

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

SAC Vice-Chairman DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts staff and families from ministries, Union-level offices

Ministerial offices are relocated at modular houses, staff families resettled at temporary staff housing.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win who is in the capacity of the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, accompanied by Union ministers, the

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials, yesterday afternoon inspected construction of temporary offices of ministries with the use of modular houses, progress of temporary staff housing, and settlement of staff members and fam-

ilies at the completed temporary staff housings. On arrival at the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the Vice-Senior General heard reports presented by Union Minister U Myint Kyaing on functioning of office works on electoral

process at the modular house temporary offices and server rooms. The Vice-Senior General instructed officials to systematically locate servers and computers at the temporary building and especially take security measures.

SEE PAGE 3

OPINION

Honour firefighters for their noble sacrifices

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 6



Foodstuff sold at reasonable prices to quake-affected people in three cities

NATIONAL

PAGE 7



90 teachers to teach students from Sagaing who will retake matriculation exam



This photo shows ongoing construction project.

CHID Bank to prioritize disbursement of loans to construction projects in quake-affected areas nationwide

TO ensure that construction projects across the country can operate with momentum, the Construction, Housing, and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID Bank) will provide construction loans, according to the CHID Bank. The bank stated that not only construction entrepreneurs but construction contractors can apply for the construction loans at the bank if they need loans for operating the projects. “We do not have a fixed minimum

or maximum loan amount for a business owner. The loan amount is determined based on the collateral provided. When collateral is involved, the loan amount is calculated based on the value of the collateral. For example, if a building is used as collateral, the calculation is made based on the value of that building,” said an official from CHID Bank. It is learned that the loan amount will be determined based on the value

of the goods, and the loan period will also be set depending on the construction project. Moreover, it is noted that the bank has set the interest rate at 12 per cent per annum. It was reported that priority will be given to disbursement of construction loans to businesspersons and construction contractors who are engaging in rehabilitation and construction operations in the areas affected by the Mandalay earthquake. — ASH/TTA

NATIONAL

Empowering Citizens with Wisdom: Key to National Strength and Progress

Wisdom equips individuals with the ability to critically analyze right and wrong, good and bad, and cause and effect. When every citizen possesses wisdom and knowledge, the nation can cultivate true strength that advances the interests of the State.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)



Devotees are seen pouring water onto the Maha Bodhi tree at the Shwedagon Pagoda in the previous year.

42nd Kason water pouring festival set for Shwedagon Pagoda

THE 42nd Kason water pouring festival will be held on the full moon day of Kason, 1387 ME (11 May) at the Shwedagon Pagoda, the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees stated.

The opening ceremony

will be held grandly in the northeast corner near Maha Bodhi Tree starting from 7 am, with the presence of monks, members of the trustee board, staff and Buddhist religious teams.

The Shwedagon Pagoda

Board of Trustees notified that teams and staff will help pilgrims pour sacred water onto the Bodhi banyan Tree, and devotees, monks and nuns are invited to participate in the Kason Water Pouring Festival. — NN/KK

Around 2.5 mln pilgrims visit Shwedagon in Jan-Apr 2025

DURING January and April 2025, over 2.5 million pilgrims, including monks, nuns, and laypeople, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the Yangon Region to pay homage, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. During this period, a total of 28,136 foreign tourists visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, alongside 46,146 monks, 25,501 nuns, 1,090,733 men, and 1,310,909 women, totalling

2,501,425. “Nearly 10,000 to 40,000 pilgrims visited the Shwedagon Pagoda daily. The largest number of visitors came on the Taboung full moon day, 13 March. There were 42,614 pilgrims on 1 January, 32,675 on 4 January (Independence day), 44,590 on Sunday, 9 February, 43,676 on 12 February (Union Day), 88,635 on 2 March (Peasants’ Day), 106,949 on the full moon of

Taboung, 13 March, 103,096 on Myanmar New Year day, 17 April and 25,301 on 27 April,” said U Bo Thin, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. To accommodate the growing number of visitors, the Shwedagon Pagoda has been open daily for pilgrimage from 4 am to 10 pm since 21 June 2024, allowing devotees to worship peacefully. — ASH/KZL

Shwemawdaw Pagoda to host rice offering ceremony on Full Moon Day of Kason

ACCORDING to U Tin Aung Myint, a member of the Shwemawdaw Pagoda Board of Trustees, a rice donation ceremony for 1,000 monks and 100 nuns and the ceremonial pouring of water on the sacred banyan tree will be held at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago, Bago Region, on Wednesday, 11 May. “At 5 am on the full moon day of Kason, a total of 1,000 monks from various monasteries in Bago will consecrate the pagoda. At 5.30 am, dawn meals will be offered to 1,000 monks and 100 nuns. The rice offering ceremony will take place on the platform of the pagoda. Starting at 4 pm, the

traditional water-pouring ceremony onto the sacred banyan tree will take place. At around 6 pm, a Dhamma sermon will be delivered at the main hall of the pagoda,” said U Tin Aung Myint. While only the water-pouring ceremony is usually held on the full moon day of Kason each year at the pagoda, this year’s event will include several additional ceremonies. These include a pagoda consecration ceremony, a rice donation to monks and nuns, and a Dhamma sermon. During the evening’s water-pouring ceremony, guests will also be served with charity feast. — ASH/KNN



The Shwemawdaw Pagoda’s sacred Buddha Day celebration and banyan water-pouring ceremony held in previous year.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

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)

SAC Vice-Chairman DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts staff and families from ministries, Union-level offices

FROM PAGE 1

Accompanied by Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, the Vice-Senior General inspected sites chosen for construction of bashas as temporary accommodation for staff members and families and construction of temporary offices. He stressed the need to supervise construction of buildings to be opened by May.

At the temporary staff housing of the Ministry of Labour, the Vice-Senior General heard reports by Union Minister U Chit Swe on the layout plan for temporary housing, the land plot chosen for construction of the temporary office building, and supply of drinking water, electricity and septic system at the temporary staff housing. The Vice-Senior General viewed round completion of housings.

A plan is underway to build 75 temporary staff housing. So far, 10 two-unit buildings measuring 40 feet by 22 feet each and seven two-unit buildings with the measurement of 20 feet by 22 feet each have been completed. Efforts are being made to timely complete remaining housings.

At the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi reported to the Vice-Senior General on construction of the temporary staff housing on a 22-acre land and the plot chosen for construction of the modular house. The Vice-Senior General inspected relocation of staff and their fam-



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win observes the temporary staff housing of the Ministry of Labour in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ilies at the temporary housing, and progress of more housing. He comforted staff families and fulfilled the needs.

The ministry has built two 10-unit barracks measuring 45 feet by 24 feet each, 17 three-unit barracks with the measurement of 36 feet by 15 feet each and one two-unit 24 feet by 15 feet barrack where some staff families live. Depending on completion of more buildings, staff families will be resettled.

Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn reported to the Vice-Senior General on completion of temporary staff housings, ongoing projects and relocation of staff and their fam-



Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects sites chosen for construction of bashas as temporary accommodation for staff members and families of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

ilies at temporary bashas. The Vice-Senior General looked into temporary staff housing and left necessary instructions.

Arriving at the Ministry of Electric Power, the Vice-Senior General heard reports by Union Minister U Nyan Tun on functioning office works, and damage to the main building and annexes. The Vice-Senior General viewed round repairing of office buildings which have been examined by experts.

He also inspected building strength test conducted by experts from the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, the Ministry of Construction and the Myanmar Engineering Council with the use of machinery at Gangaw Housing Building No 9 classified at red level. Officials reported on findings in examination and recommendation for repairing process. After asking about what he wanted to know, the Vice-Senior General comforted staff members.

The Vice-Senior General looked into repairing of slightly damaged walls of building-5 of Thabyay-2 female staff housing and building-8 of Thabyay-4 male staff housing with the use of Sikalatex, Sika Grout and cement. He also inspected damage to Building-18 of Thazin-5 male staff housing identified at red level and instructed officials to carry out sanitation around the buildings.

