

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and the congregation observe the Five Precepts from members of the Sangha at the one-month memorial alms meals offering event yesterday.

Day meals offered to Sangha members dedicated to monks, people who lost lives in powerful Mandalay earthquake

THE State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held a ceremony to offer day meals to members of the Sangha as a one-month memorial donation dedicated to monks and people who lost their lives in the incident of the powerful Mandalay earthquake, in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

Before the ceremony, a documentary video clip on loss and damage caused by the Mandalay earthquake, and the tireless endeavours of internal and international rescue teams in rescue and relief operations and the progress of rehabilitation

measures was presented.

The congregation took the Five Precepts from State Ovadacariya of Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Acinna Maha Thihanada Monastery of Tatkon.

Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and attendees listened to the recitation of Metta Sutta by members of the Sangha. The Senior General and his wife donated offerings to Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Janinda, Presiding Patron of Paukmyaing Monastery from Lewe in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe offered alms to Maha Thihanada Sayadaw while the Council Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, and council members and their wives presented offerings to members of the Sangha.

Presiding Patron of Pali Tekkatho Mingala Zeyon Monastery, Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi delivered a sermon, and the congregation, led by the Senior General and his wife, shared merits dedicated to members of the Sang-

ha and people who lost their lives in the incident of the Mandalay Earthquake.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife, the Vice-Senior General and his wife and the congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

Also present at the ceremony were members of the Sangha, the Council Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, council members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

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Heartfelt gratitude to international and local rescue teams, medics, nurses, and social welfare organizations

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Disaster fund deployed for quake recovery efforts

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Myanmar Muslim Entrepreneurs, Dhamma Meitta Group donate cash for quake survivors

NATIONAL

Fostering a Love for Forests: Cultivating Trees for a Greener Future

Embracing a love for forests and nurturing the growth of all planted trees is essential. Trees must be systematically cultivated to ensure a lush, green environment and favourable weather for future generations.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2024 of Tatmadaw families at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) on 7 June 2024)

Kyonkapyin-Tatseik welcomes 100 migrating cranes, invites visitors

IN the Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Community Conserved Area, more than 100 cranes have now inhabited, and visitors are invited to come to watch, said Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Community Conservation Group (KTCG).

The view of the cranes in-

habited at the same location can often be found in this season, and this time, the number of cranes has increased compared to previous years, said KTCG.

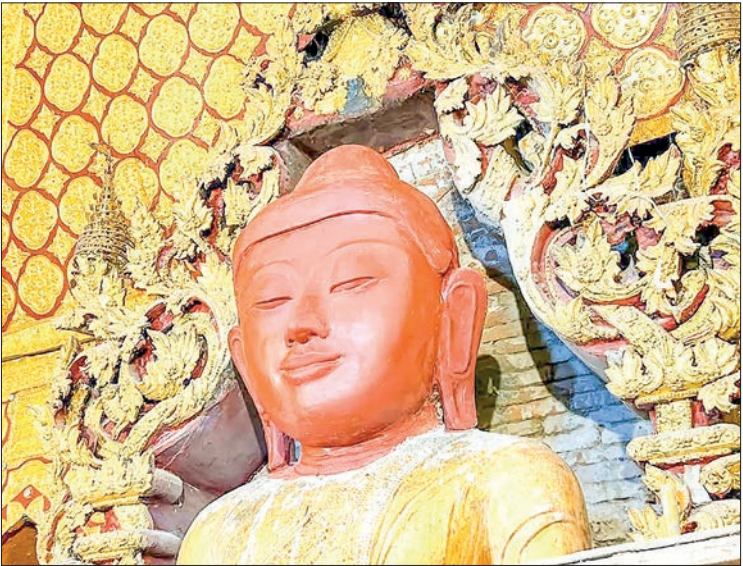
The conserved area is inhabitable, has abundant food and is safe for cranes, and the

presence of KTCG contributed to such an increase in cranes, it said. It added that all will need to work together to sustain this good result.

Visitors who love the environment and cranes are welcome to stay at the KTCG's research centre, it said. — MT/ZS



Cranes at Kyonkapyin-Tatseik Conservation Area.



This picture captures the first phase of the restoration of the facial features of the Chanthagyi Buddha Statue.

1st stage of Chanthagyi Buddha restoration completed post-Mandalay quake

ACCORDING to Ko Aung Kyaw Kyaw, who is currently carrying out the work, the first phase of the restoration of the historic Chanthagyi Buddha statue in Mandalay, which collapsed due to the earthquake, has been completed.

The head of the statue was completely broken off due to the recent Mandalay earthquake.

The restoration of the Buddha statue's head would be carried out in stages, including

rubbing off and polishing the face, applying resin, gilding, and installing a golden crown, he had previously said.

The original work on the statue's facial features was made during the reign of King Thawaddy. It was reinforced by another layer around the reign of King Thibaw, so the collapsed double-layered face will be preserved and displayed in the museum. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

COVID-19 report, 28 April 2025	NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
	2,772	NIL	NIL
Myanmar National Centre for Diseases Control Department of Public Health			

Weather REPORT

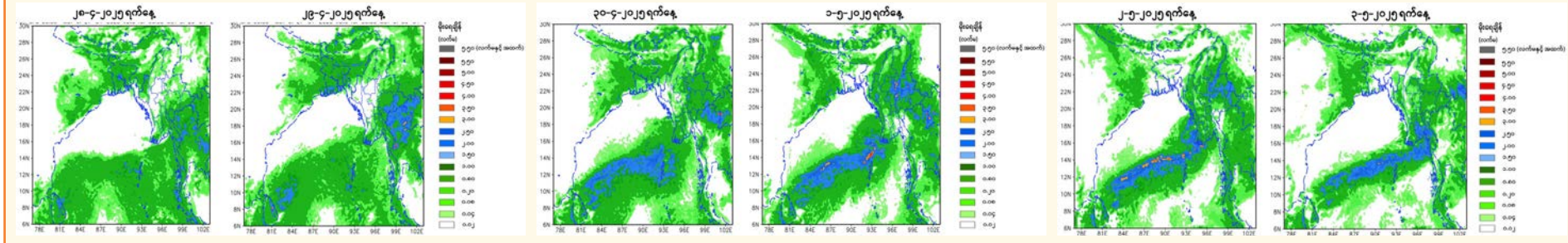
Untimely Rainfall Warning 27

Issued at 6 pm MST on 28 April 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the western disturbances and the eastern disturbances, the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, cold air from the China high pressure system and the convective cloud, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and

Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls during this evening to 4 May 2025.

Advisory
People should be aware of untimely rainfall accompanied with strong wind, thunder, lightning, hails and landslides. — 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)

Heartfelt gratitude to international and local rescue teams, medics, nurses, and social welfare organizations

FOLLOWING the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March, the government has been carrying out timely rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. International countries also delivered humanitarian assistance, including aid and medical supplies, to Myanmar daily. Therefore, the government and people express gratitude for this support.

