

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## State Implements Varied Education Systems to Cultivate Well-Rounded Talent

**V**ice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing and officials, inspected the preparations for the school enrolment activities to implement the School Enrolment Week for the 2026-27 academic year at basic education schools in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

At the No 6 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township, the Vice-President observed the systematic arrangements for students to enrol at the school conveniently, preparations to provide school textbooks, stationery, notebooks and school uniforms for students in a free manner; and looked into the school library and preparations for the opening of the futsal court.

The Vice-President instructed officials to arrange convenient learning for students, organize them to read at the library as a good reading habit, systematically formulate the duty rosters and teaching timetables for teachers depending on subjects, and train the students to take physical exercises for physical development to cultivate the spirit of teamwork in the physical training (PT) time.

She further emphasized that teachers must cooperate with the parent-teacher association and the school board of trustees to develop the school and arrange school bus routes.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye monitors school enrolment measures during inspection tour for the upcoming 2026-2027 Academic Year.

The Vice-President proceeded to the No 11 BEHS in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. At the Pyinnya Beikman Hall and classrooms, the Vice-President inspected the preparations for school enrolment of students and provision of free student aids, and display of teaching aid facilities, and visited the Pyinnya Bank Library and the prayer hall of the school.

During the inspection, the Vice-President urged that students should be nurtured not only to become knowledgeable and skilled but also to possess

good moral character, a sense of responsibility, and a genuine patriotic spirit so that they may grow into good citizens of the nation. She also called for them to be developed into well-rounded individuals possessing the five strengths and to become valuable human resources upon whom the country can rely in the future.

The Vice-President also visited the No 1 BEHS in Zeyathiri Township, where she inspected preparations for the school enrolment activities and free aid for students. She stressed the need for teachers to strive

to serve their assignments in respective sectors as the State is implementing the multiple education system, which can turn out well-rounded human resources.

For the 2026-2027 academic year, enrolment for basic education schools from the primary to high school levels will be accepted during the period from 25 to 31 May, including weekends and public holidays, without any closure days. Basic education schools will officially reopen on 1 June.

At the time of enrolment,

the government will provide free support for primary-level students consisting of one set of school textbooks, one dozen notebooks, four pencils, and one school uniform. For middle and high school students, one set of school textbooks, one dozen exercise books, two pencils, and two ball-point pens will be provided free of charge. In addition, as basic education schools operate a free education system, students can enrol free of charge without having to pay school entrance fees or any other fees. — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL

## Pakokku Thihoshin to host Nayon Buddha Pujaniya festival

THE Pakokku Thihoshin Pagoda's Nayon Buddha Pujaniya festival will be held from 23 May in Pakokku, Magway Region, according to the Pakokku Thihoshin Pagoda Trustee Board.

The Buddha Pujaniya festival will be held for 16 days until 7 June, with some stalls already opening.

"During the annual Nayon Buddha Pujaniya festival of the

ancient and historical Pakokku Thihoshin, which is held without absence, the festival will be held in a bustling environment with twelve shops' collective fairs, various performances and entertainment programmes. Some stalls in the fair have already opened for business since 1 May. In addition, children's play areas and amusement rides, including pirates, will be arranged to keep



The entrance to the ancient historical pagoda and vendors starting to build their stalls.

parents entertained. The San Yay Moe Theatrical Performer Troupe will include a lively entertainment programme from 28 to 31 May and the Kaung

Sit Hein Theatrical Performer Troupe from 3 to 7 June," said U Kyi Toe, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The festival, which was es-

tablished and worshipped by King Alaungsithu of Bagan, is also celebrated with great enthusiasm every year. — ASH/MKKS

## Kyaiktiyo Pauses Cable Car Rides Ahead of Monsoon Season



This photo captures cable cars operating at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

THE operating company has announced that cable car services at the sacred Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, will be temporarily suspended during the rainy

season.

Although the cable car service is temporarily closed in the monsoon, the mountain trucks will continue to operate as usual for pilgrims. Visitors travelling

during the rainy season can still travel smoothly and conveniently using these trucks, the company announced on 20 May. Their cable car operations will resume once the monsoon season ends.

To accommodate visitors to the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, cable cars previously operated from 7 am to 4 pm daily during the pagoda's pilgrimage season, which runs from the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut to the Full Moon Day of Kason.

Cable car ticket prices are set at K20,000 for a one-way trip and K30,000 for a round trip for domestic pilgrims. For foreign tourists, the fare is US\$15 for one way and US\$20 for a round trip. — MT/ZN

## Taungpula Hill slates third instalment of durian charity feast

THE durian charity feast will be celebrated on 24 May at Taungpula Hill near Peik Chin Myaung Cave in Mandalay Region's PyinOoLwin Township.

It is the third time that the durian free feast has been held, and this time, about 4,500 durians will be served from 7 am to noon on 24 May. "This is the third time that we have donated durians at the Taungpula. We will distribute tokens to all pilgrims along the road to the Taungpula, and they can eat durians when they reach the hill by showing their token," said Taungpula Sayadaw on his social media page.

Daily free meals are available for all visitors at the hill,

with overnight accommodation arranged for pilgrims arriving on 23 May.

Any products are allowed to be sold at the third durian donation.

Taungpula Hill is a well-known tourist attraction in PyinOoLwin, and it receives pilgrims from all regions and states. The number of visitors arriving is usually larger on weekends and significant religious days. Satuditha (food charity) meals are served from morning to evening for pilgrims at the Taungpula, which gives a beautiful scenery of natural landscapes and the sea of clouds. — MT/ZS



Durians are on donations at the second Taungpula's durian free feast.

### Public Notice: Eid al-Adha (Qurbani Eid) Public Holiday

PURSUANT to Union Government Notification 85/2026, Thursday, 28 May 2026 (13<sup>th</sup> waxing of Nayon 1388 ME) is declared a public holiday across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for Eid al-Adha (Qurbani Eid) Day, under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

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

# NATIONAL

## UEC Chair inspects storage and maintenance of MEVMs in Sagaing Region

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe, along with commission members, attended a meeting yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Sagaing Region Government Office with members and staff of the Regional Supervisory Committee for the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM), as well as regional-, district-, and township-level election subcommissions in Sagaing Region.

The UEC chairman addressed the meeting, stating that the successfully concluded election had proven to be free and fair and had gained the support of the public. Therefore,



UEC Chair U Than Soe meets Regional Supervisory Committee members and staff for the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) and local election subcommissions in Sagaing Region.

he urged everyone to strive to the best of their abilities to enable the continued use of MEVM

voting machines in upcoming elections as well.

Afterwards, UEC mem-

bers, regional ministers, and departmental officials held further discussions on electoral

work carried out, experiences gained, difficulties encountered, and requirements.

On 21 May, U Than Soe and members also inspected the storage and maintenance of the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines in Sagaing and Monywa. They issued instructions on operational procedures to be followed and met with staff at the district and township commission offices to deliver remarks.

The UEC chairman presented cash rewards to staff who are currently stationed in Monywa and Sagaing due to various reasons related to regional circumstances. — District (IPRD)/ TH

## New LNG pipeline to support 1,390 MW power project by 2029



This photo reveals the map showing the LNG project, which will generate 1,390 megawatts of electricity upon its completion.

A new LNG pipeline is to be built for a 1,390-megawatt LNG project, scheduled for completion in 2029, the Ayeyawady Regional government stated.

