

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

MSME Promotion Key to National Economic Growth

Mandalay Region's gross domestic product is estimated at around US\$9 billion annually, accounting for approximately 10 per cent of the country's total GDP.



President U Min Aung Hlaing views around the exhibits at yesterday's meeting event with departmental officials and MSME businesspeople from Mandalay Region.

MANDALAY Region is in a satisfactory position in terms of the cultivation and production of 14 key crops, and continued efforts are encouraged to achieve even higher targets, said U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at a meeting with departmental officials and micro, small and medium enterprise businesspersons at the city hall in Mandalay yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the President highlighted that Mandalay Region's gross domestic product is approximately US\$9 billion per year, accounting for about 10 per cent of the country's total GDP.

He spotted that failure to meet target goals for 10 major crops has resulted in annual losses of approximately K3,765 billion in Mandalay Region. Nationwide, the losses are estimated at around US\$8 billion annually. If full multiple-cropping

potential could be achieved on the existing cultivated acreage, the country could gain an additional annual benefit of about US\$20 billion.

The President stressed that the national economic development must be promoted by encouraging and supporting agro-based industries as well as micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Regarding the livestock breeding sec-

tor, the President underlined that if regional self-sufficiency in consumption can be achieved and expanded nationwide, the prices of meat and fish could also decline. Furthermore, if more animal feed based on locally produced agricultural products is manufactured and livestock breeding activities are carried out systematically, it would help ensure regional food security and reduce rising commodity prices.

In the agriculture sector, he underscored that cotton-based industries can be operated in Mandalay Region successfully. Officials need to manage the improvement of weaving industries in Mandalay Region. A plan is underway to distribute cotton processing machines to Mandalay Region.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President at the meeting with residents in Mandalay

1. If regional self-sufficiency in consumption can be achieved and expanded nationwide, the prices of meat and fish could also decline.
2. If full multiple-cropping potential could be achieved on the existing cultivated acreage, the country could gain an additional annual benefit of about US\$20 billion.
3. As arrivals of travellers to the region contribute much to the economy of the region, efforts must be made to improve the tourism sector.

NATIONAL PAGE 4



146 PDF members reintegrated into society

NATIONAL PAGE 5



Bagan's Myinkaba Village preserves nine traditional arts and crafts

BUSINESS PAGE 7



Myanmar, Russia discuss technical issues in Oil Refinery Project

NATIONAL

Shwedagon bells to ring in unison for peace on Maha Samaya Day

THE Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees has announced that bells across the pagoda platform will be rung simultaneously as a symbol of peace during the Full Moon Day of Nayon (Maha Samaya Day) ceremony on 30 May.

As part of the Shwedagon Pagoda's traditional 12-month seasonal festivals, the board of trustees will lead these celebrations on the pagoda platform. The schedule is as follows: 5 am for alms offered to the pagoda, 6 am for alms meals and offerings to Ovadacariya Sayadaws and resident monks, and 6:30 am for a Dhamma discourse at the Ancient Buddha Images Prayer Hall, followed by a water-pouring ceremony to share merit.

At 7:30 am, to commemo-

rate the origins of Maha Samaya Day, Buddhist volunteer associations and staff will divide into two groups, representing the Kapilavutthu and Koliya clans, and they will process clockwise around the pagoda. This will be followed by a recitation of the Maha Samaya Sutta at the Chanthagyi Prayer Hall at the northwest corner, and bells across the platform will be rung.

The board of trustees cordially invites the monks and the public to participate and gain merit during the Maha Samaya Day ceremony. — MT/ZN

This image shows the Maha Samaya Day ceremony held at the Shwedagon Pagoda in the previous year.



MCEF to mark 30th Anniversary with Build-Smart & Myanmar Production Expo 2026

THE opening ceremony of the "Build-Smart & Biggest Myanmar Production Expo 2026" was held yesterday morning at the Yangon Convention Centre in Yangon to commemorate the 30th anniversary, or Pearl Jubilee, of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF).

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu formally opened the event and toured the exhibition booths.

A large number of local and international companies are taking part in the exhibition, showcasing construction technology, industrial equipment, energy solutions, and transportation technologies. The expo will provide opportunities for



The launch event of the Build-Smart & Biggest Myanmar Production Expo 2026 is underway yesterday.

networking and business connections among entrepreneurs.

The exhibition aims to promote the development of Myanmar's manufacturing and industrial sectors, while strengthening cooperation among business owners, in-

vestors, and technology companies.

The expo will continue until 17 May and will feature electric vehicles (EVs), transport technologies, industrial vehicles, and other technological products. — MNA/MKKS

"2026 Art Field" Exhibition to showcase paintings at Yangon Gallery on 16-20 May

THE "2026 Art Field" group art exhibition will be held from 16 May at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Yangon, according to the gallery.

The exhibition will feature a variety of watercolour, oil and acrylic paintings by artists Kyaw Min Htoo, Tun Sein, Ko Mudra, U Saw, Auroy Moe, Fuyi

Ko Poule and Kyawt Kyawt.

Gallery officials said the exhibition will run between 10 am and 5 pm daily from 16 to 20 May.

Paintings in various sizes, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 inches by 24 inches and 18 by 18 inches, will be displayed. — ASH/KZL

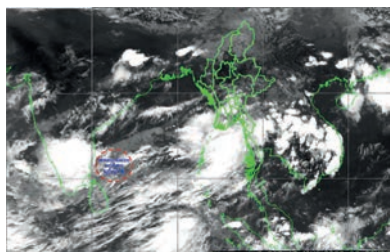


This image illustrates a catalogue of the "2026 Art Field" group art exhibition.

Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 15 May 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. — DMH



Advertise with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515, 09 255597511

NATIONAL

MSME Promotion Key to National Economic Growth

FROM PAGE 1

He noted that the cooperative system is the best for regional development. The individuals with the least capital carry out the manufacturing of agricultural and livestock products through cooperative efforts to earn income.

He stressed that as Myanmar emphasizes agriculture and livestock activities, agriculture, livestock and industrial subjects are being taught to the basic education middle and high school students. It is necessary to continue supporting and nurturing future generations equipped with knowledge and skills who will lead the nation in the future.

Concerning water supply measures, the President gave guidance that people of Mandalay Region have to efficiently utilize necessary sources for water sufficiency.

He urged residents to work together to ensure the beauty and attractiveness of their region, preserve and promote traditional heritage, traditional clothing, and local foods, and provide good services to travellers. As arrivals of travellers to the region contribute much to the economy of the



President U Min Aung Hlaing meets departmental personnel and MSME businesspeople from Mandalay Region yesterday.

region, efforts must be made to improve the tourism sector.

At the meeting, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung reported on the land utilization, the increase of agricultural productivity within five years, target cultivation and production of 14 major crops, food security, efforts to develop agriculture and livestock activities within 100 days, formation of agriculture, livestock and production cooperative societies, and implementation of the rural development projects within the 100-day plan of the government.

MSME businesspersons from Mandalay Region submitted reports on the implementation of the Mandalay-Myotha industrial park, efforts of MRCCI to ensure smooth economic process between the government and private sectors, encouragement of MSME businesses, electrification for industrial zones, assistance of the government to send entrepreneurs from Mandalay Industrial Zone to attend international technological and business fora, permit to import modern looms, production of quality iron wares from the foundry entrepreneurs

of Mandalay. The Union ministers discussed the generating electricity from solar power for industrial zones, sending business persons to international forums, assistance for import of necessary machinery, needs to contact the Myanmar Iron and Steel Association to produce iron and steel wares for construction projects, participation in anti-air pollution and greening measures, formation of cooperative societies to develop agriculture, livestock and production activities in the region, inputs and techniques for agri-

culture and livestock measures, supply of quality seeds, efforts to improve railway transport, and implementation of digitalization. The President viewed around the MSME products, domestic foodstuffs, handicrafts, and garments in booths and gave necessary guidance. Also, present at the meeting were Union ministers, deputy ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Central Command, district-level officials, and MSME entrepreneurs. — MNA/TTA

Hluttaw Upholds Rule of Law for Public Protection

As the Hluttaw, representing the people, will raise questions and submit proposals to be able to effectively address the desires of the people, those people can openly present their difficulties and requirements, said U Khin Yi, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, at the meeting with town elders, businesspersons and social organization members at the city hall in Magway yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that his tour aims to coordinate the measures on employment opportunities and regional development of the residents through the Hluttaw platform to march towards the second page of the State together with the government, the Hluttaw and political parties.

