

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

US\$38M injection: CBM moves to boost fuel oil market

CBM has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws.



Fleet of bowsters rolls out from oil terminal for nationwide distribution.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 30 April that it would sell US\$38 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry. CBM sold over 5.1 million baht on 28 April and 6.4 million baht on 29 April. CBM announced on 22 April to sell \$25 million on 22 April and then injected over 319,900 and 106,000 baht into the financial market on that day. CBM announced on 16 April that it would sell \$55 million to fuel oil importers and distributors.

CBM sold \$1.9 million on 10 April. CBM announced on 7 April that it would pump \$30 million into the fuel oil industry, and after that, it sold \$40 million and over six million baht on that day. CBM injected 500,000 yuan on 4 April and over 2.35 million baht on 3 April into the market. CBM injected over \$126 million, 320 million baht and 3.6 million yuan in March, over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and \$124 million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January.

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

OPINION

Express gratitude to the international community for their efforts in the Mandalay earthquake

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 2



Myanmar hosts 12th ASEAN Navy Young Officers Interaction in Yangon

NATIONAL

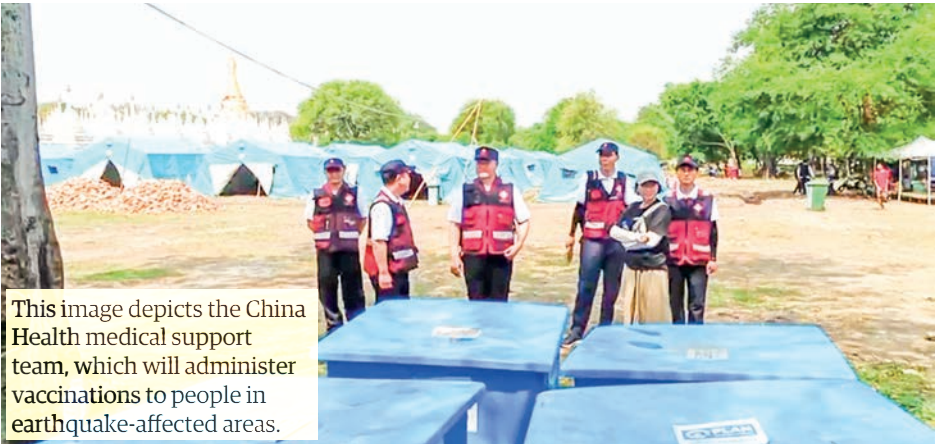
PAGE 6



Mandalay Region to launch reconstruction of quake-damaged buildings

China Health to deliver vaccines, aid to quake-hit areas

THE China Health medical support team will administer vaccinations to people in areas affected by the earthquake, according to sources from the organization. The China Health team is currently in Myanmar to assist people in the disaster-hit areas of Mandalay Region, providing disease screening, preventive care, and other health-related support in coordination with officials from the Department of Public Health. China Health has reportedly es-



This image depicts the China Health medical support team, which will administer vaccinations to people in earthquake-affected areas.

tablished its base in Mandalay, where it is conducting laboratory testing of water and mosquito samples at relief camps, helping displaced people practise systematic handwashing, and offering mental health awareness programmes. The team consists of 50 members and is experienced in providing post-disaster medical support following natural disasters, including earthquakes. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Education: The Foundation of a Nation's Strength and Future

- The strength of a country lies in its education.
- Students with five key capabilities are not only the nation's strength but also the future of the State.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening of the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024 on 25 June 2024)

Myanmar hosts 12th ASEAN Navy Young Officers Interaction in Yangon



Chief of Staff (Navy) Lt-Gen Aye Min Htwe receives ASEAN navy young officers.

THE 12th ASEAN Navy Young Officers Interaction was held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon from 28 April to 1 May.

The ASEAN navy young officers arrived in Yangon on 28 April.

They attended the opening ceremony of the event on 29 April and were briefed on the history of the navy and participated in a discussion under the

topic of “Let’s work together in a balanced and coordinated manner for regional peace, stability, and maritime security.”

Chief of Staff (Navy) Lt-Gen Aye Min Htwe received the ASEAN navy young officers at Lotte Hotel on 29 April. Then, they were given gifts, and they posed for a documentary photo. The Chief of Staff (Navy) hosted a dinner for the officers.

The ASEAN Navy Young Officers participated in sailing events with the Tatmadaw (Navy) Sailing Team (Inya Lake), observed the naval vessels of No 1 Frigate, Thanlyin Naval Base, and made excursions to Shwedagon Pagoda and Bogyoke Aung San Market. The young officers returned to their respective countries yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Thursday 1 May 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 2 MAY 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine, (northern and southern) Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Southern Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-8 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States.

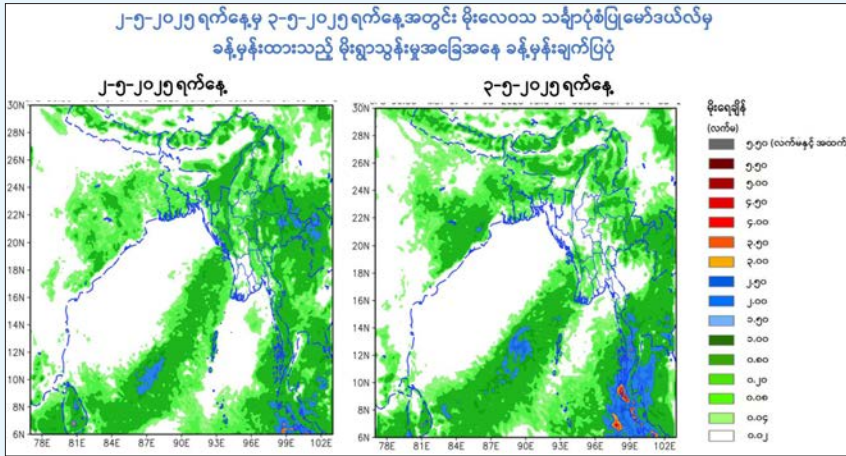
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 MAY 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 MAY 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 MAY 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Untimely Rainfall Warning 30

Issued at 6 pm MST on 1 May 2025



ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the western disturbances and the eastern disturbances, the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, cold air

from the China high pressure system and the convective cloud, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway,

Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls during this evening to 4 May 2025.

Advisory

People should be aware of untimely rainfall accompanied by strong wind, thunder, lightning, hails and landslides. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Myanmar Railways marks 148th Anniversary

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications held a commemorative ceremony marking the 148th Anniversary of Myanmar Railways at 9 am yesterday at Meeting Hall 5 of the ministry.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo delivered a speech in honour of the anniversary, followed by a presentation by the Managing Director of Myanmar Railways, who detailed the department’s accomplishments during the 2024-2025 financial year. A commemorative video marking the 148th anniversary was also screened at the event.

Afterwards, the Union min-

ister, deputy ministers, and the managing director presented honorary awards. These were given to railways, factories, and hospitals across the country for outstanding performance; to staff members who fulfilled their duties with exceptional commitment and to employees who took swift and effective action during natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes to ensure the safety of passengers and restore rail services promptly. Awards were also given to staff who rescued colleagues trapped in damaged staff housing during the earthquake. The event concluded with a group photo. — MNA/KZL



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo speaks on the 148th Anniversary of Myanmar Railways yesterday.

