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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, pour water on banyan trees on full moon of Kason

A festival of pouring water on banyan trees dedicated to sacred Bo trees in commemoration of the Buddha Day which falls on the full moon of Kason 1387 Myanmar Era was held at the Maha Bodhi banyan tree in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watered the Maha Bodhi banyan tree.

Before the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife offered flowers, water and oil lamps to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

The Senior General and his wife, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Council Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries and their wives sprayed scented water and poured water on the Maha Bodhi banyan tree.

Yogies from religious association members also sprayed scented water and poured water on the Maha Bodhi banyan tree.

Under the patronage of the Senior General and his wife, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and their wives, officers, warrant officers, corporals and other ranks and their families poured water on banyan trees at Lawkachantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pour water on the Bo tree at yesterday's occasion in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the ceremony were, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials and religious associations.

The full moon of Kason is the most significant one in Buddhism. It shows religiously prominent occurrences, stating that hermit Sumeda, the embryo Buddha, accepted a great prediction of Dipankara Buddha to become the Gotama Buddha in the Badda world. Moreover, Prince Siddhattha was born on the full moon day of Kason. The Gotama Buddha-to-be attained the Supreme Enlightenment at dawn of Kason full moon day. The Gotama Buddha attained Parinibbana on the full moon day of Kason. As such, these occurrences were recorded as the great prediction, birthing,

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Article

Natural Disasters and Developing Countries

By Dr Zeyar Win

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Banyan tree watered on platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on Kason full moon day

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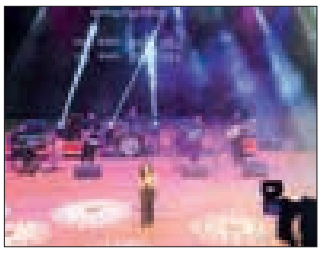


Fundraising variety show for Mandalay quake recovery on second day

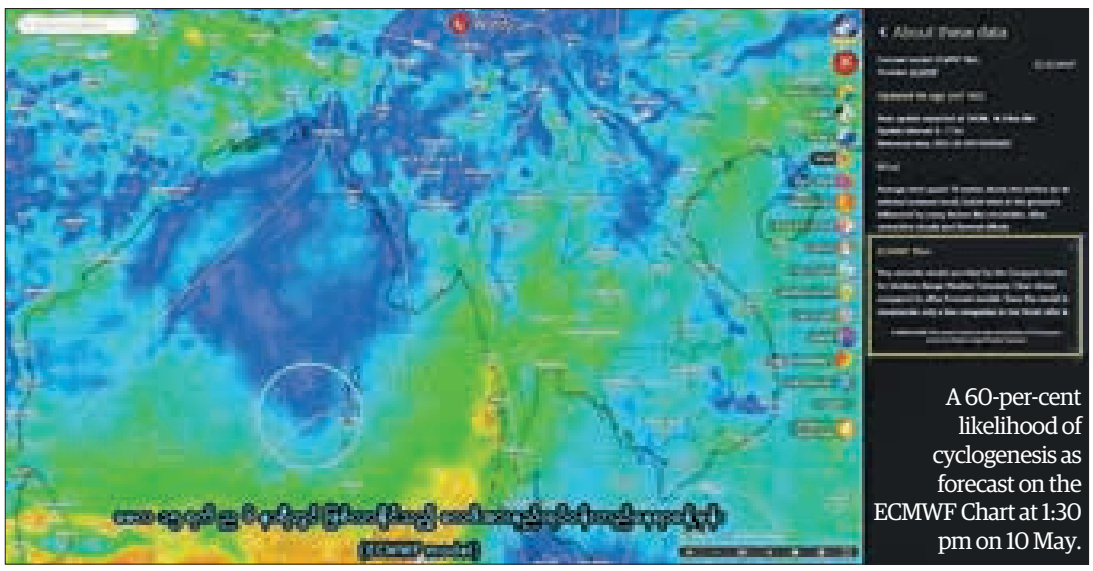
NATIONAL

Literature: A Source of Knowledge to Enrich Lives and Guide Society

THE knowledge gained from individuals' reading of literature will be able to provide significant support to improve their lives. They can provide guidance and clear direction to their families and society in their workplaces.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with tutors, teachers and trainees at Mandalay Education Degree College on 26 August 2024)

Strong low pressure may form over Central Bay of Bengal from 16 May



A 60-per-cent likelihood of cyclogenesis as forecast on the ECMWF Chart at 1:30 pm on 10 May.

A strong low-pressure area may be likely to form in the central Bay of Bengal from the night of 16 May, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

He forecast that on 17 to 19 May, the maximum wind speed is expected to be 40 miles per hour and the maximum wave height to be eight feet in the delta and near the Rakhine coast.

While there are varying initial locations, such as the southern Bay of Bengal in the ECMWF-AIFS model and the METEOBLUE NEMS model, the Gulf of Mottama in the ICON model, and the northern Andaman Sea in the NOAA GFS model, both the NOAA GFS and the ECMWF-AIFS made the same forecast as it may approach the Bangladesh coast on 19-20 May.

With a 60-per-cent likelihood of cyclogenesis in the northern Bay of Bengal, the latest data on 9 May indicates that the intensity of the wind and rainfall may vary depending on the location of the low-pressure system, likely initiating on 15 May.

On 11-15 May, heavy rain and strong winds are expected over Taninthayi, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, southern and eastern Shan, Nay Pyi Taw, southern Magway, Mandalay, and lower Sagaing regions and states.

If a likely low-pressure area developed into a strong marked one after 15 May, it might bring heavy to very heavy rain to northern Rakhine, Chin, upper Sagaing, Kachin and northern Shan states and regions, he said. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 11 May 2025)

BAYINFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 12 May 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and southern Shan states, fairly widespread in Yangon, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin, Kayah and (northern and eastern)Shan states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 mph. Wave height will be about 7 - 9 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 May 2025: Partly cloudy and isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 May 2025: Partly cloudy and isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

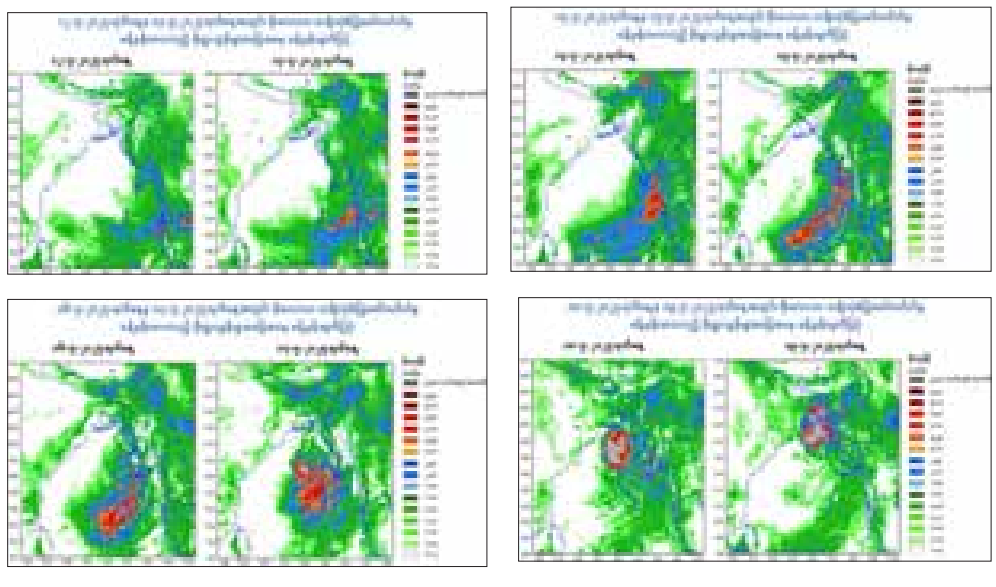
Heavy Rainfall Warning 5

Issued at 5:30 pm MST on 11 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal, likelihood of advancement of southwest monsoon and development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to 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 regionally and isolated heavyfalls from today evening to 19 May 2025.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hail, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — 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)

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and congregation listen to the Dhammakatha on the Buddha Day at the Dhamma Thabin ceremony held at Aggadhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dhamma Thabin ceremony held Buddha Day on full moon of Kason 1387 ME

A ceremony to organize the Dhamma Thabin ceremony marking the Buddha Day on the full moon of Kason 1387 ME was held at Aggadhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe and congregation took the Nine Precepts from State Ovadacariya Chair of Shwegyin Nikaya 16th Shwegyin Sangharaja Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and Sitagu Hospitals Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and respectfully listened to the Dhammakatha on the Buddha Day.