The 1,390-megawatt LNG project will cost about US\$2.504 billion, and the project consortium includes Yunnan Provincial Energy Investment Group, Union Resource & Engineering, Supreme Trading, and Zhefu Holding Group.

In the future, natural gas produced by domestic offshore gas projects is expected to replace LNG imported from overseas. The nation's energy security will be dramatically enhanced if these projects are completed, as the cost of LNG imports would be greatly reduced.

The MoU for the LNG project, which will generate 1,390 megawatts of electricity, was signed on 7 March 2016, the Letter of Intent was signed on 18 January 2020, and the Power Purchase Agreement was signed on 29 January 2021. — ASH/MKKS

## Myanmar Boosts Power Supply by 10M Units to Meet Peak Summer Demand

DURING April and May 2026, the period of peak electricity consumption in Myanmar, daily power distribution to townships nationwide was increased by approximately 10 million units, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE).

MOEE announced on 21 May that nationwide power distribution, which previously stood at 59.4 million units daily, has now been raised to 70 million units.

According to the ministry, because electricity consumption increases significantly during hot weather, power is being managed through scheduled load reductions on a rotating regional basis. As a result, when power is restored, simultaneous usage by the public causes starting loads to surge, leading to blackouts. Additionally, temporary power outages are also caused by strong winds and



A partial view of electricity distribution operations. PHOTO: XINHUA

landslides.

MOEE is currently providing uninterrupted, 24-hour power supply to public hospitals, critical government departments, liquefied natural gas (LNG) powered industrial zones, and commercial businesses, while allocating more

electricity to the general public on weekends.

According to data released by MOEE, power distribution for the peak consumption months of April and May this year has increased significantly compared to the same period in 2025. — Htun Htun/ZN

### Daily newspapers available online

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

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# NATIONAL

## Science & Tech Union Minister visits Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University, meets Myanmar scholarship students

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, who is currently in Nizhny Novgorod, the Russian Federation, met the rector, pro-rector, professors, and officials at the meeting hall of the Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University (NNSTU) yesterday morning and held discussions on potential cooperation between universities in Myanmar and NNSTU.

The Union minister then observed the lecture halls and laboratories of the university.

He also met the Myanmar

scholarship students in Nizhny Novgorod and comforted them.

On arrival at the ANO Gorky Tech, the Union minister observed its activities in connecting and cooperating with regional IT companies.

ANO Gorky Tech is an Autonomous Non-Profit Organization (ANO) established as an IT development centre to support regional IT companies, foster new technology companies, and coordinate the development of the region's entire digital sector. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw is pictured during his observation tour of the Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University.

## Village development projects in Pinlaung's 2 villages inspected



Village development project measures are underway.

OFFICIALS from the Pinlaung Township Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection yesterday of Village Development Project (VDP) activities being implemented in Nampa and Pauke villages in Pinlaung Township, the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South).

Shan State (South) Rural Development Department Head U Maung Maung Win, Pinlaung Township Department Head U Kyaw Swa, and engineers, together with members of the village development committees, inspected the ongoing construction works. In Nampa Village, they observed the construction of a rural concrete road measuring 500 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and

six inches in thickness. In Pauke Village, they observed the brick water tank construction project measuring 50 feet in length, 35 feet in width, and seven feet in depth.

Following the inspection, officials urged village development committee members to cooperate to ensure projects are completed on schedule in accordance with prescribed engineering standards. Necessary coordination and support were also provided during the visit.

The village development works are being implemented by local villagers with technical assistance from the Township Rural Development Department, using VDP support funds of K15 million per village, along with public contributions. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

## Myanmar films invited for 32<sup>nd</sup> Minsk International Film Festival



This image showcases a promotional poster for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Minsk International Film Festival "Listapad".

MYANMAR films will be screened at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Minsk International Film Festival "Listapad", to be held in Belarus, according to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO).

The organization is currently inviting submissions from Myanmar filmmakers to participate in the festival, MMPO General Secretary U Chantha Kyi Soe said.

He said eligible entries must be films produced in 2025 or 2026 and must not have been commercially screened in Belarus.

He added that the festival would create a new international opportunity for Myanmar's film industry.

In addition to competition entries, the festival will also feature non-competition films and classic movies. Participating films must include English and Russian subtitles.

Filmmakers wishing to submit entries to the "Listapad" festival must register with the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization by 20 July. — ASH/KZL

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# NATIONAL

## Basic, advanced maritime & aviation courses 2026 conclude

BASIC and advanced maritime training courses of Tatmadaw (Navy) started at the same time in the respective townships on 27 April to develop the knowledge of the young generation during the summer school holidays and to bring forth a future generation of young people with maritime and aviation expertise.

Yesterday, the closing event of the basic and advanced maritime youth training course 1/2026 was organized at Pobathiri Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters with the attendance of Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and other officials.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) remarked and awarded the outstanding trainees.

In the afternoon, the train-

ees, instructors and officials paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image. The youth training course 1/2026 was conducted at 13 training camps with 800 trainees. The training offered various subjects and practical sessions with two naval vessels, Aung Zeya and Kyansittha, camping activities, competitions, and an excursion in Yangon.

Similarly, the closing event of the basic aviation youth course 10 and the advanced aviation youth course 9 of Tatmadaw (Air) was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and relevant officials attended the event.

The Commander-in-Chief (Air) remarked and awarded the outstanding trainees.

The basic aviation youth course 10 was conducted at 18



The closing ceremony for the Basic and Advanced Youth Maritime and Aviation Courses (Batch 1/2026) takes place in Nay Pyi Taw.

training camps with 928 trainees offering different subjects, while the advanced aviation youth course 9 opened at two training

camps with 116 trainees delivering different subjects, including a practical flying session of RC flight and a helicopter.

Arrangements will be made for the trainees to join the excursions in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. — MNA/KTZH

## 19 ancient fossils handed over, including 8-million-year-old elephant

NINETEEN fossils, including a lower jawbone with teeth and a set of molars of a primitive Stegolophodon elephant estimated to be around eight million years old, were handed over to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Yangon Branch) on 18 May.

The handed-over palaeobiological fossils include a lower jawbone with teeth and a set of molars of a primitive Stegolophodon elephant, a lower jawbone with teeth and fragments of lower molars of a primitive rhinoceros, a lower jaw fragment of a hippopotamus-like animal, ankle and knuckle bones of a primitive bovid species, and a lower jawbone with teeth of a primitive giraffe, as well as fragments of elephant molars and bone remains of other mammals.

Antiquities and fossils are part of the nation's cultural heritage; therefore, transport-



This image features the fossilized lower jawbone and molars of a primitive Stegolophodon, an elephant ancestor estimated to be eight million years old, displayed alongside other prehistoric remains.

ing them abroad without permission, excavating, trading, replicating, or using them for commercial purposes is prohibited under the Protection and Preservation of Antique Objects Law. Individuals who wish to preserve antiquities personally may apply for an antique object preservation

certificate from the Department of Archaeology and the National Museum.

Those who receive such a preservation permit may retain it for life in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations, but they must apply for renewal before the certificate expires. — ASH/TH

## Mya Sein Young project funds disbursed in Dekkhinathiri




The disbursement ceremony of Mya Sein Young project funds is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Dekkhinathiri Township Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, organized a ceremony to disburse the Mya Sein Young revolving project funds at Gwaytaukyoe Village in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The initiative aims to enable rural residents to expand their family income-generating activities and implement village development tasks using the accumulated project funds. Deputy Director U Zaw Moe of the Nay Pyi Taw Rural Development Department explained the objectives of the fund disbursement.