On arrival at Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Vice-Senior General inspected systematic removal of slabs for repair of the platform of the pagoda, and preparation for renovation in the cave. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Annual plans needed to meet inevitable rise in natural gas demand

THE oil and gas exploration and production industry, being capital-intensive and risky, must anticipate the inevitable future increase in natural gas demand for the manufacturing sector, including MSMEs, by implementing annual plans to meet this demand fully, while also increasing production from old wells in geologically mature fields, drilling new wells, and exploring new fields, according to Electricity and Energy Development Commission Chair, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister, and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San.

The Commission Chair made the remarks during his visit to the Myanma Oil & Gas Enterprise (MOGE)'s Aphyauk Natural Gas Field in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region on 3 May, and the Maubin (South) Oil and Natural Gas Field in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region, to inspect the progress of oil and gas production and the ongoing 2D seismic survey for oil and gas exploration in the Sapag-



Electricity and Energy Development Commission Chair State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects production of Well No 56 in Aphyauk Natural Gas Field in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region on 3 May.

isan-Natsingone area, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region.

The Deputy Prime Minister visited the Aphyauk Natural Gas Field, where Deputy Minister for Energy U Thant Sin and MOGE officials reported on the conditions of natural gas exploration, the current operational status, plans for further production after re-examining, calculating,

researching, and testing the thin sand layers of old wells, and the future work plans.

Following the presentations, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the need to replicate similar successes in other oil and natural gas fields to meet the country's energy demands. Along with the Chief Minister of the Yangon Region Government,

he provided food and financial support to oil field workers and stressed the importance of taking measures to enhance production in fields experiencing a decline.

The Admiral then inspected the natural gas production at Well No 56, which has enhanced output at the Aphyauk Natural Gas Field.

Then, he visited Well No 10 and 13 in the Maubin (South) oil and natural gas field to inspect the conditions of condensate and natural gas production after giving feedback on the presentations by the deputy minister and officials. Afterwards, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the Ayeyawady Region Government provided food and financial assistance to oil field workers.

Next, they visited the 2D seismic survey site for oil and gas exploration in the Sapag-isan-Natsingone area of Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, where officials provided an update on the progress.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the need to expedite the processing and interpretation of seismic data and to plan for drilling new wells in promising areas, before serving refreshments to the staff. He then inspected the progress of 2D seismic measurements and the recording of data for oil and gas exploration in the Sapag-isan-Natsingone area of Kungyangon Township. — MNA/TH

Electronic voting machine trial held in Myitkyina

A demonstration and trial of using Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) was held yesterday at the Maykha Hall of the Kachin State Government Office in Myitkyina, Kachin State, allowing eligible voters to experience the system firsthand.

U Khin Zaw, member of the Union Election Commission, explained during the event that this machine is the first of its kind to be used in

Myanmar's electoral history. It was designed and produced domestically by Myanmar citizens. He noted that using this machine would eliminate the possibility of invalid votes and reduce delays in vote counting. It also aims to prevent numerical errors and ensure that accurate results are announced within a short time, thereby enabling more transparent and credible elections without controversies or irregularities.

Following the explanation, the Deputy Director-General of the Union Election Commission Office gave a detailed clarification on use of the MEVM system. Chief Minister of Kachin State U Khet Htein Nan, state ministers, departmental officials and representatives from political parties participated in a practical voting session using the machine.

— MNA/KZL



Departmental officials and representatives from political parties participate in a practical voting session using the machine.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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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.
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NATIONAL

Faculty members to provide training to SATs for students to retake matriculation examination

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and U Nay Myo Hlaing, visited basic education high schools in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and observed university professors and teachers conducting subject-specific Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions for high school teachers preparing to teach students retaking the 2025 matriculation examination, yesterday.

At No 5 BEHS in Zabuthiri Township, the Union minister observed university professors and teachers conducting lessons. He stated that the matriculation examination, as the final stage of basic education, determines students' life goals, and the purpose of the re-examination of the matriculation exam is to ensure fairness, dignity, and job opportunities by



Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe meets teachers from high schools and private schools at Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions for high school teachers preparing to teach students retaking the 2025 matriculation examination, yesterday.

providing a fair assessment of the efforts and aspirations of hardworking students, with the Ministry of Education and relevant government officials and

organizations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, and Kachin State offering full support for retaking the exam, while urg-

ing students to seize the opportunity and retake the exam to uphold fairness.

The Union minister also visited No 14 BEHS in Zabuthiri

Township to observe the teaching and learning process and met with university professors, teachers, and senior assistant teachers from basic education and private schools to offer encouragement and address their needs.

The course, conducted from 2 to 4 May at No 5 and No 14 BEHSs in Zabuthiri Township, is being taught by professors and teachers from Naypyitaw State Academy, Patheingyi University, Tounghay University, Sittway University, Bago University, and Yangon University of Economics for teachers from high schools and private schools. After the training, the professors, teachers, and SATs will go to designated basic education high schools in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw to personally teach students retaking the matriculation exam. — MNA/TH

Rescue and rehabilitation operations continue in quake-affected areas

A ceremony to provide financial support for monks and people from Sagaing Township who lost lives in the Mandalay earthquake was held at 700th Anniversary Gymnasium in Parami Ward of Sagaing yesterday morning.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Myat Kyaw explained the purpose of the ceremony and donated K172 million as nine prerequisites for loss of lives to Laykyunmyayyat Brick Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammapiya Lankara from Sagaing and shared merits dedicated to monks and people who lost lives in the earthquake.

The Chief Minister and Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected collapsed religious buildings at Shinpin Nankaing Pagoda in Htonbo Ward and removal of debris from the collapsed public housings in Panbedan and Moeza wards. The Chief Minister presented foodstuffs to teachers from Basic Education High Schools in Potan Ward.



Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung observes removing debris efforts by using heavy machines in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay yesterday.

The Chief Minister of the region and Lt-Gen Thet Pon provided five kinds of foods to quake-affected people from Sagaing at the 700th Anniversary Gymnasium. The Chief Minister presented foodstuffs to the quake-affected people.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) looked into removal of dangerous buildings in Chanayethazan Township and instructed officials to en-

sure worksite safety and prevent traffic congestion.

He visited Maha Muni Buddha Image and viewed sanitation tasks on the platform, arrival of a 220-tonne crane to be used in renovation of the Buddha image, and preparations for repairing the Gandakuti Chamber and the umbrella as a special project.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected damage to Shwekyetkya Pa-

goda in Amarapura Township and coordinated with officials to swiftly remove damaged parts and reconstruct the structures.

He visited the temporary relief camps at Bahtoo Stadium and No 5 BEHS in Chanayethazan Township and instructed officials to manage supply of drinking water, build fly-proof latrines and record people from the temporary relief camps and urge people to systematically dispose waste.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected clearing of debris in Patta Village-tract in Kyaukse. He stressed the need to clear landfills on Kumse-Kinta road in Ward 4 of Kume in Myittha Township and at milepost 365 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

He oversaw removal of two dangerous buildings in Zaytan and Yesu wards in Kyaukse. In Kyaukse, inspection boards have examined 5,827 buildings so far, and recommended 5,538 repair-

able buildings, and managed removal of 230 buildings out of 289 dangerous buildings. So, there remain 59 dangerous buildings to be removed.

At Mama factory and Sun Jin Myanmar feedstuff factory in Singaing Township, he viewed round resumption of operations for production. At the office of District General Administration Department in Kyaukse, he managed sales of cement, iron rods and plywoods for construction sites at fair prices. Yesterday, he looked into sales of HRB-400 10mm (3.9 kilogrammes) iron bars weighing 23.25 tonnes and HRB-400 16mm (11.5 kilogramme) iron bars weighing 42.75 tonnes produced by M-Steel steel mill from Kyaukse, 8,962 bags of Shan Yoma cement produced from Hopong, and 485 sheets of 7mm (Grade-b) plywood manufactured by Jewellery Luck Production Company from Kyaukse. These products are sold to the people directly. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Foodstuff sold at reasonable prices to quake-affected people in three cities

UNDER the arrangement of the Ministry of Commerce, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Livestock Federation, market trucks have been selling rice, cooking oil, salt, pulses, fish paste and various goods directly at earthquake-affected staff housings in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Mandalay since 30 March.