WAVES 2025 Global Media and Entertainment Summit opens in Mumbai

THE opening ceremony of the WAVES 2025 Global Media and Entertainment Summit, held under the theme “India: The Hub of Innovation”, took place yesterday morning at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India. A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information UYe Tint attended the ceremony.

Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi officiated the opening and delivered a keynote address, highlighting not only the advancements in India’s media and entertainment sector but also showcasing the nation’s rich cultural heritage and traditions.

The summit’s opening drew participants from 75 countries, including top communication officials, policymakers, media and



Photos capture the opening of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit 2025 and its enthusiastic participants.

entertainment innovators, and prominent Indian artistes.

This inaugural WAVES 2025 summit aims to bring together innovation across the media and entertainment landscape. Scheduled from 1 to 4 May at the Jio World Convention Centre, the event is designed to explore opportunities, tackle challenges, and envision the future of global media and entertainment.

The summit also serves as a platform for collaboration and innovation through global networking among stakeholders across the sector. Its objectives include opening new frontiers, fostering cross-border cultural exchange and mutual understanding, enhancing creativity, and identifying strategic pathways forward. There will be discussions on policy trends and engagement strategies with local communities through powerful community radio platforms. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar marks International Workers' Day

UNION Minister for Labour U Chit Swe attended the International Workers' Day event in Hlinethaya (West) Township yesterday.

The Union minister first read out the message sent by Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the occasion.

The Union minister, the Yangon Region chief minister and relevant officials then cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the Job Fair marking International Workers' Day, and observed the staff of the ministry who issue labour cards, job applicants, participants from factories, workshops and companies.

The Ministry of Labour aims to create a peaceful and stable working environment by establishing good tripartite relations among the Government, employers and employees, enforce-



Union Minister U Chit Swe views the job fairs on International Workers' Day yesterday.

ing labour legislation for getting benefits included in labour laws, promoting occupational safety, reducing occupational accidents

and disease, enhancing decent work within the nation and overseas, and ensuring to be safe migration, conducting skills training

to upgrade the competitiveness of the workforce, implementing social security scheme to provide social protection and healthcare

for insured workers, settling labour disputes under labour laws concerned, conducting research on labour affairs, and collecting and compiling labour market information, and collaborating on international and regional labour affairs.

The ministry also organized job fairs with One Stop Service, and factories, workshops and companies, including 52 licensed local job agencies, participated in the job fair yesterday.

At noon, the Union minister and officials proceeded to the National Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre in Hlinethaya (East), and met officials and instructed them to provide education expenses for full-time students and 40 per cent of family benefits for insured quake-affected labourers as per the provisions in the 2012 Social Security Law. — MNA/KTZH

Death toll hits 3,835 as quake relief efforts intensify

AS of 1 May, the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March has left a heavy toll across six severely affected states and regions. The death toll has reached 3,835, with 5,105 people injured and 105 still reported missing.

The Fire Services Department, along with local and international search and rescue teams, has been carrying out timely operations in the affected areas. To date, they have rescued 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings and recovered the bodies of 779 deceased individuals.

In support of those affected, generous donations of cash and supplies have been made by domestic philanthropists. International communities,

organizations, and individual donors have also contributed monetary aid and relief items. Between 7 pm on 30 April and 5 pm on 1 May, at Yangon International Airport, relief supplies continued to arrive, including 1.342 tonnes of mosquito nets, dry noodles, and tarpaulin tents donated by the Myanmar Chinese Taipei Merchants Association. In addition, 3.1 tonnes of tarpaulin tents, ordered by Full Moon Services Ltd and donated for use by earthquake-affected staff of the Ministry of Commerce, were also delivered.

Distribution of these relief supplies is rapidly underway in the hands of the affected people. — MNA/MKKS

Ayeyawady Foundation oversees reconstruction of MGH after quake

IN the wake of the 28 March earthquake, Ayeyawady Foundation is currently at the front of restoring Mandalay General Hospital (MGH) to its full operational capacity. The foundation is focusing on clearing debris, repairing damaged sections of the hospital and re-establishing essential services.

Efforts include the installation of new air conditioning units, the repair of critical mechanical and electrical systems and extensive cleanliness protocols to ensure a safe environment.

Ayeyawady Foundation has swiftly established 430 temporary field hospitals across

Mandalay and Sagaing to provide urgent medical care. Collaborative efforts with relevant organizations are ongoing to restore healthcare services in the region, ensuring that those affected by the earthquake receive timely and essential treatment. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Recovery measures underway at the Mandalay General Hospital.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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.

NATIONAL

ME Seoul ends cash income tax payments, moves to bank transfers

THE Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Korea has announced that income taxpayers will have to pay directly to the embassy's bank account starting 12 May.

Myanmar citizens in Korea with Passport Type (PJ), (PB) and (PS) are paying their income tax for the period they wish when they visit the embassy to renew their passports, and the embassy will change the payment system from cash to direct bank transfer from 12 May.

Those arriving in the country no later than 11 December 2023 will have to pay KRW576,000 for 18 months, those arriving no later than 1 July 2024 to pay KRW384,000 for 12 months, and

those arriving no later than 1 January 2025 to pay KRW192,000 for six months at a rate of KRW32,000 per month, respectively.

Advance payment is to be made in person or through a representative to the Bank of Korea Account 174-910001-24801 (KEB, Hana Bank), Beneficiary Name: Myanmar Embassy, and it is advised not to transfer money via mobile banking. If paying by a representative, only the name of the taxpayer, rather than the representative, must be written as the sender.

Taxpayers can retrieve their payment receipts at the embassy by showing the original bank deposit slip, it said. — MT/ZN



The Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

YRYEA pledges K5M homes for earthquake victims

THE Yangon Region Young Entrepreneurs Association has announced that it will donate houses worth K5 million each to 100 households in earthquake-stricken areas.

YRYEA has been providing relief efforts in earthquake-affected areas by opening mobile clinics, providing health care, and donating tents, and home starter kits. Moreover, it will continue to implement the "Build a House Together" programme to alleviate the suffering of people in these disaster-hit cities as humanitarian aid for rehabilitation.

The house's dimensions will be 12 feet by 40 feet for K5 million. Well-wishers are invited to donate to a whole house or make any contributions for collective participation in the "Build a House Together" programme. They can contact the YRYEA Office at 09 266559323 and 09 266559324. — MT/ZN



YRYEA's "Build a House Together" programme is presented with model houses.

LCDP scholarship talk offers path to master's in Japan

THE Myanmar Japan Centre said it will organize a long-term career development programme (LCDP) master scholarship orientation seminar, and write a research proposal (a guide for engineering students), an opportunity to join a master's degree course in Japan's prestigious universities.

It is the introduction of the LCDP scholarship and writing a research proposal, which is mainly required for applying and is scheduled to take place

from 1:30 pm to 3 pm on 10 May at Times City.

Speaker Dr Aung Khaing Min (DEng/Nagoya University) is a scholarship winner and in-depth experience in engineering, will talk about how to write a research proposal.

This event shouldn't be missed for those who want to apply for a scholarship, and registration in advance is required at <https://forms.gle/5gwWurx5LmPpA6PK9as>. Attendance is limited. — MT/ZS

Generator fumes kill family of four in Sangyoung

A family of four, including an eight-year-old child and a dog, was found dead on 1 May inside their apartment on the fourth floor of the building in



This photo displays bodies being carried from the apartment.