He continued that Hluttaws have to primarily serve the leg-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets town elders, businesspeople and members of civil society organizations from Magway Region.

islative duties for the people to live in peace and safety under the legal protection by amending, supplementing and enacting laws to improve the socioeconomic lives of the people.

Moreover, he added that priority will be given to scrutinizing the existing laws to ensure they are beneficial for safety and strong law enforcement for the people.

In his clarification on the current situation, the Speaker unveiled that efforts will be made to enact the Anti-Online Scam Bill suited for the current state of the country in the com-

ing Hluttaw sessions. Moreover, he noted that it is necessary to review the laws related to investments with amendments and supplements. The speaker invited businesspersons, social organization members and town elders to present necessary suggestions on employment opportunities and regional development to the Hluttaw sessions to carry out legislative measures. The attendees submitted reports on regional development, peace and stability, and MSME development. The Speaker explained that the submissions are recorded to be implemented with the relevant departments. The meeting was also attended by Magway Region Chief Minister U Tin Ko Ko, Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker Dr Maung Maung Htay and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

146 PDF members reintegrated into society

A total of 146 PDF members — 133 males and 13 females — entered the legal fold yesterday.

The handover ceremony took place at Zeyathiri Hall of the North-West Command Headquarters with the attendance of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Thura and other relevant officials.

The commander accepted five homemade pistols, six automatic rifles and two walkie-talkies.

The chief minister and the commander presented K2.5 million for five pistols, K30 million for six rifles, K400,000 for two walkie-talkies and K1.9 million for individual returnees, totalling K34.8 million and supplies for the returnees.

Those who re-entered the legal fold were required to sign pledges, after which

they were systematically handed back to their parents and guardians.

Similarly, the relevant officials handed over 66 PDF members — 61 males and five females — who re-returned with one pistol, nine rifles and 71 grenades at Aung Sit Thi Hall in Sagaing, whereas another 43 PDFs: 40 males and three females together with 17 rifles, two grenades and one mine at Aung San Hall in Kalay township, and 18 PDF members — 16 males and two females — with one grenade at Aung Zeya Hall in Shwebo township, respectively.

The relevant officials presented K500,000 for one pistol, K130 million for 26 rifles, K21.9 million for 73 grenades, K300,000 for one mine, and K12.7 million for returnees and supplies to the returnees.

These 146 returnees who rejoined



The handover ceremony for PDF members returning to legal framework is underway yesterday at the North-West Command Headquarters.

the society are from different townships of Sagaing Region.

There are still individuals who wish to re-enter the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are urged to promptly contact and report to the nearest district or township

administrative bodies, military units, or police stations, where they will be welcomed back and provided with necessary assistance. Appropriate cash rewards will be granted for the arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Officials inspect rural water supply project in Kehsi

UNDER the 100-day project for the 2026-2027 financial year, officials from the Kehsi Township Rural Development Department, Mongshu District, Shan State (South), conducted a field inspection of a rural water supply project being implemented under the Village Development Plan (VDP) in

Wanphoing Village, Mongye Village-tract, yesterday.

The project aims to ensure a year-round supply of clean drinking water for rural residents. During the visit, Kehsi Township Rural Development Department Head U Aye Naing and department engineers inspected the pro-

gress of the gravity flow water system, covering a distance of three furlongs from the water source to the village, as well as the construction of a 3,000-gallon capacity water tank.

Following the inspection, the township head met village committee members and residents to coordinate and address their suggestions regarding the project's requirements.

The water supply project is being implemented with a VDP contribution fund of K15 million and a public contribution of K3 million. Executed by the villagers themselves under the technical supervision of the Township Rural Development Department, the project has reached approximately 30 per cent completion. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



This image depicts the ongoing implementation of the Kehsi Rural Water Supply Project.

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC

and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption



Answer "1111" to improve services

Advertise

with us /
Hotline



09 255597511,
09 454237515

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Bagan's Myinkaba Village preserves nine traditional arts and crafts

IN Bagan, home to many of Myanmar's cultural heritage, Myinkaba Village continues to preserve nine out of ten of the traditional arts and crafts (ten floral arts).

The village operates Pabe (blacksmithing/ironwork), Pabu (sculpturing/wood carving), Patain (goldsmithing/silversmithing), Pachi (painting), Payun (lacquerware crafting/gilding), Papoot (stone carving/stone masonry), Patawt (ornamental turning/lathe work), Pantamawt (stone sculpturing) and Payan (bricklaying/masonry) except Patin. During the reign of King Kyansittha, the ten traditional arts and crafts were strongly supported and encouraged. Today, nine traditional arts and crafts have continued to survive in Myinkaba Village (also known as Anuradha).

As the rainy season begins and travellers' arrivals to Bagan decline, villages around the Bagan area rely more on home-



These images showcase artworks from nine traditional Myanmar arts and crafts thriving in Myinkaba Village, Bagan. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**

based handicraft businesses than tourism for their income; meanwhile, painting and colouring wooden sculptures becomes the most common seasonal work during this period.

"If we talk about traditional handicrafts in Bagan, Myinkaba Village is probably the most prominent place. During this season, many people work on colouring carved wooden sculptures. This belongs to the scul-

ture and painting crafts included in the ten traditional arts. In NyaungU, artisans from Mandalay and local craftsmen carve scenes from the life of Buddha and Jataka tales, then send them to Myinkaba village for colouring. Since skilled painters live here, the village receives sculpture works every year because the colouring process is extremely important for products sold both domestically and internationally. Since this village has many handicraft artisans, it is a source of pride for the Bagan region as these nine traditional crafts can

still be found here without losing their original style," said U Zeya Than, local artisan from Myinkaba village.

Most of the sculptures are carved from teak wood and depict scenes such as the Ten Jataka Tales, the life of Buddha, Buddha's descent from heaven to the human world, King Sivi, the five ascetics, Ajatasattu, Buddha's renunciation, the five hundred carts episode, and other traditional themes.

These sculptures range in size from one foot to twenty feet in length and are sold for prices ranging from K1.5 million to

over K10 million. They are highly valued and displayed in hotels, guesthouses, homes, and religious buildings as works of Myanmar cultural art. Artists who specialize in colouring the sculptures can earn between K500,000 and K5 million per project.

Visitor arrivals to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone usually decline from late April to July, and sculpture business owners from NyaungU invest capital into carving and painting works, then sell them again to domestic and international tourists during the open season. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Myanmar to Nominate Htamanè Culture for UNESCO Listing in 2027

THE UNESCO nomination of Myanmar's traditional Htamanè culture as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity is planned for 2027, according to the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

"Thingyan has already been inscribed as an intangible cultural heritage. Thanaka has already been submitted as well. Laphet culture has also been submitted. A proposal has been prepared to submit Htamanè next year. We plan to continue submitting disappearing traditional Myanmar customs every year, whether they are related to food culture or handicrafts. However, it has not yet been confirmed which subject will be given priority for submission. For next year, Htamanè has been selected as



Myanmar people preparing traditional Htamanè together in a spirit of unity.

the proposed nomination," an official from the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture said.

In 2024, the traditional Myanmar New Year Ata Thingyan Festival was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for the first time. Af-

terwards, the traditional practice of applying Myanmar Thanaka was submitted for a second nomination, and it is expected that confirmation of whether it will be accepted by UNESCO will be known in December 2026.

This year, Myanmar's Laphet culture has also been

submitted to UNESCO as a Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A total of 2,289 cultural heritage items have already been recorded on the national heritage list.

According to the policy for nominations to UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage, only

one cultural element may be submitted either each year or once every two years.

UNESCO established the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Convention in 2003, and Myanmar became a signatory to the convention in 2013. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Yangon Region Hluttaw Office hosts legal affairs workshop and seminar

THE Yangon Region Hluttaw Office announced that the closing ceremony for the “Bill Drafting Workshop” and the “Legal Affairs and Hluttaw Seminar” was held on 14 May at Pearl Hall in the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office.

