

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

State honours Union Ministers and Tatmadaw personnel for service and post-Mocha rehabilitation efforts



President-elect and the State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the ceremony to present honorary gifts yesterday.

PRESIDENT-ELECT and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed appreciation and presented honorary gifts to the Union Ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers who served for the State, and officials who dutifully performed in rehabilitation processes after natural disasters, including the Mocha storm.

He delivered a speech at the ceremony held at the Banquet Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council Chairman yesterday.

In his speech, the Senior General stated that Tatmadaw, under his leadership, had assumed responsibility for the State in accordance with the Constitution after the declaration of a state of emergency due to electoral irregularities in

the 2020 general election, and has been carrying out State responsibilities from 1 February 2021 up to the present. Since taking office, numerous difficulties and challenges have been encountered, but these have been overcome through the collective efforts of the commission members, government officials, Tatmadaw personnel, and the people.

At the beginning of the tenure, the

country was facing a severe outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through joint efforts of Tatmadaw personnel and health-care workers in prevention and treatment measures, the pandemic was overcome with minimal loss. He also expressed recognition and appreciation for those who organized and participated in these efforts.

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OPINION

Control smoke haze and air pollution as national responsibilities

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First regular session of Third Pyithu Hluttaw concludes

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DPRPW prioritizes improvement of subordinate units while enhancing civil-military relations

NATIONAL

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Prime Minister of Kingdom of Thailand send congratulatory message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his election of President

HIS Excellency Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, President-elect and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, on the occasion of his election as President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

*Office of the Prime Minister, Government House, Bangkok.
7 April BE 2569 (2026)*

Excellency,

I have the honour to extend my sincere congratulations to Your Excellency on your appointment as President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Thailand and Myanmar have long enjoyed close and friendly relations, grounded in mutual respect, shared interests and strong people-to-people ties. Thailand stands ready to support Myanmar's efforts towards peace, stability, and national development, for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.

I am confident that, under Your Excellency's able leadership, relations between our two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

*Anutin Charnvirakul
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand*

Organizations hail President's election in official statements

VARIOUS associations, organizations and committees have issued statements expressing their pride and congratulations on the election of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as President.

At the presidential election held on 3 April 2026, the Presidential Electoral College, com-

prising all representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, elected Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who had been chosen as Vice-President by the group of elected Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Following this, congratula-

tory statements were released by the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (Central), the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, the Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association, the Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs Association (MMBEA), and the Zafar Shah Dargah Custodian

Committee in Yangon Region.

In their statements, the organizations expressed their heartfelt pride and congratulations on his election by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. They also conveyed their best wishes for him to carry out the responsibilities of advancing the interests and development of the

people of Myanmar with sound physical and mental health and prosperity.

Furthermore, they expressed hopes that under the leadership of the President, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will enjoy peace, stability and greater socio-economic development. — MNA/KZL

Congratulatory Message

MR Ivan Polyakov, Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, sent a congratulatory message to HE Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, President-elect and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, on the occasion of his election as President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

*Ivan Polyakov
Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council*

Congratulatory Message

THE Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs Association (MMBEA) extends its heartfelt pride and congratulations on the election of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

On the occasion of his election as President, the association respectfully conveys its best wishes that he may be endowed with peace of mind, good health and happiness, and that he may carry out the responsibilities of the State with a sound body and mind.

With utmost respect, the association offers its sincere prayers and goodwill.

*Myanmar Muslim Business
Entrepreneurs Association (MMBEA)*

Congratulatory Message

THE Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association extends its heartfelt pride and congratulations on the election of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The association also conveys its sincere wishes that, under the leadership of the President, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will enjoy peace, stability and prosperity, and achieve greater development and progress.

Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association

Congratulatory Message

WE extend our heartfelt pride and congratulations on the election of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

On the occasion of his election as President, we respectfully offer our best wishes that he may be blessed with peace of mind, good health and happiness, and that he may carry out the responsibilities of the State with strength, well-being and a sound body and mind.

With utmost respect, we express our sincere prayers and goodwill.

*Zafar Shah Dargah Custodian Committee
Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, Yangon Region*

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

State honours Union Ministers and Tatmadaw personnel for service and post-Mocha rehabilitation efforts

FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, the extremely powerful Cyclone Mocha struck Rakhine State, causing significant casualties and widespread damage to offices, residential buildings, schools, hospitals, and religious buildings on 14 May 2023.

He mentioned his instant visit to Rakhine State after the storm to encourage the storm victims and conduct rehabilitation activities with strong momentum by forming the National Disaster Management Committee. Tatmadaw members and the government cooperated to conduct rescue works and rehabilitation processes, and Tatmadaw force was mainly applied in clearing debris and restoring the affected areas to conditions better than before.

He also highlighted the cooperation among the government, departments and Tatmadaw members, as such effective rehabilitation activities were conducted in a short period, the transportation processes of relief items, construction materials and food, including the donated items, with the Tatmadaw aircraft and vessels utilized promptly.

He then talked about the main reason for the event, to express gratitude and present honorary gifts to senior Tatmadaw officers who served duties eagerly during the Mocha storm and rehabilitation processes, sacrificing their lives.

He continued that on 11 September 2024, Super Typhoon Yagi, originating from the South China Sea, caused the heaviest rainfall in 70 years across Nay Pyi Taw, Kayin State, Kayah State, Shan State, Mandalay Region, Magway Re-



The President-elect and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts of honour to commission member General Maung Maung Aye (L) and Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than at the yesterday's ceremony.

gion, and Mon State, resulting in severe flooding. During this disaster, Tatmadaw cooperated with the government and the people in rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Similarly, the powerful Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025 caused significant damage in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Sagaing, and also in other regions. Tatmadaw members actively participated in rescue, clearance, and rehabilitation work. He expressed gratitude to all senior Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and members who ensured

swift and effective participation in disaster response, including Cyclone Mocha and other natural disasters.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Union Minister for Industry for improving industrial businesses and MSMEs, the backbone of the State economy, during the five years.

The Senior General urged Tatmadaw to serve for the interest of people in times of the country's need, uphold the mindset "the people are the mother, the people are the father" and serve public service activities in different sectors.

President-elect and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented gifts of honour to commission members General Maung Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Phone Myat, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, General Kyaw Swa Lin, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and retired Tatmadaw senior officers.

After the ceremony, the Senior General cordially greeted the attendees. — MNA/KTZH

Organizations hail President's election ...

FROM PAGE 2

Congratulatory Message

THE Myanmar Women's Sports Federation extends its heartfelt congratulations and pride on the election of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Federation respectfully conveys its best wishes, praying that he may carry out the duties of advancing the interests and development of the people of Myanmar with good health, both physically and mentally, and with prosperity and success.

Myanmar Women's Sports Federation

Congratulatory Message

THE Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (Central) extends its heartfelt pride and congratulations on the election of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The association respectfully conveys its best wishes that he may carry out the responsibilities of advancing the interests and development of the people of Myanmar with sound health, happiness, and prosperity.

Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (Central)

Trading amount and foreign exchange rate in the FE market on 8 April 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rate	3,653-3,669	557-558.7	125.3-125.7	43.6
Trading amount in the market	11,318,037.20	4,454,254.7	30,473,318.58	
The amount sold by CBM into the market			3,341,241.94	

- Such a large amount of trading foreign currencies in the market was sold for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, fertilizers, medicines, raw materials for medical supplies, communication devices, raw industrial materials, auto/motorcycle parts, electronics and foodstuffs. US\$0.75 million from earnings of the CMP sector was sold to the edible oil sector, and the Central Bank of Myanmar sold 3.34 Thai baht to the construction sector. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

First regular session of Third Pyithu Hluttaw concludes



The first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw holds its fifth day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw convention hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw continued its fifth day of meetings at the Pyithu Hluttaw convention hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with 368 of 372 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives in attendance.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw stated that the Hluttaw has recorded congratulatory messages sent on his election as Speaker by the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on 17 March; the Chairperson of the Belaya Rus Party of the Republic of Belarus on 17 March; the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 19 March; the Minister of the International Affairs Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on 23 March; and the Vice-Chairman of the Russia-Myanmar Association

for Friendship and Cooperation on 23 March, and that during the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, 21 observers from political parties and five members of the public attended the session as observers.