The humanitarian aid from 26 countries like Russia, China, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the UAE, Laos, Belarus, Indonesia, Bhutan, the Philippines, Japan, Nepal,

Pakistan, Turkiye, the US, Sri Lanka, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brunei, South Korea, Germany and Cambodia were provided to the country in rescue operations, and 16 rescue teams combined with medical corps comprising 1,070 members and 38 rescue dogs from 13 countries such as Russia, China, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the UAE, Belarus, Indonesia, the Philippines and Turkiye also carried out the search and rescue operations together with local organizations and rescued the people trapped inside the collapsed buildings.

Immediate medical services were also provided on-site to rescued individuals.

Thanks to the swift efforts of international organizations and local search and rescue teams, 653 survivors and 778 dead bodies were found during the operations.

Moreover, 28 medical teams comprising 1,152 members from 17 countries namely China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Russia, the US, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Germany, India, Laos, Nepal, Singapore, Japan and Malaysia offered medical treatments to 29,206 outpatients, 957 inpatients

and performed 1,084 surgeries.

The government and the people of Myanmar deeply acknowledge and sincerely express their gratitude and appreciation for the tireless and courageous efforts of international organizations, as well as local search and rescue teams and all philanthropic organizations, who have worked relentlessly day and night for the benefit of the public. Their contributions are heartily recognized and recorded as a mark of honour.

National Disaster Management Committee



Russia.



China.



Brig-Gen Karunatilake Hewakattuge Punyasiri-led Sri Lankan Tatmadaw medical corps.



The medical team from Japan.

NATIONAL



Malaysia.



The Filipino SAR team.



AHA's humanitarian aid.



Three UAE military aircraft carrying the UAE rescue teams, including medics and nurses.



The Indonesian team.



Thailand.



Vietnam.



India.

NATIONAL



Brunei.



The Bhutanese medical team.



Laos.



The Turkish team.



Pakistan.



The Russian team.



Belarus.



Nepal.



Bangladesh.

NATIONAL

Disaster fund deployed for quake recovery efforts

THE government allocates the National Disaster Management Fund for cleanliness activities and rehabilitation operations in quake-stricken areas.

In doing so, the National Disaster Management Centre has granted K10 billion to the

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, K50 billion to Sagaing Region, K60 billion to Mandalay Region and K5 billion to Shan State.

The cash assistance was granted to the officials of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and regions to spend it on cleanli-

ness activities and renovation processes of quake-hit pagodas, stupas and temples, historic buildings, religious buildings and other seriously destroyed buildings, and to provide the needed assistance to the people. — MNA/KTZH



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing encourages cleanup efforts in Mandalay's Chanayethazan Township.



Lt-Gen Thet Pon makes inspections in Sagaing Region.



Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung is pictured during his inspection in TadaU.

Global and local aid flows to Mandalay quake victims

THE earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025, with its epicentre in Mandalay, caused fatalities and extensive damage across six regions and states: Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State, and Bago Region. In response to the needs of affected communities, humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and donations from local and international donors were distributed between 30 March and 20 April.



Clockwise from top left: Relief aid distribution in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, and Shan State.



From 21 April to 27 April, more humanitarian aid arrived, including tarpaulins, hygiene kits, personal healthcare items, kitchen utensils, food supplies, clothing, medicines, and medical equipment. These supplies were donated by India, Vietnam, China (Kunming and Nanning), Brunei, and the AHA Centre. Medical supplies were handed over to the Healthcare Work Committee.

The relief supplies were distributed proportionally

based on the population affected in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, and Shan State. The supplies were delivered using four trucks each to Mandalay and Sagaing, with further distribution managed by respective regional authorities.

From 28 March 2025 to date, a total of 56 truckloads of relief supplies have been sent to Mandalay Region, 28 truckloads to Sagaing Region, and seven truckloads to Shan State

(South).

The distribution of items donated internationally between 21 and 27 April has been documented in the attached lists and was directed towards communities most affected in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, and Shan State (South). Information regarding the arrival of new donations and the weekly distribution progress will continue to be publicly reported weekly. — MNA/MKKS

MGMA delivers vital relief
to hardest-hit quake areas

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) has been optimizing the distribution of emergency supplies and relief goods by prioritizing the worst-affected regions by implementing pilot projects.

MGMA arranges emergency supplies for the worst-hit areas, Mandalay, Sagaing, Amarapura, Inwa, Kyaukse, Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana and Inlay areas.

They contribute to the installation of solar water pumps, temporary shelters for monks and nuns, rescue stations, construction materials for government institutions, Helping Hands package, cash donations towards shelters and temporary houses

through institutions.

The association collaborates with township and village organizations to ensure effective assistance.

MGMA requested member companies, factories and affiliated associations on 31 March to donate to the quake-hit areas through Account 0021 0112 0002 0995 (A Bank Special Saving). Well-wishers can enquire about details through the contact numbers at 01 2314829, 01 2300253 (Ext: 14), 09 758451158, and 09 421135084 of the association located on the 9th floor of UMFCCI Office Tower at No 29, Minyekyawswa Road, Lanmadaw Township. — NN/KK



MGMA donates Helping Hands Package to earthquake-affected area.
PHOTO: MYANMARGARMENTS.ORG

Kyaukse's Pheegyan bananas
reach Yangon, Mandalay, and Bago



Ripe Pheegyan bananas, a native Myanmar variety, thrive in a local plantation.

PHEEGYAN banana, a Myanmar species, produced from the Kyaukse area, is distributed to Yangon, Mandalay and Bago cities, according to the Consumer Affairs Department (Mandalay).

Kyaukse is one of the nine districts in the central region of Mandalay, that relies on agriculture. Paddy, various peas, oil crops, chilli pepper, mango and banana are cultivated in the area each season. Banana cultivation also grew from manageable to commercial scale.

There were 1,282 acres

of bananas in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March) in Kyaukse Township, and banana harvesting has been done on 1,264 acres so far, according to statistics of the District Settlement and Land Records Department.

The banana can be grown in all seasons in the country. About 800 banana plants can be grown per acre with a spacing of eight feet. Banana blossoms after nine to ten months of cultivation, and three months after, the banana harvest begins.

The Pheegyan banana variety is mainly cultivated in the Kyaukse region. The input cost is about K1.5 million, including seedlings, wages and other input costs. An acre can produce about 800 banana branches. Brokers come to farms to buy bananas and supply them to shops in Yangon, Mandalay and Bago cities. The entire banana tree (leaves, shoots and even the peels) is valued for many uses. It is a lucrative business for the residents. — NN/KK

Yangon palm oil reference price edges down

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market slid to K6,735 per viss for a week ending 4 May from K6,770 per viss in the previous week (14-27 April), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and

banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

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

The Committee notified that

any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or



A shopper compares cooking oil brands at a supermarket.

sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local

palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



Avoid loud activities to foster a healthier society

THE rapid advancement of technology has led to the rise of video games as a dominant form of entertainment, especially among young people. For many youths, playing video games has become a daily routine, either individually or in groups. Globally, it is estimated that around three billion people engage with video games on platforms like personal computers, consoles, and mobile phones. However, most gamers do not use any protective measures against the loud sounds often associated with these games.

