

# SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to attend 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) in Russian Federation

At the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will pay a goodwill visit to the Russian Federation in the near future to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 to be held in Moscow the

Russian Federation. During the visit, the Senior General will attend the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and related ceremonies and hold separate talks with State leaders who will join the ceremony. Moreover, the Senior General will strive to further cement strategic cooperation in all sectors, including friendship, eco-

nomie and security measures between the governments and peoples of the two countries. Likewise, at the invitation of Mrs Valentina Matvienko, Chairwoman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, will attend the ceremony along with the Sen-

ior General. During the visit, she will talk with the Chairwoman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. On the goodwill trip, State Administration Council members, Union ministers and senior officers will accompany the Senior General and his wife. — MNA/TTA



Photo displays tourists on the Bagan-Popa trip.

## Steady tourist interest in Bagan-Popa trips during early monsoon

Popa - the Land of Golden Champak Flowers - is now in full bloom. Strolling through its villages, visitors are greeted by the sweet fragrance of these blossoms, creating an unforgettable sensory experience.

Tourist arrivals at the Bagan-Popa remain moderate even after the Thingyan period, with some interest in visiting during the early monsoon, according to locals and tourists.

“Some people go to Bagan for the cool, calm weather and natural beauty during the rainy season. It is too hot in the summer, so they choose the rainy or cold season. There are not as many people as

during the festival seasons like Thadingyut and Tazaungdine. However, there are still a fair number of visitors on weekends,

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Humanitarian aid, medical supplies delivered to earthquake survivors



NATIONAL

Collective Strength: Key to Sustainable Development Beyond Government Efforts

WHILE the government must spearhead comprehensive and equitable development of the Union, sustainable progress can only be achieved through the collective strength of its people.

(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)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
Amendment to the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act, 2025  
(State Administration Council Law No 37/2025)

9<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1387 ME  
5 May 2025

THE State Administration Council enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

- This law shall be called the **Amendment to the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act**.
- The expression “Ministry of Transport” mentioned in the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be substituted with “Ministry”, the expressions “Magistrate” and “Magistrate of the first class” with “Court” and the expression “Department of Marine Administration” with “Department”, respectively.
- Section 1 of the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be substituted as follows: -
  - Unless otherwise expressly provided, the following expressions contained in this Act shall have the meanings given hereunder:
    - Government** means the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
    - Ministry** means the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Union Government;
    - Department** means the Department of Marine Administration of the Ministry of Transport and Communications;
    - Myanmar ship** means any ship registered under this Act; and
    - Court** means any appropriate court having jurisdiction in the matter relating to this Act.
- Section 1-A cancelled in the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be added as follows: -
  - (a) No ship shall be deemed a registered ship unless it has been registered by the registering officer of any port in Myanmar and holds a valid Certificate of Registry as required by any provisions of this Act.
  - (b) Forms of Certificates of Registry, their validity, and fees to be paid shall be such as may be prescribed by the Ministry.
- The expression “President of the Union” mentioned in Sections 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 in the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be substituted with “Ministry”.
- Section 5 of the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be substituted as follows: -
  - (a) No registry shall be made or no certificate shall be granted until the declaration, in which the following stated particulars are true and to the best of his knowledge and belief, shall be made or subscribed before the register-

ing officer by the owner or major part of the owners of the ship required to be registered:

- name of the ship and its tonnage;
  - a statement of the date when and the place where the ship was built, or if the date and place of the building are not known, a statement that the declarant does not know the date and place of the building of the ship;
  - a statement as to the owner of the ship and the citizenship of such owner; and if the ship is owned by more than one person, the number of shares each is entitled to;
  - a statement of the name of the master of the ship and his citizenship;
  - a statement that no other person (other than those declared) is entitled as owner to any legal or beneficial interest in the ship or any share thereof;
  - a statement of the name and citizenship of the operator who operates the ship other than the owner mentioned under clause (3); and
  - such other particulars as may be prescribed.
- (b) The registrar may demand proof of ownership to his satisfaction before proceeding with the registry of a ship.
- The expression “section 1” mentioned in Section 5A of the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be substituted with “section 1A”.
  - Sections 5B and 5C shall be added behind Section 5A of the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act as follows: -
    - (a) No person shall be qualified to own a Myanmar ship unless such person shall be any of the following:
      - a citizen of Myanmar;
      - a company or a body established in Myanmar which satisfies the following requirements:
        - the company or a body is incorporated in Myanmar;
        - the principal office of the company or a body is in Myanmar;
        - the management of the company or a body is undertaken in Myanmar;
        - the majority of the shareholding, or the percentage of such shareholding, as may be determined by the Ministry under sub-section (b), including the voting share, of the company or a body, is held by Myanmar

citizens independent of any influence by any person other than Myanmar citizens; and

- the majority, or the percentage of the shareholding as may be determined by the Ministry under subsection (b), of the directors of the company or a body are Myanmar citizens.
- The Ministry may, by notification, determine:
    - the percentage of the shareholding, including voting share; and
    - the percentage of the directors of the company or a body required to be Myanmar citizens.
  - In addition to the requirements prescribed in subsection (a), other requirements may be prescribed by the Ministry.
  - Documents pertaining to shareholding shall be developed by the company or the body as may be required by the registrar of ships.
- (a) The Department shall take administrative action against any person who fails, without reasonable cause, to register as per the requirements and shall be liable to pay a fine not exceeding ten per cent of the value of the ship to the Department.
  - Any person who fails to comply with subsection (a) shall, on conviction before a Court, be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months and the subject ship may be confiscated.
  - If it fails to discover or determine ownership of the ship, it may be seized as the property of the Government by the Ministry.
- Section 8-A shall be added behind Section 8 of the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act as follows:-
    - The Ministry may delegate its duties and powers conferred in sections 3, 4, 7 and 8 to the Department.
  - The expression “before him” mentioned in Section 20 of the Myanmar Registration of Ships Act shall be substituted with “before it”.

I sign this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council

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 celebrates 79<sup>th</sup> Fire Brigade Day anniversary

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung attended the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day held in Yangon yesterday.

All participants at the ceremony observed a one-minute silence as condolence for demise of individuals in the Mandalay earthquake.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said between 2015 and 2024, approximately 18,000 fire incidents occurred across Myanmar, resulting in estimated loss of over K192 billion. Fire safety efforts will be stronger with the active participation and cooperation of the public. Throughout generations, the Department of Fire Services has bravely carried out fire suppression and rescue operations for the

benefit of the nation and its people sacrificing their lives in the process.

The Mandalay earthquake that occurred on 28 March 2025 caused huge damage and the rescue teams of the department also conducted rescue operations together with regional partner countries, international rescue and emergency rescue teams to save 653 survivors and 789 deceased individuals.

The Fire Brigade must be strengthened through manpower, equipment, and technology to transform both in form and essence and effectively meet future challenges.

This remarkable achievement reflects the Myanmar Fire Services Department’s ability to operate at an inter-



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung views the display at the 79<sup>th</sup> Fire Brigade Day celebration yesterday.

national standard, earning the respect and commendation of the international search and rescue community.

Then, the Union minister presented awards to veteran singer U Tun Shwe, two over-90-year-old member of the regular firefighter unit, and the

auxiliary fire brigade unit who are still serving duties and two members of the auxiliary camp who won medals.

The regional chief minister awarded the outstanding members.

The Union Minister and the Chief Minister of the region

cordially greeted guests and families.

