

# Agri-farms to sell fresh produce, meat, eggs at affordable prices

SAC Vice-Chairman DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits agricultural and livestock farms at the Nyaunghnapin agriculture and livestock special zone.



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win looks into the production of eggs at the Shwe Pyi agriculture and livestock zone project.

**V**ICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday afternoon inspected the Shwe Pyi agriculture and livestock zone project and the Nyaunghnapin agriculture and livestock special zone in Yangon Region.

At Sein Lan Agriculture Production and General Trading Cooperative Ltd and Htun Organic Cooperative Society's Agricultural Farm, he viewed the cultivation of seasonal vegetable plants and other crops, sending of vegetables to the market, and use of EM-bokashi at the farms.

The agricultural land is 7,458.57 acres out of 9,106.47 acres of Nyaunghnapin agriculture and livestock special zone. A total of 242 members of Sein Lan Agri-

culture Production and General Trading Cooperative Ltd plant vegetables and other seasonal crops on 140 acres of land while 108 farmers from Htun Organic Cooperative Society's Agricultural Farm grow vegetables and other crops on 60 acres of land. Some 20-30 tonnes of vegetables and crops from the agricultural zone are sent to the wholesale and retail markets in the region daily.

The Vice-Senior General went to the learning centre of CP Group and inspected the breeding of pigs through the Evaporated Cooling System. Officials conducted the Vice-Senior General around the farm. At the learning centre, 27 farms breed 600 pigs each, totalling more than 16,000. These farms meet the livestock demand of the region on the other hand.

At the agriculture and livestock

farm of Myanmar Green Light (MGL), the Vice-Senior General inspected the breeding of Buddhist scriptures operating farms of layers and fish ponds, and the growing of pomelo and durian plants. The farm of Myanmar Green Light (MGL) is located on some 300 acres of land. It breeds 20,000 chickens and 80,000 layers at 13 poultry farms to produce more than 58,000 eggs for daily sale.

At the hall of the special zone, the Vice-Senior General met with departmental officials from Hmawby Township and businesspeople. The Yangon Region chief minister reported on operations of agriculture and livestock farms in relevant zones, sales of vegetables, meat, milk and eggs to the people, and implementation of the agriculture and livestock zone.

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## Article

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MRF targets Pawsan rice export boost with modern packing



NATIONAL

Performing Arts Competition uplifts national integrity

MYANMAR Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition contributes to building national integrity in order to firmly strengthen natural culture.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister  
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening of the 25<sup>th</sup> Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition on 14 October 2024)

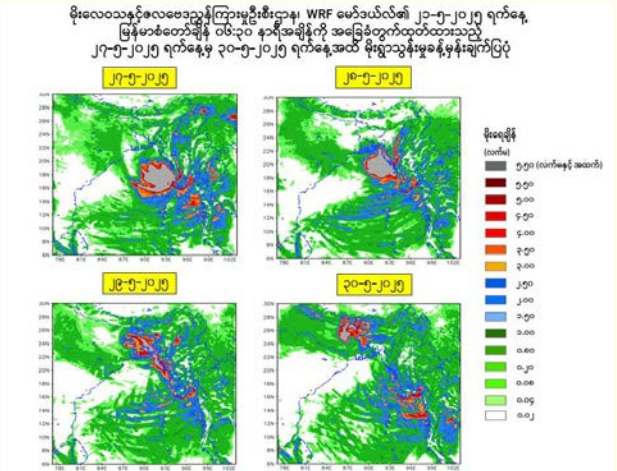
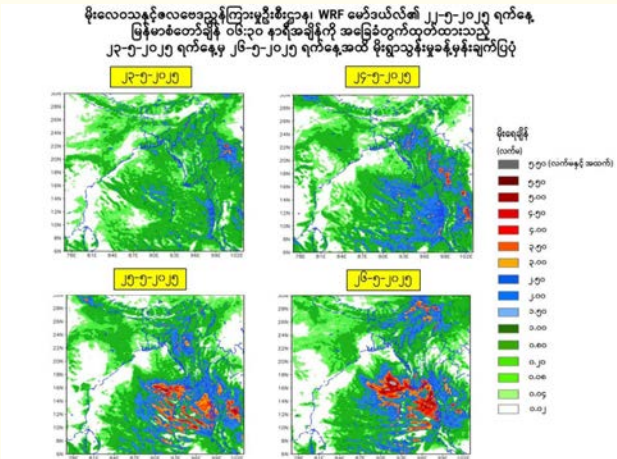
Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 22 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, monsoon will be strong and development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and northern Shan States and widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls during 23 May 2025 to 30 May 2025.

Advisory

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



Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 3 pm MST on 22 May 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over Westcetral Bay and adjoining North Bay of Bengal around 27 May 2025. It is likely to become more marked during next two days. — DMH

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Professor Dr Kyaw Thiha Rector University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health	Rector University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health
(2) Professor Dr AB Rector University of Community Health (Magway) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health	Rector University of Public Health (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4 pm Thursday 22 May 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea, South Bay, Eastcentral and Northeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 23 MAY 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Sagaing Region and Chin and Rakhine States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing Region and Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Rakhine and eastern Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7 - 9 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Increase of rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern)Shan States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 MAY 2025:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 MAY 2025:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 MAY 2025:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH



NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Agri-farms to sell fresh produce, meat, eggs ...



SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win hears the reports on production outputs during an inspection tour of Yangon Region's Nyaungnapin Agriculture and Livestock Zone.

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that it is necessary to ensure that there is an adequate supply of meat, fish, eggs, and vegetables — the daily essentials consumed by the people living in Yangon Region. Since current production levels are still insufficient, it is essential for planners, responsible officials from the regional government who oversee the implementation of these plans, and producers who are to carry them out, to calculate and ensure a balance between supply and demand based on the population, to achieve food security. Furthermore, supervisors at various levels must systematically monitor and enforce the implementation,

and must also assist in ensuring timely access to necessary breeds, feed, and medicine for livestock production. He added that in livestock farming, biosecurity is also of primary importance. It is necessary to implement systematic preventive measures right from the establishment phase. In carrying out agricultural and livestock activities, it is important to adopt modern, scientific methods of cultivation and farming rather than relying on traditional practices. The Vice-Senior General viewed the breeding of pigs and layers at zone 2 and gave instructions to officials. He inspected the maintenance of the separate meeting

rooms and Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention was convened near Nyaungnapin Village. At the Shwepyithar Agriculture and Livestock Zone Project of Myanmar Economic Corporation, the Vice-Senior General inspected the breeding of layers and pigs, production of piglets, cultivation of hybrid maize, production of feedstuffs, electrifying the layer farms and construction of buildings. After hearing the reports, the Vice-Senior General noted that Myanmar Economic Holding Public Co Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation have to produce animal feed and distribute it at affordable prices to the upper and lower regions of Myanmar,

and sell meat, fish, eggs, and other food products from the zones to Tatmadaw members, government staff, and local people at reasonable prices in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State. Since these are livestock breeding operations, biosecurity is crucial. Therefore, from the initial construction stage onward, planning must be done strictly to manage not just the breeding farms but the entire project area. There are already experts in the animal feed production sector, so efforts should be made to establish truly successful feed formulation systems. In the production of hybrid maize seeds, it is important to ensure that the varieties used are reliable for the farmers, and with the collabora-

tion of experts, the seeds must be of a type that farmers can replant seasonally. According to the livestock zones, when raising tens or hundreds of thousands of animals, alternative solutions must be explored to address the occasional shortage or unavailability of sufficient breeding stock in a timely manner. Efforts should also be made to produce, sell, and distribute quality pure breeds and animal feed at affordable prices. The Vice-Senior General viewed round pig farms in Evaporated Auto Drinking Auto Feeding Systems, and Lohmann Brown (Germany) layer farms in Evaporated Fully Automatic System and left necessary instructions to officials. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



# NATIONAL

## SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers titles and certificates to winning monks in 77<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

**A** CEREMONY to honour 97 members of the Sangha who passed the 77<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination organized by the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was held in conjunction with the certificate-offering ceremony at Maha Pasana Cave on Thirimingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday morning.

