

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Peace and Unity Committee of National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) U San Pae in the Triangle Region Command Headquarters yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that as Myanmar is a union nation, all have to move forward with a union system based on genuine multiparty democracy and a federal system.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Peace and Unity Committee of National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) U San Pae at the Golden Triangle Avenue of the Triangle Region Command Headquarters yesterday morning.

The Senior General cordially greeted Vice-Chairman U San Pae and delegation members of NDAA (Mongla).

At the discussions, the Senior General said that he was delighted to be reunited with old friends like this. As Myanmar is a union nation, all have to move forward with a union system based on genuine multiparty democracy and a federal system. Therefore, all national brethren living across the country have to work together in unity for the benefit of the nation.

Continued efforts to forge peace and stability

All national brethren living across the country have to work together in unity for the benefit of the nation.

He continued that the government is carrying out the tasks with the genuine intention of promoting the interests of the nation and all citizens. As a priority, all must cooperate in the important sectors of education and healthcare in line with the policies of the government. Continued efforts must be made towards development and forging peace and stability. For any region or nation to develop, it is essential to have an abundance of educated human resources. Therefore, basic education schools must be opened to ensure that all school-age children

have access to education. As Myanmar is a Union nation, it is necessary for everyone across the country to be proficient in the official language and literature prescribed by the State. Hence, people have to learn education of the Union system in the education sector across the nation. Upon successful completion of the basic education level, efforts should be made for students to continue their studies at local universities.

The Senior General emphasized that efforts need to be made to develop rubber-based industries that are thriving

in the region, with the goal of producing value-added products. Similarly, livestock and fishery businesses should be implemented to ensure sufficient local meat and fish production in the region. The government will also provide the necessary support for these activities. Regarding transport and communication, the government will continue to provide assistance as well. All have to carry out regional development projects, and in the same way, efforts must continue to provide healthcare services that reach rural areas.

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NATIONAL

Target agricultural sector production to increase country's GDP

IF the production target of the agriculture sector can be successfully achieved, manufacturing and service industries will also develop, leading to an increase in the country's GDP.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 7/2024 of the Union government held on 21 October 2024)

Bay of Bengal Condition

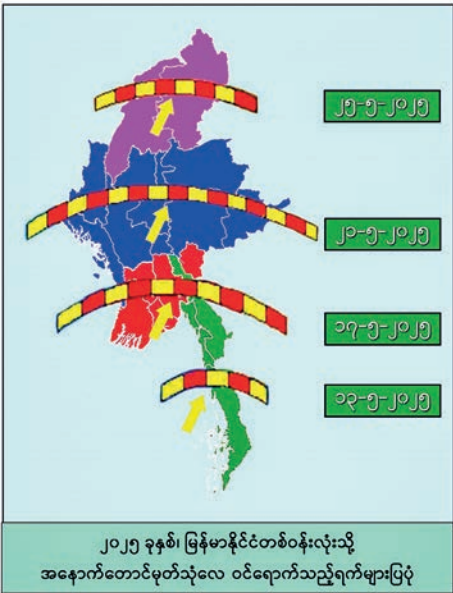
Issued at 2 pm MST on 25 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, a low pressure area may form over Westcentral Bay and adjoining North Bay of Bengal around 27 May 2025. -- DMH

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Advancement into the Whole Country

Issued at 25 May 2025

SOUTHWEST monsoon has advanced into the whole country. -- DMH



Special Weather News

Issued at 6 pm MST on 25 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, monsoon is strong 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 during today evening to 2 June 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



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and party seen with the Chinese government's 16th batch of humanitarian aid donation from Mr Ouyang Daobing, Economic Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy at the handover ceremony. **PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)**

China's 15th fuel and 16th housing donations for quake recovery arrive in Myanmar

CHINA has delivered its 15th batch of fuel and 16th batch of prefabricated houses to assist Myanmar's reconstruction efforts following the recent Mandalay earthquake.

As part of the 15th batch, the MT YU DONG vessel carrying 2,940.055 tonnes of Octane 92 and 11,930.505 tonnes of diesel arrived at the BRIGHTER ENERGY oil terminal in Kyauktan Township, Thanlyin District, at around 2:30 am on 23 May. The MV Orient Glory vessel, bringing the 16th batch of aid including 1,120 modular (prefabricated) houses and 160 prefabricated offices docked at the Thilawa (MITT) port at 4 pm on 24 May.

The fuel shipment was officially handed over at the Kyauktan oil terminal by Chinese Embassy Economic Counsellor Mr Ouyang Daobing to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and other regional officials yesterday morning. The Ministry of Energy will continue distributing the donated fuel to earthquake-affected areas.

Similarly, the modular houses and offices unloaded at the Thilawa port were handed over by Mr Ouyang Daobing to Chief Minister U Soe Thein and relevant Yangon Region ministers. The handover took place in the morning, and the Yangon Region Government began transferring the materials by crane from cargo trucks onto Myanmar Railways freight carriages for onward transport to quake-hit regions. The Chief Minister and his team also inspected the loading process and coordinated necessary arrangements to facilitate timely delivery. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

Gold Market Rate as of 25 May 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,760,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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)

Kengtung-Loimwe road under maintenance for long-term existence

Forests in the watershed area must not be cut but these must be conserved systematically.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that as slash and burn farming can deplete trees, it is necessary to reclaim highland farmlands.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, the Chief Minister of Shan State, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, inspected development undertakings in Loimwe region of Shan State (East) yesterday morning.

Arriving at the site of Kengtung-Loimwe road upgrade project being implemented by the Department of Highways (Shan State-East) of the Ministry of Construction, the Senior General heard reports on accomplishment of the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour of Loimwe region in February 2022, project matters, work process in relevant financial years, and future plans of the project by officials and gave guidance to systematically carry out long-term existence of Kengtung-Loimwe road.

He inspected solar-powered pumping process at Loimwe Lake to supply water to Loimwe region and lay pipelines of spring water. After hearing the reports of officials, the Senior General stressed the need



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report by officials on laying pipelines of spring water for Loimwe region of Shan State (East) yesterday.

to supply sufficient water to Kengtung and Loimwe regions. He pointed out that forests in the watershed area must not be cut but these must be conserved systematically. He continued that as slash and burn farming can deplete trees, it is necessary to reclaim highland farmlands. Moreover, he added that relevant experts and departmental officials need to inspect lay pipe-

lines for supply of spring water to the people.

At the 107-year Station Hospital in Loimwe, the Senior General gave instructions to officials for upgrade of the hospital.

The Senior General and party proceeded to the 100-year historic house where they viewed the display of documentary photos on historic and significant venues

in Loimwe. He inspected maintenance of the house and gave guidance to officials to repair utensils and other equipments in their original states in the house, and display necessary household furniture in the original state.

While in Loimwe hill station, the Senior General, his wife and party paid homage to Caturattha Sumangala Pagoda

and made cash donations. The Senior General and his wife paid homage to the Buddha image in the Dhammayon of the pagoda.

