

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inaugurates the Myanmar Post-Earthquake Economic Forum with an address yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar**

1. We gather here today not to demonstrate our melancholy over our substantial losses but to seek ways to survive like the phoenix that could have resurrected, as well as how to rebuild.
2. Three strategic pillars ought to be erected based on our views in our endeavour to remedy the economy in the post-earthquake era.
3. The government has a remaining balance of approximately K226 billion from the State Economic Promotion Fund, intending to disburse it effectively to ensure beneficial utilization.
4. The government has allocated K700 billion to provide loans for earthquake-affected areas and will offer these as investment loans.

# Three key pillars to revive post-quake economy

Providing humanitarian assistance does not end with mitigation but it should be integrated into the social protection system.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that rehabilitation efforts in earthquakes are necessary to approach the work with the belief that it is not about focusing on the financial costs, but rather about making greater, more reliable, and more resilient investments than before.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at

the opening of the Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Before the opening ceremony, all attendees watched a video clip on the Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery.

The Senior General and attendees observed a one-minute silence for the victims of the people in the Mandalay

earthquake.

At the opening of the forum, the Senior General delivered a speech. He said: It's two months now that Mandalay's catastrophic earthquake registering 7.7 on the Richter scale hit Myanmar, during which 3,739 lost their lives while 5,104 others were injured, with 68 people still missing. As the Mandalay earthquake was found to have caused dramatic damage, I took immediate action, requesting assistance from within and outside the country to provide relief and aid. In response to my request, 21 nations have sent 3,109.317 tonnes of relief supplies, relief workers numbering 1,070, and healthcare technicians and doctors numbering 287 to conduct relief activities.

**SEE PAGE 3**

**Article**

**Verbs that Work: Making Language Useful and Impactful**

By Mingalajii

**PAGE 8-9**

**BUSINESS** **PAGE 7**



MPA: 62 container vessels slated to enter Yangon Port in June

**NATIONAL** **PAGE 11**



YRIC greenlights \$0.87M in foreign investment

# NATIONAL

## Beyond Literacy: Schools as Foundations of Knowledge, Ethics, and Critical Thinking

A school is more than just a place for literacy; it must serve as a foundation for essential educational values. It should cultivate knowledge and wisdom, foster critical thinking, instil the ability to discern right from wrong, and promote civic and social ethics, shaping students into responsible and enlightened individuals.

*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with students from the five-year BEd course No 6 of the University for the Development of National Races held on 25 October 2024)*

A village in the middle part of Myanmar has become famous for its children who preserve the traditional San-yit-wine hairstyle (a style of hairdo with a top knot and a circular fringe). Children in this village, both boys and girls, traditionally keep this hairstyle.

The village is called Yepotegyi, located in Pwintbyu township of Magway Region. It is about a 20-minute drive, although the transportation was in bad condition in the past. When a person hears Yepotegyi village, they automatically know the San-yit-wine hairstyle. There are about 700 people who wear that hairstyle. All the children, both boys and girls, wear that hairstyle, and the hairstyle for girls is called San-yit-wine and the Yaung-pay-sue for boys, said the villagers.

“In our village, the infants have a hairstyle called Usunphoke on their heads. This hairstyle symbolizes that the child is still at an age when they shelter in their mother’s arms. When the children reach the age of three or four, they wear a Kyet-taung-see hairstyle that proves that they have grown from the breastfeeding stage, and are now old enough to walk and play on their own,” said Ma Pyone Pyone Yi, the leader of women in the village.

“When they are nine or ten

## Children still preserve San-yit-wine hairstyle



years old, the Kyet-taung-see hair becomes long and girls make a hair knot on their heads,

while the boys make a Yaung-pay-sue hairstyle. It shows that they are old enough to go to

school.”

“When the girls are 15 or 16 years old, they wear a Japanese

Hsahtauk hairstyle. Such a hairstyle shows that the girls have passed their childhood stage and entered their virginity, and it can also distinguish between the virgins and married ones,” she added.

“When they are 17 or 18, they change to keep hairstyle of curving hair. It means the girls reach the age of puberty, and anyone can make a proposal to her. Such a hairstyle symbolizes the words that they do not want to say in person. The married women remove the San-yit-wine, and it means they are married and no one can propose to them. My grandmother told me like that,” she said.

She continued, “When I visited the other villages, some teased me like I was wearing chicken litter or cow litter on my head. Therefore, I don’t want to have such a hairstyle. I also told my parents that I did not want to have such a hairstyle anymore. At that time, my grandmother told me that it was our traditional San-yit-wine conserved since your ancestors. Then, I understand it well.”

Therefore, valuing the traditional culture is a sign of love for people. Loving people is for the country, and so all should conserve the tradition and culture for the youths, the country and the races. — Zeyar Naing (Shwe Kan Myay)/KTZH



The photos above capture Myanmar children in village life, playing traditional games while wearing San-yit-wine (girls) and Yaung-pay-sue (boys).

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)*

Three key pillars to revive post-quake economy

FROM PAGE 1

A total of 26 nations have sent relief workers and aid via all three modes of transportation—air, sea and land as soon as the earthquake hit us. According to the calculations, the losses amount to K3,629.208 billion.

We gather here today not to demonstrate our melancholy over our substantial losses but to seek ways to survive like the phoenix that could have resurrected as well as how to rebuild.

And I would like to emphasize that today’s forum is not only a venue for the talk show but for laying down the foundation for achieving a roadmap. At this juncture, I would like to deal with the three strategic pillars which ought to be erected on the basis of our views in our endeavour to remedy the economy in the post-earthquake era.