Yangon Region's Sangyoung Township.

According to initial investigation results by the combined team, the cause of death was suffocation from generator fumes, in the unit enclosed, a generator running out of petrol and an air conditioner were found.

"Carbon monoxide emitted from the generator is bad, and the fumes from mosquito repellent coil and incense stick are also dangerous, especially for older people and young children," said a resident.

Bodies were transferred to Yangon General Hospital.

"According to the investigation, they have been dead for two days," he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

MJC ရှမ်းပြည်နယ် ပညာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး ကော်မရှင်

Free Seminar

Long-Term Career Development Program (LCDP)

MASTER SCHOLARSHIP ORIENTATION SEMINAR

Writing a Research Proposal

A Guide for Engineering Students

Speaker-
DR. AUNG KHAING MIN
(D.ENG, NAGOYA UNIVERSITY)

Who's Eligible?

- Age 22 - 39 yrs
- Any Bachelor Holder
- MJC/ UMFCI Alumni

Subject Area

- Management (MBA)
- Engineering/ IT
- Economics
- Agricultural/ Environmental Science
- Tourism

www.myanmarjapancenter.com

ရန်ကုန်မြို့နယ် ပညာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး ကော်မရှင်

ရက်စွဲ: 10. May, 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Venue: No. (901), Level-9, Office Tower-3, Times City

REGISTER NOW!

scholarship.mjc@gmail.com

This image shows an LCDC scholarship booklet.

NATIONAL

Mandalay Region to launch reconstruction of quake-damaged buildings



Clearup efforts underway at some buildings damaged by the earthquake.

ACCORDING to the Buildings Restoration, Utilization and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee, repair and reconstruction works will be carried out in earthquake-affected areas across various regions damaged by the strong earthquake in Mandalay. These efforts will be implemented using a multi-pronged approach.

This approach includes assigning the original construction companies to undertake the repair works, engaging companies currently implementing construction projects under relevant ministries, and also involving companies endorsed by three professional engineering associations.

Additionally, the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and the respective

state and regional governments will be responsible for repairing staff housing in the affected areas. In this regard, teams of professionals, including urban engineers officially recognized by the Ministry of Construction, will be formed and tasked with calculating cost estimates. These estimates will then be submitted through the relevant repair and reconstruction committees to the Buildings Restoration, Utilization and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee.

Following the submissions, the Construction Work Verification Committee under the Ministry of Construction will verify the proposed costs by conducting site inspections and reviewing photographic records to ensure accuracy and alignment with the scope of the work. — ASH/KNN

DMH deploys GPS, seismometers at 17 meteorological stations

LOCATED in an earthquake zone, Myanmar’s Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) and the Myanmar Earthquake Committee have jointly installed GPS devices and 10 seismometers at 17 meteorological stations since 2011 to monitor and calculate ground movements, according to the Myanmar Earthquake Committee.

GPS devices, installed to monitor ground movements that could trigger major earthquakes, are used to measure faults in cities such as Bago, Yamethin, Heho, and Loilem, with a particular fo-



This photo showcases a GPS device used for monitoring ground movement.

cus on the Sagaing Fault.

The GPS device can calculate annual ground movement as well as ground movement during earthquakes, while also determining the direction and speed of the moving ground. — ASH/TH

‘Amyel Tann Pel Minn’ solo performance set to dazzle

SINGER Sithu Lwin will stage his solo live concert titled “Amyel Tann Pel Minn” at the Judson Entertainment Bar in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, according to the artiste.

“I have selected songs that will resonate emotionally and deeply connect with fans. So I invite all music lovers who are ‘forever yours’ to join this special night,” Sithu Lwin said.

The live concert is scheduled to begin at 7 pm on 3 May, and the Judson Band will provide full musical backing for Sithu Lwin’s vocal performances throughout the night. — ASH/KZL



This image showcases a promotional poster for singer Sithu Lwin’s solo live show.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Office of the State Administration Council
https://sacoffice.gov.mm | 4. Ministry of Information
https://www.moi.gov.mm |
| 2. Ministry of Defence
https://www.mod.gov.mm | 5. Myawady Webportal
https://myawady.net.mm |
| 3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
https://www.mlis.gov.mm | 6. Myanmar National Portal
https://myanmar.gov.mm |

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Eggs, chicken offered at fair prices in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Livestock Breeding Federation and business people arranged food trucks under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to sell chicken and eggs at the fairer prices at the quake-affected staff housing in Nay Pyi Taw. They sold 50 visses of chicken and 40,500 eggs at Wunna Theikdi and Thukha Theikdi wards of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Moreover, the officials sold 85,045 eggs, 40 visses of mutton, 786.10 visses of chicken, 300 visses of pork and 50 visses of beef in the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw), Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region. — MNA/KTZH



Residents seen purchasing eggs at fair prices.

MRF Operation AID shifts focus to rebuilding



MRF Operation AID clears rubble in ongoing recovery efforts.

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) prioritizes reconstruction activities for quake survivors under the MRF Operation AID (Action in Disaster) programme starting in May, following intensified efforts in rescue activities. Those activities include assistance to the stakeholders included in the rice and paddy crop supply chain in quake-hit areas, helping agricultural organizations, departments concerned and civil service personnel, and collaboration with internal and international organizations for resettlement and relief.

MRF launched Operation AID programme on 1 April 2025 for humanitarian and disaster relief efforts in earthquake-hit areas (Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing and southern Shan State), with an initial fund of K1.5 billion donated by MRF members, affiliated associations, and well-wishers.

MRF also expressed sincere appreciation to those who contributed to the funding and

the MRF Operation AID programme. Those who like to cooperate with them can also reach MRF through contact numbers 01 2301128-29 and 01 21826668, and email admin@mrf.com.mm and eo@mrf.com.mm. — NN/KK



Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively. The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP). According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed. Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer “1111” to fight against corruption

Answer “1111” to improve services

MMFA to offer Financial Analysis Training (Batch 8)

MYANMAR Microfinance Association will conduct Financial Analysis Training (Batch 8) on 20-23 May 2025. The course is tailored to finance officers, assistant finance officers, bookkeepers, accountants, cashiers, other potential officers and individuals engaged in the finance departments and microfinance companies and those who are interested in exploring a career in the microfinance sector. Financial Analysis Training will cover financial state-

ments, Chart of Accounts & accounting vouchers (General Journal), ledger accounts, non-cash transactions, closing entries & preparing financial statements, measuring portfolio at risks, efficiency and profitability ratios calculation, with U Win Zaw Tun, Microfinance Professional Myanmar (MPM), Certified Trainer-Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and MMFA. The registration fee is K80,000 for non-members. Members can enjoy a K20,000

discount. Furthermore, they offer an early bird enrolment discount (5 per cent) for the first comers and a Group Buy Discount (10 per cent) for a group with at least five trainees. Trainees will receive a completion certificate. Those enthusiastic can enrol in the course by 15 May 2025 through <https://shorturl.at/pEgNb>. Individuals can enquire about details via the contact number of MMFA at 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

OPINION

Express gratitude to the international community for their efforts in the Mandalay earthquake

THE State and its people would like to express their heartfelt gratitude and recognition to all those who contributed to the relief efforts. Following the powerful earthquake that struck Mandalay on 28 March 2025, causing significant loss and damage across various regions, local and international rescue and relief teams worked tirelessly in close coordination with the government to provide timely assistance. To this day, the international community continues to provide humanitarian aid and medical supplies, offering vital support to Myanmar.