They also paid obeisance to hilly missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla and donated alms. After going round the pagoda, the Senior General gave guidance on maintenance of the pagoda for long-term existence to officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects damaged Hluttaw buildings, progress of repairs



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects repair and renovation of damaged Hluttaw buildings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and members, yesterday afternoon inspected repair and renovation of damaged Hluttaw buildings caused by the Mandalay earthquake in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and gave necessary

guidance.

The Senior General viewed round damaged parts at the suspension bridge and the archway to No 1 Gate, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building, the Pyithu Hluttaw building, Zabuthiri Hall, and the Amyotha Hluttaw building. Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and officials conducted the Senior General round the damaged buildings.

In response to the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to carry out systematic renovation at damaged Hluttaw buildings as quickly as possible and to complete repair process in a set period. He gave guidance to officials to deploy relevant skilled technicians in construction tasks in order to strengthen the buildings, and use quality construction materials.— MNA/TTA

Continued efforts to forge peace and stability

FROM PAGE 1

In his discussion, Vice-Chairman U San Pae from NDAA (Mongla) expressed this thanks to the SAC Chairman Prime Minister and leaders for meeting. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the State and the people for sending messages of condolence at the time of the passing of the former Chairman of the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA-Mongla). He also wished to express his shared sorrow regarding the losses and damage suffered by the people and the nation during the recent powerful Mandalay earthquake. Together with the local business community and residents within Special Region (4), NDAA (Mongla) made efforts to assist those affected by the earthquake. As for the principles and stance, the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA-Mongla) continues to uphold Our Three Main National Causes they have followed for over 30 years: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty adopted by the State. He requested the State to improve transportation and infrastructure within the region to ensure more efficient and smoother connectivity. Moreover, he urged the State to continue its support in the sectors of education and healthcare within the region. He affirmed that they have not allowed any armed group or political organization in the region. He pledged that they will continue to collaborate on efforts to maintain regional and national stability and peace. He requested that the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister has to provide necessary guidance and support to fulfill the needs of the region.

They cordially discussed peace measures, education, health and regional development matters.

After the meeting, the Senior General exchanged commemorative gifts with the Vice-Chairman of the Peace and Unity Committee and party of NDAA (Mongla).

Likewise, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and attendees presented commemorative gifts to members of the Peace and Unity Committee of NDAA (Mongla).

They all had the lunch together after posing for documentary photos.

Also, present at the meeting were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Vice-Chairman of Peace and Unity Committee of NDAA (Mongla) was accompanied by Vice-Chairman U Hsang Lu, U Kyi Myint and officials. — MNA/TTA

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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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

SAC member encourages matriculation candidates in Nay Pyi Taw

STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint, visited several high schools in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to encourage students preparing for the 2025 matriculation exam.

The General visited Basic Education High School No 3 in Pubbathiri Township, Kyaukcheck BEHS in Zeyathiri Township, and BEHS No 14 in Zabuthiri Township. These schools are currently hosting students undergoing intensive revision and training camps in preparation for retaking matriculation examination. During the visit, the SAC member met with the students and offered words of encouragement.

While meeting the students, the SAC member and officials observed the revision sessions and viewed the students for their efforts in preparing for the exam.

Later, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and responsible officials distributed refreshments to the students. The SAC member then urged the students to study diligently in order to succeed in the examination and assured that arrangements had been made, in coordination with officials to support the students' accommodation and foods so that they can focus on their studies conveniently. — MNA/KZL



A teacher teaches students who prepare for retaking matriculation examination at a training camp in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae warmly greets students from the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union in Ywathitgyi Village, Sagaing Township, yesterday.

MoBA Union Minister inspects the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, accompanied by Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Win Tin Soe, visited the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union in Ywathitgyi Village, Sagaing Township, yesterday.

First, the Union minister met with the Rector, Pro-Rectors, Professors, and officials in the University Conference Hall. The Rector presented a report covering the university's administration, management, academic measures, agriculture, livestock, water and electricity supply, completed construction projects funded by the 2024-2025 financial year budget, future construction projects for the 2025-2026 financial year, damage and loss caused by the

Mandalay earthquake, and the preparations required.

He viewed round students' dormitories, dining halls, welfare shops, livestock feed mills, the stadium and gymnasium, earthquake damage conditions, raising layers and broilers, catfish farming, and seasonal crop cultivation for the welfare of staff families and students and addressed the identified needs. — MNA/TH

Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo signs the condolence book at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar yesterday.

ON behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar, located at No 40 (A), 1st Thiri Mingala Street, Kamayut Township, Yangon, at 2:15 pm yesterday to sign the book of condolence opened at the Embassy for the demise of Mr Tran Duc Luong, former President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and former member of the Politburo of the

Union Minister and Union Attorney-General signs condolence book for demise of former Vietnamese President



Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo signs the condolence book at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar yesterday.

Communist Party of Vietnam, who passed away on 20 May 2025.

Upon arrival, the Union Minister cordially met with the Ambassador and officials of the Embassy in the reception hall. During the meeting, they expressed their deep sorrow and sincere condolences over the passing of the former President and Politburo member and signed the book of condolence.

Mr Tran Duc Luong served as the President of Vietnam from September 1997 to June 2006 and was 88 years old at the time of his passing. — MNA/KN

Mr Tran Duc Luong served as the President of Vietnam from September 1997 to June 2006 and was 88 years old at the time of his passing. — MNA/KN

NATIONAL

National Security Adviser Union Minister to attend 13th Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues in Russia

AT the invitation of Mr Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, a Myanmar delegation led by National Security Adviser Union Minister at the State Administration Council Chairman Office Ministry 1 Admiral Moe Aung left Yangon by air for the Russian Federation yesterday to attend the 13th International Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues and related meetings to be held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, from 27 to 29 May.

The Union minister will act as a co-chair at the ASEAN-Russia Consultation of the High Representatives for Security Issues. — MNA/KZL

Union Minister and Union Attorney-General leads Myanmar delegation to legal events in Russian Federation



Union Minister Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo and Russian Minister of Justice Mr Konstantin Chuychenko sign the agreement at the 13th St Petersburg International Legal Forum.

AT the invitation of Mr Konstantin Chuychenko, Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo attended the 13th St Petersburg International Legal Forum from 19 to 21 May in St Petersburg, Russia. The forum was hosted by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

During the trip, the Myanmar delegation also took part in the signing ceremony of the Agreement on Mutual Protection of Citizens from the Misuse of International Legal Processes. On 23 May, at the invitation of Mr Igor Krasnov, Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation, the delegation visited Moscow to attend the bilateral meeting held at the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation. At this event, both sides signed a supplementary agreement outlining the procedures for implementing the earlier agreement on the mutual protection of citizens. Legal experts from both countries

also participated in a workshop during this visit.

At the forum's panel discussion on "Combating International Cybercrime," the Union Minister addressed the gathering. She stated that cybercrimes, digital offences, online fraud, and human trafficking are transnational in nature and increasingly pose threats to global society. She emphasized that these crimes cannot be solved by a single country alone and it requires international cooperation. She noted that Myanmar, as a member of ASEAN, is working collaboratively with other ASEAN member states. She further remarked that artificial intelligence (AI) technologies should also be considered in delivering cross-border legal services and handling international legal matters.