Then, in his opening remarks, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives) stated that the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw commenced on 16 March 2026 and would conclude on 8 April. He further noted that the Hluttaw is a place where representatives are granted the privilege of serving the people. He added that throughout the Hluttaw building, the following mottos are displayed in various locations: "The People's Voice, the Hluttaw's Voice; the People's Will, the Hluttaw's Will; the People's Expectations, implemented by the Hluttaw".

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw stated that, during the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, representatives — acting on behalf of the citizens who elected them — had successfully elected and confirmed the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Union Government, and Union-level organizations. Consequently, the primary responsibilities of the Hluttaw had been accomplished within a short period. The Pyithu Hluttaw expressed its gratitude and took great pride in recording these achievements for both Hluttaw representatives and all citizens.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw stated that, during the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, representatives — acting on behalf of the citizens who elected them — had successfully

elected and confirmed the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Union Government, and Union-level organizations, thereby accomplishing the Hluttaw's primary responsibilities within a short period, for which the Pyithu Hluttaw expressed its gratitude and pride, while also emphasizing the need to carry out duties and responsibilities with genuine goodwill and redoubled efforts to ensure the continuous development and stability of the people's socioeconomic well-being.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw stated that, as representatives of the legislative pillar, one of the nation's key pillars, they must ensure that their duties and authority align with existing laws, rules, procedures, and directives, dedicating their spare time to studying legal matters, and, as elected representatives of the citizens, he trusts and expects them to work with foresight and in accordance with the law on issues concerning their constituencies, the citizens within them, and the nation as a whole, urging them to strive to become "benevolent heroes" who fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw concluded his remarks by extending his best wishes for health and happiness to all during the upcoming Myanmar New Year of 1388 and expressing his hope to meet all the representatives again in good health and spirits at the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw.

Subsequently, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw informed that the fifth day of the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw had concluded and officially announced the successful completion of the session before adjourning the meeting. — MNA/TH

State-run newspapers to alternate publication during Thingyan holidays

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in alternate circulation during the holidays of the Myanmar New Year.

The Myanma Alinn and

The Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 11 to 14 April, while the Kyemon daily will take a break.

The Keymon will be published from 15 to 19 April, whereas the Myanma Alinn

and The Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays.

The Supplement Sector in the Shan Language by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi), published every Thursday,

will take a break on 16 April, whereas the Ethnic Sector in Mon, Skaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O languages, published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) on 12 and 19 April, will be published

regularly after the Thingyan holidays.

However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays, and all dailies will be published regularly from 20 April. — MNA/KTZH

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

1st regular session of 3rd Amyotha Hluttaw concludes successfully

THE first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw continued its fourth-day meeting at the convention hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with 211 out of 213 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives in attendance.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker submitted and recorded congratulatory messages sent to the Hluttaw on the occasion of his election as Speaker from Mr Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Ms Valentina Matvienko, Head of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ms Natalia Kochanova, Head of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar.

The Speaker announced that the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw was successfully concluded. The session was held from 18 March to 8 April 2026. On the first day of the session, the Hluttaw elected the meeting chair from among its representatives and carried out the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The Amyotha Hluttaw representative group elected Nan Ni Ni Aye (PR System) from the Kayin State Constituency 2 as Vice-President. As the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, in accordance with Section 24 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 44 of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw, submissions were made to the Hluttaw and approvals obtained for the formation of committees, including the Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee, and the Government Guarantees, Pledges, Undertakings Vetting Committee. These included proposals regarding the number of members, lists of representatives to serve on each committee, and the name



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe presides over the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's fourth-day meeting at the convention hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

lists of chairpersons and secretaries, along with the duties, powers, rights, and terms of the committees.

The Speaker also said the Hluttaw boasts the legislative power. Therefore, it is the primary responsibility of Hluttaw representatives to exercise this power to enact laws that promote peace, the rule of law, and national reconciliation, aiming to build a prosperous and developed nation for the people. He also noted the importance of having a comprehensive understanding of the processes of the administrative and judicial sectors, and warned the representatives to ensure that their actions and statements should not influence these two sectors.

He stated that democracy is a system of government in which power is vested in the people. Since all citizens cannot sit in the Hluttaw themselves, they elect representatives to act on their behalf. Therefore, representatives must regard their duties as responsibilities entrusted by the people, share in the hardships faced by the public, and act in accordance

with the law for the benefit of the people.

He added that all representatives, together with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, are now on a shared journey, despite coming from diverse backgrounds. While differences in opinions and views may arise during legislative discussions, questions, and proposals, such differences should be resolved through negotiation

and discussion for the national interest and the welfare of citizens as the priority.

Although representatives may belong to different political parties, they must recognize that they are elected as representatives of the people, and work with mutual respect and consultation. Being a Hluttaw representing ethnic nationalities, they should act with a strong Union spirit.

In conclusion, he urged representatives, during the Hluttaw recess, to listen to the voices of the people, engage closely with their daily lives, and strive to bring the people's concerns, aspirations, and needs into the Hluttaw by submitting questions, proposals, and bills.

He expressed that all would work to effectively promote the interests of the public and encouraged them to continue striving for peace, prosperity, and the success of democracy in Myanmar. He also wished all representatives good health and a safe return to their respective regions. The Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw adjourned the fourth-day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw and announced that the first regular meeting of the third Amyotha Hluttaw was concluded successfully. — MNA/KTZH



Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representatives sign at the attendance register book.



Books and historical materials donation ceremony is in progress at the Defence Services Museum Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Books donated to Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute

A donation ceremony of books and historical materials to the Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute of the Commander-in-Chief Office (Army) took place at the Defence Services Museum Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Daw Myint Myint Khine (Professor, Maths, Dept Head (Rtd)), daughter of hero Mahn Ba Khine, donated "True Stories of the Mahn

Ba Khine Family", along with biographical books on Mahn Ba Khine and Daw Khin Ni, mathematics-related books, and a commemorative photo album (12 photos) from the "Bogyoke Aung San and Martyrs Biography Exhibition" dated 1 September 1962, a Martyrs' Day photo record album containing 159 photographs, an umbrella once used by Mahn Ba Khine, 14 Myanmar Than Taw Sint dailies published

in 1872 (from No 25 to 48) donated by Dhamma Than Taw Sint, Myanmar Than Taw Sint News Agency of Mandalay and other historical books.

After the event, the director of the Defence Services Historical Research Institute expressed gratitude and presented a certificate of honour to the editor-in-chief of the Dhamma Than Taw Sint. — Bala/KTZH

NATIONAL

DPRPW prioritizes improvement of subordinate units while enhancing civil-military relations

THE Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) marked its 79th anniversary at the No 2 Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit in Taungnyo of Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, yesterday morning, attended by State Security and Peace Commission Secretary Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said: The Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, in carrying out its duties in line with the needs of the State and Tatmadaw, has undergone various changes in name and organizational structure over different periods. However, it can be observed that it has consistently strived to effectively implement its four core responsibilities — public relations, psychological warfare, mobilization, and public education — in accordance with its original objectives.

Observing current global developments, it can be seen that countries around the world are continuously assessing, amid numerous challenges, the strength and foundation of their education systems daily. It is also evident that the State requires a large number of well-educated human resources, and likewise, for national defence and security tasks, it is necessary to have a substantial number of well-educated personnel within the Tatmadaw.

Tatmadaw is one of the strongest institutions that must exist as long as the State exists. As an organization that must carry out national defence duties in cooperation with the entire population, it is of utmost importance to continuously nurture and develop high-quality human



State Security and Peace Commission Secretary and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo speaks at the 79th anniversary of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

resources within Tatmadaw who are equipped with both knowledge and skills.

Therefore, starting from the 2026-2027 academic year, a new education sector will be implemented. This new sector aims to ensure continuous responsibility for the education of the children of serving Tatmadaw officers and other ranks, the children of retired personnel, and the children of fallen officers and soldiers. To achieve this, Tatmadaw Youth Education Schools will be established in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, where basic education at the high school level will be provided.