The Vice-Senior General donated cash for nine prerequisites for the Sayadaw through Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin. The Sitagu Sayadaw presented a certificate of honour to the Vice-Senior General.

The Union Minister offered a certificate of honour to Sitagu Sayadaw who then delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Also, present at the ceremony were the Council Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

Dhamma paper-reading session marks Full Moon Day of Kason

THE Dhamma paper-reading session marking the Full Moon Day of Kason, organized by the State Administration Council, was held yesterday afternoon at the Aggadhipati Sasana Beikman of the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Rector Sayadaws of the State Pariyatti Sasana University in Yangon and Mandalay delivered the opening sermons.

Following the opening session, a series of Dhamma papers were presented. Professor and Head Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Therinda Bhivamsa from the Abhidhamma Pitaka Department of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) read a paper entitled A Comparative Study of Eight Kinds of Great Prediction and the Life of Those Who receive predition.

Tutor Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candima from the Suttanta Pitaka Department of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay) presented a paper titled A Comparative Study of Future Existence and the Tipitaka Texts. Head Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Parami from the Department of Foreign Language Studies and Translation of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University delivered a paper on An Analytical Study of the Buddha's Enlightenment and the Law of Kamma.

Professor Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Indaka from the Sitagu International Vipassana Academy (Sagaing) presented a paper titled A Review of the Remarkable Events in the Last Ten Months of the Lord Buddha Based on the Mahaparinibbana Sutta. Audience members raised questions on the contents of the papers, to which the respective Sayadaws provided detailed explanations.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin offered certificates of honour and cash for nine prerequisites to the chairing Sayadaws and resource person Sayadaws. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, his wife Daw Than Than Nwe and the congregation observe the Nine Precepts from Chair of SSMNC Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Vice-Chairman DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer alms and day meals to venerable members of the Sangha at Buddha Day ceremony

A ceremony to donate offertories and day meals to members of the Sangha who attended the Buddha Day ceremony on the full moon of Kason took place at Aggadhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Patron of the Buddha Day ceremony of Kason full moon day of the State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Thanlyin's Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhism Learning Centre Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Secretary of SSMNC Presiding Patron of New Masoeyein Monastery of Mahaaungmyay Township of Mandalay Abbot of Dhammathameikdi Monastery Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa and members of the Sangha, the Council Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials.

Before the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General offered meals, fruits, flowers, water and oil light to the Buddha image in the Beikman building.

The Chairman Sayadaw administerd the Nine Precepts whereas members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The Vice-Senior General and his wife offered offertories to the Chairman Sayadaw and the SAC Secretary and his wife to the Secretary Sayadaw while council members, and their wives and officials donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General and wife and attendees offered day meals to the Chairman Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. — MNA/TTA

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe pour water over the Bo tree at yesterday's occasion in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General ...

FROM PAGE 1

enlightenment and Parinibbana. As such, Buddhists set the full moon day of Kason as a sacred day as the day becomes the greatest occurrences not only for Lord Gotama Buddha but for all Lord Buddhas. The water-pouring festival at banyan trees on full moon of Kason is not only a joyous and spiritually uplifting religious event worthy of merit, but also a celebration held as part of Myanmar's cultural heritage. According to reports, the day before the full moon of Kason, it is customary to spray fragrant scented water on the banyan trees that will be watered during the festival, and to prepare the sacred Bodhi tree platform to appear serene and dignified — activities regarded as meritorious deeds. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Religious activities and offerings mark Kason Full Moon (Buddha Day) in Nay Pyi Taw

ON the Kason Full Moon Day (Buddha Day), various meritorious deeds were performed at pagodas, stupas, and sacred sites across Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. These activities included doing merit, pouring water at banyan trees, and hosting meal donation ceremonies, where donors provided alms and meals to monks. The charity feast (Satuditha) was arranged for visitors.

At the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, monks, nuns, and laypeople from various regions arrived from the morning onwards to offer flowers, cool water, and oil lamps as homage. They also poured water at the banyan tree within the Buddha Park and the Buddha statues under the Bodhi tree.

Photo shows devotees embarking on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image during Kason Water-Pouring Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: PHO PYAE SONE**

Afterwards, pilgrims visited the Maravijaya Buddha Image and other significant religious sites within the Buddha Park, including Gandhakuti chambers, stone inscription stupas, the Mucalinda Pond, and the Naga Shrine. They engaged in meditation, chanting, and listening to Dhamma discourses, filling the atmosphere with spiritual devotion.

In honour of the occasion, a water-pouring ceremony at the Maravijaya Buddha Image was held, accompanied by offerings of alms and daily meals to monks. A Dhamma talk marking Kason Full Moon Day was delivered by the Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara in the evening, which devotees respectfully attended.

Similarly, at prominent pagodas and stupas throughout the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, religious associations, residents, civil servants, and devotees offered alms, cool water, and flowers, observed religious precepts, and performed the traditional Kason water-pouring ritual. Moreover, donors provided water, food, and refreshments as charity feast.

Traffic police assisted visiting pilgrims by ensuring road safety, while members of the Myanmar Police Force maintained security to allow devotees to perform religious activities peacefully and safely. — Myosetthit/KNN

Mandalay hosts Buddha Day with water-pouring ceremonies

MANDALAY City was filled with religious devotion as crowds gathered to pour scented water on banyan trees and make offerings in honour of the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and Parinibbana on the Full Moon Day of Kason (Buddha Day), an auspicious and sacred occasion for Theravada Buddhists.

Worshippers across the city visited the consecration of prominent pagodas and stupas and pay homage to sacred relics. Traditional ceremonies were held to pour water on banyan trees and offer alms such as rice to members of the Sangha. Generous donors also distributed charity feasts to monks and laypeople alike.

Yesterday morning, Sayadaws performed the consecration ceremony at the revered Maha Muni Buddha Image. The Image Board of Trustees and other officials arranged for devotees to pay homage from the eastern stairway of the Gandhakuti Chamber. Worshippers including monks, laypeople, religious associations, Mandalay locals and pilgrims from across the country participated in offering meals, water and flowers, reciting devotional verses and observing the Eight Precepts.

Under the leadership of the Mandalay Region Government, a ceremony was also held at Maha Atula Waiyan Monastery beginning at 7 am. Monks and nuns from various monasteries received donations of rice, cooking oil, onions and beans. A special offering ceremony took place for 108 monks, with participation of large crowds of departmental personnel and generous individuals.

People celebrate Kason water-pouring ceremonies at the religious place in Mandalay Region yesterday.

Religious ceremonies in line with traditions were held throughout townships and wards across Mandalay. Famous pagodas including the Mandalay Hill Sutaungpyae Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Aungtawmu Pagoda, Chanthaya Pagoda, the Jade Pagoda and the Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda saw crowds of pilgrims pouring water on banyan trees and offering charity feasts.

In the afternoon, water-pouring rituals continued at banyan trees planted in the precincts of pagodas and monasteries. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

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NATIONAL

Documentary photos depict activities of the 42nd ceremony in pouring water on the banyan tree as the sacred Bo tree on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Banyan tree watered on platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on Kason full moon day

A ceremony to water banyan trees dedicated to sacred Bo trees took place on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda on the morning of full moon day of Kason, 11 May, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The ceremony was jointly organized by the Yangon Region government and the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

It was reported that members of the board, members of religious associations and staff of the board offered dawn meals, fruits, flowers, water, oil lights and joss sticks to the Buddha Image in the prayer hall on the southern platform at dawn. They also donated dawn meals to Ovadacariya Sayadaws at the ancient Buddha images' prayer hall.

At 7 am, a ceremony to pour water on a banyan tree dedicated to the sacred Bo tree was held at the northeast corner of the platform, attended by Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Pyae Sone Lin, regional ministers, members of the board and staff.

They donated offertories to Ovadacariya Sayadaws. On the occasion, Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the board, Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Tipitakadhara Selection Board Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita Presiding Patron of Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Bhaddanta Narada Bhivamsa (Hla Yadana Sayadaw) delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Ovadacariya Sayadaws and attendees to the ceremony powered water on the banyan tree at the northeast corner of the platform and recited religious verses. — Htun Htun/TTA

Uppatasanti Pagoda undergoes major renovations ahead of rainy season

This photo showcases Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin on 2 April inspecting the damage to the Uppatasanti Pagoda due to the earthquake.

THE Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory is undergoing major renovations, with all work scheduled to be completed before the rainy season, according to the Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The pagoda sustained damage to its main structure, the square, the upper terrace, and the precinct due to the earthquake. Renovation work has been underway since 8 May.

Major renovations include the installation or replacement of two new elevators, and structural engineers will repair and maintain the walkways.

Moreover, technical inspections will be conducted to ensure that the concrete pillars in the pagoda compound do not leak water, even though no significant damage has been reported.