Dr Thida Oo also took part in the ministerial-level discussion session of the international legal forum.

While the 13th St Petersburg International Legal Forum was underway, a signing ceremony was held for the agreement on

the mutual protection of citizens from misuse in international judicial proceedings. The Union Minister and Union Attorney-General and Russian Minister of Justice Mr Konstantin Chuychenko signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

On 23 May, she held talks with the Russian Prosecutor General. A follow-up signing ceremony was held for the supplementary protocol detailing procedures for implementing the agreement on mutual protection from judicial misuse. They and signed the protocol.

Following the ceremony, representatives from both the Ministry of Legal Affairs of Myanmar and the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation discussed the 2024-2025 Joint Cooperation Programme to be implemented under their memorandum of understanding. As part of this programme, representatives from both countries attended and participated in the 2025 bilateral legal dialogue. — MNA/ KNN

Tireless efforts made in rescue and rehabilitation operations

RELEVANT organizations and residents tirelessly participate in rescue and rehabilitation operations at earthquake-affected areas.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) attended a ceremony to seek advice of Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Mahamuni Buddha Image Board of Trustees for renovation of damaged and collapsed buildings in the precinct of the image in Chanmyathazi Township yesterday.

Ovadacariya Sayadaws and Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung inspected maintenance of the Gandakuti chamber; reconstruction of the seven-tiered building in its original state and conditions of the treasury of the image.

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung also visited No 16 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township and BEHS No 1 in Aungmyaythazan Township and observed preparations to open the schools for 2025-26 academic year; teaching students to retake the matriculation examination at

the camps and enrolment activities of students at the schools.

Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) looked into clearing of dangerous public houses in Yanmyolon Ward of Chanayethazan Township.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) attended the talk show on construction of buildings with resilience of earthquake for residents at BEHS in Hanmyintmo Village of Kyaukse Township and discussed ways and procedures to reconstruct the buildings, use of quality products and consultation with experts. He also inspected construction of a temporary building at BEPS in Kathesu Village of Singaing Township.

While in Kyaukse, Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing inspected production of cement at Double Rhinos cement plant of Myanmar Thantawmyat Co Ltd, repairing of the second production line, repairing of Hsinmin cement plant and Alpha cement plant. — MNA/TTA



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing observes removing debris efforts by using heavy machines at Idea Moblie building in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay yesterday.

NATIONAL

Edible frog farming expands, enjoys better price

EDIBLE frog farming has now expanded with the increased number of consumers and the demand has now risen, resulting to better price, according to frog farms.

The edible frog called Thai frog has been popular in the domestic market. “The trade has increased now, even it is not as big as the fish market, it has received wholesale orders. Big-sized frogs are even transported to other distant destinations,” said a frog farm owner.

Depending on how much they can lure more consumers, frog prices are good now.

“From breeding to around 75 days or more than 2-3 months, frogs can be sold. Frogs are sold in viss, each one weighs 15 ticals and above. About 4-5 big-sized frogs weigh a viss. The price drops back in monsoon. But the trade is better when frogs are scarce,” he added.

Frog feeds are bran and floating fish feed. Currently, small-scale frog farms have increased in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



Young frogs at a frog farm

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Samples invited for the Eighth Myanmar Coffee Cupping Competition in June

THE Myanmar Coffee Association has announced that samples can be sent for the Eighth Myanmar Coffee Cupping Competition to be held in PyinOoLwin (Local Round) and the United States (International Round) in June.

Each sample will cost K 200,000 and there is no limit to the number of entries.

With a stock of at least 200 kg of export quality coffee beans, samples must be representative, weigh 2 kg, have a filter size of 15 or higher, have been sorted out, and have a moisture content between 10-12 per cent. The sample bags must include the name of the producer/ farmer, coffee variety, region of origin, elevation, production method (e.g., wet, dry, fully washed, natural dry, etc.), production quantity (lot size) and contact phone or email.

The judges will be five foreigners and five locals, and five prizes will be awarded for Fully Wash Process, five prizes for Natural dry process, and three prizes for Other Categories Process. For more information, contestants



While coffee berries and coffee beans were being observed.

can contact U Myint Soe Aung (Phone 09-42234133, 09-963681895) or U Thiha (Phone - 09 444080655) of the association.

Green coffee bean samples to be entered in the competition can be delivered to U Myint Soe Aung in PyinOoLwin, phone 09-42234133, 09- 963681895, by 30 May. — MT/ZN

Art of Tea for Harmony campaign held at Myanmar Cultural University

THE Chinese Embassy to Myanmar held a “The Art of Tea for Harmony” campaign on the campus of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) on 21 May.

The event was held to mark the 6th International Tea Day and Mr Li Qianguo, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, Mr Chen Tao, Chairman of the Yangon Branch of Bank of China (Hong Kong), Pro-Rector Dr Khaing Htun, and Skynet TV presenter Khin Hnin Chan Kyaw shared their experiences on tea culture and tea, and spoke about bilateral friendship.

“We welcome the arrival of ‘Tea Art for Harmony’ to our campus,” said Dr Kathy Htwe, Rector of the cultural university.

During the ceremony, Chinese tea artists demonstrated tea brewing techniques such as pouring fully fermented dry tea in covered bowls and pouring green tea in glass cups. They also performed traditional Chinese and Myanmar musical instruments such as the Guzheng, harp and crocodile zither, promoting bilateral cultural exchange.

The event was jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy, China Media Group and Myanmar’s National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) with the support of the Myanmar Anhui Chamber of Commerce. — Htun Htun/ZN



Playing traditional Chinese and Myanmar musical instrument such as Guzheng, harp and crocodile zither in rotation.

OPINION

Be cautious of dangerous carbon monoxide

CARBON dioxide and carbon monoxide emitted from generators, charcoal and firewood stoves, and mosquito coils are harmful to human health. Therefore, people should be aware of the negative effects of these dangerous gases and consider ways to prevent exposure to polluted air.

People are especially at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning when using generators in unventilated rooms or cooking with stoves that emit large amounts of smoke in enclosed kitchens. Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that has no smell or taste. Although small amounts of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere

may not be noticeable, high concentrations can severely damage the organs of living beings, including humans.

Health experts note that individuals who unintentionally inhale large amounts of carbon monoxide may experience symptoms of toxicity such as dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, weakness, stomach pain, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and confusion. If so, they need to seek medical treatment at nearby clinics and hospitals in time.

Generally, materials that use fuel and engines, including generators, emit carbon monoxide, though usually in small amounts. However, in poorly or completely unventilated spaces, inhaling carbon monoxide can lead to poisoning. This is especially dangerous when people are asleep, as they may not notice the symptoms. The risk is even greater for those who have consumed excessive alcohol,

as it can dull the body's ability to respond to the warning signs of carbon monoxide toxicity.