By establishing and implementing such schools, it is expected that a new generation of capable youth for national defence will continuously emerge, along with the development of well-educated and qualified human resources within Tatmadaw. Students who demonstrate good academic progression and meet the standards set by the Ministry of Education will be supported by Tatmadaw to continue their studies at Tatmadaw-related universities and academies, military medical training institutions, as well as computer diploma and sergeant

clerk training courses.

The Public Relations and Psychological Warfare units are composed of personnel grounded in fields such as intellectual work, technical expertise, literature, music, and media. Therefore, maintaining unity and cohesion within these units is of great importance. In carrying out assigned duties, it is necessary to emphasize collective strength over individual capability and to perform responsibilities effectively through teamwork.

Efforts will be made to further modernize and strengthen both the structural and substantive aspects required for the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare and its subordinate units, which play a key role in ensuring the long-term stability and strength of civil-military relations. At the same time, under the current administration, it is strongly urged that the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare units continue to enhance their capabilities and actively contribute to national affairs with sustained support and effort.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented prizes to the winners from the subordinate units and schools

under the directorate in the national-level literary contests.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief presented K7.9 million to mark the 79th anniversary of the directorate, awarded by President-elect and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Director of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.

The Director also presented a commemorative gift to the General.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and party enjoyed the entertainment of the units under the DPRPW.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin presented cash awards to the artistes and entertainment troupes, and the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, the flower basket to officials.

After the ceremony, the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief viewed programme broadcasting at the TV studio at the Myawady TV (Nay Pyi Taw) Broadcasting Station, functions of the master control room and daily work process. He also visited the documentary photo gallery to mark the 79th Anniversary

of the directorate.

Also, present at the ceremony were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, retired senior Tatmadaw officers who served at the directorate, officials from the Ministry of Information, and guests.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief had lunch together with guests and staff at the No 2 TV Broadcasting Unit.

The Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) was established on 1 August 1947, alongside the history of Myanmar's independence. Throughout successive eras in the Tatmadaw's history, it has successfully carried out public relations, psychological warfare, and educational and mobilization activities for Tatmadaw members. In the future as well, it will continue to perform its duties while upholding the interests of the State and the people as its foremost priority. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Tatmadaw marks 79th PR & PSYWAR Anniversary

THE award ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) was held yesterday evening at the No 2 TV Broadcasting Unit in Taungnyo of Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony began with a speech by Chairperson Lt-Gen Zaw Hein of the Psychological Affairs and Public Relations Committee, followed by the presentation of awards. Recipients included winners of the best cartoon, poetry, essay, short story, and long story categories in Myawady, Ngwetayi, and Thuta Alin magazines, as well as domestic and international competition winners. Each recipient received

a certificate of recognition and prizes individually.

Additionally, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander presented awards to staff and officers who served for ten years in the Tatmadaw Broadcasting and Television Units and Myawady Publishing House and Newspaper Houses.

Finally, the director of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare presented awards to outstanding officers, soldiers, and staff from the Tatmadaw Broadcasting and Television Units, Myawaddy Publishing House, and Myawaddy Newspaper House.

Following the ceremony, all attending senior officers and guests were hosted at a formal dinner reception. — MNA/KZL



The award ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) in progress in Taungnyo, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Myanmar attends virtual ASEAN Central Bank Deputies' Meetings

THE ASEAN Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (ACDM), the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFCDM), and related meetings were held on 7 and 8 April in a fully virtual format, hosted by the Philippines. A delegation led by Dr Sanda Oo, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, participated via video conferencing.

At the ASEAN Central Bank Deputies' Meeting held on 7 April, participants exchanged views on priority economic deliverables under the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship, progress made by committees on financial integration, matters relating to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the restoration of the ASEAN currency swap arrangement, and the role of central banks in promoting regional capital market integration. The deputies also endorsed matters requiring approval.

During the meeting, Dr Sanda Oo stated that the 2026 priority economic deliverables would enhance the efficiency of financial markets, expand financial services, and support the development of secure and reliable payment systems. She affirmed that the Central Bank of Myanmar fully



Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Sanda Oo takes part in the ASEAN Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (ACDM), the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFCDM), in a virtual format, hosted by the Philippines.

supports these initiatives and will continue to cooperate with ASEAN partners to promote financial inclusion, capital market development, and sustainable payment connectivity. She also noted that Myanmar has completed its domestic procedures and is ready to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the restoration of the ASEAN currency swap arrangement, which represents an important milestone for all ASEAN member states.

In the afternoon, the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting continued, with discussions covering progress on

the ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan (2026-2030), the draft ASEAN Financial Integration Report 2026, updates from ASEAN committees, ongoing work under the ASEAN financial and monetary integration roadmap, the classification of economic activities and investments in line with environmental sustainability, the release of the fourth report on sustainable finance in the region, and strategic partnership frameworks between ASEAN and the Asian Development Bank. Participants exchanged views and endorsed relevant matters.

On 8 April, the ASEAN+3

Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting was held. The International Monetary Fund presented the global economic outlook, while the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office outlined regional economic prospects. The Asian Development Bank also briefed participants on the potential macroeconomic impacts of developments in the Middle East on Asia and the Pacific.

Discussions also covered issues under the Chiang Mai Initiative, including the use of local currencies for regional payments, the 17th test run of the currency swap arrangement, cross-border

and digital payment systems, developments in the ASEAN bond market, and disaster risk financing mechanisms. Deputies exchanged views on these matters.

Dr Sanda Oo welcomed the 17th test run of the currency swap arrangement under the Chiang Mai Initiative and expressed support for revisions to the Operational Guidelines based on the outcomes of the 16th test conducted in 2025. She noted that such annual test runs help strengthen regional financial stability, improve operational effectiveness and transparency, enhance confidence in swap arrangements among member countries, identify operational weaknesses, and improve preparedness for short-term balance-of-payments difficulties. She added that the Central Bank of Myanmar will continue to participate actively in future test runs and contribute to strengthening the resilience of the ASEAN+3 financial system.

The 22nd ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting (ACGM), the 13th ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM), and related meetings will be reportedly held from 9 to 10 April 2026. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Control smoke haze and air pollution as national responsibilities

THE problem of smoke haze and air pollution is a critical environmental challenge not only for Myanmar but also for regional countries. Smoke haze pollution is, in fact, a form of air pollution. As it poses risks to all living beings, collective efforts with a national approach are required to control smoke haze and air pollution, not only in urban areas but also across transboundary border regions.

Smoke haze air pollution most commonly occurs in transboundary border areas. Each year, haze pollution is typically observed in border regions between January and May. As transboundary haze frequently affects neighbouring countries that share borders, joint efforts are being carried out with neighbouring countries to control and reduce haze pollution before and during the dry season.

According to reports from the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre based in Singapore regarding conditions that could lead to transboundary haze, Myanmar and other countries in the northern ASEAN region, particularly the Mekong subregion, have reached Alert Level 3 for fire hotspots and haze occurrence starting from 27 March 2026. It has been noted that dry weather conditions continue to persist in the Mekong region, and the number of fire hotspots and haze incidents may increase further. Based on satellite monitoring, fire hotspots were widely observed across Myanmar and Laos within the Mekong region on 25 and 26 March.

Dry conditions are forecast to prevail across most parts of the Mekong subregion in the coming week, and the situation of fire hotspots and haze may worsen, with an increased risk of transboundary haze within the Mekong region. To address the current transboundary haze pollution along the borders of Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos, measures are being undertaken at the national level through the formation of environmental conservation committees, bilateral joint response committees, and region- and state-level task forces.

In those areas, coordinated preventive measures must be taken to avoid further outbreaks of fires, including vigilance against spontaneous forest fires. Local organizations are required to carry out advanced awareness activities to prevent slash-and-burn practices, the burning of crop residues, and forest fires. Efforts must also be made to achieve the targeted reduction set for this year.

