

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Cold storages sustain seafood supply, exports during fishing ban season



This image shows fishing vessels docked at Yangon Fishing Port, preparing supplies for domestic consumption and export. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

THE cold storage factories in Yangon Region continues distributing saltwater products for local consumption and exports during the no-fishing season, according to MMA Marine Products Company of the Central Sanpya Fish Market.

During the fishing season, saltwater products arriving at Yangon ports is partly stored in cold storage facilities so it can be sold during the no-fishing season. Throughout the three-month fishing ban period from April to June, the products continue circulating in the domestic market through the Shwe Padauk Fish Market and Central Sanpya Fish Market, while frozen products are also continuously exported to China from cold storage facilities.

“Before the three-month ban, companies sent some of the saltwater products to cold storage facilities. Compared to that time, cold storage service charges are now higher, causing product prices to increase. However, there is no shortage of saltwater products in the domestic market, and the higher prices of freshwater products are also being controlled. For exports, whether it is one container or two, shipments continue directly from the cold storage factories according to orders. Although the fishing season is closed, exports have not stopped. Since the fishing season will reopen in July, the flows of products are expected to become even more active,” said Daw Tin Nwe, owner of MMA Company.

The products form cold storage fa-

cilities such as various kinds of saltwater prawns, white pomfret, black pomfret, yellow pike conger, yellow croaker, small head ribbon fish, tassel fish, squid and other common saltwater products are mainly exported to China. The saltwater products captured by about 50 fishing boats of Chinese companies in Yangon are directed exported from the cold storage facilities in Gyogon, Dagon Myothit (South), Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships, and also from Hailon, Nyaungdan, Shwezinyaw Hein and Gyogon ports to China.

Saltwater products popular in the Yangon market, including fishes like Platu (short mackerel), Myetkyal (silver pomfret), Pitha (threadfin bream), Meelone (lantern fish) and other products

see strong sales, and prices range from K8,000 to K10,000 per viss.

If prices rise above this range, consumers tend to switch to freshwater fish instead, so sellers usually maintain seafood prices within that price range. When seafood products are sent to cold storage factories, the freezing fee is K600 per kilogramme per day, along with a maintenance charge of K50. Due to rising cold storage service fees, saltwater fish prices in the consumer market have not declined.

Saltwater product sales were strong before Thingyan, have stabilized afterwards, and continue to generate foreign income through steady exports from cold storage facilities during the fishing ban season. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL



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Myanmar delegation attends 17th International Economic Forum and related meetings in Russia

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Over 13,000 illegal foreigners deported in Myawady online scam crackdown

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 43/2026

3rd Waxing of Nayon 1388ME
18 May 2026

Substitution of four Defence Services Personnel Representatives for Pyithu Hluttaw

THE multiparty democratic general election was held in phases starting from 28 December 2025. In accordance with a notification from the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services regarding the replacement of four Defence Services personnel representatives to the Pyithu Hluttaw under Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the Union Election Commission verified the request and replaced the four Defence Services personnel representatives to the Pyithu Hluttaw mentioned in Announcement 32/2026 issued by the Commission on 7 February 2026, as specified in the attached list: -

- (a) BC 22770 Brig-Gen Nyi Nyi Aung replaced with BC 29197 Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin Aung
- (b) BC 34165 Col Myint Ko replaced with BC 27472 Col Myo Myint Aung
- (c) BC 28451 Lt-Col Aung Ni replaced with BC 27929 Col Zaw Myint Oo
- (d) BC 25295 Major Zaw Zaw Moe replaced with Air 2084 Col Aung Myo Kyaw

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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- (a) **Mandalay Region Hluttaw**
BC 51322 replaced with BC 38289
Captain Wunna Naing Major Min Thukha Hlaing
- (b) **Rakhine State Hluttaw**
BC 74169 replaced with BC 53764
Captain Lwin Aung Myat Captain Myo Nyunt
- (c) **Yangon Region Hluttaw**
BC 51276 replaced with BC 53884
Captain Wunna Sein Myint Captain Kyaw Thu Naing
- (d) **Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw**
BC 39673 replaced with BC 45049
Major Aung Zaw Htaik Major Zarni Soe

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

4 special civil appeal cases passed judgements, 5 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of U Tha Htay, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Thein Ko Ko, Daw Pyone Pyone Aye, Daw Soe Khet Khet and Daw Thin Thin Cho was convened yesterday morning at Zeyathiri District Court on Chindwin Road in Mingaladipa Ward of Pobbathiri Township, in

Nay Pyi Taw and passed judgements for four special civil appeal cases – Nos: 2/2026 (Mon), 3/2026 (Yangon), 4/2026 (Ayeyawady) and 5/2026 (Yangon).

A total of five special civil appeal cases – Nos: 37/2025 (Mandalay), 56/2025 (Ayeyawady), 6/2026 (Yangon), 7/2026 (Kachin) and 15/2026 (Kayin) were heard. — MNA

Pakokku's For Life Monastery holds free Summer English course graduation, awards ceremony



The free Summer English course graduation and awards ceremony is in progress on 17 May 2026.

A graduation and prize-giving ceremony for a free summer English-speaking course was held on 17 May at the For Life monastery in Pakokku.

At the ceremony, the presiding Sayadaw of the For Life monastery in Pakokku, Bhaddanta Khemacāra, delivered the opening address. On behalf of the judging panel, Daw Hnin Hnin Wai, Founder of Mother Land Language School, explained the scoring rules for the English-speaking skills competition.

Prizes were then awarded to the winners of the speaking competition, including first, second, third and consolation prizes. After the award presentation, trainees performed songs and

dances to entertain the audience in celebration.

The course ran from the first week of March 2026 to 17 May and provided systematic training in listening, speaking, writing and reading skills. A total of 355 trainees attended the course.

According to the presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemacāra, the free summer English-speaking course has been conducted since 2010 and has trained over 30,000 students to date. Around 100 participants have secured employment opportunities abroad, while approximately 20 have taken up positions in basic education schools and universities. — Bamitha (Pakokku)/MKKS

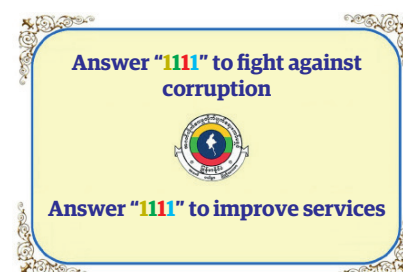
Public Notice

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

NATIONAL

Individuals who serve the State with sacrifice honoured

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo met Tatmadaw members and families of Kalaw Station at the local battalion yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that Tatmadaw is currently conducting operations in cooperation with the people to eliminate and suppress terrorists who have been temporarily exerting control and abusing civilians in the Falam area of Chin State, and are also carrying out reconstruction activities in those regions. Similarly, Tatmadaw has also regained control and reopened key communication routes, including the Myawady-Thinggan-nyinaung-Kawkareik road and the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Hti-gyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina route. In addition, efforts are being made to repair roads and bridges that were destroyed by terrorist insurgents.

Residents have warmly and enthusiastically welcomed Tatmadaw's effective military operations, while Tatmadaw is also

gaining the trust and reliance of the public. Those who have demonstrated exceptional performance and outstanding bravery in battles for the nation, the people, and Tatmadaw are being duly recognized and honoured.

Only when combat capability and power are strong can fighting be successfully won. Hence, each individual must continuously train to develop their skills. The State and Tatmadaw are providing necessary support and implementation measures to enhance combat strength.

In order to maintain good unity within the unit, it is necessary to initiate sound vertical relations between superiors and subordinates. Building unity within the unit is essentially building strength, and it contributes to the development of military capability.

As Kalaw is a region with a pleasant climate and favourable natural conditions, agricultural and livestock activities can be successfully carried out there. Since agriculture and livestock farming are practical activities that yield tangible benefits, priority should be given to both unit-



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo meets Tatmadaw members and their families from Kalaw Station yesterday.

owned and small-scale farming and livestock activities.

People's military servants are bravely and faithfully carrying out the assigned duties in national defence and security responsibilities. Those who serve with sacrifice and dedication are being awarded promotions and decorations for courage and merit. Similarly, war veterans, who serve as reserve forces of Tatmadaw, are cooperating with active personnel and responsibly fulfilling security duties whenever required for the nation. Therefore, it is necessary to fulfil the needs of their family members, including living conditions, food, healthcare, and education.

The General coordinated the

reports of Tatmadaw members and families with officials.

After the meeting, the General and his wife presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families and cash awards to the maternal and child welfare associations through officials.

Also, present at the meeting were Daw Nilar, the wife of the General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Eastern Command and officials.