The Uppatasanti Pagoda Renovation Technical Support Subcommittee, which oversees the major renovation work, is led by the Myanmar Engineering Council, the Myanmar High-Rise and Public Building Projects Committee, and a team of architects.

The Uppatasanti Pagoda was constructed between November 2006 and March 2009. Modelled after the Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, it stands 325 feet tall. — ASH/MKKS

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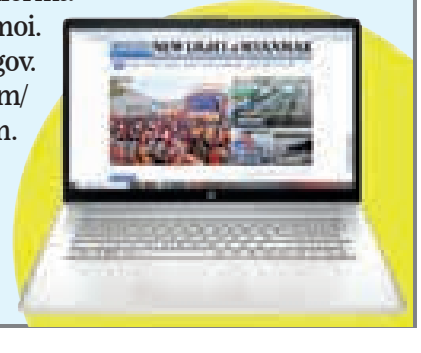


News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Relief and rehabilitation efforts continue vigorously in earthquake-affected areas

ONGOING rescue and rehabilitation operations are escalating in the earthquake-affected areas thanks to concerted efforts of Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams from foreign countries, departmental personnel, social organizations and residents.

In this regard, yesterday, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials attended a coordination meeting held at the Sagaing University of Education in Parami Ward of Sagaing to discuss accommodation, food, and convenience for teachers, and students who are retaking the Grade-12 exam.

First, Lt-Gen Thet Pon gave an opening speech before addressing the needs presented by the relevant officials. Then, he and other officials inspected the earthquake-damaged Pattamya Pagoda and religious buildings at Taungphila Mountain in Sagaing and coordinated with officials to provide necessary assistance.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon and party also oversaw the allocation of K473.750 million in cash assistance for earthquake victims of six wards in Sagaing, provided by the Department of Disaster Management, to cover for rice, construction materials, and aid, as well as kitchen utensils supplied by the AHA Centre, at the 700th Anniversary Gymnasium in Parami Ward, Sagaing. Afterward, he visited the people at the 700th Anniversary Gymnasium Earthquake Relief Camp, inspected the construction of affordable housing prototypes, and coordinated with officials to address their needs. He also coordinated with officials at the earthquake relief camp at Basic Education High School No 1 in Poetan Ward, Sagaing, to ensure proper management of health issues and discipline.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing observes sale of cement, steel bars, and plywood at special factory prices for earthquake-affected people in Kume Township.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials visited the collapsed Inwa Bridge to inspect debris removal and construction efforts, coordinating procedures to ensure safety during the work and at the site. The officials were then instructed to maintain daily records of the debris removal progress and were provided with refreshments. At Shwebo Monastery in Mahaaungmyay Township, he presented relief supplies such as rice, oil, and chickpeas to earthquake-affected households at temporary relief camps.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung inspected the arrangements for providing drinking water and healthcare to earthquake-affected people, instructing officials to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, ensure fire safety, properly dispose of waste in landfills, take measures against illnesses like fever and diarrhea caused by untimely rains, maintain systematic records of temporary residents, and coordinate and implement necessary actions. He also warmly greeted and encouraged the affected residents.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials visited the Shwekyetkya Pagoda in Amarapura Township, Mandalay, to keep sacred objects to the reliquary of the pagoda and make donations. Afterward, he monitored the progress of reconstruction work on religious buildings destroyed by the earthquake, inspected them, and coordinated as needed.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials inspected the production of high-quality bricks mixed with coal dust at the Myanmar Thantaw Myat Company's brick factory in Kyaukse Township. He instructed the factory officials to prioritize selling bricks to earthquake-affected areas, improve quality, and increase production, while coordinating and implementing necessary measures based on officials' presentations.

He then visited the Thukhisan Company's coal mine in Phaukseikpin Village-tract, Kyaukse District, to inspect coal storage conditions and the supply of raw coal to cement factories. The company was instructed to ensure high-quality and timely coal supply to cement factories, prevent environmental damage, implement a proper fire safety system, and coordinate necessary measures based on officials' reports.

Afterward, he inspected the systematic sale of construction materials at special factory prices to earthquake-affected residents in Kume Township. At the MRS brick factory of Mandalay Rising Star Company Limited in Paukmyaing Village-tract, Myittha Township, he inspected brick production conditions. He instructed that priority be given to selling the factory's bricks to earthquake-affected areas and emphasized improving the quality and increasing production. — MNA/TH

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation warmly welcomed back from Victory Day parade in Moscow

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Brig-Gen Myo Set Aung, which took part in the military parade marking the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War1941–1945 of the Russian Federation, held on 9 May 2025 at the Red Square in Moscow, the Russian Federation, returned to Myanmar yesterday morning.

The delegation, which proudly represented Myanmar in the commemorative event was welcomed back at TadaU Airport in Mandalay by Central Command Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htike and officials. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation which took part in the military parade marking the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 of the Russian Federation arrives back at TadaU Airport in Mandalay yesterday.

Respectfully mark Vesak Day for Buddhists

"VESAK", the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. The month of Kason falls in the period of "Visakha zodiac" in Sanskrit, Pali, and Hindi. In Sinhala, the pronunciation is "Vesak", and following this pronunciation, Westerners refer to the full moon day of Kason as "Vesak Day". According to the resolution passed at the 54th United Nations General Assembly in 1999, the full moon day of Kason (Buddha Day) was designated as an international public holiday called the "Vesak Universal Holiday".

The full moon day of Kason shows religiously prominent occurrences, stating that hermit Sumeda, the embryo Buddha, accepted a great prediction of Dipankara Buddha to become the Gotama Buddha in the Badda world. Moreover, Prince Siddhatta was born on the full moon day of Kason in 68 Maha Era. The Gotama Buddha-to-be attained the Supreme Enlightenment at the dawn of Kason full moon day in 103 Maha Era. The Gotama Buddha attained Parinibbana at the sal garden of King Malla on the full moon day of Kason in 148 Maha Era.

In Myanmar, the Full Moon Day of the Kason Water Pouring Festival is one of the twelve seasonal festivals and, according to stone inscriptions, it has been celebrated since the Bagan era. Historical records also show that in ancient times, the festival was grandly and splendidly held every year, not only by the king, but also by princes, officials, and the general public both inside and outside the royal capital.

As such, the Kason full moon day was identified as the Buddha Day. Therefore, Buddhists perform meritorious deeds such as pouring water on the Bodhi tree. The act of pouring water is done especially during the month of Kason, when water is scarce, to help keep the Bodhi tree fresh and nourished.

In Myanmar, the Full Moon Day of the Kason Water Pouring Festival is one of the twelve seasonal festivals and, according to stone inscriptions, it has been celebrated since the Bagan era. Historical records also show that in ancient times, the festival was grandly and splendidly held every year, not only by the king, but also by princes, officials, and the general public both inside and outside the royal capital.

The month of Kason has long been recognized as the hottest month of the year in both historical records and in the present day. Despite the intense heat, devoted Theravāda Buddhists in Myanmar perform acts of merit by pouring cool, clear water on sacred relic shrines and the Great Bodhi Tree as a tribute to the noble qualities of the Buddha. Just as the Great Bodhi Tree becomes refreshed and nourished by this act, it is believed that great merit is accumulated and virtuous qualities are cultivated. As a result, all people – both in the country and around the world—may enjoy peace, serenity, and well-being.

A Strong National Reserve Force

By Junior Thinn

DO you know another organization that is strong and reliable for our country's security? It is the Myanmar Veterans' Organization (MVO), one of the important support forces for the country's national defence. It is made up of former soldiers who served in the military and now continue to help the country in many ways. Even though they are retired from active duty, they still work hard to support the nation whenever needed.

This organization is officially organized by laws, procedures, and guidelines. All its activities follow proper systems. The members of the MVO used to serve in the military with loyalty, discipline, and bravery. They carried out their responsibilities faithfully during their time in service. Now, as veterans, they still stand ready to help the country and its people at any time. They are respected as part of the national defence team, even after retirement.

The Beginning of the Organization

The Myanmar Veterans' Organization has a long history. It started right after the country gained independence in 1948. At that time, former soldiers in towns and villages across the country helped one another and worked together to solve local problems. They provided support to each other and also worked to improve their communities. These early groups are the roots of the current Veterans' Organization.

Over time, these small groups became more organized. In 1973, they were brought together into one system. That year, the government officially formed the Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar Veterans. Later, committees were also created at the regional level. This was the beginning of a more organized structure for veterans in the country.

In 1975, the organization began to write and follow official rules and regulations. These rules helped the group to grow and work in a clear, legal way.