Therefore, as air pollution and smoke haze can have significant impacts on the environment, people living in urban and border areas need to consciously reduce activities that cause air pollution and haze. It is necessary for the public to cooperate with the State and participate collectively in a national effort to address and mitigate these issues.

WHEN I was young, I once heard my father say, "When I play the violin, I can forget everything." I did not understand what he truly meant at that time. Whenever he played, he seemed completely absorbed in it, as if the rest of the world had ceased to exist. Sometimes, he would even hum or sing along while playing, creating a melody that filled the room with life and calm at the same time.

"Playing music is not just entertainment; it is a way to reconnect with oneself," my father often implied through his actions rather than words.

Watching him, I saw a strange magic: a man in his fifties or sixties, sitting quietly, yet as he drew the bow across the strings, the weight of the world seemed to vanish from his shoulders. As a child, I thought perhaps this was simply a hobby or a form of relaxation. Only now, with more years and experiences, do I understand that playing the violin was his personal way to refresh his mind – to restart his thoughts and let go of fatigue, worries, and mental clutter.

"Sometimes, the human mind truly needs a break, just like a tired body," I realized as I grew older.

It is fascinating how certain activities – so simple in appearance – can have profound effects on mental health. Music, for example, is not only about producing beautiful sounds. It is about creating a space where the mind can wander freely without judgement,

where emotions can flow naturally, and where stress can slowly dissolve. Even when my father struggled with daily responsibilities or felt overwhelmed by work, a half-hour with his violin seemed to restore his energy.

"Even a brief moment of focus and creativity can rejuvenate the mind," I once read in a psychology article, and seeing my father live this truth made it real for me.

The idea of "refreshing" or "restarting" the mind, of course, is not new, but in today's digital age, we have borrowed these very words from technology. Computers, which most of us interact with daily, use "Refresh" and "Restart" as small yet essential tools to maintain efficiency. Every computer user knows that when you right-click and choose "Refresh", the screen may flicker briefly, but the content resets itself. It is a tiny, almost invisible act that brings order and smooth functioning back to the system. Similarly, when a computer slows down or becomes unresponsive, pressing Restart gives it a fresh start, allowing all processes to work again with renewed energy.

"Even machines need to refresh sometimes; why shouldn't humans?" I often think.

This analogy is striking because it shows that all living beings, even ourselves, can benefit from small interventions to restore balance. Mental refreshment does not always require grand gestures. Sometimes, it can be as simple as stepping away from daily routines, taking a



To Be More Productive ...

By Min Min Zan

walk in nature, listening to music, meditating, or even reading a few pages of a favourite book. What matters is the intention behind the act – the conscious decision to pause, reset, and regain clarity.

By coincidence, my friends also happen to be at Ngwehsaung Beach today. These are people in their seventies, more than a

hundred of them, gathering not for business or work, but simply to spend time together. They organized the trip carefully, travelling from Yangon in two large buses, yet I didn't know whether they went to "restart" or "refresh" their minds. When I called one

of them, I discovered that they had all been first-year students at Patheingyi College in 1973, and this beach trip was already the third time they had come together like this.

"Friendship is not only about companionship; it is also about re-

freshing the spirit through shared memories," I thought, smiling to myself.

Seeing them, I realized how much our minds crave such moments. Like my father with his violin, like a computer with a Refresh button, like my friends gathering at the beach – sometimes, we all need deliberate, conscious acts to release the weight of accumulated stress and to renew our spirits. Mental refreshment does not always require elaborate plans; it can be a hobby, a short trip, music, meditation, or simply spending time with old friends. What matters is the act of intentionally giving our minds a break.

Reflecting further, I notice that mental refresh is also deeply tied to memory. Just as my father's music made him forget worries, and just as a computer refresh restores the display to full clarity, our minds need moments of stillness to organize thoughts and strengthen emotional resilience. Stress and fatigue, if left unchecked, accumulate like clutter in a room, making it difficult to focus, enjoy, or make decisions. Refreshing the mind is like tidying that room – it clears the space for creativity, clarity, and emotional health.

"A refreshed mind sees opportunities, solutions, and beauty where a tired mind sees only obstacles," I reflected.

In our busy lives, it is easy to forget this truth. We push ourselves to keep working, keep moving, and keep thinking, often at the expense of our own

well-being. Yet, observing my father and my friends reminds me that pausing is productive. Pausing is not wasting time; it is preparing ourselves to engage fully and effectively. Even moments of silence or simple joy can serve as mini-resets for the brain and soul.

Thinking about my friends at Ngwehsaung Beach, I imagine the laughter, the shared memories, the gentle waves, and the calm sea breeze. All of these are forms of mental refreshment. Each conversation, each joke, each moment of quiet observation helps them release stress and reconnect with life. I feel genuinely happy for them, knowing that at seventy or more, they still value and practice this essential part of living fully.

"Life is not just to be lived; it is also to be refreshed," I thought.

As I write this, I feel inspired by both the past and present. I remember my father, still absorbed in his violin, and my friends, laughing together on the shores of Ngwehsaung Beach. Both examples remind me that refreshing the mind is not a luxury – it is a necessity. Our mental health, happiness, and even productivity depend on it. Life itself, like music or a computer screen, sometimes needs a gentle reset. And when we allow ourselves that, we can return to the world with a renewed sense of energy, clarity, and joy.

"Refresh. Restart. Reclaim your mind. Life is meant to be lived fully," I concluded to myself.

Common Discourse Structures Used in Everyday Life

DISCOURSE analysis is an important branch of linguistics that examines how language is used in real-life social interaction. Instead of studying language only at the level of individual sentences, discourse analysis focuses on how meaning is created through connected speech, conversation, and contextual use. It reveals that everyday communication is not random or chaotic. Rather, it follows recognizable patterns, rules,

and structures that speakers often use unconsciously. These discourse structures help people manage conversations smoothly by organizing how they begin, develop, and end interactions.

One important function of discourse structures is helping speakers manage the entry and exit of conversations. Almost every interaction has a clear opening and closing. These are not accidental; they are guided by social conventions. A common in-

teractional pattern includes three stages: an opening greeting, a main exchange, and a closing sequence. Greetings such as "Hello" or "How are you?" establish social connections and signal willingness to interact. Closings like "Goodbye" or "See you later" mark the end of interaction and show politeness and respect. They also suggest that the social relationship will continue in the future. However, these entry and exit patterns vary across cultures.

In some societies, silence may function as an acceptable opening, showing that discourse rules are culturally shaped rather than universal.

Once a conversation has started, speakers must manage turn-taking, which refers to how participants decide who speaks, when, and for how long. In most everyday conversations, speakers follow the rule of speaking one at a time. To manage this, they rely on turn-taking signals, such as

intonation, pauses, eye contact, and gestures. Another important concept related to turn-taking is adjacency pairs. These are predictable pairs of utterances, such as question – answer, greeting – greeting, or request – response.

If the expected second part of an adjacency pair does not occur, the interaction may feel awkward or incomplete. However, in institutional discourse such as classrooms, lectures, or meetings, turn-taking rules are different. One speaker, usually the teacher

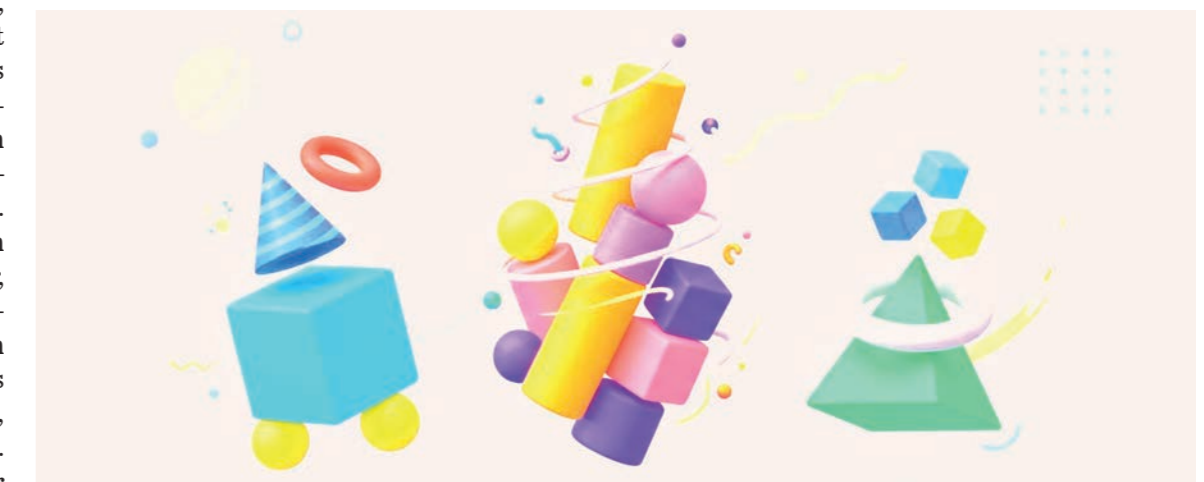
or presenter, may control the floor for an extended period.