Extended exposure to high-volume sounds – whether from gaming or listening to music—can pose serious risks to hearing. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) statement which was released on 28 February

Hearing problems are becoming a growing concern globally. It's important for individuals to recognize the risks of extreme gaming behaviour and take steps to protect themselves. In Myanmar, where the trend of gaming is also on the rise, it is crucial for people to be mindful of their noise exposure—not only to protect their own hearing but also to safeguard the well-being of future generations. That is why it is necessary to create a more peaceful and pleasant society starting with reducing harmful noise in our daily lives.

A survey by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) found that over 75 per cent of gamers in countries like the United States, Japan, and Brazil are regularly exposed to harmful sound levels. WHO also warns that nearly one billion young people worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening habits.

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WESTERN rowing as a sport traces its origins back to ancient Egypt and Rome, where boats were used for warfare, trade, and transportation. However, its evolution into the competitive sport we know today began in England during the 17th and 18th centuries. On the River Thames in London, races between watermen and boatmen emerged, drawing public spectators and sparking betting. The Doggett's Coat and Badge race, first held in 1715, is recorded as the earliest formal rowing competition in the West, marking the sport's official beginnings.

By the 19th century, rowing had become more structured and gained widespread popularity. The annual race between Oxford and Cambridge universities, starting in 1829, brought global attention to the sport. These events elevated rowing to a prestigious activity, leading to the formation of clubs and associations, particularly in Europe and America. Rowing was included in the modern Olympics in 1896, further solidifying its global appeal and establishing standardized regulations.

Western-style rowing was introduced to Myanmar during the British colonial period in the 19th century, primarily through the influence of British administrators, merchants, and missionaries. As Burma (as Myanmar was then known) became a key part of the British Empire after the annexation in 1826, Western recreational activities, including rowing, were brought to the colonial elite in cities like Rangoon (then Yangon). The British established social clubs and sporting facilities along the Yangon River and Inya Lake, where rowing boats were used for leisure and informal races, laying the groundwork for the sport's entry into the country.

The sport initially remained

exclusive to the colonial community and a small number of affluent locals who interacted with British circles. Rowing events were often organized as part of regattas hosted by clubs like the Rangoon Rowing Club, founded in the late 19th century, which catered to European expatriates. These gatherings mimicked the rowing culture of England, with races drawing spectators from the colonial elite. However, the sport's reach was limited, as traditional Burmese boat racing, rooted in cultural festivals and royal traditions, dominated local water-based activities, overshadowing the Western version.

In the early 20th century, rowing began to gain a modest foothold among Myanmar's emerging educated class, particularly through schools and universities influenced by British systems. Mission schools and institutions like Rangoon University introduced rowing as a competitive sport, though it remained a niche activity compared to soccer or athletics. After independence in 1948, Western rowing struggled to maintain prominence due to a focus on nation-building and limited resources for non-traditional sports. Despite this, small rowing clubs persisted in Yangon, and over time, the sport saw sporadic revival through international exchanges and regional competitions, though it never rivalled the cultural significance of Myanmar's indigenous boat racing traditions.

In the early 1970s, Western-style rowing was introduced to Patheingyi College, taking root at the sprawling three-tiered lake, known as Kan Thone Sint, located in front of the college's main building. This expansive body of water provided an ideal setting for the sport, and experienced fac-



Taken by Ko Saw Lwin (Fuji) over 50 years ago.

Rhythm of the Oars

By Yin Nwe Ko

ulty members, inspired by urban educational trends and possibly prior exposure to rowing in Yangon, initiated training sessions for students. Under their guidance, the sport began as a structured activity, fostering discipline and teamwork, though it remained a modest endeavour within the college's extracurricular landscape.

In my second year at Patheingyi College, I became a member of the rowing team, a vibrant group led by our chairman, U Minn Than Thauang, the head of the Physics Department. In the photograph, he's the one seated on the pontoon beside the rowers, dressed in civilian clothes and wearing

glasses. The team in the boat included U Soe Myint as coxswain, U Tun Hyke at a stroke, followed by U Thein Win, and U Thet Oo behind him. Standing at the back were our female team members, all dedicated tutors, though I only clearly recall Daw Cherry on the far right. Under U Minn Than Thauang's supervision, they were all training diligently at Kan Thone Sint Lake to guide and instruct student members like me, shaping us into a cohesive and disciplined team.

When I joined the rowing team, I quickly realized that Western-style rowing was far more challenging than I had im-

agined, a truth that dawned on me only as training progressed. We didn't start on the boat right away. First came warm-up exercises, followed by practice on a stationary "fixed staff" boat on the shore. Here, we learned proper body posture: gripping the oar, securing our feet firmly in the footrest straps, and sliding smoothly on the movable seat beneath our hips. The technique involved pulling the oar with the forearms initially, drawing it toward the chest, and then locking the arms and oar in place while using leg power to push back. Next, we tilted our torsos slightly backwards, extended the oar

forward, and simultaneously used leg strength to slide the seat forward again – all in a controlled, repetitive motion. The training wasn't open-ended; with other trainees waiting, each of us got only about 15 minutes per session. If time allows, we could wait for another turn. Every minute was logged, and only after accumulating a set number of training hours were we permitted to step onto an actual boat.

Once four trainees completed their required time on the fixed staff, they were allowed to board a real boat, guided by an experienced coxswain, a skilled tutor. The first couple of days on the

water were far from smooth, with beginners struggling to row in sync. From boarding to disembarking, the coxswain issued commands solely in English, such as "Stand by crew", "Hands across", "One foot in", and "In together", creating a disciplined rhythm. Initially, we practised the "touching" technique, where the oar lightly brushed the water's surface during the recovery phase. As we grew more proficient, we advanced to "row", a method where the oar cleared the water entirely during recovery, allowing the boat to glide swiftly. The command "Next stroke ... Row" electrified us, igniting excitement among the rowers. Another thrilling order was "Harder," used during races to push us to overtake rival boats with every ounce of strength, driving us to row with fierce determination.