Legal Recognition and Reform

The MVO became even more official in 1989 when a new law for the veterans' organization was passed. The law clearly stated how the organization should be structured and how it should operate. There were also new working guidelines. These steps made the organization stronger and more trusted by the government and the people.

In 2016, the political situation in Myanmar changed. According to the new 2008 Constitution, some changes had to be made. On 29 March 2016, the President's Office issued Order No. 36/2016. This order officially ended the Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar Veterans. Instead, the veterans' organization was restructured as a separate and independent group that works alongside the military, but not directly under it. It became a partner organization with its own independence.

This change allowed the organization to continue its work more freely. It could still cooperate with the military, but it also had more freedom to operate on its own, helping the people and the country in new ways.

The Role of the Organization

The MVO serves as a bridge between the military and the people. As many of its members are former soldiers, they understand military discipline and values. At the same time, they live among ordinary people and understand their needs and problems. This makes them a strong connection between the armed forces and the civilian population.

The MVO plays many important roles. It helps in times of natural disaster, supports community development, and teaches the younger generation about patriotism and discipline. The veterans also support national stability and peace by helping solve local conflicts and promoting cooperation among citizens. Many of the members of the MVO still have strong loyalty to the military, which they consider their second family. They follow military values in their daily lives, and they act as role models for others.

A Message from the Leader

At the Myanmar Veterans' Organization's Special Conference held on 30 April 2025, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Chairman of the State Administration Council, gave an important speech. In his message, he said that the veterans' organization plays a very important role in national defence. He reminded everyone that military personnel are born from the people and must always remember that connection. Then, he also remarked that if one is a soldier once, they will be a soldier forever.

He said, "Since the military comes from the people, it must work closely with them. The MVO is made up of sons and daughters of the armed forces, and because of that, it must serve as a bridge between the military and the public."

He also advised the veterans to be careful with their words and actions. What they say and do can directly affect not only their organization but also the image of the military. He asked all veterans to act wisely and with responsibility, and to always keep the honour of the organization and the military in mind.

A Strong and Proud Force

Today, the Myanmar Veterans' Organization is a strong and proud group. It includes thousands of former soldiers who continue to serve the nation in different ways. They are ready to help during times of need, whether it is a flood, a landslide, or another emergency. They also help in national development projects such as building roads, schools, and clinics.

They do all of this as volunteers, showing love for their country. Their work shows that being a soldier is not only about fighting in wars. It is also about helping people, solving problems, and building a better future. They follow the values they learned during their military service, such as discipline, courage, loyalty, and unity. These values help them work together and support the country strongly.

Training and Education

The organization also provides training and education for its members. This helps them to stay updated and skilled, even after retirement. They learn about national policies, emergency response, leadership, and communication. These skills help them continue their service to the country in meaningful ways.

Younger veterans also get chances to lead and take on responsibilities. This helps prepare new leaders for the future of the organization. By building new leadership, the MVO ensures that its mission will continue for many years to come.

Serving the Community

The MVO is also deeply involved in social activities. Members visit hospitals, support orphans and the elderly, and help students with their education. They promote traditional culture and values and work to build unity among people. These activities help build trust between the public and the military. They also create a positive image of former soldiers, showing that they are not just warriors, but also protectors, helpers, and builders.

Veterans in Times of National Emergency

During times of national emergency, many physically fit members of the Myanmar Veterans' Organization are ready to take up arms once again to protect their local areas. With their military experience and training, they can quickly organize and respond to threats. These veterans work closely with local authorities to ensure peace and stability in their townships and villages. Whether it is to guard important locations, assist in rescue missions, or maintain public order, they play a key role in defending their communities. Their readiness and courage make them a strong reserve force that the country can rely on during difficult times.

In conclusion, the Myanmar Veterans' Organization is a strong national reserve force. Even after their military careers have ended, the members continue to serve the nation. They work with discipline and loyalty, supporting both the military and the people. They also help build peace, solve problems, and respond in times of crisis. They provide a bridge between the armed forces and civilians. With their experience, values, and teamwork, they remain an important part of the country's security and development. They are proud of their service, and the country is proud of them. Their continued dedication is an example of true patriotism and responsibility. As long as the MVO exists, Myanmar has a reliable and loyal reserve force, ready to serve at any time.

Natural Disasters and Developing Countries

By Dr Zeyar Win

NATURAL disasters have significant impacts on developing countries. Hazards such as earthquakes, storms, floods, and droughts damage infrastructure, agriculture, and industries, slowing down economic growth. Due to limited financial resources, recovery efforts in developing countries tend to be slow. Additionally, natural disasters cause loss of life, injuries, and displacement, worsening poverty and inequality. The disruption of clean water supplies, outbreaks of infectious diseases, and damage to healthcare systems affect public healthcare. The destruction of schools and educational institutions halts children's education, leading to long-term human capital losses and hindering sustainable development.

Characteristics of Developing Countries

Developing countries typically have low GDP and economic growth, relying more on agriculture than on industries and services. They often have lower rankings in the Human Development Index (HDI), with lower literacy rates and weaker healthcare systems. Basic infrastructure, such as transport, electricity, water supply, and communication networks, is often limited, and urban development is slow. High birth rates and mortality rates may be present, with large income gaps between the rich and the poor. Job opportunities are limited, and unemployment rates are high. Developing countries frequently rely on foreign aid or loans for economic development. Investment in research and development is low, leading to slow technological progress. Their economies are highly dependent on natural resources (e.g., mining, agriculture), and exports mainly consist of raw materials. Gender equality and human rights challenges may also be prevalent.

Severity of Natural Disasters

Natural disasters impact individuals as well as entire countries or regions. In developing countries, these impacts can be particularly severe. Damage to infrastructure (roads, bridges, factories) halts production and trade. The destruction of agricultural land and the loss of crops threaten food security and export revenue. Recovery requires large financial resources, diverting funds from development projects. Displacement and increased poverty from disasters disrupt social stability. The destruction of schools and hospitals interrupts education and healthcare services, delaying human capital development. Psychological trauma within communities can affect long-term social development. Floods, landslides, and droughts degrade natural resources (soil, water, forests), affecting sustainable development. Climate change is making natural disasters more frequent and intense, necessitating greater investments in environmental conservation. Governments face significant challenges in disaster management and administration, as emergency response efforts often take precedence over other development policies. Disasters disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, exacerbating cycles of poverty and inequality. Job losses and reduced income due to disasters increase social disparities.

Mitigation Strategies

Developing countries must implement strategies to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. These include establishing disaster monitoring and early warning systems (e.g., storm alerts, earthquake monitoring), educating local communities about disaster preparedness and conducting rescue drills, constructing disaster-resistant infrastructure (e.g., reinforced homes, strong bridges), incorporating sustainable urban planning to avoid hazardous areas, promoting climate-resilient farming practices (e.g., drought-resistant crops) and water resource management, increasing the use of renewable energy sources (e.g., solar power, wind energy),

SEE PAGE 12

Disaster preparedness enhances resilience and sustainability.

NATIONAL

Replies by SAC Information Team Leader to media

THE 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War was celebrated only in Russia. In reality, this patriotic war is not something that concerns only Russia. In the past, the world faced extreme ideologies like fascism and Nazism. This war was about resisting and fighting against those isms. With regard to resisting fascism and Nazism, you all know it's something we in Myanmar also experienced. We suffered under the brutal consequences of fascist rule. The people of Myanmar were also oppressed. Likewise, many neighbouring countries suffered from the impacts of fascism too. For example, if you want to understand the horrors of fascism in Myanmar, there is a novel called Ngba. Read it. This is based on true events written with reference to real incidents and historical context. Likewise, even in our neighbouring country, China, there have been massacres like the Nanning Massacre. Similarly, in Eastern Europe, Russia was one of the countries that fought against the Nazi regime with great emphasis. Around 26 million of their people lost their lives. Even by today's population standards, that number — 26 million — is a huge loss of life. That's why they celebrate it as a victory. That was history from the past. Looking at present-day history, what we often talk about now is the rise of neocolonialism. In modern times, there is economic domination. Major powers constantly have the desire to dominate smaller nations. We need to unite and resist these things. I want to say that we must join forces and stand against them.