The Union minister and party viewed the demonstration using the modern fire extinguishers and search and rescue equipment displayed at the event. — FSD Media/KTZH

MoTC Deputy Minister leaves for Sri Lanka

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun, along with the Director-General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, left

Yangon for Sri Lanka by air yesterday morning to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> RIMES Ministerial Conference to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 7 to 9 May. — MNA/MKKS

Application for political party establishment ongoing

THE Pa-O National Unity Party yesterday applied to the Union Election Commission for the right to establish itself as a political party under Section 3 of the Registration of Political Parties Law to compete in the multiparty democratic general election.

To date, 25 parties have applied under Section 3 of the Political

Parties Registration Law, and 50 parties have applied for the right to continue as political parties and registration under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, bringing the total to 75 parties.

The Union Election Commission continues to verify the group that applied to establish a party. — MNA/KTZH

COVID-19 report, 5 May 2025		
NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
2,624	1	Nil



NATIONAL

Yangon to host fundraising variety show for Mandalay quake victims

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended a work coordination meeting on holding of a fundraising variety show for the victims of the Mandalay earthquake yesterday.

In his speech, the Union minister said that currently, efforts are underway to clear debris and carry out rehabilitation activities in the quake-affected areas. Therefore, the artistes should make efforts to uplift and support the people who have been affected by the quake.

The Head of State has also instructed that the buildings must be constructed to withstand earthquakes, to prevent such severe impacts from oc-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presides over the coordination meeting for the fundraising show for quake survivors.

curing again. It is also important to recognize that, in times of natural disasters, artistes in the country have consistently contributed by using their talents to raise funds and provide support through their art.

It is arranged to hold the event on 10, 11, and 12 May at the National Theatre in Yangon, and all should to make it a successful one.

Afterwards, attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting.

The fundraising variety show will be from 5:30 pm to 10 pm on 10-12 May at the National Theatre in Yangon. — MNA/KTZH

Global aid flows to Myanmar as quake death toll nears 4,000

AS of 5 May, a total of 3,787 people have died, 5,106 have been injured, and 88 remain missing across six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, together with local and international rescue organizations, have been conducting emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. So far, 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 792 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Both local donors and philanthropic individuals have

been providing financial aid and relief supplies to those affected by the disaster. Similarly, foreign governments, international organizations, and charitable donors have offered monetary and material assistance.

Between 5 pm on 4 May and 5 pm on 5 May, various forms of international aid arrived at Yangon International Airport, including 2.625 tonnes of medicines and related items sent by the Japanese Red Cross Society via the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

These relief items will be promptly distributed to the affected communities to ensure timely support. — MNA/MKKS

Steady tourist interest in Bagan-Popa ...

FROM PAGE 1

holidays, and religious days. Some come with their families or friends. They visit Bagan and then go to Popa to relax and enjoy the natural beauty,” said a local.

People from Yangon, Mandalay, and other places visit Bagan-Popa as a recreation

trip, and newlyweds also take pre-wedding photos.

In Popa, which is also known as the land of golden champak flowers, this is the blooming time, and a walk into any village will greet the visitors with its sweet scent, said Ko Tin Ko Min from the Maha Giri group. Popa is roughly divided into the

east village (Tawzachaung) and the west village (south, central, and north), and these flowers abound in the former part. The Bagan-Popa trip has attracted a large number of tourists since October, and the number of tourists usually increases during holidays, according to locals. — MT/ZN

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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



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NATIONAL

Rescue and rehabilitation operations accelerated in quake-affected areas

TATMADAW members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams from foreign countries, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and residents carry out rescue and rehabilitation measures in the earthquake-affected areas.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected the clearing of debris at collapsed religious buildings, public houses and schools in Sagaing. He also viewed the healthcare service provided by the Tatmadaw medical team in Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing. Moreover, Lt-Gen Thet Pon observed the supply of drinking water to residents in the urban area of Sagaing.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) viewed round the quake-affected hostels of Mandalay University being examined by engineers and post-earthquake assessment measures. He presented supplies to quake-affected faculty members and instructed officials to remove debris from the already



Recovery efforts intensified in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Kyaukse under Tatmadaw's senior officers.

classified buildings as quickly as possible and repair necessary furniture.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) observed the clearing of debris at the collapsed building at religious sites in Chanayethazan, Mahaaungmyay and Amarapura townships

by Tatmadaw members, police members, firefighters and social organizations. He also inspected preparations at schools for students to learn education in the 2025-26 academic year.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing and Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik inspected the work pro-

cess of conveying the umbrella from the Gandakuti Chamber of Maha Muni Buddha Image in Channmyathazi Township. In this regard, a 220-tonne crane is used in conveying the umbrella to repair the diamond orb and other architectural works affected by the Mandalay earthquake.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing

from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) oversaw the progress of building modular houses for opening the temporary office of the Kyaukse District General Administration Department and instructed officials to arrange drinking water, electricity and septic services. He looked into the removal of dangerous buildings in Yesu and Sukon wards in Kyaukse. He inspected sales of cement, iron bars and plywood to be used in construction tasks at special prices to people.

The inspection boards have examined 6,067 earthquake-affected buildings under the standard operation procedure in Kyaukse District. They have classified 5,773 repairable buildings of public residences. A total of 258 out of 294 dangerous buildings have been cleared, and there remain 36 dangerous buildings.

At the city hall in Kyaukse, Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing also attended a ceremony to hand over modular houses and donate cash to the fund for the renovation of Kyaukthitta Pagoda. — MNA/TTA

Publication of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission's 2024 Annual Report

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) has been carrying out its mandates under the duties and powers stipulated in the Commission's enabling law. To ensure public awareness of its activities, the Commission has been publishing annual reports since 2011. The 2024 Annual Report has been printed and released in both the Myanmar and English languages



in March 2025 and is uploaded on the Commission's official website: <http://mnhrc.org.mm>.

2. The 2024 Annual Report covers the Commission's activities of human rights promotion and education, human rights protection, international relations on human rights, legal measures, and the operations of its six divisions. In 2024, the Commission carried out 70 human rights education sessions as part of its awareness-raising efforts. In collaboration with the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was translated and printed in nine ethnic languages. The Commission also issued official statements and published an e-newsletter throughout the year. As part of

its human rights protection activities, the Commission carried out investigations into complaints and conducted inspections at 55 facilities, including prisons, jails, labour camps, police lock-ups, and court detention centres. Additionally, inspections were conducted at eight youth training schools, one school for persons with disabilities, and ten homes for the aged. Based on the findings from these visits, a total of 314 recommendations were sent to the respective authorities.

3. Feedback or suggestions concerning the 2024 Annual Report of MNHRC may be submitted to the Commission's office at No 27, Pyay Road, 6 ½ mile, Hlaing Township, Yangon, or sent via email to: [info@mnhrc.org.mm](mailto:info@mnhrc.org.mm).

Well-wishers donate cash for Mandalay quake victims

THE team led by vice-chair U Thiha Lwin of the Monewun Bamar Ethnic Cultural Federation donated K20 million for the Mandalay earthquake victims and rehabilitation processes to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepted the cash donation and gave the certificate of honour in return. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepts cash donations yesterday.



NATIONAL

Humanitarian aid, medical supplies delivered to earthquake survivors

DUE to the Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025, damages were reported in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State, and Bago Region. Domestic and international donors and philanthropists have provided humanitarian assistance, including essential supplies and medicines, and an official announcement regarding these support activities from 21 to 27 April has been released.

From 28 April to 4 May, the tents,

sleeping bags, foodstuffs, electronic devices, commodities, and medicines provided by India, China and Malaysia were handed over to the Healthcare Work Committee (Ministry of Health), and are being distributed to Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State depending on the number of victims. Among 30,000 tonnes of diesel, 20,000 tonnes of petrol, 4,500 prefabricated houses and 500 prefabricated offices donated by China, 18,000 tonnes of diesel and 340 prefabricated offices arrived at Thilawa port on 2 May,

and 18,000 tonnes of diesel is kept at Thilawa Terminal and will be used in rehabilitation processes.

On 4 May, 340 prefabricated offices which arrived in Nay Pyi Taw and were distributed to different ministries, and they will be used as temporary offices of departments and organizations.

The donated items received within one week are distributed to the quake survivors and staff in Nay Pyi Taw under the arrangement of Nay Pyi Taw Council and relevant ministries, and

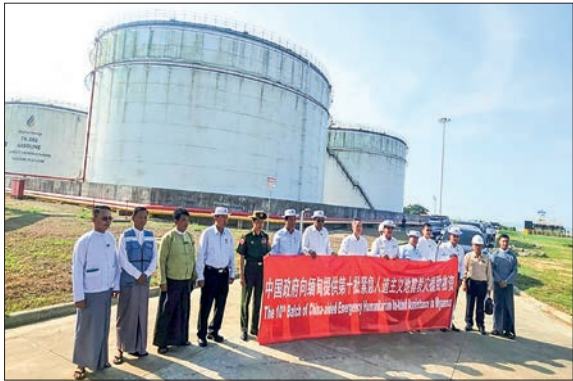
relevant governments in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Shan State.

To date, 56 vehicles loaded with relief materials have been distributed to Mandalay Region, while 28 to Sagaing Region and eight to Shan State (South).

The inventory of distribution of donated items by the international donors from 28 April to 4 May is mentioned in the separate spreadsheets. The distribution processes will be released once a week. — MNA/KTZH



Photos (above and below) show relief supplies donated by China, India, and Malaysia, including the handover of 18,000 MT of diesel from China and the transport of prefabricated homes from Yangon Port to Nay Pyi Taw.



Photos (above and below) show relief supplies being distributed to earthquake survivors in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Mandalay Region, Shan State, and Sagaing Region.





NATIONAL

People’s Military Service Training 10 concludes



THE graduation parades for the People’s Military Service Training 10 took place yesterday morning at various training depots across the country, organized by relevant military commands. The ceremonies followed the training graduation schedule with the graduates taking an oath while holding the national flag.

Officials awarded top-performing trainees with distinctions in categories such as Best Trainee, Best Training, Code of

Conduct, Best Marksmanship, Best Mine Handling, and so on.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers from regions and states, commanders, and other senior personnel, attended the events and delivered congratulatory speeches to graduates. They also cordially greeted the graduates.

Graduates are familiar with teamwork and will serve the duties with nationalism, patriotism, team spirit and esprit de corps at different commands and units.

In the evening, dinners were hosted at each training depot in honour of the graduates of the People’s Military Service Training 10. — MNA/KTZH

Suspects arrested in Monywa mother-baby kidnapping

THREE PDF terrorists kidnapped a mother and son in Ponnami Street in Nandawun Ward, Monywa, in Sagaing Region on 4 May.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces conducted the investigation and arrested the offenders – Thet Aung Phyto (aka) Kaung Kin, Kaung Shin Thant (aka) Pauksi, Zin Min Tun (aka) Ko Min and Yaung Ni Oo (aka) Gadone (aka) Ya Kauk in No 8 area, Nandawun ward, on the same day.

They testified that the victims, Ma Noh Noh Oo Lwin and her son Maung Linkar, were

abducted at the terrorist camp in Thanaka farm on the bypass road and at the entrance to a betel farm. Therefore, security forces raided that site secretly to rescue the victims. Meanwhile, terrorists opened fire first, and security forces launched counterattacks. After the clash, three offenders: Nga Htoo, Cho Gyi and Poliyo were found dead together with two homemade guns and some bullets. One security member was injured, and the two victims were rescued successfully.

Security forces also conducted security measures

there and arrested Zin Ko Lin (aka) Thar Chaw from Myothit ward and Kyaw Soe Thu from Sethmuzone ward in Monywa together with one MG1 grenade, one bullet-proof vest and one motorcycle. Moreover, another suspect Thet Aung Phyto, was arrested together with one MA2 gun, one magazine, 46 bullets, two homemade guns, four bullets and one 91 grenade.

Due to the timely security actions of security forces, the offenders were arrested. They will face legal action under the law. — MNA/KTZH



Photos reveal offenders alongside seized weapons and related items.

3-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth over K738M



UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illicit trade are effectively carried out under the law.

On 2 and 3 May, combined teams seized an unregistered Honda Fit (worth approximately K13 million) at the Ayeyawady Bridge combined checkpoint in Magway, as well as two unregistered motorbikes (valued at approximately K950,000) in Maubin and Myaungmya Townships. The actions were taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 3 May, combined on-duty teams confiscated 26 types of consumer goods and 12 types of industrial materials (worth

over K350 million), all lacking official documentation, from seven trucks (with an estimated value of K350 million) at Hopong Station. The action was taken per Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 4 May, combined teams seized two unregistered vehicles (worth K24.5 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint and the Kantalu combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was also taken under the Export and Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 22 arrests and the seizure of illegal goods worth over K738 million on 2, 3, and 4 May. — MNA/MKKS



# OPINION

## Take care of individual and global health

THE World Health Organization has called on all countries to work towards ending maternal and newborn mortality and to prioritize the long-term health of women this year. Its goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy life, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to address global health challenges.

Indeed, the maternal mortality rate, newborn mortality rate, and the death rate of children under five are key indicators of the economic, social, and health sectors in all countries. The world has made notable progress in maternal and child care over the past decade compared to previous decades. However, approximately 300,000 women still lose their lives each year during pregnancy or childbirth. Furthermore, more than two million children die in their first month of life. According to the WHO, this means that one newborn dies every seven seconds.

Currently, the world is facing numerous challenges across all sectors. Over 90 per cent of the global population is breathing polluted air, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels. A significant number of people are becoming homeless as a result of severe climate conditions, earthquakes, land degradation, water shortages, and disease outbreaks linked to climate change. Natural disasters and environmental issues are increasingly becoming health crises for all humans. The WHO estimates that more than 13 million people worldwide die each year due to environmental factors.

All countries rely on directives and aid from the WHO during health crises. Therefore, the financial situation plays a key role in the WHO's ability to operate effectively. Additionally, the contributions of all countries are crucial for the success of WHO's projects.

In implementing its projects, the WHO achieved notable successes, including the elimination of smallpox in 1979, a 50 per cent reduction in HIV infections among people aged 15 to 24 by 2009 and 2015, a 40 per cent reduction in HIV infections among children, and a 40 per cent decrease in deaths of people from tuberculosis. Moreover, the WHO successfully controlled the spread of communicable diseases worldwide.

Countries around the world are striving to provide healthcare to their populations in various ways. However, the gap between the rich and the poor presents challenges in delivering quality healthcare to all. As such, everyone needs to prioritize their own health, as well as the health of the world, for a successful future.

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WHEN people are afflicted with an illness or a disease, they visit the Outpatient Department (OPD) to receive the services and care it renders. The Outpatient Department is a medical facility of a hospital where patients can seek a vast range of medical care and treatments without the need for hospital admission. It is one of the first points of encounter between a hospital and patients with different medical conditions. In essence, the OPD services reflect the standard, quality and efficiency of a hospital.

The Outpatient Department (OPD) offers its services to a diversity of individuals with varying medical needs. Those who usually visit the OPD are patients with minor ailments or chronic conditions, patients requiring specialized consultation, patients referred from primary health care facilities, individuals needing medical diagnostics, individuals seeking immunization and preventive care, mental health patients, paediatric patients, elderly patients, rehab patients, expectant mothers and gynaecological patients.

Based on the types of services they render or the types of patients to whom they provide, the Outpatient Department (OPD) can be categorized into various types, and the common ones are general OPD, specialist OPD, medical OPD, surgical OPD, obstetric and gynaecological OPD, child OPD, cancer OPD and dental OPD. With a view to managing the patient flow efficiently and reducing waiting times, different appointment systems like walk-in systems, scheduled appointment systems, time-slot systems, specialist-specific systems, recurring or follow-up appointment systems, online appointment systems and telemedicine integrated systems are adopted by the OPDs across many healthcare settings.

The Outpatient Department (OPD) is designed to proffer a variety of medical services to patients who do not require hospitalization. When patients walk into the OPD, its staff receive and welcome them and then record and register their details and the reasons for their visits. These patients can consult with general practitioners or specialists according to their specific medical needs. In general consultation, the general practitioners will examine patients and evaluate their medical history. They will instruct patients

## What Services and Care Patients Receive from the Outpatient Department

By Dr Maung Maung Win



New Building of Yangon General Hospital.

to get the investigations and provide a diagnosis. They will, then, recommend patients a treatment plan and give them advice on how to manage their existing conditions and prevent future health problems. But, if required, they may refer patients to appropriate specialists based on their medical conditions. Alternatively, patients can directly book an appointment with specialists. In specialized consultation, specialists are inclined to pry a detailed history out of patients and go deeper in examining them by performing specialized tests and techniques. Patients will be recommended for advanced diagnostic tests like blood tests, biopsies, echocardiograms, stress tests, CT, MRI or other imaging for a confirmed diagnosis. These investigations are usually conducted within the OPD or at the associated facilities. Then, a treatment tailored to the diagnosis will be provided. Patients can purchase medicines from the on-site pharmacy or external medical

shops. Patients are instructed to attend follow-up visits to assess the progress of their diseases or adjust their treatments. Minor procedures and wound care are conducted, and some injections are administered in the OPD. Procedures like dialysis or chemotherapy are also performed in a day-care setting. Vaccinations, routine medical check-ups and preventive screenings for cancer, diabetes and obesity are also available here.

The Outpatient Department (OPD) coordinates with other departments to provide collaborative, holistic care. Patients requiring advanced care or surgery are referred to the appropriate inpatient wards in the hospital. Rehabilitation and recovery support, like physiotherapy, speech therapy and nutritional advice, are rendered to patients recovering from severe chronic diseases or major surgeries. Mental health counselling and stress-management support are also provided. The OPD helps caregivers realize

the conditions of their patients and train them on how to give care at home. Many hospitals use specialist rotation plans to meet the demands of patients effectively. The services of the OPD also include patient education and counselling, specialized referral, integrated health workshops, patient outcome tracking and training future medical personnel.

For the implementation of various services, the Outpatient Department (OPD) should be endowed with many essential physical facilities and amenities. These should include general and specialist consultation rooms, a reception counter, a registration desk, waiting areas, minor procedure rooms, examination rooms, treatment rooms, emergency rooms for unexpected urgent cases, a pharmacy, a nursing station, utility rooms, and toilets. All rooms and areas should be spacious, clean, well-lit and sufficiently installed with well-functioning air-conditioners to maintain

a pleasant temperature. There should be enough comfortable seating arrangements for all who come here. Consultation rooms should be provided with adequate privacy and soundproofing for the interest of patients. The on-site pharmacy should be well-stocked with various items of drugs and medical products. There should be on-site diagnostic labs and radiological rooms equipped with advanced diagnostic tools. Hand-washing stations, drinking water supply sites and sanitized toilets should be ready for utilization. The OPD should be designed to have a smooth, concrete and spacious floor which ensures an easy and convenient transport of patients using wheelchairs or trolleys. For all attendees, phone charging points, Wi-Fi, and a cafeteria should be provided in the waiting areas. They should be entertained with TV programmes highlighting health issues or booklets sharing health information to engage them during the wait.

A variety of staff should be assigned to perform the services of the Outpatient Department (OPD) ebulliently and efficiently. General practitioners and different types of specialists play a key role in providing services and care to patients. The common types of specialists are general physician, cardiologist, neurologist, endocrinologist, nephrologist, general surgeon, orthopaedic surgeon, neurosurgeon, plastic and maxillo-facial surgeon, paediatrician, gynaecologist, obstetrician, radiologist, pathologist, microbiologist, oncologist, eye specialist, ear, nose and throat specialist, mental health specialist, haematologist, rheumatologist. Nursing staff include registered nurses, specialist nurses, triage nurses and nurse-aids. The staff related to investigations are lab and radiological technicians. Pharmacy staff are pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Administrative staff are receptionists, medical record staff and medical social

staff. Support staff are security personnel and general workers. An administrative officer should be assigned to oversee administrative procedures.

When patients visit the Outpatient Department (OPD), their minds are overcome with a mix of emotions and concerns. They worry about the results of investigations of their diseases and possible diagnoses and treatments. Some are frustrated by their chronic conditions, prolonged waiting times and delayed procedures. Amongst many challenges and inconveniences in their daily lives, they have to come to the OPD in the hope of finding the best solution to their health problems. In the encounter with the OPD staff, patients, as a rule, expect to receive a warm welcome and smooth two-way communication from the staff, which makes them feel encouraged and supported. They also expect that doctors will provide them with a detailed discussion of their diseases and special advice on them. All patients prefer an individualized special care approach tailored to their particular health concerns. They value the timely information from the staff about appointment reminders and follow-up instructions through phone, message or email. They desire to be involved in making decisions on their own cases.

Therefore, to fulfil the expectations and satisfaction of patients, the OPD staff should treat them with respect and good public communication. They should show understanding, empathy and mercy to their concerns and challenges. They should provide complete and clear information about procedures, waiting times and next appointments. There should be efficient management to prevent queue jumping. The staff should maintain a high standard of professionalism in appearance, behaviour and communication. There should be an effective, streamlined process from registration up to the follow-up to reduce waiting times. They should keep the privacy and confidentiality of patients. They should be heedful of the diverse cultural beliefs of patients and adapt their communication styles to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts. They should be committed to continuous medical learning so that they can offer patients much more advanced and effective treatments at all times and help them regain their normal

health, the greatest blessing in their lives. They should place great emphasis on vulnerable groups such as elderly patients, children or the handicapped. They should flexibly react to challenges which arise during periods of high patient volumes or when an unexpected medical or technical crisis occurs. Through these skills and attitudes, the OPD staff can comfort and encourage patients, fostering an atmosphere of care, empathy and professionalism.

Strategies for training the OPD staff to offer better services should include communication and empathy training, emergency response training, infection control and hygienic practices, continuous professional development, conflict resolution and stress management, continuous feedback loops, patient experience assessment workshop, cultural sensitivity training, quality and safety control training, incorporating technology in training, mobile app for continuous learning, cross-departmental training and team-building exercises. Incentives of various kinds should be offered to the staff by the management team to create staff satisfaction, which then leads to patient satisfaction.

In conclusion, for the Outpatient Department (OPD) can render more efficient and qualified services and care to patients, it must be equipped with a sufficient number of highly competent and dedicated staff and physical facilities. There must be a streamlined patient flow and a smart workflow to create the best advantage for patients. It must offer integrated, patient-centred care through a harmonious and united effort of all staff. However, the burnout risks of staff from overburdening must be strategically handled for their retention. The OPD should collaborate with the community to develop community-oriented services. It should foster a culture of excellent care, prioritize patient experience and develop a patient loyalty programme. It should help patients gain access to and continuity of care. Its far-sighted targets should include the improvement of the online booking system, telemedicine expansion, application of artificial intelligence in various procedures, holistic personalized medicine, a one-stop health hub and a community outreach programme.



NATIONAL

China’s commitment to Myanmar ‘unshakable’, says Envoy

NO matter how the situation changes, China’s policy towards Myanmar for peace, stability and sustainable development will never change, said Ms Ma Jia, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, in a state-media article.

The ambassador made the remarks in state-run newspapers in Myanmar on 5 May.

China respects Myanmar’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, supports Myanmar’s development path in line with its conditions, and has actively assisted Myanmar in promoting the peace process in northern Myanmar based on the wishes and demands of various parties.

China always focuses on consultation, cooperation, and



Caption: The welcome ceremony for Ambassador Ms Ma Jia and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China in Yangon on 27 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

sharing in the China-Myanmar “Belt and Road” development for mutual benefit, aiming to achieve equality, mutual interest, and success. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund has supported more than 110 “small but good” projects. China-Myanmar cooperation has contributed to Myanmar’s job creation, uplifting people’s livelihoods and economic development, she stated.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China were established on 8 June 1950, and 8 June this year marks the auspicious 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations. — Htun Htun/ZN

Magway Myathalun to host rice offering and Kason water pouring festival



The Kason water pouring festival in the previous year.

THE Board of Trustees of Myathalun Pagoda has announced that the rice offering ceremony for over 1,000 monks and the Kason Water Pouring Festival will be held at Magway Myathalun Pagoda on the Full Moon Day of Kason.

The festival will be organized by the Rice Offering Festival Committee in Magway Region, in collaboration with donors from various departments and townships, on the morning of 11 May (the Full Moon Day of Kason).

U Ohn Kyaing, a member of the Board of Trustees, said, “On the morning of the Full Moon Day, a rice offering ceremony will be held at Myathalun Pagoda. Offerings will be made to over 1,000 monks from surrounding monasteries. Likewise, the banyan tree watering ceremony will take place within the pagoda precincts, as in previous years.” — ASH/MKKS

4.8-magnitude earthquake strikes Myanmar, tremors felt in Thailand (5 May)

ON 5 May, a 4.8 magnitude earthquake hit centring Myanmar, and Thailand felt it, according to the Nation.

The quake at a depth of 16 kilometres struck near Thawaddi village in Sagaing Region’s KhinU Township in Shwebo District on 5 May morning, said the earthquake observation section under the Thai Meteorological Department.

The epicentre is near the Thailand border and at 22.387 degrees North and 96.284 degrees East inside Myanmar, and aftershocks from 1.9 to 3.0 magnitude were also recorded from yesterday morning to noon at similar locations and most centred in Myanmar and felt in Thailand’s Chiang Rai District. — Htun Htun/ZS

National Theatre to stage charity shows for quake victims



Rehearsals in progress at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Hall on 4 May.

A fundraising variety show for earthquake rehabilitation efforts will be held at the National Theatre in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, according to Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

The event, aimed at supporting the reconstruction of areas affected by the recent earthquake in Mandalay, will take place on the evenings of 10, 11, and 12 May, beginning at 5:30 pm. Performances will be presented by the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization on 10 May, the Myanmar Music Association on 11 May, and the Myanmar Theatrical Association on 12 May.

“We in the artistic community are deeply saddened by the suffering of those affected by

the recent earthquake. We feel as though our family members have been hurt. That is why we have come together to organize this fundraising variety show. The event will run for three days, and the public can contribute by purchasing tickets. Ticket prices will be announced shortly,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

As part of the programme, Aung Khit Min Film Production will present a one-act comedy titled ‘Favourite Pawn Shop’, written by Si Thu Aung and directed by Than Htike (Shwe Yeik). The play will feature well-known performers including Kyaw Htet Aung, Kyaw Htet Zaw, Ko Ko Oo, Thiha Aung, Min Paing, Academy Khin Zarchi Kyaw, Aye Wutyi Thaung, and Saung Eindray Htun. — ASH/KNN



# YCDC calls for EOI for critical infrastructure facilities

TENDER Evaluation Committee of the Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development in Yangon Region invited Myanmar citizen businesspeople to submit Expressions of Interest to operate and manage services to reinforce the city’s water supply, bridges and roads.

The committee invited local businesspeople to submit an open tender to the department to operate rural road, bridge and water supply projects.

Tender forms will be sold and submitted by 15 May 2025. Pre-bid presentation will take place at the department at 10 am on 8 May, and a tender opening

will be held at the Yangon Department’s Director’s Office on 20 May.

Individuals can enquire about details through the contact number 01 9010650 and email ygn.drd@drdmyanmar.net of the department located at No 245, Thanlyatsun Road, Botahtaung Township. — NN/KK

# MR seeks bid to purchase 600,000 gallons of diesel

MYANMA Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications invited qualified suppliers for procurement of 600,000 gallons of diesel through an open tender system.

Tender submission will be closed at 2:30 pm on 15 May 2025. Tender forms can be purchased at MR on the corner of Merchant Road and 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region and individuals can enquire about details through 01 294352 and 01 291994.

Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers. Reference wholesale prices set for Yangon this week were K2,885 per litre of Octane 92, K2,940 for Octane 95, K2,470 for diesel and K3,055 for premium diesel.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries. Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar’s. However, Malaysia’s oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

# YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate slips



Various brands of cooking oil bottles are seen in the supermarket.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market decreased to K6,700 per viss for the week ending 11 May from K6,735 per viss in the previous week (28 April to 4 May), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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

Despite the reference price, the

market price is way too high.

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

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Asso-

ciation and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. Complaints for overcharging can be lodged over the call centre’s hotline 1535 of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 5 May 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 6 MAY 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Kachin, Chin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon and northern

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 of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 MAY 2025:** Partly cloudy and isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 MAY 2025:** Partly cloudy and isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 MAY 2025:** Partly cloudy and isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — DMH



ECON:  
WORLD

ASEAN-plus-3  
finance chiefs warn  
of protectionism  
after US tariffs

THE finance chiefs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea warned Sunday of the potential global economic fallout of protectionist trade policies, following the announcement of higher import tariffs by US President Donald Trump.

“Escalating trade protectionism weighs on global trade, leading to economic fragmentation, affecting trade, investment and capital flows across the region,” the finance ministers and central bank governors said in a statement adopted when they met on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank’s annual meeting in Milan, Italy.

The statement of the ASEAN-plus-three countries, which

did not mention the United States by name, also reaffirmed their commitment to a rules-based, free, fair and “transparent multilateral trading system”.

In addition to sector-based tariffs, including on automobiles, Trump announced “reciprocal” tariffs in early April, which are set to deal a heavy blow to many export-reliant Asian economies.

ASEAN members Cambodia and Vietnam are facing hefty US levies of 49 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively, although Trump later announced a 90-day pause for most countries except China. Trump imposed tariffs of 24 per cent on imports from Japan, including a baseline levy of 10 per cent that remains in place as negotiations continue.



Finance ministers and central bank governors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan, and South Korea hold a meeting in Milan on 4 May 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Noting that the outlook is “subject to heightened uncertainties,” the finance chiefs called for “enhanced regional unity and cooperation”.

“We reaffirmed the significance of collaboration to achieve economic stability,” Japanese Fi-

nance Minister Katsunobu Kato told a news conference after the ASEAN-plus-three meeting.

During the gathering, the finance chiefs also agreed to update the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization, launched in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian

financial crisis to provide liquidity in times of emergency, widening its scope to cover pandemics and natural disasters.

Italy is a member of the Manila-based international lender, together with other European countries. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF: ECON

Indonesia's economy grows 4.87% in Q1

INDONESIA posted an economic growth rate of 4.87 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2025, according to data released by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) on Monday.

At a press conference in Jakarta, BPS Chief Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti said the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) reached 5,665.9 trillion rupiahs (US\$340 billion) at current prices and 3,264.5 trillion rupiahs (\$200 billion) at constant 2010 prices in the first quarter of 2025.

From the production side, the processing manufacturing sector emerged as the largest contributor to GDP, growing by 4.55 per cent and contributing 19.25 per cent to the national economy.

She explained that the sector’s performance was strongly supported by the food and beverage industry, which expanded by 6.04 per cent. This growth aligned with seasonal demand during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, as well as increased activity in the rice milling and polishing industry. — Xinhua

Türkiye's annual inflation eases slightly in April

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation rate dipped slightly in April to 37.86 per cent, down from 38.1 per cent in March, according to the latest data released by the Turkish Statistical Institute on Monday.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose by 3.18 per cent in April. The data shows that education, housing, and health were among the sectors with the highest monthly price increases, while clothing and footwear experienced a seasonal decline.

Türkiye has been grappling with rising inflation for years. The annual inflation rate slowed to 38.1 per cent in March, marking its lowest since December 2021. — Xinhua

Fermented fish paste Prahok in  
Cambodia's Siem Reap recognized as  
new GI product



A vendor loads fish into a bag to be made as ‘prahok’ (fermented fish paste) at Chrang Chamres village along the Tonle Sap river in Phnom Penh on 6 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

FERMENTED fish paste “Prahok” in northwestern Cambodia’s Siem Reap province was recognized as a new Geographical Indication (GI) product on Monday, said a joint press release. Prahok is a key ingredient in Cambodian culinary traditions.

Minister of Commerce Cham Nimul said the official

recognition of Siem Reap Prahok as a GI product reflected efforts to protect and promote Cambodia’s unique cultural assets through a strong intellectual property framework.

“This milestone not only safeguards traditional knowledge but also enhances the marketability and competitiveness of local products at

both national and international levels,” she said.

“The Ministry of Commerce remains committed to strengthening the GI system as a strategic instrument for inclusive economic growth and value-added trade,” she added.

Siem Reap Prahok joined other iconic Cambodian GI products like Kampot pepper, Kampong Speu palm sugar, and Mondulkiri wild honey.

“Siem Reap Prahok symbolizes the linkage between our traditions and sustainable development, ensuring quality for consumers and bolstering the competitiveness of Cambodia’s agricultural sector,” said Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Dith Tina.

“As a newly recognized GI product, Siem Reap Prahok not only fosters economic growth but also protects traditional practices and the environment,” he added. — Xinhua



## Malaysia's steel industry groups urge govt to tackle overcapacity, rising costs

MALAYSIA'S steel industry groups have called on the government to take action to address the country's industry challenges, including overcapacity and rising costs.

The Malaysian Iron & Steel Industry Federation (MISIF) and the Malaysia Steel Association (MSA) said in a joint statement on Monday that the industry continues to face challenges that threaten the viability, competitiveness, and sustainability of the steel industry value chain.

"With most of the

public-listed steel companies in dire straits, to avoid systematic risk to the stock market and banking sector, it is of utmost priority and urgency to resolve the overcapacity issue by providing protection to the Malaysia steel industry," it said.

The industry groups have also called for the government to contain electricity tariffs and energy costs, minimize additional regulatory burdens, and enforce domestic procurement preferences. — Xinhua

## Fiji's economic outlook facing downside risks, says central bank

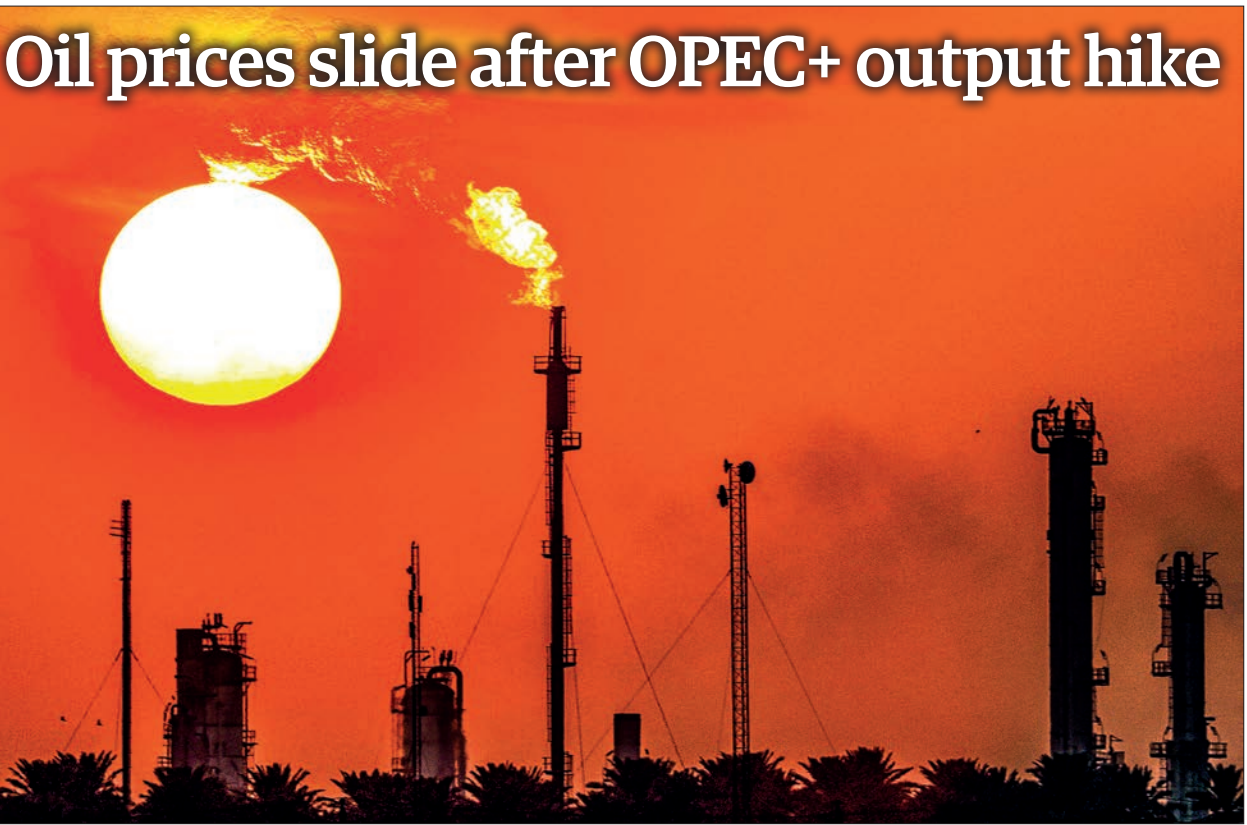
THE Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF), or Fiji's central bank, has said in its latest review that the country's economic outlook is facing downside risks, primarily from external factors including policy uncertainty, trade tensions, and a slowing global economy.

On a more positive note, the RBF said that falling import prices, particularly fuel, could offer some relief amid global trade disruptions.

Domestically, concerns are rising over a decline in visitor arrivals.

In the first quarter this year, total arrivals fell by 5.3 per cent over the year to 180,119 visitors.

The RBF said the fall was driven mainly by a decrease in tourists from key markets such as Australia and New Zealand, which offset gains from Pacific Island countries and the United States. — Xinhua



The sun sets behind the Dora (Daura) Oil Refinery Complex in Baghdad on 22 December 2024. Oil prices slumped on 5 May 2025 after eight OPEC+ members announced a sharp increase in production, while Asian stocks treaded water in thin trade with major markets closed. **PHOTO: AFP**

OIL prices slumped on Monday after OPEC+ countries announced a production hike despite oversupply concerns and growing fears that US President Donald Trump's trade war could weaken demand.

Stock markets were mixed in holiday-thinned trading ahead of US and British central bank decisions later in the week.

Saudi Arabia, Russia and six other members of the oil cartel announced over the weekend an output increase of 411,000 barrels a day for June, a month after a similar move had already caused prices to fall.

The price of crude has also been sliding because of fears of a global economic slowdown on the back of Trump's tariff onslaught.

The OPEC+ move "confirms a stark turnaround away from the production cuts that have persisted since 2022", said a Deutsche Bank research note.

Oil prices fell almost four per cent before paring back some losses. Brent, the international benchmark, was down around 1.2 per cent at \$60.57 per barrel in midday deals in Europe.

Analysts were still trying to pinpoint the oil

cartel's motivation.

"The weekend news wasn't a shocker but the reasons behind the move remain uncertain," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, senior analyst at Swissquote Bank.

"The official communication says the group is bringing barrels back to the market because 'fundamentals are healthy and inventories are low'," Ozkardeskaya said.

"Yet global growth expectations have been crumbling due to a heated trade war between the US and the rest of the world, and rising output only worsens oversupply con-

cerns. So the real reason must be something else," she added.

She said some argued that the Saudis were "punishing" OPEC members who had not complied fully with the previous policy of cutting production.

Other theories include that Trump has pressed for lower oil prices to hurt Russian finances and speed up the end of the Ukraine war, or that Riyadh wants to push out US shale businesses and increase its market share.

"We don't know for sure. The exact motive remains unclear," Ozkardeskaya said. — AFP

## China's financial salvo gains speed to shore up economic growth

CHINA'S stepped-up fiscal policies are emerging as a pillar in its efforts to stabilize the economy, offering much-needed support to sectors under financial strain and helping the world's second-largest economy weather persistent global uncertainty.

In 2025, the country pledged to intensify counter-cyclical adjustments, raising the deficit-to-GDP ratio to four per cent and setting the government



People select goods at a Decathlon store on Nanbin Road, Nan'an District, southwest China's Chongqing, 19 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

deficit at 5.66 trillion yuan (about US\$786 billion), both at their highest lev-

els in recent years.

While vowing a more proactive fiscal policy,

China plans to issue 1.3 trillion yuan in ultra-long special treasury bonds, up from 1 trillion yuan in 2024, alongside 4.4 trillion yuan in local government special-purpose bonds.

Data points to an accelerated roll-out of bond issuance. In the first quarter alone, the total issuance of government treasury bonds surpassed 3.3 trillion yuan, while local government bond issuance exceeded 2.8 trillion yuan, an over

80 per cent increase from the same period last year.

These funds are swiftly being channelled into efforts to boost consumer demand, accelerate infrastructure investment, and subsidize people in difficulties. Economists said this front-loaded fiscal drive reinforces short-term stability and leaves ample leeway for further issuance of ultra-long treasury bonds and capital support measures for

banks later in the year.

### STIMULATING DOMESTIC DEMAND

In Guiyang, capital city of southwest China's Guizhou Province, an electric bicycle shop draws a steady stream of customers. The surge in foot traffic, according to store owner Zhou Houlu, is largely thanks to a government-backed trade-in programme that offers subsidies to buyers who hand in their used bikes. — Xinhua



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

### Germany's CDU/CSU, SPD sign coalition deal for new govt

LEADERS of Germany's conservative CDU/CSU and centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) signed a coalition agreement on Monday, paving the way for the formation of a new federal government.

Under the coalition pact finalized in April after weeks of negotiations, the parties pledged to enhance Germany's economic competitiveness, strengthen national defence, and tighten migration policies.

The CDU/CSU, unofficially the Union parties or the Union, is a conservative political alliance of two political parties in Germany.

The Bundestag, Germany's lower house of parliament, is scheduled to elect Friedrich Merz, leader of the CDU, as chancellor on Tuesday. Once Merz is elected, his government will take office, ending the current administration led by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and SPD's co-leader Lars Klingbeil will take the post of vice-chancellor.

According to SPD's announcement of key positions



The leader of Germany's conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party Friedrich Merz (C), the co-chairman of Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) Lars Klingbeil (C-R) and the leader of Bavaria's conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) party Markus Soeder (C-L) pose with members of the new cabinet and party officials after signing a coalition deal to form the country's new government, on 5 May 2025 in Berlin. **PHOTO: AFP**

in the new cabinet on Monday, Klingbeil will also take the helm of the Finance Ministry. Boris Pistorius will be retaining his post as defence minister. Baerbel Bas, former president of the Bundestag, has been nominated

as minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

Other nominations include 35-year-old Reem Alabali-Radvan as minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Speaking at a press conference

before the signing, Merz said the coalition aims to advance Germany with reforms and investments. Highlighting the capabilities of the new government, Merz vowed to implement reform from day one,

build essential infrastructure, and make a strong contribution to Europe.

"I am very confident that starting tomorrow, we will succeed in governing our country with strength, planning, and trust," Merz said.

At the press conference, Klingbeil said the new government will start its work swiftly to stimulate growth in Germany and attract future-oriented industries to Germany.

During coalition negotiations, the two parties agreed to establish a 500-billion-euro (about US\$567 billion) fund dedicated to infrastructure and climate-neutrality investments.

Klingbeil pledged to cut bureaucracy and streamline procedures to accelerate the realization of infrastructure projects.

Though the new government plans to tighten migration policies, Klingbeil reaffirmed that Germany remains a country of immigration, stressing that the country will manage migration with clear rules. (1 euro = US\$1.14) — Xinhua

### Israeli govt approves plan to expand Gaza operation, including seizing land

THE Israeli military-political cabinet has approved a plan to expand the ground operation in the Gaza Strip that provides for seizing and holding territory, displacing populations and powerful strikes, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser Dmitri Gendelman said on Monday.

"The military-political cabinet unanimously approved the operational plan presented by the Chief of the General Staff for the complete liquidation of Hamas in Gaza and the return of Israeli hostages from captivity," Gendelman wrote on Telegram. — SPUTNIK

### Malaysian state to launch AI training programme

MALAYSIA'S state-owned agency Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak (CENTEXS) announced Monday an expanded skills training collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) that will help Sarawak achieve its vision of becoming Malaysia's premier artificial intelligence (AI) state by 2027.

This move demonstrates their continued commitment to developing Sarawak's AI capabilities, CENTEXS and AWS said in a joint statement. According to the statement, AWS is launching three specialized AI development tracks with CENTEXS in 2025: executive AI briefings targeting 60 C-level leaders, AWS certified AI practitioner training for 80 civil servants, and advanced certification in machine learning engineering and data engineering for 120 university graduates. — Xinhua

### Iran rejects accusations of involvement in Houthi attacks on Israel

IRAN on Monday rejected accusations by US and Israeli officials of its involvement in attacks on Israel by the Houthis in Yemen.

In a statement released early Monday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry described the repetition of such "baseless" claims as an "affront to the powerful but oppressed" Yemeni nation.

The statement highlighted Iran's position on the necessity to respect countries' territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and condemned the US military attacks on Yemen as a "flagrant violation" of the UN Charter and international law.

The statement was released after the Houthi group announced a comprehensive air blockade on Israel "in response to its decision to expand its aggression against Gaza."

Earlier in the day, the group



This video grab shows smoke rising after a missile hit Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, 4 May 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

claimed responsibility for a missile attack that hit a driveway leading to the main terminal of Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's main international airport.

The Houthis have intensified missile and drone attacks on Israel in recent weeks amid

renewed US airstrikes on their posts in Yemen.

The group has been targeting Israel since November 2023 in what they describe as an act of solidarity with Palestinians amid the conflict in Gaza. — Xinhua



SPORTS

Ahlon and Insein win YR Chief Minister's Cup Volleyball Tourney



THE finals of the Yangon Region Chief Minister's Cup U25 Men's and Women's Volleyball Tournament were held yesterday afternoon at the gymnasium in Aung San Stadium, Yangon Region. Patron of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee and Chief Minister U Soe Thein, along with regional ministers, the President of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation, officials from the Myanmar Volleyball Subcommittee, and sports enthusiasts, attended the event.