The workshop and seminar were held at the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office from 7 to 14 May.

The workshop and seminar were conducted by retired and serving officials from the legal, judicial, legislative, administrative, and auditing sectors, including former advocate generals, high court judges, a former chief justice, members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, and senior officials from the Yangon

Region Hluttaw Office.

At the ceremony, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker presented certificates of honour and commemorative gifts to the distinguished speakers and lecturers, and also awarded certificates of recognition to the members of Hluttaw who attended the workshop, after which a Hluttaw representative delivered a speech of thanks on behalf of all attendees.

Also attending the ceremony were Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw U Htay Aung, Deputy Speaker U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, the Head of the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office, and other relevant officials. — Htun Htun/TH



This photo captures the closing ceremony of the “Bill Drafting Workshop” and the “Legal Affairs and Hluttaw Seminar” held on 14 May at Pearl Hall, Yangon Region Hluttaw Office.

MR adjusts rail route schedules for commuter convenience

MYANMA Railways (MR) has announced schedule adjustments and service expansions on several key routes, including Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Thazi, and Mawlamyine, to better serve passengers.

Following the successful launch of the air-conditioned DEMU Express trains (No 5 Up train/No 6 Down train) for the Yangon-Mandalay trips on 1 May, MR will expand the service due to high passenger demand starting 15 May, with No 3 Up train and No 4 Down train, departing from both cities at 6 am.

The existing DEMU trains (No 5 Up train/No 6 Down train) will be rescheduled to depart at 7 am starting 15 May. Similarly, new schedules for regional RBE short-distance services are adjusted for the Thazi-Nay Pyi Taw, Nay



A notice for the extension of advance ticket purchase periods for DEMU trains.

Pyi Taw-Toungoo, and Toungoo-Bago routes.

Fares are K5,000 (full trip)/K2,500 (half trip) for the Thazi-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo route, K8,000 (full trip)/K4,000 (half trip) for the Toungoo-Bago railway. These trains will stop at every station along the route.

Starting 15 May, several long-distance express sched-

ules will also change, and equipment will be upgraded. Tickets for the modern DEMU Express trains on the Yangon-Mandalay railway can be purchased via the Online Railways Ticketing and Payment (ORTP) system. Booking can be made seven days in advance for end-to-end journeys; three days in advance for intermediate stations. — MT/ZN

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 15 May 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653~3,669	557~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	14,714,421.62	10,018,000.00	60,695,679.47	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

The foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare parts, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, fertilizers, packaging materials, consumer goods, and animal feed. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$1.81 million to the edible oil sector and US\$5,000 to the CMP sector. — MNA

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

Myanmar, Russia discuss technical issues in Oil Refinery Project

MYANMAR and Russia are discussing technical constraints on the construction of an oil refinery, according to U Aung Phyto Htut, Economic Attaché in Moscow, citing a news release from the Russian Embassy's website <https://www.angi.ru>.

Since Myanmar's crude oil refining capacity can cover only two-thirds of domestic demand, building a refinery with Russian assistance is a critically needed project. The diplomatic mission emphasized that Myanmar's interest in energy cooperation with Russia is long-term and not related to the current crisis situation. In addition to oil refining, those parties are discussing several renewable energy initiatives, according to Izvestiya, a daily newspaper in Russia.

The embassy noted that

small-scale hydro, wind, and solar power projects are being developed, yet their project results are promising despite being in their early stages.

Amidst a global energy crisis, Myanmar, which is heavily reliant on fuel imports from Singapore and Malaysia, has been significantly accelerating its search for alternative supply routes. As the State Duma's Deputy Chair Alexei Chepa previously stated, Myanmar's interest in Russian energy resources, including oil, has risen notably in recent months, as per the news release.

In April, the Russian Ministry of Energy discussed plans to arrange the supply of a wide range of petroleum products and liquefied natural gas to Myanmar. — NN/KK



This image shows an oil refinery.

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price holds steady through week ending 21 May



The photo shows imported jerry cans of palm oil at the warehouse in Yangon.

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market stayed the same at K7,499 per viss this week ending 21 May, like that of last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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 Myan-

mar 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 department and the region and state departments concerned.

Farmers across the nation, especially in central Myanmar, make concerted efforts to grown oil crops to be able to produce edible oil to meet the the local demand as much as possible. — NN/KK

CBM injects US dollars to support edible oil, CMP and LNG sectors

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3.26 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$10,470 to CMP companies and US\$2 million to LNG-importing companies on 14 May.

CBM sold \$1.8 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$137,260 to CMP companies on 13 May.

CBM over \$2.037 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$11,535 to CMP companies on 12 May.

CBM also sold \$2.17 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$150 to CMP companies on 11 May. Additionally, CBM sold \$1.3 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$334,400 to CMP companies on 8 May.

Next, CBM sold over \$1.337 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$10,490 to CMP companies and \$1 million to LNG-importing companies on 7 May.

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

Myanmar's shrimp export exceeds 350MT in Apr

MORE than 350 metric tonnes of shrimp worth over US\$1.16 million were conveyed to international trading partners in April of the current financial year 2026-2027, the Department of Fisheries stated.

Myanmar sent 339.28 metric tonnes of shrimp worth \$1.09 million by sea last month, while 12.76 metric tonnes of shrimp valued at \$0.07 million were exported to neighbouring countries at the border, totalling 352.04 metric tonnes.

Myanmar exported over 9,000 tonnes of shrimp in the last FY 2024-2025, bagging \$30 million, the department stated.

Myanmar steadily exports seafood to 40 countries, including China, Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan, through maritime and border trade channels. — NN/KK

OPINION

Census reports provide key demographic data

THE data obtained from the census will serve as a roadmap for Myanmar's long-term sustainable development plans and national objectives. In addition, Myanmar's efforts in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals will also be internationally recognized.

Population and housing census operations are large-scale activities that require high costs. In most countries around the world, censuses are conducted every 10 years, while in developed countries they are carried out every five years. Population census data are among the most essential statistical information used

The Nay Pyi Taw Census Report, providing analysis on literacy rates, education levels, and school dropout situations in Nay Pyi Taw, can be used in formulating the necessary plans in order to improve the education sector. In addition, data on the labour force, employment conditions, and unemployment rates can be utilized to promote the socioeconomic development of the people in Nay Pyi Taw through the effective use of census information. Myanmar, as a member country of ASEAN, produces reports that can contribute to both ASEAN statistical systems and international statistical frameworks. These published reports can support the country's own data requirements as well as provide indicators for the national indicator framework.

The population and household census 2024 was successfully collected in October 2024. The Ministry of Immigration and Population has released the pilot population, the Union report and the report on facts and figures of population and household census during the set periods step by step.

The ministry has continued the compilation of population and household census reports for Nay Pyi Taw and the respective regions and states. Priority was given to preparing reports for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region, and Ayeyawady Region, where the census was conducted with 100 per cent coverage, as well as Bago Region, where the census was conducted with nearly full coverage. The Nay Pyi Taw report has already been released.

The report on Nay Pyi Taw includes not only demographic data of the capital but also comprehensive sections on migration, education, labour force, disability, housing, as well as birth and death statistics. These data reflect the current situation in the region, including ongoing population changes, urban and rural population distribution, education levels, employment and labour force conditions, migration patterns, and the living standards of the people.

The Nay Pyi Taw Census Report, providing analysis on literacy rates, education levels, and school dropout situations in Nay Pyi Taw, can be used in formulating the necessary plans in order to improve the education sector. In addition, data on the labour force, employment conditions, and unemployment rates can be utilized to promote the socioeconomic development of the people in Nay Pyi Taw through the effective use of census information. Myanmar, as a member country of ASEAN, produces reports that can contribute to both ASEAN statistical systems and international statistical frameworks. These published reports can support the country's own data requirements as well as provide indicators for the national indicator framework.

as a basis for policymaking, planning, and implementation of a country's social, economic, and administrative affairs. The key demographic data required for these purposes can only be obtained through population and housing censuses.

The population and household census 2024 was successfully collected in October 2024. The Ministry of Immigration and Population has released the pilot population, the Union report and the report on facts and figures of population and household census during the set periods step by step.