In this regard, the Myanmar Tatmadaw also participated in this 80th anniversary ceremony for the first time. We organized events, held military parades, and participated in commemorative marches. Through this, the Myanmar Tatmadaw has demonstrated that, in line with international armed forces, we are a military capable of standing shoulder to shoulder with others. First, it shows that the Myanmar Tatmadaw are a competent and capable force on par with international standards. Second, it clearly proves that our Tatmadaw can perform tasks at the same level as other international militaries. In our country, it has long been said that "a strong Tatmadaw makes a strong nation." Some people, who wish to diminish the role of the Tatmadaw, have spoken against this idea. But look at the present era — for a country to have firm sovereignty and to uphold its national dignity and prestige, a strong defence capability is essential. A strong Tatmadaw is necessary. To firmly uphold our sovereignty, we must have a respectable and capable defence force. This is something that all citizens across the nation must understand, recognize, and take pride in. We must strive to realize these goals. And I want to say that we have had the opportunity to do so.

State Administration Council's Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

When meeting with the President of China, I wanted to express just three key points on behalf of Myanmar. First, China stands firmly and supportively with Myanmar as a good neighbour when it comes to Myanmar's sovereignty and national development. Second, regarding Myanmar's internal peace process, China continues to uphold and practise its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Moreover, both our countries adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which promote living together peacefully and respectfully. Since China is a neighbouring country and also serves as a western gateway for Myanmar, it views Myanmar's internal peace process from a positive perspective. It hopes for a peaceful outcome and is actively supporting efforts toward achieving peace in Myanmar. We have received assurances that China will continue to support these efforts going forward.

Third, it is about our election. Regarding the election, the Prime Minister has already spoken about Myanmar's multiparty democratic general election, saying that it will be held at the end of this year. From China's side, we have seen support in relations to the preparations for the election. What I want to share as good news is that the multiparty democratic general election, which the people of Myanmar have long yearned for, will be held. The multiparty democratic system is something we have had thanks to the efforts of the Tatmadaw since the past. Due to election fraud, the Tatmadaw assumed state responsibility. Now, I would like to share the good news that we will continue to implement the multiparty democratic system that the people of Myanmar desire. The first main point I want to talk about is the political parties. In the area of political parties, there is a need to make preparations in advance. Then, it is necessary to educate and inform the public. I want to say clearly that, from my point of view, this is the number one priority we must continue to work on. The second point is about the public. Regarding the public's role, we have already stated that we want a multiparty democratic election system. If we truly want a multiparty democracy, then holding peaceful and fair elections is a fundamental requirement. In order to conduct these elections peacefully, I urge the entire public to cooperate and support the process. I also want to clearly say that we must firmly stand against terrorism, which is the opposite of democracy.

As for the relationship between Russia and Myanmar, it has been long-standing. It is a strong and stable relationship. The initial relationship started with military-to-military cooperation. It began during the time of the previous Tatmadaw government, under the State Peace and Development Council and continued under the State Administration Council. At present, the relationship between Russia and Myanmar has developed not only in the Tatmadaw sphere but also in various other sectors. It is continuing to grow. So, when we arrive in Russia — or when we are in Russia — we can see this clearly. I'm not just talking about government-to-government or military-to-military ties. I mean people-to-people relations as well. The perception of the Myanmar people toward the Russian people, and vice versa, has improved and become stronger. I believe this is something we both desire, and I feel proud of it. During the Prime Minister's visit to Russia, it coincided with Russia's 80th anniversary of the Great Patriotic Victory. Many national leaders attended that event. While many leaders were present, our Prime Minister, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, had the opportunity to meet and speak with them. Through these meetings, he was able to help them better understand the situation in Myanmar. He was able to share the true events happening in Myanmar. To put it simply, he succeeded in making the international community understand Myanmar more clearly.

Drugs worth K4.5 billion seized in Waw Township

AUTHORITIES have seized three million stimulant tablets worth an estimated K4.5 billion in Waw Township, Bago Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The seizure took place at around 3:30 pm on 8 May near Nyaungkhashay Village in Waw Township. A combined task force intercepted a 12-wheeled Mitsubishi Fuso truck, driven by Kyaw Zin Oo and accompanied by Ma Mon Mon Nyein.

Based on a tip-off, the police stopped and searched the vehicle, uncovering the stimulant tablets hidden onboard. Preliminary investigations revealed that the drugs were transported from Shan State to Kayin State for distribution.

Legal action was taken against the individuals involved under existing laws, and efforts are ongoing to identify and arrest others connected to the trafficking network, according to police sources. — MNA/KZL

Offenders are seen alongside seized stimulant tablets and vehicle.

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw regains control of local battalion after armed clash with KNLA and PDF

Tatmadaw members pose for documentary photos in front of the Central Guard of local battalion.

ON 8 May, the KNLA and PDF terrorist groups seized control of a local battalion based in Zalokgyi Village, Shwegyin Township, Bago Region, capturing a significant number of heavy weapons and small arms. Some media outlets have falsely claimed on social media that the Tatmadaw attacked religious buildings and monasteries with heavy weapons, forcing civilians to flee.

In reality, during the ceasefire period announced by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on 6 May, KNLA and PDF terrorist groups launched a large-scale assault on the local battalion in Zalokgyi Village around 5 am on 8 May. Tatmadaw members and families from the battalion headquarters defended the position in an organized manner, resulting in intense clashes that lasted until 10 May. Although the terrorist groups suffered heavy casualties, they continued to reinforce their numbers. Due to injuries sustained by some Tatmadaw members, the battalion temporarily withdrew, allowing the terrorist groups to occupy the headquarters.

Subsequently, Tatmadaw commanders initiated strategic counter-attacks using airstrikes, artillery, and heavy weaponry. Reinforcements were also deployed to the clash site, as per the pre-planned support and reinforcement strategy. By the afternoon of 10 May, the terrorist groups, having suffered significant losses, retreated towards the eastern side of the local battalion area. On the morning of 11 May, members of the Tatmadaw successfully regained control of the local battalion.

Security operations continue in the surrounding areas to prevent armed insurgents from establishing new bases in nearby villages.

During the clashes, some Tatmadaw officers and other ranks were killed or wounded. The Tatmadaw recovered six bodies of terrorists, ten small arms, ammunition, magazines, and grenades. Tatmadaw members and families who had temporarily taken cover during the fighting have since regrouped with Tatmadaw columns, providing necessary medical care.

The Tatmadaw urges the public to be cautious regarding false information spread by unauthorized media outlets supporting insurgent groups. The Tatmadaw has already warned that if armed groups violate the ceasefire by attacking security forces or headquarters, the Tatmadaw will take necessary defensive measures to protect the public. — MNA/KNN

A dead body of terrorists seized with a small arm.

Myanma Insurance disburses K2B+ to homeowners following earthquake

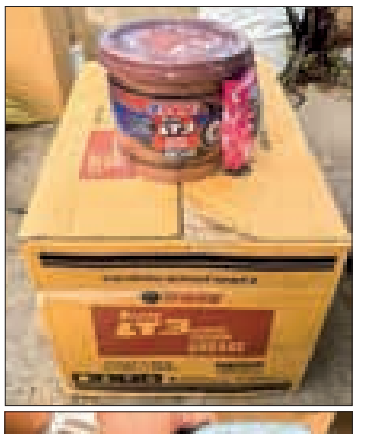
Myanma Insurance is seen handing over the payout for owners of quake-hit buildings.

MYANMA Insurance (MI) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance compensated K2.094 billion to owners of houses and buildings damaged by the Mandalay Earthquake.

MI notified on 29 March that it would pay out coverage to those insured who purchased a fire and earthquake disaster insurance policy. A total of 158 insurers have been claiming fire and earthquake coverage so far. The compensation amount is estimated at K80 billion.

Insurance companies affiliated with the Myanma Insurance Association are endeavouring to expedite assessments for policyholders with earthquake and fire damage protection in line with the insurance policy. Myanma Insurance reported that 466 policies are affected with K286 billion in coverage, following the Mandalay earthquake. The estimated payouts total K187,337 billion. — ASH/KK

Two-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K507M



UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 8 and 9 May, the combined teams impounded four trucks (approximately K200 million), heading to Taunggyi from Tachilek, carrying 15 kinds of foodstuffs, 10 kinds of industrial materials and four kinds of consumer goods worth K264.101 million without official documents in Hopong Township, three unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K43 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty team seized 0.855 tonne of illegal timbers in Nyaungdon Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 17 arrests on 8 and 9 May, confiscating illegal goods worth approximately K507 million. — MNA/MKKS

Photos show seized illegal goods.