After the meeting, the General and the party inspect-

ed Nanthida's agriculture and livestock integrated farms of the Eastern Command. The commander reported to the General on the progress in operating agriculture and livestock breeding farms. The General instructed officials to carry out agriculture and livestock farming activities with momentum to initiate the welfare measures for Tatmadaw members and families, and sell surplus products to the departmental personnel and people at fair prices.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the agricultural and livestock activities at the integrated farms and attended to the needs. — MNA/TTA

Defence Services C-in-C comforts patients at Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, together with his wife Daw Nilar, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Eastern Command and officials, yesterday morning visited the Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban, Shan State (South) and comforted Tatmadaw members, their families and people's militia (local) members receiving medical treatment.

The General and party asked the Tatmadaw members, their families and people's militia (local) members



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Ye Win Oo, together with his wife Daw Nilar, and senior Tatmadaw officers, offers comfort and food supplies to patients at the Tatmadaw Hospital in Aungban, southern Shan State.

about suffering from their diseases, receiving medical treatment, and their health condi-

tions. They cordially comforted those patients and presented foodstuffs.

Daw Nilar, the wife of the General, and the party visited the maternal and child medical

ward, gave words of encouragement to patients and presented foodstuffs. — MNA/TTA



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Defence Services Commander-in-Chief inspects repairs of earthquake-affected religious buildings at Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, accompanied by his wife Daw Nilar, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and the commander of Eastern Command, paid homage to Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda at Yadana Sankyaung Chamber in Inlay region of Nyaungshwe Township yesterday afternoon and inspected the progress in repairing the religious edifices damaged by the Mandalay earthquake.

The General donated cash to the fund for the overall renovation of the pagoda. The General and party also paid homage to Abbot of the Sein and Mya Monastery from the pagoda Bhaddanta Vijaya and donated alms.

At the briefing hall, the General heard reports on accomplishments over the guidance given by the Head of State, progress in



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is pictured inspecting repair work on religious edifices damaged by the Mandalay earthquake.

repairs of the earthquake-affected religious buildings and coordinated necessary measures with officials.

The General and party observed the repair of the cracked tiles on the platform of the pagoda, damaged archways, stairs,

the hall of Karaweik decorated float and other religious edifices in their original states and attended to the needs.

The Mandalay earthquake, which struck on 28 March 2025, caused damage to some religious buildings on the platform of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda. Local engineers and experts from the Myanmar Engineering Society coordinated to repair these damaged buildings to their original states. So far, placing the tiles on the platform of the pagoda, repairs of the original building of the pagoda with reinforced concrete, the eastern and the western stairways of the original Sankyaung chamber, the southern stairway and the northern prayer hall, and the hall of Karaweik decorated float have completed by 100 per cent, and the construction of new ladder to the main Sankyaung chamber 80 per cent. At present, pilgrims and people visit there safely and conveniently to pay homage to the pagoda. — MNA/TTA

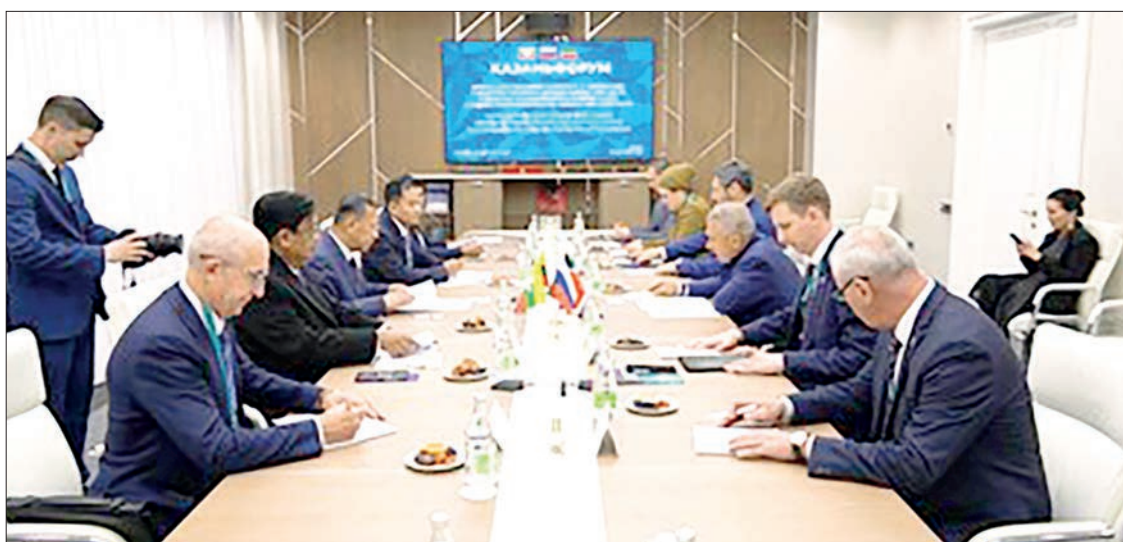
Myanmar delegation attends 17th International Economic Forum and related meetings in Russia

A Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw and Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than, attended the 17th International Economic Forum and related meetings held in Kazan, Tatarstan, the Russian Federation, from 13 to 17 May.

On 13 May, the Union Ministers met Russian Industry and Trade Deputy Minister Mr Roman Chekushov, and discussed matters related to No 1 Steel Factory (Pangpet) and cooperation in the agriculture-based industries development programme and MSME sector.

They also held a discussion with the officials of Tyazhpromexport Co Ltd (TPE) regarding No 1 Steel Factory (Pangpet) on the same evening.

On 14 May, they attended the press conference for the 17th International Economic Forum



Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Charlie Than hold talks with Mr Rustam Minnikhanov, Head of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Russian Federation.

and observed the Kazan Expo International Exhibition Centre.

At noon, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw attended a panel discussion titled “Ensuring Freedom of Economic Activity and Technological Sovereignty in the

Context of the End of the Era of Globalization,” while Union Minister Dr Charlie Than attended another panel discussion titled “Promotion of Russian Products in the Countries of the Islamic World.”

The Union ministers met Mr Rustam Minnikhanov, Head of the Republic of Tatarstan, and discussed developments in petrochemical industries, mechanical engineering, IT, and agriculture in Tatarstan,

strengthening bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, implementation of two LoI signed during Dr KZ Rais’s 2022 visit to Myanmar, including agriculture, trade, and labor deployment to Alabuga SEZ, and further cooperation in economic dialogue and trade promotion.

On 15 May, they met an Omani delegation and discussed cooperation in oil, LNG procurement, and the export of Myanmar agricultural products such as rice, mangoes, coffee, and pulses, and holding mutual economic and trade promotion forums.

They also met officials from Sber Bank to discuss financial transfer systems and cooperation in AI and cybersecurity under Gigachat AI.

The delegation led by two Union ministers arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening. — MNA/KTZH

The Anti-Online Scam Bill

It is published for public review and recommendations. Suggestions and recommendations may be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Anti-Online Scam Law
(The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No ... , 2026)
... Waxing Day of Nayon, 1388 ME
... May 2026

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law.

Chapter I

Title and Jurisdiction

1. This Law shall be called The Anti-Online Scam Law.
2. This Law shall apply to any of the following offences of Anti-Online Scams:
 - (a) an offence committed within the State;
 - (b) an offence committed on a vessel or an aircraft registered under the existing law of the State;
 - (c) an offence committed by a foreigner registration certificate holder who permanently resides in the State or a foreigner who has been granted a permanent residence permit in the State;
 - (d) an offence committed within the National Cyberspace or in any other cyberspace connected to the National Cyberspace;
 - (e) an offence committed by a Myanmar Citizen abroad.

Chapter II

Definitions

3. The following expressions in this Law shall have the meanings given below:
 - (a) State means the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
 - (b) Central Committee means the Central Committee on Monitoring Anti-Online Scam formed by the Union Government under this Law;
 - (c) Regional Committee means the Region, State, or Union Territory Anti-Online Scam Committee formed by the Central Committee;
 - (d) Centre means the Anti-Scam Centre formed by the Central Committee;
 - (e) Ministry means the Ministry of Home Affairs which implements the matters in this Law;
 - (f) Central Bank means the Central Bank of Myanmar;
 - (g) Online Scam means obtaining money or valuable property of any person by deception through telecommunication network using the internet and technology;
 - (h) Data means information that can be stored in various forms within a network or computer system;
 - (i) Bank Account means an account used in a business transactions established between a reporting organization and a customer to use the products and services of any reporting organization. This expression also includes correspondent bank accounts used for direct contact payments for business transactions by a third party, a third-party company, or an organization, either by themselves or on their behalf;
 - (j) Communication Network means the control system and infrastructure connected by wireless, wire-line, optical fibre, satellite communication systems, or any other electromagnetic system for the purpose of electronic transmission, reception, broadcasting, or exchange of text, voice, images, video, or any data. This expression includes public communication networks, private networks, and internet networks;
 - (k) Social Network means an online-based service, website, or software application based on any communication network, through which users can create, upload, exchange their personal data or digital content, and interact with other users;
 - (l) Mobile Financial Services Account means the storage of a monetary value of a customer in their mobile phone by a mobile financial service provider to provide mobile financial services;
 - (m) Telecommunication Operator means operators under the supervision of Directorate of Telecommunications, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications;

- (n) Internet Service Provider (ISP) means a person or an organization that provides digital platform services accessible within the State;
- (o) Mule Account means allowing another person to use, or renting out to another person, one's bank account, electronic wallet (e-wallet), or SIM card, for transferring or concealing money obtained from a crime, or for the money laundering.