Yesterday marked the 35th day of continuous service, with eight trucks operating across the areas.

Since 30 March 2025, trucks have been visiting several locations including the Yezin University of Agriculture, Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, the staff housing of Locomotive Shed, Nursing Training School, Ottarathiri Hospital Staff Housing, Padauk Housing, Gangaw Housing, res-



Photo shows market truck selling foodstuffs at affordable prices to residents in quake-affected areas.

idential wards, an educational staff housing, the staff housing of Myanma Alinn and Kyemon

daily newspapers, security staff in Uppatasanti Pagoda's precinct, Tatkon and Lewe township

General Administration Departments, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department,

Union Civil Service Board, office of USDP, Ministry of Defence, and Union Auditor General's office.

Sales of goods include export quality sacks of rice, packs of chickpeas, fish paste, along with various types of dried fish, various kinds of vegetables, bottles of cooking oil and packets of instant noodles. Fish, chicken and eggs were also made available.

In a similar effort, four trucks also operated in Sagaing. Up to now, they have sold 316 bags of Shwe Wah Tun rice, 4,963 vissees of cooking oil and many others dried foodstuffs at affordable prices.

Meanwhile, four trucks are running daily in Mandalay, selling 644 bags of Manawthukha rice, 62,800 vissees of cooking oil, varieties of groceries, eggs, and packets of instant noodles. Daily sales will continue in the coming days. — MNA/KZL

Illegal goods and unregistered vehicles seized nationwide

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, enforcement teams continue taking legal action to suppress illegal trading across several regions.

On 2 May, combined teams supervised by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections at various locations. Authorities discovered 51 types of consumer goods without customs clearance near Muse Township's Sinphyu checkpoint, with an estimated value of K8.275 million. In Hopong Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, inspections on 11 vehicles travelling from Tachilek to Taunggyi led to the seizure of 41 types of consumer goods, four types of industrial materials, and five types of food products. These items had no legal documentation and were valued at approximately K485.908 million. The vehicles involved—five Mitsubishi Fuso trucks, four Nissan Diesel trucks, one Hino Profia truck and one Shwe Chan truck—were valued at K550 million. The total estimated value



Confiscated illegal items in Shan State.

of seized goods and vehicles in Shan State was K1,044.183 million, and legal action is underway in accordance with customs procedures.

In Taninthayi Region, on the same day, combined teams under the regional task force carried out searches in Kawthoung. At the Shwe Zin Yaw ward's Pyinma street, they impounded three types of unregistered industrial equipment worth K60.5 million. At a warehouse on No 4 Ywama Road in Shwe Hinthaward, authorities seized eight more types of illegal industrial goods valued at K100.3 million. The total value seized in the region reached K160.8 million, and authorities

are proceeding with customs-related enforcement.

Officials under the Customs Department also inspected eight containers at the Asia World Port Terminal and seized three types of undocumented industrial items and one type of consumer good, with an estimated value of K722.999 million. At Yangon International Airport, items found in a passenger's baggage included three types of consumer goods without legal documents, valued at K18 million. The total seized in Yangon Region amounted to K740.999 million, and appropriate legal action is ongoing.

On 2 and 3 May, combined inspection teams in Sagaing

Region, managed by the regional task force made several interceptions. At the Yadana-bon Bridge checkpoint, they seized three unregistered vehicles worth K31.5 million. Near Kyaw Htet traffic light junction in Sagaing, another two unregistered vehicles were seized, worth K35 million. At the Kantalu checkpoint, a food product lacking proper transport documentation was confiscated, valued at K16.65 million.

On 3 May, in Bago Region, the local squad supervised searches at the Kali checkpoint. A vehicle travelling from Thaton to Yangon was found carrying three types of food products without legal documentation, worth K4.182 million. The vehicle, a Toyota Hilux, was valued at K20 million. Another vehicle travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon was stopped near Shwe Thanlwin Tollgate in Bago. It was transporting five types of industrial goods without supporting documents, valued at K11.08 million. The vehicle involved, a Ngwe Kyair Sin truck, was worth K50 million. Authorities

have initiated customs-related procedures.

Authorities also seized a total of 1.738 tonnes of illegal teak and 40.137 tonnes of other timber worth approximately K7.33 million and took action under the Forest Law in Bago and Pyay districts. The total value of timber-related seizures amounted to K92.59 million.

In a separate operation managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, combined inspection teams carried out checks at Shwekyetyet jetty. They seized seven kinds of consumer goods without official documentation, worth around K32.29 million, transported from Mandalay to Myitkyina. They also seized a Mitsubishi Canter truck used for transporting the goods, worth about K28 million. The total value of these items reached K60.29 million, and legal action is taken under customs procedures.

On 2 and 3 May, officials seized 53 cases in total, with the estimated value of goods seized reaching approximately K2.18 billion. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing to host fairs of construction materials

IN order to support the rehabilitation of areas affected by the major Mandalay earthquake, fairs of construction materials at affordable prices will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Sagaing cities, said Dr Kaythi Lwin, Chair of Myanmar Iron and Steel Association.

The fair of construction materials will take place at Taboung Ground in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 27 May.

“Construction materials aren’t sufficient in the market. They’re scarce. Prices are also

high. That’s why the government is going to organize the first-ever construction materials fair in Nay Pyi Taw, where materials can be conveniently and affordably purchased at fair prices. There will be iron and steel products, cement, and various home-building materials. All the materials needed to build a house will be sold in Taboung Ground in Nay Pyi Taw. It will be held for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw. The products won’t be sold directly. Only sample products will be displayed, and the agents

will handle the sales. Orders will be fulfilled depending on how much is in stock. If the items are out of stock or sold out, we will report to the government,” said the chair.

It was reported that construction material fairs will be held in Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region. — ASH/TTA

This photo depicts construction materials put on display at a salesroom.



90 teachers to teach students from Sagaing who will retake matriculation exam

A total of 90 faculty members from universities and degree colleges will give a camp training to the students from Sagaing of Sagaing Region who will retake matriculation examination, according to Sagaing Region government.

The teaching training camp is opened at the Sagaing University of Education for the students from Sagaing to retake matriculation examination, and a total of 90 faculty members from Yangon University, Dagon University, Sagaing University of Education, Sagaing University and Sagaing Education Degree College will provide a close teaching to those students.

Out of 90 faculty members, 53 teachers from Yangon University arrived in Sagaing on the evening of 1 May. They were welcomed by the Sagaing



The Sagaing Region Education Officer, officials and students welcome 53 faculty members from Yangon Region who arrived in Sagaing on 1 May.

Region Education Officers, officials and students.

As answer papers of students in the recent matriculation examination were damaged in the event of Mandalay earthquake, more than 60,000 students from Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Kachin State need to retake the ex-

amination.

The 2025 matriculation examination will be held from 16 to 21 June. Some 200 exam centres have been arranged for students, and the result from the matriculation examination held in March and that of coming exam will be announced at the same time. — ASH/TTA

Myanmar Muslim Aid to construct four temporary shelters for earthquake-affected people

MYANMAR Muslim Aid (MMAID) has reported that it is constructing four temporary shelters for people affected by the earthquake in Mandalay.

The temporary housing camps in Aungmyaythazan Township are being constructed on a plot of land measuring 400 feet by 120 feet for Temporary Shelter 1, with approximately 80 houses and 25 latrines being built in each camp.

In addition, Temporary Shelter 2 will be constructed

near the ongoing construction of Temporary Shelter 1, with plans underway to build Temporary Shelters 3 and 4, according to MMAID.

Local committees will screen and approve families truly in need of housing to live in the temporary shelters. Currently, approximately 60 workers are working tirelessly to construct the shelters for those affected by the Mandalay earthquake, ensuring they can move in as soon as possible. — ASH/TH



This photo captures a site where Myanmar Muslim Aid (MMAID) is building temporary shelters for people affected by the Mandalay earthquake.

