) are high-yielding. These seeds will be produced locally. We will produce, register, and distribute them to farmers,” said an official from Myint Moe Naing Company.

The maize varieties are suitable for Myanmar's cli-

mate, resistant to pests, and capable of yielding up to five tons per acre.

Subsequently, the General Secretary of the Federation of Danu Ethnic Affairs (Central) signed an MOU with the General Manager of Hubei Kannong Seed Company, while the Chairman of the Hilly and Plain Regions Development and Product Marketing Committee also signed a separate MOU with him. — ASH/TH

## CBM to sell US\$2.34M to edible oil, CMP, LNG companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.337 million to edible oil-importing companies, over US\$10,490 to CMP companies and US\$1 million to LNG companies on 7 May.

CBM sold over \$1.73 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$253,000 to CMP companies on 6 May.

CBM announced on 5 May that it would inject \$135.31 million into fuel oil businesses. CBM sold over \$1.9 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$25.79 million to CMP companies on 5 May on the same day.

CBM sold over \$3.35 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$2 million to LNG-importing companies on 4 May, along with a transaction of 1.2 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold over \$3.96 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$234,487 to CMP companies on 29 April, in addition to a transaction 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 foreign currencies 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

# ECONOMY WORLD

## US intl trade court rules Trump's new global tariff illegal



A federal court recently ruled that President Trump's 10 per cent global tariffs are illegal and unauthorized by law, causing significant legal uncertainty for operations at US ports.

*The court ruled that Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 allows tariffs only when there are "large and serious balance-of-payment deficits".*

THE US Court of International Trade on Thursday ruled that US President Donald Trump's new global tariff is illegal, thus invalidating his 10 per cent tariffs on most US imports.

The court ruled that Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 allows tariffs only when there are "large and serious balance-of-payment deficits." "But no such thing exists," Oregon Attorney-General Dan Rayfield's office said in a release. "A trade deficit is not a balance-of-payment deficit. As the court ruled, the President's tariffs proclamation 'is invalid,

and the tariffs imposed on Plaintiffs are unauthorized by law."

The Trump administration initially invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose universal tariffs worldwide in April 2025. The Supreme Court ruled those tariffs were unlawful in February this year. Trump then immediately resorted to Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 and announced a 10 per cent ad valorem duty on "all articles imported into the United States", supposedly in response to trade deficits. — Xinhua

## Oil tanker reaches South Korea after passing Hormuz blockade

AN oil tanker that passed through the Strait of Hormuz arrived in South Korea on Friday, the first such vessel to reach the Asian nation by that route since Iran declared the critical waterway closed.

South Korea relies heavily on Middle Eastern fuel imports, most of which transited through Hormuz until US-Israeli attacks on Iran in late February prompted Tehran to effectively shut the strait. The arrival of the Malta-flagged Odessa, carrying one million barrels of crude oil, will likely ease Seoul's concerns over energy security as the war in

the Middle East drags on. The hulking vessel was spotted at around 10 am (0100 GMT) near

a mooring facility off the coast of Seosan, according to AFP reporters. — AFP



Malta-flagged oil tanker Odessa arrives near Daesan Port in Seosan City on 8 May 2026. PHOTO: SHIN YONG-JU / AFP

## Philippines says Mideast war sends economic growth to five-year low

THE Middle East war and a major corruption scandal drove Philippine economic growth to a five-year low, officials said Thursday, adding future tar-

gets would be lowered. Gross domestic product expanded 2.8 per cent for the three months to March, sharply down from the 5.4 per cent in the same period

last year; the Philippine Statistics Authority said. It was also a dip from the 3.0 per cent growth registered in the final quarter of 2025, the agency said. — AFP

### BRIEFS: ECON

#### Vietnam launches nationwide crackdown on IP violations

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Le Minh Hung has ordered a nationwide campaign against intellectual property (IP) violations from 7 to 30 May, mandating at least a 20-per cent year-on-year increase in the number of handled cases, the Vietnam News Agency reported Wednesday.

Under a recently issued official despatch, authorities are ordered to intensify coordinated enforcement, targeting infringements involving geographical indications, copyright, counterfeit goods and trademarks, according to the report.

The document noted progress in recent enforcement efforts but warned that infringements remain complex in several sectors, affecting the business climate and legitimate rights of businesses and individuals. — Xinhua

#### Japan, Morocco agree to deepen economic security cooperation

JAPAN and Morocco agreed Friday to strengthen cooperation across a broad range of areas, including economic security, during a video conference between their foreign ministers.

In a joint statement after their talks, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and his Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita emphasized "the importance of strengthening supply-chain resilience".