The ministry has continued the compilation of population and household census reports for Nay Pyi Taw and the respective regions and states. Priority was given to preparing reports for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region, and Ayeyawady Region, where the census was conducted with

100 per cent coverage, as well as Bago Region, where the census was conducted with nearly full coverage. The Nay Pyi Taw report has already been released.

The report on Nay Pyi Taw includes not only demographic data of the capital but also comprehensive sections on migration, education, labour force, disability, housing, as well as birth and death statistics. These data reflect the current situation in the region, including ongoing population changes, urban and rural population distribution, education levels, employment and labour force conditions, migration patterns, and the living standards of the people.

The Nay Pyi Taw Census Report, providing analysis on literacy rates, education levels, and school dropout situations in Nay Pyi Taw, can be used in formulating the necessary plans in order to improve the education sector. In addition, data on the labour force, employment conditions, and unemployment rates can be utilized to promote the socioeconomic development of the people in Nay Pyi Taw through the effective use of census information. Myanmar, as a member country of ASEAN, produces reports that can contribute to both ASEAN statistical systems and international statistical frameworks. These published reports can support the country's own data requirements as well as provide indicators for the national indicator framework.

IMAGINE carrying a ticking time bomb inside your chest — silent, invisible, giving no warning signs. You feel perfectly fine. You go about your daily routine. But inside, the pressure is building, quietly damaging your heart, your brain, and your kidneys. This is the reality for millions of people living with hypertension, or high blood pressure — the world's most common yet most underestimated medical condition.

As the world observes World Hypertension Day on 17 May 2026 under the theme "Controlling Hypertension Together: Check Your Blood Pressure Regularly, Defeat the Silent Killer", it is time for every one of us — young or old, urban or rural — to pay attention. This article explains what hypertension is, why it matters, and most importantly, what you can do about it.

1. What Is Hypertension?

Blood pressure is the force that your blood exerts against the walls of your arteries as your heart pumps it around the body. It is measured in millimetres of mercury (mmHg) and recorded as two numbers: systolic pressure (when the heart beats) over diastolic pressure (when the heart rests between beats). A healthy reading is generally around 120/80 mmHg.

Hypertension is defined as having a blood pressure consistently at or above 130/80 mmHg. When the pressure in the arteries is persistently too high, the heart has to work harder than normal, and over time, the blood vessels, heart, brain, kidneys, and eyes begin to suffer damage. Most people with high blood pressure feel nothing at all — hence its well-deserved nickname, "the silent killer".

Blood Pressure Classification (American Heart Association / WHO Reference)

Category	Systolic BP	Diastolic BP
Normal	< 120 mmHg	< 80 mmHg
Elevated	120–129 mmHg	< 80 mmHg
Stage 1 (Mild)	130–139 mmHg	80–89 mmHg
Stage 2 (Mod.)	140–179 mmHg	90–119 mmHg
Hypertensive Crisis	≥ 180 mmHg	≥ 120 mmHg

A blood pressure reading of ≥180/120 mmHg is a hypertensive crisis requiring immediate emergency medical attention.

2. Types of Hypertensions

Not all high blood pressure is the same. There are two main types, and understanding them helps with the right approach to treatment.

Primary (Essential) Hypertension

This is by far the most common type, accounting for about 90–95 per cent of all cases. It has no single identifiable cause, but develops gradually over many years through a combination of genetic predisposition, unhealthy lifestyle choices, ageing, and environmental factors. It cannot be "cured", but it can be very effectively managed.

Secondary Hypertension

Secondary hypertension has a specific underlying cause, such as kidney disease, hormonal disorders (like an overactive thyroid or adrenal gland tumour), sleep apnoea, or certain medications (including oral contraceptives, anti-inflammatory drugs, and decongestants). Treating the root cause can often bring blood pressure back to normal. Secondary hypertension tends to appear suddenly and be more severe.

There are also special categories worth noting, including isolated systolic hypertension (common in older adults), white-coat hypertension (elevated readings only in a clinical setting), and masked hypertension

The Silent Killer Among Us: Understanding, Preventing, and Controlling High Blood Pressure

On the Occasion of World Hypertension Day 2026 – 17 May 2026

By Dr Aung Tun

(normal readings at the clinic but high at home).

3. Global Burden: A Crisis in Every Country

High blood pressure is not a disease of the wealthy or the elderly alone. It is a global crisis.

- An estimated 1.4 billion people worldwide live with hypertension — that is, roughly one in three adults globally.
- Despite the availability of effective and affordable treatments, only about one in four people with hypertension have their blood pressure adequately controlled.
- Hypertension is the leading preventable cause of premature death worldwide, responsible for over 10 million deaths annually.
- It is the primary driver of heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure — the three leading causes of death and disability globally.
- Two-thirds of people with hypertension live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where healthcare access and awareness remain limited.
- About half of all people with hypertension are completely unaware of their condition, going undiagnosed for years.

The economic toll is enormous. The costs of stroke rehabilitation, dialysis for kidney failure, and cardiac surgery place a crushing burden on families and health systems alike. Experts estimate that each year of inaction costs the global economy hundreds of billions of dollars in lost productivity and healthcare expenditure.

WHO calls hypertension "one of the most important preventable causes of premature cardiovascular disease and mortality worldwide" and has set a global target of reducing its prevalence by 33 per cent by 2030.

4. Myanmar's Situation: A Growing Challenge

Myanmar is not immune to the global hypertension epidemic. National survey data paint a sobering picture of the NCD burden within our country, including the rising prevalence of high blood pressure across all age groups and regions.

The 2024 Myanmar STEPS Survey — the most comprehensive national NCD risk factor assessment in a decade — covered 52 townships and 8,252 adults aged 18-69 years.

The latest findings from the "Myanmar STEPS Survey 2024" reveal a significant public health challenge regarding hypertension among adults aged 18-69. The data highlights not only a high prevalence of high blood pressure but also critical gaps in diagnosis and effective treatment.

Current Situation Overview

*High Prevalence: * Nearly **one in four adults (24.4 per cent) ** in Myanmar suffers from hypertension. The prevalence is notably higher in men (27.3 per cent) compared to women (21.1 per cent).

*The "Silent" Gap: * While 58.1 per cent of hypertensive individuals have been previously diagnosed, a significant portion remains unaware of their condition until tested.

*Treatment Hurdles: * Only **43.6 per cent** of those with hypertension are currently receiving medical treatment. There is a distinct gender disparity here, with women (54.1 per cent) being much more likely to seek or receive treatment than men (36.5 per cent).



World Hypertension Day 2026 May 17

*Low Control Rates: * Most concerning is that only **21.6 per cent** of hypertensive patients have their blood pressure effectively controlled. This suggests that even among those diagnosed and treated, the management of the condition remains insufficient to prevent long-term complications like stroke or heart disease.

Contributing Risk Factors

The survey also identifies several lifestyle factors contributing to these high rates:

*Dietary Salt: * 18.3 per cent of the population regularly adds salt or salty sauce to their food.

*Physical Inactivity: * 25.9 per cent of adults do not meet the recommended physical activity levels.

*Obesity: * 26.8 per cent of the population is overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m²), a primary driver for raised blood pressure.

The 2024 STEPS Survey underscores the urgent need for enhanced public health interventions in Myanmar. Improving screening coverage, especially for men, and ensuring better access to effective, long-term treatment are essential steps to reducing the national burden of cardiovascular diseases.

5. Signs, Symptoms, and Warning Signals

The most dangerous thing about hypertension is that it usually has no symptoms. A person can walk around for years with dangerously high blood pressure without feeling a thing. This is why checking your blood pressure regularly — even when you feel well — is so critically important.

However, when blood pressure reaches very high levels, some people may experience:

- Severe headaches, especially at the back of the head
- Blurred or double vision
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness or light-headedness
- Chest pain or tightness
- Shortness of breath

- Nosebleeds (epistaxis)
- Ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
- Facial flushing or a feeling of heat

IMPORTANT: These symptoms usually appear only during a hypertensive crisis (blood pressure ≥180/120 mmHg), which is a medical emergency. Do NOT wait for symptoms to check your blood pressure. By the time symptoms appear, serious damage may already be underway.

6. Complications and Side Effects of Uncontrolled Hypertension

When high blood pressure is left untreated or poorly managed, the consequences are serious and wide-ranging. The extra force placed on artery walls causes them to thicken, harden, and narrow — a process called atherosclerosis. Over time, this damages vital organs throughout the body.