Surveys showed that approximately 28,900 people worldwide died from carbon monoxide poisoning in 2021. The data revealed regional differences in death rates, with Eastern Europe recording the highest rate at 2.12 deaths per 100,000 population. About 70 per cent of the fatalities were male, and the highest number of deaths occurred among individuals aged 50 to 54. However, the highest death rate was observed in those aged 85 and above.

Air pollution poses a serious environmental threat to human health. This danger is often greater than expected. Since humans depend on oxygen in the atmosphere, inhaling high levels of carbon monoxide without sufficient oxygen can lead to life-threatening consequences. Scientific research has found that fine particles, including those associated with carbon monoxide, are among the leading causes of lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and other serious illnesses. Therefore, people should avoid polluted areas in their daily routines to protect their health and well-being, and so as not to do activities to enable the emission of carbon monoxide, harming others in society.

THERE are four of them in the group, all around the same age and in the same grade. They've been attending my open Grammar and Composition class for over five years now. They're bright students — they can easily handle English essays and compositions on general topics. All of them aim to graduate with distinction in English. This year, they're in Grade 12, so every subject is demanding. They have to cover an entire year's syllabus in just two terms, which is like carrying six heavy bundles on their heads while travelling nonstop for a year. How could they possibly have it easy? I sympathize with them. That's also why I've stopped giving their group the usual weekly Sunday projects that I assign to other classes — it's been a while now.

They have full respect for their teacher, but there's one trait in them that I don't like — a trait commonly found among other students, too. I've never directly told them I dislike it, though I've often meant to. The issue? Whenever the four of them are in class together, they chatter nonstop. In my 45 years of teaching experience, I know this isn't characteristic of students aiming to graduate with honours in English. So, I merged their class with another study group — one where the students stay quiet. Now, the combined group has eleven students. The others never talk; from the moment class starts until it ends, they just focus on their eBook readers or their tasks, never engaging in idle chatter with those nearby. I thought pairing these two groups might curb the talkativeness of those four, and it seems to have worked somewhat.

Throughout my teaching career, I've produced no fewer than 15 students who achieved distinction in English in the matriculation exams. These four students certainly have the potential to join that list in the upcoming 2026 Grade 12

Mastering English with Focus and Persistence

By Yin Nwe Ko

exam — I truly hope they'll succeed. But here's the hard truth: Earning distinction in English is extremely competitive. In most years, only one or two students from an entire township manage it, and some years see none at all.

I know from decades of experience that students who habitually chatter in class simply don't fit the profile of those who achieve top honours. That's why I worry for them. Their ability isn't in question, but their discipline might be. One day, I decided to use an indirect approach to help these four students reflect on their behaviour. I assigned them an essay titled: 'The Characteristic Features of English Distinction Holders.' At that time, I noticed one of them had written quite a thorough and well-composed essay. Let me share that memorable little essay with you again.

The Characteristic Features of English Distinction Holders

English distinction holders are students who have achieved an exceptional level of mastery in the English language. Their success is not just based on memorization or simple language skills but on a combination of dedication, understanding, and effective communication. There are several key characteristic features that set these individuals apart from others.

One of the most noticeable quali-

ties of distinction holders in English is their strong command over vocabulary and grammar. They not only use a wide range of words but also understand their meanings and proper usage. Their sentences are well-structured, and they rarely make grammatical errors. This deep understanding allows them to communicate ideas clearly and effectively, whether in speaking or writing.

Distinction holders excel in reading and comprehension. They can quickly grasp the meaning of texts, analyze the author's intention, and understand deeper meanings beyond just the words. Their ability to interpret and evaluate literary works, articles, and essays helps them perform well in exams and discussions. They can also extract important details and summarize information efficiently, which is a valuable skill in academic and professional settings.

Another defining feature of English distinction holders is their ability to express ideas in writing with clarity, coherence, and creativity. They structure their essays and compositions effectively, using appropriate transitions to connect ideas smoothly. Their writing is not only grammatically correct but also engaging and well-organized. Whether

they are crafting persuasive essays, reports, or narratives, they always ensure their arguments and points are logically presented.

Fluency and confidence in speaking are also traits that distinguish the holders. They communicate their thoughts clearly and with ease, using correct pronunciation and appropriate tone. Whether giving a presentation, engaging in a discussion, or debating a topic, they remain calm and articulate their ideas convincingly. Their ability to express themselves confidently makes them effective communicators in different situations.

Achieving distinction in English requires more than just talent — it demands continuous learning and improvement. English distinction holders have a passion for expanding their knowledge. They regularly read books, newspapers, and other materials to enhance their vocabulary and understanding of different writing styles. They also seek feedback on their work and make efforts to refine their skills, showing a strong commitment to self-improvement.

Distinction holders do not simply memorize rules; they analyze and think critically about language. They can evaluate different perspectives, form logical arguments, and express their own opinions clearly. This ability is especially useful in academic discussions and essay writing, where they need to construct well-reasoned arguments based on evidence and reasoning.

English distinction holders are also recognized for their focus and discipline during lessons. They avoid unnecessary distractions and remain attentive to the subject matter. Instead of engaging in casual conversations, they dedicate their time to understanding complex topics, refining their language skills, and absorbing valuable knowledge. Their ability to concentrate fully in class allows them to grasp concepts efficiently, participate meaningfully in discussions, and apply their learning effectively in exams and writing tasks. This disciplined approach plays a key role in their academic success.

In summary, English distinction

holders are characterized by their strong command of vocabulary and grammar, excellent reading and writing skills, confidence in speaking, passion for learning, and critical thinking abilities. Their success is a result of hard work, dedication, and a deep understanding of the language. These qualities not only help them excel in academic assessments but also prepare them for effective communication in real-life situations.

As you, my dear and attentive reader, can see, one student's essay was truly masterful — a nine-paragraph piece where, to my astonishment, the eighth paragraph directly addressed the very behaviour I disliked in those four students. I was deeply satisfied. 'They do understand themselves after all,' I consoled myself silently. Given that they're young women at a sensitive age, I've held back from speaking bluntly, fearing they might feel ashamed. But now, it's clear they're self-aware. 'Ah, well...' I thought. 'Real change comes not from others' corrections, but from one's resolve.' Let them learn this truth. Whatever happens, if even one of those four earns distinction in English, I'll be content.

To be honest, this student's essay is quite advanced. It is written at a level that is not lower than the current Intermediate level. During the five to six years they studied Grammar and Composition with me, I've come to see how well they've mastered it, and I truly feel proud of that.

In brief, the road to earning distinction in English is not just about talent or knowledge — it's about discipline, focus, and self-reflection. These four students have shown remarkable potential, and with continued effort, they can achieve their academic goals. However, they must recognize that success demands both ability and perseverance. To truly excel, they should minimize distractions, cultivate a habit of deep concentration, and stay committed to improving their language skills. I sincerely hope they take the lessons from their essay to heart. If they can adapt and refine their study habits, there is no doubt that at least one — perhaps even all — will earn the distinction they aspire to. Their future success lies in their own hands.

'Selfish' genes called 'introns' proves to be major source of genetic complexity: Study

This discovery underscores the intricate dynamics of DNA, where not all genetic material contributes to survival, and some elements may even lead to health issues like cancer.