Rescue and relief efforts ongoing for quake survivors

AS of 4 May, six regions and states impacted by the Mandalay earthquake have reported 3,785 deaths, 5,105 injuries, and 92 missing individuals.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, alongside domestic and international responders, have been conducting rescue missions in the affected areas. These efforts have successfully rescued 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings and recovered the bodies of 789 deceased individuals.

Local donors have provided financial support and essential supplies to those affected,

while international communities, organizations, and individual contributors have extended additional assistance. Between 5 pm on 3 May and 5 pm on 4 May, cartons of ready-made meals and tarpaulin sheets weighing 3.518 tonnes donated by Malaysia based Fo Guang Shan Buddha’s Light International Association Yayasan Sin Crew through Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia arrived at Yangon International Airport.

These relief supplies are being distributed swiftly to earthquake victims to ensure timely support. — MNA/KZL

Honour firefighters for their noble sacrifices

THE Fire Services Department is responsible for protecting the lives, homes, and property of the public, as well as national production assets, from fire hazards. It also undertakes emergency search and rescue operations in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Applying and handling modern fire extinguishers, all members of fire brigades at different levels are enhancing their capacity to successfully put out fires elsewhere. Since their training, all fire brigade members have been equipped with a strong spirit to serve their duties with the sacrifice of life and limbs to protect the life and property of the people whenever a fire breaks out.

The four primary objectives and responsibilities of the Fire Services Department are to ensure fire safety, prevent natural disasters, conduct search and rescue, and carry out public welfare measures. Currently, service personnel from the Fire Services Department and members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade including auxiliary firefighters, members from separate fire brigades and

departmental fire brigades are dutifully serving their assignments with high capability.

The fire brigade uses the authority granted by fire service laws and regulations to issue fire safety inspections and recommendations and ensure that relevant government and private departments, organizations, and businesses strictly follow them. Training produces members of Myanmar's fire brigade to be a strong and reliable reserve force for the nation. Naturally, although all individuals do not wish to sustain any injuries or life threats at any time, Myanmar firefighters ignore injuries and life threats in serving their duties of extinguishing fire and conducting search and rescue of victims in natural disasters with a pledge to save the lives and property of the people.

continuous research is being conducted on command systems, firefighting knowledge, and search and rescue techniques to ensure Myanmar's fire services align with international standards and train all members for proficiency.

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ON 28 March 2025, Myanmar was suddenly hit by the most devastating earthquake in a century. At that time, I was in Beijing, and I watched with mounting worries and anxiety as images of destruction flooded news channels. The very next day, I quickly returned to Myanmar alongside the China Search and Rescue Team to participate in the earthquake relief efforts. I then visited the disaster-stricken areas to learn about the situation and the local needs in terms of rescue, supplies, medical care, and epidemic prevention and control. The devastation was overwhelming - roads were torn into gaping cracks, houses reduced to complete rubble, and in an instant, homes, schools, and gardens collapsed into ruins. This severe disaster deeply moved the hearts of my colleagues and mine at the Chinese Embassy, but also of the 1.4 billion Chinese people. We sincerely offered our prayers for the victims of the earthquake and mobilized all available resources and means to provide assistance and support to the disaster-stricken areas.

Natural disasters are merciless, but human compassion endures. This is exemplified by the mutual support between China and Myanmar through weal and woe. As a friendly neighbour and Pauk-Phaw to Myanmar, China extended a helping hand immediately after the earthquake.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang sent messages of condolence to Myanmar leader Min Aung Hlaing, expressing deep condolences for the victims and sincere sympathy to the families of the deceased, the injured, and the people in the disaster-stricken areas. They affirmed that China stands ready to provide necessary assistance to help the people in the affected regions overcome the disaster and rebuild their homes as soon as possible. The Chinese government announced emergency humanitarian aid of 1.1 billion yuan to support Myanmar in conducting emergency rescue, epidemic prevention and control, and recovery and reconstruction. Four official Chinese

Pauk-Phaw Friendship Strengthened through Mutual Support, Ushering a New Chapter with Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

rescue teams and nearly 30 civilian rescue teams, totalling over 600 people, made haste to the disaster-stricken areas overnight and tirelessly searched for survivors. At the same time, 9 batches of relief supplies were emergently shipped to Myanmar, including 3,940 tents, 10,000 blankets, 40,000 mosquito nets, 18,000 tarpaulins, 55,000 first-aid kits, 1,048 sets of water purification equipment, 7,000 boxes of instant food, 2,000 sets of outdoor cookware, 10,000 solar lamps, 40,000 sets of hygiene products, 648,000 doses of cholera vaccines, 68,000 doses of tetanus vaccines, 3,117,000 boxes/bottles of medicine, and 163,000 pieces of medical consumables and equipment.

Chinese medical team rushed to provide medical treatment and epidemic prevention and control services in the disaster-stricken areas together with the rescue teams. In the aftermath, teams of experts in health and epidemic prevention and earthquake disaster assessment travelled to the disaster-stricken areas to carry out their work. Chinese enterprises, institutions, non-governmental organizations, and people from all walks of life enthusiastically donated money and materials and provided volunteer services. Chinese media extensively reported from the disaster-stricken areas, calling on all parties to join hands in the earthquake relief efforts. China was the first country to

announce aid to Myanmar, the first to send rescue teams, and the first to establish temporary shelters. It was also the country sending the most rescue teams and personnel, rescuing the most survivors and providing the largest humanitarian supplies.

Natural disasters are merciless, but human compassion endures. This is exemplified by the resilience and tenacity of the Myanmar people. A month has passed since the earthquake, and while the pain lingers in those affected, the courage, optimism, and resilience of the Myanmar people have illuminated hope for the future. Despite their sorrow, the affected people have actively engaged in self-help and mutual assistance. Teachers, with remarkable courage, returned to dangerous areas to organize student evacuations. At the same time, charitable organizations and individuals quickly took action, donating funds and providing support. Residents provided iced tea, watermelon, and meals to international rescue team members and applied Thanaka to help them stay cool and away from mosquitoes. These vivid scenes showcase the courage, kindness, and unity of the Myanmar people. I firmly believe that the Myanmar people will rebuild their homes in the shortest possible time, and this golden land will surely radiate an even more dazzling brilliance.

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

Natural disasters are merciless, but human compassion endures. This is exemplified by the vibrant practice of building a community with a shared future between China and Myanmar. The friendship between our two countries has endured for over 2,000 years, from frequent historical exchanges to jointly advocating the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to now building a community with a shared future. This not only inherits the Pauk-Phaw friendship but also embodies the concepts of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness.

Amity lies in blood connection. China and Myanmar are geographically close, culturally linked, and share Buddhist ties. The mighty Irrawaddy River, born in the Chinese highlands, journeys through Myanmar's heartland, fostering a long-standing friendship and integration. The term "Pauk-Phaw" in Burmese, which literally means "siblings from the same womb", perfectly captures the familial closeness Myanmar people feel towards their Chinese counterparts. Our modern partnership was forged in the crucible of a shared struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Myanmar's distinction as the first country with a different political system to acknowledge the People's Republic of China marked a watershed moment in international relations. The frequent mutual visits between the

older generation of leaders from both countries, represented by Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister U Nu, blossomed into diplomatic legend, establishing a pattern of high-level exchange that continues today. In 2020, President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to Myanmar, ushering in a new era of jointly building a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

Sincerity lies in heart-to-heart communication. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 75 years ago, China and Myanmar have cultivated a relationship characterized by mutual trust, respect, and support. Together, our countries have championed and exemplified the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, setting an example of equality, mutual benefit, and common development among countries big and small. China respects Myanmar in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity and pursuing a development path that suits its own conditions. China has actively assisted Myanmar in advancing the peace process in northern Myanmar based on the wishes and demands of relevant parties in Myanmar. Regardless of how the situation changes, China's commitment to Myanmar's peace and stability, sustained economic development, and the better welfare of its people remains unchanged.