Chapter III

Objectives

4. The objectives of this Law are as follows:
 - (a) to coordinate and cooperate with domestic organisations and foreign governments to prevent the State from being used as a base for online scams;
 - (b) to prevent the sovereignty, peace and tranquility of the State from being affected by illegal entry through border areas and committing online scam-related crimes;
 - (c) to identify online scam-related crimes and take action in order to eradicate such crimes;
 - (d) to prevent and protect from loss and damage of the public caused by online scams;
 - (e) to establish a system for information exchange between banks and financial institutions, telecommunication service providers, and relevant government departments and government organisations;
 - (f) to identify and detain foreigners who are illegally present at online scam sites;
 - (g) to seize and manage moveable property, immovable property used in committing online scams, and the benefits derived from committing online scams.

Chapter IV

Formation of the Central Committee and its Functions and Powers

5. The Union Government:
 - (a) shall form the Central Committee on Monitoring Online Anti-Scam as follows:

(i) Union Minister	Chairperson
Ministry of Home Affairs	
(ii) Union Minister	Vice-Chairperson 1
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
(iii) Union Minister	Vice-Chairperson 2
Ministry of Immigration and Population	
(iv) Chairman / Chief Minister	Member
Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region / State Government	
(v) Chairman/ Chairperson	Member
Central Bank of Myanmar	
(vi) Commander	Member
Relevant Regional Military Command	
(vii) Deputy Minister	Member
Ministry of Transport	
(viii) Deputy Minister	Member
Ministry of Digital Development and Communications	
(ix) Deputy Minister	Member
Ministry of Defence	
(x) Deputy Minister	Member
Ministry of Home Affairs	
(xi) Deputy Minister	Member
Ministry of Border Affairs	
(xii) Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General	Member
Ministry of Legal Affairs	
(xiii) Deputy Minister	Member
Ministry of Information	

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- (xiv) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Member
- (xv) Deputy Chief of Military Security Affairs Member
- (xvi) Chief of Police
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs Secretary
- (xvii) Deputy Chief of Police 2
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary 1
- (xviii) Head of Department
Department of Transnational Crime
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary 2
- (xix) Police Commander
Criminal Investigation Department
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary 3
- (b) may re-form the Central Committee, if necessary.
6. The functions and powers of the Central Committee are as follows:
- (a) formulating and prescribing strategies, policies, and procedures for anti-online scam;
- (b) forming necessary committees for anti-online scam and assigning duties thereto;
- (c) coordinating anti-online scam activities among the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Financial Intelligence Unit and other relevant organizations;
- (d) collecting, verifying, and analyzing information on international and domestic online scams networks and distributing such information to relevant organizations;
- (e) directing and supervising the identification and arrest of online scammers and the identification of online scam centres in order to take legal action in accordance with law;
- (f) directing and supervising the effective legal action against online scam leaders who commit human trafficking and forced labour;
- (g) combatting cross-border online scams in cooperation with regional and international responsible organizations including INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL;
- (h) tracing, seizing, and controlling money and assets derived from online scams;
- (i) allocating and managing human resources, technology, and finances required for anti-online scam activities systematically;
- (j) directing and supervising the Regional Committees to seal and seize movable property, immovable property, and benefits derived from the commission of online scams;
- (k) coordinating and cooperating to provide assistance through relevant departments upon receiving complaints from victims of online scams (such as suspension of banking operations and providing mental support);
- (l) blocking and taking down mobile phone numbers, websites, and accounts used for committing online scams in cooperation with telecommunication operators and Internet Service Providers (ISPs);
- (m) formulating and coordinating plans to rescue citizens and foreigners who are forced labour or trapped in online scam centres;
- (n) cooperating with international organizations and embassies for the safe repatriation of rescued persons to their respective countries;
- (o) to provide public awareness of various forms of online scams, risks and preventive measures;
- (p) performing duties related to anti-online scam assigned by the Union Government from time to time.

Chapter V

Formation of Regional Committees

7. The Central Committee:
- (a) shall form the Region or State Online Anti-Scam Committee as follows:
- (i) Chief Minister
Region or State Government Chairperson
- (ii) Minister of Social Affairs
Region or State Government Member
- (iii) Region or State Advocate General
Region or State Government Member
- (iv) Administrator
Region or State General Administration
Department Member
- (v) General Staff
Relevant Regional Military Command Member
- (vi) Region or State Manager
Myanma Posts and Telecommunications Member
- (vii) Director
Member

- Region or State Information and
Public Relations Department
- (viii) Region or State Officer
Ministry of Immigration and Population Member
- (ix) Minister for Security and Border Affairs
Region or State Government Secretary
- (x) Commander of Police Force
Region or State Police Force Joint Secretary
- (b) shall form the Union Territory Anti-Online Scam Committee as follows:
- (i) Chairperson
Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairperson
- (ii) Member 3
Nay Pyi Taw Council Member
- (iii) Administrator
General Administration Department
Nay Pyi Taw Member
- (iv) General Staff
Nay Pyi Taw Command Member
- (v) Director
Prosecution Department
Ministry of Legal Affairs Member
- (vi) Deputy General Manager
Myanma Posts and Telecommunications
Nay Pyi Taw Member
- (vii) Director
Information and Public Relations Department
Nay Pyi Taw Member
- (viii) Union Territory Officer
Ministry of Immigration and Population Member
- (ix) Member 1
Nay Pyi Taw Council Secretary
- (x) Commander of Police Force
Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Joint Secretary
- (c) may re-form the Regional Committee under subsection (a) and subsection (b) if necessary.
8. The functions of the Regional Committee are as follows:
- (a) identifying and combatting online scams until they are eradicated;
- (b) forming and assigning duties to special task forces for the identification and arrest of online scams;
- (c) sealing and seizing movable property, immovable property, and benefits derived from the commission of online scams;
- (d) identifying and detaining foreigners who are present at online scam sites;
- (e) taking effective legal action against offenders in accordance with law;
- (f) performing duties related to anti-online scam assigned by the Central Committee from time to time.

Chapter VI

Formation of the Anti-Scam Centre and its Functions

9. The Central Committee:
- (a) shall form the Anti-Scam Centre as follows:
- (i) Police Commander
Criminal Investigation Department
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs Leader
- (ii) Director
Directorate of Telecommunications
Ministry of Digital Development and
Communications Member
- (iii) Director
Bureau of Special Investigation
Ministry of Home Affairs Member
- (iv) Director
Prosecution Department
Ministry of Legal Affairs Member
- (v) Director
Information and Public Relations Department
Ministry of Information Member
- (vi) Director
Electronic Registration System Department
Ministry of Immigration and Population Member
- (vii) Director
Central Bank of Myanmar Member
- (viii) Head of Department
Communications and Information
Technology Department
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs Member

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- | | |
|--|--------|
| (ix) Director | Member |
| Crime Department, Criminal and
Legal Affairs Division
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs | |
| (x) Deputy Police Commander | Member |
| Anti-Financial Crime Police Force
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs | |
| (xi) Head of Department | Member |
| Technology Department (CID)
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs | |
- (b) may reform the Centre if necessary.
10. The functions and powers of the Centre are as follows:
- designating a 24-hour emergency telephone number (Hotline) so that victims of online scams can report information via telephone;
 - designating and creating emergency telephone numbers, mobile applications, and web applications to enable direct interaction with the public;
 - scrutinizing and verifying reports and complaints received from victims;
 - recording data such as the bank account number of the online scammer, bank name, amount of money transferred, and the time of transfer;
 - examining the received data within the banking system as soon as possible and designating it as an Emergency Case if online scams is identified;
 - applying a Debit Freeze to the bank account of the online scammer within 15 minutes;
 - blocking Mule Accounts and SIM Cards used in committing online scams effectively;
 - suspending the Digital Banking Account of the victim of online scams to prevent further loss of money remaining in the account;
 - systematically prescribing procedures for temporary suspension and inspection of financial flows in order to recover lost money of victim of online scams as soon as possible;
 - tracing bank accounts through which financial transactions flow;
 - forwarding basic information to the nearest police station and coordinating with the victim to file the First Information Report (FIR);
 - coordinating with the relevant bank for the reactivation of suspended bank accounts of victims of online scams;
 - monitoring and identifying, through technological means, mobile phone numbers, websites, links, and forms of financial transactions used in the commission of online scams;
 - scrutinizing and verifying information and document, and forwarding them to use as evidence in activities;
 - issuing warnings and conducting public awareness activities regarding the latest forms of online scams;
 - facilitating legal assistance for victims of online scams and performing counselling and caregiving services;
 - performing duties related to anti-online scam assigned by the Central Committee from time to time.