Rowing on the water looks effortlessly stylish from the shore, with rowers in crisp white shirts, trousers, socks, and canvas shoes, powering a boat that glides rhythmically across the surface — an inspiring sight. Yet, during intense rowing, a single misstep can disrupt everything. If a rower mistakes the oar's recovery and the blade catches the water awkwardly while the boat is moving, the oar's handle can jam against them, halting their ability to continue. In a race, this almost guarantees a loss. The rower also risks injury from the sudden resistance. I've experienced this myself and seen it happen to others often, especially during the high-energy "Row" command when we're rowing with full passion. Precision in our movement is critical; one person's mistake can throw the entire boat into chaos.

Under the dedicated guidance of U Minn Than Thauang and the entire team of tutors

and demonstrators, I mastered the art of Western-style rowing, a skill I cherish deeply. Their selfless commitment to teaching left an indelible mark on me, and even now, I remain profoundly grateful for their kindness. For someone like me, a farm-bred from the countryside, the idea of rowing in the Western style was beyond imagination — something I could hardly dream of achieving. Their patience and expertise transformed that distant possibility into reality, and I owe them an immense debt of gratitude for shaping my journey.

Attending Patheingyi College opened doors I never thought possible, and meeting these remarkable teachers was a turning point. Without spending a single kyat, I gained access to a valuable skill that enriched my life. The opportunity to learn rowing under their mentorship was not just an education but a rare privilege, one that bridged the gap between my humble roots and a world of new experiences. The discipline, teamwork, and confidence I developed through rowing remain with me, a testament to the transformative power of their instruction.

This experience was a once-in-a-lifetime chance, one I consider extraordinarily fortunate to have received. The tutors' encouragement went beyond technique; they instilled a sense of pride and possibility in all of us. For a rural student like me, mastering such a sophisticated sport was a profound achievement, made possible only through the college's environment and the generosity of teachers who believed in us. I carry the lessons from Kan Thone Sint Lake with me always, a reminder of how education and opportunity can change the course of a life.

Groundbreaking study reveals how our brain learns

Learning involves adaptations in the brain that allow it to accommodate new information, such as job tasks, song lyrics, or directions.

NEUROBIOLOGISTS using cutting-edge visualization techniques have revealed how changes across our synapses and neurons unfold. The findings depict how information is processed in our brain's circuitry, offering insights for neurological disorders and brain-like AI systems. How do we learn something

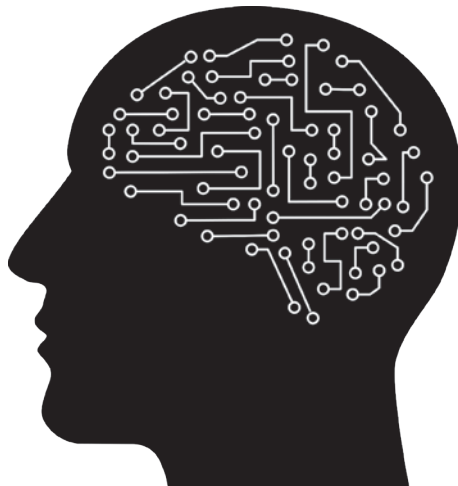
new? How do tasks at a new job, lyrics to the latest hit song or directions to a friend's house become encoded in our brains? The broad answer is that our brains undergo adaptations to accommodate new information. To follow a new behaviour or retain newly introduced information, the brain's circuitry changes.

Such modifications are orchestrated across trillions of synapses — the connections between individual nerve cells, called neurons — where brain communication takes place. In an intricately coordinated process, new information causes certain synapses to get stronger with new data while others grow weaker. Neuroscientists

who have closely studied these alterations, known as "synaptic plasticity," have identified numerous molecular processes causing such plasticity. Yet an understanding of the "rules" selecting which synapses undergo this process remained unknown, a mystery that ultimately dictates how learned information is captured in the brain.

University of California, San Diego neurobiologists William "Jake" Wright, Nathan Hedrick and Takaki Komiyama have now uncovered key details about this process. The main financial support for this multi-year study was provided by several National Institutes of Health research grants and a

training grant. As published 17 April in the journal Science, the researchers used a cutting-edge brain visualisation methodology, including two-photon imaging, to zoom into the brain activity of mice and track the activities of synapses and neuron cells during learning activities. SOURCE: ANI



Neurobiologists are using advanced visualization techniques to study changes in synapses and neurons in the brain. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

NATIONAL

Myanmar Muslim Entrepreneurs, Dhamma Meitta Group donate cash for quake survivors

MYANMAR Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association (Temporary) and Nay Pyi Taw Dhamma Meitta Group held a donation event for the resettlement of residents hit by the Mandalay Earthquake on 27 April at a religious building in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association (Temporary) distributed rice, cooking oil and food to 60 households damaged by the earthquake, along with K300,000 per household.

On 22 April, Nay Pyi Taw Dhamma Meitta Group and re-

lated well-wishers also donated K15 million for 50 households who stay at a temporary shelter in the compound of Tabaung Pagoda Festival. Moreover, the Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs Association (Temporary) also handed over 90 boxes (50 rescue masks per box) to the Nay Pyi Taw Red Cross Supervisory Committee office. — ASH/KK

The Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association (Temporary) and Nay Pyi Taw Dhamma Meitta Group are donating food supplies to quake survivors.



Some earthquake-damaged buildings.

Chinese experts assess quake damage in Mandalay, other regions

A team of Chinese experts is currently conducting earthquake damage assessment operations in areas affected by the major earthquake in Mandalay Region, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The Chinese expert team arrived in Myanmar on 16 April and is presently carrying out inspections and assessments of earthquake-related damages across various regions of the country. The team aims to provide Myanmar with vital scientific evidence to support earthquake recovery and disaster prevention and mitigation

efforts.

It is understood that the team is focusing on locations such as Yangon, Bago, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Sagaing, undertaking activities including lifeline engineering assessments, inspection of damaged structures, geological earthquake hazard investigations, and damage assessments.

Based on their field investigations, the team will verify the intensity and scale of the earthquake and offer recommendations for emergency measures and repairs to the damaged buildings.

The earthquake assessment and inspection team has been organized under the arrangement of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China, with leadership from the China Earthquake Administration (CEA). The team comprises 30 experts from organizations such as the China Earthquake Rescue Centre, Tongji University, Harbin Institute of Technology, and the China Academy of Building Research (CABR). — ASH/KNN

Myanmar media delegation visits China to boost cooperation, study development

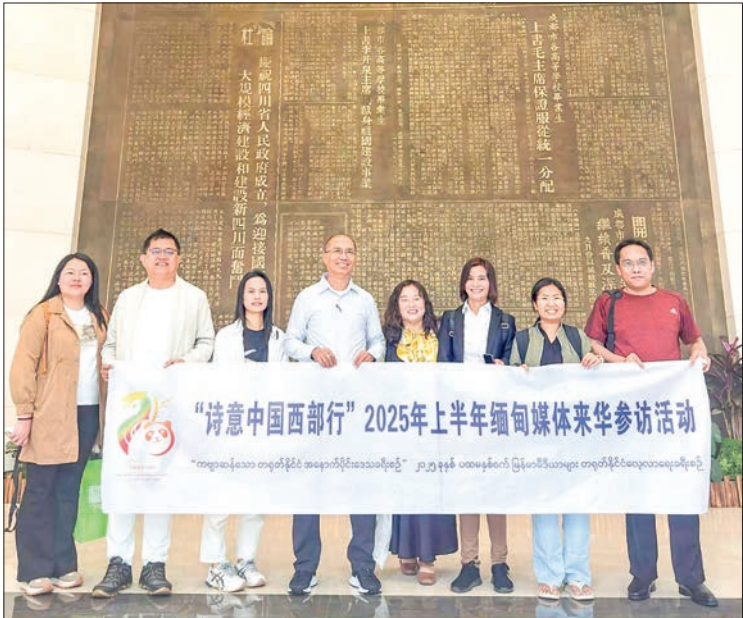
THE Myanmar Press Council and Myanmar media conducted a five-day study tour to China from 23 to 27 April.