Although they are not of the same ethnicity, driven by a spirit of humanitarian compassion, search and rescue teams from 13 countries namely Russia, China, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the UAE, Belarus, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Turkeyie swiftly arrived in Myanmar to assist in earthquake disaster relief efforts. A total of 16 search and rescue teams, including medical protection units, comprising 1,070 personnel and 38 search and rescue dogs, collaborated with local aid organizations in the operations. Thanks to the swift response of both international and local rescue organizations, a total of 653 survivors and 778 deceased individuals were located.

In order to carry out relief and rescue operations in the earthquake-affected areas in Myanmar, 26 countries namely Russia, China, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the UAE, Belarus, Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkiye, Laos, Bhutan, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, the United States, Sri Lanka, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brunei, South Korea, Germany, and Cambodia have provided humanitarian aid and supplies. From 30 March to 27 April, various relief materials donated and supported by these countries were received and promptly distributed to earthquake-affected regions.

In addition, international medical teams from 17 countries including China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Russia, the United States, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Germany, India, Laos, Nepal, Singapore, Japan, and Malaysia formed a total of 28 medical teams with 1,152 personnel. These teams successfully treated 29,206 outpatients, 957 inpatients, and 1,084 surgical patients in various earthquake-affected areas.

To provide medical care and health support to the earthquake victims, temporary hospitals were established in suitable locations by domestic and international organizations, along with Tatmadaw hospitals, clinics, and people's hospitals. These facilities have been continuously providing healthcare services to the people.

The government and the people of Myanmar deeply recognize and sincerely express their gratitude, as well as officially honour the tireless efforts and wholehearted contributions made by international organizations, domestic rescue teams, and charitable organizations for the benefit of the people from earthquake-affected areas.

Rise from darkness into light, and from light into ever-greater brilliance – never turning back to the shadows

By Moe Myint

CAN an election rife with electoral fraud in a country claiming to be democratic truly reflect the values of democracy? And how can a democracy propped up by foreign financial support — essentially under foreign influence — be considered genuine?

Why have democratic values declined?

When the true culprit, who severely committed distorting thoughts of the Myanmar people and the decline of Myanmar's character, culture, values, and national identity, was searched, it became apparent that individuals and groups who practised a flawed version of democracy were responsible.

In a democratic country, when those who practise democracy themselves end up being used and manipulated — under the financial, technological, and strategic influence of foreign countries, foreign companies, INGOs posing as foundations, individuals, and intelligence organizations — they inevitably fall into life under foreign domination.

As such, we, the people of Myanmar who once cherished democracy, have seen its value diminish due to the wrongdoings, missteps, and inappropriate actions of certain political figures, including parties and government officials, who manipulated the democratic system. As a result, the lives of the people have also become hopeless, and they have been left to live in darkness.

Why is it called an insubstantial election?

In a democratic election, is it necessary to use foreign financial support which does not truly reflect the will of the people for the benefit of one's party? Why did the UEC and NLD obtain US\$46 million from the US embassy for the 2020 election? Did the \$950

million provided by the US government to the Myanmar government and NLD bring transparency and clarity to the people of Myanmar? Why were election observation groups not given the opportunity to observe? The pre-marked election envelopes, voters who cast without identity, the number of illegal votes exceeding the eligible voter count, the number of voter intimidation incidents that the public was unaware of, the cases of voting rights being granted multiple times to the deceased or elderly over 100 years old, the election where grandparents voted in place of their grandchildren, election fraud videos, photos, and evidence, along with written statements from political parties and thousands of complaints from the people, protests and demonstrations expressing dissatisfaction with the election, etc. were not resolved, and why did they ignore them? Moreover, there were no responses to the credible evidence of election fraud published by Tatmadaw, nor any follow-up on the disputed issue of not convening the last session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The 2015 election records were burned, and at the time, those who claimed to abide by the law acted either in accordance with or contrary to the law. It is deeply regretful that the NLD government, the NLD party, and former State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were unaware of this.

Moreover, can the result of an election, which received foreign assistance, truly reflect the genuine will of the people? Or does it contain any real essence? This remains a question that has yet to be answered. During that period, the election campaign took place when the people of Myanmar were fully suffering from the terrible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Why did the government, which claims to be people-centred, deliberately disregard the public's health? Why did they break health regulations

and engage in election activities at such a fast pace? These are matters that require careful thought. It is astonishing how the members of the NLD party, who claimed that they could easily and quickly achieve their goals, failed so miserably.

Before the 2020 election, why did they move polling booths of military units outside the relevant military units? They were foolish to oppose Tatmadaw, which is always focused on national interests and the security of the State. They did not have awareness that military information could fall into the hands of the enemy.

Will the elections in the future be successful with their participation? It is necessary to consider a future plan in advance so as not to fall burdens of tensions between Tatmadaw and the people. Some may have heard of IFES, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. In some international elections, this organization provides technical assistance to ensure transparency and fairness in elections. However, this programme is just a CIA operation designed to produce results in favour of the United States. As usual, in the 2020 elections, with the assistance of IFES, there were reports of fraud, involving computer experts and computers to manipulate the vote.

Why did they engage in improper actions?

Why did they commit such inappropriate voting fraud? Supporters of the NLD and the party strongly denied that their party or leaders have ever committed such voting fraud. Those supporters are in such extreme pain and blind trust in the party and their leaders that they reject the truth. Others, due to circumstances where they are fully aware but are unable to accept the truth, are forced to deny it.

At that time, Tatmadaw and

the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) severally requested to resolve the issue that the Union Election Commission (UEC) and the National League for Democracy (NLD) committed voting fraud. Repeated requests have been made to clarify this issue, both internally and externally, and in a systematic manner. It means that the political conflict has opened a path for political negotiations to resolve the issue. There were many documents of a harsh and firm response to respectful requests made to prevent the country from heading toward a worse situation. It is difficult to understand, for example, when someone is repeatedly accused of being a thief, they must take full responsibility to clear their name for the sake of their dignity. If the person truly were a thief, they would either deny it or naturally show remorse. Now, why has the NLD remained silent? Their silence itself has reached the point of acceptance.

Was it a trap to pave the way for taking responsibility for the State?

For the people, for the country, and for the honour of their party, shouldn't something be clarified? In another way, did the NLD keep a trap for Tatmadaw to take responsibility for the State compulsorily? It can only be commented that it was likely to happen. In fact, if Tatmadaw leaders had been eager to seize power, those events wouldn't have occurred. If Tatmadaw had not taken State responsibilities, the NLD would have continued as usual, carrying on their plans step by step. If Tatmadaw assumed the State's responsibilities, it would confront the people directly, and Tatmadaw and the people would be at odds, causing more resentment from the people towards Tatmadaw. Eventually, it would lead to the collapse of Tatmadaw, the disintegration of the country,

and a division as per the Western group's wishes. In reality, Tatmadaw leaders are more aware of the consequences of seizing power and understand them better. Even though Tatmadaw didn't want to do the work of the people and the nation, the actions of the NLD have pushed the country and the people into such a situation of serious setbacks.

Why did they remain silent?

