

Second Regular Session of 3rd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Announced

THE Office of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw issued Announcement 3/2026 dated 12 May 2026, calling for the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Second Regular Session to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

According to the announcement, the session will begin at 10 am on 4 June 2026 (5th Waning of Nayon, 1388 ME) under Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of the Law Relating to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and Rule 8 (b) of the Rules Relating to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe signed this announcement. — MNA

Europeans Top Foreign Arrivals at Wah Ale Resort

Recognized as a marine national park on 28 February 1996 and designated an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2013, Lampi Island attracted a large number of foreign visitors to Wah Ale Resort during the current tourism season, with European tourists accounting for the largest share, led by Germans, followed by Russians and Americans.



This image captures a scenic view of part of Wah Ale Resort, located within Lampi Marine National Park, one of Myanmar’s most popular destinations for international travellers. **PHOTO: KANU**

DUE to Myanmar’s well-conserved natural ecosystem, European tourists were the largest group of foreign visitors among the travellers from Asia and Africa to the Wah Ale Resort, located within the Lampi Marine National Park, one of the country’s most popular ecotourism destinations for international travellers, according to the resort.

In the travel season, the resort welcomed the highest number of visitors from Germany, Russia, the US, England, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, and several other European countries. European travellers who value nature and environmental conservation visited the resort to experience its marine scenery,

forests, rare species, mangrove ecosystems where fish and shrimp breed, and naturally preserved coral reefs.

The resort accepts more than 40 visitors per day and provides accommodation only in natural wooden houses along with seafood cuisine. Room rates are US\$850 per person during December and January, while rates for the remaining months are US\$800 per person, according to the resort.

Travellers usually visit the resort from November through the end of April. Although the resort generally begins accepting visitors from August each year, this travel season saw a higher number of visitors compared to previous seasons. Therefore, bookings for the

next travel season have already been accepted since May. Among all travel seasons, the 2019 season remains the record-breaking year with the highest number of visitors to Wah Ale Resort.

“We do not expect large numbers of tourists to visit Wah Ale Resort because we are concerned about damaging the ecosystem. We only accept between 40 and 50 visitors per day. Since this is an eco-tourism business, we showcase the natural beauty, untouched environment, rainforests, marine ecosystem, mangrove forests, biodiversity, wildlife, and the traditional culture of the local Salon people. Most travellers come here to enjoy and appreciate the natural ecosystem, so we highly value

those who love and respect nature. We have already started accepting bookings for the coming travel season from this month. The naturally beautiful Wah Ale Resort warmly welcomes visitors,” said U Aung Zin Latt, general manager of the resort.

The Lampi Island was recognized as a marine national park on 28 February 1996 and as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2013. During the current tourism season, European tourists made up the largest number of foreign visitors to Wah Ale Resort. German tourists ranked first in visitor numbers, followed by Russians in second place and Americans in third place. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Announcement 3/2026

12th Waning of Kason 1388 ME
12 May 2026

**Second Regular Session of
Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to Convene**

UNDER Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of the Law Relating to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and Rule 8, (b) of the Rules Relating to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, it is hereby announced that the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is slated to commence at 10 am on 4 June 2026, Thursday, the 5th Waning of Nayon 1388 ME, in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sd/ Aung Lin Dwe
Speaker

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw

Announcement 2/2026

12th Waning of Kason 1388 ME
12 May 2026

Second Regular Session of Third Pyithu Hluttaw to Convene

UNDER Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the 2012 Law Relating to the Pyithu Hluttaw, and Rule 3, (b) of the 2013 Rules Relating to the Pyithu Hluttaw, it is hereby announced that the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is slated to commence at 10 am on Tuesday, the 3rd Waning of Nayon 1388 ME, 2 June 2026 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sd/ Khin Yi
Speaker

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw

Announcement 1/2026

12th Waning of Kason 1388 ME
12 May 2026

Second Regular Session of Third Amyotha Hluttaw to Convene

UNDER Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the 2012 Law Relating to the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Rule 3, (b) of the 2015 Rules Relating to the Amyotha Hluttaw, it is hereby announced that the Second Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is slated to commence at 10 am on 2 June 2026, Tuesday, the 3rd Waning of Nayon 1388 ME, in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sd/ Aung Lin Dwe
Speaker

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE Union Government has assigned Daw Thandar Lay, Director-General of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, to the duties of the Permanent Secretary and the Director-General of the same organization.

Myanmar Consulate-General hosts Seintalone mango promotion in Chongqing



Myanmar showcases Seintalone mangoes and other food products.

THE introduction of Myanmar's Seintalone mango was organized on 11 May at the Myanmar Consulate-General located at the World Financial Centre, aiming to expand the mango market, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the event, Myanmar Consulate-General U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin gave an opening speech and a video record about the promotion of Seintalone mango was shown.

With Seintalone mangoes, Myanmar coffee, Myanmar tea, Myanmar beer and liquors were exhibited at the event.

And visitors were served with

Seintalone mangoes, snacks, and beverages made of Seintalone and Myanmar tea.

