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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Senior General gives interview to RT News.

Multipolar system: the key to conflict prevention

Myanmar seeks to strengthen and sustain balanced diplomatic ties with both China and the United States.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the RT news agency of the Russian Federation at the lounge of Ararat Park Hotel in Moscow on 8 May 2025 and replied to queries. The full text of the interview is as follows: -

Q: Distinguished Your Excellency, Prime Minister of Myanmar. First of all, I would like to express my honour at having the opportunity to interview Your Excellency. I would also like to express my gratitude for your attendance to attend this grand 80th anniversary celebration of our country's patriotic victory. This celebration holds great significance for our country, Russia, and I understand that it also holds deep meaning for Myanmar, which stood against fascism during that time. At the same time, I am aware that Myanmar has recently suffered losses and damage due to an earthquake. I would like to express my condolences in that regard. My first question is: What do you make remarks about providing assistance and support for your country concerning this earthquake? How effective has the rescue and relief effort been? Has the response been swift? Have things been going smoothly overall? I'd like to know it.

SEE PAGE 3

Mandalay quake uncovers ancient murals at Maha Yadana Bomsa Pagoda

SOME murals lost at Maha Yadana Bomsa Pagoda in the Inwa Cultural Zone, Mandalay Region, have emerged after the Mandalay earthquake, according to scholar and author U Htoo Thant Myo (aka) Kalan Nge Htoo Thant.

"There are golden and colour paintings on the interior walls of the gates. Later, an unknown donor seems to have stuck a layer of plaster over the original paintings and then applied lime. The murals had been hidden under the plaster for many years. The chiselled thin lines to preserve the plaster were visible. Some parts of the paintings were revealed after the plaster fell apart during the earthquake," he wrote on his social media page.

It is difficult to say the period because the complete part of the painting has not been found, but some parts are estimated to be from the Amarapura period.

SEE PAGE 6

Some of the long-lost murals from the Maha Yadana Bomsa Pagoda.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Stay Vigilant as Terrorists Use Civilians as Human Shields

TERRORISTS launch attacks while hiding behind public houses in towns and villages.

Residents must exercise caution and awareness to avoid these groups, as they use people as human shields in their temporarily controlled areas to successfully combat terrorism.

(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.)

Yangon National Library to bring stories to life for children

THE storytelling programme for children will take place at the National Library in Yangon on 17 May.

The story 'Social Volunteering Spirit', about a friendly farmer who made an effort to remove a rock blocking the street based on his goodwill, was honoured by the king, has been selected.

The event will begin at 1 pm, and the venue is between 31st Street and 32nd Street on Merchant Road in Yangon's Pabedan Township at the children's library. Interested children are invited to join the programme along with their parents.

The National Library has invited the public to join its weekly programme, documentary film shows scheduled on 17 May, and the showtime is from 12:30 pm to 1 pm. — MT/ZS

The illustrations of the story book 'Social Volunteering Spirit'.

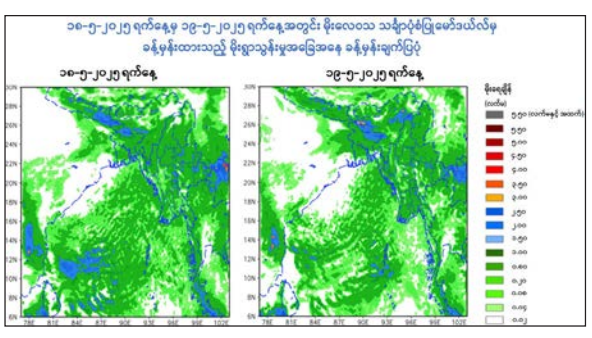
Heavy Rainfall Warning 11

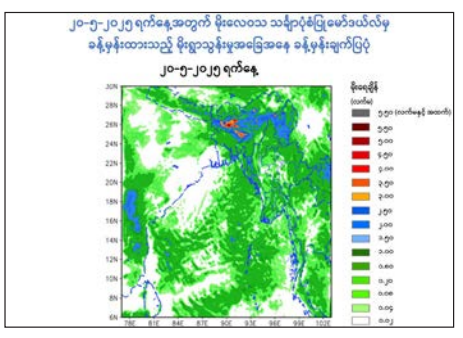
Issued at 7 pm MST on 17 May 2025

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 Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine and northern 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





Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Saturday 17 May 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Southwest monsoon has advanced into the Deltaic Myanmar areas, Southwest Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 18 May 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Magway regions and Kayah and northern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine and northern Shan states. 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, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and 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 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 hour. Wave height will be about seven to nine feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar Areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Advancement into the Deltaic Myanmar areas

Issued at 17 May 2025

SOUTHWEST monsoon has advanced into the Deltaic Myanmar areas, Southwest Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. — 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)

Multipolar system: the key to conflict prevention

FROM PAGE 1

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins RT News interview at the hall of Ararat Park Hotel in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 8 May 2025.

A: First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to you for offering your condolences regarding the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March. The earthquake was indeed very strong — it measured 7.7 on the Richter scale. Among the earthquakes that have occurred since the 1900s, this is the second most powerful. Out of the 18 significant quakes we've experienced, the one in 1912 was the strongest, at 8.0 on the Richter scale. This recent earthquake was extremely powerful and caused significant loss and damage. Over 3,700 people have died, and more than 5,000 were injured. About 80 people are still missing. Around 67,000 homes have been destroyed. Approximately 6,400 schools and around 350 hospitals and clinics were damaged. Many roads and bridges have also been destroyed. When I visited the affected areas, I witnessed the devastation firsthand. Due to the severity of the damage, we declared a state of emergency within a matter of hours. I also called for international assistance, which began arriving within 24 hours. That level of support is something for which we are truly grateful. Around 26 countries from around the world, including Russia, China, and India, have come to help. It happened within 72 hours. According to their procedure, if they can rescue someone within 72 hours, that person still has a chance to survive. However, they arrived within 24 hours. We managed to save eight people alive. After that, there were many dead bodies. There are indeed many casualties. Regardless, the help is very encouraging and gives us strength. Another thing is the rescue equipment. All of that arrived by aeroplanes, then ships, and motor vehicles. So, it provides support to the country. However, we still have a lot of work to do in terms of clearing debris and reconstruction. I believe even more assistance will be needed beyond this.

Q: Currently, we know that the relationship between Myanmar and Russia is developing rapidly. I myself have also visited Myanmar to the gather information during the joint military exercises conducted by the Russian-Myanmar navies. What I would like to know further is not only about the military-technical cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, but also in which other fields and sectors they are collaborating. I want to know in which areas they are cooperating.

A: The area of cooperation between Russia and Myanmar is quite broad. As you mentioned earlier, it's not just limited to the defence sector. We're also working together in science and technology, as well as in other fields like the economy, legal affairs, education, and health. There are many areas where discussions are ongoing. During my visit this past March, we had the opportunity to discuss several matters, such as the construction of a nuclear power plant, the development of the Dawei deep-sea port, and investment in offshore oil and gas production. Some agreements have already been reached, and some projects are already underway. I'd like to emphasize that there are still many more areas where we need to continue our cooperation.

Q: As far as I know, instead of helping Myanmar in response to the recent earthquake, the United States has actually tightened trade sanctions by up to 44 per cent. I would like to hear your opinion on this matter.

A: What we're seeing from the US is that it's not like they're not offering any assistance regarding the earthquake. They did announce that they would provide help — they pledged $9 million. But how exactly they're going to provide it, we don't know yet. Will it be through the United Nations or through the AHA Centre (ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre)? We're not sure. But the announcement to provide aid has been made. In terms of trade between us and the United States, there isn't much going on. From 2011 to 2025, our total trade volume was only around $900 million. That averages to roughly over $80 million a year. In some years, our exports to them were higher, and in other years, their exports to us were higher. As for tariffs, it's not like they only impose them on our country. They also impose some tariffs on their allied nations. They've imposed quite significant tariffs on China,

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Multipolar system: the key to conflict prevention

FROM PAGE 3

for example. So, as a developing country, I believe it shouldn't be subjected to increased tariffs. What's happening is that because they're facing a trade deficit, they're increasing tariffs not just on us but on other countries, too. But I believe imposing such tariffs isn't appropriate. As for why they're doing it, we need to analyze and consider that in more detail.

Q: I'd like to raise one more question. Regarding trade sanctions and interest rates, what kind of response plan does Myanmar have in place? May I know how you have made preparations?