There are several factors to consider as to why the NLD is remaining silent. The situation of the NLD has gradually worsened in the by-elections, where the results were no longer favourable. There was a clear goal of achieving full victory for the NLD party in the elections. However, to meet this goal, there was a need to strengthen commitments in the security laws that had already been annulled in pursuance to the Western bloc and OIC. The NLD also failed to amend the Constitution during its term but aims to do so in the future. Moreover, these factors have led to the conclusion that the NLD's actions were driven by the intention to weaken the strength of Tatmadaw. For this reason, they have repeatedly crafted narratives to manipulate public perception and to create instigation between the people and Tatmadaw, facilitated by powerful lobbying forces.

Hluttaw representatives wasted time they, instead of asking questions and making suggestions for the benefit of the people and enacting necessary laws at the Hluttaw, spent time opposing constitutional amendments for the benefit of their party and following the Western bloc's influence, which would have made it impossible to proceed. However, Tatmadaw and the opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) had initially resisted the constitutional amendments for national interests. So, the NLD was able to create a misleading narrative

for the public to misunderstand Tatmadaw and the USDP, allowing the NLD's desires to be fulfilled. It should be noted that as the election approached, the NLD's efforts to push for constitutional amendments were carried out on a clear agenda, and this should be reflected upon critically.

No matter what happens, in this current period and under today's circumstances, the responsibility for the suffering the people of Myanmar are facing, along with the political situation, lies with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD party, and the UEC of that time. The reason is that the failure to hold free, fair, and transparent elections destroyed both democracy and the essence of elections. It also resulted from an inability to adopt good intentions and principles that could create a balanced political environment and a lack of the necessary skills for negotiation and compromise. Only through good negotiation skills can the truth be achieved, and through that, we believe, the outcome in the Hluttaw would reflect the will of the people rather than a mere decision.

Based on experiences, how can the people of Myanmar trust such parties and politicians in the future when they have acted in such a manner? Do these parties and politicians have the ability to create a fair and just political landscape? Do they possess the qualifications to implement democratic practices that align with the character and values of the Myanmar people? They have made significant mistakes. The consequences of their mistakes are being borne by us. What is crucial is the trust of the people, and that trust cannot be violated or taken for granted. It is important that they have to be honest and righteous without committing similar incidents any more.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Consumption of ultraprocessed foods linked to rising premature deaths: Study



Crisps, croissants, doughnuts, muffins, sweets and hot dogs all count as ultra-processed food. PHOTO: PIXABAY

KEY POINTS

- The research highlights the urgent need for global action to reduce UPF intake through regulatory and fiscal policies that promote healthier dietary environments.
- Lead investigator Eduardo Augusto Fernandes Nilsson emphasizes that UPFs, which are largely devoid of whole foods and rich in harmful additives, pose a serious health risk linked to various diseases and should be prioritized in public nutrition strategies.

A STUDY analyzing data from nationally representative dietary surveys and mortality data from eight countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, United Kingdom, and United States) shows that premature deaths attributable to consumption of ultraprocessed foods (UPFs) increase significantly according to their share in individuals' total energy intake.

The new study, appearing in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, published by Elsevier, reinforces the call for global action to reduce UPF consumption, supported by regulatory and fiscal policies that foster healthier environments.

UPFs are ready-to-eat-or-heat industrial formulations that are made with ingredients extracted from foods or synthesized in laboratories, with little or no whole foods in their com-

position.

These have gradually been replacing traditional foods and meals made from fresh and minimally processed ingredients.

Lead investigator of the study, Eduardo Augusto Fernandes Nilsson, DSc, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), Brazil, says,

“UPFs affect health beyond the individual impact of high content of critical nutrients (sodium, trans fats, and sugar) because of the changes in the foods during industrial processing and the use of artificial ingredients, including colorants, artificial flavors and sweeteners, emulsifiers, and many other additives and processing aids, so assessing deaths from all-causes associated with UPF consumption allows an overall estimate of the effect of industrial food processing on health.”

SOURCE: ANI

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

Church leaders pray for earthquake victims and peace in Myanmar at Yangon service

A prayer service for peace and for those affected by the recent earthquake and natural disasters was held yesterday afternoon at the Methodist English Church on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township, Yangon. The service was organized under the leadership of the Myanmar Council of Churches' Central Committee for Peace.

The event was attended by U Saw Htun Aung Myint, the leader of the Central Committee and the State Administration Council's Central Advisory Body, Dr Maung Maung Naing, U Saw Jacob Htoo, Minister for Ethnic Affairs of the Yangon Region Government, leaders



Youth Choir performs for peace and earthquake victims in Yangon.

from various Christian denominations, members of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) and guests.

During the ceremony, U Saw Htun Aung Myint delivered a speech on behalf of the State Administration Council's Central Advisory Body.

Afterwards, the programme proceeded with readings from the Holy Bible, religious sermons, hymns of praise, and words of peace.

Prayers and goodwill messages were then offered for the victims of the Mandalay earthquake, as well as for local and international rescue teams, donors, church organizations, medical teams, and all those involved in the relief and reconstruction efforts. Prayers were also extended to donors who have consistently provided aid during times of natural disaster, and for peace in Myanmar and around the world. — MNA/MKKS



K1.5B in drugs seized in Waw and Thaton



Offenders are seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicles.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, over K1.5 billion worth of narcotic drugs, including one million stimulant tablets and 2.3 kilogrammes of marijuana, were seized in Waw and Thaton townships.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force intercepted a Toyota Lexus at around 1 pm on 28 April near Nyaungkhashay village in Waw Township, Bago Region. The vehicle was travelling from Tatkon to Mawlamyine, driven by Moe Win Hlaing with Kyaw Khine Oo. During the search, authorities found and confiscated 1 million

stimulant tablets on board.

Following this seizure, further investigation led to the arrest of Thura Myo Myo (aka) Myo Myo at around 4:30 pm at his residence in Myawady Ward in Tatkon. There, authorities seized 2.3 kilogrammes of marijuana and a Cadillac Escalade.

The seized drugs were being trafficked from Shan State to Mon State for illegal distribution. Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and investigations are ongoing to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in the drug trafficking network. — MNA/MKKS

Offender arrested for killing retired professor in Mandalay

THE police arrested one male offender for killing a retired professor in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, on 27 April.

Acting on a tip-off, the police inspected an unoccupied house in Yay Htwet village at 7 am on 27 April and found the dead body of Daw Htwe Htwe, aged 66, who was a retired professor.



This photo displays detained suspect and recovered evidence in murder case.

Officials organized a special investigation team and conducted the investigation promptly. The police found the vehicle of the victim near the incident site. According to the investigation, the victim lived at Mingala Yankin Housing (housing for retired persons) in Yay Htwet village alone and worked as a real estate agent with her nephew, U Ye Wunna. According to the confession of the witness, the victim left home alone on 25 April in her car. On that day, Sai Tun Naw (aka) Ko Sai (aka) Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Ko Pyo asked for help to his friend to drive a Toyota Belta. Then, the witness

found that he threw a slipper into the lake. At about 3:15 pm, Sai Tun Naw (aka) Ko Sai (aka) Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Ko Pyo arrived at the home of the victim.

The suspect, knowing that the police were after him for investigation, fled to Taunggyi together with his family.