The first pillar is concerned with humanitarian relief and social protection whereas the second and the third pillars are related to infrastructure reconstruction and economic revival and reform anchored in resilience and inclusivity correspondingly.

The disastrous earthquake has had a direct impact upon 600,000 people or so with thousands of people having been forced to move out of their places.

Notwithstanding, providing humanitarian assistance does not end with mitigation. This type of assistance should be integrated into the social protection system.

As mentioned above, the second pillar is concerned with infrastructure reconstruction and economic revival. The amount of losses in the economic sector caused by the outbreak of the earthquake has accounted for an astronomical figure. The roads were badly damaged, and the bridges collapsed. The agricultural sector is not spared either. From MSMEs to factories and work establishments as well as big enterprises, the earthquake has damaged them all.

There can be opportunities among



State Administration Council Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing reviews documentary photos of the loss and damage caused by the quake, SAR operations, and ongoing recovery efforts in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, and Shan State.

the difficulties. Rehabilitation should be focused on the five main areas: transport, energy, agriculture, telecommunications, and public buildings. While rebuilding the infrastructure, we should focus on the revival of the MSMEs, which can be said to be the backbone of the economy of Myanmar.

With regard to the third pillar reform and global partnership, rehabilitation shall go beyond physical rehabilitation. Rehabilitation should be extended to include reform and reconstruction. In doing so, we ought to conduct three long-term approaches: preparedness for natural disasters, inclusive of earthquakes; financial accountability; and comprehensive development.

When it comes to disaster preparedness, we should draw an updated national disaster map indicating the high-risk locations. Early warning systems shall be installed. The relief process should

be redesigned with the use of modern technology.

Concerning financial accountability, the allocation of the rebuilding funds shall be transparent. Furthermore, a monitoring mechanism shall be established to reduce losses and wastages as well as to effectuate development.

With regard to the third approach, which is comprehensive development, development shall be affected to include the women, the ethnic minorities and the entire mass of the people.

Rebuilding means not only repairing the damaged buildings and making efforts to ensure economic recovery but also building a secure and safe nation in the future. We want the support of the regional and international partners. And we also want to invite them to invest in the new vision of Myanmar. I would like to urge them all to overcome the hardships by sticking to the motto, “We are stronger,

we are together”.

In his additional discussions, the Senior General said that Mandalay Region is the second-largest economic city in Myanmar. It has medium-scale cement and steel production industries, which were affected by the earthquake. Since cement and steel are essential materials for reconstruction efforts, the government has taken steps to repair and resume operations as quickly as possible.

He highlighted that for factories and workshops to operate, there is a need for essential inputs such as raw materials, fuel and electricity, investment capital, and labour. Therefore, efforts must be made without fail to ensure business operations continue smoothly and financial flows remain healthy. As the Mandalay Region is the second largest industrial production zone, greater focus and effort must be directed toward this region.

SEE PAGE 4

# NATIONAL

## NDMC Vice-Chairs receive Thai Ambassador



NATIONAL Disaster Management Committee First Vice-Chair Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Second Vice-Chair Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitsump at the Disaster Management Centre

The Thai Ambassador calls on Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Dr Soe Win yesterday.

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on rehabilitation activities of the government, local and foreign donations, international assistance for reconstruction processes, plans and assistance of ASEAN, sending of rescue teams and emergency healthcare groups of Thailand in quake-stricken areas and combatting transnational crimes.

The directors-general and relevant officials of the Disaster Management Department and Rehabilitation Department were also present at the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## Three key pillars to revive post-quake economy

FROM PAGE 3

He recounted that in the 2024-2025 financial year, there was a trade surplus of approximately \$2.3 billion. However, there was a significant deficit in the non-trade sector. During our government's four-year term, the country had a trade surplus in the first year, trade deficits in the second and third years, and a surplus again in the fourth year. Overall, there was a trade surplus across the four years. However, due to the deficits in the non-trade sector, foreign exchange rates have continued to rise.

The Senior General revealed that the government has allocated K700 billion to provide loans for earthquake-affected areas and will offer these as investment loans. The government has a remaining balance of approximately K226 billion from the State Economic Promotion Fund, intending to disburse it effectively to ensure beneficial utilization.

He underscored that rehabilitation efforts in earthquakes are necessary to approach the work with the belief that it is not about focusing on the financial costs, but rather about making greater, more reliable, and more resilient investments than before.

Also, present at the forum were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo,

council members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, chairs and officials from the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, international diplomats, representatives of political parties and civil social organizations, economists and officials from organizations.

After the ceremony, the Senior General viewed round photo documentary of the loss and damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake, rescue and rehabilitation operations.

The Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery aims to restore and strengthen the economic activities that were damaged by the major Mandalay earthquake; to understand the emerging domestic and international market opportunities and potential challenges in the post-earthquake period that could improve the national economy; and to leverage Myanmar's geopolitical context and geo-economic opportunities to expand market access for locally produced goods and enhance collaboration among domestic entrepreneurs. The forum will last till 31 May. — MNA/TTA

## DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador



Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitsump calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on further enhancing the existing bilateral ties and collaboration across various sectors in areas of mutual interest, enforcing the post-earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Also, they discussed ways and means to

closely cooperate and collaborate with ASEAN. Furthermore, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, handed over the Commemorative Medals of Appreciation to the Ambassador of Thailand as a sincere appreciation for the invaluable humanitarian assistance extended by the citizens of Thailand during the Mandalay Earthquake Disaster, which occurred on 28 March 2025.

Also, present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

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Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery kicks off



The Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Myanmar Narrative Think Tank and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) jointly organized the Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the people are still suffering the huge impacts of the earthquake after two months, but courage, a positive mindset and mental strength are the hopes for the future. Although the quake survivors are suffering from grief, they participate in rescue operations actively.