The Myanmar media delegation comprised five members from the Myanmar Press Council, SkyNet, Myanmar Insider, Swemyo Pauk-Phaw Magazine, and Monnet Group. The delegation visited the cities of Chengdu, Kunming, and Urumqi during the tour.

During the visit, the delegation held discussions with The Sichuan Daily and the Yunnan International Communication

Centre for South and Southeast Asia on China-Myanmar media cooperation, news media development, and the promotion of bilateral friendship between the two countries.

In addition, the group visited the Huawei Chengdu Research Institute, the Xinjiang Museum, an agricultural exhibition park, the Guyuan Lane Community and the International Land Port in Urumqi. They observed developments in technology, agriculture, ethnic unity, and open-door policies in the western provinces of China. — ASH/MKKS



The Myanmar media team is pictured during a study tour of China.

NATIONAL

Thanlyin Bridge III
boosts transport
and trade across
Bago River

THE Thanlyin Bridge III linking Yangon and Thilawa Special Economic Zone plays a vital role in the transport and goods flow sector in Yangon, the commercial city of Myanmar.

Yangon and Thanlyin cities are separated by the Bago River. To facilitate smooth trade flow and transportation, the Thanlyin Bridge I was initially constructed. In the middle of the bridge, railway tracks were built, with vehicle lanes constructed on either side. Although it contributed significantly to improving travel in Yangon and the flow of goods from the Thilawa Spe-

cial Economic Zone, daily traffic congestion on the bridge caused many difficulties. On 8 June 2024, the Head of State inaugurated the Thanlyin Bridge III, located near Thanlyin Bridge I. As a result, transportation became much smoother, goods from the Thilawa Special Economic Zone were delivered to the Yangon Port more quickly and efficiently, and both the transportation and trade routes became more accessible and improved.

To facilitate the transportation of labourers, company employees and government employees who are the main



Nighttime scenic view of the Thanlyin Bridge III entrance. PHOTO: KANU

drivers of the business of Yangon, Thanlyin Bridge I, Kalawel Bridge (Thanlyin Bridge II) and Thanlyin Bridge III were constructed by the government. Among these three bridges, Thanlyin Bridge III is an international steel-suspension bridge and plays a key role in the transport and goods flow sector, highlighting the dignity

of Yangon.

The bridge section on land in Yangon is 1,975 feet long and 2,647 feet on the Thanlyin side, and the main bridge is 3,016 feet long, totalling 8,638 feet long. The bridge was built as a cable-stayed bridge, four-lane on the Yangon-Thanlyin section and six-lane on the Thanlyin-Yangon section.

Various types of vehicles pass through the bridge daily, and the Thanlyin Bridge III solved the traffic congestion. The bridge facilitates the logistics sector of the Yangon and Thilawa Special Economic Zone, providing the socioeconomic status of Yangon as well as the export sector of the country. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Actor donates to Sagaing monasteries,
nunneries



Academy Khant Sithu donates K5 million to reconstruct damaged buildings at IBEC monastery.



Khant Sithu presents K10 million to the Thakya Dita nunnery in Sagaing Region.

ACADEMY Khant Sithu donated K15.5 million to monasteries and nunneries which were destroyed in the recent earthquake in Paleik, Sagaing Region, on 25 April; K10 million to the Thakya Dita nunnery, K5 million to the IBEC monastery and K500,000 to the East Inlya

monastery in Sagaing, respectively.

“In addition to the financial support for monasteries and nunneries, I made Satuditha (food donation) for 3,000 people in Sagaing,” said Khant Sithu.

Khant Sithu and his coworkers in the movie industry

also made food offerings at the Dhamma Vihara Pahtamakyaw monastery and meditation centre located in Yangon Region’s Thingangyun Township on 17 April and presented a fund worth K40 million for a vehicle to use at the meditation centre. — ASH/ZS

Myanmar’s T-Pop Star
Challenge Season 2 returns

SEASON 2 of Myanmar’s largest Thai singing competition, with a winner’s cash prize of US\$3,200, will be held in Yangon, according to the T-Pop Star Challenge Myanmar.

The Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon hosted Season 1 from June to September 2024, and Season 2 will be held to promote Thailand’s cultural soft power, Thai music and the Thai language, among the Myanmar people, and enhance mutual relations. In addition to cash prizes of \$3,200, \$1,600, \$1,000, and \$400 for the winner and from the first to seventh runners-up, medals and special prizes from sponsors will also be presented.

Season 2 continues to be supported by Thailand’s largest and most renowned entertainment, music and television series production companies, GMM Grammy, ONE31 and GMMTV, with True-DTAC, Myanmar Airways International and Novotel Yangon Max as special sponsors.

It is open to any Myanmar citizen aged 18 and above, except for the 12 finalists of Season 1 (2024). The first audition round will be held from 27 April to 18 May. Contestants must choose songs officially licensed by GMM Grammy or Dome Jaruwat from YouTube channels listed on www.tpopstar.com.

The eight finalists will be announced on 31 May, and the semifinals and finals will be held on 21 and 22 June at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel as part of the “Thai Festival 2025 in Yangon”.

The judging will take into account vocal quality, Thai pronunciation, stage performance, creativity and appearance, with online voting accounting for 10 per cent of the total. Famous artistes from GMM Grammy, ONE31 and GMMTV will be on the judging panel and perform on stage, and both days of the competition will be broadcast live. — MT/ZN

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar deports 255 foreigners in telecom fraud crackdown

AS part of the efforts by the government, thorough investigations are being conducted to identify individuals involved in online scams and online gambling activities. In the course of these operations, 255 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar and engaged in online gambling, online scams, and other criminal activities in areas including Myawady-Minletpan, Maetawthalay, and Kyaukkhat in Kayin State, were yesterday repatriated to their respective countries via the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge II. The repatriation was carried out per legal procedures, with consideration for humanitarian concerns and international goodwill. Additionally, a further three foreign nationals were identified and detained for further investigation.

First, Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs U Saw Htun Aung met officials from relevant departments to instruct them to prepare complete and accurate personal records and documentation for the repatri-



Myanmar Immigration and officials oversee the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

ation process. Then, a repatriation ceremony was held, attended by the Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs and officials, Ambassador Ms Betty O Bigombe from the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda to Malaysia, Minister Counsellor Ms Tsitsi Kangai-Kasirowori from the Embassy of Zimbabwe to Malaysia,

First Secretary Ms Nguyen Thi Kim Chung from the Embassy of Vietnam to Thailand, First Secretary Mr Fahd Saleem from the Embassy of Pakistan to Thailand, and officials from the Immigration Department of Tak Province, Thailand. Myanmar authorities formally handed over the relevant documentation to the representatives of

the respective countries. Similarly, three Indonesian nationals who had illegally entered the Maetawthalay (KK Park) area of Myawady via unofficial routes were also identified and detained yesterday. Between 30 January 2025 and 28 April 2025, a total of 9,043 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar were

identified and detained. Of these, 7,567 were systematically repatriated to their respective countries via Thailand, in accordance with legal procedures. Another 1,475 foreign nationals have been prepared for repatriation and are currently being safely detained and cared for. The 9,043 foreign nationals detained to date include citizens from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ghana, Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, Congo, Cameroon, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Madagascar, Romania, Liberia, Russia, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Burundi, and Chinese Taipei. Authorities report that joint departmental teams will continue their efforts to promptly identify and repatriate any remaining foreign nationals who have entered Myanmar illegally via unauthorized routes. — MNA/MKKS

Mandalay JLPT July exams move to Yangon

THE JLPT July exam, which was scheduled to take place in Mandalay, will be relocated to Yangon, the JLPT organization committee and the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni said. Universities and schools in Mandalay used for the JLPT exam venue were damaged in the quake that hit on 28 March, and structural assessment and repair will take a long while. Due to these reasons, Mandalay's JLPT July exam for all levels

has been planned to relocate to Yangon, it said. Those who don't want to go to have the exam in Yangon can cancel the application and request for refund, and can register between 25 April and 12 May by 4 pm, through the Google Form link <https://forms.gle/qQP-81DXtFtu9prf97>, it said. Detailed information about Yangon's exam venues will be provided in a further announcement, it said. — MT/ZS



Mine blast wrecks Yangon-Mandalay railway



Clockwise from top: Repairs underway after the blast, alongside damage to railway tracks.

NO 902-down train that departed from Kyaukdaga Township yesterday morning retreated from milepost 107/4-5 between Kyaukdaga and Thahtaygon railway stations on the Yangon-Mandalay section in Bago Region as the railway track was destroyed due to the mine blast planted by insurgents. The railway section was also temporarily suspended. Regional officials and se-

curity forces members proceeded to the site promptly for inspection, and they also found an unexploded homemade mine near the incident location. The MR staff repaired the damage to reopen the railway section as quickly as possible, and the railway section was reopened on the same afternoon. Since February 2021, ter-

rorist groups have been perpetrating 81 mining attacks and explosions within railway areas and stations, 81 blasts on railway bridges, and 16 instances of blazing stations and employee housing. Their terrorist acts are aimed at destabilizing the rule of law and endangering the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/KTZH

Ticket sales for Osaka expo top 10 mln, most sold in advance

ADMISSION ticket sales for the World Exposition in Osaka topped 10 million in about two weeks after its opening on 13 April, organizers said Monday, with most of them sold in advance.

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition is aiming to sell 23 million tickets for the six-month expo, hoping to use the admissions to cover the event's running costs.

A total of about 10.41 million tickets were sold as of Friday, of which 9.69 million were advance-sale and 717,000 were sold after the opening, according to the association.

Sales of advance tickets have fallen short of the 14 million target.

Jun Takashina, a deputy secretary general at the association, said sales of season passes, which allow attendees to visit multiple times, are increasing thanks to positive word-of-mouth from visitors. — Kyodo



Jun Takashina, a deputy secretary-general at the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, speaks at a press conference in Osaka on 28 April 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

Indonesia's new loan disbursements decline in Q1 but remain positive

INDONESIA'S new loan disbursements in the first quarter of 2025 declined, with a weighted net balance of 55.07 per cent, lower than both the previous quarter and the same period last year, according to a central bank survey.

"Although there was a decline, Bank Indonesia's banking survey shows that new loan disbursements in the first quarter of 2025 continued to grow positively, albeit at a slower pace compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, in line with historical trends," said Ramdan Denny Prakoso, executive director of Bank Indonesia's communication department.

Looking ahead, Bank Indonesia projects that new loan disbursements will rise in the second quarter of 2025, with an expected weighted net balance of 81.99 per cent.

Lending standards in the first quarter of 2025 were more relaxed than in the previous quarter, as indicated by a negative lending standard index of 1.32, particularly regarding collateral requirements. — Xinhua

World's largest car carrier sets off on maiden voyage from Chinese port

CHINA'S self-developed car carrier "BYD Shenzhen", the largest of its kind worldwide, set off on its maiden voyage with more than 7,000 BYD new energy vehicles (NEVs) on Sunday evening, according to the Shenzhen-based car-maker BYD.

It set sail from Taicang Port in east China's Jiangsu Province and is expected to reach Itajai Port in Brazil after more than 30 days at sea.

Built by a shipyard under China Merchants Group, the BYD Shenzhen is an NEV carrier with 9,200 standard spaces, and is BYD's fourth specialized vessel for transporting NEVs. The previous three vessels were also independently built in China.

The 219-metre-long, 37.7-metre-wide BYD Shenzhen was delivered on 22 April in the city of Yizheng, Jiangsu. The ship features cutting-edge green technologies such as high-efficiency, energy-saving main engines and a Boil-Off Gas (BOG) recondenser, and antifouling, drag-reducing coatings.

BYD Shenzhen's efficient loading system and advanced protective technologies can provide stable and low-carbon logistics support for BYD's global delivery of new energy vehicles, noted Wang Junbao, general manager of BYD's public business division at the delivery ceremony. — Xinhua



This photo shows a Yangwang U7 of BYD at the 22nd Guangzhou International Automobile Exhibition at the China Import and Export Fair Complex in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 15 November 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Asia-Pacific region needs grid upgrade to drive energy transition: ADB

INADEQUATE investment in power grids is holding back developing countries in Asia and the Pacific from embracing the full benefits of an energy transition, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report on Monday.

Titled Energy Transition Readiness Assessment for Developing Asia and the Pacific, the report called for the urgent expansion of interconnected and modernized grids to keep up with rising energy demand and integrate intermittent renewable energy sources across the region.