Morocco is known as a resource-rich country with the world's largest reserves of phosphate, a critical resource for semiconductors and fertilizers. Japan has been seeking to build resilient supply chains for key materials. — Kyodo

## China's bicycle output posts steady expansion in 2025

CHINA'S bicycle sector registered steady production growth in 2025, with total output hitting 110.8 million units, up 11.3 per cent year on year, industry data showed on Friday.

The figures were released at the ongoing 34<sup>th</sup> China International Bicycle Fair in Shanghai. Aligned with the global bicycle industry's green, intelligent and high-end development trends, this year's fair showcases China's latest bicycle products and new development trajectories of the sector.

Guo Wenyu, vice-president and secretary-general of the China Bicycle Association, said the country's bicycle industry saw their operating revenue rise nine per cent year on year in 2025, with profits

registering a sharp increase.

China exported nearly 48.94 million bicycles to overseas markets in 2025, up 2.4 per cent year on year, maintaining steady growth momentum.

Exports of bicycle components reached US\$3.63 billion, jumping 10.6 per cent from the previous year, marking an outstanding performance.

"Expanded application scenarios have opened new boundaries for bicycle consumption, while diversified scenarios have stimulated segmented market demand," Guo said.

A total of 101 bicycle races were held across China in 2025, up 23 per cent from 2024, with over 1 million participants. — Xinhua

## Google faces new UK lawsuit over online display ads



The case argues that Google favoured its own display advertising services while excluding its rivals. **PHOTO: AFP**

GOOGLE faces a fresh UK lawsuit accusing it of abusing its dominance in online display advertising, the claimants announced Thursday,

in the latest antitrust action against the US tech giant.

The claim filed on behalf of British advertisers is seeking up to

£3 billion (\$4 billion) in compensation, according to an estimate from KP Law, the firm leading the action.

The case argues

that Google favoured its own display advertising services, such as banner ads shown on websites, while excluding its rivals.

KP Law said Google's practices left "advertisers paying more for less effective display advertising".

A Google spokesperson called the allegations "meritless".

"Advertisers have many choices, and they choose our ad tech tools because they're simple, effective and affordable," the spokesperson said.

The case has been brought as a collective action, meaning all potentially affected clients are automatically included unless they choose to opt out. — AFP

## Defence giant Rheinmetall makes offer for further shipyard

GERMAN arms maker Rheinmetall said Thursday it had made an offer for a further shipyard as the influential defence giant deepens its push into naval systems.

Rheinmetall had made a non-binding offer to acquire German Naval Yards in the first quarter of the year, it said in a presentation without disclosing the price.

German Naval Yards is currently part of French shipbuilding firm CMN

Naval. Another German ship and submarine maker,

Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, had itself made

a competing offer for German Naval Yards in January.

Rheinmetall has grown rapidly in recent years as European military spending has surged.

The group is also seen as an increasingly powerful political force in Berlin, and has expanded into domains including attack drones and ships beyond the tank guns and ammunition it has traditionally specialised in. — AFP



Rheinmetall sees faster growth in 2026 after record earnings last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sony Group FY 2025 net profit falls to 1.03 tln yen after Honda JV review

SONY Group Corp said Friday its net profit for the financial year ended March fell 3.4 per cent to 1.03 trillion yen (\$6.57 billion), partly weighed

down by its recent decision to scale down joint venture operations with Honda Motor Co, but forecast a record-high profit for the current business

year. "We are looking forward to securing future stability through the establishment of a joint venture with a company

known for its world-leading semiconductor manufacturing technology," Sony Group CEO Hiroki Totoki said at a press conference. — Kyodo

### MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 20.04 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0047N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0047N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-5-2026** 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:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

# GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

## ASEAN leaders vow to strengthen energy security amid Middle East conflict



Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos speaks at the opening ceremony of the 48<sup>th</sup> Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and related meetings in Cebu province of the Philippines, 8 May 2026. **PHOTO: GUO YIGE/XINHUA**

**L**EADERS from ASEAN countries on Friday agreed to strengthen energy security and resilience in the region amid rising oil and commodity prices fuelled by the conflict in the Middle East, according to Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos at the close of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit here.

Marcos said the leaders underscored the importance of maintaining stable and reliable energy supply chains, improving regional energy interconnectivity, and accelerating diversification towards renewable and alternative energy sources.

The leaders from ASEAN countries also called for the “expeditious” ratification of the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement, a regional mechanism aimed at strengthening energy stability and protecting member states. They also pushed for the operationalization of the ASEAN Power Grid, a long-standing initiative aimed at improving cross-border electricity connectivity among the bloc’s 11 member states. The project aims to enable Southeast Asian countries to share energy resources more efficiently and to strengthen regional energy resilience.