He then highlighted the earthquake that occurred in Nepal on 15 April 2015, including their post-earthquake rehabilitation processes, public participation, promotion of social integration, resilience, manufacturing sector and socio-economic status, and mentioned Japan for its experiences in war, nuclear bomb and tsunamis and their survivals.

Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn said the ministry is actively participating in rescue operations and emergency assistance, support for rehabilitation and economic recovery measures under the guidance of the Prime Minister. The basic foodstuffs are also sold at fairer prices for the quake-hit

staff and people in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Mandalay daily. Moreover, the construction materials are also allowed to be imported through the meeting of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee.

The event to sell iron, steel, cement and construction materials was organized in Taboung ground from 12 to 18 May, and it earned K45,085 million. The country earned US\$14.8 billion in the export sector, \$12.47 billion in imports, and \$ 27.27 billion in the trading sector in the 2024- 2025 financial year. The ministry also prioritizes the MSMEs and construction services to run as usual in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Shan State as quickly as possible.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win said the “UMFCCI Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Task Force” was organized on 29 March to be able to provide the needed assistance in quake-stricken areas with the fund of K2,000 million and managed to link with international trader organizations. The statement of the World Bank issued on 18 April 2025 shows that the earthquake in Myanmar caused over \$10 billion in damage, and the recovery needs could be doubled or even tripled to cover the damage and loss.

He mentioned the natural disasters that occurred in the neighbouring countries, their rehabilitation processes, and the positive outcomes of the forum

through government-private cooperation to government-private-public cooperation for post-earthquake recovery projects.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank Chairman U Ko Ko discussed the seven strategies for the post-earthquake economic recovery of Myanmar- to immediately reconstruct the damaged infrastructure, restore the disrupted social lives, stabilize the financial and economy, draft strategic economic plans, exercise the Build Back Better (BBB) principles, formulate new strategies and approaches that can enhance international cooperation, and support the economics that are least affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Then, the forum continued under three main topics “Economic Impacts of Mandalay Earthquake”, “Challenges and Opportunities for Economic Recovery” and “Collaborative Solutions for Economic Recovery”.

The relevant officials from different organizations participated in the discussion, and they explained the questions raised by the international observers, political parties’ representatives, MSMEs, local political analysts and attendees.

The talk show for the data collected from the forum will take place on 31 May, and the government-private cooperation plans will be explored through the two-day event. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.



Union Minister U Tun Ohn.



UMFCCI President U Aye Win.



Myanmar Narrative Think Tank Chairman U Ko Ko.

# NATIONAL

## World No Tobacco Day 2025 commemorated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE ceremony to mark World No Tobacco Day 2025 was held at 9:30 am yesterday at Office 4 of the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the event, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun said the 2025 global theme was “Unmasking the appeal; Exposing industry tactics on tobacco and nicotine products.” He highlighted that advertising, promoting, and supporting the use of tobacco and related products is prohibited under Myanmar’s tobacco control law.

He also explained that the order titled “Packaging of tobacco and nicotine products in compliance with standardized requirements and printing of health warning images and texts” had come into effect on 31 December 2024, and authorities

have been taking measures to ensure enforcement. According to the STEPs Survey Myanmar 2024 on non-communicable disease risk factors, tobacco use in Myanmar has declined compared to the 2014 survey, which is seen as encouraging. However, he noted a concerning rise in the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems like e-cigarettes and said stricter control measures are necessary.

He reaffirmed that under the guidance of the State Administration Council, the Ministry of Health continues efforts to build a resilient health system that promotes the well-being of the entire population. After the ceremony, attendees visited a mini exhibition to mark World No Tobacco Day 2025. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun and officials view the exhibits at yesterday's event.

## Earthquake-hit areas receive ongoing relief and reconstruction support

FOLLOWING the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar, various organizations are carrying out intensive relief and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas in collaboration with local communities.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and officials inspected the removal of debris from religious buildings damaged by the earthquake in Sagaing before the rainy season. He also coordinated with officials after inspecting the debris removal and renovation progress.

Later, he visited a fuel distribution point in front of the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gymnasium in Sagaing, where the regional government is selling fuel to local farmers. They assisted and made arrangements after discussing with the responsible personnel.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung inspected the repair work on the Mandalay ring road near Shanlaykyun and Shwege vil-



Lt-Gen Thet Pon and officials are pictured during their inspection tour in Sagaing.

lages, where the road surface had cracked and subsided due to the earthquake. He reviewed the restoration efforts using heavy machinery and assessed the condition of resumed traffic. In Shwe Gal village, he checked the restoration of sewage pipelines damaged by the quake. In Chanmyathazi Township, he inspected the demolition and

clearance of damaged and unsafe buildings, discussed reports from responsible personnel and coordinated necessary follow-ups.

In another effort, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing visited damaged structures in the extended ward 4, in Amarapura township, where Tatmadaw members were clearing debris. He also

donated alms to a senior monk and coordinated assistance based on local needs.

Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing also inspected repairs at Zawgyi Dam in Kyaukse. He visited temporary modular office buildings built at the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and the Environmental Conservation Depart-

ment and reviewed ongoing administrative operations.

He attended a ceremony at the Kyaukse City Hall, where the Department of Disaster Management delivered emergency supplies to residents whose homes were destroyed. He encouraged local communities to work together to restore conditions even better than before and supported the distribution of 16 types of essential supplies. He also discussed public needs with responsible officials.