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

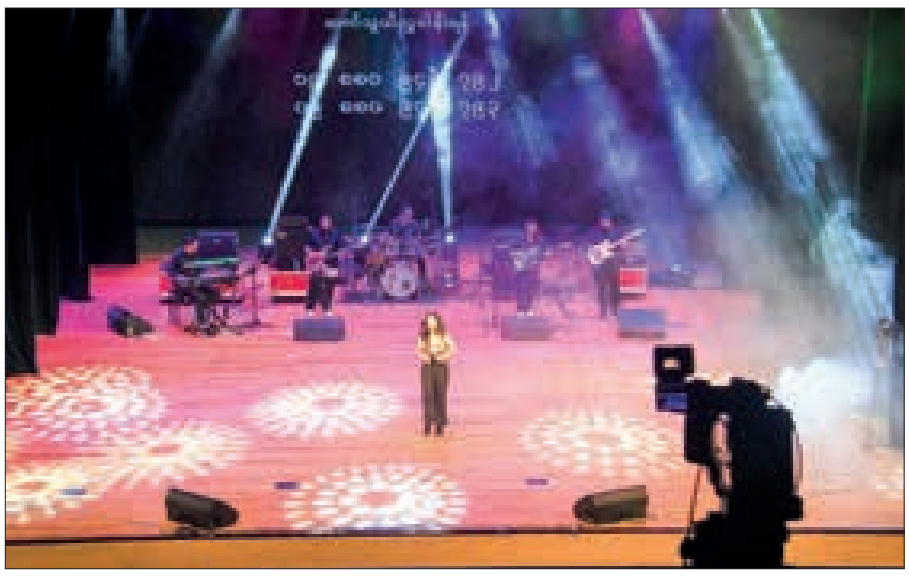
Fundraising variety show for Mandalay quake recovery on second day

THE fundraising variety show continued the second day aiming at supporting the rehabilitation of communities affected by the Mandalay earthquake, at the National Theatre in Yangon, drawing a large and supportive audience.

The event, organized by the Myanmar Music Association featured performances in film, traditional dance and music. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, guests and public were in attendance.

The programme began with a documentary video recounting the recent earthquake in Myanmar, along with rescue efforts, humanitarian assistance and early recovery initiatives. A moment of silence was observed in tribute to those who lost lives in the disaster.

Subsequently, funds donated by the Yangon Region Government and individual donors were handed over to U Lwin Myint, Chairman of the Myanmar Music Association to contribute to reconstruction efforts in the affected regions.



A vocalist singing song at the fundraising variety show on second day. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

The entertainment segment featured joint performances by the Plus Three Band and Immortal Band, with popular artistes including Pu Su Ma, Seng San, Mee No, Bo Bo Han, Khin Maung Htoo, Nwe Yin Win, Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Hlwan Paing, Sai Sai Kham Leng, Myo Kyawt Myaing, May Khalar, He Lay, Irene Zin Mar Myint, Kai Zar, Sithu Lwin, Chan Myae Maung Cho, Zaw Paing, L Seng Zi and Wai La. The performers captivated the audience with dynamic and heartfelt songs. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

MTMA to organize fundraising music concert for quake rehabilitation

AT the Tourism Earthquake Relief Event, a fundraising show for quake-affected areas, organized by Myanmar Tourism Marketing Association, singers May Khalar, He Lay and Irene Zin Mar Myint will feature with their songs.

"Me and He Lay meet often at local and overseas shows but it has been long I haven't meet Irene Zin Mar Myint. This is a fundraising music concert for quake rehabilitation. Art Robots Band will support our singing the best. I would like to invite to enjoy our show," said singer May Khalar.

The Tourism Earthquake Relief Event has been scheduled to hold at 7:00 pm on 24 May and the venue is Rose Garden Hotel in Yangon Region's Mingalar Taungnyunt Township. — ASH/ZS

Tourism Earthquake Relief Event poster.

Ngwehsaung Beach welcomes over 84,000 domestic and foreign travellers in Jan-Apr 2025

A total of 84,135 domestic and foreign tourists visited Ngwehsaung Beach in Pathein Township from January to the end of April 2025, according to U Soe Win, Assistant Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism for Ayeyawady Region.

In January 2025, Ngwesaung Beach welcomed 27,786 domestic and 2,100 foreign tourists, totalling 29,886 visitors, while in February, it received 9,535 domestic and 1,199 foreign tourists, totalling 10,734. In March, 30,727 domestic and 1,006 foreign tourists visited Ngwehsaung Beach, totalling 31,733, while in April, 11,228 domestic and 554 foreign tourists visited, bringing the total to 11,782.

"Over the four-month period, more than 84,000 tourists visited, averaging nearly 500 visitors per day," said U Soe Win.

Domestic tourists visiting Ngwehsaung Beach often explore nearby destinations in Pathein Township, such as Chithumya (Lovers) Island, 19th-Mile Elephant Camp, Moemaka Elephant Camp, and Thazin Village.

Ngwehsaung Beach offers a safe and peaceful environment for beachgoers to relax and unwind, along with services such as bicycle rentals, motorboat rentals, and horse riding. Market stalls are also available, offering local food, household items, and souvenirs.

Currently, Ngwehsaung Beach features 32 hotels and five guesthouses licensed by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, offering a total of 1,861 rooms for tourists. — ASH/TH

Natural Disasters and Developing Countries

FROM PAGE 9

forming national disaster management agencies and securing emergency response funds, implementing disaster insurance programs, seeking financial, technical, and training assistance from international organizations, enhancing regional cooperation to share resources and knowledge, and providing special protection and support for vulnerable groups such as women and children. By prioritizing these measures, countries can reduce disaster-related damages and losses.

Benefits of Disaster Preparedness

By enhancing disaster resilience, developing countries can achieve several benefits. Economic stability improves, and recovery costs decrease. Social development strengthens, reducing poverty and inequality. Environmental protection enhances climate resilience, mitigating climate change. Early disaster forecasting and improved emergency response systems reduce death rates. Public awareness campaigns and disaster preparedness initiatives empower communities to respond effectively. Well-executed prevention strategies safeguard homes and infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, dams) from destruction. Agriculture and food security become more stable. Forced displacement due to disasters decreases, lowering refugee crises. Healthcare systems improve, helping prevent disease outbreaks (e.g., diarrhoea after flooding). Preserving forests and promoting sustainable farming practices enhance climate resilience. Improved water management prevents floods and droughts. International cooperation increases funding and technological support for disaster risk reduction. Through education and training, communities gain resilience against disasters.

Natural disasters significantly impact the economy, society, and development prospects of developing countries. However, by prioritizing preparedness, infrastructure development, and international collaboration, these countries can mitigate disaster effects and support long-term development. Strategies should be adapted to local needs to ensure effective implementation. Developing countries must integrate proactive disaster risk reduction policies, strengthen infrastructure, and encourage community participation to build resilience against future disasters.

'Treasure hunt': tourists boost sales at Japan's Don Quijote stores

In Tokyo's Shibuya district, tourists flock to Don Quijote stores, navigating narrow aisles filled with snacks and souvenirs.

Business is booming at Japanese discount chain Don Quijote, which sells everything from compact gadgets to party costumes, thanks to its cult status among tourists. **PHOTO: AFP**

BUSINESS is booming at Japanese discount chain Don Quijote, which sells everything from nostril-hair wax to compact gadgets and colourful party costumes, thanks to its cult status among tourists but also inflation at home.

At a large Don Quijote store in Tokyo's bustling Shibuya district, hundreds of tourists rush to fill their baskets with snacks and souvenirs from its heaving narrow aisles.

"I was pretty overwhelmed at first, just because there's so many options, everything's in a different language," 27-year-old Garett Bryan from the United States told AFP.

But "I feel like I bought a lot and it was only like $70" including "a coffee cup for my mom, a fan, some Godzilla chopsticks, just a couple toys".

The chaotic cut-price shops nicknamed "Donki" were founded in the 1980s by Takao Yasuda, who named them after his business inspiration: the idealistic protagonist of the classic Spanish novel, "Don Quixote".

He wanted to shake up Japan's staid retail industry with new tactics including late-night opening hours as well as more varied prices and product lines.

Now a record influx of visitors to Japan, fuelled by a weak yen, is boosting sales nationwide.

Revenues at Don Quijote in Japan are "around 1.7 higher than before the pandemic", said Motoki Hara, a manager at the retailer. — AFP

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) launched its middle-weight 650cc motorcycles-the 2025 CB650R and CBR650R-which are claimed to be the first in India to feature Honda's state-of-the-art E-Clutch technology. **PHOTO: ANI**

HMSI launches 2025 CB650R and CBR650R with new E-Clutch technology

HONDA Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) on Saturday launched its middle-weight 650cc motorcycles–the 2025 CB650R and CBR650R–which are claimed to be the first in India to feature Honda's state-of-the-art E-Clutch technology. The newly launched CB650R and CBR650R are priced at Rs9.60 lakh and Rs10.40 lakh respectively (ex-showroom, Delhi), and are now available for booking across all Honda BigWing dealerships nationwide. Deliveries are expected to begin by the last week of May 2025.

