

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Efforts Underway to Transform PyinOoLwin into Health, Flower City

Since the development of each town contributes to the progress of the nation as a whole, all people should work together to promote the growth and advancement of their respective towns.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance on regional development measures at the meeting with town elders and MSME businesspersons at the city hall in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Chairman of PyinOoLwin District Management and Administration Committee District Administrator reported on the agriculture and livestock activities, disbursement of loans to MSME businesses, export of coffee to foreign market, efforts for improvement of education sector, shaping PyinOoLwin as the coffee city as well as the health city, and plans earmarked for socioeconomic life of the people during the 100-day plan period of the new government.

Town elders and MSME



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing views around the MSME products and domestic foodstuffs displayed at the city hall in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region yesterday.

Key points from the speech delivered by the President on his trip to PyinOoLwin

- 6.92 per cent of the State budget will be allocated to the Ministry of Education in the 2026-2027 financial year, and if education-related expenditures in other ministries are included, a total of 9.22 per cent of the State budget will be utilized for education.
- The education sector's budget will be increased to at least 10 per cent next year, with further rises to 15 per cent, aiming for 20 per cent over five years.
- Local meat, fish, and egg production must be ensured to meet demand from both tourists and residents.

businesspeople reported on the growing of trees in the township, production of coffee and wine as the one region one product activity, import of necessary machinery to produce quality milk and dairy products and coffee products, and need to disburse loans from the State economic promotion fund at soft interest.

Union Ministers U Khin

Maung Yi, U Mya Tun Oo, U Min Naung, U Myo Zaw Thein, U Hsan Oo and U Myo Thant discussed the running of Zeepingyi-PyinOoLwin-Kyaukme train, arrangements for the railway trip to Gokteik Viaduct view point to improve the tourism industry, upgrade of Anisakhan airfield, cultivation of peach, establishment of a coffee industrial

zone, needs to utilize croplands under the law, operation of agriculture and livestock cooperative business, and loans for MSME businesses. The Region Chief Minister added the report with the plan to address the discussions of entrepreneurs under the policy of the government.

SEE PAGE 4

Pyin Oo Lwin

Nan Myaing Coffee

MOUNT PLEASANT COFFEE

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111
 STARMART NINE MILE Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

NATIONAL



This photo features a cleaning work of the ancient temple buildings in the Bagan World Heritage Zone.

Cleaning of ancient religious structures underway in Bagan World Heritage Zone

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) has announced that cleaning activities are being carried out to enhance the physical appearance of ancient religious buildings in the Bagan World Heritage Zone.

In order to better appreciate the beauty of the Bagan World Heritage Zone and ensure the sustainability of its heritage buildings, the department has launched a cleaning work to improve views of the ancient religious structures so that they can be admired from a distance.

In this regard, the ancient temple buildings cleaning team of the Cultural Site Security Section, has already carried out cleaning work on ancient build-

ings No 1205, No 1206, No 1208, No 1209, and No 1228 as part of ongoing cleaning and beautification efforts.

The roots of thorny trees and other vegetation growing on ancient buildings in the Bagan World Heritage Zone have caused cracks in the structures and allowed rainwater to seep in, damaging plasterwork and interior wall paintings.

To prevent such damage and ensure long-term sustainability, staff and experts from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) have systematically removed trees growing on ancient buildings No 1668 and No 1666 using chemical treatments. — ASH/MKKS

MoFA holds Diplomatic Coffee Morning in Yangon



Ambassadors, Chargés d'Affaires, and diplomats from foreign embassies based in Yangon are seen at the Diplomatic Coffee Morning in Yangon yesterday.

ON the morning of 16 May 2026, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a Diplomatic Coffee Morning at its premises in Yangon, which brought together Ambassadors, Chargés d'Affaires, and diplomats from foreign embassies based in Yangon, as well as representatives from the United Nations agencies.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw. During the event, the deputy minister stated that this event was organized with the aim of strengthening engagement and cooperation between the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign embassies, as well as the United Nations agencies based in Yangon.

Furthermore, the deputy minister stated that the new Government democratically elected by the people assumed office on 10 April 2026. He mentioned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will enhance international relations, and expressed hope that the international community will extend constructive support and cooperation to ensure greater effectiveness and success in the country's ongoing efforts toward the democratic path,

peace, stability, and development.

The event was attended by approximately 50 participants, including officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), former Myanmar Ambassadors, as well as Ambassadors, Chargés d'Affaires and members of the diplomatic corps in Yangon, alongside representatives from the United Nations agencies. Authentic Myanmar coffee and an array of traditional breakfast delicacies were served at the event. — MNA

YU to launch Food Technology certificate course on 2 Jun

THE Department of Industrial Chemistry, University of Yangon, will open a certificate course in Food Technology under the Centre of Human Resource Development (CHRD) programme for the 2025-2026

financial year. This three-month course will start from 7 am to 9 am on 2 June 2026 every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

The course fee is K100,000, and the number of trainees is

limited to 120. Applications must be submitted to the department by 1 June. Those interested may enquire for further details through the department's contact numbers: 09 773727667 and 09 883491890. — NN/KK

Low-Pressure Area Condition

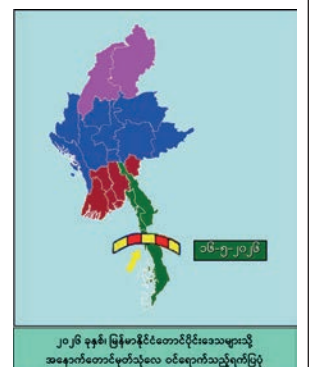
Issued at 4 pm MST on 16 May 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal weakened into a Low-Pressure Area. — DMH

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Advancement into the Southern Myanmar areas

Issued on 16 May 2026

“SOUTHWEST monsoon has advanced into the Southern Myanmar areas, Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal.” — DMH



Gold Market Rate as of 16 May 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,100,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

PyinOoLwin inaugurates five upgraded major roads

A ceremony to inaugurate five major upgraded roads, namely Nawarat, Theingi, Pyithaya, Yadana and Marlar Yuzana in Ward 8 and Ward 10 in Padetha satellite town of PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Region, took place on Theingi Road yesterday morning, with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing in attendance.

These roads were upgraded under the 100-day plan of the new government.

Also, present at the ceremony were Union ministers, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Central Command, the Region Hluttaw Speaker, the Chief Justice of the Region High Court, the deputy speaker of the regional Hluttaw, regional ministers and officials.

Residents warmly welcomed the President and party with the traditional dance troupes.

The Region Chief Minister reported on the upgrade of the roads. Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Mya Tun Oo and U Min Naung and the region's chief minister cut the ribbon to inaugurate the road.

The President unveiled the stone plaque to mark the inauguration of five major roads in Ward 8 and Ward 10 of Padetha satellite town of PyinOoLwin and sprinkled scented water on it.

The President and party

The PyinOoLwin Development Committee upgraded 16 asphalt roads in 12 miles and four furlongs in total length from 2021 to 2026.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets locals at the ceremony to inaugurate five major upgraded roads in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

strolled along the already-opened Theingi Road and cordially greeted departmental personnel and residents.

They inspected five major upgraded roads in Padetha satellite town by car.

As PyinOoLwin is a hill station where local and foreign travellers visit, overall sectors of the town are being upgraded in accord with the guidance of the President to expand urban

development tasks meeting the international standard. Yesterday, five major upgraded roads, namely Nawarat, Theingi, Pyithaya, Yadana and Marlar Yuzana roads, opened in Ward 8 and Ward 10 of Padetha satellite town of PyinOoLwin under the 100-day plan of the new government, which had been constructed since the establishment of Padetha satellite town.