Heart

- Heart attack (myocardial infarction): when the blood supply to the heart muscle is blocked
- Heart failure: when the heart becomes too weak or too stiff to pump blood effectively
- Left ventricular hypertrophy: the heart muscle thickens and enlarges, reducing efficiency

Brain

- Stroke: either haemorrhagic (burst blood vessel) or ischaemic (blocked blood vessel) — often leading to paralysis, speech loss, or death
- Transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs) or "mini-strokes"
- Vascular dementia: cognitive decline due to reduced blood flow to the brain

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

YBS accidents claim 14 lives in first 4 months of 2026

FOURTEEN people have died in YBS (Yangon Bus Service) related accidents during the first four months of 2026, according to U Lian Cin Mang, Joint Secretary of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

The figures also reveal that three pedestrians have sustained injuries due to these accidents.

“There have been 14 deaths resulting from YBS accidents so far this year. By comparison, there were 30 fatalities in total last year. We’ve reached 14 deaths in just four months. Last year, 11 pedestrians were hit; this year, we already have three such cases,” he said.

According to YRTC records, there were a total of 64 YBS-related accidents in 2025, resulting in 32 deaths and 54 injuries. To reduce accidents and ensure the safety of the commuting public, the YRTC has increased its oversight of YBS drivers who violate traffic rules. The committee now holds educational seminars twice a month and conducts on-ground inspections and enforcement actions.

Currently, under the supervision of the YRTC, approximately 3,700 YBS buses and 7,500 drivers provide transport services to roughly 1.7 million passengers daily. — MT/ZN



7 Chinese nationals involved in online scams detained in Metmung



This photo shows detained Chinese nationals linked to online gambling.

MYANMAR authorities arrested seven Chinese online scammers in Metmung Township of Shan State (North).

The combined force continued its investigation about 45 kilometres southwest of Metmung, and arrested one Chinese male near the Thanlwin River yesterday afternoon,

whereas another Chinese national on the same afternoon and five more Chinese nationals involved in online scams and gambling operations had been attempting to evade arrest.

Offenders will be taken to action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

Public Notice for Filing Complaints

1. If a citizen’s fundamental rights and legal rights enshrined in the Constitution, or the human rights provided under international and regional human rights treaties to which the State is a party, are violated, he or she may file a complaint with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) under Section 30 of the MNHRC Law whether on their own behalf, on behalf of another person, or on behalf of a group of persons.
2. Complaints can be submitted by addressing the Chairperson, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, 27, 6½ Mile, Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon or to any of the Commission’s branch offices located in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway, and Patheingyi, either by post, in person, via fax at 01 8654678 or through the Commission’s email info@mnhrc.org.mm.
3. The following particulars must be clearly included in the complaint:
 - (a) Full name of the complainant; permanent address, and full contact details (telephone number, fax, and email if available);
 - (b) A detailed description of how the complainant’s human rights were violated and what harm or loss was suffered, including supporting documents or photographic evidence, if available;
 - (c) A copy of the complainant’s Citizenship Scrutiny Card must be attached;
 - (d) The complaint must be signed by the complainant to certify the correctness of the particulars of the complaint.
4. The Commission will review complaints and conduct investigations in accordance with the Commission’s law and its procedures, and will coordinate with the relevant departments and organizations accordingly.



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

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

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

Australia reports widespread high blood pressure, low awareness

Prevalence of high blood pressure rises sharply with age, affecting around 85

CONSISTENTLY high blood pressure affects nearly two in five Australian adults, with many unaware of their condition, according to a government report released Friday.

The “Hypertension in Australia” report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found that 39 per cent

of Australians aged 18 and over, about 7.2 million people, had hypertension in 2022, with similar rates among men and women.

Prevalence of high blood pressure rises sharply with age, affecting around 85 per cent of those aged 75 and above, as well as 39 per cent of people aged 45-54 and 57 per cent of those aged



Untreated high blood pressure increases the risk of chronic conditions including stroke, heart disease, kidney disease and dementia, Dietz warned. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

55-64, said AIHW spokesperson Heidi Dietz.

Despite its scale, hypertension often goes undetected.

Almost 63 per cent of affected adults did not self-report the condition, suggesting many cases remain undiagnosed, the report

said, adding that only about 40 per cent of those with hypertension had it under control while receiving medication. — Xinhua

Drones to fight school shooters? One US company says yes

A US startup, Campus Guardian Angel, proposes unarmed indoor drones as a first-response measure to school shootings.

Piloted remotely from Austin, the small, square, roughly two-pound drones would sit in schools and activate when a teacher triggers an alarm on their phone.

Using pre-mapped 3D layouts, operators can talk to a suspect via two-way radio, guide police to their location, and—if gunfire erupts—ram the attacker or deploy JPX pepper gel to

incapacitate them.

The company, led by former Navy SEAL Bill King, says the devices are human-controlled, not AI-driven, and are intended mainly as a deterrent. Pilot programmes run in Georgia and Florida, and there is interest in Texas and Houston-area schools; the service is sold via annual contracts priced by school size.

Campus Guardian Angel cites battlefield drone use in Ukraine as inspiration. Critics note the drones remain untested in real attacks. — AFP



The drone has two-way radio so human operators can talk to the attacker. **PHOTO: RONALDO SCHEMIDT / AFP**

Hungarian filmmaker Ildiko Enyedi tackles beauty and science



Hungarian filmmaker and screenwriter Ildiko Enyedi (1st L) talks during a panel discussion at the “Imazzia Chinese Film Week 2025” forum in Budapest, Hungary, on 30 May 2025. **PHOTO: ATTILA VOLGYI/ XINHUA/FILE**

LDIKÓ Enyedi’s *Silent Friend*, opening this week in select US cinemas, uses a solitary ginkgo tree in a university botanical garden to bind three vignettes spanning more than a century. The film, a Venice prizewinner, follows Grete (Luna Wedler), who in 1908 becomes the first woman admitted to the university and confronts entrenched sexism; Hannes (Enzo Brumm), a rural youth arriving amid the rebellious 1970s; and a contemporary neuroscientist (Tony Leung) stranded on campus during

the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown alongside an employee who speaks a different language. Each character, across distinct eras, finds moments of solitude and seeks connection, repeatedly returning their gaze to the lone ginkgo as a mute witness and emotional touchstone.

Enyedi, an Oscar nominee for *On Body and Soul*, said the film celebrates scientific curiosity and the beauty of enquiry at a time when academic autonomy and research are increasingly questioned. *Silent Friend* traces evolving perceptions of

gender and communication: from the exceptional feat of women gaining admission to university, through changing social mores in the 20th century, to a present in which experts can still feel isolated. When human dialogue falters — because of prejudice, generational divides, or language barriers — the characters listen to nature; immersive sound design lets the natural world “speak”, offering alternative channels of communion and underscoring the enduring human need to discover. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Laos continues efforts to expand secure digital infrastructure



PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

This year's theme, "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World", reflects the critical role of digital systems in supporting communication, economic growth and national security.

LAOS is continuing efforts to strengthen digital transformation and expand secure digital infrastructure as part of its long-term socioeconomic development strategy.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday to mark the 161st anniversary of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), observed annually on 17 May, Lao Minister

of Technology and Communications Santisouk Simmalavong highlighted the growing importance of digital infrastructure in modern society.

This year's theme, "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World", reflects the critical role of digital systems in supporting communication, economic growth and national security, he said.

Santisouk noted that Laos is undergoing rapid digital transformation, highlighting the country's celebration of National Postal and Telecommunications Day on 13 March under the theme "Upgrading Postal and Telecommunications Infrastructure into Digital Infrastructure for Socio-Economic Development", which is in line with this year's WTISD theme. — Xinhua

Mines 'draining Türkiye's water sources', environmentalists warn

VILLAGES across Türkiye are feeling the strain of a rapid expansion in mining permits that locals and experts say is depleting and contaminating water supplies. Residents of Guney in western Usak province say 50 springs that once fed the village dried up after a gold mine opened 20 years ago; drilling that once found water at 60 metres now yields nothing even at 400 metres, according to environmental activist Ugur Sumer. The government issued a surge of permits after a law passed in July simplified procedures;

permits reached 410,000 last year. Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar says the changes will attract foreign investment and boost gold production from 28 to 100 tonnes annually, while authorities aim to expand rare-earth mining.