Therefore, the police cooperated with the Shan State police force and chased Sai Tun Naw (aka) Ko Sai (aka) Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Ko Pyo, who was in Taunggyi with his family.

On 1 May morning, Sai Tun Naw (aka) Ko Sai

(aka) Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Ko Pyo was arrested with six gold rings, one gold hairclip, two gold lockets, two necklaces, one gold bracelet and five gold buttons, 39 real estate agreements and documents, one Wave 110 motorcycle and K2,020,000.

The offender confessed his action to killing the victim after a quarrel between Yay Htwet and Hnan Kywel village on 25 April. He then ran away with golden materials and K5 million from her car, a Toyota Belta.

The offender will be taken to action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

Poppies flourish at Tower of London for WWII anniversary

Volunteers are involved in assembling and installing the poppies, a symbol of remembrance for those lost in the World Wars.

BRITAIN’S iconic Tower of London will be covered in a cascading installation of 30,000 red ceramic poppies to mark 80 years since the end of World War II.

The tribute, called “The Tower Remembers” will be unveiled to the public on Thursday, 8 May, which is celebrated as Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

“This is the last really important anniversary of the Second World War that we could have veterans with us to tell their stories,” said Rhiannon Goddard.

She is helping lead the project, with volunteers assembling and installing the flowers, a traditional British symbol of remembrance for those killed



Designer Tom Piper and artist Paul Cummins use 30,000 ceramic poppies for the installation. **PHOTO: AFP**

in the two World Wars.

The moat of the 900-year-old Tower of London, which looms over the north bank of the Thames, was first flooded with the poppies in 2014 to

mark the centenary of the start of World War I. In that installation, visited by the late Queen Elizabeth II, nearly 900,000 poppies were used, one for each life lost in Britain and its colonies.

Now, designer Tom Piper and artist Paul Cummins are bringing back 30,000 poppies from the same collection to “reflect on the wounds of war”, said Goddard. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asterix, Obelix and Netflix: US streamer embraces Gallic heroes

FRANCE’S beloved comic book heroes Asterix and Obelix are set for their latest incarnation in a Netflix mini-series being released Wednesday, hoping to win over new fans, notably in the United States and Asia.

The plucky Gallic rebels, created by illustrator Albert Uderzo and writer Rene Goscinny in 1959, have a vast following thanks to the original comic books that have sold around 400 million copies.

A series of big-budget French films – the latest in 2023 took them to China in “Asterix & Obelix: The Middle Kingdom” – has also helped expand their reach.

But warrior Asterix and his powerful but dim-witted sidekick Obelix are yet to conquer viewers in the United States and Britain, which have their own comic book and animated hero characters from Marvel, Disney and other stables. — AFP

Abu Dhabi launches \$500M maternal health fund for Africa

A \$500-million fund aimed at improving maternal and neonatal health in sub-Saharan Africa was launched Tuesday in Abu Dhabi at a time when Western countries are sharply cutting aid to Africa.

The Beginnings Fund brings together philanthropists including the Gates Foundation and the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, run by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president.

It set a deadline of 2030 to reach the \$500-million target and has already reached \$450 million in pledges, organizers said in a statement.

The fund seeks to prevent more than 300,000 deaths and improve access to quality care for 34 million mothers and babies by that date.

An aid freeze ordered earlier this year by US President Donald Trump has slashed budgets for many humanitarian programmes. — AFP



A mother carries her sleeping baby at the Gubio camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Nicole Kidman to receive Women in Motion Award at Cannes Film Festival

THE Cannes Film Festival and Kering have announced that Nicole Kidman will be the 10th recipient of the Women in Motion Award. This prestigious honour recognizes female artistes who advance the place of women in cinema and society.

The award ceremony will

take place on 18 May during a glamorous gala at the festival, confirmed The Hollywood Reporter. Kidman’s commitment to working with female directors has been cited as a reason for her selection. In 2017, she pledged to work with a female director every 18 months, but has since

exceeded that goal, collaborating with nearly 20 female directors.

This commitment to promoting female representation in cinema has made her a powerful example of what Women in Motion has been advocating for over the past decade, as per The Hollywood Reporter. — ANI



Nicole Kidman will be the 10th recipient of the Women in Motion Award. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY

WORLD



Staff members handle businesses related to private enterprises at the government service centre of Dongsheng District in Ordos City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, 16 April 2025. **PHOTO: LI ZHIPENG/XINHUA**

China's landmark private sector promotion law to fortify economy resilience, vitality

It is the first fundamental legislation specifically focused on the private sector in China.

CHINA'S top legislative body passed the private sector promotion law on Wednesday, establishing a legal backing for the steady and healthy growth of the vast sector, including more than 57 million private firms and over 100 million self-employed individuals.

As China's first fundamental legislation dedicated to the

private sector, the new law will bolster confidence among the vast community by improving the business environment, fostering innovation, and ensuring fair competition — key steps to sustaining high-quality growth in the world's second-largest economy amid growing external uncertainties, experts noted in the latest episode of the

China Economic Roundtable, an all-media talk show hosted by Xinhua News Agency.

China's socialist market economy operates under a framework where public ownership, manifested by entities such as state-owned enterprises, is the mainstay while multiple forms of ownership coexist. — Xinhua

India's stock markets added 2.1 cr new investors in FY26: NSE Report

INDIA'S stock markets added 2.1 crore new investors during the financial year 2025-26, marking a strong 23.2 per cent growth in investor registrations, according to a report by the National Stock



The total investor base reached 11.3 crore by the end of March 2025. **PHOTO: NSE/ANI**

Exchange (NSE).

While the overall yearly increase was significant, the report noted that recent months have seen some moderation in new registrations. In March 2025 only 10.6 lakh new investors were added. It said "investor base stood at 11.3 crore at the end of Mar'25 adding 2.1 crore new investors during the year, translating into a strong 23.2 per cent growth during the year...., Recent months however, have seen some moderation in investor registrations, with the Month of March seeing 10.6 lakh new investors".

The total number of client codes registered with the exchange stood at 22.1 crore as of March 2025. This includes all registrations since inception, as investors can register with more than one trading member. — ANI

BRIEF: ECON

Unclear economic outlook leaves next rate hike timing fluid: BOJ Ueda

BANK of Japan chief Kazuo Ueda said on Thursday the central bank remains on track to seeking additional interest rate hikes, but an unclear economic outlook due to US tariffs leaves the timing of the next rate hike fluid. During a news conference following a two-day policy meeting, Ueda also said he expects US tariffs to remain at levels that "cannot be ignored". — Kyodo

France, Germany and Italy failing to stop destructive fishing: NGOs

FIVE environmental organizations on Tuesday accused France, Germany and Italy of failing to stop destructive fishing, including bottom trawling, in protected areas in a legal complaint to the European Commission.

In their complaint, the organizations including Environmental Justice Foundation and ClientEarth, accused the three EU countries of "seriously and systemically failing to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in violation of EU law".

Deep-sea bottom trawling — where a weighted net is dragged along the seabed, seriously damaging ecosystems in the process — risks wiping out ocean wildlife and hurting the future of fishing communities in Europe, the groups warned. — AFP

US economy unexpectedly shrinks, Trump blames Biden



The US economy contracted by 0.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2025, largely due to a surge in imports ahead of President Trump's new tariffs. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

THE US economy unexpectedly contracted in the first three months of the year on an import surge triggered by Donald Trump's tariff plans, although the president pinned the blame squarely on his predecessor.