"The premium motorcycling space has been experiencing remarkable growth in India, and with world-class products like the CB650R and CBR650R, we are confident they will set new benchmarks for performance and riding innovation. The introduction of E-Clutch is a step into the future, giving riders a unique blend of control and comfort, reinforcing Honda's leadership in technological advancement," said Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MTT SAPANGER VOY.NO. (516W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAPANGER VOY.NO. (516W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (152N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (152N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVDAS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVDAS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0347-796N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0347-796N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Trump installs statue depicting 2024 assassination attempt in Oval Office

US President Donald Trump unveiled a new statue in the Oval Office depicting the aftermath of a July 2024 assassination attempt against him in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The sculpture, which shows Trump defiantly raising his fist after being shot at, was placed on a side table next to his Resolute Desk during a signing of executive orders. **PHOTO: ANI**

US President Donald Trump added a new art piece to the Oval Office- a statue depicting the aftermath of the July 2024 assassination attempt against him in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The sculpture was spotted sitting on a side table next to Trump's Resolute Desk on Friday as he signed several executive orders in front of reporters.

In a post on X, the White House said, "FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! Spotted in the Oval Office."

The statue depicts Trump defiantly raising his fist in the air moments after being hit in the ear by one of would-be assassin Thomas Matthew Crooks' bullets on 13 July.

"Fight Fight! Fight!" Trump shouted at rallygoers at the Butler Farm Show Grounds, in the iconic moment captured by the artist.

Three Secret Service agents, including the current director of the agency Sean Curran, can also be seen in the art piece trying to usher Trump offstage. The Oval Office statue isn't the only piece of art related to the Butler assassination attempt on display at the White House. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Laos launches digital ID cards

IN a major step toward digital transformation, Laos is preparing to launch modern digital identity cards for citizens across the country.

The initiative is part of the Lao government's broader strategy to build a digital government, economy, and society, which is in line with the Lao People's Revolutionary Party's modernization vision, Lao News Agency reported on Thursday.

The Lao Ministry of Public Security is leading the project, focusing on developing digital infrastructure, strengthening IT capabilities among security personnel, and updating legal frameworks to support the new system.

The project includes the construction of a centralized Citizen Data Center, the integration of population data, and the transformation of this data into a secure, digital format.

The ministry has also prioritized training and technical preparation to ensure a smooth transition. – Xinhua

Iran's FM visits Saudi Arabia, Qatar for nuclear talks' consultations with US

IRAN'S Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar for consultations in the run-up to the fourth round of indirect nuclear talks with the US, which will take place in Oman on Sunday, Al Jazeera reported.

The future direction of Iran's nuclear programme, its enrichment of uranium, and sanctions relief remain the key issues.

Speaking later Saturday in Doha, Araghchi said that if the US's goal is to deprive Iran of its nuclear rights, Tehran will not back down from "any of our rights".

Iran insists its programme is for civilian purposes and it has no intention to pursue a nuclear weapon, as reported by Al Jazeera.

Araghchi told Al Jazeera in Doha, "I have always said that if the... purpose of a deal is to ...ensure that Iran would never have [a] nuclear weapon that is already granted... and a deal would be at our reach". – ANI

Pakistani PM seeks fair, peaceful resolution of Kashmir, water disputes with India

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed the hope that Pakistan and India will peacefully resolve all outstanding issues, including the equitable distribution of water resources and the longstanding dispute over Jammu and Kashmir.

"We fully believe that the path of peaceful negotiations, in line with principles of justice, will be adopted to resolve the distribution of water resources and all issues, including Jammu and Kashmir," Sharif said in a televised address to the nation following a recently brokered ceasefire between the two countries.

His remarks came amid heightened tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary, which separates Pakistan's Punjab province from Indian-controlled Kashmir. The past week saw a series of cross-border skirmishes and aerial engagements, before a ceasefire took hold with support from international partners. — Xinhua

Pakistani people celebrate after the ceasefire between Pakistan and India, in Multan, Pakistan on 10 May 2025. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Saturday that Pakistan and India have agreed on a ceasefire with immediate effect. **PHOTO: MANSOOR/XINHUA**

SPORTS

Herbert seals Asian Tour win with final-hole heroics

AUSTRALIA'S Lucas Herbert eagled the last hole for the second day in a row to claim his first title on the Asian Tour by five strokes in Japan on Sunday.

The 29-year-old, who plays on the LIV Golf circuit, established a dominant lead at International Series Japan and finished with a flourish on the par-5 18th.

Herbert finished 20-under-par overall to lift the trophy ahead of playing partners Song Young-han of South Korea and Japan's Yuta Sugiura.

The win moved him to the top of the Asian Tour Order of Merit, as well as the International Series rankings.

"The way I've been playing this year, it's been building to get a win at some point," said Herbert, who has won once on the US PGA Tour.

"So it's nice to get it done here, especially in Japan which is one of my favourite places.

"It's nice to feel like some of the hard work that I put in has paid off," he added.

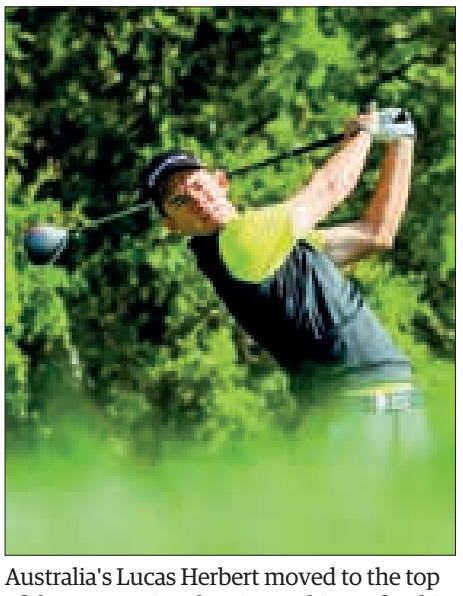
Herbert set himself up for the final day with an electric finish on Saturday, carding eagles on two of the final three holes to finish the round tied for the lead with Song and Sugiura.

The Australian birdied three of the opening five holes on Sunday to move into the lead and he never looked back.

Herbert closed the win out in style with a long, curving putt on the 18th.

"I was thinking about it down on the 18th green, that finish yesterday really set it up," he said.

"It would have been much tougher, I think, to play in the group in front, or maybe two groups in front, had I parred in and to try and come back from behind today". — AFP



Australia's Lucas Herbert moved to the top of the International Series rankings after his Asian Tour win in Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shan United blaze into MNL League Cup quarterfinals

Shan United and Dagon Port players in fierce action during their group stage match. **PHOTO:MNL**

SHAN United became the first team to reach the quarterfinals as the 2025 MNL League Cup group stage continued on 10 and 11 May, with most top-tier teams securing wins to strengthen their positions.

In Group A, defending champions Shan United thrashed Dagon Port 7-1, while Thitsa Arman eased past YB United with a 4-0 victory. With this commanding win, Shan United have become the first team to secure a spot in the quarter-finals. Goals for Shan United came from Thurein Tun in the 6th minute, Myat Kaung Khant in the 37th and 87th minutes, Ye Yint Aung in the 38th, Zwe Khant Min in the 52nd, Jordan Hamilton via penalty in the 67th, and Mark Saki in stoppage time 90+2. Dagon Port's consolation goal was scored by Michael in the 59th minute.

Thitsa Arman also kept their quarter-final hopes alive with a dominant win. Their goals came from Hla Tun in 45th minute mark, Min Maw Oo in 75th minute, Naing Win Tun in 74th minute and Myat Phone Khant in 79th minute.

In Group B, Yangon United edged Ayeyawady United 1-0 thanks to an own goal by defender Pyae Phyo Zaw in the 37th minute. This result improved Yangon United's chances of advancing to the next stage. Meanwhile, Yangon Royal and Mahar United played to a 1-1 draw. Yangon Royal had taken the lead in the 53rd minute through Hein Htet Sithu, but Mahar United equalized late in stoppage time 90+8 with a penalty by Kyaw Ko Ko. Although goalkeeper Li Poe initially saved the penalty, the shot was retaken due to encroachment and the second attempt found the net.

In Group C, ISPE FC (Institute of Sports and Physical Education) earned their first win of the tournament by beating Glory Goal 3-0. Goals were scored by Thein Zaw Thiha in the 42nd and 45+2 minutes, and Saw Se Kapaw Say in the 63rd. The upcoming match between Hanthawady United and Rakhine United is set to be played today at the Yangon United Sports Complex.