He also visited the Biotechnology Department of Technological University (Kyaukse) and Government Technical High School to inspect prefabricated buildings and the restoration of classrooms. They also checked preparations for the Dhammacariya exam for monks at the Shwetheindaw Pagoda compound in Kyaukse. Necessary support was coordinated with local authorities, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

# Fuel prices dip in domestic market

FUEL oil prices showed a slump in the domestic market.

The set fuel prices dipped to K2,855 per litre of Octane 92, K2,910 for Octane 95, K2,405 for diesel and K2,970 for premium diesel during a week from 30 May to 5 June. The prices were K2,925 per litre of Octane 92, K2,870 for Octane 95, K2,440 for diesel and K3,015 for premium diesel last week ending 29 May, showing a small decrease compared to those of the previous week.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory

Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers. The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate. As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is



imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers.

Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to that of regional countries. Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives gov-

ernment subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

# MPA: 62 container vessels slated to enter Yangon Port in June



A container vessel docks at Yangon Port.

A total of 62 container vessels are scheduled to call in the Yangon Port in June 2025, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

Thirteen container vessels run by Cosco Shipping Line, eight by SITC Shipping Line, six each by CMA CGM Line and Samudera Shipping Line, five by Maersk A/S Line, four by MSC Line, three each by BLPL Shipping Line, Ocean Salute Shipping Line, Ti2 Container Line and RCL Line, two each by Evergreen Line, PIL Line, and one from Land and Sea are scheduled to call at Yangon Port next month.

Myanma Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, bolster exports, and improve

port capacity for significant arrivals in ships. Myanma Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules promptly upon an extended schedule. A total of 62 container vessels in January 2025, 53 in February, 58 in March, 62 in April and 65 in May arrived at Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 633 container vessels in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larg-

er ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port has handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand and Maersk) started to run to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems, preventing sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 meters, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

# Agriculture Dept calls for bids to export rice to China

THE Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invited interested companies to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to seek rice and broken rice export registration with China. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol (SPS Protocol) measures for biosecurity are required for rice export to China. According to an agreement between Myanmar and China, SPS protocol inspection is undertaken yearly. Therefore, new companies that want to seek export registration are asked to submit EOI to the Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and to the Technical Working Group of MRF by 30 June 2025.

The application form can be received from the Crop Protection Division of the Agriculture Department located in West Gyogon Ward on Bayintnaung Road, Insein, through contact number 01 644214 and email directorppddoa@gmail.com and the Technical Working Group of MRF located in Lanmadaw Township through 01 218266-68 and 01 2301128-29 (9<sup>th</sup> floor) and email admin@mrf.com.mm. Applications can also be downloaded from <https://www.doa.gov.mm>, <https://ppd.doa.gov.mm> and [www.umfcci.com.mm](http://www.umfcci.com.mm). — NN/KK



# NATIONAL



This photo showcases the Vietnam Buddhist Missionary Group, led by Venerable Ven Thich Pouoc Tan, donating K100 million to Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon).

## Vietnamese Buddhists donate K100 mln to Sitagu Eye Hospital

THE Vietnam Buddhist Missionary Group donated K100 million to Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region.

Led by venerable Sayadaw Ven Thich Pouoc Tan, who is currently engaged in missionary work in Australia and New Zealand, the group contributed K100 million to the hospital. Additionally, they donated cash and food to eye patients undergoing surgery at the hospital and offered them words of encouragement.

The venerable Sitagu Sayadaw briefed the group on the details of the donations, their missionary work, and the ongoing reconstruction of religious buildings in the earthquake-affected areas of Myanmar.

The missionary group, led by Ven Thich Pouoc Tan, plans not only to donate to the repair of pagodas, monasteries, nunneries, and other religious buildings in the Mandalay and Sagaing regions but also to assist local people affected by the earthquake. — ASH/MKKS

## Yangon apartment and mini-condo sales rebound

YANGON’S property market has reversed from a sales slump, Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (Central).

The prices of apartments and mini-condominiums are rising in Yangon’s real estate market. Although the market seems to pull back, there are buyers looking into the purchase. Therefore, the market has recovered.

“The Yangon real estate market experienced an abrupt halt of high-storey building purchases due to the Mandalay Earthquake’s negative con-

sequences. The price slumps even occurred in certain areas. The agents brought sales back on track at the end of May. The pace of increase has slowed. The prices vary depending on the townships. There was widespread news of the frozen apartment market in Yangon, but it turned out to be wrong. Prices of plots of land are also stable,” said U Myo Myint Aung, general secretary of the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (Central).

The prices of apartments range from K100,000

to K200,000 per square metre, while condominium unit prices with elevators are K200,000-K300,000 per square metre, depending on floor and location.

The 40 feet by 60 feet plots of land in Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (North) townships fetched a high price of K30 million to K3,000 million, depending on the locations.

The property rental market is also active in Yangon. The rent is increasing every six months. — ASH/KK



This photo depicts an aerial drone view of the Yangon real estate market.

## Top stars to headline Iron Cross charity concert

RENOWNED rock artistes Y Wine, Myo Gyi and Connie will take part in the upcoming Iron Cross charity concert in Mandalay, with all proceeds to be donated to local social welfare organizations, according to singer Connie.

“We’re heading to Mandalay to perform together with the Iron Cross band for local fans. This concert is specially dedicated to rock music lovers and also to all the fans of us artistes in Mandalay. We invite everyone to come and enjoy the masterful performance by Iron Cross. Since all income from the con-

cert, including ticket sales and performance fees will go to social welfare organizations, we warmly welcome all to join and support,” said Connie.

The concert will be held at The Square Theatre Bar in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, at 7 pm on 31 May. Iron Cross will provide the full-band backing for the show. — KZL/ASH

Y Wine, Myo Gyi and Connie are featured on the promotional poster for the upcoming Iron Cross charity concert.



### Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- Office of the State Administration Council  
<https://sacoffice.gov.mm>
- Ministry of Defence  
<https://www.mod.gov.mm>
- Ministry of Legal Affairs  
<https://www.mlis.gov.mm>
- Ministry of Information  
<https://www.moi.gov.mm>
- Myawady Webportal  
<https://myawady.net.mm>
- Myanmar National Portal  
<https://myanmar.gov.mm>

NATIONAL

ME Washington opens applications for 2026 religious titles

THE Myanmar Embassy in the United States has announced that applications can be submitted for the 2026 award of religious titles.

This announcement regarding awarding religious titles in 2026 was made on 30 May.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar annually awards religious titles to venerable Sayadaws of the Gandadura, and Vipassana, Pariyatti and Patipatti services, as well as domestic and foreign Buddhist missionaries and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Sasana through the four kinds of permitted offerings. Therefore, in order to continue the selection process for the awarding of religious titles in 2026, it has announced that foreign monks, nuns, and individuals (male and female) who meet the qualifications and honours of the respective titles can apply.

Interested candidates can submit applications by contacting the Myanmar Embassy in Washington, DC, at consularservices@mewashingtondc.org and filling out the form by 30 June.

— MT/ZN

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday 30 May 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Depression that crossed to the interior regions of the northwest of Dhaka (Bangladesh) has moved north-northeastwards and is continuing to cross. Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 31 May 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kayah, northern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon 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, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and northern 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:** Frequent squalls with very rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 14-16 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-13 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated heavy rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 May 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions. — DMH

Kadu literature created, teaching underway



A Kadu basic textbook.

KADU, which is one of the ethnic groups living in Myanmar, created the Kadu literature, and now they have proceeded with teaching the language.

Kadu people have mainly inhabited Wuntho, Kawlin, Htigyaingt, Katha, Indaw, Bamauk and Pinlebu. After they spent years on the invention of their literature, the Kadu people have now worked on the implementation of the teaching in phases.

The teaching of the Kadu language was started online by Zoom as a trial run and was successful to some extent. Afterwards, teaching on the ground was continued and was also fruitful. Depending on the stability of the region, the organizing of teaching committees will be continued, however, Kadu textbooks are required to implement the teaching practically.

For this project, funding is necessary, and donations are invited. Kadu Monks Association, Kadu Youths Federation and the leading committee of Kadu language teaching will jointly manage the funding.

— Htet Oo Maung/ZS

YRIC greenlights \$0.87M in foreign investment



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and team inspect the displays of products manufactured by investing entrepreneurs.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee approved a foreign investment worth US\$0.866

million at its 5/2025 meeting held on 28 May.

The investment will be in the industrial sector, involving CMP-based garment manufacturing.

In addition, two national investment projects worth K6.613 billion were approved, one for motel services and one for hotel services.

The three domestic and foreign investments approved this time are expected to create 1,220 local jobs.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has also approved three foreign investment projects worth \$35.778 million in May, and two FDI projects worth \$2.854 million in April.

— Htun Htun/ZN

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# NATIONAL

## Depression News 6/2025

Issued at 11 am MST on 30 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 9:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression that crossed to the interior regions of the southwest of Dhaka (Bangladesh) has moved north- northeastwards and weakened into a Depression. It is continuing to cross the interior regions of the northwest of Dhaka (Bangladesh).

### Forecast

It is likely continue to move north-north-eastwards and weaken into a Low-Pressure Area during next 24 hours.

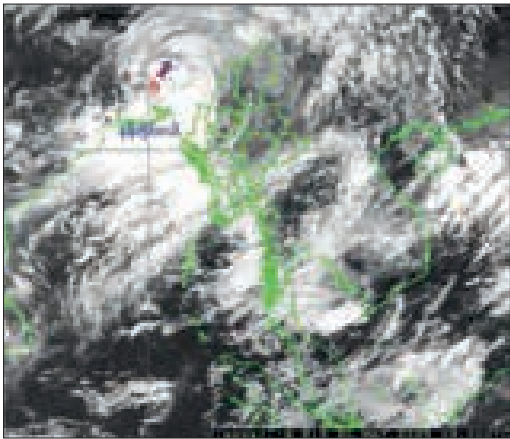
Due to the Depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during today morning to 2 June 2025.

Frequent squalls with very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 14-16 feet in the Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Occasional squalls with rough to very rough sea will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and

along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-13 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

### 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



## Drugs worth over K6.35 billion seized in Lewe



Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicles.

MORE than 1,990,000 stimulant tablets and 134 kilogrammes of heroin, worth over K6.35 billion, were seized in Lewe Township, the Myanmar Police Force reported.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team from the Drug Enforcement Division searched a Fuso 12-wheel vehicle travelling from Aungmyangthar to Pyinmana. The vehicle was driven by Zin Myo Htet Aung (aka) Kala Lay and accompa-

nied by Min Khant Kyaw and Myat Soe Oo (aka) Super. The team also intercepted two Chevrolets driven by Thurein Ko Ko and accompanied by Kyaw Myo Hlaing (aka) Kyaw Gyi and Nay Oo Shein at 11 pm on 20 May. During the operation, the police seized 1,999,400 stimulant tablets and 134.2 kilogrammes of heroin.

