

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



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the National Disaster Management Committee meeting yesterday.

THE National Disaster Management Committee held meeting 3/2025 at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by NDMC Chairman State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that regarding the Assessment, Search & Rescue Level (ASR Level) Standards for Search and Rescue Operations, search and rescue operations have been mostly carried out and completed in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Bago Region, and Sagaing Region, and are progressing in Mandalay Region.

The building renovation and reuse and construction committee has been formed. This committee is responsible for conducting inspections and assessments, assigning colour-coded classifications based on their

Plans underway to allocate household funds based on averages

Myanmar's recovery and reconstruction efforts will be carried out successfully, with their effectiveness depending on the availability and allocation of resources.

findings, and submitting the resulting classification data to the Disaster Management Centre. According to the data as of 25 April, the earthquake has caused 3,763 deaths, 5,107 injuries, and 110 people are reported missing. A total of 2,095 emergency rescue personnel from 26 countries arrived via 147 aircraft, seven ships, and 23 vehicles. They also provided a total of 3,833.84 tonnes

of supplies, comprising 2,635.92 tonnes of relief aid and 1,197.12 tonnes of rescue equipment.

Moreover, international medical teams have set up temporary hospitals and clinics in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to provide emergency treatment and healthcare services.

Local well-wishers donated

cash to the government whereas international well-wishers donated foreign currencies for rehabilitation measures. Up to 24 April, internal and international well-wishers donated more than K115,876 billion, more than US\$2.437 million, 5 million Korean won, 15 million Indian rupees, two million baht and S\$3,150 to the State and regional and state governments. These cash do-

nations have been inserted into the accounts of the National Disaster Management Committee. The fund is being spent on rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations systematically.

The Head of State provided K50 billion for Sagaing Region and K60 billion for Mandalay Region for emergency use. Moreover, K10 billion was granted for the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and K5 billion for Shan State. The Disaster Management Committee has sent the financial assistance and relief supplies to the respective council area and regions. These funds were provided to ensure the swift removal of damages and losses to carry out the reconstruction efforts in the earthquake-affected areas.

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CONNECTING ON THE UNIVERSAL DANCE OF WORDS

By AUGUSTIN

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Russia seeks Myanmar's fresh & dried mango supply

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Garment orders surge, driving up labour demand

NATIONAL

Quality Seeds and Techniques: The Backbone of Agriculture

BASICALLY, thriving agriculture requires quality seeds, fertile soil, natural and inorganic fertilizers, an adequate volume of agricultural water, and proper farming techniques.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order 33/2025

13th Waning of Tagu 1387 ME
25 April 2025

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has assigned U Myo Myint to the duties of the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Construction under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order 34/2025

13th Waning of Tagu 1387 ME
25 April 2025

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Judge of Chin State High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Min Aung as Judge of the Chin State High Court under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

Pa-O National Development Party applies to form political party

THE Pa-O National Development Party has applied to the Union Election Commission (UEC) yesterday to form a political party under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, to participate in the

future multiparty democratic general elections.

According to UEC, a total of 72 parties have applied so far. Of these, 22 parties applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law to form new

political parties, while 50 parties applied under Section 25 to continue as registered political parties. UEC is currently reviewing the application submitted by the Pa-O National Development Party. — MNA/KZL

U Sein Oo appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam

THE State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has appointed U Sein Oo, Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

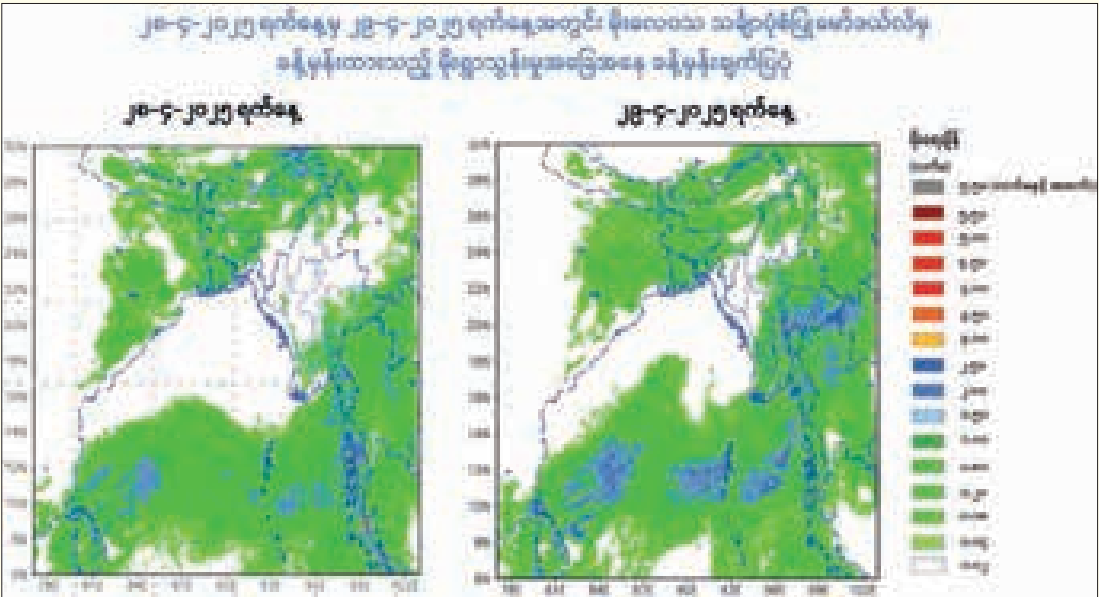
Untimely Rainfall Warning 24

Issued at 6 pm hours MST on 25 April 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST yesterday, due to the western disturbances and the eastern disturbances, the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and cold air from the China high pressure system, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls during 28 April to 3 May 2025.

Advisory

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



NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

MoBA Union Minister inspects quake-stricken personnel housing project

SAC Member and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, accompanied by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Phyto Thant, the Permanent Secretary, and other officials, inspected the construction of temporary steel-structured buildings supervised by the ministry's engineering team to accommodate earthquake-affected personnel

and their families, as well as the living conditions in these buildings, at the ministry's office area yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the Union minister instructed officials to promptly relocate earthquake-affected personnel and their families from temporary shelters to steel-structured buildings, ensure the installation of wa-



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae reviews the construction of temporary steel frame housing structures.

ter supply, electricity, and sewage systems, complete the buildings following standards as quickly as possible, and prioritize proper arrangements for living, eating,

and health.

The Union minister and his team inspected the relocation of staff families into the temporary buildings, reviewed the construc-

tion and ongoing progress of the buildings, and assessed the conditions of the bathrooms and toilets to ensure the provision of necessary facilities. — MNA/MKKS

Inspection launched to stabilize construction material prices

THE combined teams conducted surprise checks at cement shops in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Sagaing regions and Shan State on 23 April, to curb the high cement prices in the market as the demand was high after the Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March.

The teams inspected the 59 construction material shops and one warehouse in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council, 87 shops and three companies in 34 townships of Yangon Region, 88 shops in 11 townships of Mandalay Region, four shops in Sagaing of Sagaing Region, 19 shops in three townships of Bago Region, 59 shops in three townships of Shan State, totalling 320 shops. Among them, it was found that 30 shops sold the products with profits of 10 to 15



Officials inspect cement bags in the warehouse.

per cent, 32 shops made profits of 15 per cent and above, and the Pyae Sone Aung construction material shop that opened in Yadana Thiri ward in Taunggyi used various malicious methods. Therefore,

officials take action against eight offenders, including Soe Tint Aung, owner of Pyae Sone Aung construction material shop. Further investigations are underway. — MNA/KTZH

Public Notice

THE companies that participated in the construction of offices and departmental buildings, special buildings, staff housing, administrative buildings and other construction projects included in the Nay Pyi Taw Construction Special Development Project shall contact the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee via the following persons: -

Contacts

- (1) U Zaw Tun, Head, Engineering Department (Buildings)
Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee (09 696006999)
- (2) Daw Cherry Hla Maung, Deputy Head, Engineering Department (Buildings)
Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee (09 5005678)

Address

City Hall, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee
Buildings Restoration, Utilization, and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee

NATIONAL

Plans underway to allocate household funds based on averages

FROM PAGE 1

The Prime Minister has instructed that domestic and international relief supplies be distributed as quickly as possible and directly to the people in the earthquake-affected areas without keeping them in reserve. According to the preliminary reports as of 24 April, more than 63,000 residential homes, over 6,700 schools, more than 5,000 monasteries and nunneries, 5,342 pagodas, 613 other religious buildings, 370 hospitals/clinics, as well as some roads, bridges, dams, and reservoirs have been damaged or destroyed in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 10 regions and states.

According to figures from the Disaster Management Committee as of 23 April, a total of 128,965 households and 629,206 individuals were affected by the earthquake. There were 135 rescue camps sheltering 48,656 individuals, while 159,239 people relocated according to their own arrangements. Moreover, a total of 421,311 people continued to

stay in their homes despite being affected by the earthquake, as their residences were still livable. The Prime Minister has given guidance that support for the reconstruction of damaged houses should be provided based on past experiences with natural disasters and the degree of damage. Plans are being made to distribute financial assistance to each household based on average calculations.

Regarding staff housing, colour-coded levels have been designated for the damaged staff apartment buildings. These colour levels have corresponding criteria, which have already been inspected and finalized by the committee responsible for supervising the renovation and reconstruction of buildings. In particular, the red and orange levels indicate that moderate to major repairs are required. For temporary accommodation, bashas and modular houses are currently being constructed. The construction costs for these buildings can be submitted to

the State after verification, and if approved, the government will cover the expenses.

In constructing buildings, only those structures that can withstand earthquakes up to magnitude 8 on the Richter scale should be built, and buildings currently under construction should also be designed and constructed to withstand earthquakes up to magnitude 8 on the Richter scale.

The government has permitted the importation of construction materials and other necessary items. In carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, the government will take responsibility for tasks that it ought to handle. If the public also contributes as much as they can within their capacity, it will be possible to successfully overcome the natural disaster.

In the international context, early recovery activities are typically carried out throughout six to 12 months, medium-term recovery activities from one to two years, and long-term recovery efforts from two to five years,

and if necessary, up to 10 years. Myanmar will be able to successfully carry out effective recovery and reconstruction operations depending on resources.

Vice-Chairs of the committee Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Dr Soe Win discussed cooperation between internal and international rescue teams, distribution of drinking water in affected regions and states, settlement of quake-affected staff at temporary camps, preparation to form the medium team, aid for people and service personnel and distribution of aid to affected areas.

Chairman of the Building Renovation and Reuse and Construction Committee Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye reported on the formation of the committee, the clearing of debris, the opening of temporary offices, an inspection of offices, staff housing and special buildings, and plans to conduct repair structures and building new buildings.

Attendees at the meeting discussed requirements to assess the change of ground due

to the earthquake, the release of information about the earthquake to the people through the State-owned media, repairs of damaged dams and reservoirs, the readiness of aircraft and helicopters of the Tatmadaw (Air) for conducting rescue and transport services on time and progress of rehabilitation.

The Union Minister for Industry presented a report on plans to increase the production of cement starting from 15 May and in September, and the price of cement was set at K17,000 per bag.

In concluding remarks, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to study earthquake-resilient designs with the help of international professionals, systematic acceptance of internal and international aid, construction of safety buildings for service personnel, release of daily production of cement, and issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the quake victims.

Also, present at the meeting were the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, deputy ministers and departmental heads together with the chief ministers of Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Mandalay regions and Shan State through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Tatmadaw performs ninth liver transplant on Day 1

TATMADAW carried out the first day of its ninth liver transplant procedure yesterday at the Special Treatment Centre of the Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Mingaladon Township. The transplant was jointly performed by the Tatmadaw's liver transplant team and a team from India. The procedure involved transplanting a liver from donor Daw Myo Myo Myat to recipient Daw Khin Oo Kyi.

Liver extraction from the donor began at 9 am, and the transplant to the recipient was completed around 3:30 pm, taking approximately nine hours in total. Both the donor and the recipient are reported to be

in stable condition and are receiving continued care in the intensive care unit from experienced specialists, doctors and nurses.

Tatmadaw personnel observed the procedure and further liver transplants are scheduled for 26 and 27 April. Tatmadaw's first liver transplants were successfully conducted on 27 and 28 September 2022 for two patients. In 2023, three rounds of transplants were performed for nine patients and the same was achieved in 2024. So far in 2025, three patients have undergone successful liver transplants. The current ninth round will also cover three patients.

— MNA/KZL



The ninth liver transplant surgery successfully underway on Day 1 at Tatmadaw General Hospital (1,000-bed) yesterday.

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

Yojin Cement ready to supply quake-hit areas in Myanmar

INTERVIEWED BY
KO HTIKE (MNA)

A TOTAL of 117 companies from 21 countries have invested in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, Yangon Region, and an international Korean cement factory is also operated there. The factory produces one million tonnes of cement per year and makes plans to distribute cement to quake-hit areas.

The factory is now producing the needed cement for the reconstruction processes of quake-impacted people, ministries and organizations. Here is an interview with managing director Mr Hwang Sung Take, production in-charge U Zaw Min Latt and sales in-charge U Htoo Aung Kyaw of the Yojin Myanmar Cement Factory.



The Yojin Myanmar Cement Factory. PHOTO: KO KO LWIN



Mr Hwang Sung Take (Managing Director)

Yojin Myanmar Cement Company is a company that not only operates within Myanmar but also runs business ventures in the United States and Singapore. Since 2016, the company has invested US\$70 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. At full capacity, the factory can produce and distribute one million tonnes of cement annually. Raw materials are imported from abroad, and the plant is operated by a workforce of 165 employees. After the COVID-19 period, the company expanded its local workforce to expand the job opportunities in the region.

Before the COVID-19 period, the raw materials were imported from Indonesia and Malaysia, and we purchased them locally and produced them. Although the machinery is in good condition and capable of meeting full production demand, the company is currently operating at only 10 per cent of its annual production capacity due to limited access to raw materials. After the recent earthquake, the domestic supply of raw materials has declined. To address potential shortages in the market, we are striving to import raw materials from abroad.

Recently, we applied for permission to import 75,000 tonnes of clinker from overseas and are currently awaiting approval. If we are granted, we will be able to transport between 3,000 and 27,000 tonnes by ship within one week. If we are also able to import sufficient raw materials from Shan State and Hpa-an, we will be able to produce in line with market demand. Although the company is currently importing cement from abroad, delays in raw material imports continue to pose chal-

lenges in distribution processes in the local market.

As we continue distributing cement to the current market, we are doing our utmost to ensure the availability of high-quality cement at fair and reasonable prices to support the nation's reconstruction efforts. For areas affected by the recent earthquake, we are mindful of the long transportation routes involved and are striving to prevent any financial burden on buyers due to fixed prices.

We are offering the direct factory price at K24,000 per bag for those who wish to purchase directly. Produced with high-quality German machinery, our cement is designed to meet the standards without causing any inconvenience to users. We are fully prepared to meet the country's cement demand and are committed to supplying it at fair and stable prices.



U Zaw Min Latt (Production In-Charge)

The Yojin Myanmar Cement Factory, located in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, is equipped with machinery manufactured in Germany and produces high-quality cement through a collaborative effort between Korean experts and local staff. Although the factory can produce up to 3,000 tonnes per month, it is currently unable to meet full market demand due to a shortage of raw materials. At present, using the limited domestic supply of raw materials, the factory is operating at about 700 tonnes per day-only 20 per cent of its full production capacity. If sufficient raw materials can be received, whether from foreign countries or the country, the factory will be able to operate at full capacity and reliably meet market demand, ensuring that consumers

have ready access to the cement they need.

All necessary materials for reconstruction efforts in quake-affected areas can be directly coordinated with the factory. We will help as much as we can. Although we sell in the Yangon market, those from quake-battered areas can place orders at hwang.sungtaek@yojin.co.kr.



U Htoo Aung Kyaw (Sales In-Charge)

Our company is located in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, we mainly distribute in the Yangon market. We produce about 700 tonnes per day. We successfully donated to the quake-affected areas. We are also ready to distribute if the government wants us to. Currently, we distribute in towns and villages of the Yangon Region and also distribute to the Ayeyawady Region. We sell at K24,000 per bag.

Especially for earthquake-impacted regions, while there is currently no fixed pricing set, if raw materials can be accessed easily and in sufficient quantities from abroad, we are prepared to collaborate with the government upon request. We are also ready to supply cement at a more affordable and appropriate price than at present.

As the factory mainly relies on imported raw materials, we are currently producing only 700 tonnes per day. However, if the necessary raw materials are fully available, we are in a position to meet market demand and produce as much as required. This will also allow for cheaper prices. We are fully prepared to work with other factories to meet the country's cement needs. We are also ready to participate in the construction processes of quake-stricken areas.

Translated by KTZH

NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister comforts departmental personnel

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe met the staff of the ministry together with Deputy Ministers U Lwin Oo and U Ko Ko Kyaw, ambassadors, directors-general, and deputy directors-general in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister encouraged the staff to learn from the difficulties encountered while unexpectedly faced with natural disasters, to make efforts to overcome them and to make preparations. He continued that all should lose resilience despite the losses of parents, relatives and friends

during the natural disasters. Most of the world also faces natural disasters, and most of the

regions, including the administrative cities, face earthquakes, and the ministry also provided

the needed assistance for the staff while serving in rescue work. He added that it has now

been about a month since the earthquake occurred, and employees must strive to resume their regular office duties and services for the public. He then explained the intention of the meeting with the staff.

Afterwards, the staff of affiliated departments reported their difficulties, and the Union minister provided proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe offers support and comfort to quake-affected personnel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Donations made for Mandalay earthquake victims

TO support relief and reconstruction efforts for those affected by the powerful earthquake in Mandalay, U Myat Oo and Daw Khin Oo's family donated K50 million, while the Manda-

lay-based Red Shan Social Association contributed K15 million.

The donations were presented yesterday at the Department of Disaster Management (DMC) under the Ministry of

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Union Minister Dr Soe Win received the contributions, expressed gratitude and presented certificates of honour in return. — MNA/KZL



Photos capture Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepting donations from well-wishers during yesterday's event.

Rescue ongoing for Myanmar earthquake survivors

AS of 25 April, six regions and states hit by the Mandalay earthquake reported 3,764 dead, 5,106 injured, and 110 missing.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with both domestic and international responders, carry out rescue missions in affected areas. These efforts led to the successful rescue of 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings, while 773 deceased individuals were recovered.

Local donors provided financial support and essential supplies to those affected, and international communities, organizations and individual benefactors extended assistance. Between 8:45 pm on 24 April and 5 pm on 25 April, medical supplies donated by China, totalling 5.45 tonnes and an extra 1.51 tonnes of medical aid from the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association for the Ministry of Health, arrived at Yangon International Airport.

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

Bridge beam falls on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw train near Toungoo

A steel beam under repair fell onto a DEMU passenger train near Toungoo station yesterday morning, but no injuries were reported. The incident occurred at around 9:40 am yesterday at Bridge No 236, known as the Kabaung Bridge, close to Toungoo Station in Bago Region. It involved the No 7 Up Yangon-Nay

Pyi Taw DEMU train, which departed from Yangon Station at 6 am.

The steel beam, which was being repaired at the time fell onto the front DEMU F-1009 engine. The side panels near the air conditioning unit were damaged, causing the train to halt temporarily for about 25

minutes. After stopping, the train reversed to Thaungtain-gon Station before continuing its journey to Nay Pyi Taw via a single-track route.

According to the local police station, there are no injuries among passengers or staff due to the incident. — IPRD/KZL



This image shows the fallen beam of Kabaung Bridge near Toungoo Railway Station.

DICA enforces directors’ duties, affirms shareholders’ rights under 2017 Companies Law

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) issued mandatory compliance with the directors’ and shareholders’ rights under the Myanmar Companies Law (2017).

DICA issued a directive 59/2018 regarding directors and shareholders of public companies on 9 July 2018. This recent notification about the obligations of directors and rights of the members/shareholders of the companies is aimed at having corporate governance transparency and preventing disputes among companies and shareholders.

Under Section 203 of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, companies or representatives must lodge a prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar and receive approval after seeking company registration, before commencing operations. The prospectus must be filed with the Registrar along with the prescribed form. Only after that, they can issue public share offerings and debentures.

According to Section 211 (A) of the Myanmar Compa-



The front view of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

nies Law (2017), a Statement in Lieu of Prospectus can seek business approval, yet prohibits public share offerings. Afterwards, in Section 218 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, the prescribed form must be filed to obtain the Certificate of Commencement of Business of a Public Company.

Furthermore, all public companies must hold a Statutory Meeting not earlier than 28 days and within six months of

incorporation under Section 148 of the Myanmar Companies Law. The Statutory Report must be distributed to all shareholders and members of the company 21 days in advance and must be reported to the Registrar with the prescribed form.

As per Subsection (B) of Section 173 of the Myanmar Companies Law, one-third of directors must retire at every Annual General Meeting, especially appointed directors with

the longest job tenure.

AGM must be held within 18 months of the incorporation, and subsequent meetings must take place once every year (with no more than 15 months between meetings) in line with Section 146 of the Law.

Shareholders and members of the companies must have opportunities to raise questions about management and express opinions during the meetings.

Financial Statements ap-

proved by the shareholders and members of the public companies must be elaborated at a general meeting in the prescribed form, under Section 266 of the Law. The financial statement and audited statements must be sent to the invitees according to Subsection C of Section 260 of the Law.

All registered public companies need to submit an Annual Return (AR) within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), with the attachment of the summary and statements of the shareholders and members, according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 99 of the law, shareholders or individuals must have access to check shareholder registers, director registers and other statutory records. They are also allowed to get a copy within ten days after paying some charges. Subsection 99 (B) of the law also stated that the companies must have transparency of company information and provide public access through websites to entice investors, DICA notified. — NN/KK

Singapore tops FDI in Myanmar for FY2024-2025

SINGAPORE was the top investor in Myanmar in the previous financial year 2024-2025 (from April 2024 to March 2025), with an estimated capital of US\$460 million, including the

expansion of capital by existing enterprises, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration’s statistics showed.

Singapore-listed compa-

nies put investments into urban development, real estate, transport and communication, oil and gas, power and manufacturing sectors. Myanmar Investment Commission gave

the green light to four Singapore-listed enterprises in the last FY.

China stood as the second largest investor with an estimated capital of over \$94 million made by 34 newly approved enterprises and the existing ones. Thailand is ranked third in the line-up with more than \$46 million from two new businesses and the existing ones.

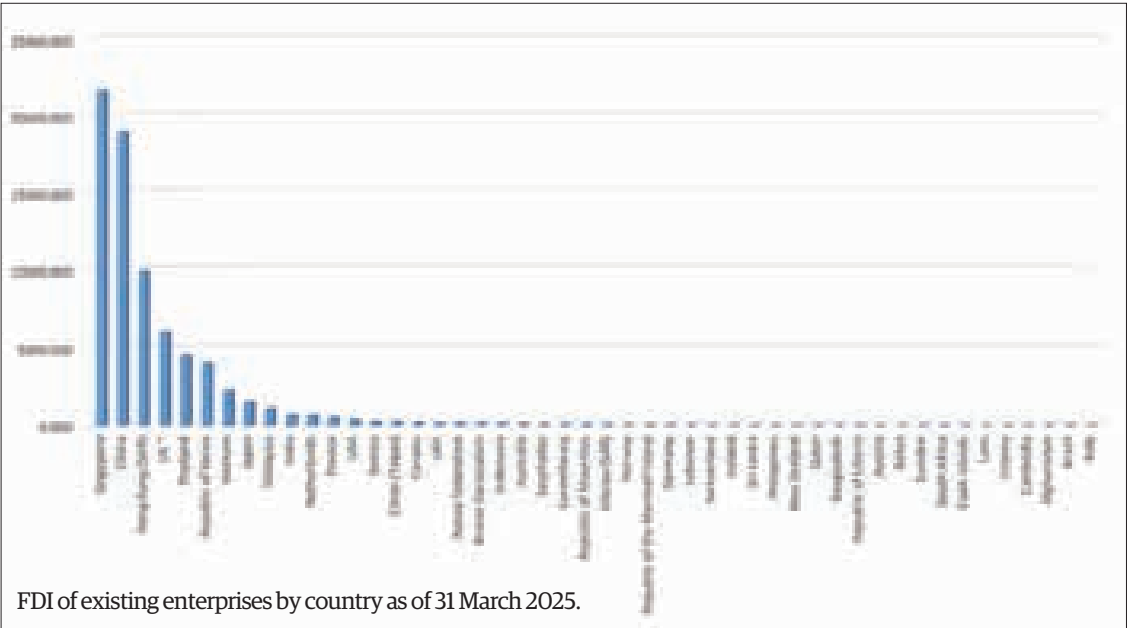
Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 60 foreign projects from 11 countries and regions (China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Russia Federation, Japan and the UAE) to make investments of over \$690 million in the FY 2024-2025, including expansions of capital by the existing

enterprises.

The Oil and Gas sector found capital expansion of \$357 million. The manufacturing sector drew \$182.68 million, the transport and communications sector attracted \$87.7 million, and the services sector received over \$51 million.

The remaining FDI’s flowed into the power, agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, respectively. Singapore also stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$345 million in the FY 2023-2024, \$1.158 billion in the FY 2022-2023 and \$297 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (October-March).

Moreover, Singapore is one of the leading foreign investors in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. — KK



FDI of existing enterprises by country as of 31 March 2025.

Combat the Silent Killer: Malaria

FOR decades, tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV have been among the deadliest diseases across the globe. Often referred to as “silent killers,” these illnesses have claimed millions of lives, particularly in developing countries. Governments worldwide, including Myanmar, have consistently worked to control and eliminate these diseases to safeguard public health and reduce preventable deaths.

Malaria, in particular, remains a major threat to global health, but progress has been made. This year, the World Health Organization (WHO), along with its partners, will commemorate World Malaria Day by recognizing countries that are nearing the goal of malaria elimination or have already achieved it. These nations serve as role models and offer encouragement to others still battling the disease.

This year’s World Malaria Day 2025 is being observed under the theme: “Malaria Ends With US: Reinvent, Reimagine, Reignite”. The theme underscores the importance of renewed political will, community participation, and resource investment to push forward the global fight against malaria. The united global action offers a hopeful path toward a malaria-free future to save the lives of people.

Anopheles mosquito, which transmits Plasmodium parasites into the bloodstream. Nearly half of the world’s population remains at risk of contracting malaria, and anyone – regardless of age or gender – can be affected. The disease is especially prevalent during the rainy season, typically from May to September. Common symptoms include fever, chills, sweating, headaches, fatigue, nausea, and joint pain.

Preventive measures remain the most effective defence against malaria. People are encouraged to sleep under insecticide-treated mosquito nets, use mosquito screens on doors and windows, and wear long-sleeved clothing. It’s also crucial to apply mosquito repellents and eliminate stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding.

This year’s World Malaria Day 2025 is being observed under the theme: “Malaria Ends With US: Reinvent, Reimagine, Reignite”. The theme underscores the importance of renewed political will, community participation, and resource investment to push forward the global fight against malaria. The united global action offers a hopeful path toward a malaria-free future to save the lives of people.

CONNECTING ON THE UNIVERSAL DANCE OF WORDS

PROVERBS and expressions are really important in everyday conversation. They give us a peek into different cultures and make language more interesting. They help us create strong connections with others and make conversations stick in our minds.

မကောင်းသူကို ပယ် ကောင်းသူကို ကယ်
Celestial beings and great kings tend to protect the good people and reject the immoral people. It also means we should stay away from the immoral people, and save the good when opportunity arises.
မကောင်းသူကို ပယ်၊ ကောင်းသူကို ကယ် သည် မြန်မာ ဆိုရိုးစကား ဖြစ်သည်။
နတ်ကောင်းနတ်မြတ်များ၊ မင်းကောင်းမင်းမြတ်များသည် မကောင်းသောသူများကို ဖယ်ရှားပစ်ပြီး ကောင်းမြတ်သောသူများကို ကယ်တင်စောင့်ရှောက်မည်ဟု ဆိုလိုသည်။ ဤဆိုရိုးစကားသည် ကောင်းမှုနှင့် မကောင်းမှု၊ တရားမျှတမှုနှင့် ပတ်သက်သော အယူအဆကို ဖော်ပြသည်။ ကောင်းသောသူများသည် အကာအကွယ်နှင့် ထိုက်တန်ပြီး မကောင်းသောသူများသည် အပြစ်ဒဏ်ခံထိုက်သည်ဟု ယုံကြည်ကြသည်။ ဤဆိုရိုးစကားသည် အုပ်ချုပ်သူများအနေဖြင့်လည်း မကောင်းသူများကို ဖယ်ရှားပြီး ကောင်းသောသူများကို ချီးမြှောက်သင့်ကြောင်းကို သွယ်ဝိုက်၍ သွန်သင်သည်။

“Reject the wicked, save the virtuous” is a saying from Myanmar.
This saying means that good people and good leaders should get rid of bad people and protect the good ones. It talks about the ideas of right and wrong, fairness, and justice. People believe that those who are good should be kept safe, while those who are bad should be punished. It also teaches that leaders should help the good and stop the bad from causing trouble.

USAGES:
To separate the wheat from the chaff.
Definition: To distinguish what is valuable or useful from what is worthless or bad.

Example Sentence: The new manager’s first task was to separate the wheat from the chaff in the underperforming department and build a strong core team.

To throw out the baby with the bathwater.
Definition: To discard something valuable along with something worthless when trying to get rid of the latter.

Example Sentence: In their eagerness to reform the corrupt system, they need to be careful not to throw out the baby with the bathwater and lose the genuinely beneficial aspects.

To stand up for what is right.
Definition: To defend moral principles or good people against injustice or wrongdoing.
Example Sentence: The community leader was known for always standing up for what is right, protecting the vulnerable and challenging corruption.

ဇာတ်တူသားစား၍ ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်းပျက်
The Myanmar saying talks about how bad it is when people in a group are not loyal to each other. When someone betrays their friends, trust goes away, and the group stops working well together. This fighting inside the group makes them weak and can cause them to fail, especially when outside dangers come along.

ဟင်္သာ = Brahminy duck (Pali ဟံသ)
ဟင်္သာအချင်းချင်း ပြန်စား၍ ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်းပျက်စီးသကဲ့သို့ မိမိတို့အချင်းချင်းသစ္စာမဲ့၍ အားလုံးပျက်စီးရသည်။
“ရှေးဝယ်မယွင်း၊ မင်းပေါရိသား၊ ဗြဟ္မဒတ်ရာဇာ၊ အာနန္ဒာနှင့်၊ ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်း၊ ထိုအပေါင်းတို့ တိမ်းစောင်းတရား၊ .. ဇာတ်တူသားကို၊ စား၍မူချ၊ ပျက်စီးကြ၏။” [၁၂၆၆] မဃ * ၁၇၆။
“ဇာတ်တူသားစား ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်းပျက် ဟူသော ထုံးကို မျှသတ်မှုမိကြပုံမရ၊ ရွာသားအချင်းချင်းပင် သတ်ချင်လျှင် သတ်ကြသည်။” [၁၃၂၉] ရှေ့သို့၊ ၁၂၊ ၄။ ၂။

ရှေးအခါက စိတ္တကုဋ်တောင် ရွှေဂူကြီးတစ်ခုအတွင်းတွင် ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်းတို့ ... ခိုအောင်းနေထိုင်ကြသည်။ မိုးကာလတွင် အပြင်သို့မထွက်ဘဲ နွေအခါကသိုမှီးထားသည့် အစားအစာများကို စား၍နေထိုင်ကြသည်။ ထိုအခါ လှည်းဘီးခန့်ရှိသော ပင့်ကူကြီးတစ်ကောင်သည် ဂူတွင် အမြွေးကုန်ရက် ဖွဲ့၍နေ၏။ ဟင်္သာတို့သည် ထိုကုန်ရက်ကို ဖောက်ရန် သန်စွမ်းသော ဟင်္သာပျို တစ်ကောင်အား အစာကို နှစ်ဆ ကျွေးထား၏။ မိုးခဲသော် ဟင်္သာပျို ဦးဆောင်သော ဟင်္သာများသည် ပင့်ကူမြွေးကို ဖောက်ထွက်၍ သွားကြ၏။ တစ်ခါသော် ငါးလပတ်လုံး မိုးရွာ၏။ ဟင်္သာတို့ အစာကုန်သော် ... အချင်းချင်း တိုင်ပင်၍ ဦးစွာ ဟင်္သာဥတို့ကို စားကြ၏။ နောက်မှ ဟင်္သာငယ်တို့ကို လည်းကောင်း၊ ဟင်္သာအိုတို့ကိုလည်းကောင်း စားကြ၏။ ငါးလလွန်၍ မိုးခဲသော် ပင့်ကူသည် အမြွေးကုန်ရက် ငါးခုဖွဲ့ပြီး၏။ ဟင်္သာတို့သည် မိမိတို့ ဇာတ်တူသားကို စားကြသဖြင့် ခွန်အားနည်းလေ၏။ အစာနှစ်ဆစားရသော ဟင်္သာပျိုဦးဆောင်၍ ပင့်ကူမြွေးကို ရှေးနည်းတူဖောက်ရာ ငါးခုမြောက်သော ပင့်ကူကုန်ရက်၌ ဖြို၍ အသက်ဆုံးကြရ၏။ ဤသို့ဖြင့် ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်း ပျက်စီးရသည်။

ခုဒ္ဒကနိကာယ်၊ ၅၃၇-မဟာသုတသောမဇာတ်။
A long time ago, on Mount Cittakūta, there were ninety thousand hinthas (Brahminy ducks) living in a big golden cave. They stayed inside during the rainy season and ate the food they had saved up in the summer.
One day, a huge spider, as big as a cartwheel, made a thick web at the entrance of the cave. The hinthas decided to feed a strong young hintha extra food so it could break through the web. When the rain finally stopped, the hinthas, led by the young hintha, broke through the spider’s web and went outside.
But it rained for five whole months, and they ran out of food. At first, they ate the hintha eggs, and then they started eating the young hinthas and even the old hinthas. After five months, the spider had made five layers of web. Because they had eaten their own kind, the hinthas became weak.
When the young hintha, who had been fed extra food, led them to break through the web again, they got stuck in the fifth layer and died. In the end, all ninety thousand hinthas perished because of their betrayal.

USAGES:
A house divided against itself cannot stand.
Definition: A group or organization that is inter-

nally conflicted or disunited will not be able to survive or succeed.
Example Sentence: The company’s constant infighting over strategy meant that, like a house divided against itself, it eventually lost its market share to more unified competitors.

To stab someone in the back.
Definition: To betray someone who trusts you.

Example Sentence: He thought they were allies, but when he was passed over for the promotion, he realized his colleague had stabbed him in the back by spreading rumours.

To wash your dirty linen in public.
Definition: To discuss private disagreements or embarrassing matters in front of other people.

Example Sentence: The team’s public arguments about their roles were like washing their dirty linen in public, damaging their reputation and morale.

To rock the boat.
Definition: To do or say something that upsets a stable situation or causes problems.

Example Sentence: Even though he disagreed with the new policy, he decided not to rock the boat because the team was already under a lot of pressure.

To fall foul of each other.
Definition: To quarrel or come into conflict with each other.

Example Sentence: The explorers, once a cohesive unit, began to fall foul of each other due to the harsh conditions and dwindling supplies.

To have a snake in the grass.
Definition: To have a secret enemy or someone who is treacherous within a group.

Example Sentence: The political campaign suffered greatly when they discovered they had a snake in the grass leaking confidential information to the opposition.

ထောပတ်ကောင်း စလောင်းနှင့်တည်
ကောင်းမွန်သောထောပတ်ကို စလောင်းနှင့်တည်၍ တည်ခင်းကျွေးမွေးစေကာမူ ထောပတ်၏ ကောင်းမွန်သော အရသာ ပျက်စသွားသကဲ့သို့ အရည်အချင်း ရှိသူသည် မည်သည့် နေရာသို့ပင် ရောက်ရောက် မိမိ၏အရည်အချင်း ယုတ် လျော့သွားမည် မဟုတ်ချေ။
“သုံးလုံးတစ်ပိုဒ်၊ လေးလုံးတစ်ပိုဒ်ရှိသော ပိုဒ်တွင်းတစ်လုံး ကျော်ကရန်ပါသည့် စကားပုံကို ထုတ်ပြပါမည် ... ထောပတ်ကောင်း စလောင်းနှင့် တည် .. ” [၁၃၄၈] မြတ်လေး၊ ၄။ ၂၆။
စလောင်း = an earthenware lid for an earthenware cooking pot = clay pot lid

By AUGUSTIN

Good butter served in a clay pot:
Just like the yummy taste of good butter stays the same even if it’s put in a clay pot and served, a talented person’s skills and qualities won’t change no matter where they are.
This is a Myanmar proverb that uses the analogy of good butter retaining its quality even when cooked and served in a simple clay pot to illustrate that a person’s inherent talents and abilities will remain intact regardless of their circumstances or surroundings.

USAGES:
Cream always rises to the top.
Definition: The best people or things will eventually become successful or prominent, no matter what their initial circumstances.

Example Sentence: Despite starting in a small role, her exceptional talent for leadership meant that cream always rises to the top, and she was soon promoted to CEO.

A good tree brings forth good fruit.
Definition: A person with good character or inherent qualities will naturally produce good results or actions.

Example Sentence: He was raised with strong values, and like a good tree bringing forth good fruit, his honesty and integrity were evident in all his dealings.

You can’t keep a good man down.
Definition: A capable and determined person will always overcome difficulties and succeed in the end.

Example Sentence: Despite facing numerous setbacks in his career, you can’t keep a good man down, and he eventually achieved his lifelong ambition. Talent will out.

Definition: Natural ability or skill will eventually become apparent or recognized, no matter the circumstances.

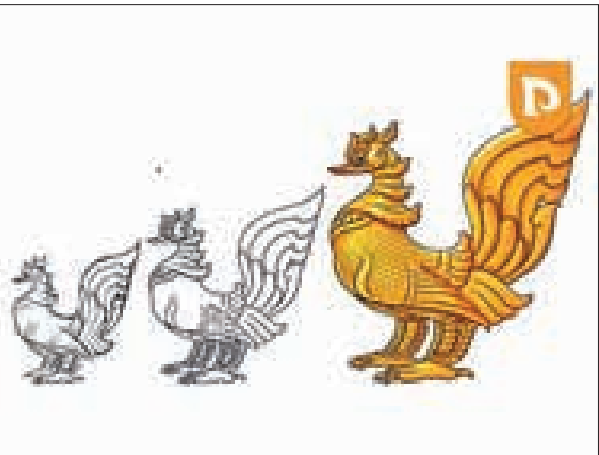
Example Sentence: She worked quietly in the background for years, but her exceptional artistic talent eventually out, leading to widespread acclaim.

A leopard can’t change its spots.
Definition: A person’s fundamental nature or character will not change, even if they try to behave differently. (While this can sometimes have a negative connotation, it also implies that inherent qualities are persistent).

Example Sentence: Despite his attempts to appear humble, his underlying arrogance kept showing through; it’s true what they say, a leopard can’t change its spots.



မကောင်းသူကို ပယ် ကောင်းသူကို ကယ်



ဇာတ်တူသားစား၍ ဟင်္သာကိုးသောင်းပျက်



ထောပတ်ကောင်း စလောင်းနှင့်တည်

Good blood will tell.
Definition: Inherited qualities, especially good ones, will eventually become apparent.

Example Sentence: Coming from a family of renowned scientists, it was no surprise that her aptitude for research was exceptional; good blood will tell.

NATIONAL

Sitagu Dhamma Thabin to honour earthquake relief benefactors



This photo showcases pamphlet of the Sitagu Karuna Dhamma Thabin.

THE Sitagu International Buddhist Academy will host a Sitagu Karuna Dhamma Thabin to express gratitude to local and international donors who contributed to the earthquake-affected areas in Mandalay.

The Dhamma Thabin will be convened over three days, from 26 to 28 April, at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region. The talk will commence at 2 pm each

day. Sitagu Dr Ashin Indacariya will deliver sermons on 26 April, Sitagu Dr Ashin Kovida (Sitagu Star) on 27 April, and Sitagu Dr Ashin Tikkhasa on 28 April. — ASH/MKKS

Chinese business leaders rally aid for Mandalay quake survivors



Chinese young entrepreneurs donating funds to employees and elderly residents in Mandalay.

CHINESE young entrepreneurs born in Myanmar made generous donations to employees and elderly residents in

Mandalay City impacted by the recent earthquake. The entrepreneurs contributed a total of K27.3 million, providing K150,000 per person to 116 employees and 16 elderly residents aged 70 and above, who are part of the Mandalay City Development Committee's staff. Likewise, the FAW Group and the Rural Development Foundation of China jointly collaborated in disaster relief efforts. They provided temporary shelters and distributed essential aid supplies to earthquake victims in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Besides, Chinese companies operating in Myanmar, including the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), Myanmar Conch Cement Company and the Mandalay Chinese Chamber of Commerce donated K400 million worth of financial aid and earthquake relief supplies to the Mandalay regional government. — ASH/KZL

Russia seeks Myanmar's fresh & dried mango supply

RUSSIA has proposed to buy Myanmar's fresh mango and dried mango, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce. The Russia-Myanmar Business Council proposed to buy Myanmar's fresh mango and dried mangoes starting this year. They show readiness to link with mango suppliers directly, MTPO stated. Russia is willing to purchase Myanmar's Seintalone mango, which is considered the best mango variety available in Myanmar. Therefore, MTPO notified interested mango suppliers and companies to send the information of the contact person, number and address to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, to export fresh mango and dried mango to Russia.

There are over a hundred varieties of mangoes in Myanmar. Of them, Seintalone and Shwehintha varieties are primarily exported to China, Singapore and some European countries. The annual production of mango is estimated at over two million tonnes, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated. — ASH/KK



Seintalone mango variety produced in Myanmar is packed in single layers within a carton.

YRIC approves foreign & JV investment in manufacturing

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one foreign enterprise and one joint venture in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$1.577 million, at the recent 4/2025 meeting held on 25 April. Those businesses will execute manufacturing of the wearing apparel on a Cut, Make and Pack basis and manufacturing of wood-based products and furniture, designated 20 per cent for exports and 80 per cent for domestic markets. They are to create 1,005 jobs for locals. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members coordinated general matters of 12 companies, including the capital expansion of three companies,



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials inspect the product samples. during the meeting. They also inspected the sample of the investors. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KK

Myanma Insurance pays K1.34B in third-party claims for 2024-2025

MYANMA Insurance (MI) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance paid out K1.34 billion to the beneficiaries of those insured killed in road accidents in the 2024-2025 financial year. Myanma Insurance handed over K1.34 billion for families of 447 insured who died in road accidents in the FY2024-2025 on behalf of the State, with K3 million each. Furthermore, MI compensated K33 million for 41 people who were injured in car accidents. Additionally, MI notified that it would pay out coverage to those insured who purchased a fire and earthquake disaster insurance policy, regarding the damage and losses to departments concerned, businesses, government buildings and individuals' assets caused by the devastating earthquake that hit on 28 March 2025. The insured must contact Myanmar Insurance (Yangon head office) and the nearest offices to claim the insurance payout through 09 425263447 and 09 765210468. — NN/KK

LBVD issues avian flu alert to poultry farms

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation notified poultry and livestock producers to take extra caution to protect their farms against the infection of avian influenza (bird flu).

The bird flu can break out at any season. Therefore, farm owners are asked to implement strong biosecurity measures, and maintain high hygiene standards to pre-

vent the farm from avian influenza.

The Department requested the farm owners to take biosecurity measures to combat bird flu threat, disinfect equipment at the farms and markets systematically, avoid using equipment from other farms and restrict access to the farm, ensure good ventilation of the farms, use personal protective equipment (glove, mask) on the farm, improve good hygiene practices (washing hands), make

proper handling of poultry and their byproducts, cook the meat and eggs thoroughly to prevent foodborne illness, send immediate report to the nearest LBVD, authorities of the General Administration Department, Myanmar Livestock Federation for any suspicious deaths of the birds and chicken to contain the virus and cooperate with the departments concerned in prevention and surveillance measures of the bird flu. — NN/KK



The current condition of the historic Kyaukthitta Pagoda in Kyaukse, damaged by the Mandalay earthquake. **PHOTO - KYAUKSE DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Plans discussed for long-term stability of tilted Kyaukthitta Pagoda

WORK to be done to ensure the long-term stability of the Kyaukthitta Pagoda in Kyaukse, which was tilted by the earthquake, was discussed at the meeting on 21 April held on the platform of the Shwemotehtaw Pagoda.

It was attended by Advocate-General Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Minister of Transport, Kyaukse District Commander, engineers of the Federation of Myanmar Engineer Societies, District and Township administrators, officials and town elders.

The Kyaukthitta Pagoda, a landmark of Kyaukse, was damaged by the Mandalay earthquake and is facing the possibility of falling. The efforts to preserve the original

location require technical and financial assistance.

On 23 April, eight donors donated K29 million, which was accepted by the Advocate-General, and certificates of appreciation were presented to them, it wrote on social media.

“It is known that the historic Kyaukthitta Pagoda, which is 80 per cent in ruins, will not be allowed to be demolished. I am happy to learn that it will be restored after some evacuations,” said a local.

After inspecting the pagoda on 15 April, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing instructed to document the damage by drones, to avoid demolition, and to use high-quality concrete at the base to protect the people living below. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Garment orders surge, driving up labour demand

NEW garment orders have been on a constant rise, and the labour demand has increased too, according to factory owners.

The earthquake that hit in March affected the garment industry to some extent; however, they have received new orders continuously in April, said a factory owner.

“New orders have arrived

now, even though the earthquake made the business stop just for a while. The majority of orders come from China and Japan, while Korean orders have been few. Not a garment alone, the receipt of an order is also fine for shoe and bag factories,” he said. However, factories have also faced a labour shortage at the same time, and factory owners said there are

many job opportunities.

Depending on performance, workers have the chance to enjoy a high income.

“The receipt of orders is pretty good, so we need more labour. Now, it is not a wage system but workers’ income has improved depending on their ability, and the job opportunity is also potential,” he added. — MT/ZS



Workers at a garment factory.

Ayeyawady’s water level in Myitkyina dropped on 25 Apr after sharp 11-foot rise

THE water level of the Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina rose by about 11 feet on 24 April and has been falling since the morning of 25 April, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

“The river water level of Myitkyina at 12:30 on 25 April was 558 centimetres (-44) centimetres. It has fallen by about 1.5 feet in 6 hours, and the decreasing rate per hour is -11 centimetres (four inches). It has fallen by about -44 centimetres (1.5 feet) in total. Currently, it is continuing to fall slowly,” said the DMH’s Staff Officer of the Kachin State.

The water level in Myitkyina reached 488 cm at 12:30 pm on 24 April and rose by 7.5 feet in one day. At 6:30 pm, it was 556 centimetres and rose by 283 centimetres (over nine feet) in

24 hours. The rising rate was about 3 to 6 inches per hour. The water level has been falling since 6 am on 25 April.

The water level in the upper reaches of the Ayeyawady River may rise by 5.5 to 6.5 feet in Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha and Thabeikkyin during the next one to five days, and by 4.5 to 5.5 feet in Mandalay, Sagaing, Myinmu, Pakokku and NyaungU during the next five to eight days, and by 3.5 to 4.5 feet in Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun above the existing levels in the next 8 to 13 days, the DHM forecast.

Vessels, boats and ships travelling in the river and people who live on sandbanks are advised to be careful of the rising water level, it said. — Htun Htun/ZN

ECONOMY WORLD



The target is to produce 300 million tonnes of steel by 2030 under the National Steel Policy.
PHOTO: ANI

India Steel 2025: PM Modi shares growth story in steel sector, contribution to economy

India is currently the second-largest steel producer in the world.

VIRTUALLY addressing the 6th edition of India Steel 2025, a conference on the steel industry, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the country’s growing prowess in this critical sector and outlined its future plans. The conference will discuss on the potential and possibilities of India’s sunrise steel sector.

The Prime Minister termed the steel sector to be the basis of India’s progress, and a strong foundation of a developed India.

At a time when India was aiming to achieve the goal of becoming a US\$5 trillion economy, PM Modi said the role of the steel sector was no less in achieving this goal. “We are proud that today India has become the second largest steel producer in the world. We have set a target of producing 300 million tonnes by 2030 under the ‘National Steel Policy’,” he apprised the gathering. — ANI

Australia to stockpile critical minerals in strategic reserve



Australia would initially set aside Aus\$1.2 billion (US\$760 million) to get the reserve up and running. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AUSTRALIA will stockpile critical minerals in a new strategic reserve, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Thursday.

Mining superpower Australia sits on bulging deposits of lithium, nickel and cobalt — metals used in everything from smartphones to electric vehicles.

Albanese said Australia would start stockpiling these commodities at home, striking deals to sell them to other “key partners”.

“Increasingly uncertain times call for a new approach to make sure Australia maximises the strategic value of critical minerals,” he said in a statement.

“We need to do more with the natural resources the world needs, and that Australia can provide.” — AFP

Vietnam to start construction of north-south high-speed railway line by 2026

THE Vietnamese government has set a deadline for the north-south high-speed railway line’s groundbreaking by 31 December 2026, Vietnam News Agency reported Thursday, citing a resolution issued on Wednesday.

The government has required the project’s construction, procurement and equipment installation to be completed by 2035 for its official operation.

The Vietnamese National Assembly approved the investment policy for the north-south high-speed railway project last November, with a total investment of 1.7 quadrillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$65.2 billion).

The railway line is scheduled to stretch roughly 1,541 kilometres, pass through 23 passenger stations and five freight stations, and have a design speed of 350 kilometres per hour. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 6 November 2021 shows a train running on Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line in Hanoi, Vietnam.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ VNA VIA XINHUA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany expects zero GDP growth this year, blames Trump tariffs

GERMANY’S economy is expected to post zero growth in 2025, outgoing Economy Minister Robert Habeck said Thursday, blaming US President Donald Trump’s trade policy.

“The US trade policy of threatening and imposing tariffs has a direct impact on the German economy, which is very export-oriented,” he said, presenting the forecast.

The German government had previously expected slight GDP growth of 0.3 per cent for this year for Europe’s top economy, which shrank for the past two years.

It also cut its growth forecast for 2026 to one per cent from 1.1 per cent.

The United States is Germany’s largest trading partner and last year took about 10 per cent of its exports, from cars to chemicals.

Under Trump it now levies a 10 per cent tariff on European Union exports into the country, having earlier announced a 20 per cent rate which was then paused.

“Tariffs and trade policy turbulence are hitting the German economy harder than other nations,” Habeck said. — AFP

Bayer says legal
woes could force it to
pull weedkiller

GERMAN chemicals giant Bayer said Friday it could be forced to pull its Roundup weedkiller from the market if it is not able to limit simmering legal troubles.

“We’re nearing a point where the litigation industry could force us to even stop selling this vital product,” CEO Bill Anderson said at Bayer’s annual general meeting.

The Leverkusen-based group has said that after rumbling on for years, it has the aim of “significantly containing litigation by the end of 2026”.

“The status quo is not an option,” said Anderson, while the stakes for the chemicals and pharmaceuticals producer were “really high”.

Bayer has been dogged by lawsuits linked to Roundup since it acquired the US manufacturer Monsanto in a blockbuster deal in 2018.

Claimants have alleged that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, causes blood cancers but Bayer says scientific studies and regulatory approvals show that the weedkiller is safe. — AFP



Bayer has been dogged by lawsuits linked to the weedkiller Roundup since it acquired the US manufacturer Monsanto in a blockbuster deal in 2018. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Alphabet reports
revenues, net income
increase in first quarter

ALPHABET Inc, Google’s parent company, on Thursday reported its first-quarter revenue at US\$90.23 billion, up 12 per cent from the same period last year.

Announcing its financial results for the quarter ending 31 March 2025, the company said its net income was \$34.54 billion, or \$2.81 of earnings per diluted share, compared with \$23.66 billion, or \$1.89 of earnings per diluted share, in the same period of 2024.

Among the entire quarterly revenue of

\$90.23 billion, \$77.26 billion came from Google Services, compared with \$70.40 billion in the first quarter of 2024.

The quarterly financial report also showed that Google Cloud sales grew to \$12.26 billion from \$9.57 billion in the same period of 2024.

Dividend payments to stockholders of Class A, Class B, and Class C shares were \$1.2 billion, \$171 million, and \$1.1 billion, respectively, totaling \$2.4 billion for the three months ending 31 March 2025. — Xinhua

Indonesia aims for sale of
100,000 electric vehicles by 2025

THE Indonesian government is targeting a total sale of electric vehicles (EVs) at 100,000 by the end of 2025, as EV adoption continued to rise in the Southeast Asian country.

From January to mid-April this year, electric car sales have already exceeded 16,000 units, according to Rachmat Kaimuddin, deputy for basic infrastructure coordination at Indonesia’s Coordinating Ministry for Infrastructure and Regional Development.

“That’s why we’re quite optimistic about the target. If we look at the trend, we could potentially reach 100,000 units this year,” Kaimuddin said during his speech at an EV forum in Jakarta on Thursday.



From January to mid-April this year, electric car sales have already exceeded 16,000 units. PHOTO: XINHUA

Citing government data, he noted that EV sales in Indonesia have surged annually since 2021. In 2024, sales jumped 152.9 per cent year-on-year to 43,000 units, up from

17,000 units in 2023.

“We have enormous potential to become a global EV production hub. We have the capability and the supply chain,” Kaimuddin said.

He emphasized the importance of Indonesia’s transition to EVs in supporting economic growth, energy independence, and improved air quality. — Xinhua

Türkiye eyes
sustainable
tourism as visitor
numbers soar

TÜRKIYE should push for a more sustainable tourism model as record visitor arrivals raise concerns about overcrowding and environmental strain, echoing problems faced by global destinations, industry leaders said.

Foreign arrivals surged 12 per cent to over 58 million in 2024, providing a significant economic boost to Türkiye where tourism is a key source of revenue, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute. Authorities are targeting 65 million international tourists in 2025.

Home to a diverse mix of natural beauty, historical landmarks and rich cultural herit-

age, Türkiye continues to draw strong interest in the post-pandemic travel rebound. But the sector’s rapid growth is bringing new challenges.

Strains on infrastructure, environmental degradation and growing disconnection between tourists and local communities are prompting calls for a more sustainable model.

“Tourism can become too much of a good thing,” said Ayse Demir, a manager at Izmir-based travel agency Anatolia Horizons. “We’ve seen this in places like Rome or Paris -- overcrowding, inflated rents and frustrated residents. We want to avoid that.” — Xinhua

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st MAY 2025 (World Workers' Day) and 11th MAY 2025 (Full Moon Day of Kasone), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BBC EAGLE VOY.NO. (1271047)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC EAGLE VOY.NO. (1271047)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
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GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



ARTIFICIAL intelligence was struggling on Wednesday to forecast the outcome of the notoriously secretive and unpredictable process by which Catholic cardinals elect a new pope.

The 21 April death of Pope Francis triggered a period of mourning in the Catholic Church, but also kick-started the race for his successor, with everyone from Vatican insiders to bookmakers scrambling to guess who it will be.

AFP asked four AI chatbots — including OpenAI’s ChatGPT and billionaire Elon Musk’s Grok — for insights into the potential frontrunners, with mixed results.

Grok and Google’s Gemini said their top contender is Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s number two during nearly all of Francis’s papacy.

“Based on current analysis and prominent discussions, Cardinal Pietro Parolin emerges as a strong contender,” said Gemini.

But it also listed some eight others — including ChatGPT’s leading pick.

“If I had to make a prediction based on current trends, influence, and the direction the Church has taken under Pope Francis, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle stands out as the most likely candidate,” Open AI’s ChatGPT said.

Tagle is Asia’s frontrunner for the papacy and like Francis, seen as a leading advocate for the poor, migrants and marginalized people. But one similarity in the chatbots’ responses stood out. — AFP

Asked to predict the next pope,
AI bots hedge bets

The voting process for a new pope is notoriously difficult to predict.



The coffin of Pope Francis is transferred from Saint Martha’s House to Saint Peter’s Basilica, at Saint Peter’s Square in Vatican City, Vatican on 23 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

California becomes world’s 4th largest
economy, surpassing Japan

The nominal GDP of California reached \$4.1 trillion in 2024, compared to Japan’s \$4.02 trillion.

CALIFORNIA’S economy has overtaken Japan to become the world’s fourth-largest economy, behind only the United States, China and Germany in global

economic rankings. Gavin Newsom, California’s governor, made the announcement on Wednesday, citing the latest data from the International



Customers shop at a supermarket in Foster City, California, the United States, on 21 December 2023. PHOTO: LI JIANGUO/XINHUA

al Monetary Fund and the US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The Golden State’s nominal GDP reached \$4.1 trillion in 2024, surpassing Japan’s \$4.02 trillion, said Newsom’s office amid tensions between California and federal trade policies.

“California isn’t just keeping pace with the world, we’re setting the pace. Our economy is thriving because we invest in people, prioritize sustainability and believe in the power of innovation,” Newsom said in a statement. The Golden State’s economy has shown remarkable growth in recent years. From 2021 to 2024, California achieved an average nominal GDP growth of 7.5 per cent and the state’s growth rate reached six per cent in 2024, according to Newsom’s office. — Xinhua

Bandung’s spirit
powerful call amid global
uncertainty, Indonesian
diplomat says

INDONESIA encourages developing nations across Asia and Africa to recall the values presented in the Bandung Conference amid the current rising protectionism and global uncertainties.

In an interview with Xinhua here on Friday, newly-appointed Indonesia’s ambassador to Kenya, Tyas Baskoro Her Witjaksono Adji, said that the Bandung Conference has shown the developing countries that unity can drive real changes, and called it “a powerful call to work together for a more just and inclusive world.” Back in 1955 when the Bandung

Conference was held, newly independent nations joined forces to claim their rights and demand fairness in the global system.

“They did so without relying on power. They relied on solidarity, shared visions and values,” Witjaksono, who just stepped down as director of the Directorate of Asia-Pacific and African Intra-Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation of the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry. “Today with rising protectionism and global uncertainties, that lesson still applies. We should continue to be open to partnership. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Liverpool have 'big responsibility' to win title at Anfield: Slot

ARNE Slot believes Liverpool have a "big responsibility" to clinch the Premier League title in front of their own fans when Tottenham visit Anfield on Sunday. Slot's side will be crowned English champions for a record-equalling 20th time if they avoid defeat against struggling Tottenham. Liverpool have five games left to seal the title and need just one point to do so, making it only a matter of time before they get their hands on the trophy. The Reds' last title five years ago was slightly anti-climactic

as it came during the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning Anfield was empty when the trophy was presented due to lockdown restrictions. And, with Liverpool travelling to Chelsea for their next league game after the Tottenham clash, Slot acknowledged there is extra pressure to seal the title on home turf. "It's a big responsibility. We are aware that the last time this club won the league was during the COVID time. So everybody is looking forward to Sunday," Slot told reporters on Friday. — AFP



Liverpool manager Arne Slot. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar U22 gears up for SEA Games with friendly match



Myanmar U22 team and Dagon Star United in action during the friendly match.

AS part of preparations for this year's SEA Games and other international tournaments, the Myanmar U22 national team played a friendly match on the morning of 25 April at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, securing a convincing 4-0 victory over Myanmar National League club Dagon Star United. Following their friendly

against the Hong Kong U22 team during the March international window, the Myanmar U22 squad has continued training several days a week and engaging in friendly matches with local clubs. Dagon Star United used the match as part of their preparations for the upcoming National League Cup but had to endure a goalless defeat. As most of Dagon Star's players

from last season have since transferred to other clubs, the team is currently rebuilding with new signings. Some of the players selected for the Myanmar U22 team also previously featured for both sides. For Myanmar U22, Zwe Marn Thar scored twice, while Chit Aye and Swan Htet each added a goal. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

MANCHESTER

United boss Ruben Amorim has revealed Portugal defender Diogo Dalot could miss the rest of the season after suffering a calf injury. Dalot only appeared as a substitute in last Sunday's 1-0 loss against Wolves as Amorim tried to keep him fresh for the final games of the season. But the versatile full-back has sustained a muscle problem that threatens to bring his campaign to an abrupt end. "Diogo Dalot is out. He has something in his muscle, in his calf. He's out for these next games," Amorim told reporters ahead of Sunday's Premier League trip to Bournemouth. Dalot has made 51 appearances for United this season in all competitions, missing just one match through suspension. Asked if the 26-year-old could miss the rest of the season, Amorim added: "There is

Man Utd's Dalot could miss rest of season: Amorim



that possibility, but I don't know. We'll check week by week because he works really hard, he can recover quite well. "He had a sequence of games that he played all the time. We tried to manage but some of the players have to play a lot of minutes". Dalot's absence is a blow for United in with a crucial Europa League semifinal first leg trip to Athletic Bilbao looming on Thursday. United limp into the weekend languishing in 14th place in the Premier League. Amorim, who replaced the sacked Erik ten Hag in November, could preside over their worst league finish since they were relegated from the top-flight in 1973-74. — AFP

Manchester United defender Diogo Dalot (L) could miss the rest of the season. PHOTO: AFP



Russia ready to reach Ukraine deal, details still under discussion: Lavrov

Lavrov stated that some specific points of the deal still need to be adjusted.

RUSSIA is prepared to conclude an agreement on the settlement of the conflict with Ukraine, but certain provisions of the deal still require fine-tuning, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview on Thursday.

“The statement by the (US) president (Donald Trump) mentions a deal, and we are ready to reach a deal, but there are still some specific points — elements of this deal which need to be fine-tuned,” Lavrov said during an interview with US broadcaster CBS News.

Fragments of the interview were published on Thursday night. The full version will be aired on Sunday, according to media reports.

Earlier, Trump expressed hope that Russia and Ukraine would make a deal this week. On Thursday, Trump said he had set his own deadline for participation in the talks on the peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict, but did not disclose it. — Xinhua



Russia is ready to finalize an agreement to settle the conflict with Ukraine, according to Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Philippines eases entry of digital nomads to boost tourism

The Philippines is becoming a popular destination for digital nomads because of its beautiful scenery and lower cost of living.

THE Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has been authorized to issue digital nomad visas for foreign nationals seeking to temporarily reside and work remotely in



Digital nomads work remotely using technology while travelling and living in various locations. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ UNSPLASH

the country, the Presidential Communications Office said Friday.

To further boost Philippine tourism and economy, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has issued an executive order, “establishing a legal framework to facilitate the entry of digital nomads,” the office said in a press release.

Foreigners applying for the digital nomad visas must be at least 18 years old, show proof of remote work using digital technology and sufficient income generated outside the Philippines, and have an unblemished criminal record, said the office. — Xinhua

HISTORIC CREW EXCHANGE

Shenzhou-20 astronauts enter space station

The three astronauts aboard China's Shenzhou-20 spaceship have entered the country's space station and met another astronaut trio in the early hours of Friday, starting a new round of in-orbit crew handover.

The Shenzhou-19 crew opened the hatch at 1:17 am (Beijing Time) and greeted the new arrivals, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

The six crew members then took group pictures for the sixth space get-together in China's aerospace history.

They will live and work together for about five days to complete planned tasks and handover work, the CMSA said.

The Shenzhou-19 crew is scheduled to return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 29 April.

The Shenzhou-20 spacecraft lifted off atop a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China at 5:17 pm local time on Thursday, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). — Xinhua