Although these roads were

originally built as two-lane roads, they were not adequate for two vehicles to pass each other. Hence, five roads in 32,813 feet in total length were upgraded to 24 feet wide ones. In accord with the motto that all towns and villages must be modernized as quickly as possible, the PyinOoLwin Township Development Committee is carrying out the upgrade of urban roads, meeting the town's characteristics under the instructions of

superiors. From 2021 to 2026, the committee upgraded 16 asphalt roads in 12 miles and four furlongs in total length. In line with the guidance of the President, comprehensive urban development and expansion projects are being implemented to upgrade PyinOoLwin into an international-standard city, and residents of PyinOoLwin praise the efforts of the local authorities. — MNA/TTA

Bank of China Scholarship Programme marks 4th anniversary

THE Bank of China Scholarship Programme held its fourth anniversary ceremony yesterday morning at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon. The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint, Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), as well as teachers and students.

Speeches were delivered by the Chi-

nese ambassador, the deputy minister, and the CBM deputy governor, while the vice-president of Bank of China (Hong Kong SAR) extended words of appreciation. A memorandum of understanding on Chinese language training was also signed by the chairperson of the ELBC Language Centre and the director of the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) Myanmar Office. — MNA/MKKS



The 4th anniversary ceremony of the Bank of China Scholarship Programme is underway at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

NATIONAL

Efforts Underway to Transform PyinOoLwin ...

FROM PAGE 1

In his speech, the President said that policies are being implemented to develop PyinOoLwin as a health city, and it is necessary to carry out initiatives such as effectively recycling waste materials to generate electricity needed for the city.

He continued that as PyinOoLwin is a tourist city, if environmental cleanliness and scenic beauty are further improved, larger numbers of domestic and international travellers will come to the city. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure sufficient local production of meat, fish, and eggs to meet the food demands of both tourists and local residents.

In developing PyinOoLwin as a flower city, the President stressed that efforts should be made to cultivate more indigenous flower species successfully. It is also necessary to expand the cultivation and production of other horticultural crops such as avocados, oranges, macadamias, and other crops. In addition, silk production businesses based on mulberry cultivation can also be undertaken.

In the livestock sector, the President urged all to further develop dairy cow breeding in the PyinOoLwin region.

He noted that environmental conservation efforts in the PyinOoLwin region should be carried out continuously. Since forests and trees help preserve the cool climate, responsible officials are urged to closely supervise tree planting and forest conservation activities.

Regarding education, the



President U Min Aung Hlaing gives guidance over the construction of a new road leading to the Central Fire Services Training School from the Mandalay-Lashio Road.

President highlighted that PyinOoLwin is a city with a strong educational tradition. It has around 25 per cent private schools, and efforts are being made to further improve the education sector. He underlined that State-run schools are encouraged to promote higher educational standards, and all schools should be properly organized, comply with established regulations, and be strictly supervised to ensure order and discipline.

In its tenure, he vowed that the government would prioritize the education sector. In order to promote educational development, in the 2026-2027 financial year, 6.92 per cent of the State budget will be allocated to the Ministry of Education, and if ed-

ucation-related expenditures in other ministries are included, a total of 9.22 per cent of the State budget will be utilized for education.

In the coming financial year, the President underlined that the allocation for the education sector will be increased to no less than 10 per cent of the State budget, and within the next year, it will be further increased to up to 15 per cent. Over the five-year term of the government, it is planned to raise this allocation to 20 per cent. Therefore, the President urged that PyinOoLwin should also be developed as a model city in the education sector.

The President also gave guidance on the sports, health

and MSME sectors.

After the meeting, the President viewed round the MSME products and domestic foodstuffs displayed at the hall and gave necessary guidance.

In the afternoon, the President inspected the construction of a new road leading to the Central Fire Services Training School from the Mandalay-Lashio Road. The Union Minister for Construction and officials reported on the construction of the new road.

In response, the President gave guidance that the road must be completed before the rainy season. The road must be facilitated with a drainage system and windbreaks.

He inspected the construc-

tion of the road and bridge and then visited the Central Fire Services Training School by car.

At the Yadanabon Teleport building of the Yadanabon Myothit Project near Pyinsa Village, the President heard reports on facts about the project, supply of water and electricity, holding of the Digital Myanmar Technological Seminar and Exhibition and its benefits, and the greening project in the Yadanabon Myothit area by relevant Union ministers.

In his guidance, the President said that within the area of the Yadanabon Myothit Project, it is necessary to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water and to meet electricity demands through solar power generation projects. Buildings should also be constructed to be earthquake-resistant.

He guided that it is also necessary for the relevant ministries to implement measures to promote the development of digital, IT, and AI technologies within the Yadanabon Myothit Project area. Companies undertaking projects should likewise focus only on producing supporting materials and equipment that contribute to the advancement of digital, IT, and AI technologies.

In addition, he instructed those arrangements should be made to ensure convenience in staff housing, transport, and administrative matters, and a systematic master plan should be properly developed and implemented.

The President and party visited the project area in a motorcade. — MNA/TTA

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Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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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.
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NATIONAL

General hospitals, health centres in Yedashe and Toungoo inspected

UNION Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win inspected healthcare facilities in Yedashe and Toungoo townships of Bago Region yesterday.

In the morning, the Union minister visited Yayni Station Hospital in Yedashe Township, where he examined inpatient services, the medicine storage room, X-ray department, laboratory, and operation theatre. He then proceeded to Myohla Station Hospital, Swa Station Hospital, Swa Rural Health Centre, and Yedashe Township Hospital, inspecting outpatient services, laboratories, inpatient wards, vaccine storage rooms, and medicine supply facilities.

The Union minister also inspected the Kyungon Rural Health Centre in Toungoo



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win comforts patients at the Station Hospital in Toungoo Township.

Township, reviewing the delivery of primary healthcare services in rural areas as well as maternal and child health activities, and provided cash assistance.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and his delegation inspected vaccine storage

systems at the regional vaccine warehouse in Toungoo. He later met with the medical superintendent, specialists, nurses, and health workers at Toungoo General Hospital to discuss healthcare service delivery and operational challenges. — MNA/MKKS

MoL Union Minister visits Hospital for Workers in Mandalay



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe observes the solar panel installation training course in Mandalay yesterday.

UNION Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe visited the Worker's Hospital (Mandalay) in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday afternoon, where he met insured workers in the outpatient department and hospital, provided cash assistance, and inspected healthcare services, including kidney

dialysis treatment.

He then proceeded to the Skills Training Centre (Mandalay) in Pyigyidagun Township, where he inspected the solar panel installation training course for job seekers entering the workforce, as well as the Level-1 electrical examination. — MNA/MKKS

Electricity, energy operations inspected in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin inspected the electricity and energy sector operations within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

He observed the National Control Centre and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Control Centre of the Electric Power Control Branch (Nay Pyi Taw), and instructed the need to intensify the actions in transitioning the outdated metre reading systems and electricity billing systems to digital systems.

During the inspection of the 230 KV Nay Pyi Taw main power station, he stated that potential difficulties in power distribution during the rainy season should be anticipated in advance and that clearing and maintenance work along power transmission lines



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin inspects the electricity and energy sector operations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

should be carried out continuously.