Following the investigation, police arrested Paw Lu

(aka) Paw Lu Chan, Soe Lwin, and Thein San Htun (aka) Kala Lay, who were involved in transporting the drugs from Shan State to Mandalay. They were apprehended at a hotel in Pyinmana Township at 9 am on 21 May.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and an investigation is ongoing to identify others involved in the drug trafficking chain. — MNA/MKKS

## Verbs that Work: Making Language Useful and Impactful

### FROM PAGE 9

The next verb is ... also shredded economies ... in which the verb shred (the base form) is transformed into shredded by adding -ed. The meaning of shred /.../ (-dd-) is to cut or tear something into small pieces. In the example given, “COVID-19 also shredded economies” can be translated to mean that COVID-19 has also devastated economies. You must diligently study and memorize the three verb forms: shred (present), shredded (past), and shredded (past participle). The shredder used in offices and publishing refers to a machine that shreds unnecessary or obsolete paper.

The last verb to study is ... and crippled health ... which includes the verb cripple(d). In the Oxford dictionary, cripple /.../ 1 (usually passive) means to damage somebody’s body so that they can no longer walk or move normally (similar to disa-

ble); 2 (usually passive) means to seriously damage or harm somebody/something. The English-Myanmar dictionary defines it as “to become disabled” or “to suffer significant damage.” In this context, the example news sentence “COVID-19 also shredded economies and crippled health systems” can be translated as “COVID-19 has devastated economies and significantly harmed health systems”.

There are some noteworthy points about verbs that are not the main topic. The term COVID-19 is written with a hyphen or a (short) dash in English, while in Myanmar, it is commonly written as ကိုဗစ် ၁၉. In reality, the Myanmar language does not utilize hyphens or dashes as part of its structure. Therefore, there’s no need to justify using the term without these punctuation marks. Writing it as ကိုဗစ် ၁၉ does not alter its status as a proper name, and it is still correct according to the norms of Myanmar writing.

## Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,740

AS of 30 May, a total of 3,740 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 68 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international rescue organizations, have been carrying out emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. So far, 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 817 deceased persons have been recovered.

Both local donors and phil-

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

On 28 May, medications weighing 0.287 tonne arrived at Yangon International Airport from the Parami Group, a Buddhist association in Vietnam, and were handed over to Foreign Affairs.

These relief items will swiftly be distributed to the affected communities to ensure timely support. — MNA/MKKS

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# Sheinbaum confident border to reopen ‘very soon’ to Mexican cattle in wake of US deal

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum on Wednesday expressed confidence the United States will reopen its border to Mexican cattle exports “very soon”, following bilateral agreements to curb the spread of screwworm.

After detecting the presence of the pest, the United States Department of Agriculture announced on 12 May it was suspending cattle imports from Mexico

for 15 days, however, the ban remains in place up to now.

“We hope it will be very soon,” the president said at her daily morning press conference at the National Palace, referring to resuming cattle exports.

According to Sheinbaum, a team from the US Department of Agriculture is set to travel to Mexico to “verify the work plan that the technical committees have already

reviewed,” including the installation of a sterile fly production plant in the southern state of Chiapas to “eradicate the screw-worm plague”.

“There is already a technical agreement; they will come to verify it. This plant will be installed, and we hope that very soon, based on this, the border will open,” Sheinbaum said, stressing “the important thing is that there are already agreements.” — Xinhua



The ban on cattle imports from Mexico remains in place beyond the initial 15-day period.  
PHOTO: KFRM/YOUTUBE

# Indonesia’s rice reserve hits record high of 4 mln tonnes

INDONESIA’S national rice reserve has reached a historic milestone, surpassing four million tonnes as of Thursday, the highest level recorded since the establishment of the country’s state food company Perum Bulog in 1969.

Agriculture Minister Andi Amran Sulaiman hailed the achievement as inseparable from the instruction of President Prabowo Subianto, who persistently encouraged rice production in the country. The realization, he explained, is highly contributed by the current government purchase price.

“Farmers now enjoy profitable selling prices, even during the main harvest,” the minister said in a statement.

In the Southeast Asian country, rice is one of the most closely monitored

and regulated commodities, given that it is the country’s primary staple in terms of consumption. The national stockpile enables the government to intervene through market operations to control the

domestic price of rice.

According to data from Statistics Indonesia, the national rice production during the January-May period this year is estimated to reach 16.55 million tonnes, an increase of 11.95 per cent from the previous year.

As of the end of this month, Perum Bulog has absorbed more than 2.4 million tonnes of local rice. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the figure has jumped more than 400 per cent compared to the average absorption in the same period in the last five years, which was around 1.2 million tonnes.

— Xinhua



Workers unload rice bags imported from Thailand by the Indonesian Logistics Bureau (Bulog) at the port of Malahayati, in Indonesia’s Aceh province on 1 March 2024.  
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# Japan’s Dai-ichi Life to take 15% stake in British insurer M&G

JAPAN’S Dai-ichi Life Holdings Inc said Friday it will buy about a 15 per cent stake in a British life insurance and asset management firm, aiming to expand its overseas reach and compensate for declining revenue from the shrinking domestic market.

The Japanese life insurer said it

will invest approximately 160 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) to buy the shares in M&G PLC from the stock market, making it an affiliate and a preferred asset management partner. The deal will mark Dai-ichi Life’s first entry into the European market.

M&G specializes in asset management, and the Japanese insurer

hopes to jointly develop products and market the British firm’s offerings in Japan.

The announcement comes after Dai-ichi Life in April said it would acquire a 15.1 per cent stake in the Australian life insurer Challenger Ltd, which provides personal pension products. — Kyodo

# GM launches India’s first multi-port travel adaptor

GM, a pioneer in innovative electrical solutions in India, proudly announces the launch of the G+ TravelEase Pro — the country’s first multi-port international travel adaptor featuring an integrated retractable cable. Engineered for the modern, connected traveler, this all-in-one adapter redefines convenience and power on the go.