A: Primarily, we will emphasize trading without emphasizing a single country, and we will trade with many countries. Instead of going to just one country and selling our goods there, it's better to trade with many countries equally. I think that it is better for cooperation too. What I want to add is — why are they increasing tariffs like this? That's something we have to consider as well. They say they're increasing tariffs because they're losing money from trade. Then the question is, why are they losing money? Is it because they can't sell their products? Why can't they sell them? Products of the United States are being sold. These products are good and of high quality. But their prices are high. As prices are high, it becomes a bit difficult for all to buy their products. However, I've found that in many countries, including developing nations like ours, the demand of the market of the United States market is very strong. That's why we're able to sell a lot to them. But we should also think about why their goods are expensive. Is it because of the cost of production? If that's the case, we need to take those factors into account. Based on that, we might need to make adjustments. Rather than relying on just one country, we should sell our goods to other countries as well. What I've seen is that many of us heavily depend on their market. That's something I believe is worth thinking about.

Q: I have heard that Your Excellency arrived in the Russian Federation to join the anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. As it is the 80th anniversary celebration, our Russian Federation notably marks it. Regarding this commemorative event, the question I'd like to ask is: The victory was achieved 80 years ago. How has that victory influenced or transformed the current geopolitical landscape we see today? I'd also like to hear your perspective on this.

A: This is a commemoration of the victory achieved by the people of the Soviet Union over the Fascist Nazis. It's a deeply significant event. Similarly, in Myanmar, we too suffered under the oppression of fascist Japan, which was allied with the Nazi Germans — both part of the same fascist bloc. We also have a history of fighting back against them. These events happened around the same period. This was a struggle aimed at securing independence and firmly establishing our nation's sovereignty. That's why I would like to say that this was an extremely significant battle, an offensive. Because of this successful resistance, we witnessed the liberation of some European countries that had previously been subjected to colonial-style domination and occupation. They regained their independence because the Soviet Union led and launched a counteroffensive that helped liberate them. The Soviet troops even advanced and took control up to East Berlin in Germany. I saw it in history. And then, it is geopolitics. If we look at the events of the past, those historical developments were also driven by geopolitical factors – firstly, geography itself, and secondly, the natural resources, both above ground and underground. It was all rooted in these factors. Geopolitics plays a crucial role. Even now, we can see that because of geopolitics, powerful nations are still targeting smaller or other countries. What can they do to those smaller nations? As a result, we observe pressure being applied through military, political, economic, and various other means over these countries. Now, the celebration of the 80th anniversary of this heroic patriotic war is truly a remarkable occasion. During that war, 26 million Soviet and Russian people gave their lives in the fight. In the history of world wars, I would like to say this was one of the most massive offensives with the largest casualties.

Q: Regarding our history, during the Second World War, the Soviet Union led the fight to victory with great success. This is a factual part of history. However, Western countries want to revise this history by portraying themselves, through videos and historical documentaries, as the main victors and key contributors in that war. Especially about the current Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Western media is depicting Russia as the aggressor. So, what I want to know is why Western countries want to rewrite the history that you witnessed? And how do you see this situation from your perspective?

A: History cannot be lied about, and it cannot be concealed. History must remain as it truly was. Just as the actions of the fascist Nazis cannot be hidden, neither can the history of the Soviet Union fighting against fascism be erased or concealed. It cannot be rewritten either. History must exist in its entirety, as it actually happened. This is undeniable. That's why some countries may want to revise history to prevent future generations from knowing about the wrongs they committed. They might want to push towards a 'New World Order'. They might also want to steer the younger generations in that direction. When it comes to national sovereignty, many won't act unless it threatens them. But once their sovereignty is at risk, a response becomes natural. Another factor is their desires and egos. When these emerge, they seek out problems and talk about them, trying to solve them. We've seen such things in real, historical events around the world. Even looking at the recent conflict between Ukraine and Russia, it's the same. To speak frankly, I see efforts to rewrite or reverse history. Russia is trying to draw from the Soviet Union's past experiences to act in ways that protect its sovereignty and avoid any threats to its authority.

Q: What we would like to ask next is about the situation in Ukraine. We understand that Western countries, especially the EU and the UK, have been continuously providing financial and military support behind the scenes. What is your view on this matter? The whole world knows that Washington has been pushing for a diplomatic resolution regarding the Ukraine-Russia conflict. However, the EU member countries and the UK seem to be continuing their support through military aid, arms supplies, and financial assistance, rather than offering effective diplomatic solutions. We would like to know your opinion on this as well.

A: War is something that is best avoided. When it comes to conflict, the best approach is to resolve it properly and effectively through negotiation and peaceful means. When conflicts escalate, it's usually because there is support and backing from others. If there is no external support, conflicts don't usually grow that large. Sometimes, it may be an issue between two countries, but when others rally around and support one side — providing backing, assistance, military weapons, financial aid, food supplies, and so on — that's when the conflict grows bigger. This is what has been happening. So, to avoid this kind of escalation, the best course of action is not to provide such support. These issues should be resolved politically. That's the direction we should be heading. Earlier, you asked about the EU and their involvement in the conflict — what their intentions are. What is their aim? Is it to prolong the conflict and ultimately lead to war? That's something to consider. In reality, doing everything we can to prevent conflict in the first place is the best approach. I believe it should not be supporting or backing either side in such situations. Instead, they should engage in negotiation. Why did the problem arise in the first place? We need to look for the root cause of the issue. It's something that has existed in history. If we look at the situation that has unfolded over the past one or two decades, there is a clear answer as to why the Ukraine-Russia issue has developed. If they address the issue based on the correct situations accordingly, I believe the problem can be resolved.

Q: Building on the previous question, what I'd like to ask next is: some countries are concerned that after the Ukraine conflict is resolved, the US might increase confrontations with China. Given that, should we be expecting some form of military tensions to arise shortly?

A: There is also a possibility. Why? Since the post-1950s period, the US has

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NATIONAL

historically begun implementing a China containment policy. Now, China has become its competitor. When China and the US become rivals, no matter what is said, I believe the US will try to counterbalance and respond to that competition. That's why I think it's important for countries to coordinate and engage in dialogue to prevent this from escalating. This isn't just about the two countries. Other countries are involved too. If it were only between the US and China, the problem might not be that big. But when more countries get involved, the situation becomes more complicated. That's how I see it.

Q: Regarding what Your Excellency just mentioned, I understand that this issue is not merely a problem between China and the United States, but that it could escalate further if extremist territories get involved. With this, from Myanmar's standpoint, as tensions rise among the world's major powers, how can Myanmar play a role in mediating or easing these tensions? Also, I would like to hear Your Excellency's perspective on how Myanmar is planning or preparing to do so.

A: Myanmar's foreign policy is independent and active. It maintains friendly relations with all countries. The United States is considered a friendly nation to Myanmar. However, China is not only one of our neighbouring countries, but also a strategic partner. It is a country with which we share a special relationship — one that is closer than with many others. Therefore, from our side, we aim to engage and maintain the best relations with both countries.

Q: In the Asia-Pacific region, how do you assess the increasing involvement related to NATO? In such a region, especially in areas concerning Myanmar, do you think that the growing power could potentially pose a threat? I would also like to know your thoughts on this matter.

A: Oh, the worry is real. It doesn't really have anything to do with this. The Asia-Pacific region and NATO are not related at all. But, we are worried about it. I want to say it really doesn't concern us. This region, called Asia-Pacific, is a hilly and coastal area. The Pacific region includes hills, seas, and oceanic areas combined into one region. No matter what, it is an important place strategically. If it can be handled peacefully, it would be a very beneficial thing for the world. However, I see powerful countries – like I mentioned earlier, it's not just NATO – India, Australia, Japan, and the United States are also working together to maintain their influence here. I believe these things will only make conflicts bigger. That's why I think the best way is to proceed peacefully. The worry is real, yes, I do worry.

Q: Along with this, the question I want to ask is: While many Western countries are trying to exert influence and maintain control, what is your perspective on the concept of multipolarity, which is a liberal principle that could shape the future of international relations? Currently, Western countries dominate and pressure other nations according to their interests and desires as much as they can. Regarding this, I would like to know your views on the liberal principle of multipolarity.

A: In the past, the world was controlled by a Unipolar system led by the United States and its Western allies. Later, it became Bipolar. After being Bipolar for a while, it shifted back to Unipolar again. This meant the Western countries had the upper hand. However, in this era, countries like Russia, China, and India have made significant progress militarily, economically, and in science and technology. As they have advanced, we have moved toward a Multipolar world. This is something that should happen. One country alone can't control the whole world. Especially developing countries like ours have suffered greatly under that system. Therefore, moving toward a Multipolar system is the best option. Sharing the world's affairs and responsibilities fairly is the best way. Acting justly is also the best way. Sharing and cooperating are the best way. The conflicts happening now are only because things are not shared and balanced. So, if we want to avoid conflicts, I believe the Multipolar system is the best way.