Before the ceremony, the congregation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win took the Five Precepts from Presiding Patron of Moegaung Monastery from Hinthada Abhidhaja Maharattthaguru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sudhammacara Bhivamsa who is Vice-Chair of the Ovadacariya Board of the selection examination.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Thanlyin's Minkyaung Buddhism Learning Centre Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa delivered a Saraniya Ovadakatha.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin supplicated the reli-

gious affairs.

The Vice-Senior General offered the title and certificate of passing the exam to Ashin Setthañana Lankara from Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township who won the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title due to passing the oral and written exams of all Tri Pitaka tratises.

SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe also offered the Dighanikayakovida title and certificate of passing the exam to Ashin Paññadhaja Lankara from Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Township of Yangon Region and Ashin Candobhasa Lankara from MahaWithokdayon Shwegyin Taikthit from Dagon Township of Yangon Region and the Dighabhanaka title and certificate of passing the exam to Ashin Janappiya Lankara and Ashin Tiloka from Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery from Momeik Hill of Mingun in Sagaing, Sagaing Region, respectively.

Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Tin Oo Lwin and Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command and officials presented Dighabhanaka title to



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title to Ashin Setthanana Lankara.

nine monks, Vinayakovida title to one monk, Vinayadhara title to 29 monks, Ubhato Vibhankakovida title to seven monks and Ubhato Vibhangadhara title to 46 monks respectively.

Abbot of Dhammathameikdi Monastery from New Masoeyein Monastery Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa, who is Secretary of SSMNC, delivered a sermon, and the congregation

led by the Vice-Senior General shared merits gained.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, and well-wishers donated alms to examination winner monks.

A total of 97 members of the Sangha passed the 77<sup>th</sup> examination. They were one Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title winner, two Dighanikayakovida title winners, 11 Dighabhanaka title winners, one Vinayakovida title winner, 29 Vinayadhara title winners, seven Ubhato Vibhankakovida title winners and 46 Ubhato Vibhangadhara title winners.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination was held to identify outstanding individuals within the Buddha's dispensation who possess exceptional ordination merit, profound wisdom, and complete knowledge to honour and promote the Pariyatti Sāsana, to confer the highest recognition on those who contribute to the Sāsana; and to identify and venerate distinguished individuals who uphold the Pīṭaka treatises dedicated to Dhamma Ceti. Up to the recently completed examinations during these

77 years, a total of 17 venerable members of the Sangha have been honoured with the prestigious title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida. Furthermore, upon completing five years after receiving the Tipitakadhara title, these venerable members of the Sangha are conferred with the Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandāgarika title by the State. So far, 15 Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandāgarika Sayadaws have received this higher distinction. It is expected that more Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title winner members of the Sangha will continue to emerge in the future.

The ceremony was also attended by members of SS-MNC, Ovadacariya Sayadaws from the Selection Examination Board, Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandāgarika title winner Sayadaws and Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General and party inspected the painting at the Maha Pasana Cave, repair of sound-proof walls and pipelines, installation of a 630-kilogramme elevator and fixing the lightning conductor and left necessary instructions. — MNA/TTA



The offering of titles and certificates to recipient monks in the 77<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in progress yesterday in Yangon.



NATIONAL

Government-Private Trade Promotion Council holds meeting

DEPUTY Prime Minister, Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, who is also the Chairman of the Government-Private Trade Promotion Council, attended the second meeting of the council yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister said that although there were impacts after the recent earthquake, the council held the meeting as per the scheme of once every four months to facilitate the trading sector. The work processes for the National Export Strategy 2020-2025 are nearly finalized, and efforts should be made to implement the National Export Strategy 2026-2030. The government-private organizations should together draft the Plan of Action (PoA) for the National



The meeting of the Government-Private Trade Promotion Council in progress yesterday, chaired by Deputy PM MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

Export Strategy 2026-2030. He then mentioned the significant achievement of Open General Licence (OGL) between the Indian government and the council before March 2025 regarding with export of black gram. He continued that the Un-

ion-level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition was held in February 2025, and promising products from regions and states were selected as One Region One Product, and also awarded to the entrepreneurs. He stated the benefits of the exhibition for the entrepreneurs and pledged to provide the required assistance.

Deputy Prime Minister, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, who is also the Council Vice-Chair, remarked, and Council Secretary Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn explained the implementation after the first meeting of the council.

Meeting attendees coordinated the discussion, and the meeting was concluded. — MNA/KTZH

SAC Member joins legal ethics meeting, delivers aid in Kachin State



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu presents relief materials to local SAR teams.

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu attended the coordination meeting on ethics for legal officers at the Kachin State Advocate-General Office yesterday.

Speaking at the event, she highlighted the need to offer equal access to legal services for all citizens while offering services of the rule of law, which is the government's law, and to focus on access to offer equal protection under the law.

She continued that the law officers should collaborate in promoting the rule of law and stability in preparation for the successful holding of the election.

She also attended a ceremony to hand over the rescue and relief items for rescue teams held on the lawn in front of the State government office.

At the ceremony, the chief minister, who is also chairman of the Kachin State Natural Disaster Management Com-

mittee, reported on the donation, and the SAC member and the chief minister presented 100 temporary tents, 312 tarpaulin rolls, instant noodles and porridge boxes to the rescue team members and social welfare organizations. These items were donated by Baodian Prefecture of the People's Republic of China.

They also observed the donated items and cordially met rescue members. — IPRD/KTZH

MNHRC inspects Shwe Than Lwin Home for the Aged

THE inspection team led by Commissioners U Kyaw Soe, Dr Than Myint and Dr Myint Thu Myaing of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission conducted an inspection visit to the Shwe Than Lwin Home for the Aged, located in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, on 22 May 2025, under Section 22 (e) of the Commission Law. The facility operates under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare.

During the visit, the inspection team met elderly residents in their living quarters and assessed a range of conditions, including the provision of healthcare services, food and nutritional support, access to

clean drinking and household water, freedom of religion and belief, and overall hygiene and sanitation standards of dormitories, bathrooms, toilets, and kitchens. They also enquired about arrangements for recreation and relaxation, accessibility of pension payments for eligible residents, and the availability of social pension support for those aged 85 and above.

The team extended warm words of encouragement to 80 elderly individuals residing at the facility.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission law. — MNHRC



The MNHRC inspection team warmly greet the older people.



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar, China discuss rapid transfer of illegal foreign entrants

THE government strictly takes action against those who entered the country via the border routes passing through some neighbouring countries, including Thailand and committed online gambling, online scams and other criminal activities in Myawady-Shwe Kokko, KK Park and Kyaukkhet areas in Kayin State.

From 30 January to 22 May 2025, the government arrested 9,099 foreigners who illegally entered the country, and 8,469

of them were transferred to their respective countries via Thailand, and the remaining 630 are also ready to be transferred and are being well cared for.