Chapter VII Prevention

- In relation to the opening of a mobile financial services account through a telecommunication network using a National Registration Card in mobile financial services, mobile financial service providers shall:
 - establish and implement a system to verify and confirm the person opening the mobile financial services account match with the original National Registration Card through an agent of the mobile financial service provider, after fully carry out the Know Your Customer (KYC) process and Customer Due Diligence (CDD) process;
 - not allow the opening of a mobile financial services account if incomplete or suspicious information is found through the KYC procedures, CDD procedures, or the scrutiny of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card under subsection (a).
- Banks and financial institutions shall, if suspicious financial transfers are identified, report the Centre in accordance with the stipulations.
- Where border security forces find unlawful cross-border entry or exit of foreigners by land or water, they shall report the findings to the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Immigration and Population.
- To prevent online scams, the Centre shall:
 - scrutinize and supervise to ensure that there is no sale of bank accounts through telecommunication networks, purchase of bank accounts opened by enticing impoverished persons, or opening of bank accounts or Mobile Pay accounts using forged Citizenship Scrutiny Cards;
 - scrutinize and supervise to ensure that there is no purchase of SIM cards from others to commit financial fraud using technology on telecommunication networks, or step-by-step transfer of money to foreign countries;

- conduct monitoring, intelligence gathering, investigation, and undercover investigation of persons committing financial fraud on telecommunication networks using social networks, websites, and mobile applications;
- enhance technological measures for the investigation and block of accounts found suspicious on social networks;
- cooperate with the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications to take down and block the websites suspected of committing offences.

Chapter VIII Information Exchange

- For the purpose of preventing and suppressing online scam-related offences, the following organisations shall exchange information regarding suspicious accounts, financial flows, and communication data through a Centralized Database:
 - Banks and Financial Institutions;
 - E-payment Service Providers;
 - Telecommunication Operators and Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- Responsible persons from banks and financial institutions shall:
 - immediately report to the Centre if suspicious financial transfers or activities suspected of being related to online scams are identified within their systems;
 - immediately share information if another bank enquiries about a suspicious bank account or financial transfer.
- Telecommunication Operators shall:
 - systematically maintain the data of SIM card subscribers, locations of use, and Call Details Records (CDR);
 - immediately provide the data mentioned in subsection (a) if requested by the Centre.
- Banks and financial institutions, e-payment service providers, telecommunication operators, and Internet Service Provider (ISP) shall use the exchanged information only for the prevention and suppression of online scam crimes, and shall maintain such information securely in accordance with personal data protection standards.

Chapter IX

Temporary Suspension of Financial Flow and Taking Action

- A victim of online scams may, after becoming aware of financial transfer, inform the relevant bank and financial institution as soon as possible and request to temporarily suspend the financial transfer.
- Upon receiving the information under Section 19, the bank and financial institution shall immediately perform temporary suspension of the suspicious bank account for a period not exceeding 72 hours.
- Responsible persons from banks and financial institutions shall:
 - immediately perform the suspension of financial transfers upon receiving a notification from the Centre or a government department or a government organization regarding an online scam-related offence under this Law;
 - ensure that money in the bank account of the victim of online scams are not transferred due to failure or delay in suspension of the financial transfer.
- Within 24 hours after informing the bank under Section 19, the victim of online scams may report the details of the scamming event to the Centre either in person or through the Online Complaint Portal.
- The Centre shall:
 - if the complaint is verified as correct after scrutiny, facilitate the victim of the online scam to file the First Information Report (FIR) at the relevant police station;
 - inform the banks and financial institutions of the Case Identifier (Case ID) to enable tracing of the financial flow;
 - record, investigate, and take down and block the websites, social networks, bank account, mobile payment account, and telephone numbers from the reported information on online scams to prevent further commission of offences;
 - investigate the step-by-step flow paths of the money lost by the victim and block them in time;
 - exchange information through direct contact with ASEANAPOL and INTERPOL, and submit proposals to the Central Committee to prohibit and prevent cross-border financial flows;
 - coordinate with relevant countries in accordance with the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law to recover money obtained through online scams, that is in foreign banks.
- Upon receiving a complaint regarding online scams, the relevant police station shall:
 - immediately register the First Information Report (FIR) as soon as the information forwarded by the Centre is received;
 - submit a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) to the Centre within two hours;
 - make a request to the Centre for further necessary information regarding the case;

SEE PAGE 10

OPINION

Raise public awareness for immunization and vaccination

PEOPLE around the world have been experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic up to the present day since 2019. While enduring the spread of the disease, efforts were made to develop vaccines. Now, once again, in relation to the outbreak of a newly emerging hantavirus infection for which there is no vaccine yet, preventive measures must be taken in advance before it occurs.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Health has been providing expanded vaccination coverage for 13 diseases, including diphtheria, pertussis, measles, and tetanus, starting from early childhood, in line with other countries around the world, thereby protecting each generation against these diseases.

The government has been procuring vaccines and related supplies through different mechanisms, including full funding from the state budget and cost-sharing arrangements between the government and international health organizations such as the World Health Organization. Each year, approximately US\$10 million in public foreign exchange is spent, and vaccination programmes are being implemented with a strong emphasis on ensuring nationwide coverage.

responsible authorities in implementing vaccination programmes.

In Myanmar, healthcare workers, volunteers, relevant departments, and people have been cooperating effectively, and vaccination activities are being carried out at an accelerated pace. As a result, there have been no large-scale outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in the country.

The government has been procuring vaccines and related supplies through different mechanisms, including full funding from the state budget and cost-sharing arrangements between the government and international health organizations such as the World Health Organization. Each year, approximately US\$10 million in public foreign exchange is spent, and vaccination programmes are being implemented with a strong emphasis on ensuring nationwide coverage.

Therefore, in order to promote the long and healthy lives of the public, increase life expectancy, and ensure the health and well-being of future generations, preventive vaccination measures are highly beneficial, as they help prevent diseases before they occur. The government places strong emphasis on providing healthcare services for the public and encourages the entire community, together with relevant health organizations, to actively participate in these efforts.

EDUCATION is one of the most important foundations in human life. It plays a vital role in improving a person's standard of living, shaping correct ways of thinking, and building a better future. Education is not only beneficial for individuals but also for families, communities, and the nation as a whole. A country with educated citizens is usually more developed, peaceful, and successful. Therefore, education is considered the backbone of national development and social progress.

When people receive education, they gain knowledge, wisdom, and confidence. Education helps people understand the world around them and teaches them how to solve problems in daily life. Educated people can think critically, make wise decisions, and communicate effectively with others. They can distinguish right from wrong and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society. Without education, people may struggle to improve their lives or understand important social issues.

Education also creates opportunities for better employment and higher income. In today's modern world, knowledge and skills are essential in almost every profession. People who are educated have more chances to get good jobs, support their families, and enjoy better living conditions. Vocational education, technical training, and higher education prepare people for different careers and industries. Skilled workers, engineers, doctors, teachers, scientists, and business leaders all depend on education to perform their duties effectively. Therefore, education

IN the modern world, job interviews are found to be the most common culture of most workplaces. Before a person goes into a work domain, he or she often gets interviewed, especially about whether they have previous work experience, qualifications and so on. To be honest, it is natural if a white-collar or blue-collar worker is interviewed by respective people, simply because a job interview may be the precursor of manual and non-manual workers who will probably dedicate themselves to their work from the employer's point of view. On the other hand, job interviews can be the greatest barrier to hopeful successors at

A Brighter Future Through Education

By Junior Thin

is directly connected to economic growth and national prosperity.

Another important benefit of education is the development of personal character and moral values. Schools do not only teach academic subjects; they also teach discipline, honesty, respect, responsibility, and cooperation. Students learn how to work together, help others, and respect different opinions and cultures. Education encourages kindness, sympathy, and understanding among people. These qualities are necessary for building peaceful communities and reducing conflicts in society.

Education improves communication skills and language abilities. Through learning languages, reading books, writing essays, and participating in discussions, students become better communicators. Good communication skills help people express their thoughts clearly and confidently. In the modern world, English has become an international language used in business, science, tech-

work in the future. Hence, preparing for a job interview has always become an absolute must for all expectant workers. So, how on earth should a job interview be well prepared by any amateur? This is as follows:

First, we should research the company, which means that we have to find out what the company does and what matters to them. Additionally, the fact that the company where we will apply for a job puts goods, services, or both first should be noticed. As far as I know, most companies all around the world tend to give service rather than goods first. To undertake company research, we

nology, education, and diplomacy. Therefore, learning English and other languages through education can open doors to international opportunities and global communication.