Special guests Mr Zhu Mao, deputy director-general of the Chongqing Municipal Commission of Culture and Tourism and Ms Fan Qing, second-level inspector from the Foreign Affairs Office of the Chongqing Municipal Government, along with more than 60 attendees, including government officials, consuls-general from Belarus, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam based in Chongqing and Chengdu and delegates from other consulates-general and businesses were present on the occasion.— MT/ZS

Nay Pyi Taw Amateur Open and Junior Open Championship set on 29-31 May



This image features a poster for the Junior Open Championship to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF), the golf tournament—Nay Pyi Taw Amateur and Junior Open Championship (Road to Myanmar National Team) will take place at the City Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw, from 29 to 31 May.

The competition will be held in accordance with R&A and USGA rules of golf, 2023, and local golf rules.

At the event, golf matches are categorized into amateur men's with H'cap 0-12 and junior boy's; under-12, under-14

and under-18, and women's; under-18 and under-14. For amateur players, the admission fee per person is K30,000, while no admission is required for junior players. Interested players across the country can register at 09 421002259 by 4 pm on 27 May.

Non-junior players will need to pay the admission fee at the time of registration, and no entry will be given for those who don't pay it within the specified date after registering. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

MoE Union Minister receives Nicaraguan Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein received Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorcia, Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on academic cooperation with Yangon University, Yangon Uni-

versity of Foreign Languages, and Naypyitaw State Academy. — MNA

Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein and Nicaraguan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorcia exchange handshakes during the latter's call on the former yesterday.



Ayeyawady Development PCL to launch 30 MW solar power project in May

A ceremony to explain the progress of the Pathein industrial project and the 30 MW solar power generation project being implemented by the Ayeyawady Development Public Company Limited was held yesterday afternoon at Meeting Hall 1 of the regional government office.

At the ceremony, officials from the company gave

presentations on the monthly electricity generation expected from the 30 MW solar project, its ability to connect to the national power grid, the availability of solar energy resources, the timeframe for project implementation, and the preparations being made to commence the project as quickly as possible.

The 30 MW Pathein so-

lar-powered electricity generation plant project will begin on 26 May and is scheduled for completion on 26 May 2027. The project will initially commence with a generating capacity of 30 MW, and the capacity could later be expanded to as much as 90 MW, depending on the availability of land for project implementation. — Region IPRD/KNN



The meeting to implement the 30 MW solar power generation project is underway yesterday in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.

Representatives summoned for 2nd Regular Session of 3rd Pyithu Hluttaw

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has announced that the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw will be held at the convention hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 2 June 2026 (Tuesday), and that invitations to attend the session have been sent to Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

To enable Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to make the necessary preparations for

the session, they are requested – whether or not they have received a formal invitation – to report to Building 1 (I-1) at the Pyithu Hluttaw Office in Nay Pyi Taw during office hours. Reporting should take place no earlier than 30 May 2026 (Saturday) and no later than 31 May 2026 (Sunday). Representatives are required to bring their representative identification cards. — MNA/TH

Representatives notified to report for 2nd Regular Session of 3rd Amyotha Hluttaw

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has announced that the Second Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw will be held at the convention hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 2 June 2026 (Tuesday), and that invitations to attend the session have been sent to Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

To enable Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to make the necessary preparations for

the session, they are requested – whether or not they have received a formal invitation – to report to Building 19 (I-19) at the Amyotha Hluttaw Office in Nay Pyi Taw during office hours. Reporting should take place no earlier than 30 May 2026 (Saturday) and no later than 31 May 2026 (Sunday). The representatives are required to bring their representative identification cards. — MNA/TH

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



NATIONAL

MSWRR UM attends ASEAN Family Development Network Conference & Workshop

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, Chair of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development, attended the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Family Development Network Conference and Workshop, which is being hosted by the Philippines via videoconferencing from 12 to 14 May 2026.

At the opening ceremony, Rex Gatchalian, Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines, delivered the opening address.

Following this, Dr Soe Win delivered remarks, stating that the ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family



Union Minister Dr Soe Win, who is also Chair of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development, joins the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Family Development Network Conference and Workshop online.

Development and the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of the Family for Community and Nation Building represent commitments aimed at providing greater support for families and strengthening them.

He also said that, for the stability and prosperity of families

across the ASEAN region, it is necessary to strengthen family-centred policies and supportive measures that can reach vulnerable groups through inclusive and adaptable social protection systems. He added that efforts must also be made to enhance integrated approaches and balanced systems that improve access to education, healthcare, social services and livelihood opportunities.

Officials from the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also attended the opening ceremony together with the Union Minister: — MNA/ MKKS

Air Quality Measurements in Yangon on 11 May

THE Environmental Conservation Department of Yangon Region conducts 24-hour monitoring of six Parameters-Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃) and Carbon Monoxide (CO)-using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station with Mobile Car (AQMS Mobile Car) and Compact Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM 65) at three locations as follows: -

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

Air Quality Index - AQI

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

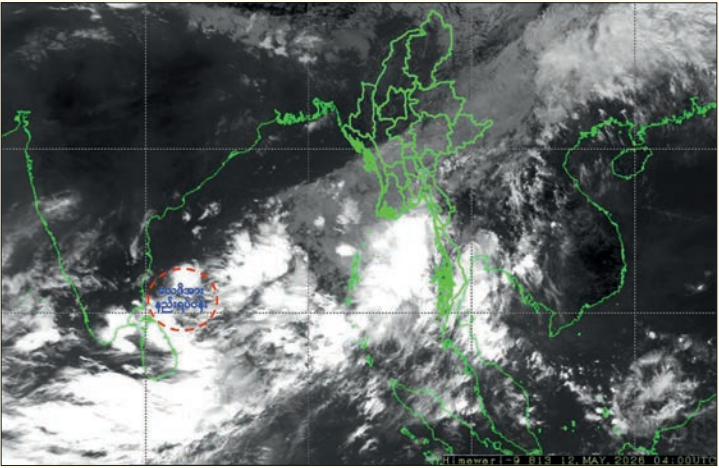
The measured air quality results may vary depending on factors such as temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle usage, dust dispersion due to hot and dry conditions, emissions from factories, and surrounding environmental conditions near the monitoring sites.