Deputy Director-General Mr Liu Ning Ning from China's Ministry of Public Security's Criminal Investigation Department and officials arrived at the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, and they were welcomed by the Myawady District Administration Body Chairman



The discussion between Myanmar and China to expedite the transfer of undocumented foreign entrants underway at the meeting hall of the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II.

and other relevant officials.

They observed the detention of Chinese nationals who illegally entered Myawady.

At the meeting hall of the

bridge, they held a meeting regarding the deportation of foreign nationals.

They also discussed accelerating the trilateral agree-

ment, and further cooperation to eradicate telecom fraud in Myawady and the transfer of detainees who are involved in telecom fraud. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar deports 151 Ethiopians linked to telecom fraud



Immigration officials processing the deportation of Ethiopians.

MYANMAR authorities have deported 151 Ethiopian nationals found to be involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities. These individuals had illegally entered Myanmar via border routes after transiting neighbouring countries, including Thailand. They were active in online gambling and scam operations in areas such as Myawady-Shwe Kokko, Mahtawthalay (KK Park), and Kyaukkhet in Kayin State.

Following systematic investigations, these foreign nationals were deported on humanitarian

grounds and in the spirit of bilateral relations. Following legal procedures, they were handed over to their home country through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II. Authorities collected personal data and records to facilitate their transfer as swiftly as possible. Myanmar officials also submitted the necessary documentation to the appropriate authorities of the respective country.

Between 30 January and 22 May 2025, Myanmar identified and detained a total of 9,099 foreign nationals who had entered the

country illegally. Of these, 8,620 individuals were deported via Thailand to their home countries per the law, while the remaining 479 are held in proper custody and are ready for repatriation.

The 9,099 detained foreign nationals are reported to be from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Ghana, Bangladesh, Japan, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Cambodia, Algeria, Liberia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Russia, and Chinese Taipei. — MNA/MKKS

## MPT boosts youth skills with workplace learning programme

MPT is providing support for a workplace learning and training programme aimed at enhancing the knowledge and job-readiness of final-year students from 18 technological and computer universities across Myanmar. The initiative is intended to ease their transition into employment and to help young people develop greater expertise and practical experience. This information was shared by the MPT Head Office in Yangon.

As part of the 2025 training programme, around 180 students are undergoing both theoretical and practical training between April and June at MPT offices in 10 regions and states. The training

covers various telecommunications technologies such as microwave, fibre, mobile communication, FTTH systems, as well as essential workplace knowledge in areas like Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) and information security. Also, 55 students are receiving focused practical and theoretical instruction at MPT's Network Centre and training facilities in Yangon.

“Young people are the future generation of our country's development. Through the nationwide 2025 workplace learning and training programme, MPT is helping youth build the skills and knowledge needed to work in the communica-

tions sector. We believe this programme not only supports their professional development but also opens up employment opportunities,” said Mr Naoki Shimane, Advisor to the Operations Department at MPT.

MPT has also implemented a free online educational platform at <https://csrelearning.mpt.com.mm/>, offering accessible training for youth nationwide. The workplace learning and training programme was first launched in 2018 and has since provided over 2,000 students from technological and computer universities with practical training and industry-related knowledge. — Thit-sa (MNA)/KZL



Students undergoing both theoretical and practical training under MPT's workplace learning and training programme. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**



# MFVP urges dry coconut shell suppliers to tap Korean market

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetables Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) notified growers and suppliers to contact the MFVP via 09 43127656 to export dry coconut shells to the Republic of Korea.

Myanmar implemented the “Potential Product (coconut) value chain” project under the ACEMES-ROK Fund between May 2023 to April 2024 and offered coconut handicraft courses, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The courses will offer practical approaches to manufacturing coconut value-added products from disposable coconut shells to commercially valued coconut crafts, including choosing coconut shells, sketching, painting, decorating, finishing the products, and polishing and drying methods with the use of drilling machines. For designing, basic drawing arts will be offered as well.

The trainees will get to know how to make coconut-based shrine lamps, curtains, key chains, shell lights and earrings. The training will provide the installation of shrine lamps and shell lights practically. They will earn the completion certificates.

The three-day coconut-based products expo and competition was held in Pathein from 22 to 24 January 2024.

Both dried and fresh coconuts offer a variety of health benefits. Coconut is used in religious events in Myanmar, and it is mostly utilized in traditional snacks and curry. Furthermore, it has been widely used in the cosmetic and Asian food industries so coconut businesses have boomed in regional countries. Therefore, they are



Fresh coconuts harvested in Ayeyawady Region.

also exported to Bangladesh, China and Thailand.

Fresh coconut water provides a good source of nutrients (such as vitamin C, potassium, iron, calcium, magnesium, vitamin B, amino acid, copper and other minerals) rather than dried coconut.

Nutrients and vitamins in coconut water boost the immune system, and it containing cytokinin, plant hormones, is believed to have anti-ageing and anti-cancer properties, nutritionists said. Health benefits in coconut water treat dehydration due to mild diarrhoea, vomiting and electrolyte loss from sweating heavily. It helps boost energy levels. Additionally, coconut water contains 200-1,000 ml of water, and it is a natural juice with low cholesterol.

Coconut is grown in southern

Rakhine cities, the delta and coastal regions. Coconut palms can thrive with abundant sunlight and regular rainfall (30-70 inches). There are three types of coconut trees found in the country: tall, dwarf and orange colour species. Tall coconut palms are used as coconut palm thatch. The dwarf species is called ‘Watmalut’ locally. The orange colour species is called royal coconut.

The bearing starts from seven to ten years of planting for tall species, three to five years for dwarf species and five to seven years for orange colour species. Coconut’s annual output is about 5,000 heads per acre.

Myanmar produces over 400 million coconuts yearly, and Ayeyawady is the biggest coconut-producing region with over 130 million coconuts. — NN/KK

## MyanTrade to blacklist exhibitors over counterfeit goods

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization warned the participating companies at the 9<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 29<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair that they will be ruled out from joining future expos if they are found to showcase counterfeit products, fake gemstones, fake and synthetic jewellery.

The 9<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 29<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair will be held on 19-24 June 2025 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China.

The director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization delivered that remark for those companies who registered to participate in the upcoming China-South Asia Expo, during a work-coordination meeting on expo rules and regulations held on 21 May. Myanmar companies will exhibit gemstones and jewellery, handicrafts, dried tea leaves, rice and commodity products. Synthetic and fake gemstones and pieces of jewellery are prohibited to protect the reputation of the country as the primary source of precious gemstones. If companies violate this, they will be blacklisted for future trade fairs.

Myantrade will help companies receive visas and an Open General Licence. The companies need to provide documents by 30 May 2025 to prepare for Exhibitor Cards, Visitor Cards and other necessary measures. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister for Commerce will attend the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 29<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair. Myantrade encourages traders to display a wide range of products at the expo. — NN/KK

## CBM sells US\$120K, THB2M on 21 May

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$120,000 and two million baht on 21 May.

CBM also sold \$568,000 and 1.9 million baht on 20 May, again after the sale of \$3 million on 19 May and \$300,000 and 1.6 million baht on 16 May.

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

CBM announced on 13 May that it would sell \$23.67 million to fuel oil traders and

50 million baht to importers. CBM sold over \$1.62 million on 13 May and over \$820,000 and 1.5 million baht on 12 May.