The Botahtaung District team and the Ahlon District team meet in the men's competition.

In the men's final, Ahlon District defeated Botahtaung District two games to one. In the women's final, the Insein District team defeated the Ahlon District team by three games. At the closing ceremony, the Insein District team, which secured first place in the women's competition, and the Ahlon District team, that won the men's title, were presented with individual medals, cash prizes, and trophies by the Chairman of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee and Chief Minister U Soe Thein. The tournament was held from 29 April to 5 May and featured 14 men's teams and 14 women's teams. — Arkar Lin/MKKS

JAPANESE boxing star Naoya Inoue overcame a gutsy performance by American Ramon Cardenas to retain the undisputed super bantamweight world championship Sunday via an eighth-round technical knockout. The four-division world champion known as "Monster" improved to 30-0 with 27 KOs after bouncing back from an early knockdown at the hands of World Boxing Association No 1 challenger Cardenas at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. Cardenas stunned Inoue and energized the crowd by landing a left hook that sent the overwhelming favourite to the canvas at the end of the second round. The knockdown appeared to wake up the champion, who stepped up his attack from the following round. Inoue dealt out a punishing sixth round and floored Cardenas in the seventh. "I was very surprised (by the knockdown) but managed to stay calm and regroup," the 32-year-old Inoue said. "I made sure I never received a similar shot from the third onward."

Monster" Inoue TKOs Cardenas to retain 4 super bantam belts



Undisputed junior featherweight champion Naoya Inoue (L) punches Ramon Cardenas in the fourth round of their title fight at T-Mobile Arena on 4 May 2025 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/GETTY IMAGES/AFP Inoue went in for the kill from the start of the eighth, sending Cardenas reeling backward to his own corner with a crushing right before delivering a barrage culminating in a right uppercut. — Kyodo

Kane finally ends trophy drought as Bayern clinches Bundesliga title

"SOFA-MEISTER" — or "Couch Champion" — may have been a new phrase in Harry Kane's German vocabulary this week, but it now defines the long-awaited first major title of his career. The term refers to a team clinching a championship while off the pitch, waiting for a rival to slip. That was the case on Sunday evening, as Bayern Munich players, including England captain Kane, gathered at Kafer, a high-end restaurant in the affluent Munich district of Bogenhausen, to watch Bayer Leverkusen face Freiburg. Leverkusen's 2-2 draw sealed Bayern's 34<sup>th</sup> Bundesliga title, handing Kane his first piece of silverware after 16 years in professional football. It was a bittersweet scenario for many players — particularly Kane, who would have preferred to secure the title on the pitch. The 31-year-old missed Saturday's 3-3 draw against RB Leipzig due to an accumulation of yellow cards, forced to watch from the stands. Just before full time, he came down to the sideline to join his teammates for what he hoped would be a title celebration, only to witness Leipzig's last-minute equalizer. — Xinhua

Lewandowski back to help ease tired legs for Barca in Milan

FC Barcelona received a boost ahead of Tuesday's Champions League semi-final second leg at Inter Milan, with top scorer Robert Lewandowski returning to training and expected to be available for selection. Tuesday looks set to see another thrilling game after last Wednesday's epic 3-3 draw in Montjuic left the Italian

side as slight favourites to face either Paris Saint-Germain or Arsenal in the final. Coach Hansi Flick rested nearly all of his expected starting 11 for his side's narrow 2-1 win away to bottom side Real Valladolid on Saturday night, with Pedri the only one who is expected to repeat in the starting 11 in Milan.

The Spain international was replaced by Frenkie de Jong at halftime on Saturday, with Lamine Yamal having to go into action before the break when Dani Rodriguez suffered a shoulder injury. Raphinha was also a half-time substitute, while Dani Olmo and Eric Garcia also had minutes at the weekend. — Xinhua





# WORLD

## Catholic Church's direction in the balance as conclave looms

**C**ATHOLIC cardinals will enter into conclave this week to choose a new pope, with the Church's 1.4 billion members holding their breath over an uncertain outcome.

A total of 133 "Princes of the Church" will meet on Wednesday to elect from among their number a successor to Pope Francis, who died on 21 April aged 88.

At issue is whether the new pontiff will follow the popular Argentine's progressive line or whether the Holy See will pivot to a more conservative traditionalist.

Francis, an energetic reformer from Buenos Aires, ran the Church for 12 years and appointed 80 per cent of the current cardinal electors.

Representing 70 countries across five continents, the group is the largest and the most international ever, and many of the cardinals do not know each other.



Cardinals (Bottom) attend the Ninth Novemdiale mass at St Peter's Basilica in The Vatican, on 4 May 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Some experts say the progressive camp will have the edge, seeking a pope that will follow in Francis's footsteps and energize his supporters.

But others warn no-one can predict how voting will go once the cardinals are shut inside the Sistine Chapel.

Vatican affairs specialist Marco Politi told AFP that the conclave could be "the most spectacular in 50 years".

### 'Calm the waters'

Cardinals met on Monday morning for the latest in a series of preparatory meetings, so-called general congregations, and will gather again in the afternoon.

All cardinals are invited to these, not just those under 80 who are eligible to vote in conclave, taking the opportunity to discuss the issues that will face Francis's successor.

"Nobody campaigns, for crying out loud. That would be extraordinarily stupid and indiscreet, and improper and counterproductive," said Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York.

"But you just want to get to know folks, and it works well," he said on his own podcast.

The cardinals will vote once on the first day and then, on subsequent days, twice in the morning and twice in the

afternoon until one candidate has a two-thirds majority — 89 votes.

They will inform the outside world of the outcome by burning their ballots in a stove in the chapel.

The chimney will emit black smoke if no-one has been elected, white if there is a new pope.

On Monday morning, technicians installed red curtains on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica, where the new pontiff will make his first appearance.

Among the pilgrims and sightseers who gathered in the square on Monday, opinions varied widely about who could or should take over. — AFP

## France, EU leaders take aim at Trump in bid to lure US scientists



French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrive to attend the "Choose Europe for Science" conference in the amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University in Paris, on 5 May 2025. The conference aims to encourage researchers and scientists from all over the world to practice in Europe. PHOTO: GONZALO FUENTES / POOL / AFP

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen took aim at Donald Trump's policies on science on Monday, as the EU seeks to encourage disgrun-

tled US researchers to relocate to Europe.

Von der Leyen told the gathering at Paris's Sorbonne university that the European Union will launch a new in-

centives package worth 500 million euros (\$567 million) to make the bloc "a magnet for researchers".

"We have to offer the right incentives," she said.

Without mentioning Trump directly, von der Leyen told the "Choose Europe for Science" conference that the role of science was being put in question "in today's world", and condemned such views as "a gigantic miscalculation".

Universities and research facilities in the United States have come under increasing political and financial pressure under Trump, including threats of massive federal funding cuts.

"Nobody could have imagined that this great global democracy whose economic model depends so heavily on free science... was going to commit such an error," Macron said. — AFP

## Putin accepts Modi's invitation to visit India - Kremlin

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated during a phone conversation his invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit India, the invitation was accepted with gratitude, the Kremlin said on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the Indian Foreign Ministry said that Modi conveyed greetings to Putin regarding the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory Day and invited him for the Annual Summit to be held in India in 2025.

The leaders also noted the strategic nature of Russian-Indian relations as special privileged partnership, as well as stressed the need for an uncompromising fight against terrorism in all its manifestations. — SPUTNIK