Environmental Conservation Department

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at noon MST on 12 May 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 hrs MST today, the Low-Pressure Area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal (off the North Sri Lanka coast) has moved nearly northwards and now lies over the Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to become more marked during the next 36 hours. — DMH



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.

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NATIONAL

Residents along Mandalay-Myitkyina route welcome return of administrative staff, cargo trucks

TATMADAW has carried out counter-terrorism operations in the areas where terrorists temporarily controlled and occupied towns and villages one after another, with the participation of the people, to restore peace and stability for the people. On 6 May, the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeik-kyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsiaung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina communication route was recontrolled fully, and it was reopened.

Local ethnic people suffered hardships in food and daily utensils, shortages of medicines and emergency accessories due to difficulties in commodity transport and flow when terrorists temporarily controlled the aforesaid communication route linking Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Kachin State. During the period, the forcible extortion of money from cargo trucks transporting goods led to rising commodity prices, shortages of raw materials for businesses, and difficulties in the production of finished goods, which further drove up prices. In addition, transportation difficulties prevented goods from reaching markets, causing local ethnic communities to face hardships in their daily socioeconomic lives.

At present, Tatmadaw columns have removed barriers from the communication route with the use of machinery, while battlefield engineering troops and officials from relevant ministries carried out repairs of the



Images show convoys of vehicles transporting departmental personnel and goods along the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road.

roads and bridges destroyed by terrorists to ensure smooth transportation.

Under the management of the government and Tatmadaw, departmental personnel left Mandalay on 9 May by carrying basic foodstuffs, personal goods, construction materials, medicines and medical equipment, school textbooks and fuel by truck together with vehicles of merchants and passenger buses to resume the administrative machinery of the government in towns and villages along the route, fulfill basic needs of people, distribute school textbooks

and stationery to be reached before opening schools and provide healthcare services.

The departmental personnel were welcomed by residents in Htigyaing, Katha, Indaw and Mawlu in Sagaing Region. On their arrival in Myitkyina on 12 May, they were warmly welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Htwe, officials and residents. Currently, passenger buses and cargo trucks provide transport services along the route as usual.

Residents reportedly expressed their happiness that,

with the reopening of the Mandalay-Myitkyina route, travel, daily living, and trade activities would return to normal and become more convenient, while socioeconomic conditions would gradually recover and develop again. They also said they were pleased that they would once again be able to enjoy the benefits of peace and stability, and that healthcare services as well as educational opportunities for students and youth would be restored. In addition, they stated that they would cooperate with the State

government and Tatmadaw in carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts for towns and villages that had suffered destruction and losses in various sectors due to terrorist acts.

The entire public strongly despises and condemns the terrorists who destroyed towns, villages, roads, and bridges and oppressed civilians. The people are also said to stand united with the State and Tatmadaw in carrying out reconstruction and rehabilitation works in towns and villages across the country for national development and progress. — MNA/TTA



Photos portray local ethnic residents warmly welcoming civil servants and departmental personnel.

NATIONAL

UMFCCI hosts Business AI for Digital Transformation seminar



This photo features the “Business AI for Digital Transformation” seminar.

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) held a “Business AI for Digital Transformation” seminar on 11 May.

At the seminar, UMFCCI Vice-President and Technology and Innovation Development Committee Chairman U Thaung Tin delivered the opening speech, while UMFCCI executive member and Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd (MIT) Chairman Dr Tun Thura Thet de-

livered a presentation on the topic of “Business AI for Digital Transformation”.

The meeting focused on how businesses, including banks, insurance companies, and small-, medium-, and large-scale enterprises, should work to adopt and utilize AI technologies.

Officials, members, invitees, and business owners from the UMFCCI and its affiliated associations attended the seminar, with other participants joining online. — ASH/TH

YR implements rice export zones for summer paddy cultivation, export expansion

ACCORDING to the Department of Agriculture in Yangon Region, rice export zones are being implemented for summer paddy cultivation intended for export.

The rice export zone project is being carried out through co-operation among the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Myanmar Rice Federation, exporters, and farmers, to double exports.

The rice export zone project covers 37 villages in eight townships of five districts, Yangon Re-

gion, with more than 700 farmers cultivating summer paddy on 118 acres. The Department of Agriculture has provided organic fertilizer to paddy farmers cultivating in the rice export zones, while the Myanmar Rice Federation has donated drum seeders.

The Myanmar Rice Federation will purchase the summer paddy produced from the rice export zones at the prevailing market price and export the rice to foreign countries with which export agreements have already been signed. — ASH/MKKS



The image captures a summer paddy field in Yangon Region.

Magway eyes 350,000+ acres in oil crop special zone for 2026-27 season



This image shows a thriving oil crop plantation.

MORE than 350,000 acres of oil crops are being targeted for cultivation in the 2026-2027 cultivation season within Oil Crop Special Zone 2, which comprises nine townships in Magway Region.

The designation and implementation of oil crop special zones are being carried out to increase oil crop production and promote the development of the oil crop sector in Myanmar.

In Oil Crop Special Zone 2, a total of nine townships – namely Minbu (Sagu) Township, Pwintbyu Township, Salin Township, Sedoktara Township and Ngaphe Township in Minbu District, as well as Thayet Township, Mindon Township, Minhla Township and Kamma Township in Thayet District – are planning to cultivate

a total of 355,600 acres of oil crops, including groundnuts, sesame and sunflower.

The Department of Agriculture has already distributed Magway black sesame seeds, Sinshwekyia-2 sunflower seeds, Tuntarni groundnut seeds, and Sunn hemp seeds for soil improvement to be cultivated within the area of Oil Crop Special Zone 2.

Agricultural experts have conducted educational talks for farmers who will cultivate crops within Oil Crop Special Zone 2, focusing on increasing oil crop production, improving soil fertility, and the benefits that can be gained from using high-quality and pure seeds. — ASH/KN

MoL to expedite OWIC issuance for returning workers under 100-day plan

THE Ministry of Labour announced on 12 May that it will ensure workers returning on leave receive their Overseas Worker Identification Cards (OWIC) as quickly as possible as part of the ministry’s 100-day plan.

The ministry is currently reviewing applications for OWIC from returning workers on leave. To ensure eligibility, authorities are verifying whether applicants are genuinely employed at their respective companies/employers and whether their return on leave is legitimate. As of 8 May, 606 workers have already been verified and they will have their OWICs processed between 11 and 22 May.

To prevent workers from losing their em-



The Ministry of Labour (Head Office).

ployment opportunities, the ministry stated it will expedite applications for issuing new OWICs, renewing existing cards, and exchanging cards for new data. If documentation is complete and accurate, the ministry aims to complete the OWIC process within one week (excluding public holidays).

The list of individuals approved for OWIC issuance will be published on the Safe Migration social media channels (Facebook, Telegram, and TikTok). Furthermore, the Department of Labour announced that once workers have received their OWICs, they may submit their intended departure date along with the required documents and airline tickets, so that it can verify these submissions in time. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

CBM to sell over US\$2M to edible oil, CMP companies on 11 May

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$2.17 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$150 to CMP companies on 11 May.

CBM sold \$1.3 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$334,400 to CMP companies on 8 May.

CBM sold over \$1.337 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$10,490 to CMP companies and \$1 million to LNG-importing companies on 7 May.

CBM sold over \$1.73 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$253,000 to CMP companies on 6 May.

CBM announced on 5 May that it would inject \$135.31 million into fuel oil businesses. CBM sold over \$1.9 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$25,790 to CMP companies on 5 May on the same day.

CBM sold over \$3.35 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$2 million to LNG-importing

companies on 4 May, along with a transaction of 1.2 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market



Greenbacks are seen at a money exchange counter.

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

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 12 May 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,664.20~3,666.20	557.80~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	14,125,427.76	11,961,659.40	86,475,930.90	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was used for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare

parts, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, barley, industrial raw materials, fertilizers, packaging materials, and consumer goods.

From the CMP sector revenue, US\$2.03 million was sold to the edible oil sector and US\$0.01 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

Tenders called for to develop public rental housing project in Yangon, Mandalay

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction invited Myanmar citizen developers to construct public rental housing in Yangon and Mandalay cities.

These construction projects will be carried out under the Union Capital Expenditure for the 2026-2027 Financial Year. The projects include Lot-1, 2, 3 and 4 (Partition and enclosure works on the ground floor of 25 five-storey build-

ings with four units at Thuka Dagon Public Rental Housing, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, Lot-5 (Partition and enclosure works on the ground floor of 29 five-storey buildings (four-unit) at Mingalar Yankin Public Rental Housing, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region and Lot-6 (Partition and enclosure works on the ground floor of 27 five-storey buildings with four units at Mingalar Yankin Public Rental Housing,

Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

Tender forms are available from 12-25 May. The deadline for submission of tender proposals is 3 pm on 26 May. The details of the tender opening (date, time, and venue) will be announced later. Tender documents can be submitted at the Department of Urban and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction, located at Office 40, Nay Pyi Taw, via 09 695623355. — NN/KK

SSID, FCA signs MoU to empower rural women through improving livelihoods

THE Small-Scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and Finn Civil Aid (FCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sustainable Livelihood Development and Capacity Building for Rural Women project on 11 May at the meeting hall of the department.

The Director-General of the department gave an opening remark that livelihood development is part of the department's core purpose and function. The department conducts livelihood training courses across Myanmar in response to local requests. The department is willing to provide any additional assistance needed during project implementation. He also hoped FCA would adhere to the MoU terms and work to improve the lives of impoverished rural women in Kachin, Kayin, and

Rakhine states and Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, contributing to poverty reduction in rural areas and uplifting the social life of the rural women. Most importantly, he appreciates that the FCA stands firmly as a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political, non-religious, humanitarian organization.