In addition, education plays an important role in technological advancement and innovation. Scientific discoveries, medical improvements, engineering projects, and digital technology are all results of education and research. Educated people create new inventions and solve modern problems. Information technology, artificial intelligence, and scientific research continue to improve human life because of educated minds. Countries that invest heavily in education often become leaders in science, technology, and economic development.

Education is also essential for improving healthcare and public well-being. Educated people usually understand the importance of hygiene, nutrition, exercise, and disease prevention. They are more



likely to follow healthy lifestyles and make informed medical decisions. Education helps people understand health information, avoid harmful habits, and protect themselves from diseases. As a result, educated societies often have lower illness rates and longer life expectancy.

Another positive impact of education is poverty reduction. Poverty is one of the greatest challenges faced by many countries. Education provides people with the skills and knowledge needed to escape poverty. When individuals receive education, they gain opportunities for employment and financial stability. Educated parents are also more likely to provide better care, nutrition, and education for their children. In this way, education helps break the cycle of poverty across generations.

Education strengthens democracy and responsible citizenship. Educated citizens are more aware of their rights and responsibilities. They are better

able to participate in elections, understand laws, and contribute to national discussions. Education promotes fairness, equality, and justice by encouraging people to think independently and respect human rights. A well-educated population helps create stable governments and peaceful societies.

Moreover, education encourages lifelong learning and personal growth. Learning does not stop after school or university. Educated people continue seeking knowledge throughout their lives. They read books, explore new ideas, develop new skills, and adapt to changing situations. In today's rapidly changing world, lifelong learning is very important because technology and society continue to evolve. Education gives people the ability to adapt successfully to these changes.

Education is especially important for children and young people because it shapes their future. Schools provide students

with opportunities to discover their talents, interests, and goals. Teachers guide students toward becoming productive and responsible adults. Through education, children develop creativity, leadership skills, teamwork, and confidence. They learn to dream big and work hard to achieve success in life.

Teachers play a significant role in the educational process. They are not only instructors but also role models and mentors. Good teachers inspire students, encourage curiosity, and motivate them to overcome difficulties. Teachers help students understand the value of hard work, discipline, and honesty. The guidance and dedication of teachers greatly influence the future of individuals and society.

Parents also have an important responsibility in supporting education. Parents who encourage learning and value education create positive environments for their children. They help children

develop good study habits, discipline, and confidence. Cooperation between parents, teachers, and schools is essential for students' success. A strong educational foundation begins at home and continues in the classroom.

Furthermore, education promotes equality and social harmony. It provides opportunities for both men and women, rich and poor, urban and rural populations. Equal access to education helps reduce social inequalities and discrimination. When all people receive educational opportunities, society becomes fairer and more united. Education empowers women, improves gender equality, and supports the protection of human rights.

Education also contributes to environmental awareness and sustainable development. Educated people understand the importance of protecting nature, conserving resources, and reducing pollution. They become more aware of climate change, environmental problems, and sustainable living practices. Through education, future generations can learn how to care for the Earth and preserve natural resources for future generations.

In many countries, governments invest greatly in education because it is the key to national progress. Scholarships, free textbooks, school supplies, and improved educational systems are provided to support students. Universities, technical institutes, and vocational schools prepare young people for future careers. Educational policies and reforms aim to improve learning opportunities and raise educational standards.

In the modern era, digital ed-

ucation and online learning have become increasingly important. Technology allows students to access information from anywhere in the world. Online classes, educational videos, digital libraries, and virtual communication have made learning more convenient and accessible. Especially during global crises such as pandemics, online education has helped students continue learning without interruption.

However, education should not only focus on academic achievement. True education also develops creativity, emotional intelligence, problem-solving skills, and moral character. Students should learn not only how to succeed personally but also how to serve society and help others. Education should produce compassionate, responsible, and innovative citizens who contribute positively to humanity.

In brief, education is the foundation of individual success, social progress, and national development. It improves knowledge, skills, morality, health, communication, and economic opportunities. Education reduces poverty, strengthens democracy, promotes equality, and encourages innovation. It opens doors to brighter futures and helps people overcome life's challenges. A renowned person once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Therefore, everyone should value education, support educational opportunities, and continue learning throughout life. By investing in education today, we can build a more peaceful, prosperous, and successful world for future generations.

Preparing for a Job Interview

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

to the job interview. For interview questions, we ought to study the job description and think about what the company is looking for. Does the company importantly or urgently demand an employee's professional expertise or physical appearance, and the number of blue-collar or white-collar employees? And we must use authentic examples so as to make our answers clear and persuasive.

Thirdly, it is very important to

us that we practise our language. Never think it is unimportant at all. Speaking, also a communication skill, is essential for almost all jobs of today, in that an able speaker is mostly liked by many interviewers, assuming that he can also work in accordance with his oral commitment and job requirements to some extent. Thus, we are required to practise useful interview language such as positive adjectives, action verbs, and

key terms in our respective fields, as in the example 'I am experienced in conducting multi-sensory learning for children in SENDs (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)'. As a matter of fact, we will also have to check the pronunciation of important words, the company's name and the interviewers' names. To do this, we can try our answers loud or doing a practice interview.

Fourthly, we can even prepare our own questions. That is, we may prepare a few questions

to ask at the end of a job interview, for instance, about the challenges of the role, the next step in the process, or training opportunities. In my opinion, such a question-and-answer session in a job interview will hardly ever happen. Several companies like to express no interest towards an interviewee's subjective questions most of the time, I should believe. But, if possible, we can make at most one or two questions of our own before a job interview. Nonetheless, this shows interest and helps us to decide if the job is right for us.

At last, we will need to get the practical details right. We must choose what to wear, bring what

we need and plan to arrive early. If hair is said to be the second face of a person, then clothing will become his third face automatically. An interviewee's clothing style and colour choice tell a lot about them. Do not be too out of date or too trendy. According to the applied job and the physique, it is OK if clothes fit and suit us. Also, we ought to take our educational transcription and other related evidence, just in case. For online interviews, make sure that we check our camera, sound and surroundings. Getting these details right can help us feel calm, prepared and ready to do our best. The best of luck with our jobs!

NATIONAL

FROM PAGE 7

- (d) submit the information and document verified by the Centre to the relevant court as an expert opinion.
25. If the victim of online scams does not file the First Information Report (FIR) within the period of temporary suspension under Section 20, the relevant bank shall reactivate the temporarily suspended bank account.
26. Banks and financial institutions shall, if irregular financial flows or financial transfers suspected of being online scams are identified within their systems, temporarily suspend such bank accounts without waiting for a complaint from a relevant government department, government organization, or a victim of online scams.
27. If a temporary suspension is performed under Section 26, it shall be reported to the Centre immediately.
28. Upon receiving a report from a bank or financial institution, the Centre shall scrutinize the case and, if necessary, inform and coordinate with the Central Bank and relevant government departments or organizations to continue the suspension of the bank account or to seize records related to that bank account.

Chapter X International Cooperation

29. The Centre may, in relation to online scam-related offences, carry out the following matters in cooperation with foreign countries, INTERPOL, and ASEANAPOL with the approval of the Central Committee:
- exchanging information to investigate cross-border online scams;
 - extradition of offenders and joint investigation;
 - rescuing foreigners subjected to forced labour in online scam centres and repatriating them to their respective countries, taking prompt legal action in accordance with the law against foreigners arrested for illegal entry into the State and performing deportation and transfer in accordance with the stipulations;
 - cooperating in matters related to online scam technologies and capacity building.
30. The Centre shall implement international cooperation agreements in relation to the investigation of online scams or the collection of evidence.

