Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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LNG power plants in Thilawa, Thakayta set for restart

Once operational, these LNG power plants will prioritize electricity supply to Yangon and Mandalay's industrial zones.

Dedicated workers labour tirelessly to restore LNG power plant operations.

THE Ministry of Electric Power has confirmed that efforts are currently underway to resume operations at the Thilawa (Thanlyin) and Thakayta LNG-fired power plants in Yangon Region.

Once these LNG-based power plants are operational again, electricity will be prioritized for distribution to industrial zones in Yangon Region and Mandalay Region. To enable this distribution, the ministry is also working with companies that can import LNG.

Although the country has an installed generation capacity of 6,878 megawatts, only around 2,300 megawatts — approximately 50 per cent of the national electricity requirement — are currently being generated daily.

As of May 2025, the ministry noted that available electricity is being distributed proportionally: 52 per cent to Yangon Region, 17 per cent to Mandalay Region, and 31 per cent to other regions and states. — ASH/KZL

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Kangyidaunt plant to produce 30,000 tonnes of urea this FY

Breaking: Domestic fuel prices fall

Local fuel prices are determined by domestic exchange rates and Singapore's regional daily average, ensuring market-aligned pricing.

DOMESTIC fuel prices are declining due to stable foreign exchange rates and the drop in international fuel prices, and the fuel remains readily available for purchase as needed.

Domestic fuel prices are based on the local foreign exchange rates and the daily average fuel prices of Singapore for the Asia-Pacific Region. Currently, as foreign exchange rates remain stable and international fuel prices continue to decline, domestic fuel prices have also dropped by approximately K75 to K125 per litre.

Moreover, fuel is delivered and distributed on time across different regions to meet demand, ensuring smooth and convenient access for consumers. There is a reserve stock of fuel for approximately two weeks, and fuel tankers from abroad continue to arrive regularly. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Communities Urged to Unite Against Armed Groups to Safeguard Peace and Security

RESIDENTS must work together to prevent the presence of armed groups in order to reduce acts of terror, as these groups undermine peace and stability in the region and threaten residents' security.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Kayah State government, state-level departmental officials, town elders and locals on 4 September 2024.)

SAC enacts Rural Road Development Law

THE State Administration Council enacted the Rural Road Development Law as the SAC Law No 38/2025 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 16 May.

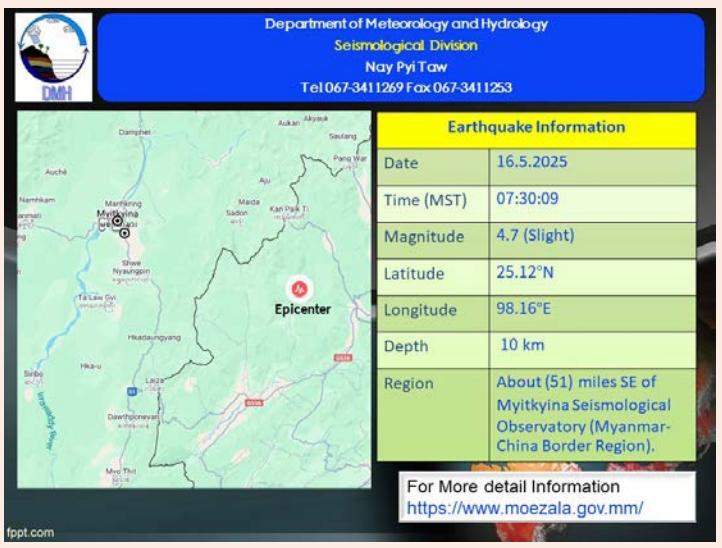
The law consists of eight chapters: Title and Definition in the Chapter I, Objectives in the Chapter II, Responsibility and Authority of Ministry in the Chapter III, Responsibility and Authority of Department in the Chapter IV, Responsibility and Entitlements of rural people in the Chapter V, Undertakings of Rural Roads in the Chapter VI, Crimes and Penalties in the Chapter VII and General measures in the Chapter VII.

Especially, some key points of the law mentioned that the department must submit a proposal to the ministry, following the specified guidelines, to acquire the land genuinely required for the construction of new rural roads or the expansion of existing rural road areas. Moreover, the department can formulate and implement strategic plans in accordance with established guidelines for both the maintenance and repair of completed rural roads to ensure their long-term sustainability, as well as for the inspection of rural roads under construction to ensure they meet quality standards. — GNLM/TTA

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 7:45 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.7 Richter Scale with its epicentre in the Myanmar-China Border Region, latitude 25.12°N, longitude 98.16°E, depth (10) kilometres, about 51 miles southeast of Myitkyina seismological observatory was recorded at 07 hours 30 minutes 09 seconds MST on 16 May, 2025. — DMH



Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday 16 May 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 17 May 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Rakhine and northern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Chin, Mon and Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions. — DMH

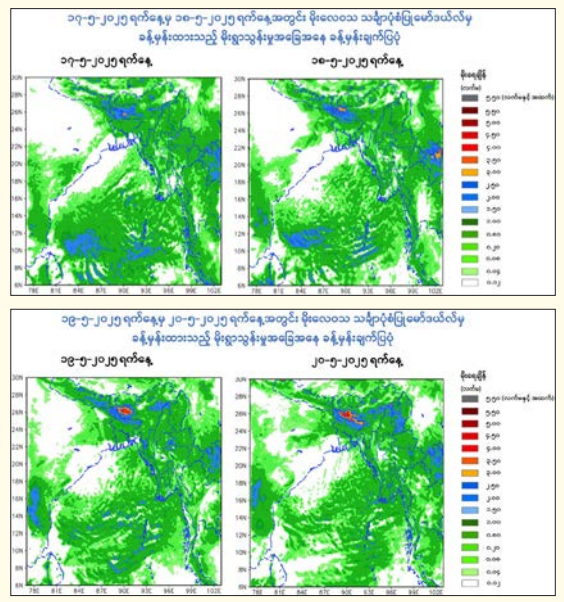
Heavy Rainfall Warning 10

Issued at 7 pm MST on 16 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal, continuations of southwest monsoon advancement 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 isolated heavyfalls in Chin and Mon, Shan States from tonight to 20 May 2025.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, 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)

MIC greenlights 9 new projects with local and foreign investments

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held its third coordination meeting yesterday with the attendance of General Mya Tun Oo, State Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Commission.

MIC greenlit three new foreign investments in industry and service sectors, including the capital expansion of certain existing businesses, and six new Myanmar citizens' investments.

The overall investments amounted to US$35.778 million and K30,206.920 million, thus creating 971 job opportunities.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo chairs the third coordination meeting of the Myanmar Investment Committee.

The approved projects included the production of solar and related materials, electrification, instant food production, CMP garments, and iron and steel-based material production.

Out of 53 countries that put investments in Myanmar until the end of April 2025, Singapore, China and Thailand are the most prominent investors in the country.

Among the 12 business sectors, they invest in energy, with 28.34 per cent of total investment, while 24.69 per cent is in oil and natural gas, and 14.49 per cent is in the manufacturing sector.