The study also showed that while differing national characteristics require countries to forge their own clean power trajectories, in-country connectivity and regional interconnections can provide a universal boost to economic efficiency and power affordability. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (226W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (226W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2025** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (211N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (211N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Conclave starts 7 May, with cardinals saying new pope must tackle abuse

CATHOLIC cardinals agreed on Monday to begin a conclave on 7 May to elect a new pope, and highlighted clerical sexual abuse as one of the key challenges facing Pope Francis's successor.

So-called "Princes of the Church" under the age of 80 will meet in the Sistine Chapel to choose a new religious leader for the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

The date was decided at a meeting of cardinals of all ages early on Monday, two days after the funeral of Francis, who died on 21 April aged 88.

The cardinals outlined the most pressing Church challenges including "evangelization, the relationship with other faiths (and) the issue of abuse", the Vatican said.

"There was talk of the qualities that the new pontiff must possess to respond effectively to these challenges," it added.

The Church's 252 cardinals were recalled to Rome after the



This photo taken and handout on 28 April 2025 by The Vatican Media shows cardinals during the fifth congregation meeting in The Vatican. **PHOTO: MARIO TOMASSETTI / VATICAN MEDIA / AFP**

Argentine's death, although only 135 are eligible to vote in the conclave.

They hail from all corners of the globe and many of them do not know each other.

But they already had four

meetings last week, so-called "general congregations", where they began to become better acquainted.

Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti, 83, a former head of the Italian bishops' conference, said

there was a "beautiful fraternal atmosphere".

"Of course, there may be some difficulties because the voters have never been so numerous and not everyone knows each other," he told Italy's Cor-

riere della Sera newspaper.

On Monday, the Vatican closed the Sistine Chapel, where voting will take place under Michelangelo's 16th-century ceiling frescoes, to begin preparations.

So far there are few clues as to who the cardinals might choose.

"I believe that if Francis has been the pope of surprises, this conclave will be too, as it is not at all predictable," Spanish Cardinal Jose Cobo told El Pais in an interview published on Sunday.

Francis was laid to rest on Saturday with a funeral and burial ceremony that drew 400,000 people to St Peter's Square and beyond, including royalty, world leaders and ordinary pilgrims.

On Sunday, about 70,000 mourners filed past his marble tomb in the Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica in Rome, after the "pope of the poor" opted to be buried outside the Vatican's walls. — AFP

India says signs deal with France for 26 Rafale fighter jets



(FILES) Visitors look at a model of Rafale fighter jet kept on display during the 15th edition of 'Aero India 2025', a military aviation exhibition at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on 11 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA has signed a contract to purchase 26 Rafale fighter jets from France, New Delhi's defence ministry said Monday, with the multi-billion-dollar deal to include both single and twin-seat planes.

When delivered, the jets

would join 36 French-made Rafale fighters already acquired by New Delhi as part of its efforts to rapidly modernize its military hardware.

"The governments of India and France have signed an inter-governmental agree-

ment for the procurement of 26 Rafale Aircraft," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The jets made by French aerospace company Dassault Aviation are expected to operate from Indian-made aircraft carriers, replacing the Russian MiG-29K jets.

"It includes training, simulator, associated equipment, weapons and performance-based logistics" as well as 22 single-seater and four twin-seater jets, said India's defence ministry.

"It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF)."

The Indian government announced its intention to procure 26 Rafales in 2023, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France for the Bastille Day celebrations. — AFP

DPRK troops' operations in Russia's Kursk "victoriously concluded": KCNA

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) announced Monday that its military operations in Russia's Kursk region "were victoriously concluded," marking the first official confirmation of its military involvement.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, decided to send armed forces to Russia as "the prevailing situation was conformed to the invocation of Article 4 of the treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership" between the two countries, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, citing a Sunday statement from the Central Military Commission of the WPK.

The military activities "conducted within the bound-

ary of the Russian Federation fully conform to all the provisions and the spirit of the UN Charter and other international laws," according to the statement.

Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov, in his report on Saturday to President Vladimir Putin on regaining control of the Kursk region, commended the role of DPRK troops in the Kursk campaign.

"I want specially to note the participation of servicemen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ... who in accordance with the Treaty on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between our countries rendered considerable assistance," Gerasimov was quoted as saying by the TASS news agency. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Yangon United secures victory while Ayeyawady continues more win



THE second fixture of the Myanmar Women's League for the 2025-2026 season continued on 28 April, with Yangon United winning their first match, followed by Ayeyawady continuously winning their match.

In a match held at the Yangon United Sports Complex, Yangon United won against the Shan United team with a score of 3-1. In the opening match, it was a meeting between two teams that had previously faced losses, and Yangon United started the match with a victory. Although the Shan United team was lined up with some national-selected players in the current season, they have not yet won any matches, having played against powerhouses Ayeyawady and Yangon United in consecutive games since the season's start. For Yangon United, the goals were scored by Yoon Wati

Shan United's keeper May Zin Nwe is trying to save the ball kicked by the strikers of Yangon United. **PHOTO: MWL**

Hlaing in three and 57 minutes and by Shoon Lei Naing in 90+4 minutes. Shan United's lone goal came from Khine Thazin in 72 minutes.

In the match held at the Thuwunna Training Ground 1, the Ayeyawady trounced the YREO with a score of six goals to zero. Ayeyawady team's victory included four goals by striker San Thaw Thaw. The team won in two consecutive matches with a half dozen goals. The goals for the Ayeyawady team came from San Thaw Thaw in 31, 45+3, 58, and 67 minutes, while Phyu Phyu Kyaw in 37 minutes and Nan Shin Thant Phyu Zin Phone in 87 minutes.

At the end of the second fixture, the Ayeyawady and Thitsar Arman Team each played two matches and scored six points each, the ISPE one match and three points, the Yangon United, Young Lionesses, and YREO teams two matches and three points each, while Shan United and Myawady each played two matches, and Yangon Royals one match but they could not score any points yet. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Japan's Saigo wins 1st LPGA major of year in 5-way playoff

JAPANESE golfer Mao Saigo captured her first career title on the US LPGA Tour on Sunday, winning the Chevron Championship major in a five-way playoff.

The 23-year-old won with a birdie on the first extra hole, the par-5 18th, at The Club at Carlton Woods in The Woodlands, Texas.

Saigo became the fifth LPGA major champion from Japan and first since Ayaka Furue won the Amundi Evian Championship last July.

The other winners are Hisako "Chako" Higuchi at the 1977 LPGA Championship, Hinako Shibuno at the 2019 Women's British Open and Yuka Saso

at the US Women's Open in 2021 and 2024.

On the men's side, Hideki Matsuyama won the Masters Tournament in 2021.

Saigo birdied the final hole of regulation to join South Korea's Kim Hyo Joo, China's Yin Ruoning, Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn and Lindy Duncan of the United States at 7 under for the tournament.

