

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Nay Pyi Taw Upgrades All Roads to Meet National Standards



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects ongoing upgrade of drainage facilities near Aingsauk Village and Pinlaung Junction in the Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Developing a comprehensive master plan remains essential to sustain continuous road upgrades in response to future population growth and rising vehicle traffic.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Union Ministers U Myo Thant and U Min Naung, and officials, inspected the progress in upgrading local roads and bridges in Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw and the operating industries using domestic crops to produce industrial products.

The President inspected the construction of a 1,300-foot overpass on the Nay Pyi Taw-Taung-dwingyi railway on Shwepyi Tawwin Road. Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and officials reported on the progress of the construction project.

In response, the President stressed the need to upgrade all roads meeting the set standard in the Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw. It is necessary to system-

atically calculate the plans to build the overpasses on the railways in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. He instructed officials to supervise the construction of the necessary tasks of the overpass before the rainy season.

The President viewed the cleanliness and beautification process along the Shwepyi Tawwin Road and the upgrading works by car.

SEE PAGE 3

Key guidance provided by the President during the inspection tour

1. It is necessary to systematically calculate the plans to build the overpasses on the railways in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.
2. The road connecting from the Pynmana detour road to the Shwepyi Tawwin Road needs to be systematically implemented.
3. Efforts need to be made to continue expanding production and exports, mainly by targeting the existing markets already secured.

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NATIONAL

SSMNC Chair Sayadaw visits Korea

AT the invitation of the Korean Wave Culture Industry Forum (KWCIF), a delegation led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chair Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aggamaha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa arrived in the Republic of Korea on 22 May to attend the “50 Years of Gratitude & Friendship, 100 Years of Mercy” ceremony to be held in Seoul on 25 May.

The delegation was welcomed at Incheon International Airport by Chargé d’Affaires ad interim/Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the Republic of Korea, U Myo Myint Maung, Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Wint Thu, and embassy staff.

The Sayadaw met Venerable Damhwa Wonmyeong, chief monk of Jogyesa Temple in Seoul, and also met Ven Jinwoo,



A group documentary photo of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chair and the delegation in the Republic of Korea.

the 37th President of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, at the Office of the President of the Jogye Order.

Jogyesa Temple is the cen-

tral temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. Established in 1910, it is regarded as an important site for Korean Buddhist history, culture, and religious ac-

tivities. The temple is also well known among domestic and international visitors for its traditional Korean architecture, the Daeungjeon Hall (Main Buddha

Hall), centuries-old trees, and traditional lantern festivals.

The Sayadaw and party also met Dongguk University President Yun Jae-woon and later delivered words of advice to students at the university.

The Sayadaw participated in a live broadcast programme of the Buddhist Broadcasting System (BBS) and gave teachings in response to religious questions.

BBS is Korea’s first Buddhist television and radio network, broadcasting Buddhist literature, Vipassana teachings, and Korean and international Buddhist news through radio and BBS TV programmes.

The Sayadaw and party met Venerable Jongcheon at Baltuska Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Venerable Hyeon-deok at Tongdosa Temple. — MNA/KTZH

Applications open for Mandalay’s debut ‘Young City Shapers’ Programme

APPLICATIONS are now open for “YCS Cohort 19”, Mandalay’s first Young City Shapers Programme. Jointly organised by Doh Eain and KBZ Bank, this initiative is designed for young people interested in urban development, according to Young City Shapers.

This 19th edition marks the first time the programme is being held in Mandalay. Under the theme “Disaster Risk Preparedness and Management”, it will cover several key topics, including disaster management, sustainable housing, the role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in disaster management, disaster preparedness and communication, and youth and community engagement.

The duration is three months from June to August, and it will include practical mini-projects and theoretical sessions in the Myanmar language, scheduled from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

The programme will use



The image displays an announcement poster for “YCS Cohort 19”.

a hybrid model, a blend of in-person and online learning. Only 30 participants will be selected, and it is open to youth under the age of 35. Interested individuals can fill out the application form via the link: Young City Shapers Application by 2 June. Applicants will undergo an online

interview, and selected participants will be notified via email. Certificates of completion will be awarded to youth who successfully meet the programme requirements. For further details, people can visit youngcityshapers.com or contact them directly at ycs@doheain.com. — MT/ZN

Myanmar invited to 2026 Asia Fashion (Thailand) Show



This image advertises the 2026 Asia Fashion (Thailand) Show.

AN invitation has been received for the 2026 Asia Fashion (Thailand) Show, which is scheduled to be held at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) in Thailand from 9 to 11 July, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA).

The event showcases a wide range of products, including bags, luggage, footwear, apparel, textiles, fabrics, fashion accessories, and beauty and personal care items. Attendees can explore international business and fashion networks, participate in global seminars, and experience other engaging programmes.

It further encompasses the Fashion Industry in China’s upstream and downstream cate-

gories. Therefore, it can provide different customer procurement as well as a perfect fashion experience. It can also bring the latest fashion trends and update information about the fashion industry.

MGMA will provide a free two-night stay for member factories who join the buyer delegation programme, and round-trip air ticket and other costs shall be incurred by themselves.

Two persons per member factory are eligible to join, and the registration deadline is 5 June. Those who wish to join the journey or buy a booth can send an enquiry for further details to the following phone number of the Event and PR: 09 758451158, said MGMA. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Upgrades All Roads to Meet National Standards

FROM PAGE 1

At the project site for the construction of the new road to the Nay Pyi Taw Airport and building the iron frame bailey bridge, the Union Minister for Construction and officials reported to the President on the work process.

After hearing the reports, the President pointed out that the construction of the new road to the airport aims to ensure that the people will have smooth access between the airport and Nay Pyi Taw. The new road must be constructed with upgrade works systematically in phases. It is necessary to formulate a master plan to continue the upgrade of the roads, depending on the growing population and use of vehicles in the future. He added that shade trees and windbreaks must be planted along both sides

of the road in the rainy season.

At the project site of building the Yangon-Mandalay railway overpass on Shwepyithawin Road, the President gave guidance, saying that the road connecting from the Pinyinmana detour road to Shwepyithawin Road needs to be systematically implemented. He also said that all roads within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area must be managed systematically, and plans must be made for expansion and upgrading by taking into account future urban population growth and the potential increase in vehicle usage.

The President visited Myanmar Agri Foods Co Ltd, which operates frozen vegetables production and exportation in Kyee-in Village of Pinyinmana Township. An official of the com-

pany clarified the functions of the company to produce frozen vegetables produced in the region and export them to foreign markets, the efforts to increase individual incomes of people at the grassroots level, use 99 per cent of crops from contract farms in its production, the work processes to produce new quality products, and the current market occupation to expand exports to Asian and European markets.

In his speech, the President noted that it is a business beneficial to the country and that efforts need to be made to continue expanding production and exports, mainly by targeting the existing markets already secured. He added that such efforts could also be carried out through a cooperative system. He further stated that if research is conducted to

enable year-round cultivation and production of vegetables in clusters using greenhouses, more raw agricultural produce could be obtained, leading to increased production of value-added products and greater exports to domestic and foreign markets, thereby generating more foreign exchange earnings for the country.

He said that in carrying out manufacturing activities, it is necessary to systematically implement the entire supply chain connecting every stage from raw materials to the delivery of products to end users. He also underscored that agricultural land needs to be utilized effectively and beneficially.

After viewing around the work process of the company, the President gave guidance, say-

ing that, as it is a business that greatly contributes to national economic development and the socioeconomic improvement of rural people, efforts should be coordinated with relevant departments as necessary to enable business expansion and increased production of products.