MIC reviews the investment proposals of local and foreign investors to permit and offer services to the current investors under the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Deputy Minister attends Inaugural Meeting of ASEAN Geoeconomics Task Force

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung, Myanmar's Lead of the ASEAN Geoeconomics Task Force, attened the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Geoeconomics Task Force, which was held virtually on 16 May 2025.

The task force members exchanged views on the regional economic landscape, current trade policy developments, and envisioned future actions for the ASEAN region in response to evolving global trade dynamics.

The Deputy Minister highlighted the key challenges and opportunities faced by ASEAN Member States due to the shifts of current global geoeconomic and trade policy changes, as well as benefits and risks, the potential initiatives and areas for strengthening collaboration among ASEAN Member States. She underscored for enhancing information exchange and collective ways forward in the region.

With the approval of the Special Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers virtually on 10 April 2025, the ASEAN Geoeconomics Task Force was established to assess the risks and opportunities from the current global trade shifts and submit the policy recommendations to ASEAN Economic Ministers. The Task Force is composed of two representatives from each ASEAN Member State (AMS), one at the Deputy Minister level and one Expert representing non-governmental perspectives. — MIFER

Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung leads the Myanmar delegation at the Inaugural ASEAN geoeconomics Task Force Meeting online.

NATIONAL

SAC Member inspects rubber and coffee farms in Ayeyawady Region

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, along with Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, regional ministers and officials, looked around rubber and coffee intercropping plantations on 14 May afternoon in Theinlagatsu Village, Myaungmya Township. They also visited the farm of U Thant Zin.

During the visit, the SAC member and the Chief Minister encouraged value-added production from raw materials to finished goods. They inspected rubber processing steps such as rubber latex collection, sheet pressing, water filtering, sun-drying and smoke-curing, as well as the current status of the 48-acre rubber plantation and the 5-acre Robusta (TR-4) coffee intercropping.

They also met local people, and the SAC member delivered a speech. The SAC member and the Chief Minister coordinated to address the locals' needs based on their presentations.

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung conducts inspection tour in Ayeyawady Region.

Later, they attended the final matches and prize presentation ceremony of the Under-25 men's and women's volleyball tournaments for the 2025 Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister's Cup. They watched the women's final between Pathein and Kyonpyaw districts, and the men's final between Pathein and Myaungmya districts. The SAC member presented medals, cash prizes, and trophies to the winning men's team from Pathein and personally congratulated the athletes.

Afterwards, the SAC member, the chief minister and ministers attended the opening ceremony of a new concrete ring road (Agricultural Institute Road) in Myakantha Ward, Myaungmya.

They also visited the Kyunwha Agricultural Training Camp in Myaungmya Township to distribute quality rice seeds, kenaf seeds, and drum seeders for the 2025-2026 monsoon rice season, including the Aung Naing Toe and Yezin Pawsan-2 varieties.

Similarly, they visited Kangwin Village-tract in Wakema Township and met monsoon paddy farmers to hand over Aung Naing Toe rice seeds for the coming season.

They visited Sein Yadana Phyo duck farm in Pyapon Taman Village, Pyapon Township, where 2,000 layer ducks are raised, and gave disinfectant supplies for the farm. — MNA/KZL

Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,725

AS of 16 May, a total of 3,725 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 82 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international rescue organizations, have been carrying out emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. So far, 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 802 deceased persons have been recovered.

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

Between 5 pm on 15 May and 5 pm on 16 May, various forms of international assistance arrived at Yangon International Airport. Instant noodles, weighing 0.165 tonne from Lotus Light Charity Society in Singapore, were sent through the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore.

These relief items will swiftly be distributed to quake-impacted communities to ensure timely support. — MNA/MKKS

Donations for Mandalay earthquake victims

THE families of the 37th batch of graduate cadets from the Defence Services Academy donated K13.660 million to the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win received the donation and expressed gratitude, and presented a certificate of appreciation. — MNA/MKKS

Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepts the donations from well-wishers.

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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.

NATIONAL

Reminder: Agencies must settle overseas worker deployment taxes for FY2023–2024

FOR the 2023–2024 financial year, agencies holding official overseas employment service licences must settle taxes based on the number of workers deployed abroad by country. These agencies must report and settle their taxes at the relevant township revenue offices no later than August 2024.

On 7 June 2024, revenue offices informed agencies that they must settle their outstanding taxes. Again, on 9 May 2025, agencies that had not yet paid were notified to settle their taxes by the final deadline of 31 May 2025.

The revenue department has notified the following 28 agencies, which have not yet fulfilled their tax obligations, to settle their dues at the township revenue offices before 31 May 2025. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of their overseas employment service licences and inclusion in the blacklist.

No	Agency Name	No	Agency Name
1	Aung San Moe Co Ltd	15	Royal Four Sea Services Co Ltd
2	Diamond Bagan General Services Co Ltd	16	SMZ Co Ltd
3	Fore Signal Int'l Services Co Ltd	17	Seven Day Ayar Lwin Co Ltd
4	Forerunner Myanmar Co Ltd	18	Shwe Lwin Lwin Co Ltd
5	Global Champion Co Ltd	19	Shwe Poe Myanmar Group Co Ltd
6	Htoo Aung Hlyan Co Ltd	20	Shwe Thiri Chan Thar Services Co Ltd
7	JJA Support Co Ltd	21	Shwe Zin Inter Co Ltd
8	JMK Service Co Ltd	22	Southern Treasure Co Ltd
9	Job Success Co Ltd	23	Super Tip Co Ltd
10	Max Success Co Ltd	24	Swan Aung Myin General Services Co Ltd
11	Mingalar Asia Co Ltd	25	Thaw Tar Myint Moh Services Co Ltd
12	Moe Moe Family General Services Co Ltd	26	Vega & Mira Co Ltd
13	Mya Yeik Hlyan Co Ltd	27	Ya Wai Myaing Family Co Ltd
14	Ngwe Kyal Wint Co Ltd	28	Yadanar Su Latt Co Ltd

Ministry of Labour

National basic education exam results announced

Students are seen viewing exam results for the 2024-2025 academic year.

EXAMINATION results from Kindergarten to Grade 11 for the 2024-2025 academic year were released on 15 May in all regions and states, according to statements in respective schools.

Grade 5 result was released at the township education officer's office, and Grade 9 result was released at the district education officer's office. Exam results were published at respective schools starting at 6 am.

Enrollment week for basic education for the 2025-2016 academic year has been set from 22 May to 1 June, and school uniforms, textbooks, notebooks and stationery will be provided for students, announced by the Ministry of Education. — Htun Htun/ZS

Konbaung dynasty royal army uniforms set for historic replica project

THE founder of Myat Taw Win, which works on the re-creation of Myanmar culture and tradition, said the costumes of Myanmar royal soldiers in the Konbaung dynasty have been planned to be re-created.

With detailing to the original design, the armour suit in dragon-scale design worn by commanders of the royal army will be re-made too, said Myat Thinga Nge.

"According to historical records, the army's armour suit completes all accessories such as cheek covering, ear covering, three-layered Dat-ba-yat necklace, chest chain, waist chain and finishing with helmet, and we will make this creation," she said.

Their creation will cover from lower rank to upper rank of officer suits, with detailing, and they will provide this service if film producers offer to make historical movies, she said.