Q: From my perspective, regarding the Multipolar World, the question I want to ask is this: It is known that many countries, including Myanmar, support the concept of a Multipolar World. Related to this, Western countries seem to want to return to their previous Unipolar World. In light of this, how do you think countries like Myanmar and others can successfully implement and move toward a Multipolar World, and at the same time, what kind of strategies should be applied to prevent or remove the return to a Unipolar World? I would like to hear your thoughts and beliefs on this matter.

A: What I was just saying is that there are three countries. Yes, three countries. These three countries, we see, are also nations that operate fairly and equally in the world. So, we need to cooperate with them, and each of us must also put in effort ourselves. We can't succeed without trying on our own. We also need to develop and improve our own economy, techniques, and so on. On the other hand, there's also a need for more cooperation between countries. These countries I have mentioned – because they are among the top leading nations in the world – like your countries, Russia, China, India, and others – if these leading nations work together cooperatively and fairly, then multipolarity will become global. None of us can accept this unipolar situation. Every country that has gone through this hardship knows all about it. We know the bitter taste of being oppressed. That's why no one is willing to just accept the status quo anymore. All the countries are trying their best, because if they stop, they will lag behind others. If they stand firm and persist, they will survive. The ones who walk away will just be left behind. So everyone is moving forward. Because they are working to develop themselves, based on the history and past events I mentioned earlier, all countries have the determination to prevent this kind of situation from happening to them. At that time, if the leading countries join together and act, I believe that unipolar dominance will never come about.

> “Russia is an important country for ASEAN and is already among the dialogue partners. Therefore, in the future, we believe Russia will hold an important position in cooperation with ASEAN. On the other hand, what I want to say Russia should also consider and work on expanding cooperation with ASEAN countries across various sectors.”

Q: Myanmar is known as one of the member countries of ASEAN. Being an ASEAN member means being part of a powerful regional organization. As for Myanmar, what kind of role or part are we playing within the ASEAN community?

A: As a member country of ASEAN, we fully cooperate in pursuit of ASEAN's charter. ASEAN's objectives are truly good intentions. Therefore, as Myanmar, we also have the desire to act correctly and on the right path. We are indeed taking action. Although there are differences in perspectives between ASEAN member countries, the fundamental principles already exist. What is important, I want to say, is to be able to act based on these fundamental principles.

Q: What we want to ask continuously is, as ASEAN member countries, how do you see the future relationship between the ASEAN organization and Russia?

A: I want to say that Russia is an important country for ASEAN. From 2024 to 2027, our country will be responsible for coordinating relations between ASEAN and Russia. Previously, we did similar work with China, and China also cooperated very successfully. Now, regarding Russia, we are taking responsibility as a coordinating country. Because Russia is one of our friendly countries, we also wish to improve relations between Russia and ASEAN.

Russia is an important country for ASEAN and is already among the dialogue partners. Therefore, in the future, we believe Russia will hold an important position in cooperation with ASEAN. On the other hand, what I want to say Russia should also consider and work on expanding cooperation with ASEAN countries across various sectors.

Q: For me, this is no longer related to politics. I would like to ask a question related to our news agency. Our RT news agency has been operating for about 20 years. I would also like to know your perspective regarding the RT news agency, its activities, and the news it releases.

A: As for RT's news agency, it is truly a top-tier news organization, and their news presentation is also quite good. I often watch RT myself. RT's news coverage is solid and reliable in many ways. They can speak comprehensively about the content. When it comes to presenting background or historical context, it is necessary to learn, as RT also reveals and reports in various ways. I have gained a lot of knowledge from them. Because of that, I see RT as a really good and high-level news agency. Over the past 20 years, RT's successes have continued, and I wish it even greater success moving forward. Aside from fostering Russian-Myanmar friendship, I believe RT will also help improve the relationship between Russia and the world. I sincerely wish RT even more success.

NATIONAL

SAC Member provides fertilizer, drum seeders to farmers in Pyapon

State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung observes the quality rice produced in Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships in Pyapon District yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung attended the handover ceremony of kenaf fertilizer and drum seeder for 2025-2026 in Pyapon township of Pyapon district yesterday.

The SAC member and the regional chief minister made remarks and inspected the agricultural demonstration processes of farmers.

He attended the meeting with Ayeyawady Pawsan and rice development convened by four townships in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region, at Thiri Anawa Hall in Pyapon.

The SAC member inspected the quality rice produced in Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships in Pyapon District.

After the remark of the SAC member, the relevant officials reported on the outcome of the Pawsan Forum 2025, research and rice development activities.

The Myanmar Rice Federation and the regional committee (5) chairman donated K10 million for earthquake victims to the Ayeyawady chief minister before the SAC member made a concluding remark.

The SAC member and regional ministers then visited the BEHS No 1 in Maubin Township, and met district, township educational officers, and school heads.

The SAC member proceeded to Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Co Ltd and inspected the work operations. — MNA/KTZH

MoH Union Minister joins Myanmar Anaesthesia Conference & Medical Council meeting

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win views the displays of posters, medicines, and equipment at the 14th Biennial Myanmar Conference on Anaesthesia and Intensive Care 2025 yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the 14th Biennial Myanmar Conference on Anaesthesia and Intensive Care 2025 was held on 17 May at the Melia Hotel in Yangon under the theme: "Dealing with Anaesthesia Crisis: Empowering Knowledge and Sustainable Practice".

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the ceremony and delivered the opening speech. In his address, he highlighted Myanmar's efforts to build a resilient healthcare system aligned with the nation's healthcare framework.

The Union minister commended the dedicated efforts of healthcare specialists, including anaesthetists, surgeons, gynaecologists, and other medical personnel, during the challenging aftermath of the devastating earthquake on 28 March. Despite significant obstacles, over 240,000 major surgeries and 220,000 minor surgeries were successfully conducted in general hospitals nationwide in 2024.

He encouraged attendees to apply the knowledge and experiences gained from the conference to their work, ensuring secure and efficient healthcare services for the public. A welcome message video from Dr Carolina Haylock Loor, President of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA), was then screened, followed by a welcome speech by the chairperson of the Myanmar Society of Anesthesiologists.

The ceremony concluded with a ribbon-cutting to inaugurate the event, after which the Union minister and officials toured the displays of posters, medicines, and equipment.

The 14th Biennial Myanmar Conference on Anaesthesia and Intensive Care 2025 will take place on 17 and 18 May, featuring specialists from Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, and Brunei. As a pre-conference activity, three workshops were held on 16 May.

Later, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the Myanmar Medical Council Executive Committee meeting (2/2025) and delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of systematic management of healthcare personnel. The meeting continued with presentations on completed tasks, discussions on approvals for future plans, and decision-making. — MNA/MKKS

Mandalay quake uncovers ancient murals at Maha ...

FROM PAGE 1

"Inwa was the capital of the four dynasties, but there are not many remaining cave pagodas with wall paintings in Inwa. Both pagodas — Nos 233 and 234 — with mural paintings in the Taungpawtha monastery, as well as pagoda No 193 inside the Lawka HtakeOo, collapsed, and murals were destroyed. In this situation, the emergence of a new place with mural paintings is a good thing," he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

11 May

SAC Chairman arrives back from Russia

The Myanmar high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who attended the military parade to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 of the Russian Federation yesterday, arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport in the evening.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives in-flight interviews to media

The Myanmar high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who attended the military parade to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 and related events, replied to queries raised by the media onboard the special flight.

12 May

SAC Chair and wife water banyan tree on Buddha Day

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 in commemoration of the Buddha Day which falls on the full moon of Kason 1387 Myanmar Era at the Maha Bodhi banyan tree in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

SAC Vice-Chair joins Dhamma Thabin ceremony on Buddha Day

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe attended the ceremony to organize the Dhamma Thabin ceremony to mark the Buddha Day on the full moon of Kason 1387 ME at Aggadhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw.

17 May

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. — GNLM/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Mandalay CM checks quake-damaged buildings, container housing construction

An employee of the Mandalay City Development Committee operates heavy machinery to clear the debris in Mandalay Region yesterday.

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, accompanied by regional ministers, inspected the demolition and clearing of dangerous buildings damaged in the recent Mandalay earthquake and the construction of container houses in downtown Mandalay on the morning of 17 May.