In addition to managing turns, discourse analysis also examines topic management. Conversations usually focus on a particular topic, but they often

move from one topic to another. These changes are called topic shifts, and speakers frequently use topic shift markers such as "by the way" or "speaking of that". Successful topic management depends heavily on shared

knowledge between speakers. This includes not only personal experiences but also encyclopaedic knowledge, which refers to general world knowledge shared within a culture.

SEE PAGE 10



ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Common Discourse Structures Used in Everyday Life

FROM PAGE 9

For example, when people talk about holidays, the conversation naturally extends to travel, hotels, food, and weather. This predictable development shows how discourse relies on common cultural understanding.

Speech is not limited to words alone; it is a form of multimodal social interaction that includes both verbal and non-verbal communication. Discourse analysis pays close attention to relation markers, which indicate the social relationship between speakers. These include physical distance, eye contact, and body posture. Such markers differ widely across cultures. For in-

stance, in some Arab cultures, speakers may sit closer and use more physical contact, while in American culture, greater personal distance is preferred. Structure markers also play an important role. Actions like a handshake, bow, or hug can signal the beginning or ending of an interaction. In British culture, a handshake often marks a formal relationship rather than intimacy. Similarly, greeting rituals vary: sometimes people greet a group as a whole, while in other contexts, they greet individuals separately.

Non-verbal signals are especially significant in managing turn-taking. Among these, eye gaze is one of the most impor-

tant. Typically, listeners maintain more eye contact with the speaker, while speakers may look away while thinking or speaking. When a speaker finishes a turn, they often look directly at the listener to signal a turn transition. Other turn-taking cues include raising a hand, leaning forward, or changing body orientation. Conversely, avoiding eye contact or continuing gestures may signal the desire to hold the floor and continue speaking.

Non-verbal behaviour also functions as content markers, which support or clarify spoken meaning. Head movements can indicate agreement or disagreement, but these gestures are not always universal. Finger

counting, pointing, and size gestures vary across cultures and may cause misunderstanding if interpreted incorrectly. Some cultures avoid touching a child's head, while others use specific gestures to express emotion or attitude. These non-verbal cues work together with spoken language to enhance meaning-making. Skilled speakers often coordinate speech and gesture, much like a conductor leading an orchestra. This coordination is more controlled in prepared discourse, such as speeches, than in spontaneous conversation.

In conclusion, discourse analysis provides valuable insight into the hidden structures that shape everyday communi-

cation. By understanding discourse patterns, turn-taking systems, adjacency pairs, topic management, and non-verbal signals, speakers can communicate more effectively and appropriately. Awareness of these structures helps people interpret meaning accurately, avoid misunderstanding, and manage social interaction successfully. On the other hand, ignoring or misinterpreting discourse structures can lead to communication breakdowns and social discomfort. Therefore, discourse analysis plays a crucial role in improving both language competence and social awareness in a multicultural world.

MR boosts special train services for Thingyan holidays

MYANMA Railways, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, will expand its special train services during the Thingyan New Year holidays to ensure convenient travel for passengers and departmental staff.

During the holiday period, in addition to regular services, special trains will operate on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Yangon-Pyay-Yangon, and Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon routes.

On the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw line, the up special DEMU (Spain) train will depart from Yangon at 6:30 am and arrive in Nay Pyi Taw at 12:00 noon. The down special DEMU (Spain) train will leave Nay Pyi Taw at 12:30 pm and arrive in Yangon at 6:30 pm. These services will run on 10, 11, 12, 19, and 20 April.

On the Yangon-Pyay route, the up special air-conditioned train will depart from Yangon at 1 pm and arrive in Pyay at 8:55 pm. The down train will leave Pyay at 10:30 pm and arrive in Yangon at 6:30 am. These services will operate on 10, 11, 12, 19, and 20 April.

On the Yangon-Mawlamy-

ine line, the up special air-conditioned train will depart from Yangon at 9:15 am and arrive in Mawlamyine at 6 pm, operating on 10, 11, 12, 19, and 20 April. The down train will depart from Mawlamyine at 9:15 am and arrive in Yangon at 5:55 pm, operating on 11, 12, 19, 20, and 21 April.

Ticket fares and stopping stations for these additional trains will remain the same as those for regular services. For the Yangon-Pyay and Yangon-Mawlamyine routes, upper-class tickets may be purchased three days in advance and ordinary-class tickets one day in advance at the respective stations.

For Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw services, tickets for both regular and special trains may also be purchased online through the Online Railway Ticketing and Payment System (ORTP). Booking is available up to seven days in advance for journeys between terminal stations and up to three days in advance for intermediate stations.

The additional Yangon-Pyay and Yangon-Mawlamyine special trains will operate at full capacity, with six

upper-class carriages, eight ordinary-class carriages, and one brake van.

From 13 April (Thingyan Eve) to 16 April (New Year's Day), several regular passenger express services will be temporarily suspended on various routes, including Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw, Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay, Yangon-Bago, Thazi-Mandalay, Yangon-Pyay, and the Yangon Circular Railway.

Similarly, Yangon-Bagan services will be suspended from 14 to 20 April. All train services will resume normal operations from 17 April.

However, some routes, including Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Mawlamyine, Yangon-Pyay, Thazi-Taunggyi, Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi, Letpadan-Tharrawaddy, Myitkyina-Mogaung, and Patheingyi-Kyangin, will continue to operate daily during the holiday period.

In addition, scenic train services, such as the Pyin Oo Lwin-Gokteik and Taunggyi-Paungde routes, will operate depending on passenger demand during the Thingyan holidays. — MNA/KZL



The Myanmar Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Asia Pacific region hold the 5th Movement Partners Call in a hybrid format on 7 April 2026.

5th Movement Partners Call marks one year of Myanmar's quake response

THE 5th Movement Partners Call was held on 7 April afternoon in a hybrid format by the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Asia Pacific region to mark one year since the launch of the Myanmar earthquake emergency appeal.

The discussion was led by Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, joining from the Yangon branch, together with Mr Alexander Matheou, Asia Pacific Regional Director of the IFRC, and Mr Régis Savioz, Regional Director of the ICRC.

Professor Dr Tin Maung

Hlaing, Executive Director of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, Ms Nadia Khoury, IFRC Country Representative in Myanmar, and Mr Arnaud de Baecque, ICRC Country Representative in Myanmar, then presented updates on cooperation and rehabilitation efforts in earthquake-affected areas. The meeting was attended by the President and members of the Executive Committee of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, Deputy General Secretaries, and other officials, as well as representatives from the ICRC, the IFRC, and partner National Societies, including the Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, and Korean Red Cross. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar cracks down on online scam operations, arrests over 180 foreign nationals in Tachilek

THE Government regards the fight against online scam operations and illegal online gambling activities that pose threats to the international community and the global public as a national responsibility and is actively implementing measures, in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with neighbouring governments, to ensure that such activities cannot take root within Myanmar.

