

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing observes dairy cattle and calves farm at the No 1 Kangyi Livestock Zone in Tatkon Township yesterday.

Efficient Supply of Livestock Products Helps Reduce Commodity Prices

A well-organized and systematic farming approach must first be adopted as a foundation for advancing towards a modern, science-based livestock farming system.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing conducted an inspection tour of livestock breeding activities in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Min Naung and U Htein Lin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than and deputy ministers, the President observed the goat breeding farm of Sunlight Venture Co Ltd in

Shwemyo Livestock Zone in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Businessperson U Myat Min Latt reported on operating the farm, feeding systems and plans.

In his response, the President said that feed and water systems must be properly arranged from the very beginning of the breeding process, and biosecurity measures also need to be systematically implemented. In addition to meat production, goat hides can also be distributed to the market. Moreover, forage grass cultivation for goats

must be systematically carried out to ensure a continuous and sustainable production system.

The President inspected the pig breeding farm at the local battalion in the area of Shwemyo Livestock Zone. An official reported to the President on the work process, distribution of pigs, and sales of pork in various forms as meat, dry rations and ready-to-eat pork meals to relevant military commands.

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Key guidance given by the President during the inspection tour

1. It is necessary to take into account both feed availability and market accessibility in implementing the projects.
2. Success in livestock activities will be achieved through the implementation of a systematic livestock farming system, ensuring adequate water supply, and improving cultivation and breeding methods.
3. Efforts should be made to ensure the full availability of milk and eggs in order to enable the population to consume nutritious food at affordable prices.

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Myanmar to expand Rice Export Zones to 350,000 acres during this year's monsoon

NATIONAL

Public notice on current situation of electricity generation and distribution

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

Although the government has undertaken various projects aimed at increasing electricity generation, some projects could not be implemented due to different forms of obstruction, interference and disruption. As a result, only about 70 per cent of public demand can currently be met.

At the same time, public electricity consumption has been increasing by approximately 15 per cent annually, creating a situation in which demand is exceeding available capacity.

Of the total electricity generated, around 3.5 per cent is consumed by power plants and substations for operational purposes, while approximately 4.5 per cent is naturally lost along the extensive national transmission lines. Consequently, by the time electricity reaches



consumers, around eight per cent of the generated power is unavoidably reduced.

In addition, some power generation sources, substations and main transmission lines have been damaged in terrorist attacks and can no longer operate at full capacity. As a result, the remaining substations and transmission lines are

carrying excessive loads, and the national electricity generation and distribution network is operating under significant technical risks while striving to meet public demand.

To repair damaged facilities, employees of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, with security assistance from members of the Tatmadaw and

the Myanmar Police Force, as well as support from local residents, have been carrying out repair work with dedication and self-sacrifice regardless of weather conditions or time.

During such repair operations, workers have also faced dangers including landmines planted along travel routes, attacks during repair work, and

mines planted along return routes after repairs are completed. Consequently, some staff members have lost their lives, suffered injuries, or sustained permanent disabilities.

Despite these difficulties, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy continues to prioritise overcoming technical challenges and exposing and addressing fraudulent activities. As a result, the ministry has been able to increase electricity distribution even during the current period, when water storage levels at reservoirs have reached their lowest levels.

As the State's electricity and energy resources and infrastructure are spread across the country, the ministry urges the public to cooperate by helping safeguard these facilities and by paying attention to and complying with the notices and announcements issued periodically by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Yangon air quality monitored on 23 May 2026

THE Environmental Conservation Department of Yangon Region has been conducting regular 24-hour monitoring and analysis of ambient air quality at three designated monitoring locations in Yangon City using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) devices.

The monitoring covers six main parameters: Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃), and Carbon Monoxide (CO).

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

Air Quality Index - AQI

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

It was observed that ambient air quality results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall conditions, vehicle usage, dust dispersion caused by hot and dry weather, emissions released from factories, and the surrounding conditions near the air quality monitoring locations.

Environmental Conservation Department

Mongyai Township produces carpenters from vocational training

THE Department of Rural Development in Mongyai Township Shan State (North), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a graduation ceremony yesterday morning for a vocational carpentry training course in Narkho Village. The training was conducted with the aim of creating job opportunities for rural residents and producing skilled workers.

An official of the Mongyai Township Department of Rural Development, encouraged trainees to practically apply the carpentry skills and techniques learned during the training in their villages and communities, and to establish small-scale businesses

in order to increase family incomes.

Afterwards, departmental officials and training instructors presented graduation certificates and outstanding awards to the trainees who achieved excellent performance in both theoretical and practical training during the course.

A total of 20 trainees from Narkho Village attended the vocational carpentry training course. Experienced trainers systematically provided free theoretical and practical training related to carpentry to them for 15 days. It is reported that all trainees have now successfully completed the training with proficiency. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

NATIONAL

Efficient Supply of Livestock Products Helps Reduce Commodity Prices



President U Min Aung Hlaing hears the report from an official at the local battalion in the area of Shwemyo Livestock Zone in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Speaking on the occasion, the President underlined that rather than relying on the importation of pig breeds from abroad, efforts should be made to breed and expand livestock production independently. It is also necessary to study and conduct research on the operational systems of already successful pig-breeding businesses. Breeding, livestock management, feeding, and meat production systems must all be carefully implemented. Proper management is also required to ensure a sustainable livestock production system. In addition, it is necessary to further expand pig breeding operations beyond the current scale.

On arrival at the No 1 Kangyi Livestock Zone in Tatkon Township, businessperson U Twam Khin Win reported to the President on the breeding of dairy cattle and calves, the production of animal feed using locally available raw materials, and the operation of the milk

processing factory and yogurt factory.

In giving guidance, the President stressed that it is necessary to study dairy cattle breeding methods practised in foreign countries, as well as to examine and implement feeding and watering systems and waste management systems.

At the poultry farm of U Myat San, the President viewed the operation of breeding broilers and raising layers. The farm owner conducted the President around the farm. The President underscored that the operational activities should be upgraded step by step, and automated systems for feeding, watering, and egg collection can be implemented. Layer chicken farming contributes to increasing food supply and enables the consumption of nutritious food at more affordable prices. He guided that roof tiles can also be replaced to reduce heat in poultry farms and used instead of the current roofing materials.

The President also visit-

ed the pig farm owned by U Tin Myaing and observed the breeding activities.

At the briefing hall, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than reported on the operation of Kangyi, Shwemyo and Pyaunggaunggyi livestock zones in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, efforts to breed the designated number of animals, supervision for prevention of infectious diseases, and use of artificial insemination methods for breeding improvement.

In his speech, the President said that the implementation of livestock breeding zones across the entire country is intended to ensure that meat, fish, and various types of eggs can be purchased and consumed at affordable prices, and to achieve food security. Entrepreneurs who have already acquired land for these projects are also required to successfully implement their businesses. Before advancing to a modern, scientific livestock farming system, it is necessary

to adopt a well-organized and systematic farming approach. Since current livestock activities involve raising animals in enclosed farm settings, priority should be given to establishing clean and proper feeding systems, as well as effective animal health care systems.