Environmentalists warn the boom threatens rural economies and health: gold extraction is water-intensive, uses cyanide and other chemicals, and has been linked to pollution incidents, including alleged cyanide poisoning in Guney in 2006. — AFP



Protesters sit while a woman holds a placard reading "No to the mine" during a protest march against mining at the Aybasti Plateau in Ordu Province, northeastern Turkey, on 8 May 2026. PHOTO: YASIN ARGUL / AFP

Brazil to unveil fuel subsidy to curb rising prices

THE Brazilian government said Wednesday it will soon introduce a fuel subsidy to help curb rising prices linked to the Middle East conflict, with the measure initially applying to petrol and potentially expanding to diesel at a later stage.

According to the government, gasoline has not yet been covered by subsidies or tax cuts introduced since the outbreak of the conflict. The measure could later be extended to diesel after an existing subsidy programme expires.

The subsidy will be paid directly to producers and importers through the National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels, and will be capped at the level of federal fuel taxes, the government



The subsidy will be paid directly to producers and importers through the National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

said. Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Alexandre Silveira urged distributors and petrol stations to ensure that consumers quickly benefit from

the measures. "I call on distributors and petrol stations to speed up the implementation of federal measures," he said. — Xinhua

New Zealand fuel prices keep rising in Apr

FUEL prices in New Zealand continued to climb in April, with diesel recording particularly sharp gains, according to data released by Stats NZ on Friday.

Petrol prices rose 12.6 per cent from March to April, while diesel surged 36.6 per cent over

the same period, the statistics department said.

Over the two months since February, petrol prices have increased 33.6 per cent and diesel nearly doubled, up 94.9 per cent, Stats NZ prices and deflators spokesperson Nicola

Growden said.

On an annual basis, petrol prices were up 30.1 per cent in the 12 months to April 2026, while diesel jumped 91.3 per cent, reflecting sustained pressure on energy costs, noted the department. — Xinhua

Mexico names new boss of debt-ridden state oil firm

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum announced a new head of state oil company Pemex, as the firm grapples with the fallout from a massive oil spill and a downgrade to its credit rating.

The firm has struggled for years with crippling debt and plummeting production, hampered by a lack of investment.

Credit rating agency Standard and Poors downgraded the company's credit outlook on Wednesday from "stable" to "negative".

Pemex was already reeling from an oil leak which began in February and washed up large blotches of oil along 370 miles (600 kilometres) of beaches spanning three Mexican states.

Sheinbaum appointed Juan Carlos Carpio, who previously served as Pemex's chief financial officer, to lead the company.

She said in a video posted on X that Pemex's boss Victor Padilla had only signed up for an 18-month stint in October 2024. — AFP

Construction of agro-complex begins in S Afghanistan

AFGHAN authorities began construction of the first-ever agricultural complex in southern Afghanistan's Zabul province on Thursday, reported the official Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) on Friday. The project, at a cost of 100 million afghani (around US\$1.6

million), was managed and constructed by a local private investor on 307 acres of land in Shahjoy district, RTA said, adding that job opportunities would be created for 500 people with the completion of the essential complex in the underdeveloped province. — Xinhua

AI stock boom pushes Seoul's Kospi index over 8,000



It marked the latest high point in a meteoric rise for the Kospi, which was trading at around 2,600 points just a year ago. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

SOUTH Korea's benchmark Kospi index topped 8,000 points for the first time Friday, buoyed by an artificial intelligence-driven boom in the country's

semiconductor industry. The index briefly rose above the milestone in morning trade before falling back into the 7,900 range later in the session.

It marked the latest high point in a meteoric rise for the Kospi, which was trading at around 2,600 points just a year ago. South Korea is home

to tech giants Samsung Electronics and SK hynix — key suppliers of high-performance chips that power AI infrastructure globally.

Both of the firms have posted record first-quarter earnings as demand surges for the fast-evolving technology worldwide.

Shares in Samsung Electronics have risen around 190 per cent over six months, while SK hynix shares gained 220 per cent over the same period. The global frenzy to build AI data centres has sent orders for the companies' advanced, high-bandwidth memory microchips soaring. — AFP

US Jury awards \$49.5 mln to family

A US jury awarded \$49.5 million in damages on Wednesday to the family of a 24-year-old American who perished in a 2019 Boeing 737 MAX crash.

The suit was brought by relatives of Samya Stu-

mo, who died in the March 2019 Ethiopian Airlines crash which claimed a total of 157 lives. The Chicago jury, which deliberated for around two hours, found that "the total amount of damages suffered by

Plaintiff is \$49.5 million", according to documents. Nearly all of the civil lawsuits around the crash had been settled out of court. In Stumo's case, however, her family had been unable to reach an agreement with

Boeing ahead of the trial, which began on Monday.

"We are deeply sorry to all who lost loved ones on Lion Air Flight 610 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302," Boeing said in a statement. — AFP

Vietnamese airlines cut nearly 5,000 flights in Apr amid Mideast tensions

VIETNAMESE airlines reduced their flights by nearly 5,000 in April compared to the previous month due to tensions in the Middle East, which

pushed aviation fuel prices higher, the Vietnam News Agency cited Uong Viet Dung, director of the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam, as saying on

Friday.

Vietnamese carriers operated more than 20,700 flights in April, according to the report.

Dung said airline operating costs are currently under tremendous pressure from rising fuel prices, exchange-rate fluctuations, shortages of aircraft and materials, as well as global geopolitical uncertainties.

He said these factors have directly affected airfares, efforts to stimulate demand and airlines' competitiveness. — Xinhua



Vietnamese carriers operated more than 20,700 flights in April, according to the report. PHOTO: PEXELS

MYANMA SHIPYARDS – AMECC JOINT VENTURE COMPANY LIMITED (In Liquidation)

Notice to Submit Proof of Debts or Claims

(Pursuant to Section 201 of the Insolvency Law and Rule 87)

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-mentioned Myanmar Shipyards – AMECC Joint Venture Company Limited (In Liquidation) are required to submit particulars of their debts or claims, together with supporting documents, in the prescribed form, to the duly appointed liquidators of the company, Daw Khin Than Oo and U Win Htay Nyunt, no later than **(30) May 2026**.

Creditors who fail to submit their claims by the specified date shall be excluded from the list of creditors and from any distribution of assets, and no responsibility shall be taken for such claims.

Daw Khin Than Oo
Liquidator (Winding Up by Court)
(5/B), Hnin Si Condo, No. (182/194),
Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon.
Phone: 09 250507101

U Win Htay Nyunt
Joint Liquidator (Winding Up by Court)
No. (401), Lay Daunt Kan Road, Building (B),
SabelPhyu Condo, Zawana Ward,
Thingangyun Township, Yangon.
Phone: 09 5123080