Subsequently, Daw Lei Lei Wah, Head of the Dekkhinathiri Township Rural Development Department, and project-in-charge officers clarified the project guidelines, interest rates, loan repayment periods, and regulations.

Afterwards, Deputy Director U Zaw Moe handed over the revolving funds to the village administrator and the chairman of the village project committee. Following the handover, the committee members systematically distributed low-interest loans totalling K29.4 million directly to 63 project members engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding, and trading businesses on the same day. — Karan (Rural)

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# NATIONAL

## Loikaw locals cheer return of frontline Tatmadaw troops

A ceremony to honour and welcome back Tatmadaw members returning from the frontline after carrying out duties related to local security and stability in and around Moebye was held yesterday evening at a local battalion in Loikaw. The event was attended by officials from the Eastern Command, along with relevant officials, departmental personnel, and local ethnic residents.

The returning soldiers had carried out military op-

erations on the front lines day and night to help ensure that ethnic communities across various regions and states could live and work in peace, with the security of their lives and property safeguarded, and to maintain national stability and peace.

The commander and party welcomed back the returning Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia. The event also featured traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/MKKS



Loikaw residents warmly welcome back frontline Tatmadaw members.

## 60% of inter-village road construction completed in Paukkhaung



Officials oversee the progress of the inter-village road construction project.

DEPARTMENTAL officials conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the progress of the Aungsigon-Gway-

pingon inter-village road construction project, implemented by the Paukkhaung Township Rural Road Development Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The initiative aims to provide local rural residents with smooth, all-weather transport. During the inspection, a team led by U Tun Wai, Chief Engineer of the Department of Rural Road Development (head office), and U Wanna, Head of the Pyay District Department, visited the project site connect-

ing Aungsigon and Gwayy-pingon villages. They examined the embankment expansion and assessed whether the laterite paving complied with technical standards. They instructed officials to expedite the work in alignment with prescribed specifications to facilitate timely commutes for residents.

The inter-village road, measuring six furlongs in length, 20 feet in width, and eight inches in thickness, is being executed by the Paukkhaung Township Rural Road

Development Department with an allocation of K121.7 million from the Bago Region Government budget. Construction commenced in the first week of May this year, and about 60 per cent of the tasks have now been completed.

Upon full completion, the road will ensure quick and easy all-weather travel for residents of both villages, significantly boosting social, economic, healthcare, and agricultural transport sectors. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

## Yangon air quality monitored in 3 locations

THE Environmental Conservation Department in Yangon Region announced that it has been continuously monitoring and analyzing ambient air quality in Yangon at three monitoring points on 21 May 2026.

Using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) equipment, officials are conducting 24-hour monitoring of six key parameters — Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and Carbon Monoxide (CO).

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

### Air Quality Index - AQI

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

The department said ambient air quality results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall conditions, vehicle usage, dust dispersion caused by hot and dry weather, emissions from factories and surrounding environmental conditions near the monitoring stations.

Environmental Conservation Department

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price dips this week

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market indicated a downtick to K7,423 per viss this week ending 28 May from K7,499 per viss recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

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

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

## Mon State mangosteen distributed to Yangon, Mandalay cities

MANGOSTEEN from Mon State is primarily supplied to Yangon and Mandalay cities, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

This seasonal food is commonly grown in the majority of Mon State. They are transported to warehouses in Yangon and Mandalay cities with fresh fruit carton boxes, including 150 pieces per pack, according to the sales depot

from Paung Township, Mon State.

A mangosteen fetched K500-K700 per piece, depending on size, in the early harvest season. Then, the price decreased to K400 per piece. It is believed that mangosteen has cooling effects to lower body temperature. Consequently, this seasonal fruit fetches a good price, said a vendor from Paung Township.

“The price is pretty good on the back of good demand. They are consumed to balance excess body heat in summer. The farm owners earn a handsome profit this year,” he added.

Eating mangosteen and durian together is a very popular practice, as mangosteen is considered a fruit that counteracts durian's heating effects. — NN/KK

## CBM injects US\$4.2M to forex market



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$2.33 million to edible oil-importing companies, US\$1.5 million to LNG companies and US\$16,603 to CMP companies on 21 May. Furthermore, CBM also made over \$353,000 worth of non-trade transactions on the same day.

CBM announced on 20 May that it would sell \$81 million to fuel oil businesses.

CBM injected over \$2.067 million into edible oil-importing companies and \$4,000 to CMP companies, in addition to \$22,984 worth of non-trade transactions.

CBM pumped over \$1.45 million into edible oil-importing companies and over \$518,800 to CMP companies, along with

\$518,830 worth of non-trade transactions on 19 May.

CBM sold over \$2.34 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$30,170 to CMP companies on 18 May.

CBM sold over \$1.8 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$5,000 to companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis on 15 May.

CBM sold over \$3.26 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$10,470 to CMP companies and \$2 million to LNG-importing companies on 14 May.

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

CBM over \$2.037 million to edible

oil-importing companies and \$11,535 to CMP companies on 12 May.

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

## Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 22 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, animal feed, telecommunications equipment, fertilizers, wheat, asphalt and consumer goods. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$1.93 million to the edible oil sector. — MNA

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,664.70~3,666.40	557.80~558.70	125.50~125.60	43.60
Trading amount in the market	15,194,103.42	4,072,440.51	39,328,797.27	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

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# OPINION

## Conserve biodiversity species aligned with natural environment

**T**HE environment is not a possession owned by any one individual. Under this natural world, countless varieties of living and non-living things have the right to coexist, and those currently existing live in harmony not only with one another but also with nature itself.

The theme for the 2026 International Day for Biological Diversity is "Acting Locally for Global Impact." It means that small-scale actions taken individually or collectively, beginning within one's own community and region, can create significant impacts on global biodiversity conservation.

The excessive extraction and use of biodiversity, which is a natural resource, to meet human needs, as well as damage caused by other human activities, not only harm the natural environment but also destroy ecosystems, resulting in the decline and loss of wildlife and natural resources around the world. Therefore, it is also the responsibility of humanity to restore and protect the environment from such human-caused destruction and loss in order to improve environmental conditions and maintain ecological balance.

The excessive extraction and use of biodiversity, which is a natural resource, to meet human needs, as well as damage caused by other human activities, not only harm the natural environment but also destroy ecosystems, resulting in the decline and loss of wildlife and natural resources around the world. Therefore, it is also the responsibility of humanity to restore and protect the environment from such human-caused destruction and loss in order to improve environmental conditions and maintain ecological balance.

Therefore, if biodiversity, including the interdependence among living things and between living and non-living things, can coexist harmoniously while relying on one another for survival, it will be possible to create a world with a prosperous natural environment and sufficient food resources. To achieve this, all forms of biodiversity, especially humans as the most intellectually advanced beings, must not prioritize only their own survival but must also take into consideration the existence of other living and non-living things in order to help create a balanced world.

All the forests, wetlands, wildlife, aquatic organisms, various plant species, and genetically diverse living organisms on Earth are collectively referred to as "biodiversity". There are an estimated 8.7 million species of biodiversity on Earth, including plant and animal species. About 80 per cent of terrestrial and aquatic species, 75 per cent of bird species, and 68 per cent of mammal species live and thrive within forests.