He highlighted that the areas designated for livestock breeding zones, such as Kangyi, Shwemyo, and Pyaunggaunggyi, have been selected because they can provide abundant animal feed resources. Therefore, livestock zones are being established in these areas. In implementing the projects, it is necessary to take into account both feed availability and market accessibility.

The President pointed out that if animal feed is produced using locally available agricultural raw materials and livestock production is carried out in a way that ensures sufficient supply for consumption, it will help reduce rising commodity prices.

Concerning breeding dairy cattle, the President stressed that only yoghurt is being produced in the country, and it is necessary to ensure sufficient production of widely used milk products such as condensed milk, fresh milk, and milk powder. In order to enable the population to consume nutritious food at affordable prices, efforts should be made to ensure the full availability of milk and eggs.

He noted that success in these activities will be achieved through the implementation of a systematic livestock farming system, ensuring adequate water supply, and improving cultivation and breeding methods.

He underlined that it is also necessary to arrange for good-quality production roads within livestock zones. Within each livestock zone and for each type of activity, proper fencing must be constructed, bushes and undergrowth cleared, and tree planting carried out in an orderly manner. — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Observance of International Day of Yoga reflects Myanmar-India warm relations

THE Yoga demonstration with the collective practice marked the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026 at the water fountain square in the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw of Union Territory yesterday morning, with the participation of Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Nyo Saw.

Also present at the demonstration were Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and embassy officials, departmental heads and officials.

Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur extended greetings.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President U Nyo Saw said that the International Day of Yoga ceremonies were successfully held in Myanmar in 2024 and 2025 at the Fountain Square



Vice-President U Nyo Saw takes part in the Yoga demonstration with the collective practice marked the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026 at the water fountain square in the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

inside the Maravijaya Buddha Park based on the cordial relations between Myanmar and India, and with the approval of the Head of State of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the arrangements made by the In-

dian Embassy. This year as well, the event will be successfully organized within the precincts of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, as in previous years.

He continued that the theme of the 2026 International

Day of Yoga programme is "Yoga for Wellness, Wisdom, and World Peace." The true meaning of wellness includes not only physical fitness and good health, but also mental clarity, compassionate behaviour, and

peaceful relations among people and between nations. The continued annual observance of the International Day of Yoga in Myanmar reflects the growing warmth in relations between the two countries and the increasing mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures.

The Vice-President and attendees participated in the collective Yoga practice under the guidance of Yoga instructors. The Director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre spoke words of thanks.

The Union Minister and the Indian Ambassador exchanged commemorative gifts, and they all offered meals, flowers, and water to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

To mark the successful completion of the ceremony, they grew a Gangaw plant (*Mesua ferrea*) in the Maravijaya Buddha Park. — MNA/TTA

"Yoga represents balance between the physical and mental aspects, discipline in thought and behaviour, and harmony between individuals and society."

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur

UNDER THE THEME: "Yoga for Wellness, Wisdom, and World Peace", the collective Yoga practice to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026 took place yesterday morning at the Fountain Square in the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur said, "I am particularly delighted and honoured that, as part of the commemorative programmes for the International Day of Yoga, the Indian Embassy, together with the Myanmar government, has had the opportunity to hold today's Yoga demonstration and practice programme at the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Image,

a landmark place in Nay Pyi Taw."

The United Nations General Assembly designated the International Day for Yoga in December 2014, with the support of 193 countries and the pledge of cooperation from 177 countries.

"We are closely cooperating with the Myanmar government. I would also like to express my special thanks to Vice-President U Nyo Saw, who attended today's ceremony as a special guest, as well as to the Union ministers, deputy ministers, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture, and Yoga enthusiasts," the Indian ambassador said.

He continued, "One of the distinctive

features of yoga is that, in Hindi, it is pronounced 'Yog', while in English it is pronounced 'Yoga'. Here, I would like to pronounce it as 'Yog'. Its meaning is unity and harmony. Yoga is far more than just a physical exercise. It represents balance between the physical and mental aspects, discipline in thought and behaviour, and harmony between individuals and society. As we celebrate the International Day of Yoga together today, I hope that we will reaffirm harmony, compassion, and peaceful coexistence within our communities, and that the spirit of Yoga will continue to inspire unity and solidarity among people and friendship among nations". — MNA/TTA



Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur

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NATIONAL

UM for Industry and MSME Development inspects konjac products and MSME training

UNION Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than yesterday inspected the step-by-step production processes of konjac-based beverages, konjac jelly, and dried konjac noodles at Shwe Oo Konjac Food Business in Nganzat Village, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

During the inspection, he instructed that, as a food production business, the company must strictly follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) guidelines and that stronger links should be established between experts conducting research and MSME entrepreneurs to facilitate manufacturing operations.

Afterwards, the Union minister inspected an ongoing



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than inspects the production of konjac-based beverages, konjac jelly, and dried konjac noodles at Shwe Oo Konjac Food Business in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

training session on implementing best practices for MSME success, held at Office No 30, as well as the production of bamboo chopsticks at

Mr Bamboo High-Quality disposable bamboo chopsticks factory in Ottarathiri Township. — MNA/TH

Over 13,500 illegal foreigners deported in Myawady telecom fraud crackdown



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

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

During these deportation operations, authorities recently identified and detained 27 Chinese national who had illegally entered a site near Myawady in Kayin State through unlawful routes after transiting through Thailand and certain neighbouring countries. The individual was subsequently investigated for deportation.

From 30 January 2025 to 24 May 2026, a total of 14,685 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township were detained. Investigations into all detainees have been completed, and among them, 13,521 individuals have been systematically deported to their respective

countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures.

Of the remaining 1,164 foreign nationals awaiting transfer, 662 have been prosecuted under Section 3(1)/13(1) of Myanmar's Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The remaining 502 foreign nationals are ready to be transferred to the relevant countries and are being properly accommodated and cared for.

The Government is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries as well as international organizations to identify arrest and take effective legal action against those involved in online scam centre operations, including foreign masterminds behind such activities. In addition, effective coordination is being carried out to ensure the swift repatriation of foreign nationals facing hardship for various reasons, including victims of human trafficking, to their respective countries, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday, 24 May 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea, the South Bay and the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 MAY 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and (southern and eastern) Shan states, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and northern Shan states and scattered in the remaining regions and states with likelihood isolated of heavyfalls in Yangon, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, and Mon and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: The increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 MAY 2026: The isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 MAY 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 MAY 2026: The isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

Gold Market Rate as of 24 May 2026

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

NATIONAL

Reconstruction work underway in Chin towns



Tatmadaw members and departmental personnel prepare transport of construction materials and relief supplies for reconstruction and rehabilitation of townships in Chin State.

RECONSTRUCTION efforts are underway in Falam, Tidim and Tonzang after damage caused by Chin insurgents, according to reports.

Tatmadaw said relevant officials have been deployed

to the affected areas to accelerate rehabilitation work in line with guidance from the Head of State after Tatmadaw regained full control of the towns.

Construction materials including cement, iron sheets

and nails were transported by Tatmadaw aircraft from Mandalay yesterday morning, while relief supplies including household goods, kitchen utensils and personal hygiene items were sent from Nay Pyi Taw

for residents returning to their homes.