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

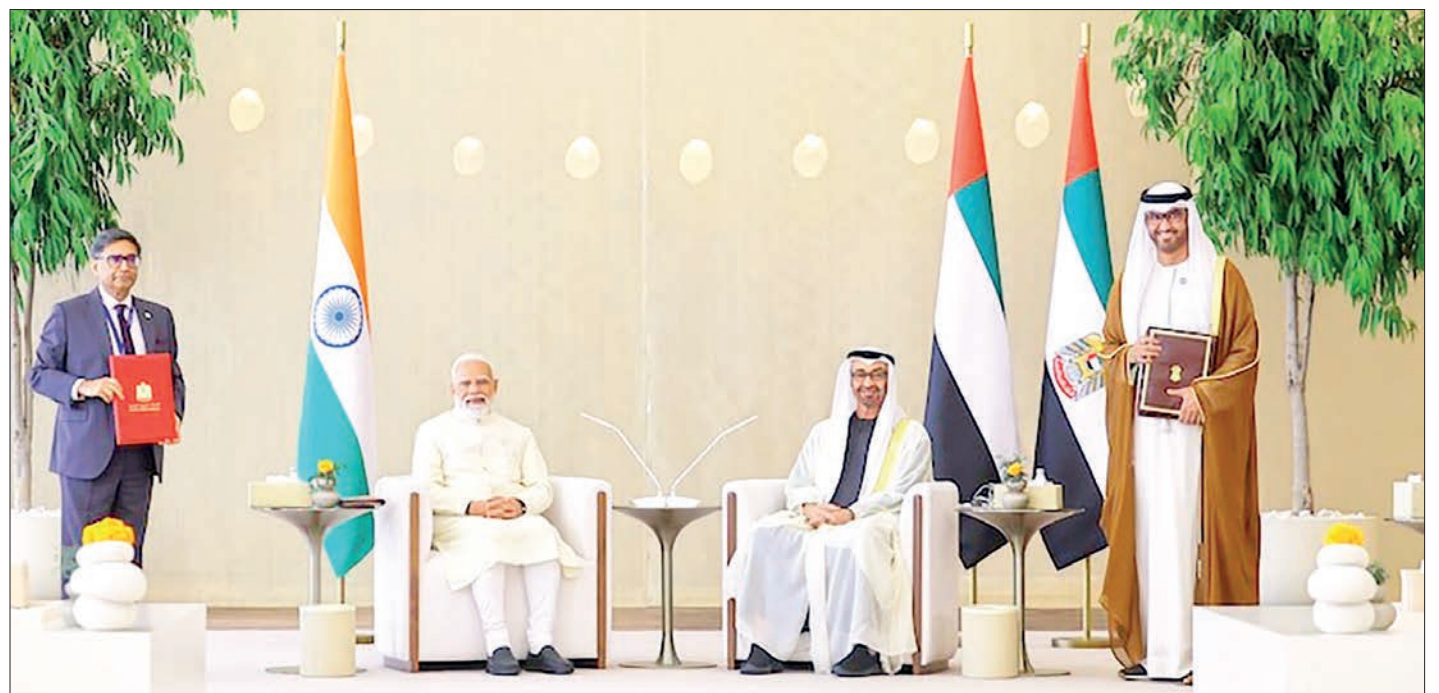
PM Modi's UAE visit yields defence, energy deals, \$5 bln investment commitment

India and the UAE signed an Agreement on Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership, further strengthening bilateral strategic and security cooperation.

P RIME Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday resulted in major agreements and investment announcements across defence, energy, infrastructure and banking sectors.

According to the announced outcomes of the visit, India and the UAE signed an Agreement on Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership, further strengthening bilateral strategic and security cooperation.

The two countries also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Stra-



PM Modi held delegation-level talks with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi. **PHOTO: @NARENDRAMODI/X/ANI**

tegic Petroleum Reserves and an agreement on supplies of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), boosting cooperation in the energy sector.

In the maritime sector, both sides signed an MoU on setting up a Ship Re-

pair Cluster at Vadinar. In a major investment announcement, investments worth US\$5 billion were announced in Indian infrastructure as well as in RBL Bank and Samman Capital.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also

held delegation-level talks with the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. On his arrival, he was accorded a guard of honour as he landed in Abu Dhabi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday emplaned for Abu Dhabi as part of his five-nation tour from 15-20 May, covering the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy,

aimed at deepening India's strategic partnerships across trade, technology, energy, innovation and green growth, while reinforcing New Delhi's expanding engagement with Europe and the Gulf region. — ANI

Japan PM to visit S Korea to discuss cooperation over Middle East: govt

P RIME Minister Sanae Takaichi is set to visit South Korea next week for talks with President Lee Jae Myung to affirm cooperation over the Middle East situation, among other issues, the Japanese government said Friday.



As of mid-May 2026, the Strait of Hormuz remains a critical but highly volatile chokepoint for Japan's oil supply due to escalating US-Israel-Iran conflicts. File photo shows the Shibushi National Petroleum Stockpiling Base in Kagoshima Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Takaichi's two-day visit from Tuesday to the southeastern city of Andong, Lee's hometown, will provide "an opportunity to discuss various cooperation under the current strategic environment and the direction for further development of bilateral ties", Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kei Sato told a press conference.

The third summit between Takaichi and Lee since she assumed office last October comes as tensions in the Middle East over the US-Israeli attack on Iran that began in late February are expected to push the two Asian neighbours to cooperate in economic security, including ensuring stable crude oil supplies.

Japan and South Korea, which both import crude oil mainly from the region, face a common challenge of securing oil and petroleum products in the wake of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has disrupted global energy supplies.

South Korea's presidential office also announced Takaichi's trip, noting it will be the first time that the two countries' leaders to have visited each other's native region. Takaichi and Lee met in January in the western Japan city of Nara, adjacent to her hometown of Tenri. — Kyodo

Thailand declares hantavirus "dangerous communicable disease"

T HAILAND'S National Communicable Disease Committee on Friday approved the designation of hantavirus as a "dangerous communicable disease".

According to the Ministry of Public Health, the new mandate requires authorities to report suspected cases within three hours, conduct disease investigations within 12 hours, and enforce a strict 42-day quarantine for high-risk contacts.

Hantavirus, which can spread through respiratory droplets, with certain strains capable of human-to-human transmission, has emerged as a significant global concern and a serious threat, necessitating the designation, the ministry said in a statement. — Xinhua

SPORTS

YR win Inter-Region & State Badminton Championship

THE finals of the 2026 Inter-Region and State Badminton Championship were held at the National Badminton Court in Yangon on 15 May, with the Yangon Region team clinching the overall championship title.

Officials from regional government, the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Badminton Federation presented medals

and cash prizes to winners of the men's and women's team events, singles events and best player awards.

Yangon Region secured the overall title with three gold medals, one silver medal and three bronze medals.

The tournament was held from 11 to 15 May with 235 athletes, coaches and officials participating. — Bala/KZL



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu presents the overall championship trophy to the Yangon Region badminton team.

'Out of shape' Lukaku named in Belgium World Cup squad



Rudi Garcia named his 26-man Belgium squad for the World Cup on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

BELGIUM coach Rudi Garcia named Romelu Lukaku in his World Cup squad on Friday despite saying Belgium's all-time record goalscorer was "out of shape".

Lukaku, who has scored 89 goals in 124 international appearances, has struggled for form and fitness at Serie A club Napoli this season.

The 33-year-old former Inter Milan and Chelsea forward has only played 69 minutes of first-team football in 2026 and is currently sidelined by a hip injury.

"Romelu has recovered, but he's out of shape, and I'm not sure he'll be able to start the matches. But he's our best striker, Belgium's all-time leading scorer," Frenchman Garcia told reporters.

"We have five weeks to get him back to full fitness so that little by little he can help the team." — AFP

Gordon may have made last Newcastle appearance: Howe

NEWCASTLE manager Eddie Howe said Anthony Gordon could have made his final appearance for the club after reports that the England forward is set to join Bayern Munich.

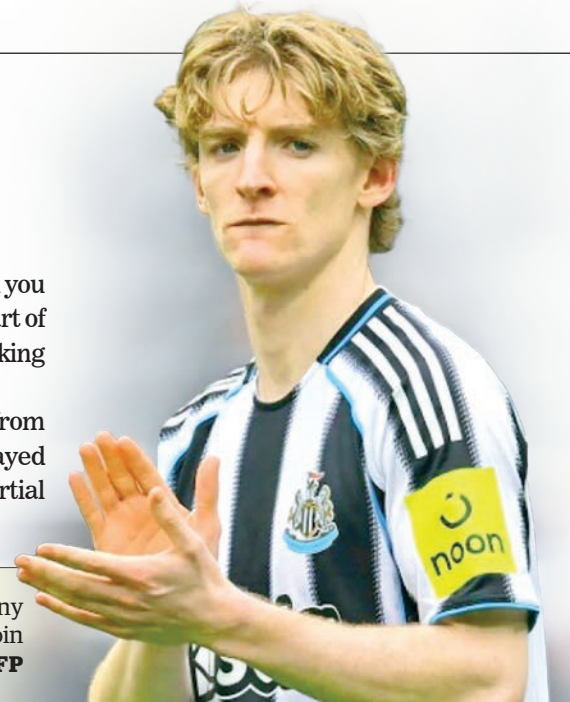
Gordon has missed Newcastle's last four games, including two due to a hip injury, as speculation mounts that the Bundesliga champions are in advanced negotiations to sign him at the end of the season.