Introns are a kind of transposable element, a "jumping gene". **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

A NEW study proves that a type of genetic element called 'introns' is the mechanism by which many introns spread within and between species.

It also provides evidence of eight instances in which introns have transferred between unrelated species in a process called 'horizontal gene transfer,' the first proven examples of this phenomenon.

DNA is the genetic code that provides the biological instructions for every living species, but not every bit of DNA helps the species survive.

Some pieces of DNA are more like parasites, along for the ride and their own survival.

To translate DNA into proteins, the building blocks of life, many of these selfish DNA elements have to be removed from the genetic code.

Doing so enables the body to produce the wide diversity of proteins that allow for complex life, but the process can also lead to health problems, like some kinds of cancer.

University of California, Santa Cruz researchers are studying the ways that these genetic elements hide and make copies of themselves, so they can prop-

agate within a species' DNA, or even hop from one species to an unrelated one in a process called "horizontal gene transfer."

A new study in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences proves that a type of genetic element called "introns" are the cause of many of these selfish genes spreading within and between species.

It provides evidence for eight instances in which introns have transferred between unrelated species, the first proven examples of this phenomenon.

"[Introns are] a way that genome architectures and complexity arise, but not necessarily because there is natural selection that favours this complexity," said Russ Corbett-Detig, senior author on the study and professor of biomolecular engineering at the Baskin School of Engineering. "A few may ultimately benefit the host, but most are just cheaters that found a really good way to hide in the genome," Russ added. In this study, the researchers have proven that introns are one of the main ways that new introns appear within a species' DNA.

SOURCE: ANI



NATIONAL

Two-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth over K400M

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

On 23 May, the combined teams impounded three unregistered motorbikes (approximately K57 million) in Sagaing and Monywa townships, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K60 million), travelling from Yangon to Mawlamyine, carrying foodstuffs worth K15 million without official documents, smuggled foodstuffs valued at K2.073 million that were piled up by the roadside near Maeyan combined checkpoint, industrial materials worth K60.385 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port

and a Scania bus (estimated value of K100 million), heading to Mandalay from Yangon, carrying eight kinds of industrial materials worth K129.622 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

On 24 May, the combined on-duty teams seized four kinds of industrial materials valued at K150 million without official documents from a warehouse in Hpa-an Township. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 13 arrests on 23 and 24 May, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K474 million. — MNA/MKKS



A solar charge controller seized at Thilawa Port in Yangon on 23 May.

Cargo train derails on Bago-Mawlamyine railway after terrorists' mine attack



A cango train derails on Bago-Mawlamyine railway section due to mine blast.

A cargo train derailed between Theinseik and Donwun stations in Thaton Township, Mon State, following a mine explosion triggered by terrorists linked to the NUG and CRPH. The incident occurred around 8:45 am on 24 May as Train No 687, transporting gravel from Thebyugon, passed through milepost 123/23-24.

The explosion caused the locomotive and several wagons to derail. Local security forces and railway personnel responded immediately to secure the

area and begin repairs. Myanma Railways has temporarily suspended service on this section of the Bago-Mawlamyine railway section.

Passenger services were affected as a Yangon-bound train No 81 was halt at Theinzayat Station at 10:15 am, and the Mawlamyine-bound train No 82 stopped at Thebyugon at 9:07 am. Passengers have been reimbursed for their tickets.

According to authorities, terrorists have committed 82 mine attacks on rail tracks, 176

mine attacks on railway bridges and lines and 16 arson attacks on stations and staff housing since February 2021. These repeated acts aim to disrupt public safety, destroy State-owned infrastructure and hinder the movement of passengers and cargo.

Despite the damage, the government remains committed to upgrading railway infrastructure and transport services to ensure safe and efficient travel for the public.—MNA/KZL

Stimulant tablets seized in Myeik and Patheingyi

A combined team from the Drug Enforcement Division of the Myanmar Police Force stopped and searched Khin Latt Zaw on Phayakaing Road in Myeik at 7 am on 22 May, seizing 10,000 stimulant tablets.

Following the investigation, police searched Khin Latt Zaw's house in Myeik (South) Ward, Myeik, at 8 am the same day and discovered an additional 50,000 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, police appre-

hended Ma Tin Mar Win with 600 stimulant tablets together with a Kenbo motorbike on the PyinOoLwin-Mandalay Road in Patheingyi Township at 8:30 pm the same day. A subsequent search of her house in Ohnchaw Village, Patheingyi Township, at 9 pm, authorities uncovered 4,900 more stimulant tablets.

Offenders have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Khin Latt Zaw seen with stimulant tablets in Myeik on 22 May.

NATIONAL

More magnolia champaca to be planted at Mt Popa in monsoon

AT Mount Popa, magnolia champaca plants has begun fewer, that is why more trees have been planned to grow this monsoon, said Ko Yenathar Dinga from Yenathar Dinga Brothers planting group.

At present, there is no barely magnolia champaca planting project, besides existing trees have been under depletion threat.

“We have a planting project for magnolia champaca on Popa Hill this year. Mount Popa is

the land of magnolia champaca plants but there is no project for this tree on the mountain and no increase in quantity, even existing ones have died gradually and there is a threat of depletion,” he said.

Under the threat of depletion, the group has planned to start the project of planting about 300 magnolia champaca trees about 7ft tall this monsoon around the track to the mountain.

“We will go to plant 300



Yenantha Dinga Brothers nurture over 1,000 magnolia champaca saplings.

magnolia champaca trees about 7-8ft tall around the track to the Mount Popa where our group plant every year. We don’t know when it will rain so we can start this project after it rains enough.

We choose this evergreen tree to plant because Mount Popa is the land of magnolia champaca,” he added.

In last year, a trial project of seeding royal poinciana

trees and jacaranda mimosifolia trees was implemented at the Mount Popa where big trees rarely grow due to the soil of the area and achieved. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Myanmar citizens in Thailand urged to avoid forging passports

MYANMAR citizens in Thailand will face legal action if they have revised or forged passports, the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok has announced.

If they are found to have forged passports, whether knowingly or through fraudsters, their passports will not only be invalidated but they will also face legal action of the respective country.

The Thai authorities are detecting forged passports using high-tech devices, and the Myanmar Embassy is working with relevant departments to



Showing a Myanmar passport.

Ministry of Home Affairs. The information on it must not be changed, modified, defaced, torn, stamped or otherwise marked, and if such actions are found, legal action will be taken against the holder and the passport will be cancelled immediately, it said.

Therefore, Myanmar citizens in Thailand are urged to avoid such actions, and they can contact the embassy in Bangkok and the consulate general in Chiang Mai in person during office hours upon facing any difficulty. — MT/ZN

Myanmar film ‘Feeling’ to be screened nationwide in early June

THE Myanmar movie, ‘Feeling’, is set to premiere in major cinemas nationwide in early June, according to actress Academy Chuu Lay, who features as a main character in the film.