The mutual benefit lies in win-win cooperation. Our joint effort to build the Belt and Road

and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor consistently adheres to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, aiming to achieve equality, mutual benefit, and win-win outcomes. China's vast market provides an export destination for Myanmar's agricultural, livestock, and aquatic products and continues to expand access. Chinese enterprises bring capital, technology, and expertise to Myanmar's manufacturing sector while participating in the construction of railways, ports, and industrial parks. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund has nurtured over 110 "small yet beautiful" projects. China-Myanmar cooperation has helped create jobs, improve livelihoods, and develop Myanmar's economy.

Inclusiveness lies in mutual exchange and mutual learning. Both China and Myanmar have long and splendid civilizations, with exchanges and mutual learning that date back a long way. The sophisticated music and dance of Myanmar's Pyu Kingdom captivated audiences in Chang'an (modern Xi'an), the capital of the Tang Dynasty, inspiring China's renowned poet Bai Juyi to write down the famous poem that has passed down through the ages.

Caravans traversing the ancient tea-horse road between Yunnan and Myanmar were bustling, with the fragrance of tea filling the air. Exchanges

and cooperation in literature, art, Buddhism, and other fields between the two countries have been going on continually. In a significant gesture of cultural appreciation, Myanmar designated the Chinese Spring Festival as an official public holiday. Cultural performances featuring Chinese martial arts, flute, and guzheng melodies intertwined with Myanmar's traditional dances on the festive stage create harmonious expressions of our distinct yet compatible artistic heritage.

Natural disasters are merciless, but human compassion endures. This is exemplified by the shared aspiration to build peaceful, secure, prosperous, beautiful, and friendly "five homes" in Asia. Many Asian countries have provided active support and assistance to Myanmar in earthquake relief, fully embodying the Asian values of peace, cooperation, openness, and inclusiveness. The world is undergoing a once-in-a-century transformation, and Asia stands at a new starting point for revitalization, facing development opportunities and risks that are both unprecedented. In early April, I returned to China to attend the Central Conference on Work Related to Neighbouring Countries. It was emphasized at the conference that China will consolidate strategic mutual trust with its neighbours, support regional countries in following a steady development path, and properly manage dif-

ferences and disputes. China will also deepen development integration with its neighbours, build a high-level connectivity network, strengthen cooperation in industrial and supply chains, maintain regional stability, conduct security and law enforcement cooperation, respond to various risks and challenges, expand people-to-people interactions and communication, and facilitate personnel exchanges.

China will continue to be a positive force for stability, cooperation, and progress in a turbulent and changing world, fostering good regional relations, mutual security for neighbouring countries, and prosperity for trade partners. We will endeavour to maintain friendly cooperation with neighbouring countries, including Myanmar, and work together to implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative. This collaborative approach ensured that Chinese modernization generates benefits beyond our borders, energizes solidarity among Global South countries, preserves regional peace and stability, and accelerates Asia's collective modernization journey.

The earthquake may have torn the land apart, but it cannot sever China-Myanmar "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, nor can it shake our belief and confidence in standing together through hardships. China will continue to extend its assistance to Myanmar by providing prefabricated houses, mobile operation rooms, and other essential supplies. Additionally, we will dispatch experts in structural inspection and cultural relic protection to Myanmar to actively participate in post-disaster reconstruction efforts, aiding the Myanmar people in swiftly resuming normal life. As we jointly commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar this year, we reaffirm our commitment to elevating bilateral ties to new heights and promoting the steady and long-term development of the China-Myanmar community with a shared future in the new era.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.)

NATIONAL



National Library of Myanmar (Yangon)

National Library Yangon to provide e-Book delivery service online

THE National Library (Yangon) has announced that e-books (PDFs) can be accessed online. Those who wish to obtain PDF e-books from the National Library (Yangon) should send the title of the book and author they want to its Document Delivery Service email address nlygn.dds@gmail.com with a subject line of DDS. Once DDS email is received, the library will verify the PDF e-Book and send the library's account number at the Ayeyawady Bank and the amount to be paid to the requested person. Once the payment is made and the process is completed, the PDF e-Book will be sent to the requester's email address. For those who want to receive the PDF e-Book, K 200 per page will be charged for sending it via DDS. Payments for National Li-

brary (Yangon) membership fees and e-Book subscriptions can be made through AYA Mobile Banking, AYA PAY or AYA Merchant MMQR via KBZ PAY and Wave Pay. For QR payments, users can scan AYA MMQR and pay, which is available at the Information counter, digital library counter and on the member form under the notice of the website www.nlm.gov.mm. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

'Lawkadan' film set for release in second week of May

THE Myanmar film 'Lawkadan' is scheduled to premiere in cinemas nationwide in the second week of May, according to film producers. Directed and written by Soe Moe Min, with screenplay by Moe Set Wine, the film is produced by Power Lucky Film Production. The story follows a singer named Mike Khe, who refuses to tolerate injustice, offering audiences a mix of deep reflection and emotional resonance. "I play Mike Khe, a man who earns a living as a performer but stands firm against wrongdoing. Lawkadan is a powerful film that delivers a wide range of emotions and thought-provoking moments. It is now ready to hit the big screen," said lead actor Kyaw Htet Aung. The film stars Kyaw Htet Aung, Shin Mwe La, Phone Min Nay La, Hein Thiha, Paing Oak Soe Aung, Shwe Thamee, May Grace, Pan Su Hay Thi, Shin Pyone Khin, Kyaw Zeya, Nay Myo Aung, Kyaw Zin Htut and Min Ye Sithu. — ASH/KZL



Poster for Lawkadan.



TOP J test voucher to issue on 5 May

FOR TOP J exam scheduled on 11 May, test vouchers will be issued from 5 to 9 May at Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) office located in Yangon Region's South Okkalapa Township. It is available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, except weekend and public holidays, said MAJA Education Centre. Receipt of exam fee payment is essentially required to take the test voucher, it said. For those who requested to send the test voucher by email, sending will be made from 5 to 9 May and they need to print it out to bring on the exam day. Those who failed to show the test voucher won't be allowed to sit the exam, said MAJA Education Centre. — MT/ZS

ITPEC exams held across Myanmar for IT professionals

THE Information Technology Professionals Examination Council (ITPEC) exams, recognized by seven countries, were held simultaneously on 27 April in Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region and Kayin State. These exams were organized by the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association under the leadership of the Myanmar Computer Federation to promote development in information and communication technology. A total of 370 candidates sat for the Information Technology Passport Examination (IT Passport), while 763 candidates took part in the Fundamental Information Technology Engineer Examination (FE). ITPEC exams are held twice a year, and the October 2024 session saw 733 individuals pass nation-



Candidates take ITPEC exam.

wide. These exams are recognized by Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia and Bangladesh. — Myo Min Thura/KZL

Miss Brazil, Miss Canada touch down in Hyderabad ahead of Miss World 2025

WITH the Miss World 2025 pageant just around the corner, excitement is building as contestants from across the world begin to arrive in Hyderabad.

Among the first to land were Jessica Scandiuzzi Pedroso of Brazil and Emma Deanna Cathryn Morrison of Canada.

Both beauty queens were warmly welcomed by Telangana state government officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) with the traditional hospitality the region is known for.

The 72nd edition of the Miss World competition, set to take place on 31 May 2025, at the HI-TEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, is already generating

tremendous buzz. The pageant, which will feature contestants from more than 100 countries, marks the second consecutive year that India will host the prestigious event.

Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic, the reigning Miss World, will crown her successor at the culmination of the grand event.

India's representative at Miss World 2025, Femina Miss India World 2023, Nandini Gupta, has already begun her rigorous preparations for the global stage.

The young beauty queen from Kota, Rajasthan, is focused on delivering her best performance at the competition. — ANI



Both beauty queens were warmly welcomed by Telangana state government officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) with the traditional hospitality the region is known for. **PHOTO: ANI**

'Two million' throng Lady Gaga concert at Rio's Copacabana

The concert exceeded initial attendance estimates of 1.6 million, boosting the local economy by \$100 million.