Designed with both functionality and aesthetics in mind, the G+ TravelEase Pro combines a

sleek, compact form factor with high-performance charging capabilities. At the heart of its innovation is a 75 millimetres built-in retractable cable, eliminating the need to carry multiple chargers or tangled wires. With four charging ports, including two USB-A, two USB-C, a universal AC outlet, and three interchangeable plug types, the adaptor supports simultaneous charging for up to seven devices. — ANI

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0940N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0940N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2025** 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.

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GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:  
FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Thailand, Cambodia agree to withdraw troops to de-escalate border tensions



Commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Army (RTA) General Pana Klaewplodthuk (R) and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army General Mao Sophan (L) . PHOTO: ROYAL THAI ARMY/AFP

The agreement was reached during a meeting at the Chong Chom border crossing in Thailand's Surin province.

THE Thai and Cambodian armies agreed on Thursday to withdraw troops from a disputed border area, where a brief exchange of gunfire took place on Wednesday, the Thai army said in a statement.

The agreement was reached after a meeting between Thai Army chief Phana Klaewplodthuk and the commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, Mao Sophan, at the Chong Chom border crossing, a border checkpoint in Thailand's Northeastern province of Surin, said the statement.

According to Thai Army spokesperson Winthai Suvaree, commanders of the two armies also agreed to use the Joint

Boundary Committee (JBC), a bilateral government-level framework, to expedite the resolution of border disputes.

Meanwhile, a statement from the Royal Cambodian Army said the meeting between commanders of the two armies lasted 45 minutes at a border checkpoint. "The two sides will continue to resolve the situation through all existing mechanisms, such as the Joint Boundary Committee, the Cambodia-Thailand General Boundary Committee, and the Memorandum of Understanding in 2000 on the Measurement and Demarcation of the Cambodia-Thailand Land Border," it said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Portuguese president nominates Luis Montenegro as PM

PORTUGUESE President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa on Thursday nominated Luis Montenegro as prime minister, following legislative elections and consultations with parliamentary parties.

Montenegro, leader of the Democratic Alliance (AD) and president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), was asked to form a government after the AD coalition won the most seats in the 18 May snap elections, though it fell short of an absolute majority. The appointment will be formalized after the final election results are confirmed and the newly elected Assembly of the Republic holds its first session.— Xinhua

WHO urges members to curb tobacco consumption under "Unmasking the Appeal" theme

WORLD No Tobacco Day, marked annually on 31 May, addresses a major public health challenge—the persistent burden of tobacco use. This year's theme, "Unmasking the Appeal" compels us to expose the deceptive marketing tactics and manipulative strategies employed by the tobacco industry, especially those targeting our youth and women, a statement by Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia said.

Tobacco use remains the single most preventable cause of death worldwide and is a leading risk factor for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory illness. Our Region continues to bear a mammoth share of the global tobacco burden, with some 411 million adult tobacco users across our eleven countries. With one-third of the world's tobacco users, South-East Asia is the epicentre of the global tobacco epidemic. — ANI

Venezuela says US revoking 'licences' of transnationals has no impact on oil output

VENEZUELAN Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez said Thursday that Washington's decision this week to revoke the so-called licences of transnational companies operating in the South American country has had no impact on oil production.

"PDVSA (the state-owned oil company) workers maintain their production plan," Rodriguez said. Though the US Department of the Treasury revoked licences from transnational oil companies operating in the country on 27 May, the oil fields are producing as planned.

"Both PDVSA and Partner B (transnational corporations) are victims of unilateral coercive measures," or sanctions, and the so-called licences "are not recognized by the Venezuelan legal system," said the vice president.

"We maintain and respect

the production agreements signed with them. If they are not there, our workers are there producing," she said.

The vice-president made the remarks at Fedeindustria Expofair, a trade show put on by the Venezuelan industrial

association, where she offered an overview of the country's economic situation.

According to Rodriguez, Venezuela has already surpassed one million barrels of crude oil production, and the trend continues. — Xinhua



According to Rodriguez, Venezuela has surpassed one million barrels of crude oil production, with a positive trend continuing.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SPORTS

Tun Min Aung wins by knockout; Super Yay Chan loses on points

MYANMAR'S young fighter Tun Min Aung secured a knockout win, while another Myanmar boxer, Super Yay Chan, was defeated on points at the ONE Friday Fights 110 event, held on the night of 30 May in Bangkok, Thailand.

Tun Min Aung faced off against Thai fighter Chatpet in the Catchweight (160 pounds) Muay Thai bout and secured a knockout victory at 2 minutes and 49 seconds into the second round. Although the first round was closely contested, Tun Min

Aung gained a clear advantage in the second round. His consecutive left punches landed squarely on Chatpet's face, forcing the referee to issue two standing counts before he ended the fight with a final left punch at 2 minutes and 49 seconds. For his knockout win, Tun Min Aung received a bonus of 350,000 baht from the ONE CEO.

Meanwhile, fellow Myanmar fighter Super Yay Chan fought Japanese opponent Muga Seto in the Catchweight (138 pounds) Muay Thai event.