The screenplay for this film was penned by Lin Aung Myin, with Thiha Soe handling the shooting script. The film was directed by Academy Wyne, alongside assistant director Athwin Thit, and produced by Shwe Myanmar Film Production.



This photo showcases a poster for the film.

“In this film, viewers can see hardships that people prioritizing emotions can face. This film gives messages that if we prioritize our feelings in every situation, we will make irreparable mistakes in life. There will watch a pure love drama, and will see me in a role that there have never seen before,” said Academy Chuu Lay.

The casts include Academy Award winners Nay Win and Chuu Lay, as well as Soe Moe Kyi, Okaw Than Tha, Min Arkar, Myo Ko Kyaw, Aung Zaw Min and more others also appear in the film. — ASH/MKKS

Top vocalists to perform live concert at Star Lounge on 31 May

A special live concert featuring five of Myanmar’s renowned vocalists: Nwet Yin Win, Myo Kyawt Myine, Academy Sai Sai Kham Leng, Kaung Myat and Jewel will be held at the Modern Radio–Star Lounge Bar in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, according to singer Myo Kyawt Myint.

“We will all be gathering at Modern Radio–Star Lounge on the night of 31 May. Alongside

the Lucky Hand band, Sai Sai, Jewel, Kaung Myat, Aunty Joyse, and I will be performing live,” said Myo Kyawt Myine, hinting at a vibrant evening of music and entertainment.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 pm on 31 May. The Lucky Hand band will provide live musical accompaniment to the vocalists, promising a high-quality and memorable performance for fans in attendance. — ASH/KZL

Suriname poised for cash inflow from newly discovered oil

The nation, with a population of about 600,000, expects to generate around \$10 billion over the next decade or two, starting crude extraction in 2028.

SURINAME, South America’s smallest country, is preparing for an inflow of cash from a huge offshore oil find, with the president insisting the population will receive a direct share of the wealth.

The Dutch-speaking nation of about 600,000 people expects to rake in about \$10 billion in the next decade or two, with crude extraction set to begin in 2028.

Projected output is 220,000 barrels per day (bpd) — up from

about 5,000 to 6,000 — in a country where one in five people live in poverty.

“From 2028, we’ll be an oil-producing country,” President Chan Santokhi told AFP ahead of elections Sunday for lawmakers who will choose the next president.

He is one of several candidates in the running to steer the former Dutch colony wedged between Brazil, Guyana and



Suriname expects to rake in about \$10 billion from a huge offshore oil find. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

French Guiana.

“It will be a huge amount of income for the country,” Santokhi said. “We are now able... to do more for our people so that everyone can be part of the growth of the nation.”

Besides investing in agriculture, tourism, health, education and green energy, some of the oil money is being paid directly to Surinamese citizens under a programme Santokhi has dubbed “Royalties for Everyone” — RVI for its Dutch acronym. — AFP

Europeans turning down US as summer travel destination: report



Passengers arrive at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey on 7 May 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

EUROPEAN travellers are reducing trip plans to the United States during this year’s summer season by 10 per cent amid sentiment headwinds against US President Donald Trump’s policies, said Bloomberg citing a report from a British tourism consulting company.

Flight bookings from Canada to the US during the May-July period plummet 33 per cent, according to a recent forecast released by Tourism Economics, part of Oxford Economics.

As of April, international inbound bookings to the US in May had dropped 9.5 per cent year on year; and trips planned for June and July had fallen 10.8 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, according to the company.

It expected international arrivals at the US to decline 8.7 per cent in 2025, while the spending of international visitors to decrease 8.5 billion US dollars, down 4.7 per cent from last year.

“These declines mark a

stark contrast to our prior expectations for a continuation of post-pandemic growth this year,” said the company.

Trump’s tariff policies on longstanding trade partners, such as Canada and the European Union, have contributed to “sentiment headwinds.” The Trump administration’s posturing, well-publicized border incidents and national advisories warning of the risks of travel to the US have also affected demand, it added. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

59.8% expect rice prices to fall with new farm minister: Kyodo poll

NEARLY 60 per cent of Japanese believe that the country’s soaring rice prices will fall under the new farm minister, following his predecessor’s sacking over a controversial remark about receiving gifted rice, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday.

In the two-day telephone poll conducted from Saturday, 59.8 per cent expressed such expectations, while 35.1 per cent said they do not believe there would be any such changes with Shinjiro Koizumi at the helm of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The survey also showed 44.7 per cent believing rice prices should be brought below 3,000 yen per 5 kilogrammes, lower than recently pledged by Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. That contrasts with 45.0 per cent who believe the target rice price rollback is “appropriate,” with only 7.6 per cent saying the prices should be set higher. — Kyodo

US big banks explore venturing into crypto world: report

THE United States’ biggest banks are exploring whether to team up to issue a joint stablecoin, a step intended to fend off escalating competition from the cryptocurrency industry, The Wall Street Journal has reported.

The conversations have so far involved companies co-owned by JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo and other large commercial banks, according to the report. Those include Early Warning Services, the operator of the peer-to-peer payment system Zelle, and the Clearing House, the real-time payment network.

Banks have been bracing for the possibility that stablecoins could become widely adopted under US President Donald Trump and siphon away the deposits and transactions they handle, particularly if big tech companies or retailers get in on the action. The banking industry is in catch-up mode in the crypto space after a regulatory crackdown two years ago, it added. — Xinhua

International expo in western China draws over 3,000 companies

THE 20th Western China International Fair (WCIF) opened on Sunday in Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, showcasing cutting-edge technologies and diverse products, and attracting more than 3,000 companies from 62 countries and regions.

For the first time, this year's event has two guest countries of honour: Laos and Hungary. Laos' pavilion is spotlighting tea, coffee, furniture and handicrafts, while Hungary's is presenting 17 firms specializing in wine, medical devices and eco-friendly water treatment technology.

The fair provides valuable opportunities for business matchmaking, investment cooperation and information sharing for enterprises from Laos



The opening ceremony of the 20th Western China International Fair is held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 25 May 2025. PHOTO: LIU KUN/XINHUA

and other countries, effectively enhancing connectivity and integration in regional commodity markets, Lao Deputy Prime Minister Kikeo Khaykhamphithoune said at the opening ceremony.

Making her first ap-

pearance at the fair, Indonesian exhibitor Fransisca Pauline Tjandra is showcasing handmade accessories. And by running a workshop on manual handicrafts such as shell necklaces, she expects that more Chinese people

will learn about Indonesian handicrafts through the event. "To attend the fair, I even learned some basic Chinese, like 'nihao' (hello), 'xiexie' (thanks) and 'Duoshaoqian?' (How much?)," she said. — Xinhua

UK retailer suspends Labubu toy sales amid safety fears

A retailer in the UK has suspended in-store sales of Labubu toys amid rising concerns over public safety and staff threats, following reports of global thefts and queue violence tied to the sought-after collectibles.

The plush toys, resembling a rabbit-like monster, have surged in popularity after endorsements from celebrities

such as Rihanna and Dua Lipa.

Their limited availability has drawn buyers from abroad to the UK, with Pop Mart — the distributor of Labubu dolls — seeing overnight queues and chaotic scenes outside its flagship stores.