Before performing her popular anthem 'Born This Way,' the singer made a point of saluting Brazil's LGBTQ community. **PHOTO: AFP**

LADY Gaga electrified Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach on Saturday with a spectacular free concert that attracted approximately two million fans, marking her first performance in Brazil since 2012. "Brazil, I missed you so much," she exclaimed before launching into her hit "Poker Face" on a grand chessboard stage.

The 39-year-old pop icon began the show elevated above the crowd in a striking scarlet hoop gown, which dramatically opened to reveal a vertical

cage from which her dancers emerged during "Bloody Mary."

She later performed "Abacadabra," a highlight from her latest album, "Mayhem," released in March. Mid-performance, Gaga unveiled a second dress adorned in the colors of Brazil's flag: green, blue, and yellow.

Fans, affectionately known as "Little Monsters," traveled from across Brazil to witness the event, which Rio officials initially estimated would draw

1.6 million attendees, potentially injecting \$100 million into the local economy. The turnout surpassed expectations, exceeding last year's Madonna concert attendance.

Gaga, who had to cancel her 2017 Rock in Rio appearance due to health issues, expressed gratitude to her fans for their support. She celebrated the LGBTQ community during her performance of "Born This Way," waving a rainbow flag and emphasizing acceptance. — AFP

Eurovision limbers up with over-60s disco

EUROVISION host city Basel laid on a mass over-60s disco on Saturday to whip up the party mood ahead of the event's grand final in two weeks' time.

Nearly 1,400 senior citizens attended the bash, an attempt to reach out to the older demographic and get them involved in the Eurovision Song Contest festivities.

The Swiss border city of Basel is hosting this year's edition of the glitzy extravaganza, one of the world's biggest an-

nual live television shows. It is staging a range of events on the sidelines to make the most of the occasion.

"It's a highlight of the Eurovision for me," said Liz Gilbert, 64, who came dressed in a 1970s outfit.

"Normally it's just on television, so it's great," she told AFP.

"I'm very happy that my hometown can host it."

Women outnumbered the men across the two dance floors, with plenty of over-70s swinging their



hips to the music in the mid-afternoon.

One floor played Swiss tunes in the national languages of German, French and Italian, with the other dance floor playing rock and pop classics from the 1960s to the 1980s. — AFP

Many dressed up for the Eurovision over-60s disco in Basel. **PHOTO: AFP**

India set to lead global land reform talks at World Bank headquarters

The event will gather global leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss land tenure and sustainable development.

A high-level Indian delegation is set to present its SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform at the World Bank Land Conference 2025, taking place from 5-8 May at the World Bank Headquarters in the US capital of Washington DC, the Panchayati Raj Ministry said in a statement Sunday.

Led by Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchaya-

ti Raj (MoPR), and comprising of Joint Secretary, MoPR Alok Prem Nagar, Additional Surveyor General, Survey of India Shailesh Kumar Sinha, along with senior officials from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the delegation will present its flagship SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme at two key sessions during the upcoming

international forum on land governance.

This year's World Bank Land Conference, themed "Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action: Moving from Awareness to Action", will bring together global leaders, policymakers, experts and development partners to explore strategies for securing land tenure, modernising land administration



An Indian delegation will present the SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform at the World Bank Land Conference 2025 from May 5-8 in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

for sustainable development and climate-responsive governance.

Under India's flagship SVAMITVA Scheme that provides legal ownership of rural properties using drones and geospatial technology, property cards to over 24.4 million households across 1.6 lakh villages have been issued, mapping over 100 million property parcels and unlocking an estimated USD 1.162 trillion (approximately 100 crores) in land value. — ANI

Trump's tariffs bite at quiet US ports

AT the Port of Los Angeles, the once-bustling activity of cranes unloading containers from Asia has significantly slowed, signaling a potential economic downturn under President Donald Trump's trade policies.

Port Director Gene Seroka noted the unusual quiet, indicating a drop in cargo volumes. The Port of Los Angeles and the nearby Port of Long Beach serve as major gateways for goods, and both are experiencing a decline in imports due to Trump's tariffs.

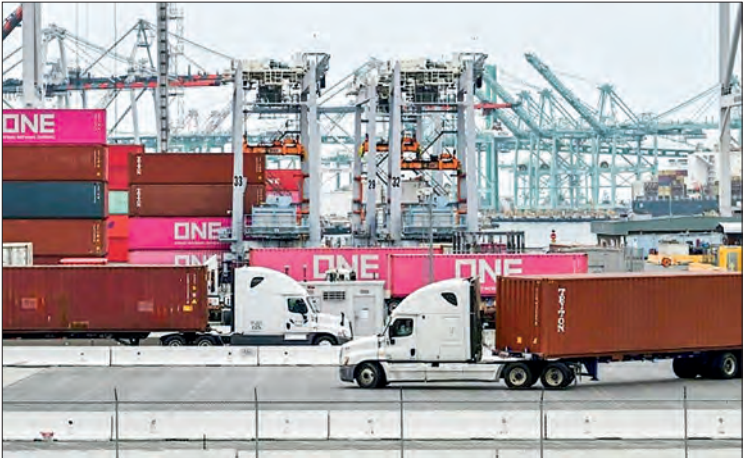
For the week of 4 May, the Port of Los Angeles expects a 35 per cent decrease in cargo compared to last year, while Long Beach anticipates a 30 per cent

drop for the entire month.

Many retailers and manufacturers have halted shipments, leading to empty shelves and rising prices.

The tariffs, which have affected trade across the US, are causing concern among logistics workers like Antonio Montalbo, who faces rising costs for parts and potential layoffs.

Montalbo, who initially supported Trump, now feels betrayed by the economic impact of the tariffs, stating, "Now we have something worse than inflation, called tariffs." The situation threatens to reduce consumer choices and increase prices nationwide. — AFP



There are around 900,000 logistics workers employed in Southern California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Inflation, hotel prices curtail Japanese 'Golden Week' travels



Traditionally, Golden Week gives Japanese workers one of their longest breaks in the year, with many taking the opportunity to see other parts of Japan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JAPAN'S annual "Golden Week" holiday period gets into full swing Saturday, but inflation and hotel prices sent soaring by record inbound tourism have left domestic travellers less eager to pack their bags.

Traditionally, Golden Week — which includes three consecutive public holidays — gives Japanese workers one of their longest breaks in the year, with many taking the opportunity to see other parts of Japan or to travel abroad.

But this year consumers in the world's fourth-largest economy are feeling the pain of rising prices for everything from cabbage and rice to electricity bills.

The Japanese yen has lost around a third of its value since 2022, one factor behind the record number of foreign tourists also lured by the country's numerous attractions from Mount Fuji's majestic slopes to shrines and sushi bars.

The inflow of tourists has sent demand for hotel bookings spiralling upward, with the room rate in Japan's five major cities around 16 per cent more expensive at the onset of this year's Golden Week than last year, according to a survey from the business daily Nikkei.

All this has translated into a tepid desire among Japanese residents to travel for this year's Golden Week, surveys have shown. The latter part of the holiday period began Saturday and lasts until Tuesday. "The biggest reason seems to be the inflation that has curtailed their willingness to spend lavishly", Atsushi Tanaka, a tourism studies professor at Yamanashi University, told AFP. — AFP

Over half of major Japanese firms not using AI in hiring: survey

MORE than half of major Japanese companies do not use artificial intelligence in recruiting fresh graduates, a recent Kyodo News survey showed, highlighting a cautious stance toward relying on AI for hiring despite its growing use in the workplace.

Of the 117 companies surveyed across various industries, including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., 64 said they do not use AI

in recruitment, while 36 reported using it in some form, with 19 citing application form analysis as the most common use.

Seven companies said they use the technology to analyze online interviews, while others employ it in supplementary roles such as transcribing interviews or responding to applicant inquiries.

No companies said they used AI to assess in-person interviews.