Tun Min Aung and Chatpet in action during the ONE Friday Fights 110 event. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

As the match went the full three rounds without a decisive win, the outcome was decided on points. Although Super Yay Chan showed early dominance in the first round, Muga gained the upper hand in the later rounds and ultimately won on points. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

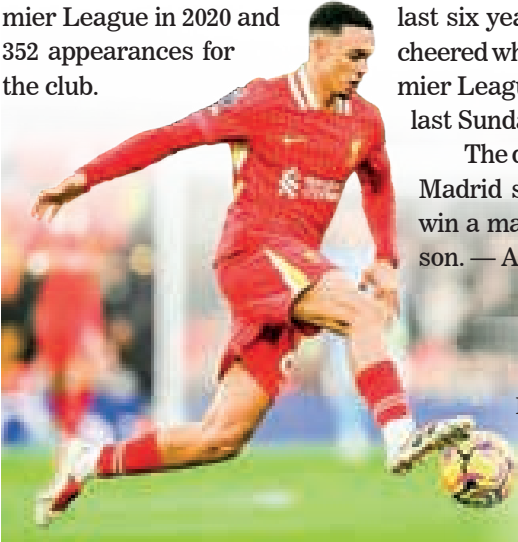
Real Madrid sign Alexander-Arnold from Liverpool

REAL Madrid have signed defender Trent Alexander-Arnold from Liverpool on a deal until 2031, the Spanish giants said on Friday.

The 26-year-old England international's contract at Anfield was drawing to an end but Madrid paid a fee to bring him in earlier so he can play in the Club World Cup.

Right-back Alexander-Arnold, who has just won the Premier League title with Liverpool, came through the academy of his boyhood club and won the Champions League in 2019.

He also won the Premier League in 2020 and 352 appearances for the club.



The defender joins former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso at Real Madrid, with the Spaniard appointed as their new coach to replace Carlo Ancelotti.

Alexander-Arnold's close connections to Liverpool meant that his announcement that he was leaving the club was viewed with disgust by some supporters and he was booed in the penultimate match of the season.

But after club figures including former manager Jürgen Klopp and Mohamed Salah urged fans to remember the contribution he has made to Liverpool's success over the last six years, he was roundly cheered when he lifted the Premier League trophy at Anfield last Sunday.

The defender joins a Real Madrid side which failed to win a major trophy this season. — AFP

Trent Alexander-Arnold joins Real Madrid after winning the Premier League title with Liverpool for the second time. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Italy's Musetti battles into French Open last 16

ITALY'S Lorenzo Musetti rallied from a set down to book his spot in the French Open last 16 on Friday.

Eighth seed Musetti won 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 against 97<sup>th</sup>-ranked Argentine Mariano Navone in three hours and 25 minutes on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

"Honestly, today was completely different conditions from the last two matches," said Musetti as windy and chilly conditions gave way

to blazing sunshine in Paris.

"I was a little bit surprised at the beginning, but happy and really proud of the comeback.

"I've grown up a lot. A match like this I don't know if I would (have) come back a few years ago".

Musetti, who reached the fourth round in Paris for the third time, next plays either 10<sup>th</sup> seed Holger Rune of Denmark or France's Quentin Halys for a place in the quarterfinals. — AFP



Eye on the ball: Italy's Lorenzo Musetti rallied from a set down to reach the last 16 at the French Open. PHOTO: AFP



## Thailand pushes forward AI-driven transformation to become regional digital hub

**T**HAILAND is pushing forward its national transformation strategy with a bold vision to become a regional hub for artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Prasert Jantararungtong said Thursday.

In a video keynote address at the Huawei Thailand Digital & AI Summit 2025 in Bangkok, Prasert, who is also minister of digital economy and society, pointed out the important function of AI and digital innovation in the Southeast Asian country's long-term development strategy.

The Thai digital economy is growing rapidly and is projected to expand by 7.3 per cent in 2025, Prasert said.

"Under the Growth Engine of Thailand policy, we aim to boost national competitiveness, foster a secure digital environment, and cultivate the next generation of digital talent," he said.

Through a three-pronged strategy, Thailand aims to strengthen its digital infrastructure, establish a secure digital environment that protects user rights and builds public trust, and develop human capital by training professionals and producing AI developers within the next two years, he added. Supporting the national policy on digital talent development, China's technology giant Huawei and Thailand's Chulalongkorn University have collaborated in designing AI-focused curricula, developing information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, and transforming the university into a fully integrated smart campus. — Xinhua

*Thailand's digital economy is rapidly growing, with a projected expansion of 7.3 per cent in 2025.*



A guest records a video as an AI-powered coffee machine operates during the Huawei Thailand Digital & AI Summit 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand, 29 May 2025. **PHOTO: SUN WEITONG/XINHUA**

## China approves first domestically produced nine-valent HPV vaccine

CHINA approved its first domestically developed nine-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine on Thursday, according to the National Medical Products



In this file photo dated 30 May 2018, a nurse from Boao Super Hospital United Family Boao Clinic presents a human papillomavirus (HPV) 9-valent vaccine in Boao, South China's Hainan province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Administration. The vaccine, Cecolin 9, was jointly developed by the Xiang An Biomedicine Laboratory, Xiamen University and Wantai BioPharm. Its approval makes China the second country in the world — after the United States — with the capability to independently supply high-valency HPV vaccines.

Since 2019, the vaccine has been through five clinical trials conducted across China, involving more than 11,000 healthy volunteers aged nine to 45.

Results from these trials showed that the vaccine provides strong protection against HPV types 16 and 18 — the same strains covered by the two-valent vaccine — as well as five other HPV types 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, with a protection rate of over 98 per cent against persistent infections lasting more than 12 months and a 100 per cent protection rate against cervical infections. — Xinhua

### ONGOING DISCUSSIONS

#### US says Israel accepts temporary Gaza ceasefire proposal

THE White House said on Thursday that Israel has signed off on a 60-day Gaza ceasefire proposal as Israeli army continues its military actions in the war-torn area.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed at a press briefing that US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff and US President Donald Trump "submitted a ceasefire proposal to Hamas that Israel backed and supported." "Israel signed off on this proposal before it was sent to Hamas. I can also confirm that those discussions are continuing, and we hope that a ceasefire in Gaza will take place so we can return all of the hostages home," said Leavitt. — Xinhua