"This product, it has many, many fans from everywhere in the world and in some countries,

it's not available for purchase, so there's many, many people who come to London just to purchase them," Engie, a supervisor at Pop Mart in London, told AFP.

"People wait for hours queuing up in front of the store and it's so sad to see them be disappointed, because the resellers create a really difficult environment for them, or they

get violent... and we have nothing left for them," she added.

She said the store had adopted a ticketing system to manage the crowds but that tensions had escalated.

"Some people even try to buy those (tickets) from other people... and if they don't sell it to them, they end up threatening them," she said. — AFP

After brief X outage, Musk says refocusing on businesses

SOCIAL media platform X was hit by a two-hour outage Saturday, prompting owner Elon Musk to say he needs to spend more time focusing on his companies.

The billionaire has an extraordinarily full plate as owner/CEO of X, xAI (developer of the AI-pow-

ered chatbot Grok), electric-car maker Tesla and rocket builder SpaceX — not to mention his recent polarizing efforts to help Donald Trump slash thousands of US government jobs.

As a backlash to those job cuts grew and Tesla

share prices slipped, Musk began drawing away from the government role and returning to his original work.

On Saturday, following the X outage, he suggested that he might have been away too long.

"As evidenced by

the X uptime issues this week, major operational improvements need to be made," he said.

"Back to spending 24/7 at work and sleeping in conference/server/factory rooms," the South African-born businessman posted on X. — AFP

Despite interest surge in gold, institutional investors remain hesitant: Report

DESPITE a surge in interest around gold as a strategic hedge against market volatility and inflation, institutional investors remain hesitant to significantly increase their exposure, according to a report by Liechtenstein-based investment and asset management firm Incrementum.

According to an analysis of the global markets, family offices allocate just one per cent of their portfolios to gold and precious metals, putting it on equal footing with niche assets like art, antiques, and infrastructure, and far behind more favoured categories such as private equity, real estate, and even cash.

"Despite growing interest in gold as a strategic

asset, institutional allocations remain strikingly low. ...Family offices allocate just one per cent of their portfolios to gold and precious metals, placing it on par with art and antiques, as well as infrastructure, and well below allocations to private equity, real estate, or even cash," the report by Incrementum said.

In recent months, gold has seen interest due to the instability arising out of trade tensions; however, the gold price has been witnessing a fall after a sharp rise witnessed over January-April 2025, in which gold prices had rallied by 25 per cent.

The fall in prices reflects reduced anxiety about the trade war and subsequently reduced safe-haven appeal. — ANI



Despite a surge in interest around gold as a strategic hedge against market volatility and inflation, institutional investors remain hesitant to significantly increase their exposure. PHOTO: ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM4MS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM4MS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Japan PM vows to support US in shipbuilding amid tariff talks

Trump's tariffs were implemented as part of efforts to reduce US trade deficits.

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba vowed Sunday to support the United States in efforts to revive its shipbuilding industry amid ongoing bilateral negotiations over US President Donald Trump's new tariffs.

"The government wants to cooperate in the shipbuilding sector," Ishiba told reporters in Kyoto Prefecture, speaking at a time when Japan has been seeking full removal of the tariffs.

"Japan has a substantial advantage in terms of (building)

icebreakers. Icebreakers are one key point of cooperation," he said.

The prime minister also noted that the United States is interested in where its military ships can be repaired overseas.

Japan has asked its key security ally to withdraw higher tariffs on cars, key car parts, and steel and aluminum, as well as "reciprocal" tariff, part of which has been paused through early July.

Trump has imposed the measures in a bid to reduce US trade deficits. — Kyodo



Ishiba emphasized Japan's willingness to cooperate in the shipbuilding sector, particularly in building icebreakers, where Japan has a competitive advantage. The Japanese icebreaker Shirase arrived at Showa Station in Antarctica on 1 January 2025, after a 40-day voyage from Yokosuka, Japan. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO/FILE



This photograph taken and released on 25 May 2025 by the Indian Defence Public Relations Office (PRO) of Mumbai shows a Liberian-flagged container ship off India's southern coast of Kerala. PHOTO: AFP

Crew rescued as container ship sinks off India's south coast with hazardous cargo

A Liberian-flagged container ship with hazardous cargo has sunk off the coast of Kerala in India's south, the navy said on Sunday after rescuing all 24 crew members safely.

India's navy said the MSC ELSA 3, listed as a 184-metre-long freight ship, which was sailing from the Indian port of Vizhinjam to Kochi, ran

into trouble on Saturday and issued a distress call.

Navy aircraft scrambled to the area and spotted two life rafts, with the container ship listing at a dangerous angle, some 38 nautical miles southwest of Kochi.

"All 24 crew members on board were rescued," the Ministry of Defence said in a state-

ment, with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and a navy patrol boat collecting the sailors, who were from Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, and the Philippines.

"The vessel went down with 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous cargo and 12 containing calcium carbide," the statement said. — AFP

Tackling water scarcity requires speed, scale, determination, FAO says

THE world needs to act with speed, scale and determination to tackle the growing threat of water scarcity and climate shocks, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, on 25 May told the 5th Baghdad International Water Conference.

Hosted by the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources, the conference offered FAO the chance to convene experts, policymakers, and partners to share knowledge and foster collaboration for sustainable water and agricultural development.

Across the world, water is under growing pressure from rising demand, intensifying

droughts and competing interests.

The situation is particularly critical in Iraq, where water has an historical legacy. Mesopotamia — "the land between two rivers" — was the cradle of ancient civilisations like the Sumewrians and the Babylonians. Today, water management systems like its canals and qanats underpin Iraq's identity, celebrated in art, literature, and religious texts.

The country's agriculture sector — and its food security — rely heavily on water, with over 90 per cent of this precious resource used for irrigation, supporting staple crops like wheat, barley, rice, and date palms. — ANI

Daniel Noboa sworn in as Ecuadorian president

ECUADORIAN President Daniel Noboa was sworn in Saturday for his first full term during a ceremony at the National Assembly in Quito.

The 37-year-old businessman, who won the reelection in April, had just completed an initial 18-month term after winning snap elections in late 2023. His

new term will run through 2029.

Noboa pledged to bring a new approach to governance. "We came to break cycles," he said, emphasizing the need for

lasting change.

"There will be no truce with crime," he said, vowing to continue crackdowns on drug trafficking, illegal weapons and

smuggling.

He reaffirmed his hardline security stance under the "internal armed conflict" declared during his first term. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Tun Min Naing and Yamahn defeat Thai fighters in Myanmar-Thai traditional boxing challenge

UNDER the supervision of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, the Myanmar-Thai traditional Lethwei tournament organized by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Club (MFC) was held yesterday in Yangon. In the event, Myanmar fighters Tun Min Naing and Yamahn secured impressive victories over their Thai opponents.