Chapter XI Prohibitions

31. No one shall disseminate or send incorrect data through a telecommunication network to any person for the purpose of committing online scams.
32. No one shall obtain the personal data, image, photograph, or accounts of another person and impersonate that person to request or obtain money or property.
33. No one shall impersonate a bank, telecommunication operator, or public servant to fraudulently obtain or steal another person's bank account number, mobile wallet, or One Time Password (OTP) using electronic communication technology.
34. No one shall register a SIM card with incorrect data, use such SIM card to obtain a bank account number, or trade bank account numbers where the owner's name and data are incorrect for the purpose of committing online scams.
35. No one shall transfer, keep, or launder money through his or her bank account knowing or having reason to believe that such money was obtained from the commission of online scams.
36. No one shall create, disseminate, or sell software, malware, or links for use in online scams.
37. No telecommunication operator or Internet Service Provider (ISP) shall fail to take down a website knowing or having reason to believe that it is online scams website.
38. No responsible person from a bank or financial institution shall fail to examine a suspicious financial transfer or fail to report it to the Centre.
39. No one shall allow another person to use, sell, or rent a SIM card registered with his or her name for the purpose of committing online scams.
40. (a) No responsible person from a telecommunication operator shall:
- provide services to unregistered SIM cards or SIM cards with incomplete data;
 - allow the use of SIM cards suspected of being used in online scams, or SIM cards with exceptionally high frequency of calls per day;
 - without reasonable cause, refuse or delay to provide data when requesting it lawfully or to follow an instruction to block suspicious SIM cards related to online scams.
- (b) No employee from a telecommunication operator shall dishonestly transfer the personal data of a SIM card subscriber to another person knowing or having reason to believe that online scams may be committed.
41. No one shall permit the withdrawal of money or destroy, conceal, or transfer any evidence, knowing or having reason to believe that online scams has been committed.
42. No one shall sell or rent his or her bank account or mobile wallet, knowing or having reason to believe that it would be used to commit online scams.
43. No responsible person from internet service provider, bank, financial institution, or telecommunication operator shall sell or transfer the personal data of any service user to an online scammer.

44. No one shall open online scams Centre.
45. No one shall commit a crypto scam.
46. No one shall recruit or lead persons for the purpose of committing online scams.
47. No one shall commit violence, torture, unlawfully arrest or detain, or treat any person in a cruel manner.
48. No one shall:
- organize, persuade or induce any person unlawfully, exploit their labour and compel any person to work against their will;
 - commit online scams involving human trafficking.
49. No one shall cause the suspension of another person's bank account by making a false complaint to cause harm to that person.
50. No one shall attempt, abet, or conspire to commit any offences under this Law.

Chapter XII Offences

51. Whoever violates any prohibitions of Sections 31, 34, 35, or 49 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of one year to a maximum of three years and also be liable to a fine from a minimum of K10 million to a maximum of K50 million.
52. Whoever violates any prohibitions of Sections 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, or 43, shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of three years to a maximum of seven years and also be liable to a fine from a minimum of K50 million to a maximum of K100 million.
53. Whoever violates any prohibitions of Sections 44, 45, 46 or 48 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of ten years to a maximum of imprisonment for life and may also be liable to fine.
54. Whoever violates any prohibitions of Section 47 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of ten years to a maximum of imprisonment for life or with death and shall also be liable to fine. If committing such offence cause of death to any person, the death penalty shall be imposed.
55. Whoever violates any prohibitions of Section 50 shall, on conviction, be punished with punishment prescribed for the relevant offence.
56. The court shall pass any of the following orders when convicting under this Law:
- destruction of the exhibits used in committing an offence;
 - confiscation or destruction of any property related to an offence or returning such property to the entitled person or otherwise disposing it;
 - confiscation of money or property derived from an offence or returning it to the entitled person or disposing it in accordance with the stipulations.

Chapter XIII Miscellaneous

57. From the date on which this Law comes into force, the Central Bank, private banks, telecommunication operators, and Internet Service Provider (ISP) shall:
- connect their systems with the network and digital systems of the Centre through Application Programming Interface (API);
 - bear the costs related to the installation of Automatic Systems, and the construction and maintenance of necessary infrastructure.
58. The Centre shall establish a system for real-time monitoring of suspicious financial transactions, use of SIM Card, and Internet Protocol Address.
59. In relation to the establishment of a Centralized Database:
- measures shall be taken to build a Unified Dashboard that enables immediate awareness of Cyber Crime event committed throughout the country using computers and the internet;
 - measures shall be taken to build a system Real-time Feed that systematically collects phone numbers, IP addresses, bank account numbers, Identity Documents (ID) issued by any government department or government organization, and International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers of online scammers, and provides such data to Internet Service Providers and banks in real-time.
60. No criminal or civil action shall be taken in any court against a responsible person from a bank or financial institution who temporarily suspends a bank account related to any offence under this Law.
61. When prosecuting under this Law, prior sanction of the Central Committee or Regional Committee authorized by the Central Committee shall be obtained.
62. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other existing law, any person who commits any offence related to this Law shall have action taken against him or her only under this Law.
63. In implementing the provisions of this Law:
- the Ministry may, with the approval of the Union Government, issue necessary rules, regulations, and bye-laws;
 - the Central Committee and the Ministry may issue necessary notifications, orders, directives, and procedures.



NATIONAL

Insignia, honours awarded to Batch 2/2024 People's Military Service graduates

THE 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stipulates that every citizen has the duty to undergo military training and defend the State. Those from Batch 2/2024, who voluntarily enlisted under the People's Military Service Law and dutifully carried out national defence and regional security responsibilities in accordance with the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, have now completed their designated service period.

Ceremonies to award certificates of completion, People's Military Service medals, and honorary certificates to those who successfully fulfilled their duties were held yesterday at various military commands. These events were attended by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Chief Ministers of the regions and states, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders, departmental officials, members of the security forces who had completed their military service, and their families.



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Central Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Htay and officials frankly greet graduates of the People's Military Service Training 2 and their families.

At the ceremonies, the chief ministers and commanders delivered congratulatory speeches. Then, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Chief Ministers of the regions and states, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders, departmental officials, members of the security forces who had completed their military service, and their families.

with certificates of completion, insignia of people's military service, and certificates of honour. This was followed by tea receptions and lunches hosted by the respective authorities.

Those who had completed their military service demonstrated loyalty to the State through their conduct. They were

recognized for their exemplary performance, discipline and selfless service. Throughout their service, the State and Tatmadaw systematically provided them with salaries, food, benefits and other necessary support.

Civil servants who have completed their military service may, if they so wish, continue serving

in Tatmadaw. Those employed in companies will be reinstated to their previous positions or appointed to similar roles, with appropriate benefits granted by the State. Employment Management Committee on Military Veterans will assist former service personnel in obtaining employment opportunities, vocational training, government jobs, and domestic or overseas company positions in cooperation with relevant ministries, the UMFCCI and overseas employment agencies.

Moreover, some individuals have voluntarily chosen to continue serving in Tatmadaw, motivated by a desire to contribute further to the defence and security of the State.

These ceremonies, held to honour citizens who have faithfully served their country, represent a meaningful recognition of their contributions. They mark a significant milestone reflecting the mutual trust and responsibility between the State and its people, and serve as a positive example for current personnel, trainees, and the younger generation. — MNA/KTZH

Mya Sein Yaung funds delivered to 2 Shwedaung villages



A ceremony to disburse funds is underway yesterday.

THE Shwedaung Township Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed Mya Sein Yaung project revolving funds totalling K44.3 million to residents at Inpingon Village in Shwedaung Township, Bago Region, yesterday morning.

The project aims to enable rural residents to expand their family income-generating activities and implement village development tasks using the accumulated interest funds. During the ceremony, Shwedaung Township Rural Development

Department Head U Aung Khaing Zaw explained the core objectives of the disbursement of the Mya Sein Yaung project.

Subsequently, project officers and staff clarified the project guidelines, interest rates, repayment periods, and regulations. They then transferred the revolving fund of K44.3 million to the members of the village project committees.

Under the field supervision of the Shwedaung Township Rural Development Department, the project committee members then distributed funds at low interest rates directly to 110 villagers from Inpingon and Myaukgon villages who will engage in agriculture, livestock breeding, and trading. — Karyan Cho

MRCS ramps up quake relief, rehabilitation in Sagaing

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society is reportedly accelerating earthquake relief and rehabilitation operations in Sagaing, Sagaing Region.

At the Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Operations Office (Sagaing Branch) in Sagaing, Professor Dr Tin Maung Hlaing, Executive Member of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, together with his team, met Red Cross vol-

unteers carrying out rehabilitation work. During the meeting, they discussed ongoing operations and also inspected preparations being made to store relief supplies at the Red Cross warehouse.

In addition, the team visited a mobile clinic opened in Magyigon Village, where they observed the provision of primary healthcare services to residents. — ASH/MKKS

Officials from the Myanmar Red Cross Society observing the provision of primary healthcare services to residents at the mobile clinic opened in Magyigon Village.



NATIONAL

Over 13,000 illegal foreigners deported in Myawady online scam crackdown

THE Government of Myanmar is systematically identifying, investigating and deporting foreign nationals who entered and stayed illegally in border areas and were involved in criminal activities, including online gambling and online fraud operations, in accordance with existing laws and procedures, and transferring them to the relevant countries.

During these deportation operations, authorities recently identified and detained an additional Chinese national who had illegally entered a site near Myawady in Kayin State through unlawful routes after transiting

through Thailand and certain neighbouring countries. The individual was subsequently investigated for deportation.