In carrying out these efforts, following reports of online scam operations in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State, a joint team comprising security personnel conducted inspections. At approximately 1:30 pm on 7 April, near Panku Village in Tachilek Township, authorities arrested 126 illegal foreign nationals



This photo reveals foreign nationals arrested for online scams and gambling near Panku Village, in Tachilek, eastern Shan State.

engaged in online scam and gambling operations, along with equipment used in these activities. This information has already been officially released.

Subsequently, the joint team

continued its search operations. At around 7:40 am today, approximately 5,200 metres southeast of Panku Village, 20 individuals involved in such activities were arrested, comprising 17 Chinese

men, two Chinese women, and one Lao woman.

In addition, approximately 2,700 metres southwest of the village, seven Chinese men were arrested; about 1,500 metres southeast, nine Chinese men were apprehended; around 4,500 metres southwest, 12 Chinese men were detained; and approximately 3,800 metres southeast, a further nine Chinese men were arrested.

In total, an additional 57 illegal foreign nationals – 54 men and three women – were apprehended in these operations.

All those arrested will be dealt with effectively in accordance with the law. Efforts are also underway to identify and take legal action against those involved

behind the scenes.

The Government of Myanmar is actively cooperating in efforts to combat telecom fraud and illegal online gambling. In addition, foreign nationals who have entered Myanmar for various reasons and are found to be involved in such activities are being investigated in accordance with the law. Based on humanitarian considerations and in the spirit of international friendship, arrangements are being made to repatriate them to their respective countries. Those identified as principal offenders are being detained and formally transferred to the relevant authorities, while effective legal action is being taken in accordance with the law. — MNA/MKKS

Preliminary coordination meeting held for 23rd SEA Leadership Meeting

A preliminary coordination meeting was held at the Yangon branch of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) on 6 April to prepare for the hosting of the 23rd South-East Asia (SEA) Leadership Meeting.

The 23rd SEA Leadership Meeting, which will be attended by leaders from Red Cross and Red Crescent societies across Southeast Asia, is scheduled to be hosted by Myanmar in the second week of September 2026. During the preliminary session, participants engaged in detailed discussions regarding the agenda for the upcoming meeting and matters concerning regional hu-

manitarian cooperation.

The coordination meeting was attended by the president of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, along with Executive Committee members, deputy general secretaries and officials. Also in attendance were Ms Nadia Khoury, Head of Delegation from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the general secretary and officials from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, which hosted the 22nd meeting, and the general secretary and officials from the Philippine Red Cross, which will host the 24th meeting. — ASH/KZL



The preliminary coordination meeting for the 23rd SEA Leadership Meeting is in progress in Yangon yesterday.

Notice on air quality measurements in Yangon on 7 April

THE Environmental Conservation Department of Yangon Region conducts 24-hour measurements for six parameters such as Particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}), Particulate matter 10 (PM₁₀), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃) and Carbon monoxide (CO) using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) in three following locations.

No	Air quality monitoring sites in Yangon Region	Parameters					
		PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	SO ₂	NO ₂	O ₃	CO
1	Botahtaung Township, Yangon	Good					
2	International Business Centre, Hline, Yangon	Good					
3	Kyauktada Township, Yangon	Good					

Air Quality Index - AQI

0-50	Good air quality
51-100	Acceptable air quality
101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very unhealthy
301-500	Hazardous

The measured air quality results may vary depending on factors such as temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle usage, dust dispersion due to hot and dry conditions, emissions from factories, and surrounding environmental conditions near the monitoring sites.

Environmental Conservation Department

NATIONAL

Rice exports generate US\$861M in FY 2025-2026

MYANMAR'S rice export in the financial year 2025-2026, beginning 1 April, exceeded 2.7 million tonnes, bagging US\$861 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar conveyed over 142,700 tonnes (\$52M) in April, over 529,00 tonnes (\$90M) in May, 210,000 tonnes (\$71M) in June, over 230,000 tonnes (\$77M) in July, over 190,000 tonnes (\$65M) in August and 168,000 tonnes (\$52M) in September and 310,000 tonnes (\$92M) in October, 263,815 tonnes (\$76M) in November, over 331,869 tonnes (\$99M) in December, 208,847 tonnes (\$60M) in January, 178,191 tonnes (\$55M) in February and 234,690 tonnes (\$71M) in March.



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto the barge.

Myanmar's rice trade is heavily reliant on sea trade.

The federation aimed to achieve three million tonnes of rice ex-

ports in the FY 2025-2026.

Myanmar generated in-

come of over \$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

80 MCEF member companies contracted over K70B worth red-level repair projects

MYANMAR Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) has awarded over K70 billion contracts to 80-member companies for repairing severely damaged (red-level) buildings.

A ceremony for awarding contracts for red-level repair projects to MCEF member companies was held on 7 April at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. MCEF Vice-Chairman and Pro-

ject Development Committee Chairman U Thet Lin gave an opening remark. MCEF General Secretary U Ko Ko Lay also clarified the Federation's activities.

MCEF Joint Secretary and Project Director U Htit Tin Han Lin explained technical matters, while Joint Secretary and Project Director (Administration) U Win Khaing elaborated on the reasons for entering into

work contracts. Afterwards, MCEF member companies responsible for these projects signed agreements for repairing red-level buildings. MCEF provided member companies with the necessary material and financial support to ensure the successful implementation of the projects. Subsequently, MCEF officials responded to questions raised by member companies. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$1.2M to edible oil-importing companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.22 million to edible oil-importing companies on 7 April.

CBM sold over \$2.99 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$260,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 6 April, in addition to a \$279,000 sale.

CBM sold over \$2.48 million to edible oil-importing companies on 3 April, along with transactions of over \$3.24 million and 1.78 million baht.

CBM announced on 2 April that it would pump \$49 million into the fuel oil sector. Moreover, CBM also sold \$2.35 million to edible oil-importing companies

and \$4.1 million to fuel oil-importing companies on that day, in addition to transactions of over \$7 million and three million baht in the foreign exchange market.

In addition to transactions of large amounts of foreign currencies (yuan, dollar, baht) in the foreign exchange market, CBM has been injecting the US dollar to stabilize the foreign exchange market and calm the oil prices.

CBM sold over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February. CBM sold over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, 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



This photo captures gold shops in downtown Yangon.

6,000+ gold shops receive trading licences over 2 years

THE Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association stated that the National-Level Licence Screening Committee in Nay Pyi Taw has approved over 6,000 gold shops to operate gold trading services between October 2024 and March 2026. A total of 6,428 gold shop owners have applied for a gem (gold) trading licence.

"Applicants must submit applications to the committee in the respective regions and states. After initial screening, they are forwarded to the committee in Nay Pyi Taw. The

number of applications is not as high as before. The first meeting for screening has been done. The screening teams are on the inspection tour for now", said an official of the Mining Department.

As per 2023 data, there are about 600-member gold shops of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association, and there are over 10,000 gold shops across the region. Despite the increasing number of gold shops, only over 6,000 are licensed gold shops. — ASH/KK

China-Laos Railway sees robust growth in cross-border trade

THE China-Laos Railway has recorded robust growth in cross-border cargo trade, with its first-quarter value rising 62.7 per cent year on year to 6.81 billion yuan (about US\$992 million), a record high for the period.

From January to March this year, exports of photovoltaic products surged 43.2 times year on year to 1.19 billion yuan, while imports of fresh and dried fruits doubled to 500 million yuan, according to Kunming Customs in the



A drone photo taken on 14 December 2025 shows a cargo train bound for southwest China's Sichuan Province, departing from China-Laos Railway's Vientiane South Station in Vientiane, Laos. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA/FILE**

border province of Yunnan in southwest China.

The railway is emerg-

ing as an efficient two-way corridor for "Chinese manufactured goods heading

south and South-East Asian specialties heading north," the customs noted.

Since its launch, the total value of imports and exports via the railway had exceeded 80 billion yuan as of Tuesday. The railway now serves over 6,000 enterprises across China, with its trade influence extending to 19 countries and regions, including Laos and Thailand. The range of traded goods has expanded from around 500 categories at the start of operations to more than 3,800. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26012)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26012)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-4-2026** 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M 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**

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Mongolia's foreign tourist arrivals up 39% in Q1

FOREIGN tourist arrivals to Mongolia increased by 39 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of this year, according to data released on Tuesday by the country's Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism

and Youth.

A total of 143,431 foreign tourists visited the country between January and March, the data showed.

The government views tourism as a vital

sector for diversifying Mongolia's economy, which has long relied on export-oriented mining.

However, with a strongly continental climate characterized by long, harsh winters and short summers, Mongolia has traditionally faced seasonal limitations in tourism.

To address this challenge, the government has been promoting the development of year-round tourism. As part of these efforts, it has decided to extend the "Years to Visit Mongolia" programme until 2028, aiming to attract at least 1 million foreign tourists annually. — Xinhua



Tourists pose for photos in the suburbs of Ulan Bator, Mongolia, 7 March 2026. **PHOTO: BOLORTSETSEG/XINHUA/FILE**

Cambodia spends millions monthly on fuel

THE General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) of Cambodia has subsidized about US\$47 million a month to minimize the impact of rising fuel prices caused by the Middle East conflict, said its news release on Wednesday.

The subsidies have been made through the reduction of import duties and taxes on oil and gas, and the reduction of import duties on electric vehicles, passenger plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, electric stoves, and solar-powered devices.

"These measures have been taken to ease the burden of businesspeople and common consumers in the face of rising global fuel prices," the news release said, adding that the subsidies were also to ensure the sustainability of oil and gas supply. — Xinhua

Myanma Port Authority

Open Tender Invitation for three Tugs

- The following three Tugs, at the present controlled by the Myanma Port Authority will be auctioned through an open tender system;
 - Tug Cathay – 3 (Mild Steel Hull)**
 - (1) IMO Number - 9447500
 - (2) Register Tonnage - 153 MT
 - (3) LOA - 21.96 M
 - (4) Breadth - 7.32 M
 - (5) Draft - 3.20M
 - (b) Tug Cathay – 7 (Mild Steel Hull)**
 - (1) IMO Number - 9489132
 - (2) Register Tonnage - 144 MT
 - (3) LOA - 21.96 M
 - (4) Breadth - 7.32 M
 - (5) Draft - 3.20M
 - (c) Tug Cathay – 21 (Mild Steel Hull)**
 - (1) IMO Number - 9311933
 - (2) Register Tonnage - 122 MT
 - (3) LOA - 21.81 M
 - (4) Breadth - 7.00 M
 - (5) Draft - 2.90 M
- The tender process will be taken place in accord with Paragraphs 23/24 of Directive No.(1/2017). Issued by the president office.
- The interested companies (both local and international) are invited to enter this tender. The vessels can be checked in Patheingyi(Bassein) port limit area, Ayeyarwady Region.
- The tender application forms can be purchased and submitted in accordance with the following date, time and place; (Remark: International companies need to submit an endorsement by the Myanmar embassy in the respective country.)
 - (a) Address (to purchase) : Store Department, Botataung Township
 - (b) Date & Time (to purchase) : 8-4-2026 to 5-5-2026 (formal day & time)
 - (c) Address (to submit) : Myanma Port Authority (Tender Room)
 - (d) Date & Time (to submit) : 7-5-2026 (1300)
 - (e) Date & Time (Tender opening) : 7-5-2026 (1400)
- Since the vessels will be auctioned due to the Port Act 1908, section-11 and Myanma Port Authority Law 2015 section 66(b), Myanma Port Authority has right to cancel either partially or as a whole of this tender at any time, if it is needed to do so for some applicable reasons.
- For detailed information, please contact the following contact points:
 - (a) Marine Department - 018246380, 018387117 (ex) 211
 - (b) Store Department - 018610230

Myanma Port Authority
Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Iran to participate in talks in Pakistan: Iranian president tells Pakistani PM

The Iranian president confirmed that Iran would be participating in the negotiations in Islamabad.

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian confirmed that Iran would be participating in the negotiations in Islamabad during his phone conversation with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to a statement from the Pakistani Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday.

The statement said that Sharif on Wednesday held a phone conversation with Pezeshkian, during which Sharif conveyed his deep appreciation for the Iranian leadership in agreeing to the ceasefire and for accepting Pakistan's offer to host negotiations between Iran and the



In this handout photograph taken and released by Pakistan's Prime Minister Office on 24 April 2025, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high level security meeting with the chiefs of the Pakistan forces and other government officials at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

United States in Islamabad later this week.

For his part, the Iranian

president confirmed that Iran would be participating in the negotiations in Islamabad.

Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact, said the statement. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran claims 'historic victory' after Trump suspends bombing campaign

IRAN'S Supreme National Security Council claimed "historic victory" after US President Donald Trump suspended the "bombing and attack" campaign on Iran and agreed to a two-week double-sided ceasefire. According to Press TV, the Supreme National Security Council claimed that nearly all of Iran's objectives of the war have been achieved.

"Iran achieved a historic victory by forcing the criminal US to accept its 10-point plan. The US has accepted Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz, enrichment rights, and removal of all sanctions. The US has accepted to stop aggression, pay compensation for damages, withdraw it's forced from the region," Supreme National Security Council stated as reported by Iranian state media.

The Security Council claimed that the US pushed for a ceasefire for over a month, but Iran repeatedly rejected the deadlines, prioritizing the country's objectives. — ANI

Prosecutors seek 15-year prison term for ex-S Korean first lady

SOUTH Korea's special counsel on Wednesday sought a 15-year prison sentence in an appeal hearing for Kim Keon-hee, wife of former President Yoon Suk-yeol, on corruption charges.

The team of Min Joong-ki, an independent counsel who led an investigation into corruption allegations involving Yoon and his wife, demanded a 15-year jail term in the appellate court after requesting the same sentence in the first instance.

The Seoul Central District Court sentenced Kim to 20 months in prison with a forfeiture of 12.81 million won (about US\$8,670) in January.

Kim was accused of receiving valuables from Unification Church officials in exchange for favorable treatment of the religious group in 2022. — Xinhua

Israel says offensive against Hezbollah to continue

ISRAEL has backed the US decision to suspend strikes against Iran as the two nations look to work out a lasting peace formula.

A statement from the Israel Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's Office said, "Israel supports President Trump's decision to suspend strikes against Iran for two weeks' subject to Iran immediately opening the straits and stopping all attacks on the US, Israel and

countries in the region. Israel also supports the US effort to ensure that Iran no longer poses a nuclear, missile and terror threat to America, Israel, Iran's Arab neighbours and the world." — ANI

Iran's Hormuz Strait toll hits petrodollar, accelerates BRICS de-dollarization

WHILE the US is stepping up attacks on Iranian civilian infrastructure, the Hormuz Strait toll scheme in yuans and stablecoins is gaining steam.

Iran's strategy "significantly weakens 'maximum pressure' by bypassing dollar-based systems," Dr. Alam Saleh, a political analyst at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University, tells Sputnik.

This way, Iran is "effectively challenging the US economy and the US dollar's position as the global reserve currency, as well as the petrodollar system," echoes Dr Hasan Selim Ozerem, an Ankara-based security and political analyst.

"It sets a powerful precedent, encouraging BRICS to experiment with non-dollar trade," says Saleh. "The Strait

of Hormuz could indeed become a testing ground for petroyuan and crypto-based energy transactions." — SPUTNIK



The National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) operates one of the world's largest tanker fleets, providing a critical logistical backbone for transporting Iranian crude oil to global markets despite international sanctions. **PHOTO: IOTC**

SPORTS

Medvedev thrashed 6-0, 6-0 by Berrettini in Monte Carlo

DANIIL Medvedev suffered an embarrassing 6-0, 6-0 humbling at the hands of Matteo Berrettini in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday. The seventh seed missed two break points in the opening game and then completely unravelled, making 30 unforced errors and serving five double faults. Medvedev did not win more than two points in any of the last 11 games and his frustrations boiled over in the second set, smashing his racquet into the court four times.

Berrettini wrapped up the double-bagel victory, the first

such defeat of former world number one Medvedev's career, in just 49 minutes.

"I think it was one of the best performances of my life," Berrettini said.

"I think I missed three shots in the entire match and it is not easy against a tricky player like Daniil. I think the game plan was perfect and my weapons were working."

The former Wimbledon runner-up, now ranked 90th, will face either Joao Fonseca or Arthur Rinderknech in the last 16. — AFP



MFF to conduct 2nd Summer Football Skills Course on 20 Apr



The completion ceremony of the 1st MFF summer football skills course 2026.

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) will continue the free summer football skills course as the second batch in five cities starting from 20 April.

Under the theme "Learn, Play, Enjoy", MFF conducted the first batch from 9 March to 8 April, and now the second batch has also been planned to continue from 20 April to 20 May in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Patheingyi and Mawlamyine.

The completion ceremony of the first batch of the free football training course, which aims

to help students to spend the summer holidays usefully and encourage young football players of the next generation to appear, was held on 8 April at the Academy Artificial Turf in Yangon.

In the first batch, about 1700 students aged between 10 and 15 years – 500 from Yangon, plus 200 futsal trainees, 400 from Taunggyi and 200 from Patheingyi and Mawlamyine – were taught basic football techniques and were given free training uniforms. Completion certificates were also awarded at the ceremony. — MT/ZS

Arsenal's Raya hailed as 'world's best keeper' after denying Sporting



DAVID Raya was hailed as the world's best goalkeeper by Arsenal's Kai Havertz after the pair inspired Tuesday's 1-0 win at Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League quarter-final first leg.

Raya made a trio of vital saves to keep spluttering Arsenal in the game at the Jose Alvalade Stadium.

The Spaniard tipped Maxi Araujo's drive onto the crossbar and kept out Geny Catamo's header late in the second half.

Below their best for long spells, Arsenal capitalised on Raya's man-of-the-match display to end their two-game losing run.

Havertz calmly converted a pass from fellow substitute Gabriel Martinelli in stoppage-time, making Arsenal firm favourites to advance to the semifinals when they host Sporting in the second leg on 15 April.

Raya's return to the team was vital after he was rested for Arsenal's League Cup final loss to Manchester City and their embarrassing FA Cup quarter-final defeat against second-tier Southampton.

Raya's deputy Kepa Arrizabalaga made a costly mistake that led to City's opener at Wembley — a stark contrast to the former Brentford star's heroics in Lisbon. — AFP

Bayern wins at Real Madrid to seize Champions League initiative

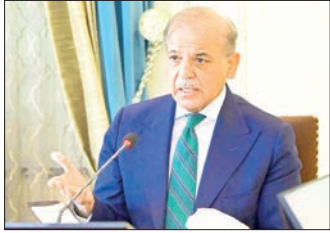
BAYERN Munich claimed a 2-1 win away to Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday to take a significant step towards the Champions League semifinals.

Luis Diaz and Harry Kane scored for Bayern, while Kylian Mbappe replied for Madrid on a night when both sides created chances, but the record German champions will feel they should have put the tie beyond doubt.

Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa handed a start to young midfielder Thiago Pitarch, with Trent Alexander-Arnold and Alvaro Carreras selected at fullback. Bayern, meanwhile, were boosted by Kane being fit enough to start.

Kane nearly made an immediate impact, heading a free kick into the path of Dayot Upamecano, who squandered a clear chance from close range. — Xinhua

Arsenal's Spanish goalkeeper David Raya. PHOTO: AFP



Iran-US ceasefire hailed worldwide

Trump said that he has agreed to “suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks.”

IRAN and the United States have agreed to a two-week ceasefire as announced by US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, a move that has been welcomed worldwide.

The truce was announced less than two hours before a deadline set by Trump, and the two sides will hold negotiations in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan.

Trump said Tuesday that he has agreed to “suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks”.

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has promised safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz during the two-week ceasefire under “coordination” with Iranian armed forces, saying that Iran will cease “defensive operations” if attacks against it stop. The following remarks marked positive reactions worldwide.

The US-Iran ceasefire draws global praise. UN Secretary-General Guterres urged all parties to uphold international



Iranians react after a ceasefire announcement at the Enqelab square, in Tehran, on 8 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP

law and the truce for lasting peace, thanking Pakistan’s mediation.

EU’s Kaja Kallas called it a “step back from the brink,” stressing Strait of Hormuz

reopening for shipping and diplomacy. Iraq, Tajikistan, Egypt, and South Korea echoed support, hailing de-escalation, regional stability, and navigation freedom.

All nations hope the fragile pause sparks sustainable dialogue to resolve Middle East tensions and avert wider losses. — Xinhua

Artemis crew witnesses meteorite impacts on Moon

DURING their historic lunar flyby, astronauts on NASA’s Artemis II mission witnessed meteorites striking the rugged surface of the Moon, a sight that has piqued

scientists’ curiosity.

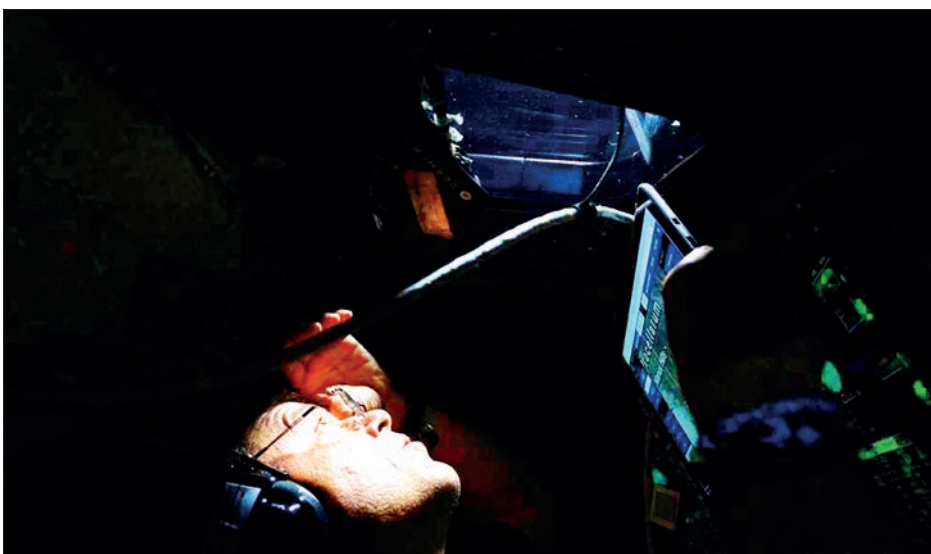
“That was definitely impact flashes on the moon. And Jeremy (Hansen) just saw another one,” mission commander Reid

Wiseman reported on Monday while flying around the Moon — the first such journey by humans in more than half a century.

“Amazed”, replied Kelsey Young, the mission’s lunar science lead, as she followed the spacecraft from more than 250,000 miles (400,000 kilometres) away on Earth. “I don’t know if I expected to have the crew see any on this mission, so you probably saw the surprise and shock on my face,” she said, recounting the strikes at a press briefing the next day.

Among NASA’s team in Houston, there were “audible screams of delight” from scientists when the crew described flashes of light caused by meteorite impact, Young said. The phenomenon is “something that we have not witnessed often,” the mission’s backup astronaut Jenni Gibbons told AFP.

“They were really high priority science for us, so the fact that they saw four or five was just outstanding.” — AFP



The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Reid Wiseman peers out the window of the Orion spacecraft, on 6 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Russia tests plasma engine for space

RUSSIA has started to test a prototype electrode-less plasma engine designed for deep space missions, the National Research Centre “Kurchatov Institute” announced.

The engine is being tested in a specialized facility simulating space conditions, said Institute President Mikhail Kovalchuk at a meeting of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences on Tuesday. “We have a whole series of developments... aimed at creating a fundamentally new engine for deep space travel. We have a facility that simulates space conditions. It is a huge volume, almost 1,000 cubic metres, with enormous pumping speed. That’s where this electrode-less plasma engine is being installed to test all of its parameters,” Kovalchuk said. — Xinhua