The Union minister observed the installation of Hydraulic Elevated Dam (HED)

at the spillway of the Paunglaung Dam and Hydraulic Model Test for the spillway of the Upper Kengtawng hydropower project. — MNA/KTZH

Rural productive road upgrade in Loilem inspected

UNDER the 100-day project for the 2026-2027 financial year, officials from Laihka Township Rural Development Department conducted a field inspection of a rural productive road upgrade project being implemented in Pwayhlaing Village, Myoma Village-tract, Laihka Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

The project aims to enable local farmers to transport their agricultural produce to markets on time and at low cost, benefiting numerous acres of farmland. During the visit, Loilem District Rural Development Department Head U Kyaw Thant Zin, Laihka Township Head U Aung Naing Win, and other officials inspected the ongoing laterite road surfacing work, which measures

4 furlongs in length, 12 feet in width, and 9 inches in thickness.

Following the inspection, the District Head met with local officials and members of the village road committee. He emphasized the importance of maintaining designated engineering standards, ensuring timely completion within the 100-day framework, and focusing on long-term sustainability.

The infrastructure project is being executed with an allocated fund of K26 million, through a collaborative effort between engineers from the Township Rural Development Department and local villagers. To date, approximately 30 per cent of the overall project has been completed. — Cho Than Nyunt



The ongoing rural productive road upgrade.

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

11 May

MOFA issues press release

A few Member States continue to maintain restrictions, discriminatory measures, and the exclusion of the Myanmar Government from equal representation, while interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs through criticism and pressure, in violation of the fundamental principles enshrined in Article 2, Chapter I of the ASEAN Charter. Myanmar will continue to pursue peace, stability, prosperity, and the protection of the fundamental rights and interests of the people of Myanmar through a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led process aligned with the country's prevailing circumstances.

13 May

Pyidaungsu, Pyithu, and Amyotha Hluttaws to convene second regular sessions

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby announced that the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is slated to commence its second regular session at 10 am on 4 June 2026, the Pyithu Hluttaw at 10 am on 2 June 2026 and the Amyotha Hluttaw at 10 am on 2 June 2026.

Reporting date issued for Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw Reqs

Both Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha representatives

are requested to report to Committee Building 1 (I-1) at the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and Committee Building 19 (I-19) at the Amyotha Hluttaw Office in Nay Pyi Taw during office hours to join the Pyithu Hluttaw session. Reporting should take place no earlier than 30 May 2026 (Saturday) and no later than 31 May 2026 (Sunday). Representatives are required to bring their representative identification cards.

14 May

Anti-Online Scam Bill released for public review

The Anti-Online Scam Bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was released yesterday before submitting it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for public observation and sending recommendations. These recommendations can be sent to the Office of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Anti-Online Scam Bill consists of 13 Chapters: Title and Jurisdiction for Chapter I, Definition for Chapter II, Objective for Chapter III, Establishment of Central Committee and its Responsibilities and Authority for Chapter IV, Formation of Regional Committee for Chapter V, Formation of Anti-Online Scam Centre and its Responsibilities for Chapter VI, Prevention for Chapter VII, Exchange of Information for Chapter VIII, Temporary suspension and action against financial flows for Chapter IX, Cooperation with International Community for Chapter X, Prohibitions for Chapter XI, Penalties for Chapter XII, and General for Chapter XIII.

15 May

Head of State inspects working process of MR

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspected the new Locomotive Assembly Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department of Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Transport in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Hluttaw Reqs

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi held a meeting with Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and region Hluttaw representatives at Bo Min Young Hall of Magway Region Hluttaw building in Magway.

16 May

Head of State emphasizes regional development

U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, held a meeting with departmental officials and micro, small and medium enterprise businesspersons at the city hall in Mandalay.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Magway residents

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi talked about legal affairs and economic development at the meeting with town elders, businesspersons and social organization members at the city hall in Magway. —GNLM/TTA

Applications invited for 2026 ASEAN Plus Three Youth Retreat

Applications invited for the 2026 ASEAN Plus Three Youth Retreat.

TWO students from Myanmar currently studying in the Republic of Korea at the undergraduate, master's, or doctoral level will be selected for the 2026 ASEAN Plus Three Youth Retreat, scheduled to be held from 1 to 4 September 2026 in Gyeongju, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul on 15 May.

The programme is jointly organized by the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC), ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), and ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), and aims to promote understanding, friendship, and cooperation among youth from ASEAN member states and the Plus Three countries.

Applicants must be ASEAN nationals currently enrolled in a degree programme in Korea, aged 19 to 27 as of 1 June 2026, and able to participate in the offline programme in Gyeongju fully. They must also have strong English proficiency, a keen interest in ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, and demonstrate good conduct and discipline.

Required application documents include an English-language application form (PDF), an enrolment certificate, an academic transcript, a curriculum vitae in English, a passport-size photo, and a cover letter in English.

Seven teams, each comprising six students from ASEAN member states, the Republic of Korea, China, and Japan, will be formed during the programme. Outstanding teams will be awarded a study trip to Indonesia, Japan, and China.

Eligible applicants may submit their applications in person or by post to the Myanmar Embassy by 10:30 am on 3 June. Late submissions will not be accepted, the embassy said. — MT/ZS

Myanmar students showcase traditional food at Beijing cultural festival



The Myanmar ambassador to China attends the 22nd International Youth Cultural Festival.

MYANMAR students from the University of International Business and Economics showcased and sold traditional Myanmar food at the 22nd International Youth Cultural Festival held in Beijing.

The festival, themed "Lead the Tide, Embrace the World", was held at the university on 14 May and was attended by the Myanmar ambassador to China.

The ambassador visited the Myanmar food exhibition booth and delivered remarks to Myanmar students studying at the university.

University Council Chairman Mr Huang Baoyin, ambassadors from foreign embassies based in Beijing, and diplomats from more than 100 countries also attended the event. — ASH/KZL

Diesel prices on downward trajectory

DIESEL prices continue falling in the domestic energy market, despite an uptick in gasoline prices.

Fuel oil reference prices this week ending 21 May were set at K4,565 for Octane 92 and K4,645 for Octane 95, K4,820 for diesel and K5,815 for premium diesel.

The diesel prices indicated a decrease of K230-255 per litre compared to last week's price. Meanwhile, the gasoline prices (Octane 92 and Octane 95) showed a small increase up to K65 per litre this week.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in South-East Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure a stable price and secure supply. Fur-



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station in downtown Yangon.

thermore, the Central Bank of Myanmar has been injecting foreign currencies into the fuel oil sector to help cut the price.

Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory

Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging.

Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to that of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar did. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$1.8M to edible oil, CMP companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.8 million to edible oil-importing companies and US\$5,000 to companies operating on a Cut, Make and Pack basis on 15 May.

CBM sold over \$3.26 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$10,470 to CMP companies, and \$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



Workers are seen operating sewing machines at a garment workplace.

companies and over \$334,400 to CMP companies on 8 May.

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market with the aim of stabilizing the foreign exchange market and preventing 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 rubber export exceeds 300,000MT in 2025-2026 FY



This image shows the rubber processing site in Taninthayi Region.

MYANMAR exported 333,367 tonnes of rubber in the past financial year 2025-2026 (1 April-31 March), bagging over \$519.8 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

China is the leading buyer of Myanmar rubber, accounting for 75 per cent of Myanmar's rubber export. Moreover, Myanmar's rubber is also delivered to Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Japan. Myanmar conveys 90 per cent of its rubber output to foreign

countries, while domestic demand by SME accounts for only ten per cent.

Myanmar's rubber is commonly grown in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi Region. It can be found in Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions and Shan and Kachin states. There are 1.64 million acres of rubber across the country, with 1.065 million acres used for rubber tapping in the 2025-2026 FY. Rubber output last FY exceeded 350,000 tonnes. — NN/KK

OPINION

Cooperate in the further improvement of the national economy

PROSPERITY improves the living standards of the nation and its people, and it also enhances the nation's dignity and prestige within the international community. Every country is striving to achieve economic development through various means, and Myanmar must also place importance on carrying out efforts for the country's development and progress.

National development means being able to improve the socioeconomic lives of the people, as well as the education and healthcare sectors. To achieve this, efforts must be made to improve individual socioeconomic conditions and promote the country's economic development, while also creating opportunities for greater income generation.

Myanmar's economy is based on the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. Therefore, the government must encourage and promote agricultural and livestock production in order to strengthen the economy and increase the production and export of goods that can compete in foreign markets. Only then will Myanmar be able to achieve the growth of Gross Domestic Product similar to that of other countries in the region.

For the development of the national economy, efforts must be made to generate production outputs. If efforts are made to further increase production, it will not only help meet domestic demand but also expand exports. By increasing exports, the country will be able to earn substantial foreign income. Therefore, it is essential to promote and expand production activities without fail. Regional and state authorities are also

As export volumes increase, the trade deficit - caused by higher import values and relatively lower export earnings - will be reduced. The National Export Strategy aims to achieve balanced and sustainable development by promoting innovation and technological advancement in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, enabling the export of a diverse range of goods. Therefore, in order to further develop the national economy, all citizens are urged to work together in unity and cooperation under the leadership of the government to effectively implement these goals.

urged to cooperate in enhancing production based on the strengths of their respective local areas.

The State is implementing strategies to promote national exports. A key priority is ensuring that a wide range of export products can be produced in line with international standards for global markets. Regarding agricultural produce, including rice and rice-based products, pulses, and oilseed crops, it is essential to ensure they are free from pesticide residues and chemical contaminants, to carry out standard-compliant cleaning and packaging, and to produce value-added processed goods. The government ministries will provide necessary assistance, while private entrepreneurs are required to carry out these processes without exception.

As export volumes increase, the trade deficit - caused by higher import values and relatively lower export earnings - will be reduced. The National Export Strategy aims to achieve balanced and sustainable development by promoting innovation and technological advancement in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, enabling the export of a diverse range of goods. Therefore, in order to further develop the national economy, all citizens are urged to work together in unity and cooperation under the leadership of the government to effectively implement these goals.



Book Title - Articles on Enhancing MSME Resilience and Development
 Author - Than Zaw (Homalin)
 Publishing House - Myitta Yeiknan
 Publication Date - April 2026 (1st Edition)
 Price - K10,000

Articles on Enhancing MSME Resilience and Development

THE State is focusing on maximizing the economic potential of natural resources and shifting to value-added production for agricultural and livestock products through leveraging advanced technology. Hence, the State is promoting the domestic Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. MSME development plays a pivotal role in improving the socioeconomic development of the people, improving the national economy, and substituting imports through the development of the agriculture-based industrial sector. This week, we will introduce a book related to MSME development and agriculture.

This book, titled MSME Business Development, written by Than Zaw (Homalin), encompasses the first collection of his 19 articles previously published in newspapers.

He is well known on social media under the pen name "Gi Gi Knowledge" for sharing educational content. He states that the book aims to help readers understand

the importance of MSME-related data and information for policy-making.

Furthermore, he pointed out that MSMEs are crucial for a country's economic development, creating jobs, contributing to the growth of gross domestic product, strengthening regional economic development, and fortifying the economic foundation. Amidst the global economic changes, technological advancements and increasing market competition, MSME development has become particularly important. A systematic approach combining policies, management knowledge, market access, and technology application is essential for MSME development.

This book presents perspectives, experiences, and practical information related to MSME development. The articles focus on other development-related topics to encourage reflection on economic, regional, and socioeconomic progress. The author made a remark that the book will deepen

the understanding of the role of MSMEs and inspire new perspectives on development.

The opening article titled "MSMEs, The Foundation of Progress, the Pillars of Development" emphasized how MSMEs play a vital role in economic development in nearly all countries around the world. It also brings a big impact on Myanmar's economic growth. MSMEs drive local development in urban, small-town, and rural areas and serve as infrastructure for international trade as a market force. According to research, MSMEs are recognized as the backbone of the Myanmar economy, representing about 99 per cent of all businesses and accounting for over 70 per cent of employment. MSMEs significantly enhance local financial circulation, economic diversification, job creation, and poverty reduction.

In summary, the articles in this book are suitable for MSME entrepreneurs, economists, policymakers, and development researchers.



Book Title - Scientific and Practical Approaches to Crop Cultivation
 Author - Nay Yaung (University of Agriculture)
 Publishing House - Moe Kyaw
 Publication Date - April 2026 (2nd Edition)
 Price - K10,000

Scientific and Practical Approaches to Crop Cultivation

BEING an agricultural country, the country's primary economy is also based on agriculture. Therefore, as the agricultural sector develops and prospers, the country's economy will also improve. This book is not only supportive for the agricultural field but is also a valuable and dependable reference book to be utilized.

When this book was first published, the author's name was Shan Yaygyaw Than Maung. Shortly after the first edition, all copies were sold out. Therefore, in this second edition, besides five revised and supplementary additions, updated information on the ten highest rice-producing countries, revisions and additions for each crop, and numerous pictures have been included. The author's name was also changed and republished as Nay Yaung (Agriculture).

This book comprehensive-

ly presents information on soil, ploughing, and planting of a total of 35 types of crops, such as rice, wheat, and other cereal crops, beans and pulses, kitchen crops, industrial crops, and also mushroom cultivation methods, ploughing methods, pest and disease prevention and control methods, and many other agricultural techniques. Therefore, it is a book worth reading for farmers and agricultural enthusiasts.

U Ohn Kyaw (MSc) (Deputy Researcher) who edits this book writes in preface... In Myanmar, an agricultural country, there are many kinds of crops such as crops and industrial raw crops cultivated for domestic consumption and export earnings. It is important to achieve significantly increased agricultural production for food sufficiency, increasing foreign income and enhancing industrial businesses.

To improve crop yields, it is essential to understand scientific cultivation systems such as using genetically superior seeds, applying proper cultivation methods, effectively utilizing natural and chemical fertilizers, preventing and controlling pests and diseases, and other modern agricultural practices, and it is also necessary to continuously study and understand cultivation techniques suitable for local conditions such as geographical location, climate, and soil and water to achieve higher and better crop yields.

In the book Scientific and Practical Approaches to Crop Cultivation, detailed explanations are given on how to scientifically cultivate, maintain, and care for many important crops grown in Myanmar in order to achieve successful and higher yields. Therefore, there is no doubt that this is a book every person engaged in

agriculture should possess. By practising the scientific cultivation systems described in this book and achieving higher yields from cultivated crops, may it contribute as a supportive force towards the implementation of the country's economic development plans."

The author writes... Rice is the crop that consumes the largest amount of freshwater in the world. (Rice is a Big Player in World Water). Therefore, agricultural scientists around the world are researching water-saving rice cultivation methods. Depending on soil type, water usage can be reduced by 10 per cent-30 per cent and even 30 per cent-70 per cent. Instead of constantly filling the fields with water as in traditional methods, the system alternates between wet and dry conditions. This is known as the Alternate Wet and Dry (AWD) system. It has been found that this method results in more sapplings, grain and a heavier weight of 1,000 seeds.

Practical implementation methods and sample photographs are also presented.

This book briefly presents the essence and key points of the vast field of crop cultivation. It will greatly assist efforts to increase crop yields and will also serve as an essential handbook for students studying agricultural science.

A little good deed

By Mya Thae (Research)

When you perform a little good deed, you never look down on that good deed.

When you carry out a little good deed several times, it becomes an enormous good deed.

Even a little good deed will give you the great benefits you need.

Long ago, a poor woman donated a yellowish 'Kawae' flower piously.

When she passed away, she reached the abode of Tavamtisa as a beautiful, yellowish Nat (princess) astonishingly.

Her little good deed gave her great benefits enormously.

Her skin is smooth, yellowish brightly.

All of the Nat (male Devata) loved her nicely.

Ref: Buddha's Sermon



The Suffering of Widura

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Dear little brother Mg Thit Sin!
 You've known it well as I have.
 Due to Queen Dragon's ambiguous words,
 Old King Dragon, when she wept -
 His vague sense pandered to her wishes;
 Princess Dragon, when she bewailed
 Her vague sense remained fraught;
 Giant Ponnaka is bragging about love
 His vague sense made him show off:
 God, oh my God!
 We prayed to God in anguish.
 Oh, hard lines, we really got it.
 How much is his suffering!
 Just before the land of dragons, he's reaching.
 11 May 2026

ဝိဇ္ဇာဒုက္ခ

ငိုညိုပြောဝင်း၊ မောင်သစ်ဆင်း
 မင်းလည်းဝမ်းပါး၊ ငါလည်းပါး၏
 နဂါးမိဖုရား၊ ဆိုဝိုးဝါးကြောင့်
 နဂါးမင်းအို၊ ယားလှည့်လှည့်
 လိုလိုက်ချင်အား၊ သိမိုးဝါးကြောင့်
 နဂါးမင်းသမီး၊ မွေးမေညည်းသော်
 ရင်တီးဗျာများ၊ သိမိုးဝါးကြောင့်
 ချစ်ကြွားကြွကြွ၊ ပုဏ္ဏကသည်
 ပြလှိုပြစား၊ သိမိုးဝါးကြောင့်
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 ဘုရားတစ်၊ ဝိမုဒ္ဓိခို
 သိပြီစစ်စစ်၊ ဖြစ်ရလေခြင်း
 မတ်မင်းဒုက္ခ၊ ကြီးလိုက်ရသည်
 နာဂပြည်သို့ မရောက်ခင်တည်း။
 စော်ဘီ

New Year Wish

By Mg Lay Htun, Translated by Myint Zan

may the fragrance and freshness of the beautiful padauk flowers sprout and spread
 water is flowing and proceeding constantly in the beautiful Ayeya(wady) river
 Apparently composed on 12 April 2026, a few days before the Myanmar New Year 1387. Translated on 15 May 2026.

နှစ်သစ်ဆုတောင်း ...

လှသော ပိတောက်ပန်း
 ကြိုင်လန်းစေတည်း။
 ရေစီးရွှေ့လျော
 လှသော မြစ်စရား။
 မောင်လေးကွန်း
 ၂၀၂၆ နှစ်သစ်အကြို

Translator's note: The late Mg Lay Htun (medical doctor Tin Maung Htun) passed away on 12 May 2026 in Mandalay. He was also a painter, a poet and taught Myanmar Sar to many students for a few decades. Hence, he was and is also known as Doctor Myanmar Sar.

NATIONAL Entertainment

May Mi Ko Ko

THE film 'Thabin Thae Mya Hnin Si (The Beginning)' is now available in full on the HEY Play application and the HEY Play YouTube channel. Actress May Mi Ko Ko, who plays Mya San Kyi in the series, wrote on social media: "Does Mya not love little Hnin Si? Does Mya not feel sorry for Ko Soe Tint? As for these parts, please keep watching until the end of the series while continuing to hate Mya, and you'll see what more unfolds. Signed... the Mya San Kyi you all hate."



May Sweet, Hay Mar Nay Win, Tun Eindra Bo
THREE shining stars of a generation - May Sweet, Hay Mar Nay Win, and Tun Eindra Bo - will share the stage in the Three Ladies Concert at 6 pm on 23 May at Judson Hall, 38/D, Thanthuma Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon.

May Grace Parry

ACTRESS May Grace Parry will compete in the Miss Universe Myanmar 2026 pageant, representing Hpa-an. The Miss Universe Myanmar 2026 media press conference was held on 12 May. Among the introduction videos posted on the official Miss Universe Myanmar Facebook page and TikTok platform, the contestant with the highest number of likes was awarded the Best Introduction Video title, which went to Miss Universe Hpa-an 2026 May Grace Parry.



Mandalay Thein Zaw

THE golden jubilee celebration marking Mandalay Thein Zaw's 50 years in the theatrical arts will be held on 27 and 28 June at the National Theatre. A key highlight of the event will be joint performances by veteran actors Mandalay Thein Zaw, U Nan Win, U Chan Thar, and U Moe Win, sharing the stage together. Rising actor Aung Zabu will also participate in the performances.



Lay Phyu

RENOWNED rock star Lay Phyu will stage a solo concert at Eastern Yangon Event Park, starting at 4 pm on 13 June. Regarding the event, organizer Soe Naing Tun said, "This is the first line-up of Rock in Yangon. It will be Yangon's loudest music event, featuring everyone from legendary artistes to newcomers."



Tun Tun Examplez

SINGER Tun Tun said, "If two people are truly destined for each other, they will meet. In every lifetime, I only wish to love her and spend my life happily with her until my last breath - that is all." He married Ma Aye Nyein Thu from Mandalay on 14 May at the Masoyein Shwegyin Taikthit Monastery in Yangon, where the couple also offered alms to the monks to mark their union. - Htun Htun/KTZH

Filming begins for 'Naymamyin Empire'



THE film 'Naymamyin Empire', based on the lives of female garment factory workers, has officially started filming, according to Sunday Film Production.

The film is created by DOP Htut Tint Tun, story by Flore San, script by Phyo Thinzar Kyaw and directed by Mee Pwar.

"The audience already knows that director Mee Pwar is someone who can artistically portray realistic human lives through films. Movies like 'Kyo Tan' stand as proof of that. Moreover, he has also

created realistic drama films such as 'Dukkha Ko Pyone Pya Lite Par' and 'People, Roads, Jobs', which have not screened in cinemas. This time, he makes the 'Naymamyin Empire' film that will portray the exhausting realities faced by female garment factory workers," said a film observer.

The cast includes Aye Chan Maung, Banya Bhone Pyae, Nay Thit Aye Aung, Ye Lwin Oo, Aye Myat Thu, Myat Thu Thu, Than Thar Nyi and other artistes. - Htun Htun/KTZH

NATIONAL

Online scam crackdown nets 18 more Chinese nationals in Shan State (South)

MYANMAR authorities detained 18 Chinese nationals involved in online scam and gambling operations near the Thanlwin River in the vicinity of Lwesaunghtauk Village, Mongshu Township, seizing the equipment used in the gambling operations in the vicinity of Hopong Village in Mongshu Township, Shan State (South), on 15 May.

The combined force investigated to eliminate online gambling along the west of Thanlwin River in Mongshu-Mongsan, Loilem District, Shan State (South), and arrested 18 male Chinese nationals who were illegally residing near the Thanlwin River, about 26 kilometres southeast of Mongshu and



This photo reveals 18 Chinese nationals arrested for online scams and gambling near the Thanlwin River in the vicinity of Lwesaunghtauk Village, Mongshu Township, on 15 May.

about 11 kilometres southeast of Lwesaunghtauk Village on

15 May morning.

Similarly, another com-

bined force conducted inspections along the Thanlwin River

bank. At around 11 am, near the western bank of the river, about 26 kilometres east of Mongsan and about nine kilometres east of Hopong village, authorities discovered and seized facilities allegedly used for online scam and gambling operations. These included two destroyed residential buildings with sleeping quarters measuring 100 feet by 30 feet, one business-use tent measuring 100 feet by 30 feet, 30 bamboo huts measuring 10 feet by 10 feet each, and one cooking shelter measuring 10 feet by 10 feet.

The seized items will be managed in line with the procedures, and the offenders will be taken action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

3 Ethiopian nationals detained in online scam crackdown



Immigration procedures are underway for the deportation of three Ethiopian nationals linked to telecom fraud and online gambling activities.

AUTHORITIES investigating online scam and telecom fraud operations have detained three more Ethiopian nationals who allegedly entered scam compounds near Myawady via illegal routes through neighbouring countries, including Thailand.

Officials are continuing to collect personal data and records through interdepartmental joint teams to facilitate the repatriation of the foreign nationals to their respective countries.

From 30 January 2025 to 16 May 2026, a total of 14,657 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myawady Township were detained. Following screening procedures, 13,422 individuals were

deported to their home countries via Thailand in accordance with legal processes.

Of the remaining 1,235 detainees, 766 have been prosecuted under Myanmar's immigration and narcotics laws, while 469 are being accommodated and prepared for repatriation.

Authorities said the government is cooperating with neighbouring countries, regional partners, and international organizations to identify and arrest those involved in online scam operations and their foreign masterminds, while also assisting trafficked and distressed foreign nationals to ensure prompt repatriation. — MNA/KZL

Cargo convoy returns to Mandalay from Myitkyina route

CARGO vehicles that transported government staff and essential supplies along the Mandalay-Myitkyina route have returned to Mandalay after completing deliveries to support administrative functions in towns and villages along the corridor.

Authorities said the transport operation followed the reopening of the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsee Aung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina road on 6 May, which links Kachin State and Sagaing Region with Mandalay Region.

The convoy had carried government personnel, basic food supplies, consumer goods, construction materials, medicines, school textbooks, stationery, and fuel from Mandalay to Myitkyina to support regional rehabilitation efforts, healthcare services,



Vehicles returning from Myitkyina to Mandalay after transporting government staff and essential supplies are seen in transit.

and school reopening preparations.

The return convoy departed Myitkyina on 15 May and passed through Mogaung, Mohnyin, Nantsee Aung, Mawlu, Indaw, Katha, Htigyaing, Tagaung, Thabeikkyin, and Madaya before arriving back in Mandalay on Friday evening.

Authorities added that the vehicles also transported local products for sale in Mandalay, government employees and family members delayed by travel disruptions, trainees heading for courses, and residents seeking medical treatment in the city. — MNA/KZL

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ECONOMY WORLD



Rice prices began surging around summer in 2024 after extreme summer heat reduced the previous season's harvest. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's rice consumption per person drops 6% to 7-year low in FY 2025

The figure was the lowest since fiscal 2018 when the average stood at 4,426 grammes.

JAPAN'S average monthly rice consumption per person fell 6.1 per cent to a seven-year low of 4,435 grammes in the year ended March 2026, reflecting consumers shifting away from the country's staple food after supply shortages sparked a price surge in recent years, according to rice association data.

The figure was the lowest

since fiscal 2018 when the average stood at 4,426 grammes, with the decline from the 4,722 grammes in fiscal 2024 equivalent to 4.4 bowls of rice, recent data by Rice Stable Supply Support Organization showed.

Among households, comprising 66 per cent of the total, consumption fell 8.2 per cent to 2,929 grammes. The latest results show there is no sign

of an end to the downtrend in rice consumption seen in the past decade.

Rice prices began surging around summer in 2024 after extreme summer heat reduced the previous season's harvest, with the average price spiking to over 4,000 yen (\$26) per five kilogrammes from around 2,000 yen before the supply shortages. — Kyodo

EU chiefs to visit Mexico to upgrade trade ties

THE EU's top two officials will travel to Mexico next week for a summit seeking to remove most remaining barriers to trade and investment, officials said, as both sides look to diversify away from the United States.

The 22 May talks between Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and the EU's Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa will see the signing of an updated trade deal, with cooperation on climate change and the fight against organized crime also on the agenda.

"We are opening a new chapter in our partnership," Costa,

who heads the European Council, representing the leaders of the 27 member states, said in a statement.

Held more than a decade after the last such meeting, the eighth EU-Mexico summit comes as Brussels and Mexico City seek to navigate a volatile geopolitical environment under US President Donald Trump.

The EU has rushed to finalise a string of trade deals with the likes of India, Australia and South American bloc Mercosur since Trump unveiled a barrage of tariffs since his return to power last year. — AFP



As of May 2026, the European Union (EU) and Mexico have finalized a modernization of their 26-year-old trade partnership to strengthen economic ties, with a formal signing expected during an EU-Mexico summit on 22 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UAE to 'accelerate' new oil pipeline bypassing Hormuz

THE UAE is to fast-track construction of a new oil pipeline

bypassing the Strait of Hormuz, official media said on Friday,

after the Middle East war crippled exports through the vital waterway.

The West-East Pipeline will double state oil giant ADNOC's capacity through Fujairah port and is expected to become operational next year, the Abu Dhabi Media Office said. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "directed ADNOC to accelerate delivery of the project", the report said. — AFP



The oil terminal at the Fujairah port, where pipelines, including the Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline, terminate. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Powell to serve as interim Fed chair until Warsh sworn in

THE US Federal Reserve Board said on Friday that Jerome Powell has been named as interim Fed chair until Kevin Warsh is sworn in as the new chair.

Naming the incumbent as chair pro tempore is consistent with past practice during similar leadership transitions, according to a press release posted on the Federal Reserve's website.

Powell's second four-year

term as Fed chair officially ends on Friday, two days after his successor was confirmed by the US Senate as the Fed's next chair.

Powell said he would remain on the Federal Reserve Board as a governor for a period to be determined, citing concerns over the independence of the central bank. Powell's current term as Fed governor runs through January 2028. — Xinhua

US tariffs, cyberattack drive Jaguar Land Rover into loss

US import tariffs and a debilitating cyberattack pushed Jaguar Land Rover into an annual loss, figures published Thursday showed, although the luxury British automaker's performance improved in the last quarter.

The company, which is owned by India's Tata Motors, recorded a net loss of £244 million (\$328 million) in its financial year that ended on 31 March, as revenues slumped almost 21 per cent to £22.9 billion.

Jaguar Land Rover, like other automakers, suffered last year when the United States slapped tariffs on imports, which led the au-

tomaker to halt delivery of vehicles to the country in April.

Britain reached a trade deal with the US that brought the automaker some relief in July.

The respite was short lived however as a cyberattack forced Jaguar Land Rover to halt production for more than a month, leading to a hit of £196 million.

Jaguar Land Rover "faced a challenging year with revenue and profit impacted by multiple headwinds, including a pause in production following the cyber incident," chief executive PB Balaji said in a statement. — AFP



US import tariffs and a debilitating cyberattack pushed Jaguar Land Rover into an annual loss, figures published Thursday showed. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canada takes key step towards new oil pipeline

PRIME Minister Mark Carney and the leader of Canada's oil rich Alberta province took a major step Friday towards building an oil pipeline that could substantially increase crude exports to Asia.

Expanding overseas energy exports has emerged as a key part of Carney's strategy to reduce Canada's economic reliance on the United States, but plans for a new pipeline are facing stiff resistance over environmental concerns.

Alberta's conservative Premier Danielle Smith was a relentless critic

of Carney's climate focused predecessor, Justin Trudeau, accusing him of

suffocating the province's oil industry, but she has sought to work with Carney.

Carney and Smith cleared a key hurdle toward a new pipeline on Friday by signing a deal on industrial carbon pricing, a system that extracts a fee from large scale CO2 emitters. Oil companies have been critical of the system, but Smith said Friday that the prohibitive rates set under Trudeau's government had been "rolled back". — AFP



The Syncrude refinery in the oil sands region of Alberta in western Canada. **PHOTO: AFP**

China's second homegrown large cruise ship begins first sea trial

CHINA'S second domestically built large cruise ship set sail on Saturday on a 12-day sea trial, the final major step before the ship's official delivery as the country expands its push into the cruise tourism market.

The shipbuilder, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), invited a team of 937 professionals from 12 countries aboard for the

maiden trial voyage.

During the trip, they will carry out 149 tests and verification tasks to validate key performance indicators of the vessel, named Adora Flora City, which was undocked in Shanghai on 20 March.

Measuring 341 meters in length, with a gross tonnage of 141,900, the cruise ship boasts 2,130 cabins and suites, with a passenger capacity of 5,232. — Xinhua

British Gas to pay millions to settle meter scandal

BRITISH Gas will pay millions of pounds to settle an investigation into the forced installation of prepayment meters, energy regulator Ofgem said Friday. The company has agreed to pay £20 million (\$27 million) into Ofgem's voluntary redress fund and write off up to £70 million of debt owed by "vulnerable" customers such as low-income households, the disabled or elderly, or those in rural areas.

Ofgem tightened the rules around the controversial practice after reports emerged in 2023 that British Gas contractors sent debt collectors to break into homes and force-fit prepayment meters (PPMs). They charge more than standard devices and let contractors cut off supplies to customers in arrears, raising concerns that vulnerable customers were being targeted. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (847N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (847N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (244N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (244N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUSERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB619A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (SB619A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday said India could serve as a potential mediator in the conflict involving Iran and the US, emphasizing on New Delhi's "vast diplomatic experience and international standing". **PHOTO: ANI**

Russian FM Lavrov backs India on resolving Iran-US conflict

MAY 16

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday said India could serve as a potential mediator in the conflict involving Iran and the US, emphasizing on New Delhi's "vast diplomatic experience and international standing".

He referred to Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue between Iran and the United States on immediate issues, while stressing that India would play a vital role in the

broader diplomatic engagement to prevent long-term instability in the region.

Addressing a media briefing in New Delhi, Lavrov said, "Pakistan is helping establish dialogues between the US and Iran to resolve urgent problems. If they seek a long-term mediator between Iran and its Arab friends, this role could be played by India, considering its vast diplomatic experience." — ANI

MAY 15

Wale elected Solomon Islands prime minister

OPPOSITION leader Matthew Wale was elected prime minister of the Solomon Islands on Friday after incumbent Jeremiah Manele was ousted in a no-confidence vote last week.

While he was a staunch critic of China ahead of the Solomon Islands' signing of a wide-reaching security agreement with the country in 2022, Wale is not expected to make any major changes to the South Pacific nation's relationship with Beijing, having adopted a more pragmatic stance in recent years.

Solomon Islands Governor General David Tiva Kapu announced outside parliament that 26 lawmakers voted for Wale and 22 for former Foreign Minister Peter Shanel Agovaka, with one spoiled ballot paper and one lawmaker absent from the 50-member parliament. — Kyodo

MAY 14

Storms kill 104 in Uttar Pradesh

AT least 104 people were killed and over 50 others injured after dust storms and lightning strikes triggered by heavy rains battered the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, officials said Thursday.

The strong winds damaged homes and other structures. It also perished the livestock. "The deaths have been caused due to the collapsing of structures, falling of tree branches and uprooting of trees," Uttar Pradesh relief commissioner Harikesh Bhaskar Yashod said.

According to locals, the weather changed suddenly on Wednesday evening in the state, sending clouds of dust across several districts. Yashod said the relief operation was underway in the affected districts and continuous monitoring was being conducted from the integrated control and command center. — Xinhua

MAY 13

Forum reflects Global South's shared development

"**HE** who travels in company goes far," an Arab proverb, was frequently invoked at the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum Chinese-Arab Partnership Conference, held from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and the League of Arab States, the two-day forum gathers about 250 delegates from around 110 media outlets, think tanks, government institutions, enterprises from China and Arab countries, as well as from international and regional organizations.

Against the backdrop of the Global South's evolving role, the gathering, under the theme "Pooling Wisdom, Embarking on a New Journey: Jointly Building a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future," aims to deepen mutual learning, foster consensus on development, and contribute to building a high-level China-Arab community with a shared future. More than just a conference, the forum is a snapshot of the Global South's evolving role. With its rapid economic development, the Global South is exerting greater political influence. — Xinhua

MAY 12

China rejects Japanese neo-militarism in Asia-Pacific.

THE Asia-Pacific countries should stay clear-eyed and jointly reject the reckless moves of Japanese neo-militarism to safeguard the order of peace on which all countries rely for survival and development, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks at a daily press briefing when answering a relevant query.

Noting that Japanese militarism inflicted untold suffering on people in the Asia Pacific, Guo said the prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific countries benefit from the peaceful foundation laid down by the post-WWII international order.

The reality that must not be ignored is that Japan's right-wing forces are moving faster to undermine this order and foundation with specific roadmap and steps, Guo stressed. "The 'gray rhino' of Japan's remilitarization is running towards us," he said, noting that many international experts, scholars and media have noted that Japan has abandoned pacifism. — Xinhua

MAY 11

Hormuz standoff risks hunger for millions

TENS of millions of people could face hunger and starvation if fertilizers are not soon allowed through the Strait of Hormuz, the head of a UN task force aimed at averting a looming humanitarian crisis told AFP on Monday.

Iran has had the strategic waterway — through which a third of the world's fertilizers normally pass — in a chokehold for months in retaliation for the war launched by the United States and Israel on 28 February, disrupting a trade critical for farmers around the world in a race against the end of planting seasons.

The UN secretary-general created the task force in March to spearhead a mechanism to allow fertilizers and related raw materials. — AFP

MAY 10

AI avatars boost Trump's midterm campaign

CLAD in swimsuits or military fatigues, the blonde women lavish praise on President Donald Trump and tear into his rivals — but these influencers are AI-generated, flooding tech platforms with fervent political messaging ahead of the US midterm election. The rise of hyper-realistic AI avatars — parroting Trump's political slogans such as "America First" and echoing his talking points on issues such as immigration — underscores the use of new technology in efforts to energize his Make America Great Again (MAGA) conservative base. "Where are all my MAGA friends at? If you voted for Trump, say it loud in the comments and you've got yourself a new follower from Texas," an AI-created woman declares on TikTok. — AFP

SPORTS

20th SEA Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship opens in Yangon

THE opening ceremony of the 20th South-East Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, hosted by Myanmar, was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on 16 May.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, Deputy Minister for Sports and Vice-Chair of Myanmar Olympic Committee U Nyi Nyi, regional ministers, the Yangon mayor, World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation President Datuk Paul Chua and South-East Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Federation President Phumvarin Chunhawongvarit attended the ceremony together with athletes from seven countries.

In the Men's Juniors Bodybuilding Under-21 event, Malaysia won gold, while Myanmar claimed silver and Vietnam took bronze. In the Men's Senior Bodybuilding 55-kilogramme category, Vietnam secured gold, with Myanmar winning both silver and bronze medals.

In the Men's Senior Bodybuilding 60-kilogramme event,



World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation President Datuk Paul Chua presents the opening address.

Myanmar captured both gold and silver medals, while Vietnam earned bronze. In the 65-kilogramme category, Myanmar won gold, Thailand silver and Vietnam bronze. In the 70-kilogramme division, Vietnam claimed gold, Malaysia silver and Myanmar bronze.

In the Men's Master Bodybuilding Over-45 event, Myanmar won gold and bronze, while the Philippines took silver. In



Competition at the Men's Senior Bodybuilding 60-kilogramme event. PHOTO: KANU

the Men's Sports Physique Up to 170-centimetre category, Myanmar secured gold, Thailand silver and Malaysia bronze. In the Over-170-centimetre category, Thailand won gold, Myanmar silver and Laos bronze.

Myanmar won gold in the Men's Fitness Physique Open category, while Vietnam claimed silver and bronze. In the Women's Fitness Physique Open category, Vietnam won gold and bronze, while Myanmar took silver.

After the latest events, Myanmar leads the medal table with five gold, five silver and three bronze medals. Competitions in 12 more event categories will continue on 17 May.

The championship features athletes from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Laos, with competitions taking place on 16 and 17 May.

A total of 100 athletes are competing, including 39 from Myanmar and 28 from Vietnam. Ten categories were contested on 16 May, while 12 categories will be held on 17 May. — MNA/KZL

South Korea coach backs Son to shine at his fourth World Cup



South Korea head coach Hong Myung-bo announcing his World Cup squad. PHOTO: AFP

SOUTH Korea's coach backed Son Heung-min to get back to goalscoring ways at his fourth World Cup after on Saturday naming the striker in his squad for the tournament.

Captain Son has struggled for goals since swapping English Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur for Los Angeles FC in

Major League Soccer a year ago.

The 33-year-old has scored only twice for his new club but Hong Myung-bo thinks a change of scenery could help as South Korea face World Cup co-hosts Mexico, the Czech Republic and South Africa in Group A.

"When I went to Los Angeles and watched the matches myself, I saw that he was playing in a somewhat different role compared to how we use him, in a slightly deeper position, which meant he wasn't getting many chances," Hong said after naming his 26-man squad.

"So I believe we need to continue communicating with the players and work together on identifying which positions and roles are the most suitable and effective for each of them as we prepare." — AFP

Myanmar wins opening match in Regu event at 2026 Sepak Takraw World Cup

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, Myanmar defeated China in their opening group match of the Regu (three-player) event at the 2026 Sepak Takraw World Cup, being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 16 to 23 May.

Myanmar secured a straight-set victory over China, winning 15-4 and 15-8. The team comprised Aung Aung, Ye Htet, Thant Zin Tun, Min Thant Thu, and Han Win Htut.

Myanmar is placed in Group C alongside Vietnam, China, and Indonesia. The remaining group-stage matches will be played on 17 May, with Myanmar scheduled to face Vietnam and Indonesia on the same day.

The Myanmar delegation



The Myanmar Sepak Takraw team.

is led by Head of Delegation U Aung Myint Myat (Vice President, Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation), Manager U Myint Lwin Htay, and coaches U Kyaw Min Soe and U Aung Myo Swe. The squad includes Zin Min Oo (Ar Dit), Thant Zin Tun (Dat

Lone), Aung Aung (Aung Gyi), Aung Myo Kyaw (Myo Lay), Shein Wanna Zaw (Shein Lay), Yan Paing Oo (Kyaung Taik), Ye Htet, Han Win Htut (Anku), Thet Paing Soe, Min Thant Thu, Chit Lwin Po, and Shin Thant Naung. — Htun Htun/ZN



Baby clothes are displayed at a booth during a baby fair in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

South Korea welcomes rare baby bump as population shrinks

South Korea records a modest rebound in births as some couples overcome financial doubts to start families.

South Korea records a modest rebound in births as some couples overcome financial doubts to start families.

Kim Su-jin, 32, and her husband welcomed a daughter in January despite earlier concerns over housing, schooling and work, reflecting a small but notable shift in attitudes among younger South Koreans. The country, long grappling with one of the world's lowest fertility rates, has seen monthly

births rise year-on-year since 2024. February saw nearly 23,000 babies — the most for that month in seven years — and a 13.6 per cent year-on-year increase, the biggest February gain since records began in 1981, the statistics ministry said.

Officials and experts disagree on causes. Some attribute the uptick to pro-natalist policies that lower direct and indirect costs of childbearing. Seoul National University economist Hong Sok-chul said generous

state support has made family formation a more rational choice.

New parents report meaningful help: vouchers, a birth payment of two million won, maternity-fee vouchers and monthly allowances in the first year. Other measures include low-interest home loans, extended parental leave, subsidised fertility treatment and corporate child bonuses. Analysts caution the rise is modest and far from reversing long-term demographic decline. — AFP

Animal actors outperform synthetic AI alternatives

Director Robert Vince argues AI cannot replicate the genuine emotions of animal actors.

VETERAN director Robert Vince says animal actors deliver an authenticity AI cannot match. Recounting a moment on the set of *Air Bud Returns*, Vince praised Roscoe, a golden retriever, for improvising concern when two human actors began to cry — a spontaneous reaction he calls “real”. With more than a dozen dog-led productions, Vince argues that canine performers create emotional connection and on-screen chemistry that digital effects struggle to replicate. He acknowledged that technological innovations — from early visual effects to today's AI — initially dazzle audiences, but their novelty fades. True audience engagement, he said, comes from the fundamentals: believable characters and genuine emotion. — AFP



Robert Vince says the warmth a real-life performer like Roscoe brings to a movie cannot be replicated by AI. PHOTO: AFP

Beckham becomes first British billionaire sportsman

Beckham and his wife Victoria's collective wealth reached an estimated £1.185 billion (\$1.583 billion) this year.



David Beckham interacts with football-loving youth during a Football Campus Day activity in Shanghai. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

FORMER Manchester United and England star David Beckham has become Britain's first billionaire sportsman, according to the 2026 Sunday Times Rich List. Beckham and his wife Victoria's collective wealth reached an estimated £1.185 billion (\$1.583 billion) this year, the Rich List compilers said. That moved them into second place in the list of the UK's wealthiest sportspeople, behind the family of ex-Formula One chief executive Bernie Ecclestone, whose wealth was valued at £2 billion.

Beckham, who retired from playing in 2013, is a co-owner of Inter Miami, estimated to be Major

League Soccer's most valuable club at £1.07 billion.

The 51-year-old also has lucrative brand ambassador roles for companies including Adidas and Hugo Boss. Beckham captained England and won the Premier League and Champions League during a glittering career with United, before spells at Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain.

Victoria Beckham's wealth has largely been generated from her fashion label after she originally found fame as a member of pop band The Spice Girls. — AFP