The President looked into the drainage facilities along both sides of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Aingsauk Village and Pinlaung Junction and gave necessary guidance.

At Ayemyint Thaya Bridge (Hsinthe Creek Bridge), the President gave guidance on the systematic control of the watercourse in Hsinthe Creek to have resilience to natural disasters and prevent flash floods, and maintenance of the bridges. — MNA/TTA



The Constitutional Review and Contemporary Global Challenges International Conference is in progress from 19 to 21 May in the Russian Federation, attended by Union Constitutional Tribunal Chairperson U Aung Zaw Thein.

CTU Chair attends international conference in St Petersburg

AT the invitation of Mr Valery D Zorkin, Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, a delegation led by U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union (CTU), attended the international conference titled “Constitutional Review and Contemporary Global Challenges”, held in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, from 19 to 21 May.

The international conference was also attended by chairpersons and judges of constitutional courts from member countries of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC), including Myanmar, as well as invited legal experts and heads of international organizations.

At the conference, U Aung Zaw Thein exchanged views and experiences with the at-

tendees on constitutional review and contemporary global challenges, including judicial challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic, the protection of citizens’ environmental rights, and the impact of artificial intelligence on the judiciary as technology continues to advance.

The delegation led by the chairman of the CTU returned to Yangon by air on 21 May. — MNA/TH

Myanmar joins 2026 International Tea Day Ceremony in China



The 2026 International Tea Day ceremony is underway in China on 20 May, attended by Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun.

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun attended the 2026 International Tea Day ceremony held in Nanning, China, on 20 May.

The event, themed “Silk Road Tea Aroma, Intelligence for Shared Prosperity”, was attended by officials, tea experts, researchers, business representatives, and delegates from ASEAN countries, Kenya, and the FAO, and Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun delivered remarks at the ceremony.

The delegation also visited

tea exhibition booths at Liyuan International Conference Centre, and observed jasmine tea production facilities and jasmine plantations at the National Modern Agricultural Industrial Park.

On 21 May, they visited the China-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence Innovation Cooperation Centre and observed AI applications in agriculture and information technology cooperation between China and ASEAN countries.

The delegation arrived back in Myanmar yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

MNPIFER Union Minister attends RCEP-CPTPP Dialogue in Suzhou, China

A Myanmar delegation led by U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, attended a dialogue between member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) invited by Mr Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, held in Suzhou, the People's Republic of China, on 22 May 2026. The delegation returned to Yangon International Airport on the evening of 23 May 2026.

The dialogue was held with the aims of supporting multilateralism and free trade among the member states of the agreements, maintaining a transparent, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system, and ensuring the stability of industrial and supply chains. The meeting was attended by Trade and Economic Ministers from RCEP and CPTPP mem-



Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe joins a commemorative group photo session for the dialogue between member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

ber states, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the officials.

At the dialogue, Mr Li Chenggang, China International Trade Representative (full Minister Rank and Vice Minister for Commerce of the People's Republic of China), delivered the opening remarks. During the session, the Ministers discussed matters on the support of multilateralism and

free trade, the maintenance of an open, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system, and enhanced stability of industrial and supply chains. Furthermore, they exchanged views on the implementation of the RCEP and CPTPP agreements, along with future development strategies and the development of regional cooperation.

During the discussion, the Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations stated that Myanmar firmly supports an open and rules-based multilateral trading system. He emphasized that despite economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar by certain countries, Myanmar recognizes that greater benefits can be achieved through region-

al cooperation within the multilateral trading system, which could expand trade opportunities and strengthen economic resilience. He further emphasized that Myanmar's actions are primarily economically oriented and free from political motives. He also highlighted that to achieve a balanced and stable trade environment, exporting and importing countries should implement tariff policies that are fair and mutually beneficial. He added that trade can be further enhanced among countries by maintaining reasonable tariff rates.

Furthermore, the Union minister stressed the need to prioritize and promote cooperation in trade and investment facilitation, as well as in areas such as the digital economy and green economy, for future development. He also highlighted the importance of enhancing communication between the RCEP and CPTPP members to strengthen regional integration. — MNA

Chin State coordinates urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts

A coordination meeting of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee was held at 1 pm yesterday in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win said that, under a notification dated 22 March issued by the Office of the President, the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee had been formed with Deputy Minister Dr Than Soe serving as chairman and a total of 22 representatives from relevant ministries serving as members.

The Union Minister instructed officials to conduct



The coordination meeting of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee is underway yesterday, attended by Union Minister Dr Soe Win.

field visits for rehabilitation efforts in Tonzang, Falam and Tiddim townships in Chin State and, if necessary, to form working committees to carry out related tasks. He also directed

departmental representatives attending the meeting to coordinate in advance with their respective departments in Chin State regarding rehabilitation matters. — MNA/MKKS

Twantay receives VDP project funds worth K30M

THE Twantay Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to hand over Village Development Plan (VDP) project funds to two villages that will implement tasks for the 2026-2027 financial year. The event took place at the township department office on the morning of 23 May.

U Nay Win, Region Hluttaw representative for Twantay Township, delivered the opening address first. Following this, U Aung Thet Oo, Head of the Twantay District Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives of the fund handover ceremony, the project details, and the upcoming operational procedures to be followed by the villages participating in the project.

Subsequently, Region

Hluttaw representative U Nay Win handed over the project funds to committee members from the two target villages – Kadoke Village and Ywathitgyi Village – allocating K15 million per village for their respective village development tasks. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



A village representative receives the Village Development Plan funds in Twantay, Yangon Region.

NATIONAL

MoLA Union Minister inspects pilot law offices in Yangon

UNION Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo inspected pilot law offices in Yangon Region yesterday, together with Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo and officials from the ministry.

She visited pilot law offices in Thingangyun District, Thakayta Township, Thanlyin District, Ahlon District, Sangyoung Township, Kamayut Township and Thanlyin Township.

During the meeting with the staff, the Union minister said the pilot law offices are being expanded to improve legal professionalism, ethics, office



management, and the transition from manual systems to digitized systems, while also introducing Pre-Trial Interview (PTI) practices and strengthening cooperation with relevant organizations to support the rule of law.

The Union minister also inspected the law offices in Toungoo and Bago on 22 May. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister Dr Thida Oo inspects the pilot law office in Yangon Region.

Hlegu's rural development tasks inspected



Officials oversee the rural development initiatives in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

OFFICIALS conducted field inspections yesterday to monitor the progress of rural development initiatives in Thanatpyin and Alangapo villages, implemented by the Hlegu Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural

Development.

During the visit, U Kyi Saw, Head of the Yangon Region Department of Rural Development, U Tin Aung Than, Head of the Hlegu District Department, Daw Thandar Soe, Head of the Hlegu Township Department, and a team of engineers vis-

ited Thanatpyin Village. They inspected the installation of security fences around two village ponds to ensure access to clean drinking water and long-term sustainability. The fencing projects measure 750 feet in length and five feet in height, and 780 feet in length and five feet in height, respectively.

Subsequently, the regional head and officials proceeded to Alangapo Village to examine the construction of an inner-village concrete road aimed at improving local transportation. They viewed the progress of the road, which measures 428 feet in length, eight feet in width, and six inches in thickness. During the inspection, officials instructed the village committee members and staff to strictly adhere to designated quality and engineering standards, ensure timely completion, and prioritize workplace safety. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

UMTA launches online tourism digital marketing course for sustainable growth

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association's Human Resource Development Committee (UMTA-HRD) launches a tourism digital marketing course aimed at fostering sustainable growth within the national tourism industry.

Following an orientation ceremony on 22 May, the virtual programme runs online from 23 May to 1 June, drawing 62 trainees from various tourism businesses.

During the orientation, Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Director U

Nanda Aung, UMTA Patron Dr Thet Lwin Toe, and Chairperson U Kyaw Phone Naing deliver opening remarks, followed by an introduction session between trainers and trainees.

UMTA-HRD Chair Daw Chaw Chaw Kyay Mon outlines the online course regulations, assessment processes, and the committee's upcoming human resource development initiatives. UMTA invites tourism industry professionals, businesses, and interested individuals to enrol in future training cohorts. — MT/ZS



The online tourism digital marketing course.

Gold Market Rate as of 23 May 2025

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



NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

17 May

Head of State meets PyinOoLwin's town elders and MSME businesspeople

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

President inaugurates five upgraded roads in PyinOoLwin

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

18 May

Green upgrades smooth journeys

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Min Aung Hlaing, conducted an inspection tour of several key sites in PyinOoLwin, including the Pweka-uk Waterfall recreation resort (BE Falls), Thumingala Market, the National Kandawgyi Garden, and the Anisakhan Airfield.

19 May

Tatmadaw personnel representatives for Hluttaws replaced

The Union Election Commission announced the replacement of four Defence Services personnel representatives to the Pyithu Hluttaw under Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law and the replacement of four Defence Services personnel representatives to the Region or State Hluttaw under Section 33 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law.

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.

Anti-Online Scam Bill released

The Anti-Online Scam Bill was released for public review to send their suggestions and recommendations for the bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

20 May

Myanmar, China to further cement diplomatic relations, friendly ties

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Nyo Saw, received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, Ms Ma Jia, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chinese Ambassador calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia called on the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker at the Pyithu Hluttaw Reception Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

Soldiers Must Obey Only Lawful and Just Orders

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo inspected the general staff, adjutant and quartermaster measures of the Eastern Command Headquarters, and efforts to take security measures and uphold the rule of law.

21 May

President inspects construction projects in Nay Pyi Taw

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Min Aung Hlaing, inspected progress on the construction of the Nay Pyi Taw Gate and the Union Honorary Beikman, as well as ongoing renovation works on earthquake-damaged structures.

Vice-President receives Chinese Ambassador

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Pyidaungsu & Amyotha Hluttaws Speaker receives Chinese Ambassador

U Aung Lin Dwe, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of China to Myanmar, in the reception hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

General Ye Win Oo meets senior instructors and trainees

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo met senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees at the local training school in Kalaw.

22 May

Convening Hluttaw session under preparations

Patron of the Hluttaw Session Convening Central Committee and Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Aung Lin Dwe attended the Hluttaw Session Convening Central Committee and Work Committees Coordination Meeting 1/2026.

General Ye Win Oo attends 23rd ACDFM

The 23rd ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting (ACDFM) convened via videoconference, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo of the Myanmar Tatmadaw.

23 May

Vice-President inspects school enrolment activities

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye 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. — GNLM/TTA

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway set to re-launch Electronic Toll Collection system



An ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system is in action.

THE Ministry of Construction is planning to soon re-launch the previously implemented ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

The ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system automatically collects tolls electronically at checkpoints on highways and bridges without having to stop to pay in cash, reducing the waiting time for drivers at checkpoints and

making traffic faster and smoother.

“If using ETC and bridges, it will save time and speed up. Cash Lanes will also be there. If more ETC, the queues and waiting times in Cash Lanes will be reduced. ETC automatically passes through, so it saves time. It doesn't take much time, but it is really noticeable when there is a lot of traffic. So, this ETC system is currently suspended, but it

will be reopened. We are trying to reopen it in about three months. It will be a new upgraded system, not the previous system,” said an official from the Ministry of Construction.

Previously, the ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system was operated by the private sector, and the relevant ministry will be responsible for the ETC system, which will be used again soon. — ASH/MKKS

Mya Sein Yaung project funds disbursed to Aunglan's local villagers

THE Aunglan Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed Mya Sein Yaung revolving project funds at Samkalay (Ywama) Village in Aunglan Township, Magway Region, yesterday.

U Win Naing, Head of the Aunglan District

Department of Rural Development, explained that the revolving funds are being distributed to create job opportunities, boost family incomes for rural residents in Samkalay (Ywama) Village, and implement village infrastructure developments using the accumulated project interest and funds.

Subsequently, the project-in-charge clarified the project guidelines, interest rates, loan periods, and regulations. They then handed over the revolving funds to the members of the village project working committee.

Under the field supervision of the Aunglan District Department officials, the village project committee systematically distributed the first batch of low-interest loans directly to 82 project members. The disbursement totalled K29.4 million, which included funds for 44 individuals in agricultural businesses, 34 in livestock breeding, two in trading businesses, and two in micro-enterprises. — Karan (Rural)



The disbursement ceremony of Mya Sein Yaung funds is in progress in Aunglan, Magway Region.

NATIONAL

MoEE releases public notice on power distribution system

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is striving to ensure that the public can use electricity and energy without concern.

Among the projects launched by the government to boost electricity generation, several face delays due to disruptions, obstructions, and acts of vandalism, leaving authorities able to meet only about 70 per cent of current public demand. Concurrently, electricity consumption grows by 15 per cent annually, worsening the imbalance between supply and demand.

About 3.5 per cent of generated electricity is con-

sumed by power plants and substations, while about 4.5 per cent is naturally lost along the long-distance transmission lines, and about eight per cent of generated electricity is reduced when reaching users.

Additionally, targeted attacks on energy infrastructure have crippled key power generation sources, substations, and main transmission lines. Because these facilities cannot operate at full capacity, the remaining network must handle excessive power loads, forcing the national grid to operate under high technical risks to maintain public supply. —

MNA/KTZH



Mya Sein Yaung project funds disbursed to Myitkyina's local villagers

THE Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed Mya Sein Yaung revolving project funds at Nankway Village, in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, yesterday.

The project aims to enable rural residents to expand their family income-generating activities and implement village infrastructure developments

using the accumulated interest funds. Daw Zar Chi Tun, Staff Officer of the Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development, first explained the core objectives of the Mya Sein Yaung project fund disbursement and the operational procedures to be followed by the village.

Subsequently, department staff clarified the project guidelines, interest rates, repayment periods, and regulations. Fol-

lowing the briefing, the Staff Officer transferred the revolving fund of K77.8 million to the members of the village project working committee.

Under the directive of the committee members, the 11th batch of low-interest loans was systematically distributed directly to 86 project members in Nankway Village, who will utilize the funds for livestock breeding businesses. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



A handover ceremony of project funds is underway yesterday in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State.

MRCS boosts livelihood aid for earthquake victims in Sagaing



Residents viewing the list of households selected to receive assistance.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society said it will provide livelihood assistance grants to families whose socioeconomic conditions were affected by the Mandalay earthquake.

Under the programme, 650 households in Sagaing Township that met the required criteria have been selected to receive support, with the beneficiary lists being announced from 18 May.

An MRCS official said the assistance aims to help earthquake-affected residents resume long-term livelihood activities and rebuild their socioeconomic

lives through a systematic assessment process.

The selected households include families from Kyaukta Village, Taungnyo Ywathit Village, Moeza Ward, Htonebo Ward, Minlan Ward, and Zayya Ward.

According to the MRCS, Red Cross staff and volunteers conducted field assessments to verify actual needs and select eligible households based on established criteria. Beneficiary lists were also publicly displayed in wards and villages to ensure transparency in the selection process. — ASH/KZL

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

OPINION

Encourage youths to dream for their future lives

MALE and female youths are currently undergoing training in basic and advanced aviation courses at relevant training camps across Myanmar. They come from various regions and states, but have gathered at the training camps in unity to study basic and advanced aviation techniques together.

Officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) yearly arrange excursion trips for the youth trainees to significant locations, including airbases and notable landmarks in various regions, so they can observe the aviation duties and functions of the respective airbases and broaden their general knowledge. Under the supervision of instructors and teachers, trainees from all camps observed the daily routines of members of the Tatmadaw (Air) as well as aircraft mechanical techniques.

Some may think that aviation technology is highly advanced and that the trainees may find it difficult to understand aviation and mechanical techniques. This is understandable, as even the technicians of the Tatmadaw (Air) have had to work hard to master these skills. However, the observation activities and visits to airbases could greatly inspire these youths and encourage them to set goals of becoming skilled pilots or aviation technicians in the future.

during natural disasters, and the transport of cargo and supplies to areas where they are needed.

Some may think that aviation technology is highly advanced and that the trainees may find it difficult to understand aviation and mechanical techniques. This is understandable, as even the technicians of the Tatmadaw (Air) have had to work hard to master these skills. However, the observation activities and visits to airbases could greatly inspire these youths and encourage them to set goals of becoming skilled pilots or aviation technicians in the future.

These dreams and experiences gained through excursion trips and training courses will benefit the youths in shaping their future goals and career choices. In time, some of these aspirations may become reality. Therefore, it is important for everyone to support young people in pursuing their ambitions and building their futures. These excursion trips and aviation courses have helped many youths become capable and courageous pilots and personnel of Tatmadaw (Air). They are now carrying out their assigned duties for the State with dedication and sacrifice, while also making the most of valuable opportunities in their lives. Therefore, youths should be encouraged to independently shape their futures based on their own ambitions and aspirations.

During the excursion trips, the youth trainees have opportunities to observe cockpit facilities in aircraft and helicopters, aircraft structures, flight instruments, and engine instruments. Moreover, officials from the airbases explained the flight and combat capabilities of aircraft and helicopters, the operational roles of these aircraft, the history of Tatmadaw (Air), and the deployment of aircraft in aviation operations, including close air support in relevant military operations. Whenever they visited the airbases, the youths were also able to observe aviation technology and the capabilities of aircraft used in military operations, rescue and relief operations



Book Title	-	In Loving Memory of Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)
Author	-	Multiple authors
Publishing House	-	Duwun Sarpay
Publication Date	-	January 2026 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K25,000

In Loving Memory of Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)

Published by Duwun Sarpay to mark the first anniversary of the passing of the esteemed author Maung Khin Min (Danubyu).

THE editorial report notes that In Loving Memory of Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) (1940-2025) serves to commemorate the renowned literary icon Dr Khin Aye (popularly known by his pen name Maung Khin Min-Danubyu), who passed away unexpectedly on 28 January 2025. His demise leaves an irreplaceable void in the Myanmar literary world and a profound gap in the academic field of university-level Myanmar language literature studies. The commemorative volume features 94 selected contributions that vividly depict his enduring literary legacy. The editorial selection team takes full responsibility for any errors or shortcomings in the compilation.

In an article titled "The Greatest Teacher Who Cultivated Perfections", Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Head

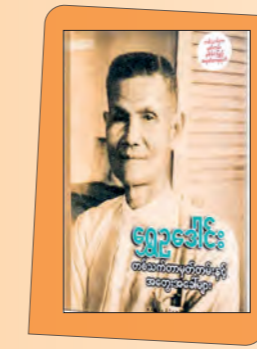
of the Myanmar Language Department at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), highlights Dr Khin Aye's 18 years of dedicated service. From 2007 until his passing in January 2025, Dr Khin Aye served as an associate professor in the university's Department of Myanmar Literature Related to the Tipitaka. The venerable monk praises him as an exemplary educator who diligently cultivated wisdom with steadfast faith and fulfilled spiritual perfection through wholesome deeds.

In another poignant piece, "Dr Khin Aye (aka Maung Khin Min (Danubyu): A Myanmar Language and Literature Scholar of the Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries," senior scholar U Thaw Kaung mourns the immense loss. Reflecting on his own isolation since the outbreak of

COVID-19 in December 2019, the octogenarian scholar notes that he had been managing his remaining literary duties strictly by phone due to his fragile health.

"On the morning of 28 January, I received phone calls from acquaintances, disciples, and members of the Myanmar Language Commission, breaking the news that Dr Khin Aye had suddenly passed away at 12:05 am," U Thaw Kaung recalls. "Despite my own deteriorating health, I am still alive. Yet he, who was so fiercely dedicated to working for the country despite his health conditions, has suddenly departed."

The tribute volume concludes with a concise biography of Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) alongside a comprehensive bibliography of his published works.



Book Title	-	Tathetta Hmattan Hnint Ahtweakhawmya (Record of Life and Thoughts)
Author	-	Shwe U Daung
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	November 2021 (4 th Edition)
Price	-	K30,000

Record of Life and Thoughts

Shwe U Daung's masterful autobiography, Tathetta Hmattan Hnint Ahtweakhawmya, returns in a refined new edition from Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House.

WHEN discussing autobiographical masterpieces in Myanmar literature, Shwe U Daung's Tathetta Hmattan Hnint Ahtweakhawmya (Record of Life and Thoughts) remains absolutely indispensable. Originally compiled from articles written by the author over two years in the Ludu Daily, this perennial best-seller has been carefully revised and reissued by Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House. While the book chronicles Shwe U Daung's own life, its enduring popularity stems from its profound insights into human psychology and nature, offering readers an abundance of life lessons.

Evaluating the book's im-

pact, the late literary icon Sayagyi Paragu once noted that Record of Life and Thoughts stands prominently at the pinnacle of Myanmar autobiographical literature. The memoir masterfully illustrates how individuals must play vastly different roles throughout their lives.

Shwe U Daung vividly exposes the coexisting opposites of human existence: good and evil, high and low, defeat and victory. He bravely confronts the truth of his own actions, even those society deems objectionable. Readers encounter a man who is alternately humble and arrogant; a soul struggling for daily survival, yet later enjoying interna-

tional fame. He transitions from a petty trader to a world peace representative, travelling abroad. Like a woodpecker navigating turbulent skies, the dramatic ups and downs of human destiny are laid bare. Shwe U Daung proves himself a courageous narrator, openly recording his virtues and vices alike.

In a chapter detailing his relationship with his pupil, the prominent satirist Thawda Swe, Shwe U Daung recalls a humorous moment of transaction:

"When Phoe Kyin Maung visited again, he brought not only a manuscript but also a sack of rice. Since I always expected payment whenever I spent considerable

time doing work for others, I immediately felt pleased at the sight of the rice. However, I reminded myself that I must not praise a poor manuscript merely because of a gift. At first, I honestly refused it. But Phoe Kyin Maung insisted, saying, 'This is simply a gift for you to eat, Uncle,' and so I finally accepted it."

The great writer also reflects deeply on his evolving personal philosophy, moving away from worldly vanity toward spiritual introspection:

"In the past, I wanted to know many people, and I even tried to make myself known to others. But now, following the teachings of Gautama Buddha, I strive to know myself. I no longer want to know many people, nor do I desire to be known by many. What matters most now is simply to understand myself naturally and truthfully."

The autobiography is structured into six chronological chapters that mirror the phases of his life through his changing names and titles: Chapter 1: Pe Thein; Chapter 2: From Pe Thein to Maung Pe Thein; Chapter 3: Maung Pe Thein to Ko Pe Thein; Chapter 4: Ko Pe Thein to U Pe Thein; Chapter 5: U Pe Thein to Sayagyi, and Chapter 6: Conclusion of a Lifetime.

The Last Flower

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

*In the master's yard,
The only flower's left.
With no time to pluck,
Could it be left among the thorns?
With no heart to pluck,
Could it be left above the thorns?
With no willingness to pluck,
By its fate, between the thorns,
Could it be left on purpose?*

*Whatever it happened,
In the late evening, in the master's land,
Blooming in all reminiscence,
The one left flower's thanks
Make the nightingale allay tragedy
At a fresh start of spring, definitely.*

18 May 2026

တင်ဦး

Intense longing and regret

By U Pone Nya, Translated by Myint Zan

under the emerald ban-
yan tree
at the golden cave
we lovers
teasing each other
reaching for, playing with
bouquets of flowers
affectionately
wholeheartedly
we have been merry
thus:
such pondering
remembering
reminiscing

caused intense longing
the heart aches
like the boiling waters of
the sea
the waves of nostalgia
hit one's memory:
(one) cannot bear it
and is inconsolable
the heart burns in long-
ing
tears that fall can fill a
creek ...

Translated on 19 May 2026

U Pone Nya's doggerel from the Saddan Elephant King novel, based on a Jataka tale.

Stay near me

By Mya Thae (Research)

Butterflies are flying among beautiful flowers happily.
One of the yellowish rose flowers is the most beautiful flower and stays joyfully.
A butterfly asked a yellowish flower what kind of butterfly she might accept.
She answered that she loves faithfulness and may choose a faithful butterfly exactly.
A butterfly answered that he is a faithful butterfly and requests her love heartily.
A yellowish rose flower accepted his love and told him to stay near her, kind and wealthy.

Reference: MRTV Live Show

NATIONAL Entertainment



Steel (Director)

LAST week, director Steel travelled to Hpa-an to search for filming locations for a movie titled 'Khat Kywe'. He has now announced that he has found the perfect location he wanted. He also shared that he will continue striving hard in his work and asked audiences to continue supporting and loving him, while he, in return, would always honour and respect his fans.



Aung Zabu

"IT became a special moment in my life when someone as successful as Aung Zabu gave me money and paid respect to me on my birthday," said supporting actress Daw Khin Ohn Myint. Daw Khin Ohn Myint recently celebrated her 69th birthday, and actor Aung Zabu gave K500,000 to her as a birthday present.



Chue Lay

THE launch ceremony for the drama series 'Mee Ko Nan Tae Pan Pwint Myar', in which Chue Lay takes the leading role, was held on 19 May at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon. The series also features actors Nay Win, Chue Sit Han, Ashley Bay Bay, Oak Aw Thanthar, and many other artistes.



May Khalar

I once heard Dhamma Kahtikas say that among the four virtues, Mudita is the most difficult to practise. Mudita means genuinely feeling happy for others' success, wealth, and prosperity as if they were one's own achievements. Now, singer May Khalar made a mention of Mudita regarding young actors who are becoming successful despite facing many criticisms. She said, "Aung Zabu and San Yay Moe are enjoying great success and popularity. They are rising stars, so they should not be pulled down. They should be encouraged and supported."



Nay Htoo Naing

THE movie 'La Tasin Yae Aein Apyan', starring Paing Takhon, Nay Htoo Naing, and Ya Min May Oo, is currently being screened in cinemas in Thailand. Regarding this, action actor Nay Htoo Naing said, "I'm happy that a movie I acted in is being shown in Thailand. We have watched their films with Myanmar subtitles for a long time. Now, they are watching our Myanmar movie with Thai subtitles."— Htun Htun/KTZH

Celebrity BRIEF



Star-studded premiere launches 'Nya Hmway Pan Lay Yae Kyauk Pazun'

THE grand national premiere of the movie 'Nya Hmway Pan Lay Yae Kyauk Pazun' (I Wanna Be Your Lobster) was held on 20 May 2026, at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon.

The film was produced by Ever Top Film Production, with Pyae Phyo Zaw serving as the story writer, screenwriter, and director.

"Everyone from the Lobster team put a lot

of energy and effort into this movie. Please come and watch it, support us, and share your feedback. The film will be screened in cinemas throughout this week, so we warmly invite audiences to come and enjoy it," said rising actor and drummer Bone Bone, who appears in the movie.

Cast members include Henry San, Pan Young Chel and Bone Bone. — Htun Htun/KTZH

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korean president vows to continue peace efforts

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday vowed to carry on late President Roh Moo-hyun's efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula at a memorial ceremony marking the 17th anniversary of Roh's death. Speaking at the ceremony in Roh's hometown of Bongha Village in Gimhae, southeast of Seoul, Lee said he would "steadfastly walk the path of peaceful coexistence and shared growth", following Roh's efforts to turn "the line of division into a road of peace".

Lee specifically referred to the 4 October Inter-Korean joint declaration, which was signed by Roh and then top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Il in 2007.

The declaration called for advancing inter-Korean relations, easing military tensions and promoting economic cooperation. — Xinhua

Chemical leak sparks massive California evacuations

ABOUT 40,000 residents in Southern California were under evacuation orders on Friday after a leaking tank of volatile industrial chemical at an aerospace manufacturing facility sparked fears of a major explosion or toxic spill, according to local authorities.

Authorities said the leak began Thursday afternoon at a facility in Garden Grove, a city in Orange County, where an overheated storage tank holding methyl methacrylate — a flammable chemical used in the production of acrylic plastics — began venting hazardous vapours.

Officials said the facility operated by GKN Aerospace contains three storage tanks in total, with one suffering a cooling system failure. Emergency crews initially believed they had stabilized the situation overnight, but worsening conditions on Friday prompted authorities to expand evacuation orders, forcing school closures and emergency responses across multiple cities. — Xinhua

Trump weighs military options over Iran

THE Trump administration is preparing for a fresh round of military strikes against Iran despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, US media reported Friday, citing sources with direct knowledge of the planning.

US President Donald Trump on Friday met with top US national security officials over a path forward on the war with Iran, but the meeting ended without a decision on what will happen next, a source familiar with the meeting told CNN. Trump is seriously considering launching new strikes against Iran, barring a last-minute breakthrough in negotiations, Axios reported on Friday, citing sources who have spoken directly with the president. — Xinhua



Maritime Security: Guarantees absolute freedom of navigation across critical waterways, explicitly covering the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFF/FILE**

Draft of possible Iran-US peace deal to include 9 clauses: media

The draft would require negotiations on outstanding issues to begin within seven days.

A potential peace agreement between Iran and the United States would include nine clauses, Al Arabiya reported Friday, citing informed sources.

The draft includes an immediate, comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire on all fronts, guarantees against targeting military, civilian or economic infrastructure, cessation of military operations, and an end to the media war, Al Arabiya reported.

The draft also stipulates

respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, freedom of navigation in the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman, and the establishment of a joint monitoring and conflict resolution mechanism, it reported.

The draft would require negotiations on outstanding issues to begin within seven days, a gradual lifting of US sanctions in exchange for Iran's compliance, and a commitment to the UN Charter, it

reported.

The initial agreement would take effect immediately upon official announcement by both sides, it reported.

A Pakistani source said "cautious optimism" characterizes ongoing discussions on the potential agreement, according to the report.

Narrowing gaps is difficult because both sides "have high demands", it reported, noting that Iran's enriched uranium remains the sticking point. — Xinhua



NATO meeting reflects European concerns over predictability of US policy

NATO foreign ministers' meeting ended Friday in the southern Swedish city of Helsingborg with European allies seeking

The flags of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its member states are seen at the venue of NATO summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, 24 June 2025. **PHOTO: ZHAO DINGZHE/XINHA/FILE**

clearer and more predictable signals from the United States over its future military posture in Europe.

The two-day meeting came amid uncertainty over US troop deployments in Europe and Washington's growing criticism of some NATO allies over their response to US operations related to the Iran war.

US President Donald Trump recently surprised NATO allies by announcing that he would send additional troops to Poland, after earlier plans to reduce US troop levels in Europe. The shifting signals have added to European concerns over the predictability of US policy towards the alliance. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Nepal seeks to postpone LDC graduation by 3 years

Nepal's post-COVID-19 economic recovery has yet to fully stabilize, while geopolitical tensions and the impacts of climate change have created additional challenges for the economy.

THE Nepal government has requested the United Nations to postpone the country's graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category by three years, according to a senior official. In a press conference on Friday, Lok Bahadur Poudel Chhetri, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has already dispatched a letter to the chair of the Committee for Development Policy under the United Nations Economic and Social Council, seeking to defer Nepal's graduation until November 2029. Nepal was originally sched-

uled to graduate on 24 November 2026. "Low economic growth and Nepal's risk of losing the duty-free and quota-free market access it currently enjoys are among the reasons behind the request for deferral," Chhetri said.

He said Nepal's post-COVID-19 economic recovery has yet to fully stabilize, while geopolitical tensions and the impacts of climate change have created additional challenges for the economy. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which has contributed to rising fuel and food prices, has also affected the country's economy, he said. — Xinhua



Nepal is a premier global destination renowned for its dramatic Himalayan landscapes, ancient cultural heritage, and world-class adventure tourism. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Mexico, EU lower tariffs in bid to grow non-US trade



EU chief Ursula von der Leyen will sign an expanded trade deal with Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE European Union and Mexico on Friday signed a deal reducing tariffs on each other's goods as both seek to lessen their dependence on trade with the United States. The expansion of an accord dating to 2000 comes as Mexico fights hard to preserve a three-way free trade agreement with the United States and Canada, which is crucial to all three economies. The EU is Mexico's third-largest trading partner, lagging far behind the US and China.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has stressed the importance of "opening other horizons" at a time when both Mexico and the EU are grappling with US President Donald Trump's tariff offensive. The updated agreement, signed by Sheinbaum and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the eighth EU-Mexico Summit, removes most remaining barriers to trade and investment. — Xinhua

Kevin Warsh sworn in as Fed chair, with Trump's desired rate cuts uncertain

US President Donald Trump on Friday swore in Kevin Warsh as the chair of the Federal Reserve at a time of rising inflation due to the ongoing war against Iran, a development that has made the near-term interest rate cuts sought by the president increasingly unlikely.

Warsh succeeded Jerome Powell, who was repeatedly criticized by Trump for not heeding his calls for lower borrowing

costs.

Tapping Warsh for a four-year term at the helm of the world's most influential central bank is widely seen as a reflection of Trump's desire for a change in US monetary policy.

With many investors now betting on rate hikes this year as a result of rising costs, however, Warsh faces a difficult task in steering the Fed to fulfil its dual mandate of promoting

price stability and maximum employment.

"When we pursue those aims with wisdom and clarity, independence and resolve, inflation can be lower, growth stronger, real take-home pay higher, and America can be more prosperous — and, no less important, America's place in the world more secure," Warsh said at his swearing-in ceremony at the White House. — Kyodo

Eid shoppers hit by soaring sheep prices in Ivory Coast

IVORY Coast shoppers faced soaring prices and tight supplies at Abidjan's Adjame livestock market as they hunted for sheep ahead of Eid al Adha, AFP reports. The West African country relies on imports for about 75 per cent of its Tabaski livestock — roughly 350,000 sheep and cattle — from neighbours such as Burkina Faso and Mali, but export bans and insecurity have sharply reduced cross border flows this year.

Burkina Faso this month stopped livestock exports to protect its domestic market and Niger enacted a similar ban in March, while jihadist roadblocks in Mali have disrupted transport. Traders at Adjame said many animals remain stranded across borders: one seller reported 300 head stuck at the Burkina border, another said 150 paid for animals were held in Koutiala, Mali. Several traders estimated supplies at

about half last year's levels.

With availability limited, bargaining grew fierce and prices climbed: buyers said rams that fetched 200,000 CFA francs last year are now selling for at least 250,000-320,000 CFA francs, and some vendors quoted 500,000 CFA. That surge comes against a monthly minimum wage of 75,000 CFA francs, putting sacrifices out of reach for poorer households. — AFP

China-Russia Expo marks 10th year amid deepening cooperation

NEARLY 300 exhibitors and a 5,000-member procurement delegation from Russia took part in the 10th China-Russia Expo, cementing the event's status as the largest and most influential bilateral business platform for business cooperation between the two countries.

The five-day expo, which concluded on Thursday, has attracted more than 1,500 enterprises from 46 countries and regions to its exhibition area of 55,000 square metres in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, ac-

ording to the organizers. For Evgeny Bazhov, chief representative in China of the Russian Export Centre, the fair offered a hectic schedule of business talks.

The center is committed to helping Russian companies enter the Chinese market. On its first day at the fair, the centre held 104 business matchmaking sessions and engaged with 43 Chinese companies in targeted trade negotiations, with potential cooperation valued at 3.9 billion rubles (about US\$55 million), said Bazhov.

He noted that China's visa-free policy had greatly eased travel for many members of the Russian business delegation, proving particularly useful in attracting those attending the expo for the first time.

The expo has offered a glimpse into the deepening business cooperation between the two countries. Over 500 new technologies and products made their debuts at the expo, spanning areas including intelligent equipment, digital security, green building materials and advanced energy storage. — Xinhua



A participant shakes hands with a robot during the 10th China-Russia Expo in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 18 May 2026. PHOTO: NA YUQI/XINHUA

Americans feel the pinch of soaring petrol prices amid Iran war

MILLIONS of Americans are facing financial strain due to a dramatic surge in petrol prices driven by

the ongoing war with Iran.

The national average for a gallon of petrol has reached US\$4.555 on Wednesday — a whopping 50 per cent rise since the Iran conflict started in February, according to data released by the American Automobile Association (AAA). Gary Hufbauer, a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told Xinhua: "High petrol prices dispro-

portionately hurt low-income people in the middle states — in other words, people other than (those living on) the East and West Coasts of America." While lower-income households have sharply reduced their gas consumption by about seven per cent, they are still spending 12 per cent more on fuel due to the price hikes, according to research from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. — Xinhua



A woman fuels a vehicle at a petrol station in Arlington, Virginia, the United States, 30 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Germany's Flixtrain to double train services

GERMANY'S Flix transport company said Friday it intends to double rail services in the country over the next two years, putting more pressure on beleaguered public operator Deutsche Bahn.

Specialising in bus travel, Flix has been expanding its low-cost rail offering in Germany since 2018.

Publicly-owned Deutsche Bahn has meanwhile been unable

to restore punctuality on long-distance services and is struggling under debt and the consequences of years of underinvestment.

"We are going to tap into this tremendous market potential in Germany and firmly establish ourselves as the second major operator," said a spokesman for the Munich-based group, confirming a report in Spiegel magazine. — AFP

Spotify, Universal strike deal for fan AI remixes

SPOTIFY is teaming up with Universal Music Group to let users create AI-powered remixes and covers of songs by artists on the label — for an extra fee on top of a standard subscription.

The new feature, announced Thursday, will only apply to artists who have given their consent, and both the original performer and songwriter will

receive a share of any revenue generated.

"For the first time, fans will be able to legally create covers and remixes from participating artists and songwriters' catalogs, with both the original artist and the songwriter sharing in the value created," said Charlie Hellman, Spotify's head of music, speaking at the company's investor day. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB620A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB620A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-5-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR PANGANDARAN VOY.NO. (1008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR PANGANDARAN VOY.NO. (1008N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-5-2026 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.

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Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Chinese astronauts Zhu Yangzhu (C), Zhang Zhiyuan (R) and Li Jiaying, or Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese, for the upcoming Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceflight mission, meet the press at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, 23 May 2026. **PHOTO: LIAN ZHEN/XINHUA**

China unveils Shenzhou-23 crew for space station mission

MAY 23

CHINESE astronauts Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan and Li Jiaying, or Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese, will carry out the Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceflight mission, with Zhu serving as the commander, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced on Saturday.

The Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 11:08 pm Sunday (Beijing Time) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

The three astronauts are respectively a flight engineer, a spacecraft pilot and a payload specialist. Zhu previously participated in the Shenzhou-16 space mission. Zhang and Li come from the third and fourth batches of astronauts respectively, and will embark on their first spaceflight missions. Before being selected, Zhang was an air force pilot, while Li worked in the Hong Kong Police Force. — Xinhua

MAY 22

Ebola outbreak tests conflict-hit eastern DR Congo

THE Ebola outbreak spreading through eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is increasingly testing the country's fragile response capacity as the virus reaches areas controlled by the 23 March Movement, where insecurity, population displacement, limited access and political mistrust are complicating efforts to contain the disease.

The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, was declared on 15 May, the 17th outbreak in the country since 1976. It has left 177 suspected deaths and almost 750 suspected cases, according to the World Health Organization, amid the absence of an approved vaccine or specific treatment for this strain.

In the areas under M23 control, confirmed cases have been reported, deepening concern that the virus could spread through major urban centres already affected by conflict and population movements. — Xinhua

MAY 21

IMF cuts France 2026 growth forecast

THE International Monetary Fund said Thursday that it had cut its forecast for French economic growth this year to 0.7 per cent from 0.9 per cent, citing inflation risks from the war in the Middle East.

"Business investment and household consumption are set to moderate in response to the shock, amid a persistent wait-and-see attitude ahead of the 2027 elections," the IMF said in its latest review of the country.

Its forecast is below the government's own forecast for growth of 0.9 per cent this year, the same level reached in 2025.

Officials are currently weighing new financial help for households and businesses struggling with fuel price increases from the Middle East war.

The country is also gearing up for 2027 presidential elections. — AFP

MAY 20

Syria president thanks Trump for gift

SYRIAN leader Ahmed al-Sharaa has thanked US President Donald Trump for a gift of Trump cologne, a callback to their historic meeting in November when the American leader lavished his fragrance on the Syrian jihadist-turned-statesman.

Sharaa was the first Syrian leader to visit the White House since the country's independence in 1946.

"Some meetings leave an impression; ours apparently left a fragrance," Sharaa posted in English on X late on Tuesday, posting an image of two Trump-branded fragrance boxes.

"Thank you, Mr President @realDonaldTrump, for your generosity and for topping up this precious gift. May the spirit of that meeting continue to shape a stronger relationship between Syria and the United States."

After the November meeting, video emerged showing Trump gifting Sharaa his cologne, spraying some on him and on Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani.

At the time, Trump also gifted Sharaa a perfume box for his wife. — AFP

MAY 19

Thailand cuts visa-free stays

THAILAND is drastically cutting the length of visa-free stays for tourists from more than 90 countries in an effort to curb crime involving foreign nationals, officials said on Tuesday.

Tourism is vital to the South-East Asian nation's economy, but foreign arrivals are yet to return to their pre-COVID-19 highs.

A recent series of high-profile arrests of foreigners has included cases linked to drug offences, sex trafficking and foreigners operating businesses such as hotels and schools without proper permits.

Under Thailand's current tourism scheme, travellers from more than 90 countries – including Europe's 29-nation Schengen area, the United States, Israel and several South American countries – are eligible to visit for up to 60 days without a visa. Thailand's cabinet approved reducing visa-free stays for travellers from those countries on Tuesday, Tourism Minister Surasak Phanchaoenworakul told reporters in Bangkok. — AFP

MAY 18

Israeli economy shrinks due to war with Iran

ISRAEL'S gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by an annual rate of 3.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the previous quarter, according to figures issued by the state's Central Bureau of Statistics.

This marks a reversal after Israel's economy grew 2.9 per cent in the fourth quarter and maintained that pace through 2025. Business activity contracted at a 3.1 per cent annualized rate in the first quarter, reversing a 5.4 per cent expansion, while private consumption dropped 4.7 per cent after falling 4.6 per cent in the previous quarter.

The Bureau attributed this sharp economic contraction to the extensive military reserve call-ups and severe business disruptions caused by the conflict. — Xinhua

MAY 17

Indian worker killed in Ukraine drone attack

AN INDIAN citizen working in Russia was among the three people killed in a massive Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow and the surrounding region, the Indian embassy in Russia said on Sunday.

"One Indian worker has lost his life and three others have been injured in a drone attack in Moscow region earlier today," the embassy said in a statement.

Embassy officials have visited the site of the attack and met the injured workers in the hospital, the statement added.

A wave of almost 600 Ukrainian drones attacked Russia overnight, killing three people in the Moscow region and one in the Belgorod region. — AFP

SPORTS

U18 football tournament group matches continue

GROUP-STAGE matches of the 2026 Inter-State and Region Under-18 Men's Football Tournament continued on 23 May at four venues in Myanmar, with strong support from football fans and departmental officials.

Matches were held at Zwegabin Stadium in Hpa-an, the State Stadium in Taunggyi, the Sports Garden Stadium in Bago and Koethein Stadium in Patheingyi under a four-zone format.

In the day's fixtures, Yangon Region defeated Rakhine State 9-0 at Zwegabin Stadium, while the Nay Pyi Taw Union



U18 football players battle for possession in a dynamic group-stage match.

Territory team beat Magway Region 3-0 in Bago. At Taunggyi State Sta-

dium, Taninthayi Region secured a 4-0 victory over Kayah State. — MNA/KZL

AFC Grassroots Football Day held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Football Federation held the AFC Grassroots Football Day ceremony at the



Children are pictured participating in the AFC Grassroots Football Day event.

Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 23 May.

Children participating in the programme entered the field and recited the sports pledge during the ceremony. Senior Vice-President U Pyae Phyo Teza, General Secretary U Tun Tun Aung, executive committee members and officials from the federation greeted the children and donated footballs.

The participating children later joined activities under the AFC Grassroots Football Day programme with assistance from Myanmar youth national team players.

Around 350 students from basic education schools across Yangon Region took part in the event. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Asian Games seen as further growth opportunity for esports

THE upcoming Asian Games in central Japan will feature esports as a medal event for the second time, raising hopes of further growth in competitive video gaming.

Masato Ochi, vice-chairman of the Japan Esports Union, sees the Asian Games as "a major turning point in attracting more people".

Esports made its Asian Games debut as a medal event at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, which were postponed until 2023 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was previously featured as a demonstration event at the 2018 Asian



File photo shows Japan's Asian Games esports qualifying event in Tokoname, Aichi Prefecture, on 22 March 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. Medals will be up for grabs in 11 esports events at the 19

September to 4 October Asian Games in Aichi Prefecture, centred around Nagoya. — Kyodo



Thiha Aung and Htun Htun Htet compete in the 63.5-kilogramme division at PBM 9.

PBM 9 boxing event held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Boxing Commission held the Professional Boxing Matches 9 (PBM 9) tournament at the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation indoor stadium in Theinbyu Ground, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, on 23 May.

Five bouts were contested during the event. In the 50.8-kilogramme division, Nyan Lin Htet of MBC Boxing Club defeated Phyo Thu Aung of Eagle Club by referee stoppage in the fourth round.

In the 55.37-kilogramme division, Ye Moe Aung of MBC Boxing Club beat Myo Myat of Taunggyi Club on points after a full-distance fight, while Hein Htet Aung of Danuphyu

Club knocked out Aung Hlaing of Phantom Club in the third round of the 66.37-kilogramme contest.

Saw Dennis of MBC Boxing Club earned a first-round knockout victory over Saw Arah El of Patheingyi Club in the 69.9-kilogramme division. In the 63.5-kilogramme bout, Thiha Aung of Boxing Family Club defeated Htun Htun Htet of MBC Boxing Club on points after an evenly contested match.

The commission also said it is arranging for Myanmar professional boxers to compete as national representatives at Benkei Fight Vol 10, which will be held in Osaka during the second week of June. — Bala/KZL

Spain coach cautions against overconfidence ahead of World Cup

SPAIN coach Luis de la Fuente warned against overconfidence as the countdown begins to this summer's World Cup finals.

Spain will travel to the United States, Mexico and Canada as European champions and one of the big favourites after an excellent qualifying campaign, but De la Fuente warned the Spanish team "have to keep our feet on the ground".

De la Fuente warned of the differences that exist between club and national teams.

"People don't realize the great parity that exists at the national team level. It has nothing to do with clubs and there are

11 good players in any team," he explained.

The Spain coach will give his 26-man squad for the World Cup on Monday and explained the difficulties it presented.

"The most important process is scouting, but the most painful thing is leaving out players who are capable of being there," he said.

De la Fuente also said players needed to think differently when they play for their country and their club. "Here, there are no club players; there are national team players. It's a different mentality," he commented. — Xinhua



In urban areas, over 700 nature zones, including biodiversity demonstration zones and ecological conservation communities, have been created to expand habitats and breeding spaces for flora and fauna.

Beijing ranks among global megacities with high biodiversity levels

Milu deer are pictured at Milu Park in Beijing, capital of China, 18 August 2025. PHOTO: ZHANG CHENLIN/XINHUA/FILE

Beijing has recorded over 7,000 species, placing its biodiversity level among the world's leading megacities, the municipal ecology and environment bureau said on Thursday.

According to the bureau, during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), the city saw steady improvements in its ecological environment. A total of 151 types of natural and semi-natural ecosystems and 7,121 species were documented through citywide surveys, demonstrating remarkable outcomes in biodiversity conservation and placing Beijing at the forefront

of global megacities in this regard.

By international standards, a city recording 3,000 to 5,000 species is considered to have a high level of biodiversity, while more than 5,000 represents an extremely high level.

Over the past five years, Beijing has continuously advanced biodiversity conservation. The city has enforced a regulation on ecological protection and green development of Beijing's ecological

conservation areas and issued its first medium- and long-term plan for biodiversity conservation. A joint meeting system has also been established to facilitate cross-department coordination on key tasks.

The city has designated ecological conservation redlines covering 27.5 per cent of its land area and protected natural areas covering about 19 per cent, providing effective spatial safeguards

for biodiversity.

In urban areas, over 700 nature zones, including biodiversity demonstration zones and ecological conservation communities, have been created to expand habitats and breeding spaces for flora and fauna. Regular inspections of ecological issues are carried out within protected natural areas and ecological redlines, ensuring that identified problems are promptly addressed. — Xinhua

Swedish expert on mission to bring Jurassic era to life

TWO hundred million years ago, southern Sweden teemed with lush vegetation where crocodiles and dinosaurs roamed — a Jurassic ecosystem palaeontologist Vivi Vajda and her team are reconstructing from fossil evidence. Based at Stockholm's Natural History Museum, Vajda studies pollen samples and fossils from Sweden's southern Skåne province, where deep ground cracks preserved Jurassic-era specimens through successive ice ages that erased traces elsewhere.

"When I see a pollen grain, I actually see the tree. I can see the tree and the ecosystem in front of me," Vajda explained, projecting microscopic specimens onto her office wall.

The researchers pieced together fossil fragments — footprints, teeth, leaf imprints — from museum archives, identifying species and collaborating with an illustrator to recreate local Jurassic ecosystems. Their work, pub-

Their October 2025 book revealed surprising biodiversity, starkly different from today.

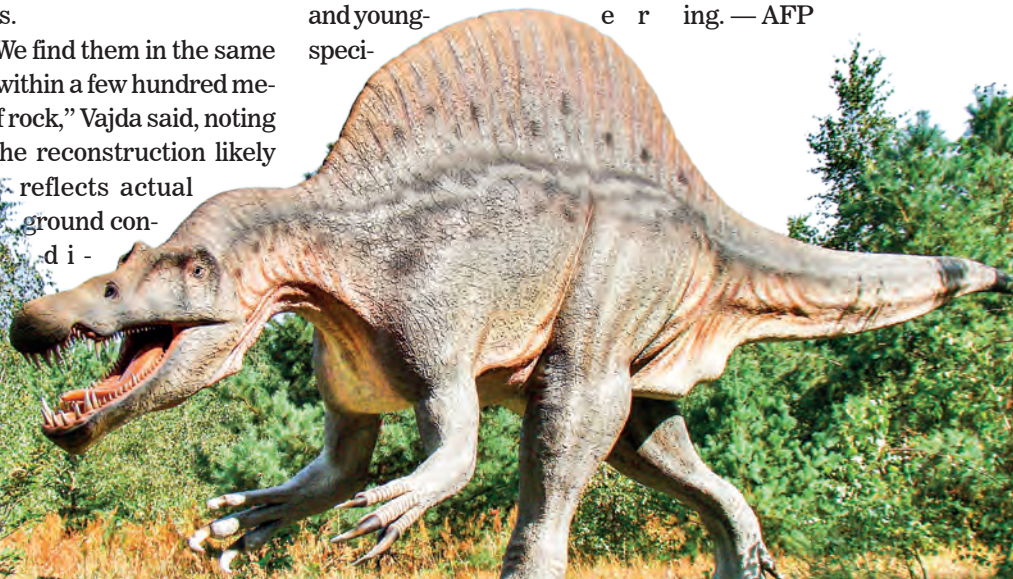
lished as an illustrated book in October 2025, revealed surprising biodiversity: dense greenery of ferns, primitive conifers and marsh plants, starkly different from today's Scandinavian landscapes.

"We find them in the same area, within a few hundred metres of rock," Vajda said, noting the reconstruction likely reflects actual ground conditions.

"It was kind of surprising to see that it was such lush vegetation."

Though fossils provide only "a snapshot of one time interval," comparing older and younger specimens

allows scientists to track how climate change and biodiversity shifted over time, bringing prehistoric plants and animals back to life for both research and public understanding. — AFP



The researchers pieced together fossil fragments—footprints, teeth, leaf imprints—from museum archives, identifying species and collaborating with an illustrator to recreate local Jurassic ecosystems. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

Sydney turns on for annual Vivid light festival

SYDNEY transformed into a kaleidoscopic display of light and color Friday as the harbor city switched on for the annual Vivid Sydney festival.

The event, which will run through 13 June, sees the city lit up with 43 light installations and projections in an unbroken 6.5-kilometre walk along the Sydney Harbour foreshore, transforming iconic landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge with glowing displays.

The festival this year is extending its programme of installations, music performances, dining experiences and talks into daytime public art, aimed at families and the elderly.

The largest festival in Australia, Vivid Sydney attracted 2.53 million visitors in 2025. — Kyodo