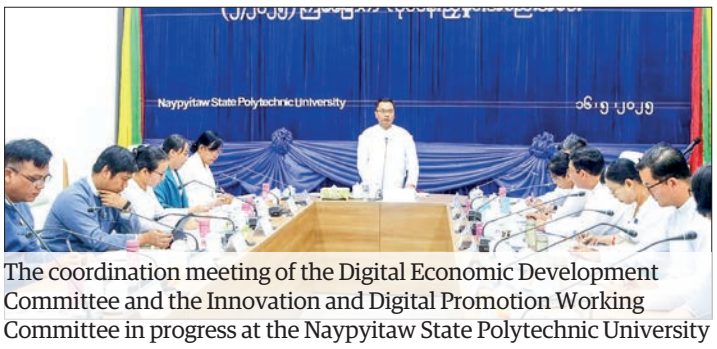
The inspection began in Chanayethazan, Mahaaungmyay, and Aungmyaythazan Townships, where dangerous residential buildings affected by the quake were being removed using heavy machinery by the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC). The chief minister instructed officials to strictly enforce workplace safety measures and ensure necessary support.

He then inspected the placement and construction of 150 container houses for MCDC staff on 66th Street, between 35th and 36th Streets in Mahaaungmyay Township. He listened to reports by officials and attended to the needs.

The chief minister also visited the Mandalay Aungmyay Mandala Gymnasium in Aungmyaythazan Township, which will host as an exam venue for the 2025 Dhammacariya and Pali Pahtamabyan exams. He instructed staff to ensure the venue meets all requirements and maintain cleanliness in the surroundings. — MNA/KZL

Public-centred digital society to be established

THE Digital Economic Development Committee and the Innovation and Digital Promotion Working Committee conducted the second coordination meeting at the Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University on 16 May 2025.



The coordination meeting of the Digital Economic Development Committee and the Innovation and Digital Promotion Working Committee in progress at the Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University on 16 May 2025.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, who is also chairman of working committee, Dr Aung Zeya urged all to make efforts to implement the necessary processes to achieve strategic goals to align with the relevant master plans of the Myanmar Digital Economy Roadmap 2030, to keep pace with rapidly evolving digital technologies including AI and to compete globally, it is essential to foster innovation and support the growth of startups driven by creativity and originality. This will enable Myanmar to gain recognition on the global digital stage, to mentor human resources to establish a public-centred digital society, to build a digital society that contributes to the country's long-term interests, and to collaborate and work together in unity by all relevant ministers and private organizations.

The attendees coordinated the discussion. The deputy minister cordially greeted the staff of Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University and provided proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

OPINION

Expand mangrove forest areas to conserve the environment

MYANMAR has a significant mangrove forest area, particularly in the Ayeyawady Delta and Thaninthayi Region, which is the country's largest mangrove patch. A total of 28 mangrove species are thriving in the coastal areas of the country. Currently, the country has over 1.1 million acres of mangrove forests, making it the seventh largest in the world and the third largest in Southeast Asia for mangrove coverage. However, these forests are facing threats from deforestation, primarily due to agricultural development and aquaculture.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, in exercising the powers conferred under Section 6 (g) of the Forest Law enacted in 2018, has designated an area of 28,392 acres located in Kawa Township, Bago Region, as the Aungnameik protected mangrove forest, starting from 30 April 2025. Moreover, the ministry designated one more protected mangrove forest, namely Ngwethaungyan in Bilin Township, Mon State, starting from 30 April 2025.

By establishing mangrove forests one after another, the Ministry aims to conduct mangrove conservation to ensure the long-term sustainability of the mangrove ecosystem, enrich biodiversity, protect against wave and storm impacts using natural green barriers, support the long-term resilience of coastal areas, enable local communities to continuously harvest aquatic resources such as fish, crabs, and shrimp, and improve the overall management of the mangrove ecosystem.

By establishing mangrove forests one after another, the Ministry aims to conduct mangrove conservation to ensure the long-term sustainability of the mangrove ecosystem, enrich biodiversity, protect against wave and storm impacts using natural green barriers, support the long-term resilience of coastal areas, enable local communities to continuously harvest aquatic resources such as fish, crabs, and shrimp, and improve the overall management of the mangrove ecosystem.

By designating mangrove forest buffer zones, mangrove plantations can be established within these areas, leading to the growth of mangrove plants. This can provide protection against natural disasters such as sea waves, tides, and cyclones, reduce coastal erosion, prevent saltwater intrusion into farmlands, and expand feeding grounds for aquatic animals, migratory birds, and waterfowl. It also contributes to environmental and climate stability, supports the implementation of Myanmar's forest policy, and ensures the long-term sustainability of mangrove forests, biodiversity, and ecosystems within the mangrove area.

Mangrove plants are a valuable shield against the impacts of natural disasters, especially tidal waves, landslides and storms. No one in Myanmar can forget the tragedy of severe cyclonic storm Nargis, which hit the country in 2008. It is a great lesson for the people to nurture and grow mangrove forests along coastal areas, as well as the shores of rivers and creeks, to naturally protect the life and property of the people. Currently, thanks to the designation of protected mangrove forests by the government, the areas of mangrove can be expanded more and more in the country to be able to prevent natural disasters as much as possible.

BOOKRACK

POEM

Book Title	-	Youth in the 21st Century: Mindsets and Perspectives
Author	-	Various authors
Publishing House	-	Moekaung Myay
Publication Date	-	June 2024 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K17,000

Youth in the 21st Century: Mindsets and Perspectives

AS a society or as a nation, the importance and role of youth are already well understood, and so there is no need to elaborate further in detail. However, it is undeniable that the outcomes of the various sectors in which the youths take part are born out of their ideas and thoughts. Therefore, understanding what is on the minds of today's youth and what influences their thinking is of critical importance. Here, we would like to introduce a book that captures the ideas and thoughts of a young person, especially those of 21st-century youth, and one that could potentially paint a vivid picture of their future.

Seven authors: Maung Bhone (Thabyu), Thu Nay, Alin Myat, Thahar Swe Hlaing, Nu Nu Aung, Yoon@precious Y and Hnin Aye Lu describe their opinions from different perspectives. Surely, the book brings some benefits to every youth. The readers can read various topics such as youth and education, youth and life partner, youth and family, youth and happiness, youth and workplace, youth and personal ability and youth and talents.

The young people who want to run their own business are likely to say or hear, "I want to run an own business, but I don't have enough money", "If only there were someone to provide a small investment, that would be great", and "How can I possibly start my own business as I am poor". The main factor that they highlight is investment, and most define it as a financial issue. In the investment, it includes time, age, strength, communication, knowledge, experience, idea, manpower and spirit in addition to the finance. Among them, the most important fact is knowledge.

Everyone has both a past and a life, but while the past can be forgotten, life should never be. It would be better to pave the way without any past events such as "I was born to a poor family", "I don't have a strong background", "I don't have a well-off family", "I don't have an educated community". There is no restriction to becoming a rich man regardless of his or her poor family, or he or she must always be dump, irrespective of her uneducated family. Indeed, the past is the best one to take lessons.

The book also presents three essential factors for a young person to be successful in life.

(1) You must have a clear and specific goal. Don't be indecisive in choosing one job after another. Don't wander without any aim. You must define your goal precisely. Move forward directly toward the goal you have set for yourself.

(2) Decisions must be firm. No matter what challenges arise, you must not give up. Don't let any reasons or excuses abandon your decision. You must have the mindset: "I will make it happen no matter what".

(3) Action must be taken practically. This part emphasizes the five principles of success mentioned in Buddha's teachings: work perseveringly, continuously, with full effort, thoroughly and precisely, and joyfully.

In conclusion, the book carries valuable facts for every youth reflecting the real-life situations and challenges faced by today's youth in the 21st century. For those who have the desire to grow and improve, this is a book well worth reading.

Book Title	-	Ethnic Affairs Vol 17
Author	-	Various authors
Publishing House	-	Myanmar Affairs
Publishing Date	-	March 2025 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K5,500

Ethnic Affairs Volume 17

THE Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies published Ethnic Affairs Volume 17, comprising 26 interesting and thought-provoking articles by notable authors. The editorial team presented the insightful articles under the timely theme "Padauk flower blooms in summer and so will Myanmar peace", as it was published in March.

The editorial celebrated Myanmar's traditional Thingyan Water Festival being inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2024. The book showed cultural heritage spotlights, stating that Myanmar people upheld and passed down cultural heritages and customs over generations, including traditions, languages, not to weaken the cultural elements (cultural practices, beliefs and identity) due to external influences and the inevitable cross-cultural exchanges.