Asked on Friday if he had left out Gordon because he was planning

for the future, Howe said: "When you get to this stage of the season, part of what we will be doing we'll be looking to next year, naturally, so yes.

"Anthony's just come back from injury. I think the team has played well in his absence and with a partial view to the future, yes." — AFP

Newcastle winger Anthony Gordon is reportedly set to join Bayern Munich. PHOTO: AFP



Man City battle 'fatigue' ahead of FA Cup final clash with troubled Chelsea



Chelsea will face Manchester City in the FA Cup final on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

PEP Guardiola hopes Manchester City can overcome mounting fatigue in Saturday's FA Cup final as Chelsea aim to salvage a turbulent season by ending their domestic trophy drought.

Guardiola's side are embroiled in a last-ditch bid to catch Premier League leaders Arsenal, but their slender title hopes will be on hold this weekend as they head to Wembley in search of a cup double.

City, who beat Arsenal in the League Cup final in March, had to play Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Wednesday and they will be back in top-flight action just three days after facing Chelsea when they head to Bournemouth.

Although Guardiola made six changes for a 3-0 win against Palace that left them two points behind Arsenal with two games left, the City boss is concerned his team's gruelling fixture schedule could hand Chelsea an advantage in the final.

"After the FA Cup, it is Bournemouth, we play every three days. Chelsea have a week at home training, preparing the final," he said. — AFP



CHINESE President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump had a private meeting on Friday in the Zhongnanhai leadership compound in central Beijing.

The meeting came before Trump concluded his state visit to China and a day after the two leaders held formal talks.

Upon Trump's arrival at Zhongnanhai, Xi warmly welcomed him. The two heads of state walked and talked, occasionally stopping to admire the trees and flowers in the garden.

Noting that Trump's visit was a historic and landmark one, Xi said the two sides had set the new vision of building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability.

"We had reached important common understandings on maintaining stable economic and trade ties, expanding practical cooperation in various fields, and properly addressing each other's concerns," Xi said.

The two sides also agreed to strengthen communication and coordination on international and regional issues, according to Xi. The visit is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, deepening mutual trust and improving the well-being of the two peoples, Xi said.

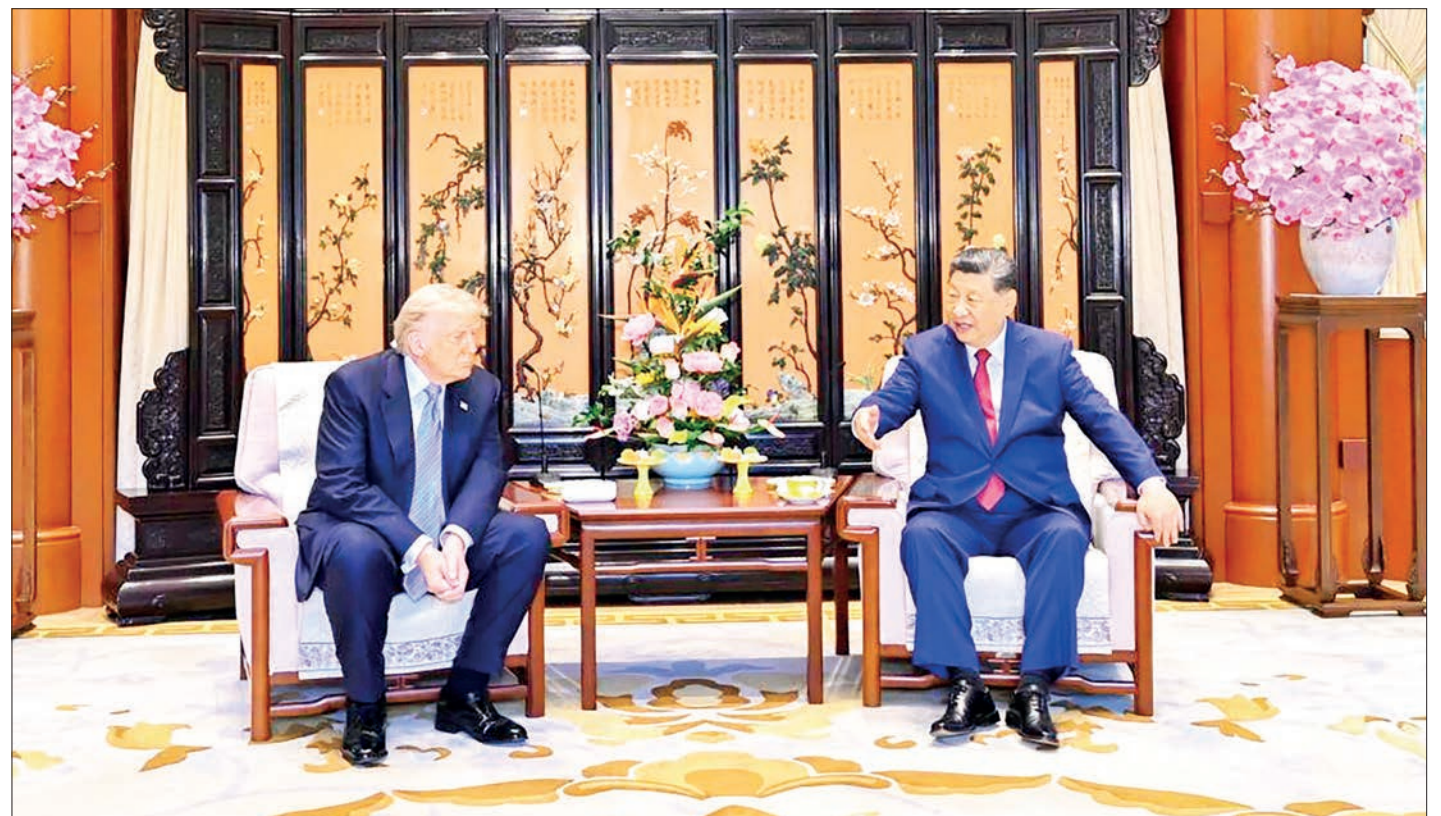
This once again demonstrates that it is a shared aspiration of both peoples and the expectation of people across the world for China and the United States to find a right path to get along with each other and to achieve peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, Xi added.

"While President Trump hopes to make America great again, I am dedicated to leading the Chinese people towards national rejuvenation," Xi said, stressing that the two countries can advance their respective development and revitalization by strengthening cooperation.

China and the United States should implement the important common under-

Xi, Trump have private meeting in Beijing

President Xi Jinping characterized Donald Trump's visit as a landmark, historic event that established a new vision for a constructive, strategically stable US-China relationship.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump have a private meeting at Zhongnanhai in Beijing, capital of China, 15 May 2026. **PHOTO: LI XIANG/XINHUA**

standings that have been reached, cherish the hard-won positive momentum, keep to the right direction, steer clear of disruptions, and promote the steady development of bilateral relations, Xi said.

Trump said that he is very grateful to Xi for inviting him to visit Zhongnanhai, adding that his China visit was very successful, captured the world's attention and was unforgettable. Trump said that

the two sides had reached a series of important common understandings, signed a number of agreements, and resolved many problems, which were very beneficial to both countries and the world. — Xinhua



A model skeleton of Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis, Thailand's largest dinosaur, is pictured at the Thainosaur Museum in Bangkok on 15 May 2026. **PHOTO: LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA / AFP**

South-East Asia's largest dinosaur identified in Thailand

SCIENTISTS have identified a massive new dinosaur from remains discovered in Thailand, with the creature estimated to have weighed as much as nine adult elephants.

The long-necked herbivore stretched 27 metres (88 feet) and weighed about 27 tonnes, according to a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

It probably roamed what is now Thailand between 100 and 120 million years ago and is the largest ever found in South-East Asia, researchers said.

They estimated the new dinosaur

had the same heft as nine adult Asian elephants. "Our dinosaur is big by most people's standards — it likely weighed at least 10 tonnes more than Dippy the *Diplodocus*," said lead researcher Thitiwoot Sethapanichsakul, referring to the enormous composite cast previously on display at London's Natural History Museum.

The Thai PhD student called the newly discovered sauropod "the last titan" because it was unearthed in one the youngest rock formations where dinosaurs are found in Thailand, according to University College London. — AFP