"We will create each suit to its original design in detail," she added. Myat Taw Win has gained popularity in making Myanmar royal outfits. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

The wearing style of a young royal family member in the early Konbaung era, created by Myat Taw Win.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

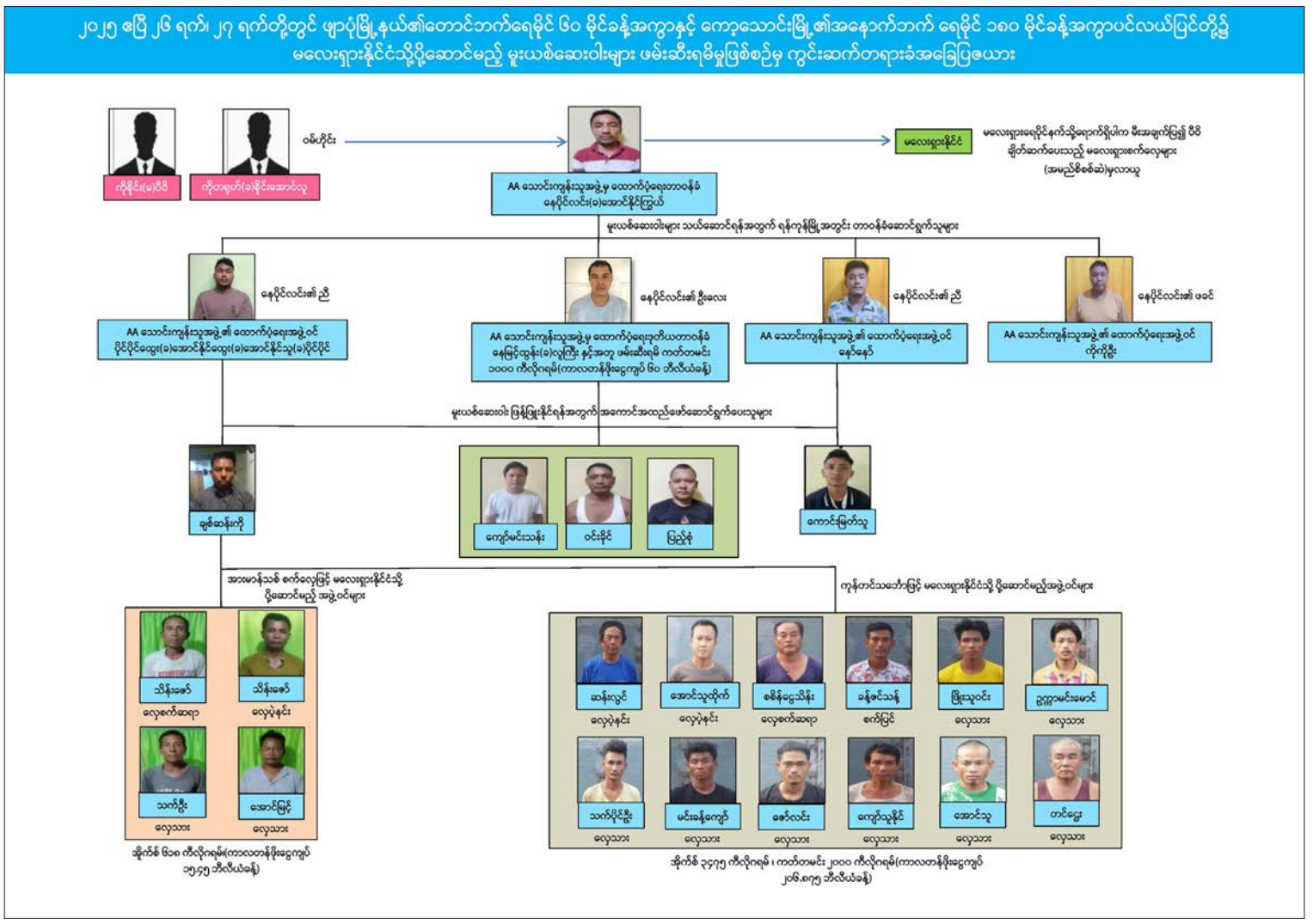
1. Office of the State Administration Council https://sacoffice.gov.mm	
2. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm
4. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm	5. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm
6. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm	

NATIONAL

Malaysia-bound narcotics intercepted

AA terrorists traded drugs and purchased arms and munition with the money they earned through drug trading. They also conducted terror attacks in Rakhine State, bullied and murdered civilians with weapons. Locals reported to authorities regarding their drug trafficking and terrorist attacks. On 26 April 2025, authorities arrested Thein Zaw, aged 43, Thet Oo, aged 56, Aung Myint, aged 51 and Thein Zaw, aged 56, together with ICE weighing 618 kilogrammes on the "Arman Thit" boat about 60 nautical miles southwest of Pyapon Township in Ayeyawady Region.

According to their confession, on 27 April, other offenders San Lwin, Sa Sein Ngwe Thein, Khant Zin Thant, Phyo Thu Win, Okka Min Maung, Aung Thu Htike, Thet Paing Oo, Min Khant Kyaw, Zaw Lin, Kyaw Thu Naing, Aung Thu and Tin Htay together with 3,475 kilogrammes of ICE and 2,000 kilogrammes of ketamine on the boat about 180 nautical miles west of Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region. Moreover,



These images reveal criminal networks, arrests, land drugs seized from the cargo vessel intercepted 60 nautical miles' from Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region, on 26 April 2025.

Drug bust: 12 arrested with K 206.875 billion narcotics seized in Kawthoung maritime interception (27 April 2025).

Chit San Ko, who trafficked the drug, was arrested in Pyapon Township.

On 27 April evening, the police arrested the supply in charge of AA Nay Paing Lin (aka) Aung Naing Kywe, Kyaw Min Than (aka) Maung Lone, Aung Moe Win (aka) Win Khine and Pyae Sone (aka) Nwa Gyi at No O-116, FMI Residence in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region.

On 1 May, another suspect, Nay Paing Lin (aka) Aung Naing Kywe, and AA's supply group members Paing Paing Htwe (aka) Aung Naing Htwe(aka) Aung Naing Thu (aka) Paing Paing, Naw Naw and Ko Ko Oo were arrested in Pyay, Bago Region, and on 6 May evening, Kaung Myat Thu was arrested in Yangon.

On 11 May, deputy in charge of AA's supply group Nay Myint Tun (aka) Pyae Sone (aka) Lu Gyi was arrested with 1,000 kilogrammes of ketamine at No 201 B, Aung

Thabyay Street, Pale Myothit, Mingaladon Township in Yangon Region.

A total of 26 offenders were arrested, together with 4,093 kilogrammes of Ice (K25 million per gramme), 3,000 kilogrammes of ketamine (K60 million per gramme), amounting to K282.325 billion.

According to Nay Paing Lin (aka) Aung Naing Kywel, AA terrorists widely conduct drug trading for their existence, arms and ammunition supply. The seized drugs were purchased by Ko Sai (still at large) and Ko Tayoke (aka) Sai Aung Lu, still at large) from the Loilem district of Shan State (South) to transport to Malaysia.