This book includes a political analysis of the renowned Writer Yan Kyaw, a Myanmar political observer, tracing back Myanmar's sociopolitical evolution from ancient times to the present. He highlighted that elections make a fundamental contribution to democratic governance and democracy, and elections are inseparable. Myanmar has held elections three times based on the 2008 Constitution, and FPTP (First Past the Post), a form of majority system, is familiar to the people as it has been practised since 1922.

Myanmar will mark the general election this year. There is no official announcement or order regarding choosing an electoral system based on First Past the Post (FPTP) or Proportional Representation.

He remarked on the right to vote as a matter of the heart and the future on the ballot. He urged the citizens to vote by anticipating a positive outcome in future.

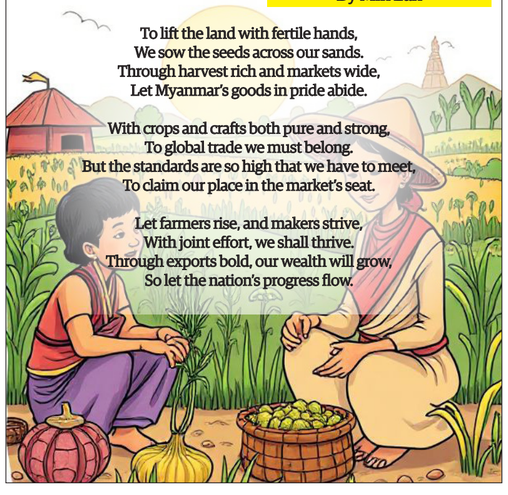
Dr Kyaw Swe Nyunt elaborated Lisu Ethnic people's rich cultural heritage and customs under the title "Lisu Ethnic Traditions", deeply rooted in their traditional beliefs, practices, including ancestor worship, unique traditional attire, social customs, ceremonies and their clans. Origins and migration patterns of the Lisu people are also mentioned. The Lisu tribe consists of around 55 different clans and three main groups depending on regions and areas.

Next, the famous ethnic people chapter revealed the "Royal musicians of Mon descent" article. Myawady Mingyi U Sa, Anauk Nanmadaw Ma Mya Lay, Hteik Kaung Tin, Pyay Prince, Prince of Pakhan, and other Mon descendants shaped the classical and royal music. Among the significant figures in Myanmar's literary and cultural landscape, the profile of Anauk Nanmadaw Ma Mya Lay is noted in the book.

The general category embodies four articles, including "Myanmar's Peacemaking Diplomat Shin Dithapamauk" by Saya Kyaw Zaw Aung. A monk called Shin Dithapamauk led the peace mission and succeeded in averting the war in Bagan with his diplomatic skills, conflict resolution, emotional intelligence, perseverance, diligence and commitment by embarking on a journey of thousands of miles with sacrifices and many adversities being encountered. The book shed light on the monk embodying a commitment to ethical conduct, personal discipline, moral principles, and dignity, negotiated peace as a means of statecraft for the people, regardless of age and long journey.

Let Export Winds Blow

By Min Zan



To lift the land with fertile hands,
We sow the seeds across our sands.
Through harvest rich and markets wide,
Let Myanmar's goods in pride abide.

With crops and crafts both pure and strong,
To global trade we must belong.
But the standards are so high that we have to meet,
To claim our place in the market's seat.

Let farmers rise, and makers strive,
With joint effort, we shall thrive.
Through exports bold, our wealth will grow,
So let the nation's progress flow.

The Lost Game

By Tin Moe , Translated by Myint Zan

as long as wrong
perceptions, wrong views
persist and (you) are entangled
in them
(they must be) cut decisively

attaching oneself longingly to the old:
change, it says
and yet (one) does not want to
change:
insistent efforts must be made
to overcome attachments
which whirl across one's neck.

pieces of obsessions
gripped one's body
very frequently
abandon them, forsake them!

if one cannot refuse to indulge
oneself
in one's attachments
allowing them to embrace
and grip you
playing the game of deliverance
(from these defilements)
would be endless:
ye have lost.

Composed on 10 June 2001 Sunday afternoon
Translated on 16 May 2025 Friday late morning

ဘရိုးဇာတ်

အသိလွဲ အမှတ်လွဲ
ငြိစွဲကပ်နေသမျှ
တိခန္ဓံ ဖြတ်ရမယ်။

အဟောင်းကို တင်ငင်
ပြောင်းဆိုလဲ မပြောင်းချင်
သံယောဇဉ် လည်ငင်ကြိုး
ဇွတ်တိုးလို့ ရုန်းရမယ်။

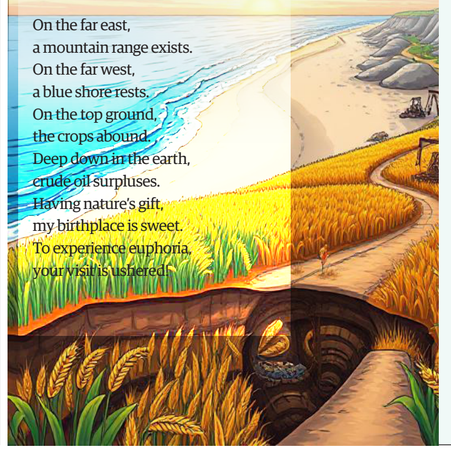
ဥပါဒါန် အစအနှံ တွေက
ခဏ ခဏ ကိုယ်မှာတွယ်
ပယ်လေလော့ ပယ်လေလော့။

အတွယ်အတာတွေကို
မပယ်သာအောင် ဖွဲ့ကာထုံးရစ်ဖြင့်
မလွတ်မလပ် အကျွတ်ခာတ် မဆုံးနိုင်ဘူး
သင်ရှုံးပြီလေ့။

တင်မိုး

Birth Place

By Chit Ko Pe



On the far east,
a mountain range exists.
On the far west,
a blue shore rests.
On the top ground,
the crops abound.
Deep down in the earth,
crude oil surpluses.
Having nature's gift,
my birthplace is sweet.
To experience euphoria,
your visit is ushered.

မွေးရပ်သာ

အရှေ့ဆို
စိမ်းစိုသန်း
တောင်တန်းနှင့်၊
အနောက်မှာ
ရေပြာလွမ်း
မြစ်ကမ်းနှင့်၊
မြေပေါ်စိမ်း
သီးနှံများ
လျှံပွားပွင့်၊
မြေအောက်ခံ
ရေနံက
ဓနတင့်၊
မွေးရပ်သာ
သဘာဝ
အလှဝင့်၊
လာပါနော်
ရွှင်မျော်စမ်း
လက်ကမ်းဆင့်။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

NATIONAL
Entertainment

Veteran vocalist set to dazzle in solo showcase

This image reveals a poster for the solo show of Zaw Paing.

VOCALIST Zaw Paing announces his solo show at Yangon's Transporter Bar, promising an unforgettable night of music.

"I will be at the Transporter Bar on 18 May. I want my fans not to forget that day as they can watch my singing performance and the support of the Pindaisan band on the Transporter stage together with a DJ live performance," he said.

The solo event 'Yinkhon Ya Lunloh', named by Zaw Paing, will start at 7 pm on 18 May at the Transporter Bar in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/KTZH

Htet Htet Tun

FANS will see the 'Ganawin Nga Toe' film with the dancing performance of U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe by actor Nay Toe and actress Htet Htet Tun. The actress shared the dancing practice video clip on her Facebook. Actor Nay Toe sings the new song 'U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe' by Shan Tun together with female singer Shwe Nan Htet. Htet Htet Tun said, "I tried to learn and dance. Please understand me with love if I have some shortage".

CELEBRITY BRIEF

Mi Sandi

Vocalist Mi Sandi released a Party Mix version of her old song 'Alwan Yae Dudel Balthu Hma Mathi Par' on 16 May. Although she prepared to release the song before the Thingyan period, she streamed it now as the earthquake hit the country, and she did not perform during the Thingyan period. The singer announced that she will release new songs starting on her birthday in the month of June.

Sai Si Tom Kham

The launching ceremony of the 'Ashone Mae Anaing' film, in which actor Sai Si Tom Kham took the lead role, was organized at the Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Yangon on 14 May. Bonanza Production initiated the film with its creation of Canal+ while the story was written by Evren, the plot by Hay Marn Hein, Aye Myat Cho, Su Lin Lat, directed by director Nora Ko and art director May Barani. The cast comprises Sai Si Tom Kham, Charlie, Wint Yamone Naing, Su Htet, Than Zin Seezar and other artistes.

May Myint Mo

ACADEMY May Myint Mo hosted a novitiation ceremony for 31 novices marking her 30th birthday at the Alotawpyae monastery in Nyaung-gU Township, Bagan, on 11 May. "I was very satisfied with holding such a novitiation ceremony. I felt like I was a real mother of many sons". Her fans made a surprise with a birthday cake for her in Bagan.