According to reports, 10 tonnes of cement, 10 tonnes of corrugated iron sheets, 123 vises of nails and over three tonnes of relief supplies were

delivered and these will be distributed to the respective townships. Authorities said further assistance would continue based on local needs. — Zarni Ko Ko (IPRD)/KZL

Kayin State Chief Minister conducts ground campaign to enrol all school-age children in school

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo yesterday morning observed the distribution of school enrolment campaign pamphlets at the intersection in the centre of Eindu Village in Hpa-an Township to commuters, vendors inside Eindu Market, and shoppers.

The pamphlets included details of the school enrolment programme, free support programmes, guidelines to be followed, and requests to parents and guardians. He urged parents and guardians to enrol school-age children from their communities at school.

The Chief Minister visited Eindu Village Basic Education High School and inspected the advance preparations for school enrolment starting from 25 May, as well as the preparation of providing



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo observes the preparation of providing school textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, pencils, and pens for students free of charge in Hpa-an yesterday. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)**

school textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, pencils, and pens for students free of charge. He also commended the schoolhead for using bio-diesel fuel extracted through the distillation of waste plastics in single-cylinder diesel engines, and presented him with

an honorary award.

In order to promote the comprehensive development of Lunnya blue lagoon, a tourist destination in the state, he went on to inspect Hlakadaung lake in Hpa-an Township. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TH

Over 1,000 patients covered in Sitagu's 56th eyesight donation in Hsipaw



Patients were receiving free medical service at the Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital in Hsipaw.

AT the 56th eyesight donation by the Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital in Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North), conducted from 17 to 22 May, a total of 1,009 patients were covered in medical examination and of them, 407 underwent surgery.

The Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital in Hsipaw was established in 2008 and it has admitted patients from wards and villages

of Hsipaw and nearby areas such as Lashio, Kyaukme, Nawngkio, Kutkai and Namhsan, Mongngaw and Monglon.

From the first time to this 56th donation, the hospital provided medical examination for a total of 38,581 patients and surgical treatment for 9,867 patients. There are donors for the hospital's free medical service. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Myanmar to expand Rice Export Zones to 350,000 acres during this year's monsoon

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will implement the Rice Export Zone project on up to 350,000 acres of land during this year's monsoon, according to MRF Vice-President U Khin Myint.

Under the project, one acre farmland of Rice Export Zone is planned for every tonne of rice exported. The cultivated area will be expanded annually to

reach up to five million acres, with the aim of increasing rice exports to five million tonnes by 2030, it is reported.

At present, Rice Export Zones are being implemented in around 100 townships across the country under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in an effort to double export volumes.

"We are cooperating with



Bags of rice are seen inside a rice warehouse.

the relevant ministries to ensure that agricultural subsidies can be delivered to farmers before 15 June and that agricultural inputs and fuel oil can be sold to farmers at reasonable prices. We will also work together with

the Myanmar Rice Federation to address the current shortage of paddy seeds," said U Khin Myint.

According to the MRF, 80 per cent of Myanmar's total rice production is consumed domes-

tically, while only the remaining 20 per cent is exported to foreign markets. In April, the first month of the 2026-2027 financial year, Myanmar earned US\$51 million from rice and broken rice exports. — ASH/KNN

Deputy Minister inspects forest plantations, nurseries in Magway Region



Deputy Minister Dr Thaug Naing Oo visits nurseries and forest plantations in Minbu Township, Magway Region on 23 May.

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaug Naing Oo inspected nurseries and forest plantations in Minbu Township, Magway Region on 23 May.

During his visit to Kanyay Nursery and Shwetapin Permanent Nursery, the Dep-

uty Minister observed the thriving rate of saplings and land preparation for upcoming monsoon tree-planting activities.

He met local residents in Ywathaya Village, Minbu Township, where he discussed environmental conservation efforts and the

benefits of forest resources. He donated energy-efficient stoves, environmental conservation books for the village high school library, and copies of monthly Forest Mirror journal. He also inspected forest plantations in Magway Township.— MNA/KZL

Myanmar Press Council holds graduation ceremony for News Media Training Course



A scene from the graduation ceremony of News Media Training Course 7/2026.

THE graduation ceremony for News Media Training Course 7/2026, organized by the Media Development Committee of the Myanmar Press Council, was held on 22 May at the Myanmar Press Council office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

The training course covered subjects including media literacy, ethics and professionalism in journalism, media and international affairs, news translation, digital literacy, printing and publishing, media law, media and Myanmar's

image, and media and human rights. The subjects were taught by eight experienced instructors with expertise in their respective fields.

A total of 30 trainees from government departments, private news journals, and news agencies attended the course lectured by eight experienced trainers.

The Media Development Committee of the Myanmar Press Council will continue to organize news media training courses in the future. — ASH/KZL

OPINION

Expedite efforts to mitigate impacts of El Niño

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Myanmar issued a public notice on climate change developments on 21 May, stating that calculations indicate conditions are favourable for the possible occurrence of the El Niño phenomenon in terms of sea surface temperatures and atmospheric conditions over the tropical Pacific Ocean near the equator. At present, Myanmar, as well as other Asian countries, is experiencing abnormal weather patterns associated with the effects of El Niño.

In general, El Niño usually occurs once every five to seven years, but in recent years it has been observed occurring once every two or three years. When the El Niño phenomenon becomes strong, it can spread globally from the South American region, leading to increasingly severe climate abnormalities.

According to measurements, calculations and studies conducted by international meteorological agencies, mathematical model forecasts indicate that weak El Niño conditions may begin to develop from June 2026 and could strengthen into a strong El Niño condition by the end of 2026. Although El Niño is a phenomenon that normally occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts generally include abnormal rainfall patterns, higher daytime temperatures, irregular storm occurrences, drought and water shortages, as well as other extreme weather events. The El Niño event that occurred during 1997-1998 was the most severe and intense on record, causing

widespread impacts across the world. The total value of losses and damages caused by the event amounted to US\$34 billion. There were 24,000 deaths, 533,000 injuries, six million displaced persons, a total of 111 million people affected, and 56 million acres of land impacted. In Myanmar, 18 major cities recorded new highest temperature records, while 15 major cities recorded new lowest rainfall records.

The strong El Niño that occurred during 2015-2016 also brought record-breaking heat and drought conditions. During 2016, record wildfires, diseases directly related to extreme heat and dryness, as well as shortages and difficulties in obtaining drinking water, were experienced. In general, there may be risks of extreme heat, wildfires, severe drought, and shortages of drinking water; therefore, preparations and preventive measures should be made in advance.

Therefore, as El Niño conditions have already begun to emerge in 2026, extreme weather events such as abnormal rainfall patterns, higher daytime temperatures, irregular storm occurrences, drought, and water shortages may occur as a result. Accordingly, all relevant organizations and the public are urged to remain alert to climate change and take special measures for advance preparedness and necessary precautionary actions.

Therefore, as El Niño conditions have already begun to emerge in 2026, extreme weather events such as abnormal rainfall patterns, higher daytime temperatures, irregular storm occurrences, drought, and water shortages may occur as a result. Accordingly, all relevant organizations and the public are urged to remain alert to climate change and take special measures for advance preparedness and necessary precautionary actions.