Saigo, a six-time winner on the top-tier Japanese tour, won the LPGA Rookie of the Year award in 2024 after securing seven top-10 finishes.

"I've always dreamed of winning (on the US tour)," said Saigo, who earned a winner's prize of \$1.2 million. — Kyodo



Japanese golfer Mao Saigo celebrates after winning the LPGA Tour's Chevron Championship at The Club at Carlton Woods in The Woodlands, Texas, on 27 April 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Inter downed by Roma, McTominay fires Napoli to top of Serie A



SSC Napoli's players celebrate at the end of the Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli against Torinoini FC at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples on 27 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

INTER Milan's defence of their Serie A title was hit with a setback on Sunday as they lost 1-0 at home to Roma, while Scott McTominay netted a brace as Napoli beat Torino 2-0 to go top of the table.

No fixtures were played on Friday or Saturday because of the funeral of Pope Francis in Rome, meaning the full round of Serie A matches take place on Sunday and Monday.

Matias Soule's first-half strike for Roma knocked Inter off top spot earlier in the day before new tabletoppers Napoli opened up a three-point buffer with victory in Sunday's late kick-off.

"Three defeats in one week hurts, and we're not used to such a run," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi.

"It was a very important game, but we lacked a clear head. We need to try and get our energy back, and we'll go to Barcelona with a lot of respect for this team, but without fear."

Argentinian Soule stunned the San Siro when he slotted the ball home coolly as the ball ping-ponged around the Inter box in 22 minutes.

The win moved Roma up to sixth place on 60 points, two off the final Champions League spot.

In another blow for Inter, they risk being without defender Benjamin Pavard for their upcoming Champions League semifinal first leg against Barcelona after the French international limped off in 15 minutes with an ankle issue.

McTominay lit the blue touch paper in the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona when he ghosted in at the near post to turn Napoli into the lead on seven minutes against Torino. — AFP



WORLD

From ink pens to AI, Chinese translators embrace tech surge



A staff member shows a multi-language AI real-time translation system with transparent screen at Tianjin branch of iFLYTEK in Tianjin, north China, 18 April 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHAI Mingjiong, a seasoned translator and translation instructor with Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) in east China, recently reminisced about his experiences of utilizing ink pens to meticulously translate documents for the United Nations during the 1980s.

Back then, he had to visit libraries and even engage in discussions with professionals from different industries to gather necessary references. “Now, things have changed a lot, particularly with the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies,” said Chai, who founded the prestigious Graduate Institute of Interpretation and Translation at SISU in 2003.

In just a few decades, the translation landscape in China, a populous economic giant with high demand for cross-cultural communication, has undergone seismic

shifts — from simple pens and dictionaries to modern computers equipped with electronic glossaries, and now, rapidly evolving AI technology.

This era of technological marvels has presented translators in the country with unparalleled opportunities, alongside unprecedented challenges, shaping the profession in ways never imagined before.

At the annual gathering of the Translators Association of China (TAC), which took place last week in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, AI once again took centre stage in discussions.

A report on AI and translation, presented by TAC at the meeting, revealed the remarkable journey of AI translation technology, evolving from being a mere subject of intrigue in laboratories to being embraced widely in commer-

cial settings throughout the nation. Its influence has permeated vital industries, including cross-border trade, cultural exchange, education, and healthcare, among others.

In 2024, the proportion of Chinese enterprises using translation technology to complete translation tasks reached 97.1 per cent, an increase of 2.5 per cent compared with 2023; the proportion of practitioners using such technology to complete translation tasks reached 97.7 per cent, the TAC revealed at the meeting.

The report said that by the end of 2024, the number of companies specializing in “machine translation” or “AI translation” had grown to 1,545 — marking an increase of over 700 compared to the previous year.

It also highlighted the integration of AI translation technology into multi-modal applications, leading to the rapid emergence of smart translation devices.

Industry insiders noticed a tendency among clients to push for lower rates due to competition from AI. However, in 2024, over 80 per cent of translation firms reported growth in their operating income or maintained it at the same level compared with 2023.

Stephanie Zhu, owner of a Shanghai-based translation firm, told Xinhua that while it’s difficult to quantify the exact impact of AI translation technology on their business, it has undoubtedly altered the work patterns of translation professionals.

“AI technology can be effectively used for highly replicable texts, optimizing translation processes and boosting productivity,” she explained. — Xinhua

Spain, Portugal hit by major power outage

A massive blackout swept across Spain and Portugal on Monday, leaving large parts of both countries without electricity and causing widespread disruption.

Spain’s electricity grid operator, Red Elctrica, confirmed widespread power outages across the country. The company said it was working to restore electricity supplies and to analyze the causes of the blackout. “All resources are being dedicated to solving it,” Red Elctrica said in a post on X.

Following the outage, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez visited Red Elctrica’s control centre to oversee recovery efforts. His office stated that “the government is working to find out the origin and the effects of this incident and is dedicating all its resources to solving it as soon as possible.” In Madrid, the immediate effects were visible when traffic lights across the city simultaneously stopped working, leading to chaos on the roads. Metro services in Madrid and Barcelona were also brought to a standstill, leaving thousands of passengers trapped inside tunnels.

Spain’s national railway company, Renfe, reported that the national electricity grid was cut off at 12:30 pm local time, forcing train operations across the country to come to a halt. “Trains stopped” and there were “no departures” at any stations, the company said.

Reports also emerged of people trapped inside elevators in office buildings and apartment complexes. Marie-Carmen Sanz, a hospital worker at Madrid’s Ramon and Cajal Hospital, told Xinhua that several hospital workers and patients were trapped in elevators at the facility. — Xinhua

As Canada votes, Trump pushes US takeover plan

CANADA was voting Monday for a new government to confront a trade war and annexation threats by President Donald Trump, who pushed for the United States to absorb its neighbour as polling stations opened.

The Liberal Party, led by new Prime Minister Mark Carney, looked set to lose to the Conservatives’ Pierre Poilievre until the US president’s attacks on the country sparked a sudden reversal in poll

forecasts.

Trump forcefully inserted himself into Canadian politics on election day with a Truth Social post saying Canada would face “ZERO TARIFFS” if it “becomes the cherished 51st state.”

“IT WAS MEANT TO BE!” he said.

Carney, 60, has never held elected office and only replaced Justin Trudeau as prime minister last month. He had a lucrative

career as an investment banker before serving as the central bank governor in both Canada and Britain. Carney has argued his global financial experience has prepared him to guide Canada’s response to Trump’s tariffs.

He has also promised to revitalize internal trade and expand Canada’s economic opportunities abroad to cut reliance on the United States, a country Carney says “we can no longer trust.” — AFP



Election signs for various political parties line the streets in Montreal ahead of the opening of polls in Canada’s federal election on 28 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP