

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**



An aerial glimpse of a cement plant in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region.

Cement factories in Kyaukse eye restart

One plant aims to supply 100,000 bags of cement daily by mid-May.

AUTHORITIES are working to expedite the reopening of cement factories in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, to meet the growing demand in the domestic market, according to U Kaung Myat Naing, administrator of Kyaukse District.

The cement factories in the Kyaukse

area, partially destroyed by the Mandalay earthquake, are under repair and restoration. One factory expects to supply the cement to markets in mid-May, with 100,000 cement bags per day.

“There are high-producing cement factories (Alpha, Double Rhinos, Sinmin) in Kyaukse Township. Double Rhinos

Cement Factory aims to produce 100,000 bags per day starting from 15 May. They are trying to return to work to meet the demand for cement in reconstruction activities,” U Kaung Myat Naing said.

The daily production of cement by domestic factories will help meet market demand. — ASH/KK

OPINION

Prioritize rebuilding schools with safety for students

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Buildings Restoration, Utilization, and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee holds 1st coord meeting

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Quake-damaged heritage restored step by step

Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,798

AS of 29 April, a total of 3,798 people died, 5,106 were injured, and 106 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

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

the bodies of 778 deceased persons have been recovered.

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

Between 7 pm on 28 April and 5 pm on 29 April, various forms of international assistance arrived at Yangon Interna-

tional Airport. Relief supplies from Malaysia-based Fo Guang Shani Bussha’s Light International Association Yayasan Sin Chew included towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, blankets, mosquito nets, bedding, solar lanterns, and 3.918 tonnes of tarpaulin tents. The China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association donated 2.185 tonnes of essential medicines. The Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation provided 5.547 tonnes of mosquito nets and

bedding. The Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd sent 0.49 tonne of Tetanus Diphtheria (TD) and Measles-Rubella vaccines. In addition, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) contributed 10 wooden crates of tarpaulin tents weighing 7.636 tonnes, along with a further 2.349 tonnes of tarpaulin tents.


It is reported that these relief items will swiftly be distributed to the affected communities to ensure timely support. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

United Strength Needed to Stop Internal Threats Undermining National Progress

- While many citizens work to improve the country, some engage in obstructionism, undermining progress.
- Terrorists, often from within the region, commit destructive acts.
- Outsiders cannot destroy a region; the threat often comes from within.
- It's like those who take shelter under a tree but cut off its branches.
- These terrorists must be stopped through the united strength of the people.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Meeting 3/2024 on 7 June 2024)



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE SUPREME COURT
Of THE UNION

Press Statement

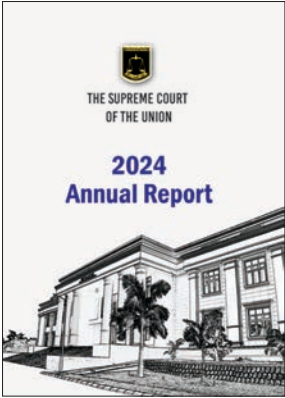
Publishing the Court Annual Report 2024


Nay Pyi Taw, 30 April

The Court Annual Report 2024 (both English and Myanmar versions) was published by the Supreme Court of the Union on 30 April 2025. The Report is also uploaded and accessible on the website of the Supreme Court of the Union <http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm>. Court Annual Reports have been issued annually since 2016 to enlighten the performance of the Supreme Court of the Union and the Courts at different levels. The objectives of issuing the Court Annual Report are to be transparent and accountable in the process of the judiciary; to have a realistic assessment of the activities of the Court, to have a better performance of the Court, and to raise public awareness about the judicial reform processes.

The efforts of the Supreme Court of the Union in 2024 are featured in a specific section in the report, which is easily comprehensible not only to the legal practitioners and court users but also to the public. These include significant activities and initiatives such as enabling nationwide clearance rate of 103 per cent of cases brought before the court exceeding the 100 per cent target set out by the Judiciary Strategic Plan (2023-2027), participating in the process of National Strategic Plans and Projects of the State, facilitating speedy resolution on bank mortgage and recovery of loans in mortgage suits through Court-led Mediation as a special matter, introducing new effective procedures for IP cases and conducting IP awareness seminars, and implementing the Lawyer Management System (LMS) that can be easily operational to the data of individual lawyers as a significant step in utilizing technology. Moreover, this report also highlights cooperation with regional judiciaries for the development of the Myanmar judiciary. Each section of the report provides better knowledge and understanding of the position of the judicial sector and its efficiency to the public.

Any comments and recommendations relating to the Report can be sent to the Court Annual Reporting Team by emailing annualreport.ouse@usc.gov.mm.





Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Legal Translation Commission

Order 1/2025

3rd Waxing of Kason 1387 ME
29 April 2025

1. According to Subsection (a) of Section 12, the Legal Translation Commission hereby announced that the Myanmar Stamp Act translated into Myanmar was approved by the Legal Translation Commission under Subsection (a) of Section 9 of the Legal Translation Commission Law.
2. The translated law in Myanmar shall be effective, similar to the original script.

Sd/Dr Thida Oo
Chairperson
Legal Translation Commission

New Generation Wunthanu Party applies for political party registration

THE New Generation Wunthanu Party, aiming to compete in the upcoming general election, submitted its application for political party registration yesterday, as per Section 3 of the Political Party Registration Law, to the Union Election Commission.

As of today, 23 parties have applied under Section 3, while 50 parties have applied for continued registration under Section 25, bringing the total to 73 parties. The Union Election Commission is currently reviewing the application for the newly registered party. — MNA/KZL

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1. Office of the State Administration Council
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2. Ministry of Defence
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3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
<https://www.mlis.gov.mm>

4. Ministry of Information
<https://www.moi.gov.mm>

5. Myawady Webportal
<https://myawady.net.mm>

6. Myanmar National Portal
<https://myanmar.gov.mm>

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)

Buildings Restoration, Utilization, and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee holds 1st coord meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, who is also Chairman of the Buildings Restoration, Utilization, and New Buildings Construction Supervision Committee, presided over the first coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union minister highlighted the formation of a committee to restore, utilize and construct new buildings that can stand the earthquake after the Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March. He then mentioned the formation of 18 level-1 inspection teams, 11 level-2 inspection teams and 12 special task forces to examine the quake-affected state-owned buildings, staff housing and special buildings, and the experts inspected the buildings with the colour-coded system



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye presides over the first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

(red, orange and blue).

He added that the buildings should be repaired and constructed to withstand earthquakes with a magnitude of up to 8.0 on the Richter scale. Currently, the

committees are organized in the quake-affected Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region and Shan State. Moreover, six Committees

for the Safety Inspection of Earthquake-Damaged Buildings are organized in Nay Pyi Taw and six regions and states. He also instructed officials to follow the procedures and Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) in repairing the quake-affected buildings, roads and bridges, and to follow the law, rules and instructions and SOP for the MSMEs and buildings in industrial zones in Nay Pyi Taw, states and regions.

He continued that in repairing the office buildings, the companies of origin will be assigned, or the companies that are currently operating in construction processes of relevant ministries and companies that are recommended by three engineering groups will be assigned. The repairs for staff housing will be conducted by the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and the governments of relevant regions and states.

He then talked about the need to make budget estimates and approval-seeking processes to prevent misuse of the budget. — MNA/KTZH

Chinese Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed the matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and implementation of mutually beneficial cooperation

between the two countries, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, China's provision of humanitarian assistance, medical aid and rescue teams to Myanmar for the affected families and communities, continued support for the Myanmar Government's effort in the disaster rehabilitation and resettlement programmes in the affected areas in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, the maintenance of peace and stability, law enforcement and

security cooperation along the Myanmar-China border area, China's continuous constructive support towards Myanmar's development endeavour as well as closer collaboration both in regional and international arena. — MNA

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia yesterday.



NATIONAL



DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador

Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe shakes hands with the Indian Ambassador during yesterday's event.

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar expressed his appreciation to India for providing humanitarian assistance

and for sending search and rescue teams as well as medical teams to Myanmar in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Both sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in the ongoing rescue and relief efforts for the victims of the earthquake and in other areas of mutual interest. — MNA

IAEA experts conduct NDT testing on earthquake-impacted buildings

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, accompanied by officials, yesterday morning observed ongoing structural integrity inspections of buildings of the ministry affected by the Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March.

A combined inspection team comprising four experienced earthquake and disaster experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and local specialists is conducting these assessments using Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) technology.

The IAEA experts have previously conducted similar post-earthquake assessments in Mexico (2017), Al-

bania (2019), Ecuador (2023), and Syria (2024). In Myanmar, they are using advanced NDT equipment such as Rebar Detectors, Rebound Hammers, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity (UPV) devices, and Infrared Cameras to examine structural damage without compromising building integrity.

The inspection team has visited the Ministry of Labour and the 1,000-bed General Hospital to carry out on-site assessments.

They also conducted a detailed inspection using testing equipment at the Human Resource Development Centre under the Ministry of Science and Technology. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, IAEA experts and officials concerned are seen during the structural integrity inspection.

Untimely Rainfall Warning 28

Issued at 6pm MST on 29 April 2025

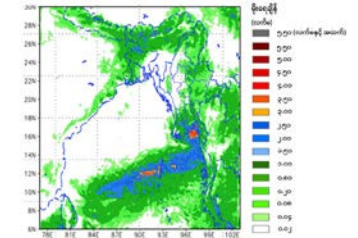
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30pm MST today, due to the western disturbances and the eastern disturbances, the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, cold air from the China high pressure system and the convective

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

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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.

Alodawpyae Rescue Team supports earthquake-affected MoI staff

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received the Alodawpyae Rescue Team led by Ashin Kumara in Nay Pyi Taw, where they delivered humanitarian aid to the Ministry of Information staff affected by the recent earthquake.

During the meeting, the Union minister supplicated the extent of damage to the ministry's buildings caused by the

earthquake, ongoing rescue and rehabilitation efforts, and support being provided by the government and international organizations, and expressed gratitude for the donated supplies. He also clarified the damage situation in detail.

Relief items were officially handed over, and the Union minister presented a certificate of honour and commemorative gifts in return. The



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn accepts the humanitarian aid yesterday.

Union minister also showed the Alodawpyae Rescue Team, the systematic construction of temporary bashas built in front of the ministry for staff use. — MNA/KZL

Union Health Minister, WHO rep review earthquake relief efforts



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win accepts the donations during yesterday's meeting.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win met Mr Thushara Fernando, the World Health Organization (WHO) Resident Representative to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Health's conference hall yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the Ministry's continued efforts in providing emergency healthcare services to earthquake-affected people and patients. The Union Minister highlighted that de-

spite many healthcare workers themselves being victims of the earthquake, they remained committed to ensuring uninterrupted medical services. They also discussed the need for technical and equipment support to produce and fit prosthetic limbs for patients from Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, and Sagaing Region who had lost limbs in the disaster.

Other topics included co-operation in providing mental health support to people in the

affected areas, monitoring for potential outbreaks of infectious diseases following the quake, and ongoing prevention and control measures. The two sides also talked openly about ways to improve healthcare services in the affected areas beyond their original state.

Also present at the meeting were the deputy minister for Health, directors-general, WHO representatives, and other senior officials from the Ministry of Health.

In a related event on 28 April, the Union minister received monetary donations for healthcare support for both health workers and earthquake victims in Mandalay. These included K20 million donated by the Incheon Dental Association, K5 million from Grand Medi Core Co Ltd, and K10 million from the Nay Pyi Taw-based Kyemon Hospital. Certificates of appreciation were presented in return, and words of thanks were extended to the donors. — MNA/MKKS

Peace talks held: From ceasefire to lasting peace

FOUR political parties presided over a peace talk under the motto of a temporary ceasefire to a durable peace at the Orchid Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Executive Director U Thein Tun Oo of Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies served as a Patron, and USDP Central Executive Member U Hla Thein, National Unity Party Vice-Chair U Thein Tun, National Political Alliances Vice-Chair U Kyaw Thu Aung and Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics Party Chairman U Aye Lwin led the discussion.

The talks discussed the examples that were received via the negotiations after the natural disasters in international

countries, the importance of the attitude and opinions of Tatmadaw, people and ethnic armed groups to ensure durable peace, stability to hold elections, accurate news to public by political parties and media to support Tatmadaw and other matters.

Participants also focused on the need for support from politicians who are well-versed in political issues, extension of the ceasefire, and finding a solution to political issues through the election, among others.

Officials from 12 Yangon-based political parties, including the USDP chairman, observers and media, attended the event. — MNA/KTZH



The peace talk organized by four parties in progress yesterday in Yangon.

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



This photo captures some of the buildings in the areas affected by the Mandalay earthquake.

Quake-damaged heritage restored step by step

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museums, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, states that restoration and maintenance work on ancient buildings in earthquake-affected areas is being carried out in stages.

The department is systematically conducting restoration and maintenance work on ancient buildings damaged in the areas affected by the

Mandalay earthquake, including Mandalay, Inwa, Pinya, Paleik, the Kyaukse-Makkaya area, Amarapura, and the Sagaing and Mingun areas.

In carrying out restoration and maintenance work on ancient buildings, teams are being formed in relevant areas to undertake activities such as creating a recent damage inventory, taking photos and video recordings, assessing damage to interior

mural paintings, performing emergency maintenance if necessary, conducting cleaning work, preparing estimates and reports, and conserving, restoring, and rebuilding.

During the restoration process, the department has formed teams to conduct assessments, site cleaning, sheltering, and emergency repairs on the damaged ancient buildings in the Inwa region.

— ASH/TH

Super vocalist's Bangkok live concert set for May

THE concert titled “Sai Sai Live in Bangkok” by popular Myanmar singer and Academy award-winning artiste Sai Sai Kham Leng will be held this coming May in Bangkok, Thailand, according to the singer.

Sai Sai stated, “The Bangkok show will be followed by a series of concerts in Yangon. Since the Bangkok event was planned earlier, it will take place before the Yangon shows. I am ready to meet my Myanmar fans in Bangkok”.

The Sai Sai Live in Bangkok concert is scheduled to take place at Spicy Bar in Bangkok at 8 pm on 17 May.

Sai Sai earlier announced on 8 April that his Sai Sai Live in Yangon concert, originally planned for 10 April (his birthday), was



postponed due to the Mandalay earthquake. He also informed fans who had already purchased tickets that they could request refunds by contacting the page through which they bought the tickets. — ASH/KZL

A promotional poster for the Sai Sai Live in Bangkok concert.

Support camps for Grade 12 exam retakers

DR Khin Thida, Acting Director-General of the Department of Educational Research, Planning and Training, said that training camps would be opened for Grade 12 students who need to re-sit the Grade 12 examinations, following the destruction of answer sheets in the recent major earthquake in Mandalay.

“The training camps will offer intensive revision classes. In addition to academic instruction, they will provide drinking water, bathing facilities, accommodation and meals, healthcare services, and clothing,” Dr Khin Thida explained. “University professors and teachers delivering these lessons will also be fully supported with meals and ac-



This photo reveals students sitting the Grade 12 exam held in March 2025.

commodation. Furthermore, lessons will be broadcast on the Education Channel for students to revise at home, and free online classes will be made available.”

She added that students could also access charity-based

education programmes through private school YouTube channels and Telegram platforms. As the previous examination was held recently, it is believed that students will be able to re-sit the exam.

Security, health, and administrative arrangements for teachers and students at the training camps will be coordinated by the relevant government departments. During the examination period, efforts will be made to ensure an orderly and fair process.

For students unable to attend the training camps in person for various reasons, online learning options will be arranged. It has been planned to open training camps in different examination centres to

ensure that no student is left behind due to financial difficulties, allowing all to have the opportunity to sit the exam.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education will distribute essential learning materials to students retaking the exams, including textbooks, notebooks, pencils, pens and rulers. The training camps will begin accepting students from 28 April to 2 May.

A total preparation period of 50 days has been allocated for the exam. The list of successful candidates will be announced simultaneously across all regions, enabling students to enter university alongside their peers from other states and regions. — ASH/MKKS

DICA: 900 companies fail to file AR in Mar 2025

A total of 900 companies were struck off the register in March 2025 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA report showed that 1,500 companies each in February and January failed to submit AR respectively.

The DICA notified those companies which failed to file their AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 19,000 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2024. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.



The facade view of the DICA office in Yangon.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorpora-

tion), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultane-

ously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. As per DICA's report, thou-

sands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

MoALI urges formation of farmer groups to assess disaster impact

DEPUTY Minister Dr Tin Htut for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation instructed officials concerned to establish farmer-based organizations to observe the impact of natural hazards and disasters on agriculture.

He gave that remark during his inspection tour to remedy the farmland affected by the earthquake. After he inspected the irrigation channels of the Sinthay Diversion Weir in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 26 April, he encouraged growers' participation in enhancing the agriculture sector.

Afterwards, he inspected farmland in Tatkon, Lewe, Zeyathiri and Zabuthiri townships as the Mandalay earth-

quake forced underground water and liquefied soil to the surface. Furthermore, he checked growers' self-efforts to repair large cracks on roads in Pyinmana Township and the irrigation system and farm roads in Zabuthiri Township.

He also observed soil profile tests in quake-hit farms, high-yielding trial farms, and loose soil in farmlands in Nyaungpingyisu village, Pobathiri Township.

The Deputy Minister urged farmers to form farmer-based organizations to assess the disaster impact on agriculture and report on the ground information of the earthquake impacts. — NN/KK

CBM sells over THB5M on 28 Apr

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 5.1 million baht on 28 April.

CBM announced on 22 April to sell \$25 million on 22 April and then injected over 319,900 and 106,000 baht into the financial market on that day.

CBM announced on 16 April that it would sell \$55 million to fuel oil importers and distributors.

CBM sold some \$1.9 million on 10 April. CBM announced on 7 April that it would pump \$30 million into the fuel oil industry, and after that, it sold \$40 million and over six million baht on that day.

CBM injected 500,000 yuan on 4 April and over 2.35 million baht on 3 April into the market.

CBM injected over \$126 million, 320 million baht and 3.6 million yuan in March, over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and



Greenbacks are seen at the exchange counter.

\$124 million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and

prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 29 April 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,660,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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Prioritize rebuilding schools with safety for students

FOR the 2025–2026 academic year, schools are scheduled to reopen in early June this year. Due to the powerful Mandalay earthquake, there has been extensive damage, affecting 2,514 schools. Some schools were formed with more than one building, and some were constituted with multi-storey structures to accommodate the learning of students.

Depending on the condition of each school, repairs will be carried out – ranging from minor to major renovations – and buildings that are beyond repair will be demolished and rebuilt. In these efforts, everyone must work together to ensure that all school-age children can continue their learning without interruption. Despite loss and damage due to the earthquake, it is necessary to emphasize the safety

Although the recent powerful earthquake struck, buildings, which had been constructed under the strict supervision of engineers and in accordance with established standards, were able to withstand the impacts of the quake, resulting in no casualties. This serves as an example that all buildings to be renovated or constructed - including schools - must be built to standard. In particular, schools, which play a vital role in nurturing the human resources for the country's future, must be proactively designed and built to withstand various natural disasters.

Infrastructure would have been able to protect the children.

Myanmar needs to prioritize preparedness, training, and awareness-raising activities to protect school buildings and students from various natural hazards. Currently, priority must be given to the repair and reconstruction of over 2,500 schools that were damaged by the recent earthquake. In the long term, all schools must be upgraded and built to withstand threats of natural disasters such as fire, floods, storms, and earthquakes, ensuring the safety of children at all times.

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PEOPLE have been creating music to this day. They are still composing songs in different types, versions and trends. In my personal view, the potential reason why people make music is that they may want to imitate birds singing or frogs croaking in groups as well as music enables them to feel soothing and to lessen boredom. Whatever the reason is, I am certain that most people like to listen to music, to say the least, even though they do not sing or write songs. In the main, people tend to sing a song alone or sometimes with their close friends no matter whether their voice is good or not. Singing is also a kind of listening to music, of course, that is, a singer will have a feeling for his song and voice himself. To think deeply, listening to music is prone to exert immense effects on everyday human life.

First of all, people listen to music for pleasure. Some are given to listening to music before sleep, during relaxation time and in the morning. Mostly, those who suffer from sleeping difficulties like to listen to music, work out, take a shower, have hot drinks, practice meditation or even read before their sleep. Shortly after that, they are inclined to go to sleep more easily than those who do not. At night, most people like listening to country songs, folk songs, traditional songs or love songs on the phone and sometimes on the radio. During relaxation time, people used to listen to tape recorders, sitting still and quiet. Before the age of cassettes and television, our former generations would rarely listen to songs only on the air from the radio. Nowadays, we can always feel any type of song at will on the Internet, also with the help of Bluetooth and a soundbox, if we wish. In the morning, people who believe in Buddhism usually play Dhamma songs or religious songs so pleasantly that everyone who hears them is likely to get peace and calmness. My favourite Dhamma songs include ‘Zeya Shwe Myay’ by Htay Htay Myint, ‘Dhamasakya’ by Ni Ni Win Shwe, and ‘Than Buddh’e’ by Tin Tin Mya.

Secondly, it is well known by many people that we often listen to music for happiness or fun. When we celebrate a party, we play rather loud music to the threshold that all comers can hear and stand it well, so that too much noise should not be made inappropriately. This usually takes place in victory celebrations, birthday parties, wedding ceremonies, donations like ‘Shin-pyu’ or ‘Thingyan’, and other religious events. On these occasions can be heard almost all seasonal songs, great songs, hit songs, pop songs, old songs, and new songs. A song and dance about gathering may be thrown together with food and drinks. Since birthdays, weddings, and donations are social events, both hosts and guests are willingly happy to serve and get served, respectively. At that time, good songs played in the events also bring a part of happiness to not only hosts but also guests by getting to know that the right things or suitable deeds are conducted between the relationship bridge with arches, figuratively.

Thirdly, it is for extrinsic-turned-intrinsic motivation that people listen to music. Often this occurs in school, its ceremonies and political situations. In the morning, we students must sing the National Anthem written by YMB Saya Tin at school. This song has aroused the patriotic spirit of every Myanmar who just heard it since

The Effect of Listening to Music

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



One reason for creating music may be the desire to imitate natural sounds, such as birds singing or frogs croaking. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

colonial times in Myanmar. In award ceremonies at school, such motivated songs to students as ‘Athitaya-anyataku’ by Twante Thein Tan and ‘Khundawyimanchat’ by Than Tun Lay can be heard as always. In the British colonial age of Myanmar History, ‘Nagani’ written by Shwe Ti Nyunt was the most popular patriotic song. That song has been sung by different Myanmar singers until now. Strange to say, as Myanmar literature scholar U Myint Kyi stated, any patriotic song did not arise in the late Konbaung era of Myanmar, when British colonials had conquered Lower Myanmar through two invasion wars. If composers had been allowed to write and publish patriotic songs at that time, Myanmar could have taken less or more time to have fallen into the colonials’ hands. Through different times of history, any state government has been frightened of those who compose or sing patriotic songs to death. This is how music has a strong influence even on history.

Finally, I find it sad to listen to songs, particu-

larly sad songs. While I was in my childhood, sad songs could be heard from funeral services as usual, and their main purpose seemed to show the bereaved’s mourning. Such songs included in my neighbouring villages’ funerals were ‘Chone Lwar Lat Saung’, ‘Htwe Nyo’ or ‘Chityatsheshe Inyarmay’ by Thwante Thein Tan and ‘Maunt Achit Myar’ or ‘Salmoe Salngwe’ by Mar Mar Aye, even though they are still good songs liked by the former elders, including some of today’s youth. Sad songs can be even heard in commemoration, for instance, on Myanmar’s National Martyrs’ Day with the song ‘Alayupatal’ by May Hla Myaing. Sad songs are heard at weddings and ‘Shin-pyu’ as as often as possible. Usually, after love songs come torch songs in the late afternoon of the Myanmar countryside weddings. Some listen to torch songs to heal their breakup or divorce. In Myanmar’s ‘Shin-pyu’ festivals, we will never miss the songs ‘Bawdi Shwe Kyaung’ by Sein Beda and ‘Thein-winawaka Amaymyatye’ by Hinthada Tun Yin.

After all, songs are a great healer as well.

My music teacher U Thawda Tun once suggested that music is a thing which we can both hear and feel. So, anything that can be neither heard nor felt is not music. Some like feeling music with songs, but I know that others enjoy listening to music without song lyrics. Some people like happy songs only, whereas others choose and listen to torch songs. To me, the more love songs and fewer sad songs, the better. Indeed, songs can make us feel unbelievably soothing, pleasurable, happy or sad very quickly. Sometimes sad songs heal our sorrow, but sometimes lead to our depression. My deceased brother Pho Kyaw said to me, ‘‘Never listen to torch songs. It’s no good thing.’’ Different people have different ideas for torch songs. Some superstitious beliefs say that the omens for torch songs are not good. Whatever is said, the music effect must be nothing but a sort of energy to us all. At least we will hum a song to reduce our laziness or loneliness.

I Say What I See: Spare Life on the Streets?

EVERY day, I watch some people cross the roads in Yangon with what seems like absolute confidence – or maybe indifference. They step onto the street as if vehicles don’t exist, eyes locked forward, never glancing at the cars rushing past. They don’t slow down, don’t hesitate. It’s as if the road belongs only to them.

But then, I see the drivers – equally absorbed, equally unconcerned. They press forward, barely noticing the scattered pedestrians ahead. Horns blare, engines roar, yet no one pauses to think: *What if I were on the other side?*

A friend once put it simply: **“People walking don’t think about the ones driving. And those behind the wheel don’t imagine being the ones walking. It’s like they all believe they have spare lives, ready to use if anything goes wrong.”**

A spare life – what a curious idea. As if our bodies and minds come with backup copies as if recklessness has no cost. Yet, I see the cost **everywhere: the sudden screech of brakes, the helpless flailing of arms before impact, and the lifeless stillness that follows.**

Myanmar’s roads are unforgiving, not just because of their narrow pavements or endless traffic but also because discipline is absent. We walk where we shouldn’t. We drive without caution. We gamble with life, assuming luck will always side with us.

I know because I’ve felt the weight of that moment myself. One evening, while driving with caution, I encountered a **delivery boy on a bicycle speeding towards me from the wrong direction.** His movement was reckless – wrong lane, no warning, no hesitation. We neared a bump, and in a split second, my instincts took over. I slammed the brakes hard enough to avoid impact. A few inches closer, and that encounter could have been disastrous.

But that wasn’t a skill. It wasn’t some supernatural reflex. It was just **luck** – and luck isn’t something we can depend on forever.

That moment reminded me that **we don’t just control our own lives on the road – we also influence others’ lives.** My decision to slam on the brakes saved the delivery boy, but what if I hadn’t seen him in time? What if his fate depended on another driver – one who was distracted, impatient, or careless?

Discipline is what we **must** rely on – not luck. A pedestrian must pause and think before stepping onto the street. A driver must respect the unpredictability of traffic and the responsibility that comes with being behind the wheel. Each person plays a role. Each action carries weight.

Discipline, especially in traffic for both drivers and pedestrians, is crucial. Every traffic situation demands consistent adherence to rules to maintain safety and order on the streets. Discipline is the foundation of rules and regulations. We should value discipline itself rather than enforcing it on others.

Maybe it’s time we stopped thinking we have a spare life waiting for us. Because in Myanmar’s chaotic traffic, **we only ever get one.**

@Editor

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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NATIONAL



Land cuts and landslips are visible in the earthquake's aftermath.

SEISMOMETERS are being planned to be set up in earthquake-prone areas, backed by the TSBM Spirit of Brotherhood Mission, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

"TSBM team will implement this plan on their own fund, similar to the establishment of weather stations. TSBM will start with 6 seismometers for now. It is better if these instruments are set up covering Kabaw Fault, Sagaing Fault and Kyaukkyan Fault," he said.

The instruments will be initially based at Shan Plateau and Chin State, he added.

After the Mandalay earthquake, satellite pictures of the Sagaing Fault have been released by foreign countries. – Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Corrected JLPT certificates (July 2024) - first batch issued

THE first batch of JLPT certificates for 7 July 2024 and with the correction for name spelling and date of birth, can be taken out, said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

Candidate's original and a copy of ID card is required and certificates are available at Yangon JLPT Centre located in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, starting 24 April, and Mandalay branch which has been temporarily set up at KMC private high school located at the corner of 65th Street and 43rd Street in Mandalay, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, except public holidays and weekend.

Certificates will be issued in a year, and further corrections are not allowed, so candidates will need to make sure what they need to correct before the submission for correction, said MAJA. — MT/ZS



The MAJA Education Centre.

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

Sagaing buildings rated 'green' despite strong quake

SAGAING region was hit by a strong earthquake, but building damage was only at a green level, said Saw Htwe Zaw, vice-chairman of the Earthquake Committee, at a seminar on "Earthquake Disaster Mitigation" organized by Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association on 27 April.

"Sagaing was hit harder. Moreover, the quality of the buildings is not as good as Mandalay. It has more damage. Even so, the green level is still high," he said.

In the inspection of earthquake-affected buildings, the green level is assigned to low damage, the yellow level to those that are habitable but require lengthy repairs, and the red level to buildings that have collapsed or tilted.

Among earthquake-hit areas, many buildings in Nay Pyi Taw are uninhabitable at red level, while in Mandalay Region, 90 per cent of the buildings are rated yellow, which requires repairs, he said.

Construction companies that participated in the Nay Pyi Taw Special Development Project have recently been urged to contact the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee again. — Htun Htun/ZN



The Seminar on Earthquake Disaster Mitigation is in progress.

NATIONAL

Myanmar transfers 17 foreigners amid telecom fraud crackdown

MYANMAR authorities deported 17 foreign nationals: 16 from Malaysia and one from Algeria, who committed telecom fraud and criminal operations, including online scams and illegal gambling.

The deportation was conducted in coordination with relevant embassies and Thai immigration through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge II in Myawady.

The individuals unlawfully entered Myanmar through bor-

der routes and operated in the Shwe Kokko-KK Park area of Kayin State. From 30 January to 29 April 2025, Myanmar has identified 9,043 illegal foreign entrants, deporting 7,585 through Thailand, with 1,458 more pending transfer.

Officials reiterated Myanmar's commitment to dismantling online scam centres and cooperating internationally to return foreign victims and suspects efficiently and humanely. — MNA/KZL



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

Yangon to host International Jazz Day 2025 for earthquake relief

THE Myanmar Jazz Club and the French Cultural Section have announced that they will hold the International Jazz Day 2025 - Yangon on 30 April as a musical evening to raise funds for earthquake relief and reconstruction.

The International Jazz Day is held annually on 30 April at the French Cultural Section's Garden. This year, it will be aimed to raise funds

for earthquake relief and reconstruction in Myanmar, and Myanmar jazz musicians and a new generation will perform together with the Myanmar Jazz Club - MJC.

The event Partner is 1964 Gastro Pub, and the Gold Partners are KINGS International School and Heineken Myanmar.

It will take place from 5 pm to 9:30 pm on that day. Each

ticket will be sold for K10,000. All proceeds from ticket sales and any additional donations will be donated to the Bramaso Social Assistance Association - Mandalay for use in rehabilitation and relief work. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the French Cultural Centre Reception Desk 09 406596611, Myanmar Jazz Club - MJC 09 759811137 and 1964 Gastro Pub 09 785141051. — MT/ZN



An announcement for the International Jazz Day 2025 - Yangon.

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

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 29 April 2025)

BAYINFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 30 April 2025: Rain or thundershower will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing and, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Kayin and, Mon and, Shan States, fairly widespread Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin and, Chin State and scattered in Chin and, Rakhine States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-8 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Rain or thundershower will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 April 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 April 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 April 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

ECONOMY
WORLD



A person walks past a logo of German sportswear giant Adidas on a shop wall in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 29 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Pricier trainers? Adidas warns on US tariff impact

GERMAN sportswear giant Adidas on Tuesday warned that US President Donald Trump’s tariffs will increase prices for its products in the United States, and the hardline trade policies could dent its ongoing recovery.

The firm makes a large chunk of its goods in Asian countries that Trump has singled out for running hefty trade surpluses with the United States, including China, which is facing the highest US levies.

CEO Bjorn Gulden said Adidas had reduced its exports from China to the United States “to a minimum”, but added that the group was still “somewhat exposed to those currently very high tariffs”.

“What is even worse for us

is the general increase in US tariffs from all other countries of origin,” he said, adding that they “will eventually cause higher costs for all our products for the US market”.

He said it was “currently impossible” to work out by how much prices might rise or conclude what impact this might have on consumer demand.

Adidas’s shares were down around one percent in early afternoon trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. Beyond China, Adidas also makes products in countries including Vietnam, Indonesia and Bangladesh. The North American market accounted for around a fifth of the group’s sales last year.

Kanye crisis

The US tariffs are set to deal a hefty blow to the company just as it was getting back on its feet following a torrid period triggered by the end of its lucrative tie-up with US rapper Kanye West.

The group developed the popular Yeezy line of trainers with West but halted the collaboration in late 2022 after the rapper sparked anger with anti-Semitic outbursts online.

Adidas was robbed of a vital revenue stream and left saddled with a mountain of Yeezy trainers, which it had to offload at knockdown prices, leading it to slump to its first annual net loss in over three decades in 2023. — AFP

BP profit drops 70% amid pivot back to oil and gas

BRITAIN’S BP said on Tuesday net profit plunged in the first quarter as the struggling energy giant undergoes a major overhaul back to its fossil fuel business.

Profit after tax declined to \$687 million, down from \$2.3 billion in the first three months of 2024, driven by weaker gas sales and lower refining margins, BP said in a statement.

Total revenue fell four percent to slightly under \$48 billion.

BP and other oil majors have been hit by a recent slump in crude prices on fears that US President Donald Trump’s tariffs could cause a recession, impacting demand.

“We continue to monitor market volatility and changes and remain focused on moving at pace,” chief executive Murray

Auchincloss said in an earnings statement.

Under pressure from investors, BP is in the midst of a major reset that saw it shelve its once industry-leading carbon-reduction targets to focus on fossil fuel output deemed more profitable.

The recent retreat in oil prices has cast doubt over this, however, according to analysts. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan to devise roadmap for agriculture development

WITH the support of all the provinces, Pakistan has initiated efforts to devise a long-term consensus roadmap for the development of agriculture and water management infrastructure across the South Asian country. A committee was being formed to ensure the country’s food and ecological security, said a statement released after a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI), chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.

The committee would propose solutions to Pakistan’s long-term agriculture needs and water use of all provinces in line with set policies, said the statement, adding the meeting also endorsed a move to halt the initiative of much-contested six new canals on the Indus River until mutual understanding is achieved among provinces.

“Water is one of the most precious commodities and the Constitution mandates all water disputes to be resolved amicably through mutual understanding and concerns of any province shall be addressed through due diligence among all stakeholders,” it said. — Xinhua

S Korea's retail sale grows 9.2% in Mar

SOUTH Korea’s retail sale grew in single digits last month due to strong online demand for food, daily necessities and service, government data showed Tuesday.

Combined revenue for major offline and online retailers gained 9.2 per cent in March from a year earlier, faster than an increase of 4.4 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Revenue for online retailers jumped 19.0 per cent last month, maintaining a double-digit growth for the 19th straight month since September 2023.

Sales by offline retailers fell 0.2 per cent in March compared to the same month of last year after slipping 7.7 per cent in February.

Food demand in cyberspace soared 19.4 per cent, and online sales of daily necessities expanded 7.5 per cent.

Online demand for service, including travel, food delivery and e-coupon purchase, spiked 78.3 per cent, but sales of sports items in cyberspace retreated in single figures. Food demand in offline stores rose 2.7 per cent, but those for home appliances, clothes, daily necessities and sports items decreased last month.

Revenue among discount outlets and department stores recorded a single-digit reduction, but sales by convenience stores climbed in single figures. — Xinhua



A person gets gasoline at a BP gas station in Washington, DC, on 9 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

GM profits top estimates, but automaker reviewing outlook due to tariffs

GENERAL Motors reported a dip in first-quarter profits but topped estimates Tuesday as the automaker said it was reexamining its 2025 outlook in light of uncertainty over US tariffs.

GM, which has been among the automakers hardest hit by President Donald Trump's multiple tariff announcements, pushed back its earnings conference call to Thursday after The Wall Street Journal reported Monday night that Trump would ease some levies on automakers.

Profits were \$2.8 billion, down 6.6 per cent from the year-ago level, while revenues rose 2.3 per cent to \$44 billion.

Operating profits in North America declined from the 2024 level, but the company notched positive China equity income as it seeks to emerge from a difficult period in the world's second-big-



New General Motors vehicles are parked at the GM Lansing Grand River Assembly plant as the first day of President Donald Trump's 25 per cent tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico goes into effect 4 March 2025 in Lansing, Michigan. **PHOTO: BILL PUGLIANO/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

gest economy.

GM Chief Financial Officer Paul Jacobson said a fire involv-

ing a supplier resulted in less output of full-sized sport-utility vehicles and trucks, meaning

that its mix of autos sold in the quarter included more cars with lower profit margins.

But GM's underlying business "is still performing pretty well", he told reporters.

Jacobson said the company was "reassessing" its projections from its January forecast, which made no attempt to incorporate tariff effects.

"We believe the future impacts of tariffs could be significant," said Jacobson, adding that the company was engaged in "productive conversations" with the Trump administration, which is pressing companies to build more autos in the United States. The Trump administration's 25 per cent levies on car imports mean higher costs for GM vehicles assembled in Mexico, South Korea and other countries. GM said earlier this month that it plans to boost truck production at its plant in Fort Wayne, Indiana. — AFP

China's SAIC Motor signs deal for EV brand co-developed with Huawei

SHANGHAI-BASED SAIC Motor Corporation Limited on Tuesday signed an agreement to establish a car manufacturing plant and supporting vehicle battery facilities for its new electric vehicle (EV) brand co-developed with Huawei in the Lingang new area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Shanghai.

The plant is designed to

have an annual production capacity of about 250,000 vehicles in its early stages, according to SAIC Motor.

The move follows a partnership formed earlier this year between SAIC Motor and Huawei. In February, the two companies signed a deep co-operation agreement to jointly launch the SAIC Shangjie brand.

Tech giant Huawei has already collaborated on four other EV brands, namely AITO, Luxeed, Stelato and Maextro, under its Harmony Intelligent Mobility Alliance (HIMA). Huawei's tech support, such as adaptive driver assistance and intelligent cockpit solutions, has injected new momentum into the partner carmakers.

SAIC Shangjie vehicles will be equipped with Huawei's smart mobility solutions, said Zhu Yong, head of the SAIC Shangjie business. The cars will target the middle to high-end market, catering mainly to households and young white collar workers.

The first model under the brand, an SUV priced at around 200,000 yuan (about US\$27,800), is expected to hit the market this autumn. It will be available in both pure electric and extended range versions. The pure EV model can offer a range of over 600 kilometres on a single charge. — Xinhua



SAIC Motor workers produce batteries for electric vehicles in a workshop in Changzhou, China on 16 February 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Alibaba introduces open-source AI model with hybrid reasoning

CHINA'S tech giant Alibaba on Tuesday launched Qwen3, the latest generation of its open-sourced large language model (LLM) family, marking the company's debut of hybrid reasoning models.

The Qwen3 series features six dense models and two Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) models, offering the flexibility required to build next-generation applications across mobile devices, smart glasses, autonomous ve-

hicles, robotics and beyond.

All the models are open-sourced and available worldwide.

Qwen3 models can switch between thinking mode for complex, multi-step tasks such as mathematics, coding, and logical deduction and non-thinking mode for fast, general-purpose responses, according to Alibaba.

Since its debut, the Qwen model family has seen over 300 million downloads worldwide. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to conduct two-phase economic census

SRI Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers has approved a proposal to conduct an economic census in two stages, according to a statement issued by the Department of Government Information on Tuesday.

The census will be conducted in two phases, with the first phase focusing on agricultural

activities in 2025, and the second phase, covering non-agricultural activities, scheduled for 2026, the statement said.

The last Economic Census conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) took place in 2013/14, the department noted. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Carney's Liberals win Canada election defined by Trump



Canada's Prime Minister and Liberal Party leader Mark Carney waves to supporters at a victory party in Ottawa, Ontario on 29 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

PRIME Minister Mark Carney pledged Tuesday to beat the United States in Donald Trump's trade war after winning Canada's election and leading his Liberal Party to another term in power.

Congratulatory messages from world leaders have begun pouring in, with countries including China and India saying they would welcome cooperation with Carney's government.

Following a campaign dominated by Trump's tariffs and annexation threats, Carney promised to chart "a new path forward" in a world "fundamentally changed" by a United States that is newly hostile to free trade.

"We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the les-

sons," said Carney, who led the central banks of Canada and Britain before entering politics earlier this year.

"We will win this trade war and build the strongest economy in the G7," he said.

Carney's Liberals secured control of Canada's parliament but may fall just short of a majority.

That will require making deals with smaller parties but still marks an extraordinary comeback for the Liberals, who earlier this year looked headed for an electoral wipeout.

Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party had been on track to win the vote but Trump's attacks, combined with the departure of unpopular former prime minister Justin Trudeau, transformed the race. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran says uranium enrichment, sanctions relief non-negotiable demands in talks with US

IRAN'S Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday that domestic uranium enrichment and the effective removal of sanctions are Tehran's non-negotiable demands in the ongoing indirect negotiations with Washington.

He made the remarks at a weekly press conference in Tehran while elaborating on the country's demands in the Omani-mediated negotiations with the United States, of which three rounds have been held so far, two in the Omani capital Muscat on 12 April and 26 April, respectively, and another in Rome on 19 April.

Baghaei said the details of any negotiations should be within the framework of the general outlines already agreed on by the two sides, adding, "Thus, no agreement will be reached unless Iran's desired general framework is taken into account." — Xinhua

China, Russia should strengthen coordination within BRICS: Chinese FM

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that China and Russia, as founding members of BRICS, should strengthen coordination within the framework and deepen unity and cooperation among developing countries and emerging economies.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Wang said the two countries should work together to continuously implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and deliver tangible results across various fields of cooperation. — Xinhua

BRICS a vital example of multilateralism, says Brazilian FM

THE BRICS bloc of emerging economies is a paramount example of multilateralism, Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Mauro Vieira said during a meeting of foreign ministers from BRICS member countries on Monday.

"BRICS is a very important manifestation of multilateralism, and multilateralism is a constitutional principle that

guides Brazil's foreign relations," Vieira said in an interview with BRICS Brasil.

"We cannot stop strengthening it, especially at a time when multilateralism is being attacked from all sides," he said.

Brazil is holding the BRICS rotating presidency this year, and Vieira, as the host, is coordinating the work of the first foreign ministers' meeting

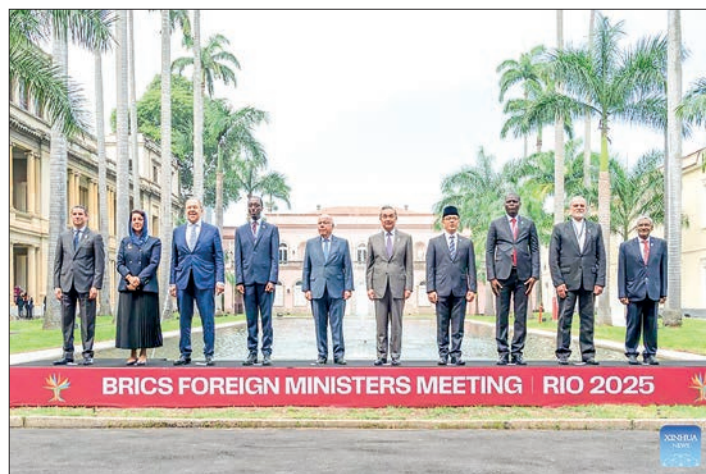
following the expansion of the bloc, initially formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"This meeting is of enormous importance in several respects. It is the first plenary meeting that brings together all member countries along with partner countries, demonstrating the global interest that BRICS countries inspire," Vieira said.

"Together, we comprise almost half of the world's population and represent nearly 40 per cent of global GDP, illustrating the group's influence," he said.

Regarding cooperation among the Global South countries, Vieira expressed his hope to deliver "concrete results" for India, the next BRICS president.

He said defending multilateralism entails preserving organizations such as the United Nations and the WTO, while recognizing the need for reforms in global governance and financial architecture. — Xinhua



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, poses for a group photo with other participants of the first phase of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 28 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Cricket, mixed martial arts added to 2026 programme

CRICKET and mixed martial arts have been added to the 2026 Asian Games, to be co-hosted by Japan's Aichi Prefecture and its capital Nagoya.

The organizing committee of the games announced the decision at Monday's board meeting in Nagoya, following a request from the Olympic Council of Asia. Open water swimming has been excluded from the programme.

The committee said it is trying to stage cricket within the prefecture, which has no venue for the sport at present.

The committee is also in talks with municipalities, which have cricket facilities. Sano, Tochigi Prefecture, has been seen as one option as the city has hosted domestic and international cricket events.

Earlier this week at the Sano International Cricket Ground, Japan's men's team qualified for the Under-19 World Cup for the second time in their history. The tournament will be held in Namibia and Zimbabwe in early 2026.

As for football, the committee said the number of participating teams will be 16 each for men and women, less than initially expected. It was also decided that Kyoto and Hyogo Prefectures will not host matches. — Kyodo

Barcelona, Inter to fight through fatigue in Champions League semifinal



Barcelona's German coach Hans-Dieter Flick smiles during a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League semifinal first leg football match between FC Barcelona and Inter Milan at the Joan Gamper training ground in Sant Joan Despi, near Barcelona, on 29 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

FC Barcelona plays Inter Milan on Wednesday night in a Champions League semifinal first leg tie that promises to be a duel between two tired sides.

Barca goes into the game after a dramatic 3-2 win over bitter rival Real Madrid in Saturday's Copa del Rey final, with Jules Kounde scoring an extra-time winner.

The title, and how it was won, will be a huge boost to Barca's morale, but the fact that the players had to endure extra time in a match that didn't finish until 1 am also presents challenges to coach Hansi Flick.

Key players such as Kounde, Lamine Yamal, Raphinha, Frenkie de Jong and Inigo Martinez all played over 100 minutes on Saturday, with most playing all 120 minutes.

Meanwhile, injuries to Alejandro Balde and Robert Lewandowski rob Barca of two key players and the ability to rotate its starting 11. Balde should be available for the return leg, but Lewandowski's hamstring injury is likely to keep the top scorer out of both matches.

That means Flick may have to

continue with Ferran Torres in attack, or he could consider playing either Gavi or Ferran Lopez as a false nine alongside Raphinha and Yamal.

Gerard Martin will continue at left-back, although Martinez could move across if Flick wants to freshen up his defence with Ronald Araujo alongside Pau Cubarsi in the back four. De Jong and Pedri will start in midfield despite Saturday's exertions, with Eric Garcia available to provide cover when tiredness sets in.

Inter's players are also looking tired as they travel to Montjuic, as a late-season drop in form threatens to derail the Nerazzuri's campaign.

Since reaching the Champions League semis in Europe, Simone Inzaghi's side has lost three consecutive games and failed to score a goal. Those results saw it crash out of the Coppa Italia against local rival AC Milan, while Sunday's 1-0 defeat to Roma saw Napoli open up a three-point lead at the top of Serie A.

Inzaghi also has injury problems, with Benjamin Pavard and Marcos Thuram doubtful. — Xinhua

Real Madrid's Ancelotti agrees Brazil deal – reports

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed to take over the Brazilian national team, several Spanish media outlets reported Monday.

The veteran Italian has one more year on his contract with the Spanish giants but after quarterfinal Champions League elimination by Arsenal and Copa del Rey defeat by rivals Barcelona, is poised to depart the Santiago Bernabeu.

Ancelotti has not hidden that a potential exit was on the cards and said his future was "a topic for the next weeks" after defeat by Barca on Saturday.

Spanish media report Ancelotti would take over ahead of 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June, leaving Madrid before the Club World Cup starts in the United States this summer.

Brazil sacked Dorival Junior



Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti looks on during the international friendly football match between Barcelona and Real Madrid at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 23 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

after a 4-1 thrashing by Argentina in March and are fourth in the

South American qualifying table for the tournament in the US,

Mexico and Canada.

Ancelotti led Real Madrid to

a Champions League and La Liga double last season, with Brazil stars Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes vital parts of the team, and is one of the most successful coaches in the club's history.

In his first spell at Real Madrid he led them to La Decima — their 10th Champions League triumph.

He has won the competition three times with Los Blancos over two stints, sacked in 2015 but returning in 2021 after Zinedine Zidane resigned.

This season Madrid have been defensively fragile and trail La Liga leaders Barcelona by four points, with a title defence their only remaining hope of major silverware.

Ancelotti has also coached AC Milan, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain among other teams. — AFP



Trump boasts of ‘fun’ 100 days, but Americans disenchanted

AFTER 100 days of political chaos and economic shock that have sent his approval ratings tumbling, Donald Trump hopes to regain the unqualified adulation of his supporters Tuesday at one of his bread-and-butter events: a public rally.

To mark the symbolic milestone in his second term, the Republican US president is visiting the site of one of his last campaign events, in Michigan, a battleground state that swung his way in November’s election.

“The first time, I had two things to do — run the country and survive; I had all these crooked guys,” he said in an interview with The Atlantic magazine, referring to advisors and cabinet members whom he considered incompetent or disloyal lieutenants in his first term.

“And the second time, I run the country and the world,” he crowed, adding “I’m having a lot of fun.”

Many of the former real estate tycoon’s voters remain behind Trump.

“He knows what he’s doing,” Karen Miner, a 57-year-old wine store owner in Reno, Nevada, told AFP. **‘No equal’**

“So far, I’m very satisfied with the job he’s doing,” said Frank Tuoti, a 72-year-old retired machinist from New Hampshire.

But he concedes that the tariff instability has made him “a little concerned about the economy”.

Trump on Monday railed against predecessor Joe Biden’s economic policy, boasting on his Truth Social platform that he would reverse the country’s fortunes.

“The USA lost Billions of Dollars A DAY in International Trade under Sleepy Joe Biden. I have now



US President Donald Trump delivers remarks at an event welcoming the 2025 Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles on the South Lawn of the White House on 28 April 2025 in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

stemmed that tide, and will be making a fortune, very soon,” the president wrote.

Trump’s chief spokesperson Karoline Leavitt

said a Tuesday morning press briefing will focus on the economy, after one on Monday that addressed the administration’s migration policies. — AFP

3 anti-nuclear groups urge Trump, Putin to agree on disarmament

THREE Nobel Peace prize-winning organizations, including a Japanese group of atomic bombing survivors, have urged US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to reach an agree-

ment towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and Nihon Hidankyo made the call in a letter released for Monday’s start of a UN conference on nuclear nonproliferation in New York. “As Nobel Peace laureates, we urge you to meet with one another to reach an agreement on total nuclear disarmament,” the three organizations said in the letter addressed to Trump and Putin. “The current climate surrounding nuclear weapons is the most volatile in decades,” they said, adding, “This is the moment to show the world the courageous and visionary leadership that is needed” and “All that’s required is political will.” — Kyodo



Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya is shown on screens giving a speech at a preparatory committee meeting for the 2026 review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York on 28 April 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

13 countries join Russia, China in lunar station project

THIRTEEN countries, including BRICS members, have joined Russia and China in developing the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), Russian state space corporation Roscosmos Director-General Dmitry Bakanov said.

Bakanov noted Russia’s unique expertise in Venus exploration, adding that its landing technology remains unmatched, as well as its expertise in lunar and Martian research. He also emphasized that Russia’s deep-space advancements could form the foundation for future BRICS space programmes.

The Roscosmos chief added that China, India, and the UAE have successfully sent missions to Mars and have experience in lunar exploration. He expressed hope for increased cooperation, stressing that joint projects would enhance scientific outcomes and optimize national budgets.

Bakanov also unveiled plans to launch six orbital and landing automatic vehicles to the Moon. — SPUTNIK