The sharp increase in imports was a reflection of businesses and consumers stockpiling foreign goods to get ahead of Trump's sweeping trade levies, which went into effect earlier this month.

All three major Wall Street

indices fell on the economic news, before paring losses to close mixed, while oil prices extended their losses.

At a cabinet meeting in Washington, Trump insisted the growth downturn was the legacy of former president Joe Biden's policies. "That's Biden, that's not Trump," he said.

Striking a more positive tone, he highlighted the "whopping" 22 per cent rise in gross domestic investment during the first quarter. — AFP

India, Brunei open pavilions for 2025 World Expo in Osaka after delay

Brunei's pavilion is part of the "Commons" area, where multiple participants share a space for their booths.

THE India and Brunei pavilions for the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka, western Japan, opened Thursday, leaving Nepal as the only overseas participant with an unopened pavilion 18 days into the global event.

The Indian pavilion, showcasing a blend of traditional arts, cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices, attracted a flock of visitors once the

park opened at 9 am.

"I was able to sense both the heritage and near future (of the country)," said Takayuki Kishida, a 21-year-old university student from Shimamoto, Osaka Prefecture.

India's pavilion is categorized as Type X, for which the participant decorates the interior and exterior of a simple structure built by the expo organizer. India shifted its course

from building a self-built Type A pavilion but was still unable to complete the construction work before the 13 April opening.

Brunei, meanwhile, is part of the "Commons" pavilion, where participants install their booths in a shared space.

The construction of the Nepali pavilion has been suspended due to unpaid fees for the builders. — Kyodo



Photo shows the interior of India's pavilion at the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka on its opening day on 1 May 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

Meta reports Q1 results with increases in revenue, net income

US social media giant Meta Platforms, Inc, on Wednesday reported financial results for the first quarter ending 31 March, 2025, with a total quarterly revenue of US\$42.3 billion, an increase of 16 per cent year over year.

The company's quarterly net income increased to \$16.6 billion, a leap of 35 per cent. The diluted earnings per share for the quarter jumped to \$6.43 from \$4.71 in the same period of 2024, said Meta, the parent company

of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, and based in Menlo Park, California.

The family daily active people (DAP) was \$3.43 billion on average for March 2025, an increase of six per cent year over year.

Its cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities were \$70.23 billion as of 31 March 2025. Cash flow from operating activities was \$24.03 billion and free cash flow was \$10.33 billion. — Xinhua



The company's quarterly net income increased to \$16.6 billion, a leap of 35 per cent. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2504S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2504S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CNC JUPITER VOY.NO. (0UVD6S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CNC JUPITER VOY.NO. (0UVD6S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (514W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (514W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2506S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2506S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

S Korean acting president, prime minister Han resigns

Han's resignation comes amid expectations for his presidential run in the upcoming snap election.

SOUTH Korea's acting president and Prime Minister Han Duck-soo announced his resignation on Thursday in a televised address to the nation, amid wide expectations for his presidential run.

Han said that he decided to step down in order to do what he can and has to do at the time of crisis faced by the country, noting that unless the extreme politics are abandoned and the foundation for cooperation is es-

tablished, division and conflict will be repeated no matter who will be in power.

He emphasized that he will go all the way to be the best for South Korea at this moment and in the future to the end.

With Han's resignation, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Choi Sang-mok will serve as acting president.

Han is widely predicted to announce his bid for the 3 June

snap presidential election on Friday.

He has been one of the favored presidential hopefuls for conservative voters following the removal of former President Yoon Suk-yeol from office over his botched martial law imposition. A recent survey showed Han garnered a support rate of 13 per cent, surpassing approval scores of the conservative People Power Party's presidential contenders. — Xinhua



People watch a televised address by Han Duck-soo at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, 1 May. **PHOTO: YAO QILIN/XINHUA**

World's oldest person, a Brazilian nun, dies at age 116

THE world's oldest person, Brazilian nun Inah Canabarro Lucas, died on 30 April at the age of 116, having barely survived infancy and attributing her long life to God, her order and two longevity trackers said.

The title now passes to Ms Ethel Caterham, a resident of Surrey, England, who is 115 years old, according to the US Gerontological Research Group (GRG) and the LongeviQuest database.

Born on 8 June 1908, Ms Canabarro became the world's oldest person following the death in January of Japanese woman Tomiko Itooka, who

was also aged 116. The Congregation of Teresian Sisters of Brazil announced Ms Canabarro's passing on 30 April in

Brazilian nun Inah Canabarro Lucas, died on 30 April at the age of 116. **PHOTO: INSTAGRAM**

a statement in which it gave thanks "for the dedication and devotion" she had shown in life.

LongeviQuest, in an obituary, said Ms Canabarro had been a frail child, and "many doubted she would survive".

She became a nun in 1934 at the age of 26, between World Wars I and II.

Ms Canabarro had attributed her longevity to God, saying: "He is the secret of life. He is the secret of everything," according to LongeviQuest.

For her 110th birthday, she received a blessing from Pope Francis, who himself died on 21 April at age 88. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan Cardinal Maeda to vote for anti-nuke candidate at conclave

JAPANESE Cardinal Manyo Maeda has said he plans to vote for a candidate who "emphasizes an anti-nuclear weapons and antiwar stance" at the upcoming conclave to elect the next pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

Maeda, whose mother survived the 1945 U.S. atomic bombing of Nagasaki and who became a cardinal in 2018, said in an interview with Kyodo News that he has an "important mission" in the vote and that he "feels the responsibility" of being one of the electors to choose the successor to Pope Francis, who died on April 21.

The 76-year-old archbishop of Osaka-Takamatsu will join the conclave set to start on May 7 at the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. The new pontiff will be elected from among 135 cardinals under the age of 80, including Maeda.—Kyodo

State of emergency declared in parts of New Zealand due to severe weather

SEVERE weather has hit New Zealand on Thursday with a State of Emergency declared in part of the country.

In the South Island, heavy rain has already caused flooding and people have been evacuated from their homes.

Emergency Management and Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell announced that Christchurch has entered into a state of emergency at Thursday afternoon's press conference.

Parts of Canterbury region have recorded between 100 and 180 millimetre of rain since the start of Wednesday to midday Thursday, some parts have seen more than double a month's amount of rain in that time, said the National weather authority MetService.

Selwyn mayor Sam Broughton said due to rising river levels and advice from the regional council, he declared a State of Emergency for the district at 5:39 am. — Xinhua

UK in talks with France and Saudi Arabia on recognizing Palestine in June

THE UK is in talks with France and Saudi Arabia over recognizing a Palestinian state in June, the Guardian newspaper reported, citing a statement by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

In late April, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said France and Saudi Arabia

would jointly hold a conference in New York in June to defend the prospect of recognizing a Palestinian state.

According to the report, Lammy made the statement while speaking to the House of Lords international relations select committee. He indicated that the UK would like to make

this step when it has an impact on the situation on the ground, and not at a symbolic moment.

It said that during his speech, Lammy also added that he had come to the sad conclusion that the recent recognition of Palestine by some European countries had "no effect". — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Women’s League:
Young Lionesses
maintain winning
streak

YOUNG Lionesses defeated Yangon Royal 2-1, securing their second consecutive win on the third matchday of the 2025–2026 Myanmar Women’s League held on 1 May at Padonma Stadium.