The survey, to which companies responded

between mid-March and early April, also found concerns about potential biases in AI-based assessments and doubts over the technology's ability to accurately evaluate student abilities.

Some also said relying on AI that is trained on a company's own hiring data could "undermine diversity," while others placed importance on direct communication between recruiters and candidates.

Among companies



File photo taken on 7 June 2021, shows a building that houses the headquarters of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

proactive in using AI, many said the technology can enhance fairness in the screening process by reducing reliance on individual decisions, starkly contrasting to firms concerned that AI could introduce its own biases.

Overreliance on AI has been identified as a risk in guidelines presented by the Japanese government in March, which stated that entrusting it with important decisions, such as recruitment, was "inappropriate." — Kyodo

Meta fighting Nigerian fines, warns could shut Facebook, Instagram

META on Saturday vowed to fight Nigerian fines for various consumer data violations, reportedly threatening to cut off Facebook and Instagram in Africa's most populous country.

A Nigerian tribunal last week rejected the US social media giant's appeal against a \$220 million fine imposed by the country's consumer protection agency, the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FC-CPC).

In appeals court papers cited by various media, including the BBC and The Africa Report, Meta said it "may be forced to effectively shut down the Facebook and Instagram services in Nigeria in order to mitigate the risk of enforcement measures".

Meta's social media platforms — WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram — are among the most popular in the country.

Meta has until the end of June to pay the fine, Nigerian media reported. — AFP

Global food prices edge up in April amid new US tariff policies: FAO



Dairy prices climbed by 2.4 per cent month-on-month and meat prices jumped 3.2 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

GLOBAL food prices edged higher in April, driven in part by new import tariff policies in the United States, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported Friday.

According to FAO, prices increased for grains and cereals, dairy products, and meat, pushing its benchmark Food Price Index up by 1 per

cent compared to March, despite declines in the prices of sugar and vegetable oils.

The organization said the strongest impact of the US tariff changes was observed in grains and cereals - the largest component of the FAO Food Price Index - although seasonal demand, reduced wheat exports from Russia, and a weaker US dollar also

played significant roles.

"Adjustments to the United States' import tariff policies - including the exemption of Mexico, the leading importer of US maize, and a 90-day suspension of tariffs above 10 percent for several other trading partners - further contributed to the upward price pressure," the FAO noted in its monthly report. — Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 4 VOY.NO. (15N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 4 VOY. NO. (15N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

Myanma Port Authority

Open Tender Invitation for Dredging Work in Yangon River for the Purpose of Channel Improvement

1. The Myanma Port Authority intends to contract with a preferred bidder (local or international company) for Channel Improvement, particularly dredging work in the Yangon River, who has extensive experience and technology in channel dredging (intensive and maintenance) as well as adequate dredging equipment. The tender process will be carried out in accordance with paragraphs 26/27/28/29/30 of Government Procurement Directive No. (1/2017). The Dredging Work is scheduled for **three years, (2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 fiscal year)**. The contract between MPA and the awarded company will be signed in annual basic for three years continuously.

2. The companies interested therefore are invited to enter the tender. The tender applications and forms can be purchased and submitted in accordance with the following date, time, and place:

a) Address (to purchase)

b) Date & Time (to purchase)

c) Address (to submit)

d) Date & Time (to submit)

e) Date & Time (Tender opening)

: Store Department, Botataung Township

: 6-5-2025 to 19-5-2025 (15:00)

: Myanma Port Authority

: 20-5-2025 (13:00)

: 20-5-2025 (14:00)

3. For detailed information, please contact the following contact points:

a) Marine Department

b) Store Department

- 018246380, 018387117 (ex) 211

- 018610230

Myanma Port Authority
Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Xi to pay state visit to Russia,
attend Great Patriotic War Victory
celebrations on 7-10 May



Sukhoi Su-25 close air support jets fly over Red Square in Moscow during the military parade to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in World War II. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Russia from 7 to 10 May and attend the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War in Moscow, at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Sunday. — Xinhua

Singapore's ruling People's Action Party wins
general election with increased vote share

SINGAPORE'S ruling People's Action Party (PAP) secured a stronger mandate in Saturday's general election, winning 65.57 per cent of the popular vote, a notable rise from 61.24 per cent in 2020, according to official results released early Sunday.

The PAP captured 87 of the 97 elected seats in the parliament and will govern 30 of the city-state's 33 constituencies.

The opposition Workers' Party (WP) retained its 10 seats, holding on to its three constituencies in eastern Singapore. No other opposition party won any seats.

The PAP, the ruling party since Singapore's independence in 1965, was widely expected to win again. Much of the focus was on the margin of victory, following a decline in the PAP's vote share from 69.86 per cent in 2015 to its lower share in the previous election. — Xinhua



Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong of the People's Action Party (PAP) waves to supporters as he celebrates a resounding election victory. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian PM basks in win, vows 'orderly' government

AUSTRALIA'S left-leaning Prime Minister Anthony Albanese basked Sunday in his landslide election win, promising a "disciplined, orderly" government to confront cost-of-living pain and tariff turmoil.

Residents clapped as the 62-year-old and his fiancée Jodie Haydon visited his old inner Sydney haunt, Cafe Italia, surrounded by a crowd of jostling photographers and TV

journalists.

Albanese's Labour Party is on course to win at least 83 seats in the 150-member parliament, partial results showed.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton's conservative Liberal-National coalition had just 38 seats, and other parties 12. Another 17 seats were still in doubt. — AFP

NEWS In BRIEF

India, Angola decide to
expand energy partnership

INDIA and Angola have decided to expand their energy partnership with New Delhi also offering to share its experience in digital public infrastructure, space tech and capacity building with the African nation.

The two countries on Saturday signed MoUs in several areas to boost bilateral cooperation, and the government also approved Angola's request for a Line of Credit of US\$200 million for defence procurement.

Angola signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement and became the 123rd member of the ISA.

Briefing reporters about the visit, Secretary (Economic Relations), Dammu Ravi said he bilateral trade between India and Angola is \$4.2 billion. — ANI

Romanians vote in
presidential election rerun

ROMANIANS headed to the polls on Sunday for the first round of the presidential election rerun contested by 11 candidates.

According to the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania, over 18 million registered voters are expected to cast their ballots at around 19,000 polling stations, including over 960 abroad, from 7 am to 9 pm local time (0400 to 1800 GMT).

Major contenders include Crin Antonescu of the electoral alliance Romania Forward, George Simion of the nationalist Alliance for the Union of Romanians, former Prime Minister Victor Ponta running as an independent and Mayor of Bucharest Nicusor Dan. — Xinhua

Ukrainian parliament to
vote on ratifying natural
resources deal with US next
week: lawmakers

THE Ukrainian parliament will vote on ratifying a natural resources agreement with the United States next week, parliament members said on Friday.

In a post on Telegram, lawmaker Yaroslav Zheleznyak said a vote on the agreement is planned for 8 May. Separately, another parliament member, Oleksii Honcharenko, also confirmed that an extraordinary parliamentary session will be held on 8 May to discuss the deal.

The agreement on natural resources, which establishes a joint investment fund for Ukraine's reconstruction, was signed in Washington on Wednesday by Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. — Xinhua

Shan, Yangon, Dagon Port cruise as Royal hold firm again

SHAN United, Yangon United and Dagon Port each clinched vital wins as the 2025 Myanmar National League Cup rolled on with the first day of group action on 4 May, while Yangon Royal continued to punch above their weight with a second straight draw.

At the Yangon United Sports Complex, Shan United edged University FC 1-0 in a tense contest. Shan dominated much of the game but were repeatedly frustrated by a disciplined and energetic University side. The breakthrough finally came in the 84 minute when Hein Phyo Win struck the winner, sealing all three points for Shan United.

MNL-II side Yangon Royal continued to make headlines at the University Stadium. After holding Yangon United in their opening match, they battled to another goalless draw — this time against Ayeyawady United by proving their defensive resolve against top-tier opposition.

Meanwhile, Yangon United bounced back in emphatic fashion after a slow start to the tournament. They demolished Kachin United 7-0 at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. Okka Naing



Shan United battle past University FC in tense Group B clash. **PHOTO:MNL**

opened the scoring in the third minute, before Mogu ran riot with four goals at 18, 22, 59 and 85 minutes. Hein Zeyar Lin and Chit Aye also got on the scoresheet in a dominant display that reasserted Yangon's title credentials.

Padonma Stadium saw another goal fest as Dagon Port thrashed YB United 6-1. Yazar Aung bagged a brace at 41 and 65 minute-mark, while Michael netted a hat-trick at 49, 50 and 90+3 minutes. Hlaing Myint Thu added

one more in the 53 minute to complete the rout.

Matchday two continues on 5 May with Hanthawady United facing Chinland at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Dagon Star United taking on Rakhine United at Yangon United Sports Complex, Glory Goal meeting Rakhine United at University Stadium and Myawady squaring off against Silver Star FC at Padonma Stadium, respectively. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Ex-Liverpool star Firmino 'proud' after more Champions League history



Al Ahli's Roberto Firmino celebrates during the AFC Champions League final against Kawasaki Frontale. **PHOTO: AFP**

ROBERTO Firmino said he was proud of making history with his Saudi club and becoming an Asian Champions League winner; six years after lifting the prestigious European equivalent with Liverpool.

The 33-year-old Brazilian forward was an important member of Jurgen Klopp's side who won the UEFA Champions League in 2019.

Firmino was named the AFC Champions League's most valuable player after inspiring Al Ahli to beat

Kawasaki Frontale 2-0 on Saturday as the Jeddah club became Asian champions for the first time.

"I'm very happy and very proud of the team," said Firmino. "Happy to make history here and able to repay the support of the club, family and friends.

"I'm very grateful and I feel privileged to be given this talent and opportunity. I always do my best to help my teammates and my team".

Firmino scored six goals en route to the final and was pivotal again in the showpiece.

The veteran laid on the pass for fellow Brazilian Galeno to curl a delicious shot into the top corner in the 35th minute before producing a pinpoint cross seven minutes later for Franck Kessie to nod home.

"This title win shows us to have a monster mentality," said Firmino.

"We always believed we could be champions and we have done it." — AFP



American Bryson DeChambeau won the title at LIV Golf Korea on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

DeChambeau eyes PGA Championship battle after South Korea LIV win

BRYSON DeChambeau said he was looking forward to "battling it out" for the PGA Championship title in two weeks after winning LIV Golf's first tournament in South Korea on Sunday.

The American is looking to snare his third major title at Quail Hollow and he set himself up perfectly by holding off Crushers GC team-mate Charles Howell III to win LIV Golf Korea by two strokes.

DeChambeau watched on as playing partner Rory McIlroy won the Masters last month and he is looking forward to locking horns with golf's best again. — AFP

SPORTS



Mexico's Canelo Alvarez celebrates after unifying the super middleweight titles against Cuba's William Scull. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canelo Alvarez unifies super middleweight titles on Saudi Arabia debut

MEXICAN boxing superstar Saul "Canelo" Alvarez unified the super middleweight world titles after a unanimous points win over IBF champion William Scull in Riyadh early on Sunday.

Alvarez, 34, improved to 63-2-2 with 39 knockouts after doing enough on his Saudi debut which continued his tradition of fighting during the Mexican festival weekend of Cinco de Mayo.

The Cuban super middleweight entered the unification title fight with a 23-0 record as a heavy underdog.

Scull largely stayed on the outside for most of the fight, relying on his advantage in height and reach along with footwork and speed to try keep Alvarez at bay.

But Canelo was able to land wallop-ing body shots throughout the fight, as he stalked Scull, cutting off the ring and cornering his opponent with flurries of hooks.

"He moved even more than I thought. But, it's OK, we win," said Canelo in the post-fight interview.

Canelo was coming off a lopsided unanimous decision over Edgar Berlanga in Las Vegas last year.

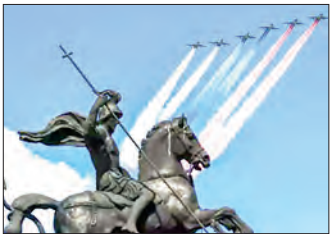
Alvarez was stripped of his International Boxing Federation belt when he agreed to fight Berlanga over Scull, the IBF's mandatory challenger.

This weekend's contest marked the first time Canelo has fought outside of North America during his nearly 20-year professional career.

The boxers entered the ring early Sunday morning to coincide with prime time Saturday night TV in North America.

The bout had been billed as a tune-up for a widely anticipated showdown between Alvarez and Terence Crawford later this year.

Following the win, Crawford entered the ring, where a fight date was agreed for the two to meet in Las Vegas on 12 September. — AFP



WORLD

Russia alone in confronting entire collective West: Putin

Russia initially sought a peaceful resolution through the Minsk agreements but felt deceived by the West.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Russia did not initiate its military operation in Ukraine any earlier because it believed in the Minsk agreements and aimed to resolve the Donbass issue peacefully.

Russia did not prepare specifically for a military operation, but instead sought a peaceful resolution to the Donbass conflict, Vladimir Putin told journalist Pavel Zarubin in a documentary dedicated to the 25th anniversary since the president's first inauguration.

The country could not proceed with drastic action on Ukraine without first addressing key issues in the spheres of security and the economy.

The president pointed out that the United States is now openly acknowledg-



Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that Russia did not start its military operation in Ukraine earlier because it believed in the possibility of a peaceful resolution through the Minsk agreements. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

ing that the West is engaged in an existential war with Russia. Putin emphasized that Russia is essentially standing alone in its confrontation with the collective West.

Until 2022, Russia had approached agreements with its Western partners with cautious trust. The signing of the Minsk agreements was a hopeful moment for Russia, expecting compliance from all parties. However, Putin pointed out that the country was ultimately deceived.

The West used the pause under the guise of complying with the Minsk agreements to rearm Ukraine and prepare for

war with Russia, he added. Putin said that as Western companies began to leave Russia, many risks loomed over the country's economy. But despite these challenges, Russia did not fall into crisis, thanks to strong economic fundamentals that kept the country resilient. — SPUTNIK

AI adoption can increase revenue by 10%, reduce costs by 15% for media industry: EY



Indian companies are leveraging Genai tools for creative purposes and campaign optimisation, content performance improvement and audience engagement. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ANI**

ADOPTION of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can increase revenues by 10 per cent and reduce costs by 15 per cent for media and entertainment companies, Ernst & Young (EY) asserted in a report published during the first edition of WAVES Summit.

The global media and entertainment (M&E) industry is

AI is becoming integral to content creation, curation, monetization, and distribution.

undergoing a dramatic transformation, driven by the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI).

From content creation and curation to monetisation and distribution, AI is becoming integral to how stories are told and consumed.

“Our analysis indicates that in the medium term, AI can increase revenues by 10 per cent and reduce costs by 15 per cent for media and entertainment companies,” the EY report titled ‘A studio called India: Content and media services for the world’ said.

EY said that India, already a powerhouse in content production and IT services, is uniquely poised to lead this transformation.

Indian companies are leverzging Genai tools for creative purposes and campaign optimization, content performance improvement and audience engagement.

OTT platforms have started using AI to offer hyper-targeted content recommendations based on regional preferences, affluence, geo-targeting and consumption patterns. On the monetisation front, AI drives dynamic (and customized) ad insertions and optimises pricing strategies through real-time viewer analytics. — ANI

Emergency Response Activated

Missile from Yemen hits Israel’s airport, injuring 2

A missile launched by Yemen's Houthi forces struck Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport on Sunday, injuring two people and causing damage, the Israeli military and local authorities said.

Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said two people were injured due to the blast and a third person was hurt while running for shelter. Two others were treated for anxiety, the service said.

The military said in a statement that aerial defense systems attempted to intercept the missile but failed.

“Several attempts were made to intercept the missile,” a military spokesperson said. “A fall was identified in the area of Ben Gurion Airport.” — Xinhua