Biodiversity, which is essential for all living things, is gradually declining and disappearing due to environmental problems caused by human activities, including deforestation, the degradation and loss of habitats for plants and wildlife, the expansion of agricultural land, the conversion of forest land to other uses, climate change, environmental pollution, and the excessive extraction and exploitation of natural resources. Around one million species worldwide are facing the threat of extinction, while more than 80 per cent of the world's wetlands have been destroyed over the past century.

**T**HE foundation of any strong nation is its people. When citizens are healthy, they can pursue education, secure jobs, and contribute to economic growth. A harmonized society, built on unity, mutual support, and care, provides the environment for this progress. Together, healthy citizens and a harmonious community form the pillars of a developing nation.

Economic growth, technological advancement, and infrastructure expansion are important drivers of development. But these achievements depend on cooperation between the government, citizens, and social organizations. Without healthy people and a harmonized society, national progress cannot be sustained.

### Healthy People: The First Step

Living a healthy life does not always require great wealth. It begins with simple, disciplined daily habits. Experts highlight five key practices:

**Balanced diet** – Meals should include carbohydrates, proteins (meat, fish, beans), vitamins and minerals (vegetables and fruits). Excess fat, sugar, and salt should be reduced. Drinking at least eight cups (about two litres) of water daily is essential.

**Regular exercise** – At least 30 minutes of activity such as brisk walking, cycling, yoga, or sports, five days a week. Exercise strengthens the heart, improves blood circulation, and helps maintain body weight.

**Adequate sleep** – Adults need

# Strengthening the Nation through Health and Social Harmony

By Dr Zeyar Win

seven–eight hours of sleep each night. Proper rest repairs body cells, boosts immunity, and restores energy for the next day.

**Stress management** – "Healthy mind, healthy body." Meditation, deep breathing, reading, or listening to music can reduce stress and refresh the mind.

**Avoid harmful habits** – Smoking, excessive drinking, and chewing betel nut damage health and should be avoided.

These simple steps build strong individuals. When citizens are healthy, they become more productive workers, caring parents, and active students. This strengthens families and communities, and ultimately the nation.

### Harmonized Society: The Second Pillar

A harmonized society is one where people live together safely and happily. It is not created by the gov-

ernment alone but by the daily choices of individuals. Healthy bodies and minds lead to stronger communities.

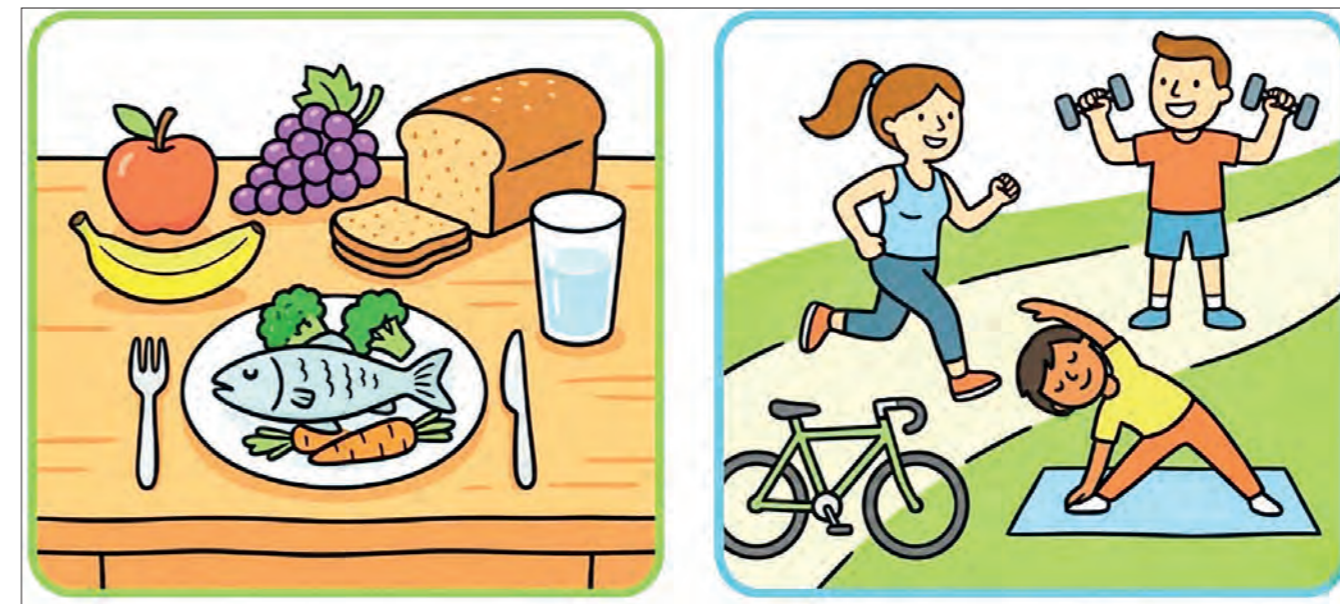
**From individual health to collective strength** – Healthy workers, parents, and students contribute more to families and communities, raising national productivity.

**Mental health reduces violence** – Calm and emotionally stable people can control anger, jealousy, and hatred. This lowers conflict and violence, creating a society of compassion and understanding.

**Discipline builds responsibility** – Those who practice discipline in diet, sleep, and hygiene also respect social rules, such as keeping the environment clean.

**Mutual support strengthens networks** – Healthy living is not selfish. Donating blood, exercising together, or joining community activities builds strong social bonds.

When citizens are healthy and communities are peaceful, the na-



tion becomes more resilient. Social harmony reduces crime and conflict, allowing governments to focus resources on development rather than crisis management.

### Developing Nation: The Final Goal

From healthy individuals comes a harmonized society, and from there a developing nation. Citizens who grow up healthy and disciplined become

creative, productive, and capable of driving progress in education, technology, the economy, and governance.

When citizens are healthy and conflicts are fewer, governments spend less on medical care and crime control. Resources can then be directed to roads, electricity, industries, and infrastructure for future generations. A peaceful and lawabiding society also attracts foreign investors, creating more jobs and raising GDP.

### Government's 100Day Steps

The new government has announced a **100-day programme** to improve people's lives and healthcare. Plans include expanding **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** so everyone can access medical services. Measures include:

- Providing affordable treatment
- Supplying medicines and equipment

- Sending mobile medical teams to remote areas
- Training and supporting doctors and nurses with better benefits
- Upgrading schools and universities to improve medical education

At the same time, nationwide vaccination campaigns, nutrition programs, and health education are being expanded. Clean drinking water, waste management, and food and drug safety inspections are being strengthened. Parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities are being built to encourage active lifestyles.

### Conclusion

As the saying goes, "Strong roots make a beautiful tree." A peaceful society does not fall from the sky – it is built from the healthy and joyful lifestyles of individuals. By living healthily, each person contributes to the strength of the community. From healthy lives comes a harmonized society, and from there a developing nation.

In short, when citizens build disciplined and resilient healthy lives, they create a compassionate and united society. That society, in turn, lays the foundation for a prosperous nation. Looking at the whole chain, it is clear: **national development begins with the health of its people.**

Therefore, citizens, social organizations, and the government must work hand in hand to make this vision a reality.



**T**HE sound of boiling water, the gentle smell rising from a fresh cup, the first warm sip on a quiet morning – tea has a way of making life feel softer and calmer. Long before the world becomes noisy with traffic, work, and endless responsibilities, many of us begin the day with tea beside us. It waits on small tables in crowded tea shops, in family kitchens before sunrise, and in the hands of people searching for a little comfort after a tiring day. Tea may appear simple, but for millions around the world, it carries memories, emotions, and human connection within every cup. That is why International Tea Day, celebrated each year around the world, is more than just a date on the calendar. It is a celebration of culture, community, tradition, and the people whose lives are deeply connected to tea.

# The Gentle Poetry of Tea

By Laura Htet (UDE)

Tea is one of the oldest and most loved drinks in human history. Across continents and generations, people have gathered around tea to talk, rest, celebrate, and reflect. In some places, tea is part of formal ceremonies filled with tradition and respect. In others, it is part of ordinary daily life shared among friends and family members. Different countries prepare tea in different ways, yet the feeling behind it remains surprisingly similar everywhere. Tea brings people closer.

In Myanmar, tea is not only a drink; it is part of our iden-

tity. Tea shops are woven into everyday life and social culture. From early morning until late evening, tea shops are filled with conversation and movement. Students discuss their studies and dreams. Workers stop for a short rest before continuing long days. Elderly people quietly read newspapers while enjoying warm tea. Friends sit together for hours, speaking about life, family, and the future. In Myanmar, tea shops are not simply businesses. They are small spaces where human connection naturally grows.

Myanmar also has a tea tra-

dition that is unique in the world. Unlike many countries that only drink tea, we also eat it. Laphet, or fermented tea leaves, is one of the most treasured parts of Myanmar cuisine. Laphet Thoke, Myanmar tea leaf salad, combines sour tea leaves with crunchy beans, garlic, sesame, cabbage, tomatoes, and other ingredients. It is often served during family gatherings, ceremonies, and special occasions. Offering Laphet to guests is seen as a sign of respect and hospitality. Even Myanmar people living abroad often say that the taste of Laphet reminds them of home and childhood memories.

Behind these traditions are the hardworking tea farm-

ers who make them possible. In the green hills of Shan State and other tea-growing areas, many families have spent generations cultivating tea. Tea farming requires patience, care, and dedication. Farmers work under changing weather conditions, carefully picking leaves by hand and protecting the quality of their crops. Their work begins long before tea reaches our cups. Yet many of us rarely stop to think about the lives connected to the tea we drink every day.

International Tea Day reminds the world to appreciate these farmers and workers. It also highlights the challenges facing tea-producing communities globally. Climate change

has become one of the greatest difficulties for tea farmers. Unpredictable rainfall, rising temperatures, and environmental changes affect tea production in many countries. Small farmers often struggle with unstable incomes and increasing costs while trying to continue their traditional way of life.

Around the world, tea supports millions of livelihoods. Countries such as China, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Myanmar all play important roles in global tea production. Tea is not only part of culture but also part of the economy. However, International Tea Day encourages people to think beyond business and profit. It reminds us about fairness, sustainability, and the importance of supporting communities that depend on tea cultivation.

SEE PAGE 11

# NATIONAL

## 2026 International Travel Expo set for Jun

THE 2026 International Travel Expo, organized by the Myanmar Tourism Federation and its affiliated associations under the guidance of the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture, will be held in June, according to a press conference held yesterday afternoon at the UMFCFI building in Yangon.

President U Kyaw Phone Naing of the Myanmar Tourism Federation first explained the purpose of the exhibition and then answered the media queries.

The 2026 International Travel Expo aims to further develop Myanmar's tourism sector and showcase the country's unique and attractive tourist destinations not only to the domestic tourism community but also to international tourism entrepreneurs.

Hotels, domestic and international airlines, travel



The press conference is underway yesterday to announce the holding of the 2026 International Travel Expo in June.

agencies, hospitals, food and beverage businesses, tourism and hospitality schools, and tourism-related enterprises such as Myanmar handicraft and souvenir shops will have the opportunity to showcase their hotels, products, and services to the Myanmar tourism community and international tourism stakeholders, while also creating new partnerships and business opportu-

nities.

The exhibition will feature around 50 local travel companies and international organizations, along with tourism entrepreneurs from Malaysia, Nepal, Korea, Russia, France, Spain, Slovakia, Romania, India, and Indonesia.

The exhibition will be held on 13 and 14 June at the Sedona Hotel Yangon. — Myo Min Thura/MKKS

## Asphalt overlay work on Padaung-Daungmyatna Road 50% completed

DEPARTMENTAL officials inspected the progress of asphalt overlay work on the Padaung-Daungmyatna Road, a project managed by the Padaung Township Rural Road Development Department, yesterday.

The initiative aims to ensure smooth, all-weather transportation for rural residents. During the inspection, a team led by U Tun Wai, Chief Engineer of the Department of Rural Road Development (head office), and U Wanna, Head of the Pyay District Department, visited the construction site to examine the quality of road stone and compliance with technical standards. The chief engineer instructed officials to ensure systematic implementation according to specified standards for long-term durability.

The asphalt overlay project on the Padaung-Daung-



Officials inspect the progress of asphalt overlay work on the Padaung-Daungmyatna Road.

myatna Road, measuring two furlongs in length, 12 feet in width, and three inches in thickness, is being executed by the Padaung Township Rural Road Development Department with an allocation of K82.31 million from the Bago Region Government budget. Construction began in the second week of April

this year, and about 50 per cent of the work has now been completed.

Once fully completed, the road will not only facilitate socioeconomic commutes for local rural residents but also enable them to transport agricultural products to markets in a timely and efficient manner. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

## 60 Chinese nationals arrested over online scam, gambling in Tachilek



Detained Chinese nationals linked to online scams and gambling are displayed alongside confiscated operational materials in Tachilek, eastern Shan State.

MYANMAR authorities detained 33 Chinese nationals involved in online scam and gambling operations, and seized 32 all-in-one computers, 20 tables and 35 chairs in Pansali village, Loisetone village-tract, located about 7,800 metres northwest of Tachilek in Shan State (East) yesterday.

Similarly, at about 1,800 metres northwest of Maehtawthaly village in Myawady Township in

Kayin State, authorities raided a two-storey building and arrested 27 Chinese nationals involved in online scam and gambling operations. Seizures during the raid were four all-in-one computers, 14 monitors, 20 CPUs, and 43 mobile phones used in the illegal activities.

Offenders involved in the case will face legal action following a thorough investigation. — MNA/KTZH

## MoEA to lease land and buildings at Union National Races Village (Yangon)

THE Ministry of Ethnic Affairs has invited domestic and foreign business entities for the short-term and long-term leasing of certain plots of land and buildings at the Union National Races Village (Yangon), located in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region.

Land lease for selling traditional ethnic foods, land lease for entertainment and amusement parks, land lease for sports-related activities, land lease for shopping centres and resting halls, lease of the Pyidaungsu Hall building and lease of land/buildings for other businesses are included.

In the first phase, interested entrepreneurs and companies must submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Chairman

of the Tender Committee, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, located at Office 14, Nay Pyi Taw, by 4 pm on 18 June.

EOI forms and guidelines can be obtained starting 25 May from the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw, and from the Union National Races Village (Yangon), Thakayta Township, Yangon Region. Original and copies of company credentials, a valid company registration certificate, and the company's constitution must be presented when purchasing the application form.

Business entities can contact the Tender Committee, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, at 067 3409315, 067 3409317, or 09 899935266. — NN/KK

# ARTICLE/SCI/TECH: WORLD

## The Gentle Poetry of Tea

### FROM PAGE 9

At the same time, tea continues to evolve with modern society. Younger generations enjoy tea in creative new forms, including bubble tea, iced tea, flavoured tea, and café-style drinks. Tea culture has adapted to changing lifestyles while still preserving traditional roots. Modern tea shops filled with young people now exist beside old neighbourhood tea shops where regular customers have gathered for decades. Though

styles may change, tea continues to connect generations.

One reason tea remains special is that it quietly becomes part of life's most meaningful moments. Some of our warmest memories involve tea without us even realizing it at the time. We remember rainy afternoons spent talking with family members over hot tea. We remember guests arriving at our homes and being welcomed with a fresh pot of coffee on the table. We remember conversations in tea

shops that lasted far longer than planned because nobody wanted to leave. Tea creates space for human connection in a fast-moving world where genuine moments sometimes feel rare.

Tea also teaches us the value of slowing down. Preparing tea takes patience. Drinking tea invites conversation and reflection. In today's world, many people rush through their days without rest. Yet a simple cup of tea can still bring a feeling of calmness. Sometimes the most

meaningful discussions happen not in large meeting halls or formal places, but quietly around a tea table shared among friends.

For Myanmar, International Tea Day is an opportunity to celebrate both culture and community. It reminds us to value local tea farmers, protect tea-growing environments, and preserve traditions that have been passed down through generations. Tea is not just an agricultural product. It is tied to memory, identity, and everyday human life.

As 21 May arrives, International Tea Day invites us to pause for a moment and appreciate the story behind every cup. From the green hills where tea leaves are carefully grown to the small tea shops filled with laughter and conversation, tea carries the warmth of human effort and connection. In a world that often moves too quickly, tea gently reminds us to slow down, sit together, and value the simple moments that truly matter. Long after the final sip is gone, the feeling tea leaves behind – comfort, peace, and togetherness – continues to stay in our hearts.

## The world built more coal power in 2025, but used less



A general view shows exhaust gases billowing from the chimneys of the Tae'an Thermal Power Station, a large coal-fired power station owned by Korean Western Power Co, part of Korea Electric Power Corporation, in Tae'an County, South Chungcheong Province. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE world built and commissioned more coal power in 2025, but used the polluting fuel less, with the United States the only major economy to substantially increase generation, analysis showed Thursday.

Coal is a key contributor to planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, and phasing it out is crucial to taming climate change.

The growing affordability and abundance of renewable energy means solar and wind

power can now cover growing electricity demand in much of the world.

That helped push coal generation down globally by 0.6 per cent in 2025 from a year earlier, according to a new report from Global Energy Monitor, which has tracked coal power for more than a decade.

But despite the generation drop, coal power capacity — plants that came online or were commissioned — jumped 3.5 per cent last year. — AFP

## France, Netherlands dismantle VPN linked to cybercrime

*Luxembourg, Switzerland, Romania, Ukraine and Britain helped in the operation to take down 33 servers linked to the criminal service across Europe.*

FRANCE and the Netherlands have dismantled a VPN used by cybercriminals to conceal their identities during ransomware attacks and data theft, EU police agency Europol and a French prosecutor said Thursday. Luxembourg, Switzerland, Romania, Ukraine and Britain helped in the operation on Tuesday and Wednesday to take down 33 servers linked to the criminal service across Europe, they said.

It "had become deeply embedded in the cybercrime ecosystem, appearing in almost every major cybercrime investigation supported by Europol in recent years", the EU agency said. Paris prosecutor

Laure Beccuau said teams interrogated the VPN's main administrator based in Ukraine in the presence of French inves-

tigators, after France opened an investigation in 2021 over its users targeting French victims. — AFP



France and the Netherlands have dismantled a VPN used by cybercriminals to conceal their identities during ransomware attacks and data theft. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

## China files 37,000 wildlife-related criminal cases since start of 2025

CHINESE police have filed and investigated 37,000 criminal cases involving the destruction of wildlife resources since the beginning of 2025, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

The ministry said it had

placed 59 cases under special supervision, and released five typical cases involving crimes such as harming rare and endangered wildlife, as well as illegal logging, hunting and fishing.

Chinese police across the country have closely monitored key areas and locations, including major wildlife habitats and flower-and-bird markets, to carry out targeted and intensive crackdowns. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD



Tourists take photos at the Sanctuary of Truth Museum in Pattaya, Thailand. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA/FILE**

## Thailand records 8.24 mln short-haul tourist arrivals so far in 2026

*The TAT attributed the momentum to targeted campaigns aimed at quality and special-interest segments, alongside the "Thailand Summer Blast" programme.*

THAILAND welcomed 8.24 million short-haul foreign tourists this year through 16 May, with China leading the rebound, as the South-East Asian country shifts its strategy from volume recovery to value-driven growth, a tourism official said on Thursday.

East Asia accounted for 3.73 million of the total inbound tourists, while the South-East

Asia, South Asia, and the South Pacific contributed 4.5 million, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

The Chinese mainland posted the region's strongest growth, with 2,151,861 arrivals, up 18.79 per cent, or more than 340,000 visitors year-on-year, supported by expanded flight capacity and seat availability, said Pattaraanong Na Chiang-

mai, TAT deputy governor for international marketing Asia and the South Pacific.

In a statement, the TAT attributed the momentum to targeted campaigns aimed at quality and special-interest segments, alongside the "Thailand Summer Blast" programme supporting air connectivity through charter flights and digital marketing. — Xinhua

## EU forecasts weaker growth, rising inflation

THE European Union (EU) economy is expected to grow at a slower pace with higher inflation, and the positive trend in labour markets is set to halt amid the energy shock triggered by the Middle East conflict, the European Commission's spring forecast said on Thursday.

EU's gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to slow to 1.1 per cent in 2026, a downward revision of 0.3 percentage points from the last year's autumn forecast, before edging up to 1.4 per cent in 2027. In the eurozone, growth is forecast at 0.9 per cent this year and 1.2 per cent next year.

Inflation in the EU is expected to reach 3.1 per cent in 2026 — a full percentage point

higher than previously forecast — before easing to 2.4 per cent in 2027. Eurozone inflation is projected at 3.0 per cent in 2026 and 2.3 per cent in 2027. Although energy-driven inflation may ease in 2027, energy commodity prices are still forecast to stay about 20 per cent above pre-war levels.

The forecast pointed out that EU consumer confidence has dropped to a 40-month low amid mounting fears of surging inflation and job losses.

For 2026, employment growth is forecast to slow to 0.3 per cent, then rise to 0.4 per cent in 2027, while the long-term decline in the unemployment rate is set to end, stabilizing at around six per cent in 2027. — Xinhua



Eurozone inflation is projected at 3.0 per cent in 2026 and 2.3 per cent in 2027. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



## Rich nations topped \$100 bln climate finance goal again in 2023, 2024: OECD

WEALTHY countries topped their \$100 billion annual climate finance goal for poorer nations for the third straight year in 2024, the OECD said Thursday, but questions are growing over their ability to meet a new larger pledge.

The money is aimed at helping developing countries, which are least responsible for global warming, invest in renewable energy and cope with the worsening impacts of climate change. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/UNDP**

Developed nations had long fallen short of their commitment to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020, finally hitting the target for the first time in 2022 after the deadline was extended to 2025.

The money is aimed at helping developing countries, which are least responsible for global warming, invest in renewable energy and cope with the worsening impacts of climate change.

After providing \$115.9 billion in 2022, wealthy countries sharply raised their contribution to \$132.8 billion in

2023, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which tracks the figures.

It increased slightly in 2024 to \$136.7 billion.

Climate finance can come from governments in the form of bilateral aid, multinational development lenders like the World Bank, or the private sector.

Public climate finance slipped 2.6 per cent to \$101.6 billion in 2024 but private sector contributions surged 33 per cent to \$30.5 billion. — AFP

## German business morale rises for first time since Iran war

GERMAN business morale unexpectedly increased in May, a survey showed Friday, raising hopes Europe's biggest economy is weathering the Iran war energy shock better than feared.

The Ifo institute confidence barometer rose to 84.9 points from 84.5 in April, the first time it has gone up since the start of the conflict.

Analysts had ex-

pected a slight decrease. "The German economy is stabilizing for the time being, although situation remains fragile," said Clemens Fuest, Ifo's president.

The survey had slumped in the months following the start of the US-Israeli war against Iran at the end of February.

The energy shock triggered by the near-

total closure of the Strait of Hormuz is a heavy blow for Germany's power-hungry manufacturers, and dimmed hopes of a strong recovery this year for the long-struggling economy.

But a massive ramp-up in defence and infrastructure spending may be offsetting the conflict's impact and helping to bolster business morale, analysts said.

The latest Ifo survey, based on responses from around 9,000 businesses, showed that companies were more optimistic about both their current situation and future prospects.

Morale among companies in the manufacturing, services and trade sectors improved. But it fell slightly among construction companies.

— AFP



German businesses were more optimistic in May despite the Iran war energy shock. **PHOTO: AFP**

## China never barred tech firms from accepting foreign investment: economic planner



This aerial photo taken on 22 July 2023 shows a products warehouse of Shougang Jingtang United Iron & Steel Co, Ltd in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ZHU XUDONG/XINHUA/FILE**

OPENING up is China's basic state policy, and China has never required its technology companies to reject foreign investment, the country's top economic planner said on Friday.

"China supports its

enterprises in integrating into the global innovation network and engaging in mutually beneficial international exchanges and cooperation," said Li Chao, a spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Com-

mission, when speaking at a press conference.

Foreign investment must comply with Chinese laws and regulations and must not harm China's national security or interests, Li stressed. — Xinhua

## Japan eyes arrival of 1<sup>st</sup> oil tanker passing Hormuz since Iran war on Mon

A Japanese oil tanker that transited the Strait of Hormuz late last month is expected to arrive in Japan possibly on Monday, the government said, making it the first such case since the Iran war erupted and left traffic through the vital energy route heavily restricted.

As the resource-poor nation awaits the arrival of the tanker operated by a unit of major refiner Idemitsu Kosan Co, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi spoke with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Friday, stressing the importance of "free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz for vessels of all countries". — Kyodo

## Air France, Airbus guilty of manslaughter in 2009 Paris-Rio crash

PARIS' appeals court Thursday found Air France and Airbus guilty of involuntary manslaughter over the 2009 crash of a Rio-Paris flight that killed 228 people, the worst disaster in France's aviation history.

The Paris Court of Appeal ruled that the French flag carrier and Europe's leading aerospace manufacturer were "solely and entirely responsible for the crash of flight AF447", ordering each to pay 225,000 euros (\$261,000) — the maximum fine for corporate manslaughter.

While the penalties are symbolic, the ruling will be seen as significant reputational damage for both companies. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (26N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (26N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (285N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (285N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

Trade name of pesticide registered by **EastChem Co., Ltd** is changing from current trade name into new trade name which is currently distributed by **Agro Rich World Co., Ltd**. Any objection regarding to this change can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Original Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No.
1	Goldcheck 50 EC	Bandula 50 EC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 50g/l EC	Full and F2022-3487

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# GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

**T**HE Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting opened on Friday in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province.

Aligning with the theme of the APEC 2026 "China Year" — "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together", the two-day meeting will discuss a range of priority issues, including regional economic integration, support for the World Trade Organization, digital cooperation, and the green economy.

The agenda covers discussions on macro-level issues such as economic governance, as well as practical cooperation in emerging and frontier areas of common concern to all parties.

As an important institutional meeting customarily held midway through the APEC host year, the trade ministers' meeting is tasked with contributing outcomes to the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and serves as a barometer of economic and trade policy trends in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao said.

Wang noted that the meeting is taking

## APEC trade ministers' meeting opens in east China's Suzhou



Over the past 35 years since joining APEC, China has remained a steadfast supporter and important contributor to the organization. **PHOTO: CGTN**

The agenda covers discussions on macro-level issues such as economic governance, as well as practical cooperation in emerging and frontier areas of common concern to all parties.

place against the backdrop of a complex international landscape, marked by escalating geopolitical tensions and the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, which have posed severe challenges to the global economic and trade order and weighed on growth in both the Asia-Pacific region and the wider world.

Under such circumstances, all parties are placing greater expectations on the meeting to build consensus and deliver tangible outcomes, he said. — Xinhua

## Kazakhstan targets increased domestic involvement in nuclear industry

KAZAKHSTAN plans to boost local content in its nuclear industry to 30 per cent by 2030, as it prepares to build at least three nuclear power plants, according to the Kazinform news agency.

The targeted localization volume is estimated at US\$4 billion to 4.5 billion. The plan is expected to increase the involvement of domestic enterprises in critical nuclear energy infrastructure while advancing Kazakhstan's industrial and technological readiness, according to a Kazinform report on Thursday.

Current estimates show Kazakhstan can meet no more than 22 per cent of the sector's demand.

The plan outlined several challenges facing the industry, including a limited number of domestic manufacturers capable of producing required materials and equipment, the inability of some facilities to meet international safety and quality standards, a shortage of skilled personnel, and insufficient experience in the nuclear sector and quality control. — Xinhua



Kazakhstan, the world's leading uranium producer (~40 per cent of global supply), is rapidly advancing plans for its first modern nuclear power plants, with construction on the first project beginning in 2025 to achieve five per cent of national generation by 2035. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ KAZATOMPROM**

## California governor orders review of AI impact on workers amid layoff concerns

CALIFORNIA Governor Gavin Newsom on Thursday signed an executive order directing agencies in the western US state to study and prepare policy responses to the potential impact of AI on workers, businesses and communities.

The order does not itself create enforceable legal rights or benefits but directs state agencies to review possible changes to layoff-warning rules, worker-support programs, job training and data collection, according to the governor's office.

Under the order, state agencies are directed to produce recommendations within 180 days on possible updates to the California Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which requires advance notice for certain mass layoffs and plant closures. Agencies are also directed to evaluate revisions to severance standards, employment insurance, transition support, worker ownership models and job retraining initiatives, the governor's office said.

The order directs the California



"California has always actively shaped its future," the governor said in a statement issued by his office. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PEXELS**

Employment Development Department (EDD) to launch, within 90 days, a dashboard tracking AI's impact on employment across sectors using unemployment insurance data. It also directs the EDD to include, twice a year through the end of 2027, business feedback on the role of technological adoption in hiring and workforce decisions as part of the California Labour Market Review, according to the governor's official release. — Xinhua

# SPORTS



A new Yangon United signing poses with a club scarf following his official contract presentation. **PHOTO: YUFC**

## Yangon United continue signing new players

YANGON United FC have continued strengthening their squad for the upcoming season by signing two foreign players and one local player.

After recruiting former Rakhine United FC striker Mustapha from Cameroon, Yangon United also signed Cameroonian attacking midfielder Guy Mitchell, who previously played for Dagon Port FC, as well as Myanmar national team full-back Hein Phyo Win.

Yangon United signed the 20-year-old Mitchell on a one-year contract. He spent two seasons with Dagon Port and already has experience in the Myanmar National League.

The club also secured Hein Phyo Win on a one-year deal after his stint with Thai club Nakhon Ratchasima. Hein Phyo Win is a product of Shan United FC and previously played for the club in two separate spells. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

## Women's squad intensify training under new coach for Tri-Nation Cup

THE Myanmar women's national football team are undergoing intensive training under their newly appointed Japanese head coach in preparation for the AYA Tri-Nation Cup 2026, which will be held from 3 to 9 June at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre.

The team has been in camp with a preliminary squad of 35 players since 27 April. Japanese head coach Mizuo Okamoto officially took charge on 19 May, after assistant coach Daw San San Thein had temporarily led the training sessions in the interim period.

Organized by the Myanmar Football Federation, the tournament features a three-team round-robin format including hosts Myanmar, ASEAN powerhouse Thailand, and Uzbekistan. All matches will kick off at 5 pm at Thuwunna Stadium.

The AYA-sponsored competition



A new coach instructs Myanmar players. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

is aimed at strengthening the national women's team ahead of upcoming international fixtures and supporting

the overall development of women's football in Myanmar. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## 2026 AYA Tri-Nation Women's Cup ticket details revealed

THE Myanmar Football Federation has announced advance ticket sales for the AYA Tri-Nation Cup 2026 women's invitational tournament, which will be held from 3 to 9 June at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Advance tickets will be available online through AYA Pay, while in-person sales will begin three days before the tournament. Fans who spend K5,000 or more through AYA Pay will also re-

ceive a digital lucky draw ticket for a chance to win prizes of up to K300 million.

The federation will also sell tickets at its office from 31 May to 2 June between 10 am and 4 pm. Grand stand seat ticket prices have been set at K5,000, and ordinary-class seat tickets will cost K2,000.

The women's invitational tournament will feature the host nation, the

Myanmar women's national football team, alongside the Thailand and Uzbekistan women's national teams in a round-robin format. All matches will kick off at 5 pm instead of the previously scheduled 4 pm.

According to the fixture schedule, Myanmar will face Uzbekistan on 3 June, Thailand will play Uzbekistan on 6 June, and Myanmar will take on Thailand on 9 June. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Japan to give honour award for 10-time Olympic speed skating medallist Takagi

THE Japanese government is considering giving the People's Honour Award to speed skater Miho Takagi, who won a record 10 Olympic medals as a Japanese woman, its top spokesman said Friday.

Takagi, who won gold at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games and the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, announced her retirement in April after winning three bronze medals in the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in February, her fourth Olympic Games.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told a press conference that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi instructed relevant ministries earlier in



File photo shows Japan's speed skater Miho Takagi holding medals she won at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in February 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

the day to proceed with discussions on giving the 32-year-old Hokkaido native one of the nation's most prestigious commendations.

"For many years, she played a leading role on the world stage as a top speed skater," Kihara said, who also noted that Takagi secured 38 individual World Cup wins. — Kyodo

## Former Spain international Azpilicueta hangs up his boots aged 36

FORMER Spain international defender Cesar Azpilicueta announced his retirement from professional football on Friday at the age of 36. The defender, who played for Spain 44 times, made his announcement on social media.

"This season will be my last as a professional footballer. After so many years living my dream, I feel it's time to start a new chapter in my life," wrote Azpilicueta, who admitted that "even though I have been preparing myself for this moment, I found it hard to write this letter".

"When I first kicked a ball as a child in Pamplona with my schoolmates, I never imagined the amazing journey ahead. I'm grateful for every moment: the wins, the tough losses, the challenges, and most of all, the people I've met and the friendships I've made along the way," explained the defender, who began his career at his hometown club, Osasuna, making his first team debut in April 2007, before joining Olympique Marseille, Chelsea FC, Atletico de Madrid before spending this season with Sevilla. — Xinhua



**P**RESIDENT of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides on Friday said progress on the proposed India-European Union free trade agreement (FTA) could lead to the creation of one of the world's largest free trade zones covering a market of nearly two billion people, as India and Cyprus elevated their ties to a strategic partnership.

Addressing a joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Cyprus President said, "The progress on the milestone free trade agreement, creating one of the world's largest free trade zones in a market of two billion people, the Security and Defence Partnership, and the Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda sent a clear message — a message of confidence, ambition, and deeper cooperation across trade, security, technology, and global governance.

"Christodoulides said the growing engagement between India and the European Union comes at a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and stressed the need for stronger cooperation between the two sides.

"In these times of growing geopolitical uncertainty, I firmly believe that the partnership between the European Union and India must become even stronger," he said.

The Cyprus President said he was attending the meeting not only as the President of Cyprus but also as the representative of a European Union member state holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union. — ANI

## India-EU FTA to create one of world's largest trade zones: Cyprus President

*Christodoulides urged stronger India-EU cooperation to navigate rising geopolitical uncertainty during their expanding partnership.*



On 22 May 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides officially elevated India-Cyprus relations to a Strategic Partnership during delegation-level bilateral talks at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi. **PHOTO: NEWSONAIR.GOV.IN**

## Egypt announces major gas, oil discovery in Western Desert

THE Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources announced on Thursday a major discovery in the country's Western Desert, with initial estimates indicating reserves of approximately 330 billion cubic feet of gas, alongside 10 million barrels of condensates and crude oil.

Marking the largest discovery in the area in 15 years, the combined reserves are equivalent to around 70 million barrels of oil equivalent, the ministry said in a statement.

The breakthrough was achieved via the South Bostan-1X exploratory well, which struck pay zones totalling 400 feet thick, confirming signifi-

cant production and economic potential, the ministry said.

The find gains further strategic importance due to

its proximity to existing infrastructure and production facilities, located just 10 kilometres away, enabling an early tie-in to production systems, it added.

The Egyptian government has been seeking to increase oil and gas output following a decline in natural gas production over the past few years. In August 2025, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said Egypt's gas production stood at 4.1 billion cubic feet per day, with plans to reach 6.6 billion cubic feet per day by 2027.

The ministry said Egypt plans to drill more than 100 exploratory wells this year to secure new energy reserves. — Xinhua



Egypt announced a major Western Desert discovery holding 330 billion cubic feet of gas and 10 million barrels of oil. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SHUTTERSTOCK**

## China rejects US missile deployments in Asia

CHINA firmly opposes the deployment of midrange missile systems by the United States in Asian countries, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday, urging the United States and Japan to rectify their wrongdoings.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks at a daily press briefing. According to media reports, the US military plans to deploy its Typhon midrange missile system in Japan between June and September for their joint military drills. After the exercises, the system will be moved to a US military base in Japan. — Xinhua