The US dollar exchange rate has steadied following the CBM’s announcement, allowing for free trading at market prices. PHOTO: XINHUA

CBM also injected over 3.6 million baht on 9 May again in the financial market after over 5.3 million baht and 723,000 yuan on 8 May, and \$710,000 on 7 May into the financial market. CBM announced on 6 May that it would sell \$33 million and 200 million baht to those engaged in the fuel oil industry. CBM sold 397,843 yuan on that day. CBM injected over \$42 million, over 20 million baht and 500,000 yuan in April, over \$126 million, 320 million baht and 3.6 million yuan in March, over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and over \$124

million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM’s notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



## Enhance the capacity of young people under the youth policy

**A** YOUTH is defined as a citizen between the ages of 15 and 35 and represents a vital human resource for national development. The future of the country depends on the capabilities of its youth. Therefore, to ensure a prosperous future and to compete effectively on the international stage, it is essential to enhance the capacities of young people.

To this end, the government is implementing youth development programmes aimed at nurturing the five key strengths—physical, intellectual, moral, social, and economic—so that youth can become a major driving force in the nation’s development process. Indeed, these key strengths are basic for the development of human resources of the State.

The knowledge and skills acquired during the training period will not only be beneficial to oneself but also to the nation. In addition, qualities such as developing mutual friendship, the ability to work together in collaboration, improved discipline, and obedience will also be nurtured. Therefore, it is essential to effectively utilize the potential of capable young people in nation-building, ensuring that their talents do not go to waste.

According to the 2019 Interim Census Report, over 33 per cent of Myanmar’s total population consists of young people. This demographic situation indicates a large working-age population or labour force. As such, there is a need to prioritize the empowerment of youth and the effective utilization of the nation’s workforce. In support of youth sector development, the National Youth Policy was formulated in 2017.

Under this policy, the National Youth Policy Strategic Plan (2020-2024) was implemented. This plan encompasses 16 sectors: education, health, prevention of narcotics and other harmful threats, sports and recreation, employment opportunities, economy, politics, literature, arts, and culture, research, science, and technology, civic responsibility and good citizenship, natural resources and environmental conservation, peace and security, gender equality, human rights, and international relations.

At present, students and young people are encouraged to make the most of their summer holidays by developing their knowledge, using their free time productively, and studying subjects they are passionate about. Across the country, local authorities are offering various training programmes to help youth enhance their skills. These include courses on Buddhist culture, aviation and maritime training, scout training, writing, painting, and sports—designed to suit different age groups. Moreover, many young people are also independently investing in their self-development by enrolling in computer courses, electrical and technical training, mechanical repair classes, and agricultural training programmes.

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## No Child Left Behind: A Call to Enrol All School-Age Children

By Min Zan

ance, practice healthy lifestyles, and promote peace and social harmony.

Countries with high literacy rates and strong education systems tend to enjoy higher standards of living, better healthcare, greater economic stability, and more equitable development. For Myanmar, a country undergoing various stages of transformation and development, prioritizing education is not just an option—it is a necessity.

The Ministry of Education, recognizing the importance of nurturing the next generation, has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting basic education for all children regardless of their background, gender, or region. An inclusive education system ensures that no child is left behind and that every child receives the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

### The Role of Education in National Development

Education is the key that unlocks the full potential of a nation’s human capital. When people are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and values, they can contribute effectively to society in various ways—through innovation, service, leadership, and productivity. Educated citizens are more likely to make informed decisions, support democratic govern-

ment, practice healthy lifestyles, and promote peace and social harmony. This is a concerning statistic that highlights the challenges in retaining students within the formal education system.

There are many reasons behind this educational gap. Poverty, lack of transportation, family responsibilities, early marriage, and in some areas, conflict and instability, contribute to children being unable to attend school. In other cases, cultural attitudes and a lack of awareness about the importance of education also play a role.

This situation not only affects the future of the children involved but also undermines the development potential of the entire nation. When a significant number of young people grow up without sufficient education, they face limited employment opportunities and are more vulnerable to exploitation, poverty, and marginalization. Moreover, an uneducated population weakens the social fabric and reduces the country’s competitiveness in an increasingly globalized world.

### Alarm Over Education Gaps in Myanmar

According to the 2019 Inter-censal Survey, nearly one-third of Myanmar’s population has low levels of educational attainment. A significant proportion of citizens did not complete even primary education, and many dropped out

school is not the sole responsibility of the government. Parents and guardians play a crucial role in supporting their children’s education. Their attitude toward learning, their commitment to enrolling their children in school, and their continued encouragement can make a profound difference in a child’s academic journey.

It is essential for caregivers to recognize that education is not a luxury—it is a basic necessity. Just as children need food, shelter, and protection, they also need education to lead successful and meaningful lives. By enrolling their children in school and supporting them along the way, parents give them a chance to break the cycle of poverty and become productive, capable members of society.

Furthermore, when families and communities actively participate in education—by attending school meetings, monitoring progress, and fostering a learning environment at home—children tend to perform better academically and stay in school longer.

### Schools as Nurturing Spaces

Schools are not only places where students learn how to read, write, and count. They are also

spaces where children develop critical thinking skills, creativity, emotional intelligence, and social awareness. It is where young minds are moulded, where confidence is built, and where lifelong values such as honesty, responsibility, and cooperation are instilled.

Good schools and committed teachers have the power to change lives. Through engaging lessons, meaningful mentorship, and supportive learning environments, children are empowered to dream big and pursue their goals. The importance of creating such spaces cannot be overstated.

Modern educational methods emphasize student-centred learning, where the child’s interests, abilities, and potential are at the heart of teaching practices. This method helps to spark curiosity and encourages children to explore knowledge in a way that is both meaningful and personal. By developing their intellect and character, schools lay the foundation for capable and responsible citizens.

### National Campaign: Enrol Every Child

In an effort to ensure that no school-age child is left behind,

the Ministry of Education has announced the School Enrollment Week for the 2025–2026 Academic Year, which runs from 22 May to 1 June. During this week, parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to enrol all children of school-going age in the nearest school.

### This year’s campaign is being held under the theme:

“Let’s Enrol All School-Age Children for Continuous Learning.”

This call to action reflects the government’s determination to provide inclusive and equitable quality education to all children across the nation. It also serves as a reminder to families, communities, and local leaders that education is a collective responsibility.

Across urban and rural areas, school authorities are working to ensure that enrollment processes are smooth, transparent, and welcoming. Teachers and education officers are also reaching out to communities, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas, to spread awareness and help overcome any barriers to enrollment.

### KG+12 System: A Step Toward

### Education for All

To promote continuous learning and universal access to education, the Myanmar government is implementing the KG+12 system. This includes one year of Kindergarten followed by 12 years of basic education (from Grade 1 to Grade 12). Under this system, every child is encouraged to attend school up to the completion of upper secondary education.

The government is also striving to ensure that essential learning materials are available, school buildings are maintained, teachers are well-trained, and transportation is provided in certain areas. In addition, the education sector is working on curriculum development, inclusive education policies, and digital learning initiatives to meet modern-day challenges.

By investing in the KG+12 system, Myanmar aims to uplift the overall quality of its education system, close educational gaps, and prepare young people for the demands of the 21st century.

### A National Effort: Everyone Has a Role to Play

Building a strong and resilient education system requires the cooperation of all stakeholders. Parents, guardians, teachers, school administrators, community leaders, local organizations, and civil society must work together to support children’s education. Local authorities should provide the necessary resources and infrastructure, while civil society can contribute through awareness campaigns and outreach programs.

Media outlets also have a role to play by disseminating messages about the importance of education and the school enrolment campaign. Religious institutions and traditional leaders can help mobilize communities, especially in rural areas, to value education and ensure that every child is given the chance to learn.

It is especially important to focus on vulnerable groups—children from low-income families, girls, children with disabilities, etc. Special efforts must be made to identify and support these children so that they, too, can benefit from the promise of education.

### Investing in the Future

Education is not a short-term project—it is a lifelong investment in human development and national prosperity. Enrolling every school-age child in school is the first step toward building a more inclusive, skilled, and empowered generation.

As the 2025–2026 academic year approaches, let us come together with a sense of urgency and commitment to ensure that no child is left behind. Let us visit our neighbourhood schools, talk to parents and guardians, spread the word, and help families understand the immense value of education.

To put it in a nutshell, the path to a better future begins with a single act: enrolling a child in school. Let us act today so that every child in Myanmar has the opportunity to learn, grow, and lead our nation toward peace, development, and lasting success.

## Singapore launches 5-year study to find out if depression can be prevented or redirected

**S**INGAPORE’S Institute of Mental Health (IMH) has launched a nationwide longitudinal study involving approximately 3,200 individuals to investigate factors that may prevent depression or alter its course among those affected.

The participants, aged between 18 and 75, include individuals diagnosed with depression, subsyndromal depression, or no

depression at all. They will be followed over five years, with data collected at six time points, namely at the start of the study and then once annually, said the institute, which is part of Singapore’s National Healthcare Group (NHG), in a statement on Tuesday.

The study will examine how a range of risk and protective factors influence depressive symp-

oms. These include biological factors, psychological factors that affect thoughts, emotions and behaviours, as well as social factors.

This marks the NHG’s first comprehensive longitudinal study on depression. Previous research efforts were cross-sectional, collecting data at a single point in time. While such studies can reveal associations between



The study aims to investigate the risk and protective factors influencing depressive symptoms, encompassing biological, psychological, and social dimensions.

various factors and depression, they do not establish causal or bi-directional relationships.

The findings are expected to help care professionals de-

sign targeted interventions and effective preventive strategies, the institute said.

Source: Xinhua

### Letter to the Editor:

#### Living a Meaningful Life

EVERYONE faces struggles in life, but these can differ between the rich and the poor. I believe the poor often face greater challenges. No matter our circumstances, we all want to live well. A meaningful life helps us feel worthy as human beings.

People have different ideas and thoughts. These shape our character, goals, and lifestyles. So, it’s important to check if our ideas suit us. How can we understand our thoughts better? Reading books can guide us and show us new paths.

In my opinion, a meaningful life means doing something beneficial for ourselves and our surroundings based on our age. For students, studying hard and mastering their subjects is the right path. For workers, gaining experience and learning new skills is key.

A meaningful life is not about following popular trends or copying others. Today, some people are unsure about their purpose. They adopt someone else’s thoughts or style instead of finding their own. Everyone should have their hobbies, goals, and way of living. Only by being true to ourselves can we live a true life. Someone else’s life or hobby is not ours.

In conclusion, to live a meaningful life, we should act carefully in the present because it shapes our future. By following Lord Buddha’s teachings, such as practising kindness and mindfulness, we can make choices that benefit ourselves and others. Living with purpose requires us to reflect on our actions, stay true to our values, and contribute positively to our community. This approach not only brings us inner peace but also inspires those around us to live well.

By Kyaw Ye Aung (September Rain)



# NATIONAL

## MRF targets Pawsan rice export boost with modern packing

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) has been endeavouring to place Pawsan Rice varieties with modern packaging in the external markets, said U Ye Min Aung, President of MRF.

Myanmar Pawsan Rice Foundation was organized to export Pawsan rice varieties to foreign trade partners.

“Myanmar Pawsan Rice Foundation was formed as one community including growers, rice millers and traders. Premium-quality Pawsan Rice (fragrant rice) will be delivered to international markets with the right price and right product,” said U Ye Min Aung.

The origin of Myanmar’s Pawsan Rice is Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady. Pawsan rice varieties were sent to the Shwebo area, Sagaing Region, from Kyauktan Township, Yangon, in the 1997-1998 financial year. Shwebo Pawsan rice variety has become popular for its premium quality from experimental cultivation.

Pawsan rice, also known as pearl



Rice sacks designated for exports are seen being loaded onto the ship.

rice, is a premium quality fragrant rice from Myanmar that won the World’s Best Rice award at the World Rice Conference in 2011. Shwebo Pawsan has already achieved geographical indication registration. Myanmar pre-

mium-quality Pawsan is mainly purchased by China, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh and European countries (Italy, Germany and France). It is also demanded by South Africa, Nigeria and the US. — ASH/KK

## Myanmar film ‘Lay Chun Nat’ to be screened nationwide on 23 May

THE Myanmar movie, ‘Lay Chun Nat’ (The Whistling Nat), is set to premiere in major cinemas nationwide on 23 May, according to actress Than Tha Nyi, who features in the film.

The screenplay for this film was penned by Yan Naing Htun, with Min Ko Soe (Natthankwin) handling the shooting script. The film was directed by Academy Award winner Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo), alongside joint directors Nay Lin and Thar Kyaw, and produced by Triple

Six Film Production.

Than Tha Nyi commented on her role, stating, "In this film, I play Kaythi Lwin, Ko Myint Myat's younger sister. It's not a typical comedy; it's a recreation of a real-life 'Whistling Nat'. The film also includes the 'Whistling Nat' helping people by fortune-telling and aiding spirits. It's a full spectrum of emotions. I'm not a naturally quick-witted person, so I had to be more nimble than usual for this role".

The cast of ‘The Whistling Nat’ includes Academy Award winners Myint Myat, Kyaw Kyaw Bo and May Myint Mo, as well as Htet Aung Shine, Tayza Lin Yaung, Than Tha Nyi, and Htun Pale Yadanar. Veteran supporting actors such as Zin Myo, Zaw Win Naing (Mann), Sin Ma, and Thu Zar Pwint also appear in the film.

The film premiere was held on the evening of 19 May at the President Cinema in Yangon. — ASH/MKKS

## Veteran artistes headline Myeik concert

RENOWNED vocalists Khin Maung Htoo and Bo Bo Han from the Ganhtawin Studio will perform in an upcoming music show titled An Oldies Night, according to Khin Maung Htoo.

“The show will take place on the night of 24 May at the Golden View Restaurant and Bar in Myeik. Together with Ko Bo Bo Han, we’ll perform classic old-time songs for the audience in Myeik. I would like to warmly invite all music lovers to come and enjoy a night of timeless music,” he said.

‘An Oldies Night’ will be held at 7 pm on 24 May at the Golden View Restaurant and Bar in Myeik, Taninthayi Region. The performance by the two celebrated artistes will be backed by the Raw Music Band, which will provide live accompaniment. — ASH/KZL



This image showcases a promotional poster for the upcoming performance by Khin Maung Htoo and Bo Bo Han.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Miss Universe Myanmar 2025 pageant scheduled for Yangon this June



This photo showcases contestants from a Miss Universe Myanmar competition.

THE 12<sup>th</sup> Miss Universe Myanmar 2025 pageant is set to be held in Yangon this June, according to National Director Daw Soe Yu Wai.

The Grand Final of the Miss Universe Myanmar 2025 competition will take place on 27 June at Myanmar Expo in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region. Meanwhile, the National Costume Commission competition is scheduled for 18 June at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

“The representatives from each state and region competing in the Miss Universe Myanmar 2025 pageant have

already been selected by the City Directors. The 35 state and region representatives were introduced to the press on 21 May. The competition is set to take place soon, where we will discover who will represent our country. Titles and awards will be presented according to their respective categories, and the Navaratna Crown will be awarded,” said Ma Soe Yu Wai.

The winner of the Miss Universe Myanmar 2025 competition, set to take place next June, will represent Myanmar at the 74<sup>th</sup> Miss Universe competition in Thailand. — ASH/TH



NATIONAL

Seafarers: Secure your rights now as regulations tighten

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation has urged seafarers to work to secure their rights in the stipulated framework as disciplinary action escalates.

On 21 May, a tripartite meeting was held at the Department of Marine Administration in Dawbon, attended by MSF as a seafarers' organization, Myanmar Seafarers' Employment

Services Federation (MSEF) representing Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service (SRPS), and Five Star on behalf of the Myanmar Shipowners' Association, and based on the discussion at the meeting, the MSF made that announcement.

Seafarers must follow the established procedures to ensure that their rights are not

lost, it said.

If a seafarer goes ashore and does not return to the ship on time, it is his default and he must admit it and apologize, failing which he will be punished. In addition, MSF has informed that the punishment to be imposed will be announced after the decision is made. — MT/ZN



A tripartite meeting in progress at the Department of Marine Administration in Dawbon on 21 May.

Yangon to host tourism-led earthquake relief event

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Tourism Marketing (MTM), a Tourism Earthquake Relief Event featuring famous singers is set on 24 May in Yangon, as a fundraising concert for quake victims.

With contributions from its donors, MTM previously provided financial support worth K40 million for quake-stricken areas. For more support, MTM organized this fundraising show, which is planned for 24 May at Rose Garden Hotel, starting at 6 pm.

At the event, entertainment by famous singers: May Kha Lar, He Lay, and Irene Zin Mar Myint, plus dinner and art auction by famous artists will be included, and the ticket price is K150,000.

All the earnings from the event will go to the rehabilitation of quake-hit areas. For more information or to buy the ticket, individuals can make a call to 09 5029602 and 09 5029603 or email info@tourismmyanmar.org, said MTM. — MT/ZS



This image showcases an advert poster for the Tourism Earthquake Relief Event.

3,700+ dead, 77 missing as quake rescue efforts ramp up

AS of 22 May, a total of 3,730 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 77 remained 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 807 deceased persons have been recovered.

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

Between 5 pm on 21 May and 5 pm on 22 May, various forms of international as-

sistance arrived at Yangon International Airport. This included 0.451 tonne of medicines and medical supplies donated by the Parami Group, a Buddhist association in Vietnam, through the Vietnamese Embassy, and 0.731 tonne of oatmeal from the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanjing.

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

Entrepreneurs: Access MSME loans & national development funds

ENTREPRENEURS can borrow MSME loans and national economic development funds from the regional government's non-loss capital if they need to implement projects in the zone, said State Administration Council Vice-Chairman, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

He made the above remarks during a visit to the under-construction Taikkyi breeding zone and the regional military headquarters' multi-purpose farming and breeding camps in Yangon Region

on 21 May.

He stressed the need to repay the loans regularly within the specified period and urged everyone to work together with determination, diligence and hard work to make the zone a success and to keep abreast with international competitors.

The Taikkyi livestock zone has been implemented in phases on 2101.04 acres of land since 3 September 2023.

Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and 16 private banks are extending loans

required by MSME entrepreneurs in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, regions and states for business expansion, and procurement of equipment and raw materials at the interest rate of three per cent per annum for at least 30 per cent of fixed capital, four per cent per annum for 100 per cent of working capital, and five per cent per annum for Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system, the MSME Development Fund Management Body has announced. — Htun Htun/ZN

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules	
1. Office of the State Administration Council <a href="https://sacoffice.gov.mm">https://sacoffice.gov.mm</a>	
2. Ministry of Defence <a href="https://www.mod.gov.mm">https://www.mod.gov.mm</a>	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs <a href="https://www.mlis.gov.mm">https://www.mlis.gov.mm</a>
4. Ministry of Information <a href="https://www.moi.gov.mm">https://www.moi.gov.mm</a>	5. Myawady Webportal <a href="https://myawady.net.mm">https://myawady.net.mm</a>
6. Myanmar National Portal <a href="https://myanmar.gov.mm">https://myanmar.gov.mm</a>	



NEWS IN BRIEF

UK inflation hits 15-month high as utility bills soar

BRITAIN'S annual inflation rate surged more than expected in April as energy and water bills rose sharply, official data showed on Wednesday.

The Consumer Prices Index soared to 3.5 per cent last month, up from 2.6 per cent in March, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a jump to 3.3 per cent.

At 3.5 per cent, the headline rate was the highest since the beginning of 2024, the ONS noted.

"I am disappointed with these figures because I know cost of living pressures are still weighing down on working people," finance minister Rachel Reeves said in a statement.

UK regulators allowed private companies to hike household bills from April, taking into account movements in oil and gas markets and indebted water providers. — AFP

# Consumer groups want airlines to pay for baggage fees ‘distress’

SIXTEEN European consumer groups have urged the EU to take action against seven budget airlines over “misleading” baggage fees, accusing carriers like Ryanair, Wizz Air, and easyJet of violating EU rules and causing confusion at check-ins with inconsistent and costly luggage policies. Sixteen European consumer groups on Wednesday called on the European Union to take action against seven low-cost airlines over their baggage fees.

The European Consumer Organisation, BEUC, which has overseen the initiative, accuses airlines of “misleading” passengers and creating “confusion” and “distress” at check-ins with their different policies.

The action by the consumer groups names easyJet, Norwegian, Ryanair, Transavia, Volotea, Vueling and Wizz Air. Passengers can pay up to 280 euros (\$315) to take on a suitcase, depending on the airline, according to the consumer groups. They say that the fees and policies imposed by the airlines breach European Union aviation regulations and European Court of Justice rulings.

The groups, which come from 12 EU nations, have sought an investigation by the European Commission and national consumer authorities in EU states. They also demanded sanctions for the “illegal” practices. — AFP



The action by the consumer groups names easyJet, Norwegian, Ryanair, Transavia, Volotea, Vueling and Wizz Air. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



The gathering of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors in Canada could find less agreement this year amid economic worries stemming from US President Donald Trump's tariffs. PHOTO: AFP

# G7 finance chiefs seek unity as Canada talks near end

The day began with a group photo and friendly exchanges, but friction quickly emerged during discussions.

TALKS among G7 finance ministers faced challenges Wednesday as the group worked to overcome divides on thorny issues like the impact of US President Donald Trump's tariffs and support for Ukraine.

The day began with an exchange of pleasantries and the traditional group photo in front of snow-capped mountains at a hotel in western Canada's Banff National Park.

With discussions set to close Thursday, hopes for a final communique reflecting unity among the Group of Seven advanced economies remained uncertain, as tensions persist on Trump's trade policies.

But friction among the group — comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — emerged shortly after meetings began.

Italian Finance Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti said the start of the talks faced “some difficulties.” But he added that the group was “able to overcome these differences”, and voiced hope a final statement reflecting G7 unity could be reached.

Few concrete details emerged from Wednesday's talks but US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had been expected to face pushback on Trump's tariffs, which threaten to drag down global economic growth. — AFP

# One third of India's Gen Z participating in securities market: SEBI Chief

THE demographic dividend of India is presenting a unique opportunity to deepen and broaden India's capital markets says Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

Speaking at the 16<sup>th</sup> Capital Market Conference (ASSOCHAM) at New Delhi, SEBI chairman said, “This trend reflects not only the rising trust in formal financial systems but also signals a significant opportunity for long-term wealth creation and inclusive participation in the nation's economic progress.”

Approximately one-third of Indian Gen Z are participating in the securities market, which highlights an encouraging sign of growing financial engagement at an early age.

SEBI chairman also reflected that the market ecosystem has almost triple folded itself since March 2019, which currently stands at 13 crores, this shows growing trust of retail investors in India's capital market. He further adds that there is still large ‘potential to expand further’.

Over the last decade, the capital markets have facilitated the infusion of approximately Rs93 lakh crore into various sectors through equity and debt issuances, thereby bolstering their growth. — ANI



# American semiconductor pioneer Wolfspeed nears collapse due to Washington’s policies

WOLFSPEED, once a flagship of US semiconductor innovation, teetered on bankruptcy after its stock plummeted 70 per cent Wednesday, erasing nearly US\$1.5 billion in market value.

According to the Wall Street Journal Pro on Wednesday, the Durham-based company, which opened a high-profile factory in New York’s Mohawk Valley three years ago, faced Chapter

11 restructuring amid \$6.5 billion in debt and fading federal support. The collapse followed months of financial strain exacerbated by Trump administration policies, including so-called recip-

rocal tariffs, and delayed CHIPS Act funding. The company lost \$750 million in anticipated federal grants after the White House scaled back semiconductor subsidies. It also lost key customers

Tesla and Volkswagen, resulting in a devastating 15 per cent revenue decline, according to the Electronics Weekly. “Policy uncertainty made long-term planning impossible,” said

Preston Caldwell, senior U.S. economist at Morningstar, in an analysis. Wolfspeed’s US-centric production strategy left it vulnerable to geopolitical tensions. — Xinhua

## Japan starts new gasoline subsidy to cut living costs



Japanese government officials announce the launch of a revamped gasoline subsidy programme to support consumers. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Japanese government started a new gasoline subsidy programme on Thursday to reduce fuel prices and cope with the rise in household living costs, local media reported. The revamped scheme aims to cut the prices of gasoline by 10 yen (about US\$0.07) per litre by mid-June, Kyodo News reported. Under the previous fuel subsidy policy introduced in January 2022, the government had

subsidized oil wholesalers to keep regular gasoline prices at around 185 yen per litre. The government plans to adjust the subsidy amount to a maximum of five yen per litre for the first week with the aim to reduce the wholesale gasoline price by 7.40 yen per litre. It then aims to reduce the price by at least 1 yen weekly until it is 10 yen lower by mid-June, the report said. — Xinhua

## Korean resident of Japan sues hotel over unrequired passport check

A third-generation ethnic Korean resident of Japan on Thursday sued a Tokyo hotel for refusing her a room after she declined to present a passport or residence card at check-in – identification she was not legally obligated to show. In the lawsuit, the woman in her 40s, who lives in Kobe, western Japan, is seeking 2.2 million yen (\$15,000) in damages from the hotel operator, alleging she suffered emotional distress from the incident last year. — Kyodo

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**Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.** invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (153N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (153N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**  
**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**  
  
Agent For:  
**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2506S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2506S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**  
**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**  
  
Agent For:  
**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V MCL 4 VOY.NO. (16N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 4 VOY. NO. (16N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
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**Shipping Agency Department  
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Agent For:  
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Myanma Port Authority**  
  
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ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

“Serious accident” occurred during launching ceremony of DPRK’s new warship



This handout satellite image from Maxar Technologies shows a general view of a new North Korean warship at a harbour ahead of its launch. PHOTO: SATELLITE IMAGE ©2025 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AFP

A “serious accident” occurred when the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) launched a newly-built 5,000-tonnage destroyer on Wednesday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Thursday.

During the launching ceremony at the Chongjin Shipyard, the launch slide of the stern has departed first and stranded as the flatcar failed to move in parallel, and some sections of the warship’s bottom crushed to destroy the balance of the warship and the bow could not leave the shipway, said the report, attributing the accident to “the inexperienced command and operational carelessness”.

Kim Jong Un, general sec-

retary of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, made a stern assessment after he watched the whole course of the accident, calling it “a serious accident and criminal act caused by absolute carelessness, irresponsibility and unscientific empiricism which is out of the bounds of possibility and could not be tolerated.”

The accident “brought the dignity and self-respect of our state to a collapse in a moment,” Kim was quoted as saying, adding the irresponsible errors of the relevant officials would have to be dealt with at the plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee to be convened next month. — Xinhua

Israeli PM condemns killing of embassy staff in US as “antisemitic attack”

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday expressed deep shock and outrage over the killing of two employees at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC, in what he described as an “antisemitic attack”.

According to a statement of the Prime Minister’s office, Netanyahu held a phone conversation with Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter, who briefed him on the details of the incident. The prime minister extended his support to the ambassador and staff members at the embassy. Two staff members from the Israeli Embassy in the United States were killed in a shooting Wednesday evening near the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, US Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said. — Xinhua

Japan shows off futuristic ‘railgun’ at defence expo

AS Japan’s biggest defence exhibition kicked off this week, visitors got a close-up look at a model of its futuristic “railgun” that its makers hope will be able to shoot down hypersonic missiles.

Instead of gunpowder, railgun technology uses electromagnetic energy to fire a projectile along a set of rails at ultra-high velocity.

The round will then in theory destroy the target, which could be an enemy ship, drone or incoming ballistic missile, solely with its vast kinetic energy.

Other countries are also developing the technology, but Japan’s navy last year claimed a world first by test-firing a railgun on a ship.

“A railgun is a gun of the future that fires bullets with electrical energy, unlike conventional artillery,” an official from the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) within Japan’s Ministry of Defence told AFP.

“It is expected that threats that can only be dealt with by railguns will emerge in the future,” said the official, who did not want to be named.

The three-day DSEI Japan Conference defence fair, which began on Wednesday, comes as Japan adopts a more assertive defence pol-

icy and looks to sell more military equipment to other countries.

In particular, Japan’s Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) and Germany’s Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems (TKMS) are competing for a major contract to supply the Australian navy with new warships. — AFP



Instead of using gunpowder to shoot an artillery shell, railgun technology uses electromagnetic energy to fire off a projectile along a set of rails at ultra-high velocity. PHOTO: JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE/AFP

Vatican may host Russia-Ukraine peace talks next week: Finnish president

TECHNICAL-level talks involving Russia and Ukraine may take place as early as next week at the Vatican, Finnish President Alexander Stubb said Wednesday evening in an interview with national broadcaster Yle.

Stubb said the talks would likely include representatives from the United States and European countries, calling the potential meeting a positive step towards broader international engagement in efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine.

“It is very probable that next week, for example at the Vatican, there will be a technical meeting involving Ukrainians, Russians, Americans, and Europeans,” he said.

He emphasized the growing role of European countries in the peace process. “We are entering a phase where Europe is also involved – and that is what we have been hoping for from the beginning,” Stubb said. — Xinhua



SPORTS

Team Myanmar starts training for Asian Cup qualifiers

THE Myanmar national football team will begin training on 23 May in preparation for their second match in the third-round qualifiers of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, scheduled for June.

Myanmar will face Pakistan on 10 June and will spend around two weeks preparing for the match. Head coach U Myo Hlaing Win will continue to lead the team, which currently consists of over 30 core players. Some players who are currently playing for overseas clubs, as well as a few from the Myanmar U22 national team, will join the squad later. The current squad mainly comprises players selected during the March



Myanmar and Afghanistani players are competing during the match. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

training camp. In the third-round qualifiers, Myanmar is grouped with Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the first-round matches held in March, Myanmar secured a 2-1 victory over Afghanistan, while Syria defeated Pakistan 2-0. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Fernandes offers to leave Man Utd to help club rebuild



Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRUNO Fernandes has offered to leave Manchester United if the club need to cash in on him in order to rebuild after the heartbreak of their Europa League final defeat by Tottenham. United lost 1-0 in Bilbao on Wednesday courtesy of a Brennan Johnson goal, compounding a miserable season for the club.

Manager Ruben Amorim said after the de-

feat that if the club no longer wanted him he would quit "without any conversation about compensation".

Now his captain, 30, has followed suit, aware of United's need for an overhaul of the playing staff despite financial constraints.

"I have always been honest. I've always said I will be here until the club says to me that it's time to go," said Fernandes.

"I'm eager to do more, to be able to bring the club to the great days. On the day that the club thinks that I'm too much or it's time to part ways, football is like this, you never know it.

"But I've always said it and I keep my word in the same way. If the club thinks it's time to part ways because they want to do some cashing in or whatever, it is what it is and football sometimes is like this."

Fernandes has been United's standout player for United this season but failed to make an impact against Spurs at the San Mames stadium. — AFP

Modric to leave Real Madrid after Club World Cup

REAL MADRID'S Croatian midfielder Luka Modric said Thursday he would leave the Spanish giants after the Club World Cup this summer.

"Everything in life has a start and an end... on Saturday I will play my last match at the Santiago Bernabeu," said Modric, 39, in a post on Instagram, as he reaches the end of his contract with Los Blancos.

"I'm leaving with a full heart, filled with pride,

gratitude and unforgettable memories.

"And even though, after the Club World Cup, I'm no longer going to wear this shirt on the pitch, I will always be a Madrid fan." The Croatian has played nearly 600 games for Real Madrid since joining from Tottenham in 2012, winning six Champions League and four La Liga titles among other trophies. — AFP



Joshua Van (R) will face Brazilian opponent Bruno Silva in what will be his next bout after a four-month break. **PHOTO: UFC**

Joshua Van to fight at UFC 316 in June

MYANMAR fighter Joshua Van is set to compete at the upcoming UFC 316 event, scheduled to take place in the United States on 7 June (on the morning of 8 June Myanmar Standard Time).

Joshua Van will face Brazilian opponent Bruno Silva in what will be his next bout after a four-month break. The two fighters were originally scheduled to clash on 8 March, but the fight was cancelled, leading Joshua Van to face a different opponent instead. Bruno Silva, aged 35, is considered a more experienced fighter than Joshua Van, having participated in 23 professional matches. He has been with the UFC since 2019 and has fought eight matches under the promotion, with four wins, three losses and one no-contest.

Joshua Van, on the other hand, has fought 15 professional matches, winning 13 and losing only two. Since joining the UFC, he has competed in seven bouts, winning six and losing one. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Queen of clay Swiatek's reign under threat at Roland Garros

IGA Swiatek has reigned supreme at Roland Garros since winning the Grand Slam for the first time as a teenager in 2020, but a difficult past year means she is far from the obvious choice this time for the title.

Swiatek dropped to a ranking of fifth this week, ending a 173-week stay inside the top two which now likely means she faces a tougher path to a fifth French Open crown in six attempts.

She is without a title since winning for the third time in a row in Paris last June, the first woman to do so since Justine Henin lifted the trophy from 2005-07. "It hasn't been easy. For sure I'm doing something wrong." — AFP



Iga Swiatek is without a title since winning Roland Garros for a fourth time last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



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# WORLD

## China, ASEAN fully complete negotiations on CAFTA 3.0 upgrade

CHINA and 10 ASEAN countries have fully completed negotiations on the Version 3.0 China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), a milestone in bilateral trade cooperation that will inject greater momentum and stability into the world economy.

The achievement was announced during a special online meeting of economic and trade ministers from China and ASEAN on Tuesday, according to China’s Ministry of Commerce. CAFTA 3.0 will send a strong signal in support of free trade and open cooperation, said the ministry, noting that the agreement will inject greater certainty into regional and global trade, and serve as a model for openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation.

Launched in 2010, the CAFTA, the world’s largest free trade zone among developing countries, has undergone continuous upgrades, with its Version 2.0 agreement signed in 2015 and coming into effect in 2019. With negotiations for CAFTA 3.0 now concluded, both parties will strive to formally sign the CAFTA 3.0 upgrade protocol before the end of this year, the ministry revealed. Exemplifying cooperation across the Global South, the conclusion of CAFTA 3.0 negotiations will greatly enhance China-ASEAN cooperation con-

cerning industrial capacity, technology and trade, while boosting ASEAN countries’ economic growth and industrialization, said Feng Gui, a law professor at Guangxi University of Finance and Economics in south China.— Xinhua

*Both parties aim to formally sign the CAFTA 3.0 upgrade protocol by the end of this year.*



An aerial drone photo taken on 21 March 2025 shows trucks loaded with fruits from ASEAN countries waiting for customs clearance at the port of the Friendship Pass in Pingxiang, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. PHOTO: CAO YIMING/XINHUA

## 500% tariffs on Russian trade partners to cause ‘economic calamity’ in US: Sen Paul

US Senator Lindsey Graham’s (recognized as a terrorist in Russia) new Russia sanctions bill that seeks 500 per cent

tariffs on the country’s trade partners amounts to an embargo and could trigger an unprecedented economic crisis in

the United States itself, Sen Rand Paul warned on Wednesday.

“While tariffs make wars more likely, embargoes make wars difficult to avoid. Senator Lindsey Graham’s\* Sanctioning Russia Act calls for 500 per cent tariffs on dozens of countries and essentially amounts to an embargo,” Paul said in an article for Responsible Statecraft. “If this bill were to pass, it would cause an economic calamity on a scale never before seen in our country.” Paul believes that while aimed at Russia, the bill also harms US allies and America itself, reflecting Washington’s failed attempts to impose its will on Russia. The senator noted that the bill orders the president to impose 500 per cent tariffs on imports from any country trading key energy resources with Russia with the rate doubling every 90 days and potentially reaching 1,000 per cent within months. — SPUTNIK



Senator Rand Paul has warned that this bill could lead to an unprecedented economic crisis in the United States. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS

Work on Russia-Ukraine peace agreement memo progressing: Kremlin

KREMLIN spokesperson Dmitry Peskov announced Wednesday that work on a memorandum for a potential Russia-Ukraine peace agreement is actively progressing. Speaking at a press briefing, Peskov noted that much of the work remains confidential “for obvious reasons”. He emphasized Russia’s openness to efforts from any country willing to contribute to resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Peskov added that the location for further negotiations between Russia and Ukraine has not yet been determined. Meanwhile, Russia is working to implement a prisoner exchange agreement involving 1,000 captives, which was reached with Ukraine in Istanbul, Türkiye. — Xinhua