From 30 January 2025 to 18 May 2026, a total of 14,658 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township were detained. Investigations into all detainees have been completed, and among them, 13,422 individuals have been systematically deported to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures.

Of the remaining 1,236 foreign nationals awaiting transfer, 766 have been prosecuted under Section 3(1)/13(1) of Myanmar's

Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The remaining 470 foreign nationals are ready to be transferred to the relevant countries and are being properly accommodated and cared for.

The Government is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries as well as international organizations to identify, arrest and take effective legal action against those involved in online scam centre operations, including foreign masterminds behind such activities. In addition, effective coordination is being carried out to



Immigration procedures are underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

ensure the swift repatriation of foreign nationals facing hardship for various reasons, including victims of human trafficking, to their respective countries, according to reports. — MNA/KNN

Air Quality Measurements in Yangon on 17 May

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

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

Air Quality Index - AQI

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

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

Environmental Conservation Department

'Tokyo Before/After' photo exhibition continues in Yangon

ORGANIZED by the Japan Foundation, Yangon (JFYG), a two-week Japan photo exhibition called Tokyo Before and After has been in progress in Yangon.

The artworks were created during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and images of Tokyo photographed in 1930 and 1940, and after 2010, are displayed together.

Visitors can enjoy it at the Gallery Ohmar, which is a beautifully designed multi-level building located in Yangon, from 17 to 30 May.

JFYG said it hopes visitors can see that

Tokyo is a big urban life with diverse faces that photographers are revealing through their ideas.

Admission fee is K5,000, visitors can visit the exhibition between 10 am and 5 pm during opening days except Monday and Tuesday, at the Gallery Ohmar located on the Dhammayon Road in Hline Township, Yangon.

Japanese language schools and other organizations can send enquiries about free admission to contact the JFYG Arts and Culture Team through 09 893787506, 01 430920, and 01 430921 or email artsandculture.jfyg@jpf.go.jp. — MT/ZS

Moderate earthquake hits Kyauktan in Yangon Region

ACCORDING to the announcement of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, at 8 am on 18 May, an earthquake of magnitude 5.2 occurred, centred about nine miles south of Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region.

Similarly, another quake of magnitude 2.7 hit at 11:06 am, centred 58 miles east of Yangon and 39 miles west of Mawlamyine.

"This morning's earthquake is connected with the Yangon-Mottama Sea, the southern part of the Sagaing Fault. The consecutive M4-M5-level earthquakes during 17-18 May indicate that stress adjustments and releases continue along the southern offshore fault zones. It remains necessary to continue monitoring," said an official from the AI Info Team.

Many people felt it strongly in Yangon, and a few buildings may be damaged. Recommended actions include: do not use elevators; stay away from buildings, power poles, and trees; immediately turn off gas/electricity; and listen to the news, radio, or trusted media.

"If another one strikes, respond as follows: If indoors, Drop, Cover, and Hold On. If outdoors, move to an open field. Do not believe rumours; only listen to official announcements," advised an earthquake expert.

Additionally, the DMH has announced that at 12:31 pm on the same day, a minor earthquake of magnitude 3.5 was recorded, centring approximately 57 miles southeast of the Haka station. — Htun Htun/ZN



Yangon apartment residents are seen on the streets following the quake on 18 May.

Rio Grande Coffee to conduct Barista Course on 25 May

RIO Grande Coffee will offer a Barista professional course on 25-29 May (10 am to 5 pm), to equip trainees with the technical skills and industry knowledge required.

The course will cover Module 1 (Coffee history & general knowledge), Module 2 (Coffee processing Generalist, including Natural Dried Process, Washed Process, Honey Process (Black Honey, Brown Honey, Yellow Honey), processes cupping), Module 3 (Coffee Roasting including Light Roast, Medium Roast, Dark Roast. Roast level cupping and understanding of roasting defect or not), Module 4 (Green Coffee Defect (Understanding Green bean defect on cup quality), Module 5 (Sensory Skills Practice with le nuz du café, Understanding SCA flavour wheel), Module 6 (Brewing skills including Coffee extraction, Water temperature control, Brewing time and water ratio, Grind size effect on coffee, Module 7 (Barista Skills including Perfect espresso, Type of milk for coffee, Making milk foam temperature, Basic latte art, Hot Coffee (Americano, Latte, Cappuccino, Moka, Macchiato), Iced Coffee (Espresso, Americano, Latte, Cappuccino, Moka, Macchiato, Passion Espresso) and Fruit Juice, Soda, frappe, Smoothies, Milkshake, Advance espresso and Coffee grinder adjustment), Module 8 (Counter management, Espresso machine set up), Module 9 (Customer Service for Barista, Complain handling), Module 10 (Cost control for menu) and Module 11 (Hygiene, Personal hygiene and Food Hygiene), by trainer U Maung Maung Min Zin, Q Arabica Grader (CQI), Q Processing Professional (CQI), Chairman of Yangon Cluster (Myanmar Coffee Association), Cupping Competition Judge (Myanmar Coffee Association), Founder (Rio Grande Coffee Roaster & Flavour Specialty Coffee).

The course fee is K950,000. Those trainees who passed both written and practical exams will receive a certificate. Individuals can enquire for further details through SMS (Viber, Messenger). The number of trainees is limited. Therefore, early registration is advised. Interested individuals can enquire details at Flavour Speciality Coffee, located at 117, 38th Street, between Maha Bandoola Road and Merchant Road at 09 250848637 and 09 43093313, or email: riograndecoffeemyanmar@gmail.com. — NN/KK

DUHD invites developers for public rental housing infrastructure projects



This photo shows an aerial drone view of the DUHD housing units.

THE Department of Urban and Housing Department (DUHD) under the Ministry of Construction invited interested domestic entrepreneurs to carry out infrastructure development at public rental housing in Yangon Region, under the fund of regional

Capital Expenditure for the 2026-2027 Financial Year.

Tender application forms will be available at the DUHD Director's Office in Yangon Region, located at 228/234 in Bogyoke Aung San Road, by 29 May. The deadline for submission of

tender applications is 3 pm on June 1. Interested individuals can enquire for tender forms and further information by dialling 01 387262 or 09 699998814, according to the Tender Accepting and Evaluation Committee. — NN/KK

Urea fertilizer reference price edges up in May

UREA fertilizer reference price for May indicated a sharp increase of K63,000 per bag compared to last month's price, according to Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA).

The reference prices set in January-April 2026 were stable at K94,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), and K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Di Ammonium Phosphate.

The reference price for Urea fertilizer (large granular) is set at K157,000 per 50-kilogramme bag in May, while the price of Di Ammonium Phosphate stays the same at K115,000 per bag.

The prices may vary a bit depending on transport charges in other regions and states, as the aforementioned



A farmer is seen applying fertilizer to the field.

prices are set for the Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced as per rules

and regulations. For overcharging, consumers can complain to the committee through contact numbers 067 410032 and 09 988539360. MFSPEA has already asked the member companies to stick to the reference prices.

At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 12,297 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 43rd meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 2,088 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,867 registrations for expiration of validity, and 7,342 registrations are still under processing. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 18 May 2026

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, construction materials, animal feed, and consumer goods. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$2.34 million to the edible oil sector and US\$0.03 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,665.10~3,668.00	558~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,265,370.48	14,995,508.09	47,209,199.09	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Iran says US sent “revised” points despite rejection of peace plan



Vessels are seen anchored in the Strait of Hormuz, off the port city of Khasab on Oman's northern Musandam Peninsula on 17 May 2026. PHOTO: AFP

DESPITE publicly rejecting Tehran's 14-point peace proposal, the United States has sent a set of “revised” points and considerations to Iran through Pakistan, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said Monday.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, Baghaei said the negotiation between the two sides remained ongoing.

“After Iran sent its 14-point (proposed) plan (to the United States through Pakistan), the US side conveyed its considerations. We also presented our considerations in return. Although the American side publicly announced that this plan was rejected, we received

from the Pakistani mediator a set of revised points and considerations from their (the Americans’) point of view,” Baghaei said.

Baghaei emphasized that Iran will certainly not negotiate or compromise on its rights, saying that the country's right to uranium enrichment has been recognized under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and does not need to be recognized by other parties.

Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, Baghaei said Iran has always made considerable efforts to ensure safe maritime traffic through the waterway and continues to emphasize the need for

secure passage through the strait.

Given that the Strait of Hormuz is located in the territorial waters of Iran and Oman, the two coastal countries consider themselves duty-bound to implement the necessary measures to assure all countries of safe traffic, he added.

He blamed the “law-breaking” by the United States and Israel for the present circumstances of the Strait of Hormuz, saying their attacks on Iran caused the country to adopt a set of measures under international law to defend national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. — Xinhua

Top DPRK leader calls for strengthening first-line units in southern border

THE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has called for strengthening the first-line units in the southern border and turning the border line into an “impregnable fortress”, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Monday.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, made the remarks at a meeting of commanding officers from divisions and brigades of the entire army on Sunday.