This three-year project will provide sustainable livelihood training to rural women and youth in Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine states, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions, including supporting women to organize self-help groups, providing start-up support (machinery, supplies, and seed capital) for trainees to establish small businesses upon completion of the courses, and offering training in essential financial management skills for business development. — NN/KK

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Gold Market Rate as of 12 May 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,200,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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Encourage MSME businesses to improve the State's socioeconomy

DEVELOPED countries have achieved economic growth through agriculture and livestock farming and, from that foundation, have established themselves as industrial nations. Similarly, developing countries are also working to ensure food security and produce surplus through agricultural and livestock sectors, while expanding manufacturing industries and promoting national development through MSMEs (micro, small, and medium enterprises).

Myanmar's basic economic sector consists of agriculture and livestock farming. Building on this foundation, efforts are underway to increase production to promote national development through MSMEs. The government is providing necessary investment capital for the development of MSME businesses through state-backed loans and is also implementing required easing measures. It is also necessary to make efforts to ensure access to the required human resources. In economic development activities, MSME enterprises based on the agriculture and livestock sectors must be promoted and developed.

Approximately 46 per cent of the country's population are rural residents who earn their livelihoods in agriculture, livestock farming, and related activities. Only through the development of the agricultural and livestock sectors, and the increase of rural incomes, can rural development be achieved, which in turn will contribute to national economic growth by promoting MSME businesses. Promoting investment based on agriculture and livestock will help meet the growing demand for food due to population increase, support economic development, and add value to products, thereby achieving key development goals.

In promoting national economic development, increasing production is a key requirement. Economic growth and stability largely depend on manufacturing industries. By producing the necessary goods domestically through industrial sectors, the reliance on imported goods can be reduced. As foreign currency expenditure decreases, foreign exchange outflows will also be reduced, which in turn will support the national economy in multiple ways.

To promote the development of the industrial sector, including MSMEs, electricity generation and distribution must be strengthened. In order to ensure access to electricity, renewable energy should be prioritized, and small-scale production should be carried out to support the operation of local industries. If so, MSME businesses will operate their production without too much reliance on the national grid.

Today, in order for MSME businesses to survive in an evolving modern economic environment, the government is creating and promoting opportunities to enhance their competitiveness in the digital market system. Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure the availability of raw materials, inputs, capital, and human resources in production activities. It is urged that the government, business owners, and the public work together in unity to promote the development of MSME enterprises.

MYANMAR'S commitment to nurturing its brightest young minds is perhaps best exemplified by the long-standing Luyaychun (Outstanding Student) Programme. This initiative, deeply embedded in the nation's educational fabric, has consistently sought to identify and cultivate exceptional talent, shaping generations of future leaders and contributing significantly to national development. The programme's history is a testament to Myanmar's enduring belief in the power of education and the potential of its youth.

The Luyaychun Project officially commenced during the 1963-1964 academic year, with the inaugural cohort of outstanding students recognized in 1964. Initially, the selection process focused on students from Grades 7 to 10, aiming to identify talent at a crucial developmental stage. This early focus on secondary education was strategic, as it allowed the programme to influence students during their formative years, guiding them towards academic and personal excellence. Over the years, the programme demonstrated its adaptability and vision by expanding its scope to include university and college students, thereby extending its reach across various educational levels.

This continuous evolution underscored the programme's objective to foster excellence throughout a student's academic journey, from early adolescence through higher education. The programme ran consistently until 1988, culminating in its 25th Silver Jubilee celebration, a significant milestone that highlighted its sustained impact and success over a quarter-century. This period established the Luyaychun programme as a cornerstone of national educational policy, fostering a culture of academic rigour and public service among its participants.

Following its Silver Jubilee, the Luyaychun Project experienced a hiatus, suspending operations from 1989 until 2012. This suspension coincided

The Legacy of Excellence: A Glimpse into Myanmar's Luyaychun Programme



By Min Min Zan

Photo source: yadanarbonnews.com 6 May 2026

with a period of significant political and economic transition in Myanmar, which likely impacted the continuity of many national programmes. However, the programme's fundamental importance to national development and its proven track record in cultivating human resources led to its revival in 2013. It was initially reintroduced under the new designation of the Multidisciplinary Outstanding Youth Project, reflecting a broader emphasis on diverse talents and skills beyond purely academic achievements. This rebranding aimed to align the programme with contemporary educational philosophies that value holistic development and a wider range of aptitudes. By 2018, the programme proudly reverted to its original, revered name, the Luyaychun Project, signifying a return to its

foundational identity and principles, while still retaining the multidisciplinary approach.

The project faced another temporary suspension from the 2019-2020 academic year due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted educational systems worldwide, but successfully resumed in the 2022-2023 academic year, demonstrating its resilience and continued relevance in the face of global challenges. With the implementation of a new education system, selections have been made from Grades 9 to 12 since the 2023-2024 academic year, further adapting to contemporary educational structures and curriculum changes. The 2024-2025 academic year saw another expansion, with the inclusion of outstanding first-year university students, reinforcing the project's com-

mitment to recognizing and fostering excellence at higher education levels and ensuring a continuous pipeline of talent.