In one of the highlight matches, Tun Min Naing (Myanmar) took on Veenut (Thailand). Early in the first round, a strong kick from Tun Min Naing forced Veenut to request a timeout. Continuing his aggressive form, Tun Min Naing launched a series of powerful attacks. During the second round, a leg-to-leg clash sent Veenut to the ground, and he was unable to recover,



Tun Min Naing (Myanmar) versus Veenut (Thailand) during the match.

resulting in a victory for Tun Min Naing by knockout. Another major bout featured Yamahn (Myanmar) versus Famechai (Thailand). Yamahn, who had a height

and power advantage landed a heavy left kick in the first round that caused Famechai to call for a break. In the second round, Yamahn's follow-up kick inflicted injury, prompting the referee to stop the match and award the win to Yamahn.

In a domestic challenge, Tun Tauk Min (Aphyuyaung Thwaythit Club) faced Kyaw Zin Latt (MFC). A precise punch from Tun Tauk Min in the first round caused Kyaw Zin Latt to request a timeout, leading to a loss by concession.

Three other domestic matches ended in draws. Ye Min Aung (Smart Fight Club) faced Sai Thit Aung (Tawwin Ayeya Club), Saw Htet Aung (Smart Fight Club) met Aung Htein (Tawwin Ayeya Club),

Kyathit Aung (MFC) fought against Kaung Htet Hein, and La Kapaw (MFC) and Saw Lel Tamalal (Ray Club). Among these, only La Kapaw claimed a win after the referee stopped the match in his favour.

In the four-round bouts, Naing Win Tun (Nine Club) defeated Kyel Ta Pwint (MFC) with a knockout in the third round. Wu Thaul Do (MFC) also claimed victory in the second round against Aung Kaung Kyaw (Ray Club). The match between Saw Min Naing (MFC) and Mya Lone Chaw (Top One Club), as well as the fight between Sein Lone Chaw (MFC) and Thway Thit Maung (Aphyuyaung Thwaythit), both ended in draws. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Real Madrid 'legend' Alonso returns as new coach

REAL Madrid appointed Xabi Alonso to replace Carlo Ancelotti as coach on Sunday, with the Spaniard to take over from 1 June and lead the team at the Club World Cup.

"Xabi Alonso will be the Real Madrid coach for the next three seasons, from 1 June 2025 until 30 June 2028," said Real Madrid in a stwatement.

With veteran Italian coach Ancelotti taking the reins of the Brazilian national team, Madrid secured a deal with former midfielder Alonso, whom they have been linked with for months.

Alonso, 43, leaves German side Bayer Leverkusen at the end of the Bundesliga season



Xabi Alonso excelled at Bayer Leverkusen and now takes charge of a Real Madrid side looking to return to the top. PHOTO: AFP

after finishing second. "Alonso is one of the biggest legends at Real Madrid and in world football," continued Los Blancos' statement. "He wore our shirt in 236 games between 2009 and 2014. During that time he won six trophies." Alonso will be officially presented on Monday at 1030 GMT. — AFP



Under-18 male athletes seen competing during the tournament.

IKO Myanmar hosts 2025 kids and youth karate tournament

THE IKO Kids and Youths Tournament 2025, organized under the supervision of the International Karate Organization (IKO) was held yesterday morning at MCC Hall on Mindhamma Road, Yangon.

According to U Min Lwin, Myanmar representative of International Karate Organization Myanmar (IKO), "This IKO Kids and Youths Tournament has been held since 1990. It now has a 35-year hisstory. Hosting such tournaments helps children develop strong mental resilience. Through karate training, they learn not to give up no matter

how difficult it gets. They are also trained in discipline, which cultivates a good mind and body, mutual respect, respect for the environment and lawfulness. They learn to stay focused, take responsibility and ultimately develop perseverance".

The tournament included both under-18 and over-18 categories. Winning athletes were awarded first, second and third medals by officials from the International Karate Organization Myanmar. A total of over 160 competitors participated in 16 different classes. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Golf: Bear sighting ends tournament in Japan amid safety concerns

A bear sighting Saturday on a golf course in Japan's Ishikawa Prefecture brought an early end to a tournament on the women's second-tier Step Up Tour due to safety concerns.

The final round of the Twinfields Ladies was canceled at GC Twin Fields in the city of Komatsu shortly after a temporary halt around

12:30 pm.

Reina Maeda, who led with a 6-under 138 total after Friday's second round, was declared the winner of the tournament.

"I was very surprised, but I'm very happy," the 19-year-old was quoted as saying on the Japan LPGA Tour's website. — Kyodo



China ready to join Indonesia in boosting trust, strategic coordination: Premier Li

Li noted that since establishing diplomatic relations 75 years ago, both countries have consistently supported each other, maintaining a firm and relevant traditional friendship.

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said on Sunday that China is ready to work with Indonesia to elevate political mutual trust and strategic coordination between the two countries to a higher level.

Li made the remarks while meeting with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during his official visit to the Southeast Asian nation.

The premier first conveyed cordial greetings from Chinese President Xi Jinping to Prabowo, noting that China and Indonesia are good neighbours and good partners.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 75 years ago, the two sides have supported each other and stood by each other, and their traditional friendship

has remained firm and ever-relevant, Li added.

During Prabowo's China visit in November last year, the presidents of the two countries reached important consensus on building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future that has regional and global influence, which has taken bilateral ties to a new historical high and opened up broad prospects for cooperation, Li said.

China, Li said, is willing to work with Indonesia to adhere to the original aspiration of establishing diplomatic relations, carry forward the tradition of friendship, and enhance unity and cooperation.

He added that the Chinese side also stands ready to consolidate cooperation in the "five pillars" of politics, economy, peo-



Premier Li Qiang meets with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta, Indonesia on 25 May 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

ple-to-people and cultural exchange, maritime affairs and security, jointly address

risks and challenges, and better promote common development. — Xinhua

Iran slams Trump's plan to rename Persian Gulf as cultural attack

Reports from US media in April indicated that Trump intended to officially announce this name change.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE



US President Donald Trump's plan to have the United States refer to the Persian Gulf as the Gulf of Arabia or the Arabian Gulf is a violation of international norms and an attack on the historical identity of the Iranian people, the deputy for international affairs at the Iranian Interior Ministry, Nasser Seraj, said.

"Distorting the name of the Persian Gulf is a violation of the fundamental principles of human rights, cultural rights of nations and an attack on the historical identity of Iranians," Seraj was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

US media reported in April that

Trump was planning to announce that the US would refer to the Persian Gulf as the Arabian Gulf or the Gulf of Arabia in the future.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described his plans as a politically motivated and hostile move against Tehran. — SPUTNIK

Significant Milestone

UK renationalises first train operator under Labour reforms

A private train operator servicing parts of southern England, including London, on Sunday became the first to be returned to public ownership under a government plan to renationalise Britain's much-maligned railways.

All UK rail operators are due to be renationalised within the next two years in a key policy launched by Prime Minister Keir Starmer following his Labour party's return to government last July after 14 years in opposition.

"South Western Railway is now under public ownership. And this is just the start," Starmer said on X, formerly Twitter, naming the service kickstarting his government's plan.

He vowed the renationalisation "will put passengers first", with "better services, with simpler ticketing, on more comfortable trains". — AFP