Hein Wai Yan & Soe Pyae Thazin

THE funfair event marking the fourth anniversary of the Sein Nandaw jewellery shop, Thakayta (Dawbon) branch, was convened at the Capital Mall (Dawbon) in Yangon from 9 to 11 May. Actor Hein Wai Yan and Academy Soe Pyae Thazin attended the event together with Tryon, VitaMin, Zaw Shine Htet, Htet Htet Tun, Miss Mee Mee and MC Soe Gyi.

Thanda Bo

MAKEUP artist Nyi Nyi Maung (Sangyoung) appreciated the wedding reception of actor Kaung Pyae and actress Thanda Bo. The two artistes celebrated the 13th anniversary of their relationship on 1 March. — Htun Htun/KTZH

NATIONAL

Russian experts to inspect quake-damaged historic structures

This photo reveals some of the historic structures damaged by the Mandalay earthquake.

RUSSIAN experts will inspect damage to historic structures in areas affected by the Mandalay earthquake.

Experts from the Russian Academy of Sciences, who are measuring and surveying earthquake-damaged buildings, will collaborate with international organizations on these inspections.

The inspections will include landmarks such as the Shwedagon Pagoda and Sule Pagoda in Yangon, along with internationally recognized ancient heritage buildings.

Engineers from the Mandalay Region Construction Entrepreneurs Association and Engineering Ministries International (EMI) will also inspect damage to historic structures in the affected areas. Additionally, a team of construction experts, including members of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies and civil engineers, is conducting assessments. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar deports 15 foreign nationals involved in telecom fraud

Myanmar Immigration officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

MYANMAR authorities detained 15 foreign nationals found to be involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities. These individuals illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting neighbouring countries, including Thailand. They were active in online gambling and online scam operations in areas such as Maetawthalay and the KK Park area in Myawady, Kayin State.

The 15 detainees include one Cambodian, two Chinese nationals, three Kenyans, four Indians, one Pakistani, two Indonesians, and two Kazakhs. Departmental teams are currently collecting the required personal information and documentation to facilitate their prompt repatriation to their respective countries.

Myanmar identified and detained a total of 9,086 foreign nationals who entered the country illegally between 30 January and 17 May 2025. Of these, 8,412 individuals were deported via Thailand to their respective countries under the law, while 674 others are ready to be repatriated and are being kept in proper custody.

The Myanmar government continues to investigate and take effective action against illegal online scam operations, particularly targeting foreign nationals involved in these crimes and their coordinators. It is also actively cooperating to promptly repatriate foreigners who are victims of trafficking or are otherwise in distress. — MNA/MKKS

174 aftershocks recorded until 15 May following Mandalay earthquake

This photo captures some damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake.

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology reported that 174 aftershocks had occurred by 15 May following the major earthquake in Mandalay.

Aftershocks were recorded in and around Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing, and Shan State, with magnitudes ranging from 3.0 to 5.5 on the Richter scale.

The Mandalay earthquake devastated ancient cultural heritage sites and residential buildings in areas such as Mandalay, Amarapura, Inwa, Meiktila, Sagaing, and Nay Pyi Taw. As of 15 May, the disaster has claimed over 3,700 lives, left more than 5,000 injured across six regions and states, and resulted in the rescue of 653 survivors.

The Mandalay earthquake caused significant damage to major roads in Mandalay, where debris is being cleared to ensure road safety and prevent blockages, with over 80 per cent of damaged buildings already removed.

In Sagaing, Sagaing Region, 50 per cent of the damaged buildings from the Mandalay earthquake have been cleared. Heavy machinery has been used in the ongoing cleanup to remove debris from high-rise structures, including large Buddhist learning centres and religious buildings situated on elevated ground. — ASH/TH

'Seik Kagyo' film to premiere on CANAL+ Zat Lenn on 25 May

Scenes from the film 'Seik Kagyo' featuring dramatic performances.

THE Myanmar film 'Seik Kagyo' (Twisted Mind) will premiere on the CANAL+ Zat Lenn pay TV channel at 7:30 pm on 25 May, according to lead actor Academy Sai Sai Kham Leng.

The film's story and screenplay were written by Thet Oo Maung, with a shooting script by Lwin Min Arnt. The movie was directed by Academy Aww Ratha for Frenzo Film Production.

"In this film, I portray a completely different character – someone the audience has never seen from me before. In the past, I often played typical roles like the rich kid or the student, but this time it's a new personality, a new genre I have never acted in. For those who missed it in cinemas, CANAL+ Zat Lenn will now bring it to your screen," said Sai Sai Kham Leng.

The film also features performances by Academy Kyaw Ye Aung, Academy Sai Sai Kham Leng, Academy Myo Thandar Tun, Academy Khin Wint Wah, Nay Htut, Htun Pale Yadana, Nyi Nanda, May Pachi, Soe Moe Kyi, Poe Waddy Thar and Htoo Thar among others. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Weak global palm oil demand drives local prices down

MARKET sentiment has remained bearish since January, resulting in a downward trajectory in local palm oil reference prices by K660 per viss.

The CIF (Cost, Insurance, Freight) price of palm oil in Yangon, Myanmar, is influenced by the prices of crude palm oil in Malaysia and Indonesia, transport costs, tariffs, and banking service fees, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce.

The wholesale reference prices were issued every Monday on the website of the Consumer Affairs Department (www.doca.gov.mm) and the Facebook Page of the DOCA and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

Consumers line up for the purchase of cooking oil at reference prices in Yangon.

The wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market was set at K6,620 per viss for a week ending 18 May. Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

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

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

MoEA bids for renovation of Union National Races Village

The Union National Races Village (Yangon)

THE Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee has invited pre-qualified bidders under a closed tendering system for procuring renovation services for the Union National Races Village (Yangon) under the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and director's office in Bago Region in the 2025-2026 (1 April 2025-31 March 2026).

Renovation of the Union National Races Village (Yangon) includes dredging work (100mx50mx2m), repairing landscape and planting flowers and maintaining perennial trees on eight acres and general repair and septic tank repair at the female dormitory, the director's office includes building RC column/RC beam fence with earthquake-resistant structure.

Tender rules documentation can be purchased at Union National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region and the Director's Office of the ministry in Oktha Myothit Ward, in the corner of Dhammazedi and Thittaw Yeiktha streets, Bago Region. Individuals can enquire about details through the office of the Union National Races Village at 09 899935266, 09 686423000, and 09 421114496, Bago office at 05 22201773, 09 251172143, and 09 422226023, Nay Pyi Taw (Head Office) at 09 450222909 and 09 256060046. Tender selection process (date and address) will be informed of. Tender rules can also be observed on the ministry's website http://portal.moea.gov.mm. — NN/KK

CBM sells US$300K, THB1.6M on 16 May

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US$300,000 and 1.6 million baht on 16 May.

CBM pumped $138,500 and three million baht on 15 May and over 4.3 million baht on 14 May into the financial market.

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

Foreign currencies seen at an exchange counter.

Afghanistan, Russia sign MoUs to enhance trade, transit cooperation

MoUs signed at the Afghanistan-Russia business forum in Kazan, Russia.

Afghans visit a market in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, 3 March 2025. **PHOTO: SAFIURAHMAN SAFI/XINHUA/FILE**

THE Afghan interim government and Russia have signed five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) focusing on trade, transport, transit, and gas exploration cooperation, a government statement said on Friday.

According to the statement, the MoUs were signed on Friday in the presence of Russian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Alexey Overchuk and Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund at the opening ceremony of the Afghanistan-Russia business forum held in Kazan, Russia.

The inked MoUs cover transport facilities, easing tariffs, building industrial parks, and expanding trade relations between the two countries, it said.

The Afghan interim government has urged local and international organizations to invest in the country to strengthen the economy and generate employment opportunities. — Xinhua

'Fortnite' unavailable on Apple devices worldwide

HIT game "Fortnite" was unavailable on Apple's digital App Store around the world on Friday, in the latest episode of a battle between the tech titan and publisher Epic Games.

While Fortnite with its millions of daily players was already unavailable to iPhone users in the United States, the block on downloads of the cartoonish multiplayer shooter now affects the entire globe.

"Apple has blocked our Fortnite submission... sadly, Fortnite on iOS will be offline worldwide until Apple unblocks it," Epic posted on X.

Apple told AFP it had asked Epic in Sweden to resubmit its app update "without including the US storefront of the App Store so as not to impact Fortnite in other geographies".