The selection process for the Luyaychun programme is rigorous and comprehensive, designed to identify students who demonstrate exceptional abilities across multiple domains. Candidates are evaluated not only on their academic performance, often based on matriculation marks or specific grade-level examinations, but also on a broader spectrum of aptitudes. This includes a thorough assessment of general knowledge, encompassing subjects such as history, geography, current affairs, and even elements of civics, to gauge their awareness of the world around them and their understanding of societal structures. Language skills,

particularly in Burmese and English, are also critically assessed, both verbally and in written form, to ensure effective communication abilities, which are vital for leadership roles.

Furthermore, physical fitness is a key component, with students undergoing tests in activities like running, long jump, and chin-ups, emphasizing the importance of holistic development and a healthy lifestyle. Beyond these measurable criteria, discipline, leadership potential, and character are also considered through interviews and recommendations, reflecting the programme's aim to cultivate well-rounded individuals who embody exemplary personal qualities and are capable of inspiring others. The multi-faceted evaluation ensures that Luyaychun recipients are not just academically

gifted but also possess the moral fortitude and physical well-being necessary for impactful contributions to society.

At its core, the Luyaychun Project is driven by a profound philosophy: to "enhance multidisciplinary education to cultivate the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed democratic nation". This guiding principle underscores the programme's role in nurturing future leaders and exemplary citizens who can contribute meaningfully to Myanmar's progress across various sectors, including science, technology, arts, and governance.

It also actively promotes national unity and cultural exchange, bringing together students from diverse regions of the country, with varied ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, to share experiences, foster mutual understanding, and build a collective sense of national identity. The programme's enduring legacy lies in its consistent effort to identify, celebrate, and empower Myanmar's most promising young individuals, equipping them with the skills, values, and vision needed to shape a brighter future for their nation. The Luyaychun programme thus serves as a powerful symbol of national aspiration, investing in its youth to secure a prosperous and harmonious future for Myanmar.

During a recent, significant guidance session held to honour the Luyaychun recipients, President U Min Aung Hlaing personally addressed the outstanding students. His presence at such ceremonies highlights the national importance placed on the Luyaychun

programme and its role in shaping the country's future leadership. He emphasized that while not every youth may eventually lead the nation, every single one of them is an essential human resource responsible for shaping and implementing the country's future.

His address underscored the profound responsibility placed upon these young individuals. He defined the "Luyaychun" (Outstanding Students) not merely as those with high academic marks, but as individuals who possess a harmonious balance of intelligence, strong moral character, and physical fitness. This emphasis on a balanced individual highlights the program's commitment to developing citizens who are not only intellectually capable but also ethically sound and physically robust, ready to serve the nation with integrity.

The President underscored the importance of a holistic education, urging students to look beyond their textbooks and engage with real-world issues. He stressed that maintaining good health, discipline, and a resilient spirit is as crucial as academic excellence, recognizing that true leadership requires perseverance and well-being. "For a nation to prosper, it requires a foundation of healthy and brilliant citizens," he remarked, highlighting that the government, under his leadership, is committed to fostering a "knowledge-based society" where education is the primary driver of development and innovation.

This vision extends to ensuring that Luyaychun graduates are prepared to tackle complex national challenges and contribute to Myanmar's standing on the global stage. The programme, therefore, is not just about individual achievement but about collective national advancement, preparing a generation that is ready to lead Myanmar into a new era of prosperity and peace, guided by strong principles and a clear national vision.

Brief Information on Hantavirus

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

HANTAVIRUS is a group of viruses that can cause serious illness in humans. It is mainly spread through contact with infected rodents, especially their urine, droppings, or saliva.

The virus is named after the Han-

tan River in South Korea, where more than 3,000 troops fell seriously ill after becoming infected with it during the 1950-1953 Korean War, the FOPH says.

Hantaviruses can infect and cause serious disease in people worldwide. People get Hantavirus from contact

with rodents like rats and mice, especially when exposed to their urine, droppings, and saliva. It can also spread through a bite or scratch from a rodent, but this is rare.

Hantaviruses cause two syndromes. Hantaviruses found in the Western Hemisphere, including the US, can cause Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). The most common

Hantavirus that causes HPS in the US is spread by the deer mouse.

Haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) is a group of clinically similar illnesses caused by Hantaviruses found mostly in Europe and Asia. However, Seoul virus, a type of Hantavirus that causes HFRS, is found worldwide, including in the United States.

Transmission

People usually get infected by breathing in air contaminated with tiny particles from rodent waste. Less commonly, it can spread through bites or direct contact with infected animals.

Types of Illness

Hantavirus infections can lead to

two major diseases:

- Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS): A severe respiratory illness that affects the lungs and can be life-threatening.
- Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS): A condition that mainly affects the kidneys and can cause bleeding problems.

Signs and Symptoms

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS)

HPS is a severe and potentially deadly disease that affects the lungs.

Symptoms of HPS usually start to show 1 to 8 weeks after contact with an infected rodent. Early symptoms can include:

- fatigue
- fever
- muscle aches, especially in the large muscle groups like the thighs, hips, back, and sometimes shoulders
- About half of all HPS patients also experience:
- headaches
- dizziness

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➤ chills
➤ abdominal problems, like nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain
Four to 10 days after the initial phase of illness, the late symptoms of HPS appear. These symptoms include coughing and shortness of breath. Patients might experience tightness in the chest as the lungs fill with fluid.
HPS can be deadly. Thirty-eight per cent of people who develop respiratory symptoms may die from the disease.

Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS)
HFRS is a severe and sometimes deadly disease that affects the kidneys. Symptoms of HFRS usually develop within one to two weeks after exposure. In rare cases, they may take up to eight weeks to develop. Initial symptoms begin suddenly and include:
➤ intense headaches
➤ back and abdominal pain
➤ fever/chills
➤ nausea
➤ blurred vision
➤ People may have flushing of the face, inflammation or redness of the eyes, or a rash. Later symptoms

Brief Information on Hantavirus



Hantaviruses are transmitted to humans through infected wild rodents.

can include:
➤ low blood pressure
➤ lack of blood flow (acute shock)
➤ internal bleeding (vascular leakage)
➤ acute kidney failure, which can cause severe fluid overload
The severity of the disease varies depending on the virus causing the infection. Hantaan and Dobrava virus infections usually cause severe symptoms, where 5-15 per cent of cases are fatal. In contrast, Seoul, Saaremaa, and Puumala virus infections are usually more moderate, with less

than one per cent dying from the disease. Complete recovery can take several weeks to months.
Case definitions
The World Health Organization (WHO) suggested the following outbreak case definition: -
Suspected Case
A person who presents with a febrile illness (Fever > 38.5 °C [103 °F] oral) with an acute respiratory distress syndrome requiring supplemental oxygen AND bilateral diffuse infiltrates developed within 72

hours of hospitalization in a previously healthy person
Unexplained illness resulting in death, plus an autopsy examination demonstrating noncardiogenic pulmonary oedema without an identifiable specific cause of death
Confirmed Case
A suspected case laboratory confirmed with:
➤ The presence of hantavirus-specific IgM antibodies or a four-fold or greater increase in IgG antibody titers or hantavirus-specific IgG seroconversion.
➤ A positive reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) result for Hantavirus RNA.
➤ Positive immunohistochemical results for Hantavirus antigens.

Reducing Risk
Eliminate or minimize contact with rodents in your home, workplace, or campsite to reduce your risk of exposure to Hantaviruses. Seal holes and gaps in your home or garage to keep rodents from

entering these spaces. Place traps in and around your home to decrease rodent infestation. Clean up any easy-to-get food that might attract rodents.
Treatment and Recovery
There is no specific treatment for Hantavirus infection. Patients should receive supportive care, including rest, hydration, and treatment of symptoms.
HPS can cause breathing difficulties, and patients may need breathing support, such as intubation. Intubation is a medical procedure where a tube is placed in the lungs from the mouth to help the patient get oxygen.
HFRS can disrupt kidney function. Patients with HFRS may need dialysis to remove toxins from the blood and maintain the right balance of fluids in the body when the kidneys aren't working well.
In addition, Hantavirus is a rare but dangerous infection transmitted from rodents to humans. Preventing exposure to rodents is the most effective way to stay safe.
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China leverages space tech for carbon monitoring to meet climate goals

CHINA is ramping up the use of space technology to meet its ambitious carbon reduction pledges, marking the latest move with a cargo spacecraft that sent a greenhouse gas monitoring payload to the Chinese space station on Monday.
Among the payload delivered to orbit by the Tianzhou-10 cargo spacecraft is a lightweight, high-resolution greenhouse-gas point-source detection instrument, spearheaded by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.
Designed for external mounting, the device can measure carbon dioxide and methane concentrations at key emission sources across the globe's mid-to-low latitudes. This will

provide reliable, accurate, and high-frequency data to support greenhouse gas monitoring, reporting and verification.
"This equipment will provide robust data support for China's 'dual carbon' initiatives and contribute Chinese wisdom to the global response against climate change," the National Space Science Centre under the Chinese Academy of Sciences said in a statement.
China has set the dual carbon goals of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.
Monday's orbital payload marks China's latest move in leveraging space technology for carbon monitoring. Just last



A Long March-4C carrier rocket carrying a satellite for high-precision greenhouse gas detection blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, 17 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA
month, the country launched a satellite into orbit for high-precision greenhouse gas detection. Equipped with an atmospheric lidar, the satellite is the world's first to conduct synergistic ac-

tive-passive greenhouse gas detection.
In April 2022, China launched an atmospheric environment monitoring satellite equipped with lidar. By July 2024, it achieved high-precision detection of the carbon dioxide column concentration at 1 ppm and operated globally around the clock. China placed its inaugural global CO2 monitoring satellite, TanSat, into a sun-synchronous orbit in 2016, paving the way for research into the global carbon cycle. Following this milestone, Chinese research teams have utilized the satellite's data to foster scientific partnerships, including a notable collaboration with a team from Finland.
— Xinhua

Cormorant fishing season opens in central Japan, luxury boat set to debut

THE 1,300-year-old “ukai” cormorant fishing tradition returned to the Nagara River in central Japan’s Gifu on Monday, as master fishermen clad in traditional garb deftly worked hand ropes to steer their trained birds under torchlight, drawing cheers from a spellbound crowd at the season’s start.

This year, Gifu is debuting a charter-only luxury viewing boat designed by Eiji Mitooka — the creative force behind JR Kyushu’s celebrated Seven Stars in Kyushu sleeper train — with service set to launch around summer at 400,000 yen (\$2,500) per charter, plus meals.