During the meeting, Kim outlined a policy to readjust the training system and intensify practical training in line with the changing aspects of modern warfare and the development trend of the country's armed forces, the KCNA report said. — Xinhua

Saudi Arabia intercepts 3 drones entering its airspace from Iraq

THE Saudi Ministry of Defence announced Sunday the interception of three drones after they entered the kingdom's airspace from Iraq.

The ministry's official spokesperson, Brig-Gen Turki Al-Maliki, said on social media platform X that the ministry reserves the right to respond at the appropriate time and place.

He noted that it will take and implement all necessary operational measures to respond to any attempted attack targeting the kingdom's sovereignty, security, and the safety of its citizens and residents.

The Saudi ministry had announced in recent months the interception and destruction of a number of drones that entered the kingdom's airspace. The region has witnessed instability amid the conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. — Xinhua

Belarus begins drills of units for use of nuclear weapons, support - Defence Ministry

MILITARY units of Belarus for the combat use of nuclear weapons and nuclear support have started military drills, the Belarusian Defence Ministry said on Monday.

“Today, in the interests of increasing the readiness of the armed forces for the use of modern weapons, in-

cluding special ammunition, training of military units for the combat use of nuclear weapons and nuclear support has begun under the leadership of the chief of the General Staff of the armed forces,” the ministry wrote on Telegram.

The purpose of the training is to

improve the level of training of personnel, check the readiness of weapons and military equipment to perform tasks and organize combat use from unplanned areas, the statement read.

The drills are planned and are not directed against third countries, the ministry added. — SPUTNIK

IAEA chief calls for maximum military restraint near nuclear power plant

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief expressed “grave concern” over the Sunday drone strike which caused a fire near the Barakah nuclear plant in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), calling for maximum restraint to avoid a nuclear accident.

Radiation levels at the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant remain normal and there were no injuries reported, the IAEA said on social platform X citing information from the UAE.

The drone strike caused a fire in an electrical generator outside the inner perimeter of the plant, according to the IAEA. Emergen-

cy diesel generators are currently powering the plant's unit 3.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi said military activity that threatens nuclear safety is unacceptable. He called for maximum military restraint near any nuclear power plant to avoid the danger of a nuclear accident. — Xinhua

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Grossi delivers a speech during the 69th General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna, Austria, 15 September 2025. PHOTO:



SPORTS



Myanmar sails into semifinal at 2026 ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup

THE final day of the group stage and the quarterfinal matches of the 2026 ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup were held on 18 May in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In the quadrant event, the Myanmar team defeated the strong Thai team in the quarterfinals and advanced

to the semifinals.

In the last group match, Myanmar beat China 2-0 and advanced to the quarterfinal. In playing against Thailand in the quarterfinal match, Myanmar secured a win in the first match with 17-16 and lost to Thailand with 6-15 in the sec-

ond match. In the third match, Myanmar won over Thailand with a 15-12 result.

Semifinal matches will be held on 19 May (today) when Myanmar will face India. Host Malaysia will play against Vietnam in another semifinal match. — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA



Images show players, including the Myanmar team, in intense action during the quarterfinal matches of the 2026 ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup. PHOTO: ISTAF

Myanmar para swimmer Nyi Nyi Lin Htet set for World Championships appearance

SWIMMER Nyi Nyi Lin Htet from the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation will compete in the World Championships, Para Swimming World Series Fuji-Shizuoka 2026, to be held in Shizuoka, Japan, from 26 to 31 May 2026.

Nyi Nyi Lin Htet, along with Myanmar Paralympic Sports

Federation Administrator Dr Lawha Aung, will compete in the 50-metre breaststroke, 50-metre freestyle, 100-metre freestyle and 200-metre freestyle events. — Bala/MKKS

Myanmar para swimmer Nyi Nyi Lin Htet.



Sinner wins Italian Open to complete Career Golden Masters

WORLD No 1 Jannik Sinner defeated 23rd seed Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4 in one hour and 45 minutes in the men's singles final at the Italian Open on Sunday, capturing his maiden Rome title and becoming the youngest player in history to complete the Career Golden Masters.

Ruud opened the match with a clear tactical approach, using extended rallies and frequent drop shots to test Sinner physically. The Norwegian

earned an early break in the second game to move ahead 2-0.

Sinner gradually settled into the match and the two players remained level at 4-4 before the decisive ninth game. The Italian repeatedly used delicate drop shots to win points and eventually secured the crucial break before serving out the set 6-4.

Sinner raised his first-serve percentage in the sec-

ond set, breaking Ruud in the opening game with a backhand down-the-line winner. The world No 1 continued to apply pressure from the baseline, but faced a tense moment in the eighth game when an overhead error handed Ruud a break point. Sinner saved it and held serve to maintain his advantage. He later sealed the victory with a forehand winner to close out another 6-4 set. — Xinhua

Croatia names Modric-led World Cup squad

CROATIA coach Zlatko Dalic announced Monday a preliminary 26-man squad for the upcoming World Cup, to be led by veteran Luka Modric, the key architect of the country's historic success in recent years.

The 40-year-old AC Milan midfielder led the nation of 3.8 million people to the second-place finish at the 2018 World Cup.

The former Real Madrid star was also key for Croatia third place at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. In 2023 the Balkan na-

tion lost to Spain in the Nations League final.

But Modric sustained a cheekbone fracture after clashing heads with Juventus midfielder Manuel Locatelli at the San Siro in late April, and underwent a surgery.

The former Ballon d'Or winner was expected to be out of action for between six to eight weeks but should be free to play in the upcoming World Cup, a source told AFP at the time. — AFP



Luka Modric (2nd L) of Croatia shoots to score during the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group D match between Argentina and Croatia in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, 21 June 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Iran says US sent "revised" points despite rejection of peace plan

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Putin, Xi Jinping to hold talks in China in narrow, expanded formats - Kremlin Aide

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold negotiations in China both in narrow and expanded formats, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said on Monday.

Putin will pay an official visit to China on 19-20 May at the invitation of Xi Jinping.

After that, negotiations in an expanded format will take place, the official said, adding that the Russian side will include 39 people.

Putin and Xi Jinping will also discuss topical issues on international agenda on 20 May in an informal format, and the Kremlin attaches special importance to the informal talks, as the leaders will discuss all issues openly and confidentially, the official said.

Putin and Xi Jinping will discuss cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons in detail, Ushakov said.

The leaders will also discuss in detail the issues related to the Power of Siberia-2 project, Ushakov said. — SPUTNIK



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazan, Russia, 22 October 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

India, Norway agree to 'green strategic partnership'

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Norwegian counterpart agreed Monday to a "green strategic partnership" deal aimed at promoting a clean-energy transition and sustainable development.

"From clean energy to climate resilience, from the blue economy to green shipping, in every sector, India's scale, speed and talent will combine with Norway's technology and capital, and our companies will develop global solutions," Modi said on the first day of a two-day visit to the Norwegian capital.

India, the world's third-largest importer of oil, has seen its supplies severely disrupted by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz during the war in the Middle East.

Roughly half of India's crude imports usually pass through the

strait.

After announcing a cut in fuel taxes to curb a surge in prices at the pump, the country — where 73 per cent of electricity generation currently comes from coal-fired power plants — has announced it will speed up approvals for wind power plants and battery-powered energy storage systems.

Meanwhile Norway, Europe's largest oil and gas producer excluding Russia, derives almost all of its electricity from renewable sources, primarily hydroelectric facilities.

The new partnership is "beneficial for the entire world", Modi said in a statement to the press.

His Norwegian host, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, told broadcaster NRK that India had "a lot to contribute" on the matter. — AFP

WHO kicks off annual assembly amid hantavirus, Ebola crises

THE World Health Organization opened a meeting of global health ministers Monday amid concern over deadly hantavirus and Ebola outbreaks and uncertainty over announced US and Argentinian withdrawals.

While the rare hantavirus

outbreak on a cruise ship that has gripped global attention is not officially on the agenda, it is expected to feature prominently in discussions, alongside the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The two outbreaks "are just the latest crises in our trou-

bled world", WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the opening of the UN agency's annual decision-making World Health Assembly.

"From conflicts to economic crises to climate change and aid cuts, we live in difficult, dangerous and divisive times."

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said the global health challenges "have rarely felt more daunting".

"Over the past year, cuts to bilateral and multilateral aid have disrupted health systems and widened inequalities," Guterres said in a video address to the assembly.

The meeting, which runs through Saturday, comes after a difficult year for an organization weakened by the announced US withdrawal and deep funding cuts. — AFP



This general view shows delegates at the opening of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva on 18 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**