"We did not take any action to remove the live version of Fortnite from alternative distribution marketplaces," an Apple spokesperson said. — AFP

Ozempic-maker Novo Nordisk says CEO to step down

DANISH drugmaker Novo Nordisk, known for its blockbuster diabetes and weight-loss treatments Ozempic and Wegovy, said Friday its chief executive was stepping down in the wake of "market challenges". The company said the decision was made by mutual agreement with the board and that it was searching for a successor for Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen. Jorgensen will continue "for a period to support a smooth transition to new leadership", Novo Nordisk said in a statement. — AFP

Toyota debuts new NEV in China

AN all-new Toyota bZ5, an intelligent electric model, rolled off the production line Friday at a facility of FAW Toyota Motor Co Ltd in north China's port city of Tianjin, signalling the official debut of the model in the Chinese market.

People visit the booth of Toyota at the Automobile Exhibition Area during the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in East China's Shanghai, 5 November 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

The vehicle also marks a major milestone as the 12 millionth unit produced by the company, a joint venture between Toyota Motor Corporation and leading Chinese automaker First Automotive Works (FAW) Group Co.

The bZ5 is equipped with a panoramic sunroof and a 15.6-inch full-HD touchscreen display. It features the new Toyota Pilot intelligent driving assistance system, which supports more than 30 functions, including navigation assistance for urban and highway driving, as well as automated parking.

China holds a leading position in the fields of smart and electric vehicles. If Toyota's products can win the favour of Chinese consumers, they are sure to be well received in global markets as well, said Koji Sato, Toyota President and CEO. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25018)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25018)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (084W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (084W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-5-2025** 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.

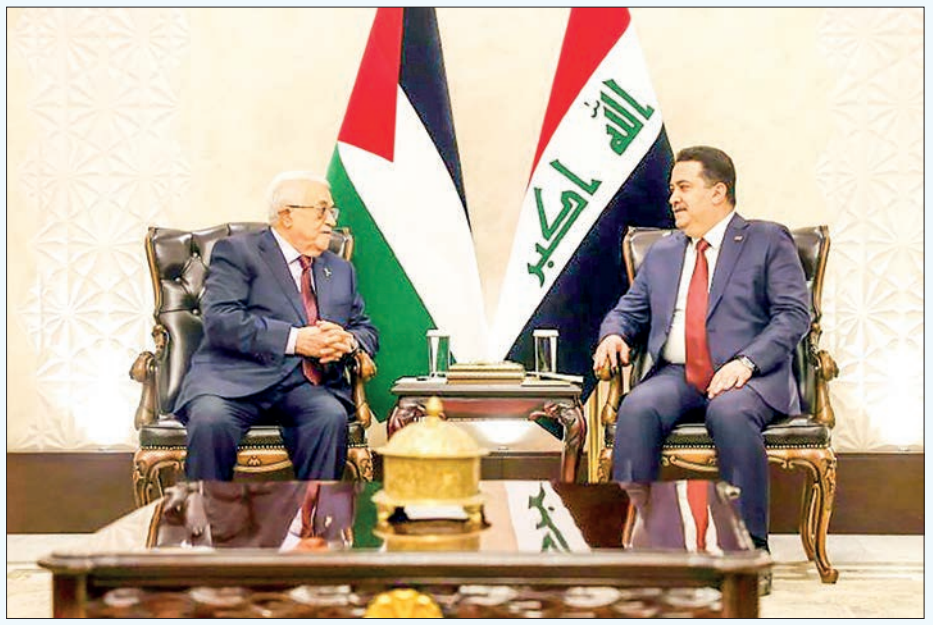
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani (R) holds talks with Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas ahead of Saturday's Arab League meeting in Baghdad.
PHOTO: PPO/AFP

17 May

Xi extends congratulations to 34th Arab League Summit

Arab League marks 80 years promoting Arab unity.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message on Saturday to Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, the rotating chairperson of the Council of Heads of the League of Arab States, extending his congratulations on the convening of the 34th Arab League Summit in Baghdad.

Xi noted that over the past 80 years since its establishment, the League of Arab States has always been committed to promoting unity and self-strengthening of the Arab world, voicing actively the shared concerns of Arab states, and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East.

At present, Xi said, the world is undergoing accelerating changes unseen in a century, and the situation in the Middle East is evolving in a complex way. – Xinhua

16 May

Japan, South Korea to fast-track tourist entry

JAPAN and South Korea plan to set up dedicated entry lanes for tourists visiting each other's countries at four airports in June to speed up the immigration process, as the month marks the 60th anniversary of the normalization of their diplomatic ties, government sources said Friday.

The lanes will be introduced for one month at Haneda airport in Tokyo, Fukuoka airport in southwestern Japan, as well as Gimpo in Seoul and Gimhae in Busan, according to the sources.

The system can be used by tourists and other visitors who meet certain conditions such as having recently made trips between the two nations. They will need to take some procedures in advance.

Japan and South Korea have become popular mutual tourist destinations in recent years. – Kyodo

15 May

Finland uncovers largest money counterfeiting case

FINNISH Customs has uncovered an aggravated money counterfeiting case involving approximately 260,000 euros (US$291,526) in counterfeit currency shipped into the country earlier this year, the agency said on Thursday.

The counterfeit banknotes were delivered to Finland via express freight and postal parcels originating from Italy, in at least four separate shipments.

In an interview with national broadcaster Yle on Thursday, lead investigator Tero Virtanen described the operation as Finland's largest-ever counterfeiting case. He said that the counterfeit money was consistently traced back to Italy and entered Finland through commercial delivery channels.

Authorities have identified five Finnish citizens as suspects in the case, three of whom remain in custody. – Xinhua

14 May

Defence force trainer jet crashes in central Japan lake

AN Air Self-Defence Force training jet with two personnel aboard crashed into a large reservoir shortly after takeoff from a base near Nagoya, central Japan, the government said Wednesday.

The ASDF said it is working to confirm the situation involving the T-4 jet, which disappeared from radar two minutes after departing Komaki Air Base, also in Aichi Prefecture, around 3:06 pm en route to a base in southwestern Japan.

Nobody was reported hurt in the vicinity of the accident in Inuyama, a city in the same prefecture. Police said what appears to be oil was seen floating on the surface of the reservoir, known as Lake Iruka, located some 10 kilometres northeast of the base.

Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters in Tokyo that part of the jet was found near the crash site, and that the ASDF has set up an investigation committee to determine the cause of the incident. – Kyodo

13 May

Xi outlines deeper cooperation with LAC nations

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday announced the launch of five programmes to advance shared development and revitalization with Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. The five programmes, ranging from solidarity, development and civilization to peace and people-to-people connectivity, were announced by Xi when delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the fourth ministerial meeting of the China-CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum in Beijing.

In 2015, Xi and LAC delegates attended the opening ceremony of the first ministerial meeting of the China-CELAC Forum in Beijing. On Solidarity Programme, Xi said China is willing to strengthen solidarity with LAC countries and continue to support each other on issues concerning their core interests and major concerns, to firmly safeguard the international system with the UN at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, and to speak with one voice in international and regional affairs.– Xinhua

12 May

S Korean sex slavery victim during WWII dies

A SOUTH KOREAN victim of sex slavery for the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II died on Sunday, reducing the number of living victims to six, an advocacy group for the victims said Monday.

Lee Ok-seon passed away on Sunday night at the age of 97, the House of Sharing said on its website.

With her death, only six "comfort women" victims are alive here. "Comfort women" refer to girls and women duped, abducted or forced into sex enslavement for Imperial Japan's military brothels before and during World War II.

A total of 240 South Korean women have identified themselves as victims of wartime sex slavery. – Xinhua

11 May

Iran tells Sweden: Act on embassy fire

IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER Seyed Abbas Araghchi held a phone conversation with his Swedish counterpart Maria Malmer Stenergard on Saturday, urging Sweden to act "seriously" against whoever was behind a fire attack in April on the Iranian embassy near Stockholm.

Araghchi called on the Swedish government to take necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such actions, according to a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

He also stressed the need for deeper bilateral consultations to resolve misunderstandings and enhance bilateral cooperation, read the statement. The fire attack took place on 30 April as the entrance to the diplomatic building of the Iranian embassy in Lidingo outside Stockholm was reportedly set ablaze. – Xinhua

SPORTS

Zine Dunk Aung versus Shin Thant Naing during their lightweight bout.

5th MBC Professional Boxing Tournament showcases thrilling bouts in Yangon

THE fifth edition of the MBC Professional Boxing Matches was held at 1 pm yesterday at the Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon, featuring six lightweight and one super lightweight category matches.

In the most talked-about four-lightweight bout, Ye Wunna Aung and Ye Yint traded solid blows throughout the match, but Ye Yint was awarded a points victory in technical knockout. In another key match, Zine Dunk Aung defeated Shin Thant Naing by knockout in the second round.

Hein Htut Aung edged out Kaung Htet Zaw on points in a closely matched fight, while Shine Min Tun and Ar Yaw ended their bout in a draw after exchanging equally strong strikes.

In two other four-lightweight fights, Myo Win Naing and Thiha Aung emerged victorious over Kyaw Thu Ya and Myo Khant Kyaw, respectively, after the judges' decision went 2-1 in their favour.

The six-lightweight division featured a high-energy match between Zaw Zaw Naing and Aung Lin Thant. Although both fighters landed heavy punches in the first two rounds, Zaw Zaw Naing delivered a series of clean strikes in the third round, leading to two standing counts against Aung Lin Thant and ultimately securing a win by knockout. — Arkar Soe/KZL

Yadanabon and Hanthawady reach MNL League Cup quarterfinals

YADANABON FC and Hanthawady United secured their spots in the quarter-finals of the 2025 MNL League Cup following their victories on the second day of Fixture 4, held on 17 May.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Yadanabon defeated Dagon Star United 3-1, clinching a place in the quarter-finals before their final group match. Under newly appointed head coach U Myint Ko, Yadanabon displayed solid form, earning three consecutive wins. Dagon Star United, which had made significant squad changes, suffered its first defeat and now faced an uncertain path to the next round, awaiting the result of the Yadanabon versus Myawady match. Although Yan Kyaw Htwe gave Dagon Star an early lead in seven minutes, Aung Thurain equalized for Yadanabon in 39 minutes, ending the first half 1-1.

In the second half, Pyi Moe converted a penalty in 49 minutes, and Myo Zaw Oo sealed the win with a stoppage-time goal in 90+5 minutes for Yadanabon.

At Yangon United Sports Complex, Hanthawady United beat ISPE FC 3-0 and secured quarterfinal qualification undefeated. Than Toe Aung scored a 40-minute penalty, followed by goals from Min Htoo Eain Lin in 74 minutes and Arkar in 80 minutes.

Yadanabon and Dagon Star United players in action during their group stage match. **PHOTO: MNL**

Myawady FC also kept their qualification hopes alive after a 3-0 win over Rakhine United at Padonma Stadium. Naing Zin Htet scored in 39 minutes, while Kaung Htet Lin added two more goals in 57 and 75 minutes.

At University Stadium, Rakhine United earned a crucial 4-1 victory against Chinland FC, putting them in a strong position to advance. Goals came from Bon Barmi Soe in 13 minutes, Than Kyaw Htay in 29 minutes and Sithu Aung in 45+2 minutes and 79 minutes. If Rakhine United avoid a scoreless loss in their final match, they will progress to the quarterfinals.

After Fixture 4 in Group C, Hanthawady United have completed all four matches with eight points and have already advanced. Rakhine United have seven points from three matches, ISPE FC four points from three, Chinland two points from three, and Glory Goal no points from three matches.

In Group D, Yadanabon leads with nine points from three matches and has qualified. Dagon Star United follows with seven points from four matches, Myawady with six from three, Rakhine United with one point from three, and Silver Stars FC yet to earn a point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Champions League race and goodbyes take centre stage on Sunday's Premier League

THE race to qualify for next season's Champions League tightened on Friday night as Aston Villa beat Tottenham and Chelsea claimed a 1-0 win at home over Manchester United, both victories increasing the pressure on Arsenal, Newcastle United, Nottingham Forest and Manchester City.

With Saturday dedicated to the FA Cup final, Arsenal hosts Newcastle in the biggest league game on Sunday. Mikel Arteta's side sits second in the table with 68 points, while Newcastle is third, two points behind and now level on points with Chelsea and Villa.

Arsenal's superior goal difference means a draw at the Emirates Stadium would be enough to assure a top-five finish. The good news for Arteta is that striker Kai Havertz is fit again after tearing a hamstring in February. — Xinhua

Flick wants Barca title party repeat 'every year'

AFTER enjoying Barcelona's La Liga title celebrations Hansi Flick said Saturday he would love to repeat them every season.

The German coach led the Catalan giants to a domestic treble in his first year at the club, beating Espanyol on Thursday to add La Liga to Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup triumphs.

An estimated 670,000 fans hit the streets to celebrate as the team cruised towards the city's Arc de Triomf monument on an open-top bus on Friday, revelling in the club's 28th Spanish title.

"When you see in the faces of the people, the passion for this club, for this amazing club and how they celebrate this, it's really good to see," Flick told a news conference Saturday.

"Of course, (if) we have this every year it's not bad — so we go for this, we work hard on this in the next years.

"It's not easy but when we work hard, we stay focussed, maybe we can do it next year — and it's unbelievable how many people are on the street".

Flick has a contract until 2026, but will extend his deal in the coming days according to Barca vice-president Rafa Yuste. — AFP

Barcelona's German coach Hansi Flick enjoyed the team's title celebrations on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Copenhagen to offer giveaways to eco-friendly tourists

Initiative encourages responsible travel, focusing on transport.

Copenhagen will offer rebates at tourist sites to visitors who use bikes and pick up trash. **PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP/FILE**

THE city of Copenhagen will offer special rebates and freebies to eco-friendly tourists this summer, including free bike rentals to those arriving by train and staying more than four days.

The CopenPay initiative, which was tested on a smaller scale last year, "is about raising travellers' awareness about travelling more responsibly", Soren Tegen Pedersen, the head of the city's tourism board Wonderful Copenhagen, told AFP.

The emphasis of the initiative is on transport, a highly polluting sector.

Those who make climate-friendly and environmental choices, such as using bikes and picking up trash, will also be offered rebates at museums and tourist sites, as well as free yoga classes and vegetarian meals.

Ninety sites are participating in the campaign, including the National Museum and CopenHill, a synthetic ski slope.

The campaign, which opens on 17 June and lasts until late August, will be advertised on billboards around the city and social media.

Goboat, a hire service for electric motorboats powered by solar panels, said taking part in the initiative last year helped show its commitment to climate solutions.

"Last year, 500 people jumped at our offer of one hour of free boating in exchange for picking up trash in the waters of the port. We weren't even able to satisfy demand," company representative Mads Pilegaard Sander told AFP.

In 2024, 75,000 tourists took part in the city's one-month trial.

Bike rentals increased by 29 per cent during the period, tonnes of trash were collected, and 98 per cent of participants said they would recommend the initiative, the tourism board said. — AFP

Historic Japan sake brewery offering courses for foreign sommeliers

Brewery sees it as chance for overseas attention despite domestic concerns.

Andre Cis (back L) participates in sake brewing at Fujii Shuzo in Usuki, Oita Prefecture, on 4 February 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A sake brewery in southwestern Japan with an over 150-year history has begun offering a seminar for foreign sommeliers on the traditional techniques for making the Japanese alcoholic drink, which were added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list last year.

The five-day seminar at Fujii Shuzo in Usuki, Oita Prefecture, is part of a course organized by the British-based Sake Sommelier Academy targeting experienced sommeliers, held in hopes of spreading awareness and appreciation about sake beyond Japan.

On 4 February, Andre Cis, a 40-year-old food and wine consultant from Austria, participated in steaming rice and placing it in a tank with rice malt and water. Describing the work as complex and intricate, he said he wishes to share his appreciation of the brewery's sake back home.

The seminar also welcomed a participant from Israel on a different date.

Toru Fujii, who heads Fujii Shuzo, said the seminar creates a "chance to garner attention from overseas".

While some in the domestic industry have told him they worry about it giving up its secrets, the 50-year-old was more concerned about the shrinking of the domestic market. — Kyodo

Breakthrough as dogs sniff out cancer before symptoms even appear

94 per cent accuracy in detecting lung, breast, prostate, colorectal cancers.

Israeli scientists at Assuta Medical Centres are using dogs, guided by AI, to detect cancer in its early stages, even before symptoms appear. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

ISRAELI scientists at Assuta Medical Centres are using dogs, guided by AI, to detect cancer in its early stages, even before symptoms appear. Developed by SpotitEarly, the method utilizes specially trained beagles that sniff breath samples collected via a face mask.

In tests, the dogs showed a 94 per cent accuracy rate in identifying lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers.

This non-invasive, simple, and scalable test analyzes a three-minute breath sample multiple times. Over 1,400 participants have been tested, primarily aged 40-70. SpotitEarly aims to expand detection to more cancer types. Experts believe this breakthrough enhances early detection, crucial for successful treatment. — ANI