Offenders will face legal actions, and the rest two will be investigated for arrest. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

85 telecom fraud suspects deported, one Ethiopian detained

MYANMAR authorities deported 85 foreigners involved in telecom fraud to their respective countries, and detained one more Ethiopian national following extra scrutiny. The government continues to combat online scams and criminal networks in cooperation with neighbouring countries and international organizations.

On 15 May, 78 Ethiopians and seven Liberians were deported via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II under humanitarian considerations and bilateral relations, in line with legal procedures. One more Ethiopian national was arrested during a subsequent investigation.

Immigration processes underway for the deportation of foreign entrants.

To ensure the deportation process was systematic and smooth, Kayin State Social Affairs Minister U Saw Tun Aung and officials held coordination meetings with relevant departments, verified lists and documents and filled in any missing information.

A formal deportation ceremony was held with the participation of officials from Myanmar and representatives from foreign embassies. Myanmar officials handed over the deportees along with necessary documentation.

Separately, on the same day, another Ethiopian national who entered illegally through the Myawady-Kyaukkat area was arrested. Authorities are now collecting personal details and records to arrange his swift repatriation in coordination with relevant departments.

From 30 January to 16 May 2025, Myanmar authorities apprehended a total of 9,071 foreign nationals who entered the country illegally. Of these, 8,412 were deported to their respective countries through Thailand. The remaining 659 are currently held under safe custody while preparations for their deportation are finalized.

The Myanmar government remains committed to thoroughly investigating and taking decisive action against illegal online fraud activities. Efforts to prevent and eliminate online gambling and financial scams in border areas will continue in close cooperation with neighbouring countries and international organisations, according to official reports. — MNA/KZL

Drug ring busted in Minhla, Pyinmana – Ice, Ketamine, Happy Water seized

THE Myanmar Police Force announced the arrest of a drug-trafficking group in Minhla and Pyinmana Townships, which was involved in trafficking drugs, including over K16.2 billion worth of stimulant tablets, Ice (crystal methamphetamine), Ketamine and Happy Water.

A combined team from the Drug Enforcement Division searched an X-Trail driven by Pyae Phyo Kyaw, accompanied by Ma Zin Zin Wai (aka) Zin Zin Mar and a Surf driven by Yan Naing Htut, accompanied by Tin Latt, heading to Mindon from Minhla, near Shantae village on the Pathein-Monywa road in Minhla Township at 2:30 pm on 9 May. Police seized 2,180,000 stimulant tablets.

Following some interrogation, police arrested the drug traffickers, Ma Nan (aka) Myo Thiri Kyaw and Myo Zaw Aung with a Toyota Hilux Surf in Pyinmana Township and Aung Naing and Zaw Win with 7,617,800 stimulant tablets, five kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine), one kilogramme of Ketamine and 2.915 kilogrammes of Happy Water in Pyinmana Township at 5:30 pm on 10 May.

Additionally, police arrested Tun Lin (aka) Shan Kalar with a motorbike near Nyaungkhashay village in Waw Township at 9:30 am on 11 May.

According to the investigation, Myo Zaw Aung and Ma Nan (aka) Myo Thiri Kyaw were responsible for transporting drugs from Shan State to Mindon Township through Pyinmana Township, along with Tin Latt (aka) Saw Tin Latt, Pyae Phyo (aka) Yan Naing Htut, and Ma Zin Zin Wai (aka) Zin Zin Mar.

Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicles.

Similarly, the drugs to be trafficked to Kayin State were kept in Aung Naing's cattle farm in Myauklutkon village, Pyinmana Township. Action was taken against all of them, and further investigation is underway. — MNA/MKKS

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Ensure gender equality in digital transformation

DIGITAL technologies have the power to accelerate progress across all sectors of society, yet this potential remains out of reach for many. Of the 2.6 billion people still unconnected, the majority are women and girls. Gaps in internet access, affordability of digital devices, and limited digital skills continue to hinder their participation in today's economy and in shaping the digital solutions of tomorrow. Bridging this divide is essential to unlocking new pathways for economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2025 underscores the urgent need to advance gender equality in digital transformation, ensuring that women and girls worldwide can both benefit from and contribute to this progress. As we mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Day serves as a pivotal moment to accelerate collective efforts and ensure that digital transformation offers opportunities for everyone, everywhere.

In addition, it is necessary to ensure gender equality in the implementation of digital transformation. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate and contribute according to their abilities. For digital transformation to be truly inclusive, women and children must also be given the chance to take on roles they are capable of. Only then will a strong and diverse platform emerge – one that reflects perspectives from all sides.

The world of technology has become an essential part of modern life. Mobile phones, internet networks, smartphones, and the use of artificial intelligence are increasingly utilized in human society. In the field of education, online learning, in healthcare, telemedicine, and business, e-commerce and e-banking — these various sectors are all benefiting from the effective solutions provided through ICT.

For Myanmar as well, WTISD (World Telecommunication and Information Society Day) is important for exploring technological advancements and fostering knowledge creation. As internet usage gradually increases in Myanmar, it is necessary to enhance digital literacy. Furthermore, in order to ensure equitable access to technology across Myanmar society, it is essential to adhere to the principles of WTISD.

Users have to be important to use technology responsibly, to pay attention to data privacy and cybersecurity, and to trust only accurate and reliable information. One must carefully examine and verify the information that appears on various media platforms. It is also essential to develop the ability to critically analyze such information and to gather supporting data. In today's media platforms, where truth and falsehood are often mixed, digital media has the advantage of being able to present evidence visually. However, users must always remember that not all evidence is necessarily true.

In addition, it is necessary to ensure gender equality in the implementation of digital transformation. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate and contribute according to their abilities. For digital transformation to be truly inclusive, women and children must also be given the chance to take on roles they are capable of. Only then will a strong and diverse platform emerge – one that reflects perspectives from all sides.

City of Hohhot, a unique urban area that blends traditional culture with modern development

By Linn Linn

A panoramic view depicts the city of Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

A LOCAL young woman explained as bridges and mountains are green and blue, the title of the city becomes Hohhot. Because it is interesting, when observing carefully along the road, the bridges appear in shades of green and blue, while the mountains stand lush and vividly green.

It is Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, located in the north of the People's Republic of China.

A high-speed train that departed from Beijing Station at 8:30 am Chinese Standard Time arrived at Huhehaote Station in Hohhot city, which is located approximately 500 kilometres away, at 11:00 am CST.

The city of Hohhot, which is a historic city of Mongolia, was established by Altan Khan in the 16th Century. Currently, it has become a beautiful city attracting international travellers with traditional culture, customs, historical heritages, architectural works, modern buildings and natural beauties due to the combination of Mongolian culture and modern urbanization development.

The city of Hohhot, located on 12,224 square kilometres of land, is home to some 3.4 million.

"The name 'Hohhot' means 'Blue City' in the Mongolian language, and it is a unique city that blends Mongolian culture with Han traditions. People in the region are honest, kind, and warm-hearted," the young woman continued, explaining.

The city is filled with several tourist destinations. Domestic traditional foodstuffs, including milk, dried tea, Mongolian milk tea and mutton, contribute to the city to catch the attention of travellers for the development of the tourism industry.

Renowned as the capital, it primarily meets the demand for milk and dairy product consumption of the People's Republic of China. In this regard, the National Centre of Technology Innovation for Dairy in Hohhot plays a vital role in the modern development of Inner Mongolia's milk and dairy industry with the integration of technology, research, and business in a balanced manner to promote rural development and environmental conservation.

Moreover, it can be seen that there are major international milk and dairy product companies like Yili, which prioritize safety and have occupied a strong market share globally due to their taste and quality.

There is a Data Exchange Centre that is crucial in transforming Hohhot City into a Smart City, applying AI technology. It supports traffic control to address road congestion, reduces energy consumption, manages lighting, water, and electricity systems, and connects local businesses to online markets to facilitate the transition to a digital economy.

On one hand, the Data Centre contributes to the systematic collection of data, storage, analysis and exchange services for conducting agriculture, energy and tourism, business and research measures of the People's Republic of China.

In addition, the International Sculpture Park in Hohhot, the capital of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, is an intriguing destination for art lovers, tourists, and those interested in exploring traditional culture.

Masterpieces of globally famous sculptors and statues of prominent persons from the international community reflect artistic works of traditional Mongolian folktales, history and social systems, culture and natural beauties. It is also an attractive destination for travellers, as it showcases a blend of local traditional culture and contemporary art, offering the opportunity to explore diverse cultures.

The decorative lights make the scenery livelier and more beautiful, and the unique and extraordinary statues provide a memorable photo spot for travellers.

To relieve stress and anxiety, and to experience traditional culture and natural beauty, the months from May to September are the best months to visit Hohhot City due to moderate temperatures and lush green meadows.

The city of Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China is a unique region for agriculture, livestock breeding, technology and tourism industries, and it is recognized as an urban area that plays a responsible role in the development and progress of the entire country from every aspect.

Translated by TTA

A dairy product factory in Hohhot.

Machines are being used in the production of milk and dairy products factory in Hohhot.

Study shows why women tend to have faster heartbeats, men more irregular rhythms

This discovery could lead to more tailored treatments for heart rhythm disorders in the future.

FOR decades, doctors and researchers have puzzled over a fundamental heart rhythm mystery: why do women have faster heartbeats while men are more susceptible to developing irregular rhythms like atrial fibrillation (AFib).

Now, a new study from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Centre sheds some light.

The research shows that the sinoatrial node (SAN) — a small but powerful structure in the human heart that serves as its natural pacemaker and initiates every normal heartbeat — runs on different gene blueprints in men and women.

The study found that women have genes that help their hearts beat faster while men have gene networks that may lead to heart problems like AFib. The research was recently published in the American Heart Association's Circulation: Arrythmia and Electrophysiology.

"We found for the first time that the genes controlling how the SAN works are influenced by sex," said Vadim Fedorov, PhD, professor of physiology and cell biology, Corrine Frick Research Chair in Heart Failure and Arrhythmia at the Ohio State University College of Medicine and senior author of the study. "That helps explain why women generally have faster heart rates and are more likely to experience inappropriate sinus tachycardia, while men face a greater risk of heart rate disorders like conduction block and atrial fibrillation."

Researchers at Ohio State University's Dorothy M Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute and Bob and Corrine Frick Center for Heart Failure and Arrhythmia examined donated human hearts to unmask unique gene sets in the SAN pacemaker cells responsible for the generation and maintenance of heart rates.

They analyzed genes and pathways involved in pacing, metabolism, inflammation and fibrotic remodeling and discovered distinct patterns tied to biological sex. The hearts were donated for research by organ donor families through Lifeline of Ohio.

SOURCE: ANI

A new study from Ohio State University has found that the sinoatrial node (SAN), the heart's natural pacemaker, operates based on different genetic instructions in men and women. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

NATIONAL

Quake relief: MPT & Pun Hlaing offer free '2025' medical hotline

ACCORDING to the MPT office in Yangon, MPT and Pun Hlaing Hospital have collaborated to launch a free health hotline service using the number '2025', starting from 2 May. This service aims to provide healthcare discussions for people from five regions and states affected by the earthquake.

It is 24-hour healthcare discussions for the quake survivors from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Bago Region (East and West) and Shan State (East, South and North).

"MPT has been providing support in areas affected by the earthquake since 29 March, and now it is also offering free services through the 2025 health hotline. During this difficult time, we are especially grateful to our partner organization, Pun Hlaing Hospital, for their collaboration in assisting in the crucial area of physical and mental healthcare of people in the affected regions," said Mr Naoki Shimane, MPT-KSGM JO Chief Operating Officer.

People in the affected regions can now access free 24-hour consultations on physical and mental health issues with medical specialists from Pun Hlaing Hospital. This service is provided through MPT's free health hotline number 2025, and is available to MPT GSM SIM card users without any charges.

"We are truly honoured and proud to collaborate with MPT to provide timely and essential healthcare services to those affected by the earthquake. Through this partnership, we can offer free physical and mental health support to people in the impacted areas.

An invite for the free '2025' healthcare services.

We will continue to contribute and support such relief efforts," said Dr Gershu Paul, CEO of Pun Hlaing Hospitals. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Kangyidaunt plant to produce 30,000 tonnes of urea this FY

THE No 5 Fertilizer Plant (Kangyidaunt) in Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, aims to produce 30,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer for the 2025-2026 financial year beginning 1 April with a monthly production target of 3,000 tonnes at least, according to the Ministry of Industry.

"We expect urea fertilizer output to reach 3,000 tonnes per month. The Plant produced 5,300 tonnes in the first month of the current FY, surpassing the target. We enhance efficiency with on-demand production," said an official of the Factory.

The No 5 Fertilizer Plant (Kangyidaunt) started running in the 2010-2011 FY. It has produced over 630,290 tonnes of urea fertilizer as of 6 May 2025. — ASH/KK

The production process of the No 5 Fertilizer Plant (Kangyidaunt).

Thai Embassy warns visa seekers to follow guidelines

THAI visa applicants in Myanmar should carefully read the embassy's instructions before applying, the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon announced.

E-visa applicants must apply at https://www. thaievisa.go.th/, make an appointment for payment at https://www.thaiconsularyangon.com/evisapay/index.php/make-an-appointments and make the payment at the embassy.

E-visa applications must be submitted at least 15 days in advance of the intended date of travel, and the embassy is not responsible for the applicant's travel pre-arrangement. The visa process will take approximately 10 to 15 days after complete documents are received, excluding weekends and holidays. Applicants need to read the official holidays announced on the embassy website carefully and check the visa dashboard and email regularly. If an applicant is required to resubmit additional information, 15 days will be counted from the date of resubmission.

E-visa is necessary to apply just once, and repeated applications may result in a longer processing time.

If there is any inaccurate information, it may be difficult to enter Thailand. Applicants must be responsible for their information, and if false or forged documents are used, the visa will be rejected, and if found, the applicant may be denied entry into Thailand, it said. — MT/ZN

Thailand Education Fair 2025 returns to Yangon Novotel Hotel

THE 9th Thailand Education Fair (Myanmar) 2025 will take place at the Novotel Hotel in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region, according to the organizer, the Association of Myanmar Alumni from Universities in Thailand (AMAUT).

The fair, to be held from 9 am to 4 pm on 24 May at the Novotel Hotel in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region, will feature the participation of St Teresa International University, Stamford University, Ignite Education, King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB), Mahidol University International College (MUIC), Southeast Bangkok University, Thailand, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), Assumption University, North Chiang Mai University, Asian Maritime International College (AMCOL), MUT International College (MUTIC), Dusit Thani International College, Bangkok University, Silpakorn University International College, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, The Global Academy at Siam University, Asian Institute of Hospitality Management (AIHM), Dhurakij Pundit University (DPU) and other universities.

Everyone is welcome to visit the fair for free and engage in direct discussions with representatives from many Thai universities. — ASH/MKKS

This photo showcases the 8th Thailand Education Fair.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

ACC invites Myanmar durian suppliers to ASEAN durian festival

Myanmar's durians.

THE ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) will organize the first-ever ASEAN Durian Festival under the theme of Bridging Tastes in August 2025 in Beijing, China. ACC welcomes Myanmar businesspeople to join the event, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization. ACC will provide a booth for the respective embassy free of charge, and ASEAN members are invited to showcase durian valued products, durian and other food products.

Embassies are encouraged to fill in the Survey Questionnaire and QR Code Form by 30 May 2025 so that ACC can arrange it in time.

Myanmar business entrepreneurs are invited to participate in the event at the pavilion of the Myanmar Embassy, provided by ACC. They need to bear the flight ticket cost and accommodation themselves.

Those who cannot attend the event can also deliver and exhibit their products. Those who want to register can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through 067 408623 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

CBM injects Forex into financial market on 15 May

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US$138,500 and three million baht on 15 May again after the sale of over 4.3 million baht on 14 May 2025.

CBM announced on 13 May that it would sell $23.67 million to fuel oil traders and 50 million baht to importers. CBM sold over $1.62 million on 13 May and over $820,000 and 1.5 million baht on 12 May. CBM also injected over 3.6 million baht on 9 May again in the financial market after over 5.3 million baht and 723,000 yuan on 8 May, and $710,000 on 7 May into the financial market. CBM announced on 6 May that it would sell $33 million and 200 million baht to those engaged in the fuel oil industry. CBM sold 397,843 yuan on that day. CBM injected over $42 million, over 20 million baht and 500,000 yuan in April, over $126 million, 320 million baht and 3.6 million yuan in March, over $88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and over $124 million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

A general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

MoE bids for long-term leasing of fertilizer plants

MINISTRY of Energy called for local and foreign investors to submit a letter of Express of Interest for long-term leasing of the fertilizer plants (No 4 Fertilizer Plant in Myaungtaga and No 5 Fertilizer Plant in Kangyidaunt), with Tender No 1/ Leasing of F4 Fertilizer Plant/MPE - HQ/2025-2026 and Tender No 2/ Leasing of F5 Fertilizer Plant/MPE-HQ/2025-2026 respectively.

A farmer fertilizes the field to boost yields.

Submission of tender forms will close at noon on 15 July. Those interested companies can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) of the Ministry of Energy at 09 420734080 and 09 254554420.

Tenders must be submitted directly to the MPE in person. Submission via Email or Fax will not be considered anyhow. — NN/KK

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to co-operate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against

ECONOMY
WORLD

BRIEF: ECON

Eurozone GDP growth revised down to 0.3% in first quarter

THE eurozone economy expanded at a slightly slower pace than estimated in the first three months of the year, official data showed on Thursday, with global trade tensions clouding the outlook.

The EU's official data agency said the 20-country single currency area recorded growth of 0.3 per cent over the January-March period from the previous quarter, down from the 0.4 per cent figure published last month.

The first quarter growth figure for the European Union as a whole was unchanged at 0.3 per cent, Eurostat said.

Experts still expect growth to slow sharply as the full effect of US President Donald Trump's 25-per-cent tariffs on steel, aluminium and auto imports kick in.

The EU could also still face Trump's 20-per-cent levies on a majority of European goods, which were paused for 90 days. A nearly worldwide 10-per-cent tariff rate also remains in place. — AFP

APEC trade ministers meet in South Korea

Busan Port is the largest port in South Korea and a busy transport hub. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TRADE ministers from the top economies that make up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, began a two-day meeting in South Korea's Jeju island on Thursday, as trade cooperation falters globally.

US President Donald Trump's tariffs and trade war with China has shaken the export-dependent Asia-Pacific region, and countries were vying to meet the US representative for trade talks on the sidelines of the summit.

The 21-member APEC group includes Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Russia, Japan, the United States, Canada, Mexico and Chile.

Established in 1989, it aims to promote regional integration and economic cooperation.

APEC members account for around 37 per cent of the global population, 60 per cent of the world's GDP and nearly half of global trade.

But it has been unable to exert meaningful political influence in the face of Trump's tariffs, which have hit Asian economies hard.

"APEC has always struggled to show relevance," said Deborah Elms, a trade analyst at the Hinrich Foundation, describing the group as an incubator for "non-binding ideas". — AFP

There are fewer foreign tourists to welcome to the United States, according to a report by travel industry group. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US set to lose $12.5 bln in foreign tourism in 2025: industry

The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) warns this will significantly harm the US economy, affecting communities, jobs, and businesses nationwide.

THE United States is on track to lose some $12.5 billion in revenue from foreign tourists this year, a tourism industry group said Thursday, as the Trump administration has led a crackdown in immigrants.

The study by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and Oxford Economics found that the United States was the only country set to see a drop in spending from foreign tourists this year.

The drop to $181 billion in spending by foreign tourists will put it 22.5 per cent from the peak set a decade ago.

The WTTC, made up of leading travel firms, said this "represents a direct blow to the US economy overall, impacting communities, jobs, and businesses from coast to coast".

WTTC president Julia Simpson said that government support was needed to ensure tourism growth.

"While other nations are rolling out the welcome mat, the US government is putting up the 'closed' sign," she said in a statement.

With President Donald Trump leading a cracking down on illegal immigration, making politically charged comments about other nations, and slapping tariffs on foreign goods, there have numerous efforts by consumers in other countries to boycott US products and calls to skip travel to the United States. — AFP

Egypt's Sukari mine produces 454,000 ounces of gold in 2024

EGYPT announced on Thursday that the production of its major Sukari gold mine reached 454,000 ounces in 2024.

Sukari is considered one of Egypt's most significant mines and holds confirmed reserves of 6.2 million ounces. AngloGold Ashanti, a global gold mining company, has been developing the mine to add nearly 4.3 million ounces to its current reserves, read a cabinet statement.

Located in Egypt's Eastern Desert, southwest of Marsa Alam town on the Red Sea, the Sukari mine has been in production since 2010.

Egypt's proven gold reserves are estimated at 7.3 million ounces, according to a previous report by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. — Xinhua

Egypt's proven gold reserves are estimated at 7.3 million ounces. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

Japan carmakers focus on popular models to soften US tariff impact

Toyota Motor Corp President Koji Sato (C) holds a press conference in Tokyo on 8 May 2025, after the company released its fiscal 2024 earnings and earnings projections for fiscal 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE automakers have few immediate options to offset the impact of the additional US tariff on cars. Toyota Motor Corp, Honda Motor Co and other domestic manufacturers will likely rely on strong sales of their popular fuel-efficient models in the key market, potentially coupled with price increases, analysts say. An additional 25 per cent tariff that took effect on 3 April is expected to significantly dent profits at Japanese automakers, with Japan's top two carmakers — Toyota and Honda — projecting a 35 per cent and 70 per cent plunge in net profit, respectively, for the year through March 2026.

Auto manufacturers can increase local production or pass the higher tariff costs on to customers, among other effective measures to mitigate the impact.

Raising prices could help ease the pressure on profitability, but the strategy risks driving away customers.

Toyota Chief Financial Officer Yoichi Miyazaki said at a press conference on the company's latest earnings that it would not make any hasty moves and ruled out an immediate price hike, describing it as a risky strategy.

It may take years to increase local production, as carmakers will need to reorganize their supply chains, and they may be reluctant to do so without knowing how long the tariffs will remain in place, analysts said. — Kyodo

Canada unveils tax relief for middle class, reduces income tax rate to 14% starting July 2025

FOLLOWING the unveiling of a new cabinet, Canada has announced a significant personal income tax cut as one of the government's top legislative priorities for the new parliamentary session. The proposal will see the lowest marginal personal income tax rate reduced from 15 per cent to 14 per cent, effective from 1 July 2025.

The measure is expected to benefit nearly 22 million Canadians. According to government estimates, two-income households could save up to US$840 annually by 2026. In a press release, Canada's Department of Finance said, "Minister of Finance and National Revenue, Francois-Philippe Champagne, on Friday announced one of the first orders of business on the government's legislative agenda for the new session of Parliament: tax relief for nearly 22 million Canadians, saving two-income families up to US$840 a year in 2026."

"Once legislated, the lowest marginal personal income tax rate will be reduced from 15 per cent to 14 per cent, effective 1 July 2025. This tax cut will help hard-working Canadians keep more of their paycheques to spend where it matters most. This measure is expected to deliver over US$27 billion in tax savings to Canadians over five years, starting in 2025-26," the release added. — ANI

Egypt approves 5 oil concession deals worth over US$221 mln

THE Egyptian government on Wednesday approved five petroleum concession agreements involving state energy authorities and several international oil and gas companies, with minimum investments exceeding US$221 million, said the cabinet in a statement.

The deals were signed by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation and the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company with global partners and aim to boost exploration and production activities in key regions, including the Western Desert, the Gulf of Suez, and the Mediterranean Sea. — Xinhua

The Egyptian government on Wednesday approved five petroleum concession agreements involving state energy authorities and several international oil and gas companies, with minimum investments exceeding US$221 million. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring 20.05 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 27th 2025. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WIEBKE SCHEPERS VOY.NO. (138N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WIEBKE SCHEPERS VOY.NO. (138N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

DENTSU ASIA PTE LIMITED (MYANMAR BRANCH OFFICE)

(the "Overseas Corporation")

Registration No. 109172383

Pursuant to Section 55(a) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, an overseas corporation is required to file a notice in the prescribed form at the registrar, within 21 days after ceasing to carry on business in the Union of Myanmar, and, subject to being satisfied of compliance with other applicable laws, the registrar will remove the overseas corporation's name from the register.

Accordingly, the Overseas Corporation hereby gives notice that it has submitted the necessary documentation for cessation of business in the Union to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) on 14 February 2025. The Registrar has reviewed the submission and has removed the name of the Overseas Corporation from the register in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

Dentsu Aisa Pte Limited
(Myanmar Branch Office)
221, Sule Pagoda Road, 16-05, Sule Square Office Tower,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK

The US has recently imposed tariffs on steel imports, including from India. **PHOTO: BHARAT STEELS**

India, Japan notify WTO of possible retaliation against US tariffs

INDIA and Japan have recently notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of potential retaliatory measures in response to US tariffs on steel and aluminium.

The European Union (EU) and Britain had submitted similar notifications to the WTO earlier.

WTO documents show that both India and Japan argue that the US tariffs, imposed since March 2018, constitute safeguard measures under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, although they were not officially notified by the United States to the WTO. In line with this agreement, the two countries, respectively, stated that they reserve the right to suspend concessions and other obligations by imposing additional tariffs on selected US imports.

India estimates that the tariffs will affect US$7.6 billion worth of its relevant exports to the United States, generating $1.91 billion in duties. India has vowed to impose "an equivalent amount of duty collected from products originating in the United States" as part of its proposed suspension of concessions.

Japan's WTO notification reveals that its retaliatory measures will target not only US steel and aluminium tariffs, but also American import restrictions on automobiles and auto parts. — Xinhua

Slovenia probes disappearance of latest Melania Trump statue

THE bronze statue, secured with concrete and metal bars, was located on private land near Sevnica.

THE first Melania Trump statue in her native Slovenia was destroyed by fire and now its bronze replacement has gone missing, prompting a police investigation.

The life-sized bronze of the US first lady was unveiled near her hometown of Sevnica in 2020, towering over a field on a tree stump, after arson destroyed the previous wooden statue.

According to police and the bronze's creator, American conceptual artist Brad Downey, the statue was chopped off at the ankles and carted away. — AFP

The original statue by local artist Ales Zupevc was burned.
PHOTO: AFP

US infant becomes first to receive personalized gene therapy for rare incurable disease

IN a groundbreaking medical milestone, US researchers have successfully developed and delivered a personalized gene-editing therapy to treat an infant suffering from a rare and life-threatening genetic disorder.

The child, diagnosed shortly after birth with carbamoyl phosphate synthetase 1 (CPS1) deficiency, became the first human to receive a customized CRISPR-based treatment targeting the root cause of the condition, according to a release of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) on Thursday.

CPS1 deficiency is characterized by an inability to fully break down byproducts from protein metabolism in the liver, causing ammonia to build up to toxic levels in the body. It can cause severe damage to the brain and liver, according to NIH.

A team of researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania developed the customized therapy using the gene-editing platform CRISPR.

They corrected a specific gene mutation in the baby's liver cells that led to the disorder. CRISPR is an advanced gene editing technology that enables precise changes to DNA inside living cells. This is the first known case of a personalized CRISPR-based medicine administered to a single patient and was carefully designed to target non-reproductive cells so changes would only affect the patient, according to NIH. — Xinhua

In this photo provided by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, KJ Muldoon (centre) sits with his siblings after a follow-up dose of an experimental gene editing treatment at the hospital in April 2025.
PHOTO: HANDOUT/CHINA DAILY

SPORTS

Shan, Yangon advance to MNL League Cup quarterfinals

DEFENDING champions Shan United and three-time Myanmar National League winners Yangon United booked their places in the quarterfinals of the 2025 MNL League Cup after topping their respective groups on 16 May.

At Yangon United Sports Complex, Yangon United and Shan United were held to a 1-1 draw by Thitsar Arman, a result that ensured Shan finished as Group A leaders with 10 points from four matches. Thitsar Arman went ahead in 18 minutes through Min Maw Oo, but Japanese midfielder Yuji equalized in 69 minutes. Despite the draw, Shan moved through comfortably, while Thitsar Arman now faces stiff competition from Dagon Port for the second qualifying spot.

Shan United and Thitsar Arman battle for possession in a tightly contested Group A clash. **PHOTO: MNL**

Meanwhile, at University Stadium, Dagon Port reignited their campaign with a convincing 4-1 win over University FC. Kyaw Myo Naing opened the scoring, followed by two goals from Nigerian forward Michael in 25 and 50 minutes. Myo Thura Htun added the fourth late on, while Aung Myint Myat scored the university side's only goal.

In Group B, Yangon United continued their unbeaten run with a commanding 6-2 win over Maha United at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. Goals came in quick succession from Mogul, Thaya Win Htet, Oto Saito, Iso (twice), and Kaung Sithu. Maha United found the net through Kyaw Ko Ko and Kaung Myat Thu, but it was not enough to slow Yangon's dominance. The victory lifted Yangon United to 10 points from four matches and guaranteed their place in the knockout stages.

Ayeyawady United also produced a statement win, thrashing Kachin United 7-0 at Padonma Stadium. Aung Kyaw Naing led the scoring with a hat-trick, while Nan Htaik Zaw, Zwe Pyae Aung, Hein Htet Aung, and Kyaw Zin Lwin all chipped in with goals. Kachin United remain winless in the group.

Group A is now led by Shan United with 10 points, followed by Dagon Port with six and Thitsar Arman with five. University FC and YB United are already eliminated. In Group B, Yangon United are top with 10 points. Ayeyawady United and Maha United are level on four points each, Yangon Royal have three, and Kachin United sit at the bottom.

The group stage continues on 17 May with four pivotal fixtures: Chinland will face Rakhine United at University Stadium, Myawady will meet Rakhine United at Padonma Stadium, ISPE FC will play Hanthawady United at Yangon United Sports Complex, and Dagon Star United will take on Yadanabon at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Real Madrid Foundation to conduct youth football clinics in Namibia

THE Real Madrid Foundation will conduct football clinics in Namibia in May 2025, aiming to train more than 1,000 learners and 150 teachers across four regions, officials announced on Friday.

Scheduled for 19 to 23 May, the first round of clinics will take place in Katima Mulilo in the northeastern Zambezi Region. The second set will follow from 26 to 30 May in Nkurenkuru, located in the Kavango West Region, according to a statement from the Namibia Schools Sports Union (NSSU).

The programme is part of the foundation's global outreach, which currently operates in several countries and reaches more than 40,000 participants.

"The 2025 football clinics will target learners and teachers in the Zambezi, Kavango West, Hardap and Omusati regions," the union said. — Xinhua

Athletics: Sani Brown calls running at packed National Stadium dream

JAPANESE sprinter Abdul Hakim Sani Brown said Friday he looks forward to competing at the world athletics championships in Tokyo this September.

"Running at a packed National Stadium is my dream," Sani Brown said of the 13-21 September championships, during his visit to a Tokyo elementary school, where he held an athletics clinic.

The stadium was the main venue of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 but was off-limits to general spectators amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Sani Brown, a two-time finalist in the 100 metres at the worlds, visited the school with Canadian Andre De Grasse, who won 200-metre Olympic gold in Tokyo. — Kyodo

'Total package' Vardy prepares for 500th and final Leicester appearance

RUUD van Nistelrooy has hailed Jamie Vardy as "one of the greatest" as the Leicester talisman prepares for his 500th and final game for the club on Sunday.

The 38-year-old Vardy is leaving the Foxes at the end of the season after 13 years and will not be involved for their final game of the Premier League campaign away at Bournemouth, which will allow him a send-off at the King Power Stadium.

Relegated Leicester have produced a special commemorative matchday programme dedicated to Vardy, whose goals helped Claudio Ranieri's side to an astounding Premier League title triumph in 2016.

The former England striker, who announced his decision to leave Leicester last month, has scored 199 goals for the club in 499 games and will be desperate to complete a double century against Ipswich, who have also been relegated.

Van Nistelrooy confirmed that club captain Vardy, who also won the 2021 FA Cup with Leicester, would again lead the team out on Sunday.

"We are all part of his last game, around Jamie and his family. We are all ready to give him the best possible send-off," the Leicester boss told a pre-match press conference on Friday.

"It is something that will be clear on Sunday, because of his status at the club and what he has given the club." — AFP

Leicester's Jamie Vardy kisses the Premier league trophy in May 2016. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
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India, Japan notify WTO of possible retaliation against US tariffs
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ENHANCING TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

Vietnam, Thailand elevate ties to comprehensive strategic partnership

VIETNAM and Thailand officially agreed to elevate their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership on Friday during Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's Vietnam trip, according to the Vietnam News Agency.

At a press conference following the Vietnam-Thailand joint cabinet meeting, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced that both countries have outlined the vision for their comprehensive strategic partnership covering the 2025-2030 period.

Chinh emphasized that the relationship is expected to continue developing strongly, spreading positive values not only for the benefit of both nations but also contributing to a peaceful, stable, cooperative and sustainably developing Southeast Asia.

Paetongtarn said that both sides are committed to enhancing transport connectivity, including land, air and maritime routes.

The two countries aim to strengthen tourism cooperation, especially between Vietnam and Thailand's northeastern region, she said. – Xinhua

Russia, Ukraine must decide for themselves whether to come to peace: Turkish FM

Fidan expressed Turkiye's pleasure in hosting the delegations in Istanbul and emphasized that the parties face a choice between peace and greater global destruction.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan chairs meeting between Ukrainian and Russian negotiators in Istanbul, Turkiye, 16 May 2025. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

THE delegations of Russia and Ukraine must decide for themselves whether to come to peace or "continue the destructive conflict", Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Friday. Fidan has begun his opening speech at the first talks between delegations of Russia and Ukraine in three years, saying that Turkiye is glad to see the delegations in Istanbul.

"There are two paths before us: one path leads us to peace, the other will lead the world to even greater destruction. The parties themselves will decide which path to choose," Fidan said. — SPUTNIK

World's largest car carrier built by China sets sail

An aerial drone photo taken on 15 May 2025 shows the naming ceremony of the car carrier Anji Ansheng at Shanghai Haitong International Automotive Terminal in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ANJI Ansheng, China's domestically built ocean-going car carrier and the world's largest such carrier in terms of capacity, set sail on its maiden voyage to Europe on Thursday evening, carrying approximately 7,000 China-made vehicles.

The departure from Shanghai marks a milestone achievement, surpassing a record set just weeks earlier by BYD Shenzhen, which is a domestically built car carrier from the major Chinese automaker BYD. That vessel had previously held the title of the world's largest car carrier in operation.

"The fact that this record has been broken again in less than a month reflects the rapid rise of China's mid-to-high-end manufacturing sector, and the resilience and vitality of the country's foreign trade despite complex global conditions," said Gao Yuning, deputy director of the School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University.

Anji Ansheng measures 228 metres in length and 37.8 metres in width, with a maximum capacity of carrying 9,500 standard vehicles, said Zhuang Jingxiong, general manager of SAIC Anji Logistics Co Ltd, a subsidiary of SAIC Motor Corporation Limited.

The vessel integrates advanced energy-saving technologies and intelligent low-carbon systems, achieving world-class energy efficiency. It is also incorporated with a methanol-refuelling design, laying the foundation for achieving carbon neutrality in the future. — Xinhua