In Group D, Dagon Star United secured a strong 3-0 win over Myawady, while Yadanabon beat Silver Star FC 2-0. Dagon Star's goals came from Swan Htet in the 18th and 24th minutes and Htet Phyo Wai in the 76th, putting them in a favourable position to reach the next round. Yadanabon's goals were scored by Pyi Moe via penalty in the 71st minute and Soe Min Oo in the 82nd minute, giving them two straight wins. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Japan's Kazuto Ioka (L) fights WBA super flyweight boxing champion Fernando Martinez of Argentina at Ota City General Gymnasium in Tokyo on 11 May 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Boxing: Ioka unable to reclaim WBA super flyweight belt from Martinez

ARGENTINE boxer Fernando Martinez retained the WBA super flyweight belt Sunday in a 12-round war with Japanese former champion Kazuto Ioka.

In a rematch of their July 2024 bout, in which Martinez took the belt from Ioka, the 33-year-old from Buenos Aires was once again the winner by unanimous decision.

A rematch was initially scheduled for 31 December, but was postponed after Martinez caught the flu.

On the back foot against the aggressive Martinez through the early rounds, the 36-year-old Ioka had steadily worked his way back into the contest.

The four-time world champion floored Martinez with a left hook in the 10th round but was ultimately unable to overcome the deficit on the scorecards.

Ioka, who was bidding to become the oldest Japanese man to win a world title, dropped to 31 wins, 16 by knockout, with four losses and one draw. Martinez improved to 18-0 with nine KOs. — Kyodo

Marseille, Monaco clinch Champions League qualification from Ligue 1

MASON Greenwood's brilliant late strike helped Marseille beat Le Havre 3-1 in Ligue 1 on Saturday and clinch qualification for next season's Champions League, while Monaco defeated Lyon to secure their own spot at Europe's top table.

Both sides came into the penultimate night of the French campaign knowing wins plus favourable results elsewhere could secure a top-three finish behind champions Paris Saint-Germain with a game of the season to spare.

Marseille got the job done away to relegation-threatened Le Havre, but it looked set to be a frustrating night for them despite Amine Gouiri putting the visitors in front.

The match was held up for around half an hour in the second half due to unrest caused by the presence of Marseille supporters in the home areas of the stadium, and when the action restarted Issa Soumare equalised for Le Havre. — AFP

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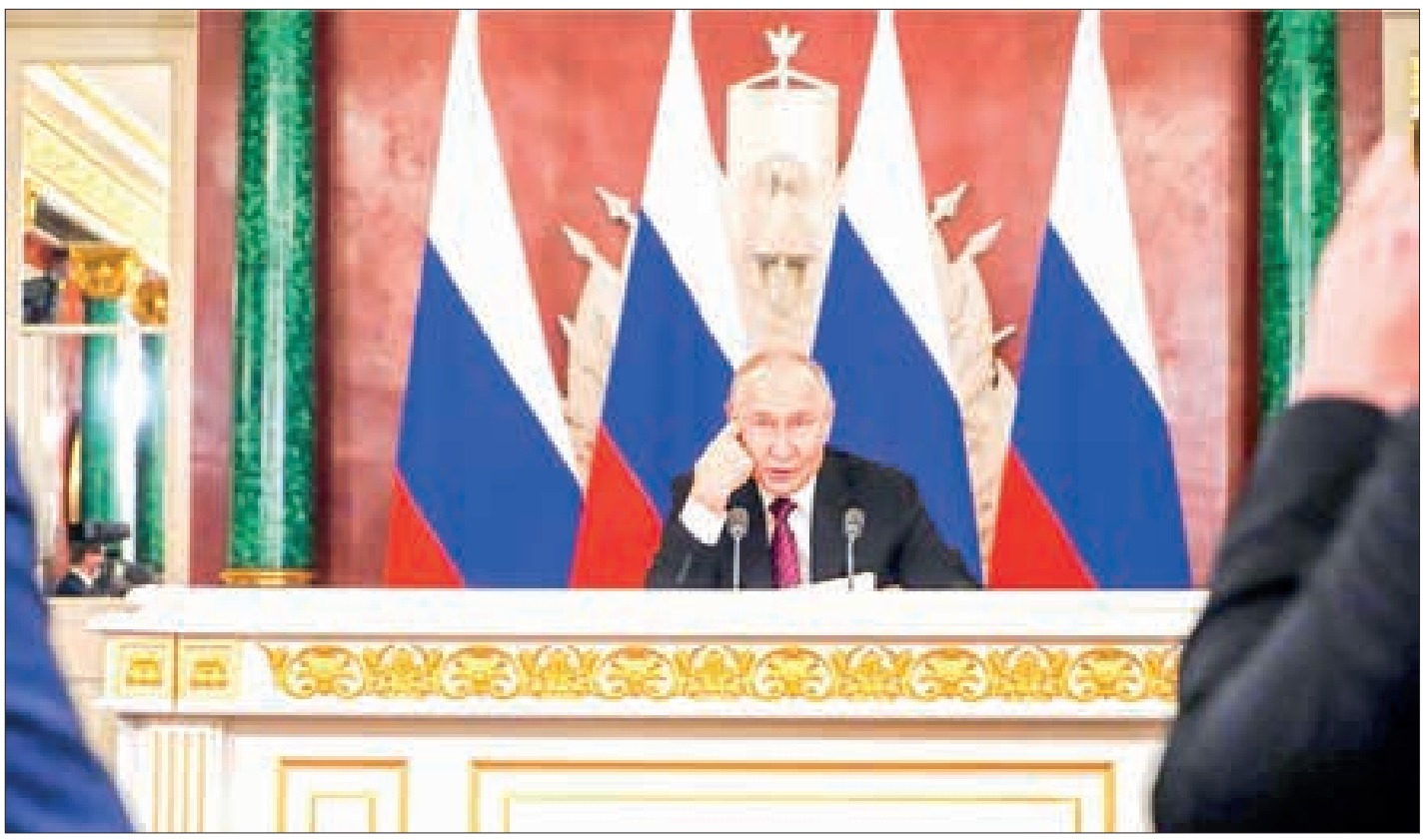
Putin proposes peace talks with Ukraine on 15 May in Istanbul without any preconditions

Putin emphasized that Russia is ready for serious negotiations aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict and establishing lasting peace.

RUSSIA offers Ukraine to resume direct talks on 15 May in Istanbul, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

President Vladimir Putin is delivering a key statement, concluding four days of high-level talks with world leaders gathered in Moscow for the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a press conference at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, 11 May 2025. **PHOTO: LIU KAI/XINHUA**

The Kremlin-confirmed address comes as international attention remains sharply focused on Russia's geopolitical stance.

"In this regard, despite everything, we propose that the Kiev authorities resume the talks they interrupted at the end of 2022, resume direct talks, and without any preconditions. We propose to begin without delay next Thursday, 15 May, in Istanbul, where they were held earlier and where they were interrupted," Putin said in a statement following a series of international talks in the Kremlin.

Russia is ready for serious negotiations with Ukraine, the point is to eliminate the root causes of the conflict, Putin said.

"We are ready for serious negotiations with Ukraine, their point is to eliminate the root causes of the conflict, to establish a long-term, lasting peace for the historical perspective," the president told journalists.

Putin said that Russia's proposal to resume negotiations with Ukraine was on the table.

The Kremlin will announce who will lead the Russian delegation to the Istanbul talks on Ukraine, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said on Sunday. — SPUTNIK

Cultural Exploration

Mother's Day observed in Australia's Canberra

CHILDREN from various countries gathered in Canberra on Sunday to participate in Mother's Day celebrations.

Through singing, dancing, and recitation, the kids expressed their appreciation and best wishes to their mothers. The event also featured a handicraft area and a multicultural exhibition zone, where parents and children got together to explore and experience the cultures of different nations.

This year marked the 101st observance of Mother's Day in Australia. The holiday began to gain popularity in the country during the 1920s, inspired by the Mother's Day movement initiated in the United States by Anna Jarvis in 1908. — Xinhua

India-Pakistan ceasefire brings relief as guns fall silent

PEOPLE living close to border areas and the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan Sunday woke up to a calm morning as guns have fallen silent four days after an incessant military conflict.

The uneasy calm has brought relief to people in both countries, especially those living on the boundaries between them.

A ceasefire reached by the two neighbors seemed to be holding, despite the accusations of ceasefire violations from both sides. Hours after an announcement of a ceasefire on Saturday afternoon, loud explosions were heard in the Indian-controlled Kashmir. "For the last few hours, there have been repeated violations of the understanding arrived at earlier this evening between the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan. This is a breach of an understanding arrived at earlier today," India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said during a briefing Saturday night. — Xinhua

The India-Pakistan ceasefire comes after four days of attacks and counter-attacks by both sides that killed at least 60 people. **PHOTO: AFP**