Ingyin Khaing scored the opening goal for the Young Lionesses in 20 minutes, but San San Htway equalized for Yangon Royal in 38 minutes, ending the first half at 1-1.

Both teams pressed for the win in the second half, and



Nway Nway sealed the victory for the Young Lionesses with a decisive goal in 68 minutes.

After this match, the Young Lionesses have earned six points from three games, while Yangon Royal have yet to register a point after suffering two straight defeats.

The matchday continues today with Shan United versus Thitsar Arman at Thuwunna Training Centre 1, Yangon United versus Myawady at Yangon United Sports Complex, and Ayeyawady versus ISPE FC at Padonma Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Scorching 1,500m return for Olympic
great Ledecky in Florida

NINE-TIME Olympic gold medallist Katie Ledecky made a blistering return to the swimming pool on Wednesday, clocking the second fastest 1,500-metre freestyle in history in heats at the TYR Pro Series meeting in Florida.

The 28-year-old American star, who has not raced in an elite event since last year’s Paris Olympics, touched the wall in Fort Lauderdale in a time of 15 minutes 24.51 seconds.

That was just outside her own world record of 15:20.48 set in Indianapolis in 2018, and some 39.62 seconds faster than her next fastest rival, Jillian Cox.

Ledecky now owns the 22

fastest times ever in the 1,500-metre freestyle, and has not been beaten in the event since she lost a race in Maryland way back in 2010 when she was just 13 years old.

Ledecky, who won her first Olympic title at the 2012 London Games, has already indicated she plans to extend her career to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

Her time on Wednesday was around five seconds quicker than her winning time in the 1,500-metre final in Paris last August.

"I don't feel like I'm close to being finished in the sport yet," Ledecky said of her plans for the future after her win in Paris last year. — AFP



Norway’s Casper Ruud returns the ball to Russia’s Daniil Medvedev during the quarterfinal clash.
PHOTO: AFP

Yamal heroics preserve
Barca Champions
League final dream

FOR 22 minutes Barcelona did not seem to believe they would reach the Champions League final, and then Lamine Yamal decided enough was enough.

Inter Milan raced into a semifinal first leg two-goal lead, but the 17-year-old star’s brilliance helped Barca come from behind to secure a 3-3 draw on Wednesday and leave the tie in equilibrium ahead of the return in Milan next Tuesday.

After Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries produced two outstanding finishes even the most resolute fans started to wonder if this was a bridge too far.

It was Barcelona’s first semifinal since 2019, and the team powered by teen spirit, shorn of injured top goalscorer Robert Lewandowski came up against

an experienced, wily side, runners up in 2023 and looking to go one better this time.

It has been a decade since the Catalan giants last reached the final, winning in Berlin with Lionel Messi as their omnipotent leader, and Barcelona are dreaming of a return to Germany for the Munich final on 31 May.

Fear tried to set in but Yamal was too quick for it. Three minutes after Inter’s second, he struck.

After all, he said on the eve of the game he had left his fears behind playing in the park in his hometown of Mataro.

The winger, on his 100th appearance for the club, showed strength to shrug off Thuram, skill and speed to ditch Henrikh Mkhitaryan and produced a precise, lethal finish. — AFP



Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal celebrates scoring his team’s first goal against Inter Milan.
PHOTO: AFP

Ruud sails past Medvedev into
Madrid Open semis

CASPER Ruud reached the Madrid Open semi-finals with a 6-3, 7-5 straight sets triumph over Daniil Medvedev on Thursday.

The Norwegian ousted Taylor Fritz to reach the quarterfinals and secured his first win against the Russian in their fourth meeting.

Strong on clay Ruud only converted two of his eight break points but it was enough to secure victory, with Medvedev, who dislikes the surface, not producing a single break.

Ruud put heavy pressure on Medvedev’s serve in the first set, breaking in the fourth game and serving it out.

The second set featured just a single break point, earned and converted by Ruud in the 11th game, enabling him to serve for the match. Medvedev made 33 unforced errors and committed four double faults on a disappointing afternoon for the world number 10. Ruud, ranked 15th, will face Francisco Cerundolo or Jakub Mensik in the final four.

Later fifth seed Jack Draper faces Matteo Arnaldi and Lorenzo Musetti takes on Gabriel Diallo in the other quarterfinals.

In the WTA 1000 semifinals holder Iga Swiatek is up against American Coco Gauff, while Aryna Sabalenka faces in-form Elina Svitolina. — AFP



India poised to emerge among top 5 global entertainment destinations by 2030

DRIVEN by the booming media sector, digital innovation, and expanding consumer base, India is set to emerge among the top five global entertainment destinations by 2030.

During the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 being organized in Mumbai at the Jio World Convention Centre, India's will release a white paper, commissioned by Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, L Murugan is set to unveil "India's Live Events Economy: A Strategic Growth Imperative" on 3 May.

The White Paper presents a comprehensive analysis of India's rapidly expanding live entertainment industry, highlighting emerging trends, growth trajectories, and strategic recommendations for the sector's continued evolution.

India's live events landscape is undergoing a transformation—from a fragmented sector to a structured and influential pillar of the country's cultural and creative economy.

The period from 2024 to 2025 marks a defining inflection point, with international acts such as 'Coldplay' performing in Ahmedabad and Mumbai, signalling India's readiness to host global-scale events.

Key trends in the sector include the rise of event tourism, with nearly half a

Union Minister L Murugan will unveil the white paper titled "India's Live Events Economy: A Strategic Growth Imperative" on 3 May.



10th India-International Dance and Music Festival. PHOTO: ANI/FILE

million attendees travelling specifically for live music events—indicating the emergence of a robust music-tourism economy.

Premium ticketing segments—such as VIP experiences, curated access, and luxury hospitality—have witnessed over 100 per cent year-on-year growth, pointing to an increasingly experience-driven audience. Participation from Tier-2 cities has surged, driven by multi-city tours and the growing popularity of regional festivals. — ANI

US cuts military aid from rare minerals deal with Ukraine – No guarantees, no strings attached



Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced that the minerals agreement would be signed soon. PHOTO: HANDOUT/AFP/FILE

THE United States has excluded provisions on security guarantees, such as continuation of providing military aid to Ukraine, from the text of the rare minerals deal, The New York Times reported on Thursday, citing an unnamed former US official familiar with the matter.

Washington reportedly rejected this provision at an early stage of its work on the deal's text.

The US Treasury Department earlier said Washington and Kyiv signed an agreement to establish the United States-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund, which, according to the Ukrainian government, is part of a broader minerals deal between the two countries. — SPUTNIK

GAS PRODUCTION
SET FOR GROWTH

Russia forecasts growth in gas production in 2025

RUSSIA'S gas production is expected to grow by 1.7 per cent in 2025, according to a forecast by the Russian Economic Development Ministry released on Wednesday. The country's total gas production in 2025 is estimated to reach 695.4 billion cubic metres, up from 684 billion cubic metres in 2024, according to the ministry. Russia's exports of liquefied natural gas are forecast to hit 40 million tonnes in 2025, compared to 34.6 million tonnes in 2024, while pipeline gas exports are expected at 120 billion cubic metres, up from 118.7 billion cubic metres last year. — Xinhua