A Kick in the Teeth: The Hidden Story Behind Modern Dental Problems



thodontics has become a massive industry, yet the deeper causes of these problems remain controversial.

A New York Times writer once discussed this phenomenon with one of the museum's modern curators. Looking at ancient skulls with perfect teeth, the writer asked whether she had ever seen crooked teeth in specimens from ancient populations.

"No, not one. Ever," the curator replied.

The ancient skulls consistently showed edge-to-edge bites, wide dental arches, and room for every tooth, including wisdom teeth. But the situation changed dramatically in skulls over the last two centuries. One nineteenth-century North American woman's skull displayed a narrow upper jaw, crowded teeth, and a weaker facial structure.

The curator admitted that she had spent years wondering what had changed.

"I always told my students, 'Something happened 200 years ago, and nobody has an edge-to-edge bite anymore – and I have no idea what,'" she explained.

Anthropologists and dental researchers have proposed many explanations. Some argue that modern diets play a central role. Ancient humans ate tougher, less processed foods that required

By Yin Nwe Ko

heavy chewing. This constant use of the jaw during childhood may have stimulated proper growth and development of facial bones.

Modern diets, however, consist largely of soft and processed foods. Children today often eat mashed foods, bread, pasta, cereal, and snacks that require little chewing effort. Critics of modern dietary habits argue that this reduced strain on the jaw prevents it from developing fully, resulting in smaller mouths and crowded teeth.

Despite these observations, mainstream orthodontics often focuses on treatment rather than prevention. The most common explanation given to patients is that crooked teeth are primarily genetic.

"Your teeth are too large for your jaw," many orthodontic clinics explain.

Some clinics acknowledge that environmental factors such as thumb sucking or mouth breathing may contribute to alignment problems, but these factors are usually considered secondary.

Meanwhile, orthodontic treatment continues to grow rapidly around the world. At any given time, millions of Americans wear braces, and a significant per-

centage of teenagers eventually receive orthodontic care. In the United Kingdom, hundreds of thousands of young people undergo similar treatments every year. Increasing numbers of adults are also seeking braces and aligners in pursuit of improved smiles.

Dental crowding has become so common that wisdom tooth extraction is practically considered a normal part of growing up. Many teenagers and young adults have their wisdom teeth removed before they even cause symptoms. Some studies suggest that by age thirty, a majority of adults in industrialized societies have undergone wisdom tooth extraction.

To critics, this widespread need for correction raises an important question: if crooked teeth are simply genetic, why did the problem become so common only recently in human history?

One controversial answer comes from Dr John Mew and his son Dr Mike Mew, British orthodontists associated with a field known as orthotropics. Their theories challenge conventional orthodontics and argue that modern lifestyle habits are significantly altering facial development.

According to the Mews, one of the most damaging habits is

chronic mouth breathing.

They claim that breathing through the mouth instead of the nose can affect the position of the tongue, the shape of the jaw, and the development of facial bones during childhood. In healthy development, the tongue naturally rests against the roof of the mouth, helping the upper jaw expand outward. However, if children breathe primarily through the mouth, the tongue drops downward, reducing support for proper jaw growth.

The result, according to their theory, is a narrower face, crowded teeth, weaker jawlines, and smaller airways.

The Mews also connects these structural changes to a growing list of modern health problems. They argue that reduced airway size contributes to sleep-disordered breathing, including snoring and obstructive sleep apnoea. Sleep apnoea causes repeated interruptions in breathing during sleep and has been associated with serious health risks such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression, poor concentration, and memory problems.

Some researchers have also linked sleep-disordered breathing in children to behavioural issues, learning difficulties, and reduced academic performance. In severe cases, poor sleep quality may affect emotional regulation and cog-

nitive development.

Supporters of orthotropics believe that modern society has underestimated the importance of proper facial development. They argue that correcting underlying breathing habits and encouraging healthy jaw growth during childhood could reduce the need for braces and extractions later in life.

However, the Mews' views remain highly controversial within mainstream dentistry and orthodontics. Many orthodontists argue that their claims lack sufficient scientific evidence or rely too heavily on anecdotal observations.

The disagreement eventually became intense. In 2017, Britain's General Dental Council removed John Mew's license to practice dentistry at the age of eighty-eight. Critics accused him of publicly criticizing established orthodontic methods and promoting ideas considered outside accepted standards.

Despite this opposition, interest in airway health, facial growth, and breathing patterns has continued to grow online and among some health professionals. Social media platforms, podcasts, and alternative health communities frequently discuss topics such as nasal breathing, tongue posture, and facial development.

The debate reflects a larger issue in modern medicine:

should healthcare focus mainly on correcting problems after they appear, or should it pay greater attention to prevention and environmental causes?

Ancient skulls suggest that humans once developed strong jaws and straight teeth naturally, without braces or surgery. Something about modern lifestyles appears to have changed that pattern. Whether the causes are diet, breathing habits, genetics, or a combination of many factors, the dramatic rise in dental problems raises important questions about how modern environments shape human health.

For now, orthodontics continues to provide solutions for millions of people seeking healthier or more attractive smiles. Yet the mystery observed in museum collections remains unresolved. Why did our ancestors rarely need braces, while modern populations increasingly depend on them?

The answer may not lie in a single cause but in the cumulative effects of industrialization, processed foods, changing childhood habits, and modern lifestyles. As researchers continue investigating the issue, the history hidden inside ancient skulls may eventually reshape how future generations think about teeth, breathing, and human development.

THE hundreds of human skulls preserved in the Morton Cranial Collection at the Penn Museum in Philadelphia reveal an unexpected mystery about modern health. The collection, one of the world's largest of its kind, contains specimens from cultures across the globe and spans from the Stone Age to the nineteenth century. While examining the skulls, researchers noticed

something remarkable: ancient people almost always had straight teeth, broad jaws, and strong facial structures. Crooked teeth, crowded mouths, and impacted wisdom teeth were extremely rare.

In contrast, modern humans commonly struggle with dental misalignment. Millions of children and adults wear braces, undergo tooth extractions, or receive corrective dental procedures. Or-

Stop Our Kids' Endless Scrolling

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

THESE days, kids from all over the world like to spend most of their free time surfing the net, as far as I can see. In our childhood, we had less screen time than now, simply because we could not afford modern technology to a certain extent, except that we used to see a few movies on TV on weekdays and weekends. We would spend time on child's play, such as hide-and-seek or football, not on the phone. Nowadays, most children are so addicted to video games and TikTok that they cannot help using the internet every single day. From whatever point of view, wasting time only on the internet day and night is inadvisable

for their health at all. Thus, how should we stop our kids' endless scrolling?

Start small and be realistic: Many indulgent parents have already given their children tablets or smartphones, especially because they do not want them to lose face among their same age groups, without being aware that getting rid of the tablets or phones is no easy task. Of course, breaking a deep-rooted habit, especially a bad habit, is too difficult. Changing a habit is always going to be hard, and implementing changes

at a neutral moment, not in the heat of an argument about screen time, calm brains communicate best, as Child Psychologist Dr Jane Gilmore stated. Hence, one of the first steps to reducing kids' screen time may be designating a set place at home for devices, like a particular cupboard.

Be collaborative: According to Child Psychologist Dr Maryham Baker, older children and teenagers can benefit from being part of the conversation around screen time instead of having rules imposed on them.

In actual fact, acknowledging the peer pressure surrounding social media can help get teens outside, where Parenting Coach Edwards added that building a strong connection with children or teenagers will make it easier to regulate screen use. What I want to mean here is that parent collaboration tells a sort of authoritative parenting style, not authoritarian, indulgent or neglectful.

Turn screen time into learning opportunities: Many children of today are found to be struggling to keep up with the fast-paced changing fads and trends on social media, for example, a premature marriage or a young



marriage. There is, however, an opportunity for both adults and children to learn from each other through frank discussions about screen time. How we think social media works or an application works to keep people looking at it, and whether they make money off the more time people spend on it, are potentially expected learning opportunities for children. Af-

ter all, parents can even teach their children digital literacy in a hands-on way.

Model good behaviour: It is no secret that children mimic or imitate their parents, encouraging good screen habits in them will have to start with some self-reflection. As a light-hearted approach to behaviour, a slightly self-deprecating conversation with kids can

be used. Really, phones and tablets have provided young and old alike with an ever-present source of entertainment, but both adults and children should take advantage of embracing boredom a bit more. Being on the screen, we keep on looking at the external world, as well as when we go into our internal world, and we kind of stare into space, which allows us

to think about the past, visualise the future and predict creativity.

Do not panic: Parenting is scarcely easy, yet raising children in a time and place where screens exist here and there can be very worrying even though we are still learning how they affect us. Nonetheless, parents should not fall into the trap of moral panic now that there is a tendency for anxious people to get caught up in a prevailing media panic and see all adolescent brains as simply hardwired for social media addiction. Nevertheless, children and teenagers have what is called neuroplasticity, that is, their brains are better at adapting and bouncing back than those of adults. Herein, positive technological use can help to boost neuroplasticity for creativity, exploration and learning.

DELICACY

Assorted Myanmar Fritters

WHEN talking about traditional Myanmar cuisine, one food that must always be mentioned is the assorted Myanmar fritters. These fritters are loved not only by the Myanmar people but also by foreign visitors travelling around Myanmar.

Myanmar fritters taste especially delicious when enjoyed in the morning with hot rice or alongside tea. They also make a perfect snack in the afternoon when paired with traditional Myanmar green tea. The taste is simply delightful.

Therefore, this week, we would like to share an easy homemade recipe for traditional Myanmar assorted fritters. The method is simple, the ingredients are easy to find, and whichever vegetables you use, the fritters will turn out crispy and tasty.

Ingredients

- For the batter (measurements in tablespoons)
 - Tempura flour (fritter flour) — 15 tablespoons (or Shwe Butterfly fritter flour)
(For those who do not want to use ready-made fritter flour, mix: 2 parts rice flour, 1-part glutinous rice flour, 1 part semolina, and 1 part gram flour.)
 - Chickpea flour – 1 tablespoon
 - Rice flour – 1 tablespoon
 - Glutinous rice flour – 2 tablespoons
 - Baking soda – about ½ tablespoon
 - Water – 240 millilitres
 - Salt and chicken powder – to taste
 - Egg white – 1 tablespoon
- For the tamarind dipping sauce
 - Thick tamarind paste – 2 tablespoons
 - Fish sauce – 2 tablespoons
 - Palm jaggery syrup (medium consistency) – about ½ tablespoon

- Water – 6 tablespoons
- Garlic (pounded finely) – 1 tablespoon
- Coriander leaves (finely chopped) – about ½ tablespoon
- Roasted chickpea powder – slightly over ½ tablespoon
- Roasted chilli powder – 1 tablespoon
- Chicken powder – a little

Cooking Instructions

Vegetable fritters

(Bottle gourd, potato, tofu, okra, pennywort leaves, water spinach)

Mix all the flours with water and seasonings until smooth. Dip the thinly sliced vegetables into the batter and deep-fry in hot oil until crispy. Pennywort leaves and water spinach leaves can also be fried using the same method.

Flat fritters

(Onion, bean sprouts, corn)

For these fritters, do not mix the batter with water beforehand. First, combine all the dry ingredients. Then add the sliced onions, bean sprouts, or corn into the flour mixture. Gradually sprinkle in water little by little while mixing. Once the mixture becomes moist without turning watery, spread it into round shapes on a wet plate and gently slide them into hot oil for frying.

Bean fritters (Bayar Kyaw)

Soak chickpeas overnight and grind them coarsely. Add curry leaves, masala, and seasonings to the ground chickpeas. Add enough water until the mixture can be shaped by hand, then form and fry them. (For convenience, ready-made bean fritter mix can also be used.)

Tamarind dipping sauce

To make the dipping sauce, combine the prepared tamarind paste, fish sauce, palm jaggery syrup, water, garlic, coriander leaves, chickpea powder, and chilli powder in a bowl and mix well. The addition of chickpea powder gives the sauce a richer aroma.

By following this method, you can make homemade assorted fritters that taste even better than those sold at fritter shops outside. Enjoy the crispy fritters dipped in fragrant tamarind sauce, together with your family. — MOON



Traditional Myanmar Cuisine



Cycle-mad Amsterdam slams brakes on 'fatbikes'

Amsterdam city authorities have banned fatbikes from the Vondelpark.



Watch out, there's a fatbike about. PHOTO: AFP

FAST, fashionable mode of transport for some, scourge of the cycle path for others: in bike-mad Amsterdam, complaints about "fatbikes" have driven authorities to impose an unprecedented ban in one of the city's top parks.

Hugely popular with children, fatbikes — so called for their ultra-thick tyres — are electric bikes that look like squat motorcycles and can reach

speeds of up to 60 kilometres (37 miles) per hour.

Complaints of "fatbike gangs" of youths tearing around Dutch cities and causing havoc are also commonplace.

So city authorities have decided to ban them in the Vondelpark, a busy park that attracts locals and hordes of tourists on hire bikes or roller skates.

"A few years ago, we only got around 20 complaints about

fatbikes. Now we have more than 2,000," she told AFP in an interview in the park.

"Imagine an 11-year-old child driving around town at 50 kph on a big, souped-up fatbike. It's extremely dangerous," said van der Horst. Officially introduced on 11 May, the ban applies to all fatbikes with an electric motor and whose tyres are more than seven centimetres (about three inches) wide. — AFP

Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon skip marriage

BRAD Pitt and Ines de Ramon have no plans to marry, according to recent insider reports. Despite moving in together full-time, sources confirm the Oscar winner, 62, and the jewellery designer, 33, are fully aligned in keeping marriage and children off the table.

Sources state that Pitt has sworn off marrying a third time due to the exhausting emotional and financial toll of his eight-year legal battle with ex-wife Angelina Jolie.

Additionally, ongoing family strains and estrangement from his children have complicated his personal life, prompting him to shield de Ramon from the public drama. De Ramon, previously married to actor Paul Wesley, reportedly shares this perspective on long-term commitment.



Sources state that Pitt has sworn off marrying a third time due to the exhausting emotional and financial toll of his eight-year legal battle with ex-wife Angelina Jolie. PHOTO: ANI

Despite bypassing a wedding, the couple remains deeply committed since first connecting in late 2022. Friends note that de Ramon has brought immense peace and stability into Pitt's life.

She remains a constant support system, accompanying him globally for high-profile movie promotions, including his upcoming feature films F1 and The Riders. — ANI

Women directors close Cannes, putting gender imbalance in spotlight

FILMS by two women directors wrapped up the main competition at the Cannes Film Festival on Friday, with men once again dominating the line up in a reflection of an industry where progress towards gender parity has stalled.

Only five out of 22 of the films in the main competition this year were directed by women, with premieres for "The Dreamed Adventure" by Germany's Valeska Grisebach and "The Birthday Party" by French filmmaker Lea Mysius taking place on the last day.

Only three women have won the Palme d'Or for best

film in the 79-year history of the world's most prestigious film festival.

In 1993, Jane Campion became the first woman to receive a Palme d'Or for "The Piano".

French director Geraldine Nakache, who unveiled her latest film "Si Tu Penses Bien" ("If You Think So") in a parallel section of the festival, said she felt a "a bit powerless".

Feminist collective 50/50 accused organizers of "feminism washing" by using actors Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon for publicity purposes. — AFP



'The Dreamed Adventure' by Germany's Valeska Grisebach premiered on the final day. PHOTO: ANTONIN THUILLIER/AFP

Miley Cyrus wore vintage Versace for star

MILEY Cyrus marked a major career milestone in vintage couture as she received her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday, stepping out in a striking Atelier Versace gown previously worn by Heidi Klum nearly a decade ago.

The singer chose a sheer, spiderweb-inspired dress from Donatella Versace's fall 2015 collection for the unveiling ceremony, as per Page Six. The look featured lace detailing, cutouts and a metallic-thread criss-cross bodice. The same design was first worn by Klum

at the amfAR Gala in Milan in 2015.

For her appearance, Cyrus opted for loose waves and side-swept bangs to complete the look. Speaking during the ceremony, the 'Flowers' singer reflected on the honour while also acknowledging the significance of her outfit.

Over the years, the singer has frequently revisited iconic archive pieces from designers including Bob Mackie, Thierry Mugler and Roberto Cavalli for both public appearances and performances. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Urban composting takes root in Japan with compact home systems

SMALL compost bins that turn kitchen scraps into soil with the help of microorganisms are finding a growing audience in Japan, driven by rising interest in sustainability and low-waste lifestyles.

Composting systems that do not require soil replacement and compact bag-type compost bins are making it easier for people to recycle food waste at home, even in apartments with limited space.

"I can even put in leftover frying oil and ramen broth. Watching the food waste disappear is incredibly satisfying," said a woman living in a fourth-floor apartment building in Tokyo's Sugunami Ward.

The composting system she uses is called "Kiero", a box-shaped container designed to decompose food waste us-

ing microorganisms in soil. The system is equipped with a transparent lid that allows sunlight through and ventilation gaps that help promote decomposition. According to Nobuo Matsumoto, who invented the Kiero system, microorganisms break down food waste almost completely. Unlike some other composting methods, the amount of soil remains largely unchanged, meaning replacement is generally unnecessary if decomposition is progressing smoothly. Tokyo-based specialty store Compost Friends stocks a range of compost bins designed for different household sizes and lifestyles. One of its products is a small Kiero made from recycled apple crates, intended for households of one or two people and priced at 16,500 yen (\$104). — Kyodo



Photo shows a woman with a "Kiero" compost container on her balcony in Tokyo's Sugunami Ward on 13 February 2026.

PHOTO: KYODO

Zimbabwe calls for efforts to elevate agricultural standards for exports

ZIMBABWE needs to boost its capacity to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards to fully benefit from China's zero-tariff policy, the country's Competition and Tariff Commission (CTC) said Friday.

The CTC said in its 2026 first-quarter report released Friday that China's offer to remove tariffs on imports from 53 African countries with diplomatic ties, including Zimbabwe, will enhance the country's competitiveness in the Chinese market.

"As product coverage

broadens and tariff barriers fall, horticulture is emerging as a strategic component of the Zimbabwe-China trade relationship, setting the stage for increased volumes, deeper commercial partnerships and a more diversified export base," the CTC said.

The commission emphasized that Zimbabwean exporters must comply with stringent SPS requirements to fully exploit the vast Chinese market, adding that SPS measures have emerged as technical gatekeepers in global agricultural trade. — Xinhua

India against "weaponisation" of market shares, resources

India believes in building trusted global partnerships and resilient supply chains to reduce risks to the world economy.

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday said India is against the "weaponisation of market shares and resources" as he outlined New Delhi's broad position on global conflicts and economic stability.

Addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Jaishankar listed out five key principles that guide India's approach towards ongoing global challenges.

The External Affairs Minister said India advocates "dialogue and diplomacy" to resolve conflicts and supports "safe and unimpeded maritime commerce". "I would make five points here. One, that we advocate dialogue and diplomacy to address conflicts. Two, we support safe and unimpeded maritime commerce. Three, we demand scrupulous respect for international law," Jaishankar said.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Joint Press Conference with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. **PHOTO: ANI**

He further said India believes in building trusted global partnerships and resilient supply chains to reduce risks to the world economy. "Four, we are against the weaponization of market shares and resources.

"And five, we believe in the

value of trusted partnerships and resilient supply chains to de-risk the global economy," he added. Calling Rubio's visit "timely," Jaishankar said the discussions between the two sides had been "very productive". — ANI

Overseas-invested enterprises top 530,000 in China



The file photo shows a view of Lujiazui area in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: FANG ZHE/XINHUA**

THE number of overseas-invested enterprises in China has risen for three consecutive years to surpass 530,000, with total accumulated foreign direct investment (FDI) exceeding US\$3.6 trillion, data released by the Ministry of Commerce showed on Saturday.

The data underscores sustained confidence among overseas investors in the Chinese

market. In 2025, more than 8,000 overseas enterprises increased their investment in China, rising over 10 per cent year on year, while more than 3,000 overseas firms increased their investment in the first four months of 2026.

During the January-April period, 20,113 new overseas-invested firms were established across the country, up 6.8 per

cent year on year. The actual use of FDI totaled 287.69 billion yuan (about US\$42 billion) during the same period, down 10.3 per cent from the previous year.

High-tech industries bucked the overall trend, attracting 116.33 billion yuan in foreign investment, a surge of 20.3 per cent year on year, and accounting for 40.4 per cent of the national total. — Xinhua

Ethiopian Airlines' passenger numbers rise 80% in 8 years

ETHIOPIAN Airlines has grown into a leading carrier in Africa, with passenger numbers increasing by 80 per cent over the past eight years, Chief Executive Officer Mesfin Tasew said on Friday. Speaking at the closing ceremony of a month-long celebration marking the airline's 80th anniversary in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, Tasew said the national carrier, now with a fleet of 147 modern aircraft, spans five continents and serves 145 international destinations.

He noted that the airline has recorded significant growth over the past eight years, adding 74 aircraft to its fleet. — Xinhua

AI-driven power demand revives global nuclear energy push: Report



AI-led power consumption, coupled with energy security concerns and decarbonization goals, is pushing countries to reconsider nuclear energy as a reliable long-term power source. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

THE rapid rise in electricity demand from artificial intelligence (AI) data centres is emerging as a major factor behind the global revival of nuclear

energy, according to a thematic report by Deven Choksey Research. The report noted that AI-led power consumption, coupled with energy

security concerns and decarbonization goals, is pushing countries to reconsider nuclear energy as a reliable long-term power source.

“AI data centers are projected to exponentially rise the energy demand to 1600 terra-watt hours by 2034,” the report said. It added that global electricity demand is already rising at an annual rate of 3.3-3.7 per cent, driven by “AI compute, EV adoption and industrial electrification.”

“The report further pointed out that the growing power needs of AI infrastructure are exposing the limitations of intermittent renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

“AI data centres requires power that is firm, dispatchable, always on and carbon free, wind and solar, by their intermittent nature cannot fulfil these requirements without expensive storage,” the report said. — ANI

Slovakia signs F-16 servicing deal with US arms company

SLOVAKIA'S Defence Ministry has signed a 25-million-euro (about US\$27 million) agreement with US company Lockheed Martin over the supply of spare parts and repair services for its F-16 C/D Block 70 fighter jets through the end of 2030.

of the News Agency of the Slovak Republic on Saturday, Lockheed Martin will deliver comprehensive support services, including dedicated account management, priority program assistance, source control and warranty coordination, and aircraft-on-ground coverage support. — Xinhua

According to reports

Guangxi emerges as global hub for tea industry amid tech upgrade

SURROUNDED by waves of verdant green and limestone gray, a scene not often encountered in the Karst landscape, the air in Hengzhou, a county-level city in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is thick with a peculiar floral sweetness.

This is the scent of jasmine harvest season, a biological window measured in hours and not days, that drives the fortunes of a regional economy undergoing fast industrial transformations.

Official figures show Guangxi's annual tea output stands about 140,000 tonnes, with the value of the whole industrial chain exceeding 70 billion yuan (US\$10.24 billion).

Hengzhou supplies more than 60 per cent of the world's jasmine flow-



This aerial drone photo taken on 12 April 2026 shows tea plantations in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County of Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. PHOTO: XINHUA

ers and over 80 per cent of China's total. Roughly 340,000 people work in Hengzhou's jasmine sector alone.

Traditionally, farmers head into the fields around midday, when the sun is fiercest and the blossoms are under maximum ther-

mal stress. “The volatility of essential oils peaks in the heat,” said Lei Shuiping, a third-gen. — Xinhua

Nissan drops plan to build drive units for EVs in Britain

NISSAN Motor Co has withdrawn a plan to manufacture powertrains for electric vehicles in Britain, a source familiar with the matter said Sunday, as the struggling Japanese automaker reviews its production and factory numbers.

Jacto Ltd, a Nissan subsidiary that has been jointly developing drive units for EV models, had planned to build a factory in Sunderland in 2026 and supply its parts to a Nissan assembly plant. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (619W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (619W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT 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 MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Putin hails African nations' economic success

Putin's Africa Day letter praised African nations for economic and social success and their growing role in resolving global issues.



The Second Russia-Africa Summit, held in Saint Petersburg on 27-28 July 2023, aimed to strengthen ties between Russia and African nations amidst geopolitical isolation from the West. **PHOTO: TASS/FILE**

AFRICAN countries have attained notable socioeconomic successes, and are also playing an ever more important role in tackling pressing global issues, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday.

"African countries have achieved impressive success in the economic and social fields, and are playing an increas-

ingly important role in addressing pressing issues on the international agenda," Putin said in a congratulatory letter to African heads of state and government on the occasion of Africa Day.

Russia places great importance on strengthening traditionally friendly ties with African countries, the Russian president added.

"I am confident that the third Russia-Africa summit, which will be held in Moscow in October, will allow us to outline new prospects for cultivating mutually beneficial cooperation between our country and African partners in various areas," Putin said, adding that he will be glad to see African leaders in Moscow. — SPUTNIK

Gunman who opened fire outside White House has died

THE US Secret Service fatally shot a man near the White House on Saturday after he approached a security checkpoint and opened fire on officers, according to US media.

The gunshots prompted a lockdown at the White House. A bystander was struck by gunfire and was reportedly in critical condition.

The suspect, who later died in a hospital, was described by US media reports as an "emotionally disturbed person".

The incident occurred near the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street Northwest, just outside the White House complex.

ABC News' White House correspondent Selina Wang said: "I was in the middle of taping on my iPhone for a social video from the White House North Lawn when we heard the shots.



Armed police stand on a blocked street near a crime scene not far from the White House in Washington, DC, on 23 May 2026. **PHOTO: ALEX WROBLEWSKI / AFP**

It sounded like dozens of gunshots. We were told to sprint to the press briefing room where we are holding now." — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rubio highlights US energy as key to diversifying India's supply

THE United States will not permit Iran to hold the global energy market hostage, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasised during a high-profile meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital on Saturday.

According to the US State Department, the visiting Secretary also affirmed that American energy products possess the potential to diversify India's energy basket.

Detailing the deliberations, US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said in a statement, "The Secretary and Prime Minister discussed the current situation in the Middle East.

The Secretary emphasized that the United States will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage and affirmed that US energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply.

The two officials reflected upon recent bilateral achievements, including significant investments that advance the President and Prime Minister's Mission 500 to double trade by 2030. — ANI

Would-be challenger to UK PM faces uphill battle in key vote

MAKERFIELD, a little-known political district in northwest England, has been thrust into the spotlight in the UK ahead of a by-election dubbed one of the most consequential in British history.

The 18 June vote could prompt embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer's downfall, as the main potential rival to replace him bids to win a parliamentary seat and pave the way for a leadership challenge.

Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham, a veteran figure on Labour's left, has stopped short of formally announcing his intention to oust Starmer.

But the 56-year-old is widely expected to trigger a contest to become Labour leader — which would mean also becoming prime minister — if he is made an MP.

"A vote for me in this by-election campaign is a vote to change Labour," he said Friday, officially launching his campaign in the constituency, which lies between Manchester and Liverpool.

Addressing placard-wielding supporters in a dusty sports club's car park, he argued the party must return to being "solidly on the side of working-class people". — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar Fight traditional Lethwei event held in Yangon

The Myanmar Fight New Generation Traditional Lethwei Tournament No 32 was held with 10 bouts at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday.

The event was jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and the Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG), with

support from Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited.

Several matches ended in hard-fought draws, including Ye Min Aung of Smart Fight against Moe Kyoe of 555 Sport, Htet Wai Yan of Kyar Ma Naing against Khe Bway Htoo of Yoe Yar Kyar, Yan Myo Aung of YMA against Waw Joseph of Yoe Yar Kyar, Banyar of Strong Wrestler against Hein Htet Aung of Shwe



David of MK-1 versus Saw Myo Kyaw of Danubyu in action.

Daung Phyu, and Shwe Htee of YMA against Naing Zin Oo of Kyar Bayin.

In other bouts, Thar Thar of Danubyu defeated Kachin Thway Yaing of Top One by knockout in the second round, while Pyae Phyo Aung of Kyar

Bayin knocked out Saw Kee Doh of Nine Club in the second round.

David of MK-1 claimed victory after Saw Myo Kyaw of Danubyu was unable to continue in the second round due to punches and kicks. Phoe Khwar Si of Bago Club also won after Saw Lin Htet

Naing of Danubyu took a break in the third round following sustained attacks.

In the final highlighted bout, Sa Htet Lin of MK-1 defeated Saw Morning Shine of DOJO 9 after the latter was unable to continue in the third round. — Bala/KZL

Real Madrid end troubled Liga season with win, Mallorca, Girona down



Kylian Mbappe scored for Real Madrid in their final game of a disappointing and turbulent season. PHOTO: AFP

REAL Madrid ended a troubled La Liga campaign with a 4-2 win over Athletic Bilbao in Alvaro Arbeloa's last game at the helm, while Mallorca and Girona were relegated from the Spanish top flight on Saturday.

In the final round of fixtures, Mallorca defeated already-relegated Real Oviedo 3-0 to reach 42 points, but it was not enough to survive.

Girona were held to a 1-1 draw by Elche, which kept the visitors up and sent the Catalan side down, just one

season after they played in the Champions League.

Veteran Polish striker Robert Lewandowski scored for champions Barcelona in his final match for the club, but goals from Javi Guerra, Luis Rioja and Guido Rodriguez snatched a 3-1 victory for Valencia.

Celta Vigo wrapped up Europa League qualification with a 1-0 win over Sevilla to come sixth, while Getafe secured seventh and a Conference League berth with a 1-0 win over Osasuna.—AFP

Yangon City, Yadanabon recruit players for new season

MYANMAR National League clubs Yangon City FC and Yadanabon FC have continued strengthening their squads with new local signings ahead of the 2026-2027 season.

Newly promoted Yangon City signed Myanmar U-23 striker Than Toe Aung after his departure from Hanthawady United FC. The club had earlier recruited Myanmar international midfielder Myat Kaung Khant and plans to add more national team-level players as it prepares for the new campaign.

Meanwhile, Yadanabon FC signed winger Zar Neya Thu from Dagon Star United and forward Zaw Htet Aung from Ayeyawady United FC.

Yadanabon have now recruited 11 local players for the upcoming season, including Swan Lam Mang, Thet Paing Htwe, Pyae Phyo Aung, Thiha Htet Aung, Moe Swe, Khant Min Thant, Aung Kyaw Aye, Than Toe Aung and Hein Thet Phyo. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Horse racing: Female jockey Imamura makes history by winning Japanese Oaks

SEINA Imamura became the first female jockey from the Japan Racing Association to win a Grade 1 race on Sunday by triumphing in the Yushun Himba, better known as the Japanese Oaks. The 22-year-old from Shiga Prefecture steered fifth-favourite Juryoku Pierrot from the back of the pack to the front in the final stretch of the 2,400-metre race at Tokyo Racecourse, crossing in 2 minutes, 25.6 seconds in a stunning finish.

"It feels like I'm still in a dream. She had the legs to go between the horses in the final straight," said Imamura, who was the first female jockey to take part in the race for three-year-old mares and received a huge cheer upon her finish. "I was thinking I'd be left frustrated if I were to finish second or third, and she had another gear to go at the end." — Kyodo



Jockey Seina Imamura steers Juryoku Pierrot (R) to victory at the Japanese Oaks at Tokyo Racecourse on 24 May 2026. PHOTO: KYODO



Iran says Tehran, Washington working to finalize MoU on ending war

Iran aims to sign a 14-clause MoU, finalizing a deal within 60 days.

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Saturday Iran and the United States are working to finalize a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war.

“At this stage, our focus is on ending the imposed war,” Baghaei told state-run IRIB news agency, following a visit to Tehran on Friday by a Pakistani delegation that included Army Chief Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

“Our intention has been to firstly agree on a MoU consisting of 14 clauses,” Baghaei said, noting that “within a period of 30 to 60 days,” they would “reach a

final agreement”.

“We are at the stage of finalizing the MoU. The issues that are being discussed are focused on ending the war (on all fronts, including Lebanon),” he said. “Among the major topics to be addressed in the MoU are the cessation of US maritime attacks, or naval blockade as they themselves call it, and other issues pertaining to the release of Iranian frozen assets.”

Baghaei also referred to Pakistan as the principal mediator in the talks, highlighting its “important role” in ensuring the continued exchange of messages between Iran and the United States. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 11 April 2026 shows women walking past a wall mural along the roadside in Tehran. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

JIUQUAN — Hong Kong’s Lai Ka-ying makes history as China’s first female payload specialist

HONG Kong native Li Jiaying, known locally as Lai Ka-ying, has officially made history as the first-ever astronaut selected from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

She is the first member of China’s fourth batch of astronauts to take on an in-orbit mission, as well as the first female payload specialist from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Macao Special Administrative Region to join the country’s manned space programme.

In a statement issued on Saturday morning, John Lee, chief executive of the HKSAR, expressed gratitude to the country for its support for and trust in the region, and wished the Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceflight mission great success.

Formerly a Hong Kong Police Force staff member, Lai wins high praise from the local disciplined services. Chris Tang Ping-keung, secretary for security of the HKSAR government, said Lai embodies the disciplined services’s loyalty and perseverance, wishing her a successful space voyage.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU), Lai’s alma mater, conveyed warm congratulations. HKU president Zhang Xiang noted Lai’s journey from campus labs to outer space sets an inspiring example for “a new generation of Hong Kong scientists to reach for the stars and contribute to our nation’s glorious space odyssey”.

Jonathan Choi, chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong, said

this historic milestone proves Hong Kong’s solid scientific strength, galvanizes efforts to build the city into an international innovation and technology hub, and stirs young people’s passion for technological research. — Xinhua



This undated photo shows Shenzhou-23 crew member Lai Ka-ying. PHOTO: XINHUA

APEC ministers seek broad economic ground

THE 2026 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting that concluded Saturday in China’s Suzhou has actively sought the broadest common ground for all parties to participate in economic and trade cooperation, China’s Commerce Minister Wang Wentao said.

Participants of the meeting, including representatives from 21 APEC economies, APEC observers, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held candid, in-depth and constructive discussions and achieved fruitful results, according to a press conference held by China’s Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Saturday.

The two-day meeting ended with an issuance of the 2026 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Joint Statement and the approval of the APEC Roadmap for Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Services.

Elaborating on the outcomes, Wang said the meeting reaffirmed strong support for the long-term vision of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, with parties committed to advancing regional economic integration.

The meeting also sent a joint message on advancing the WTO reform and drew up a blueprint for services sector development over the next decade, Wang noted.

Other achievements included a new consensus on expanding digital trade cooperation, with substantive progress made on a framework document for regional digital trade cooperation, and actively exploring new measures for green trade development. — Xinhua