Food security also emerged as a major concern during the summit. To address the problem, ASEAN leaders agreed to keep essential goods moving, maintain open and predictable markets, strengthen intra-ASEAN trade, and reinforce regional food security mechanisms. — Xinhua

## UAE's air defences respond to missile, drone threats

THE defence ministry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Friday that its air defence systems intercepted two ballistic missiles and three drones launched from Iran, resulting in three moderate injuries.

According to a military statement, the air defence systems have intercepted 551 ballistic missiles, 29 cruise missiles and 2,263 drones since the onset of the US-Israel-Iran conflict in late February. Those incoming threats have so far injured 230 people of multiple nationalities in the UAE, it said.

The UAE remains fully prepared to confront any threats and safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability, it added.

Earlier in the day, the ministry issued a statement saying that its air defence systems were

actively engaging incoming missile and drone threats from Iran, and that the sounds heard across parts of the country resulted from interception operations. The development came amid fresh tensions between the UAE and Iran over renewed missile and drone strikes on the UAE and stern warnings from Tehran against aligning with the United States and Israel. The UAE has accused Iran of launching the strikes, a claim Tehran has repeatedly denied.

Iran, the United States, and Israel reached a ceasefire on 8 April after 40 days of fighting that started with US-Israeli joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities on 28 February prompting Iran’s retaliatory strikes on Israel and US interests in the Middle East. — Xinhua

## Maritime Defence Show drops anchor: FLEET-2026 comes to Kronstadt 10-14 June

THE International Maritime Defence Show FLEET-2026 will run from 10 to 14 June 2026, at the congress and exhibition centre located in the Museum of Naval Glory in Kronstadt. The event is a significant occasion for the naval industry, attracting the attention of both domestic and foreign participants.

The exhibition will cover a wide range of topics, among them are shipbuilding, ship repair and ship construction, medical support, naval aviation and marine instrumentation, coastal and port infrastructure, IT technologies and new materials, UAVs and marine robotic systems, import substitution, and maritime education.

The event will feature round tables, conferences, plenary sessions, presentations of innovative developments, and various meetings and discussions focused on pressing issues in the mari-

time industry. An integral part of the International Maritime Defence Show’s business program is the signing of cooperation agreements, which helps strengthen ties among industry participants.

A traditional component will be the display of naval ships and boats at the pier in the water area of Srednyaya Harbor near the Ust-Rogatka river.

The sports and demonstration programme will include longboat rowing races, a sailing regatta, and career guidance events.

A spectacular highlight of FLEET-2026 will be a performance by the Russian Air Force aerobatic team, which will add vivid excitement to the event’s programme. — SPUTNIK



The exhibition includes displays of civil vessels, unmanned boats, submarines, and aircraft shows. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

# SPORTS

## Joshua Van to defend UFC flyweight title

MYANMAR fighter Joshua Van will defend his UFC flyweight world championship belt at UFC 328, scheduled for the early morning of 10 May (Myanmar Standard Time).

The event will take place in the United States on 9 May local time and will feature Van's title defence as the co-main event against Japanese fighter Tatsuro Taira.

Van won the flyweight title in December after defeating

Alexandre Pantoja and will be making his first title defence after around five months. He holds a professional MMA record of 16 wins and two losses, including nine wins and one loss in the UFC, and is currently on a six-fight winning streak.

His opponent, Taira, has a strong record of 18 wins and one loss, and previously achieved a 16-fight winning streak before his first defeat. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Joshua Van versus Tatsuro Taira. PHOTO: UFC

## ONE Friday Fights 153: Thway Lin Htet loses by decision



AT ONE Friday Fights 153 and the Inner Circle held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8 May, Myanmar fighter Thway Lin Htet lost on points to Thai fighter Chapayak Satsaton after a three-round bout.

The fight went the full distance with no knockout, and the judges awarded the decision to the Thai fighter.

It marks Thway Lin Htet's third consecutive defeat, as he continues to search for a return to winning form. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

A punch lands from the Thai fighter. PHOTO: ONEFC

## Bournemouth drop Jimenez as they probe social media posts

BOURNEMOUTH have dropped Alex Jimenez from their squad and launched an investigation into the alleged social media conduct of the defender.

The Premier League club confirmed on Friday that Jimenez would not be part of the group for Saturday's trip to Fulham.

"AFC Bournemouth are aware of posts circulating on social media involving right-back Alex Jimenez," a club statement read. "The club understand the seriousness of the matter and it is currently being investigated.

"As a result, Alex will not be included in the squad for tomorrow's Premier League game against Fulham and the club will be making no further comment at this time." Spaniard Jimenez, who turned 21 on Friday, has made 32 appearances for Bournemouth this season after a loan switch from AC Milan. — AFP



Bournemouth defender Alex Jimenez (left). PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## MFF futsal youth leagues kick off this week



A Myanmar futsal player battles for the ball during a match. PHOTO: MFF

THE 2026 MFF U19 Futsal Youth League and MFF U16 Futsal Youth League will begin on 9 and 10 May at the MFF Futsal Arena in Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon.

Both leagues will feature 12 teams each, with clubs competing across youth development futsal competitions under the Myanmar Football Federation.

The U19 league first round will run from 9 May to 18 July, while the U16 league first round will run from 10 May to 19 July. The second round will follow later in the year.

Opening matches on 9 May include several U19 fixtures such as YCDC Dream Team versus YRG, ULAD versus Mingaladon City, JV versus United City, Pacific Sun Far versus Burmese Warriors, MIU versus Gold Dream, and Royal Noka versus Shwe Pyi Thar United.

On 10 May, U16 opening matches include Maha Burma versus Pacific Sun Far, Victoria versus United City, SGF Youth versus TKA Stars, Mar Rein versus Shwe Pyi Thar United, Avengers versus FFU Min Ma Haw, and Jullniss versus Bushido. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL



## India-Vietnam deepen scientific cooperation as oceanographic research vessel INS Sagardhwani arrives in Cam Ranh

*The primary goal is to foster scientific interaction with the Institute of Oceanography in Nha Trang, focusing on marine science and oceanography.*

**I**NS Sagardhwani, an oceanographic research vessel, arrived at Cam Ranh, Vietnam, on Tuesday, marking a significant step in India's scientific cooperation with Vietnam.

According to a statement from the Defence Ministry, upon arrival, the ship was warmly received by Senior Colonel Tran Van Cuong, Deputy Head of Khanh Hoa Military Command, along with representatives from the Vietnam People's Navy and the Coast Guard.

The ship will conduct scientific interactions with the Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang, promoting collaboration in marine science and oceanography. The visit marks an important milestone



Upon arrival, the ship was warmly received by Senior Colonel Tran Van Cuong, Deputy Head of Khanh Hoa Military Command, along with representatives from the Vietnam People's Navy and the Coast Guard. **PHOTO: ANI**

in strengthening diplomatic and scientific ties between India and Vietnam, reflecting their shared commitment to advancing oceanographic research.

During the port call, the Indian Navy will participate in a range of activities with the Vietnam People's Navy, including training exchanges, cross-training

visits, friendly sports fixtures, and joint yoga sessions. Professional and social interactions are also planned, the statement. — ANI

## Thai Land Bridge to skirt Malacca Strait gains traction as US weaponizes waterways

**T**HERE is already a highway built connecting ports on either side of the Kra Isthmus.

Long dismissed as unfeasible, the project to bridge the Indian and Pacific Oceans across southern Thailand has now become significantly relevant.

The Thai Land Bridge is "very ambitious"; "it will require a lot of resources and a lot of time to implement something of that magnitude and scale," Professor Greg Simons from Daffodil International University tells Sputnik.

But as the US increasingly weaponizes access to maritime chokepoints, "alternative routes that previously made little sense" could suddenly become strategi-

cally necessary, former Marine Brian Berletic says.

"There is already a high-

way built connecting ports on either side of the Kra Isthmus,"

and additional investment could

bring the 90-kilometre Thai Land Bridge online, he argues.

Berletic sees the possibility of new trade corridors emerging "to bypass potential disruptions created by US belligerence at sea", pointing to China's Belt and Road Initiative and Russia's Northern Sea Route as steps in that direction.

"One reason China embarked upon the Belt and Road Initiative was to specifically hedge against potential maritime blockades the US has planned and prepared for over the course of decades. Russia is seeking to develop the Northern Sea Route for similar purposes," he explains. — SPUTNIK



The image shows an aerial view of Ranong Port in Thailand. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ LOGISTICS MANAGER**

## Scientists identify new genetic cause of juvenile glaucoma

A major Australian-led study has identified a new genetic contributor to juvenile glaucoma, offering potential for earlier diagnosis and targeted treatment of this leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide.

The study marks another important step towards treating multiple forms of glaucoma through genetic testing, adding to a growing body of evidence on the causes of the disease, said a statement from Australia's Flinders University released Friday. — Xinhua