The city, which aims to win UNESCO intangible cultural heritage status for the tradition, hopes to attract wealthy domes-



The traditional “ukai” cormorant fishing season starts on the Nagara River in Gifu on 11 May 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

tic and international visitors with the new boat. Ukai fishing will be held nightly through 15 October except during high water.

In ukai, master fishermen known as “usho” guide a dozen or so cormorants from long wooden boats, their blazing bow torches luring ayu sweetfish to the surface. The birds swim alongside and dive underwater to capture fish, holding them in their pouch-like gullets.

A precisely tied rope around each bird’s neck lets them swallow smaller catches while preventing them from ingesting the prized bigger ones.

Takaaki Ishimura, a 78-year-old who visited from Yokohama with his wife, said, “I’m glad I could see the tradition with my own eyes.” — Kyodo

Singer FKA twigs to play Josephine Baker in biopic of anti-racist legend

BRITISH music star FKA twigs is to play Josephine Baker in a new biopic of the Roaring Twenties icon who became a hero of the French Resistance and the American civil rights movement.

The movie will tell the “incredible story of the magnificent, incomparable” dancer and singer, its producers said

at the Cannes Film Festival, which starts Tuesday.

Born into grinding poverty in St. Louis, Missouri, Baker became one of the first global superstars. But she refused to perform before segregated audiences in the United States and spent much of her life in France. She was the first black woman to be given a place in



Images of Josephine Baker are projected on the Pantheon monument during a ceremony dedicated to the American-born French dancer and singer who fought in the French Resistance and later battled racism, as she enters to the French Pantheon through the Great Door in Paris, during a ceremony that celebrates a life “placed under the sign of the quest of freedom and justice” on 30 November 2021. **PHOTO: THIBAUT CAMUS / POOL / AFP**

the Pantheon, where France’s national heroes are buried, after helping the French Resistance during World War II and also spying on the Nazis for the British and US intelligence services.

FKA twigs, who is also a singer and choreographer, said Baker’s “extraordinary legacy is such an inspiration to me and to so many people”. “I cannot wait” to bring “her fight, her love, her losses, her talent and her heroism to the big screen”, the Grammy winner added.

As well as aiding the Allied fight against fascism, Baker was a leading voice against racial discrimination in her homeland, and spoke alongside Martin Luther King Jr at the 1963 march on Washington.

The movie, by rising French director Maimouna Doucoure of “Cuties” fame, will start shooting later this year.

Producers StudioCanal said they had worked with Baker’s sons, Jean-Claude Bouillon Baker and Brian Bouillon Baker, on the script. — AFP

India’s medical entrance exam cancelled amid paper leak charges

THE medical entrance examination, or the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), conducted 10 days ago for undergraduate courses, was cancelled on Tuesday amid charges of paper leak.

Announcing the decision, the National Testing Agency (NTA), which had conducted the test, posted on X, “With the approval of the Government of India, the NTA has decided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on 3 May 2026, and to re-conduct the examination on dates that will be notified separately.”

The NTA also announced that no fresh registration would be required for the re-test, and no additional examination fee would be levied. In addition, the fees already paid would be refunded to the students and the examination would be re-conducted using NTA’s internal resources.

Around 45 people had already been detained by the security agencies for interrogation regarding the alleged paper leak, said media reports. Over 2.2 million students had appeared for the test this year.

According to media reports, a “GuessPaper” that matched over 150 questions of the actual exam, particularly in Biology and Chemistry subjects, was circulated several days before the examination. — Xinhua

Nepali mountain guide dies in Mt Qomolangma region

A Nepali mountain guide passed away in the course of acclimatization in the Mount Qomolangma region on Sunday, said a government official.

Bijay Ghimire, 35, who had successfully been to the 8,848.86-metre peak three times in 2016, 2019 and 2023, died of altitude sickness. “He died while performing his responsibility as a mountain guide,” said Himal Gautam, information officer at the Department of Tourism, in a statement on Monday evening.

The department has issued a record 492 permits to climbers to conquer the peak this spring season. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

China's consumer inflation continues mild recovery in Apr as domestic demand improves



Customers buy vegetables at a supermarket in Shijiazhuang City, north China's Hebei Province, on 11 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S consumer inflation extended its moderate recovery in April, supported by robust spring travel demand and rising energy prices, in a sign that domestic demand continues to improve and the broader economic recovery remains on track. The country's consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, rose 1.2 per cent year on year in April, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous month, according to

data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday.

The core CPI, which excludes food and energy prices, also increased 1.2 per cent from a year earlier, data showed.

On a monthly basis, the CPI climbed 0.3 per cent in April, reversing a 0.7-per-cent decline in March and exceeding the seasonal level by 0.4 percentage points.

Dong Lijuan, an NBS stat-

istician, attributed the increase partly to stronger travel demand during the Qingming Festival holiday, the May Day holiday, and spring breaks in some regions, citing a 3.7 per cent year-on-year rise in travel-related service prices last month. Meanwhile, prices of industrial consumer goods rose 3.5 per cent, with gasoline and gold jewellery recording particularly notable increases, Dong said. — Xinhua

Vietnam's capital to establish key night economic zones

VIETNAM'S capital Hanoi plans to establish six to eight key night economy zones and 15 to 20 spaces and streets operating after midnight by 2035 under a newly approved night economy development project, local media Voice of Vietnam reported Tuesday.

By 2035, the night economy is expected to become a major driver of Hanoi's urban economy, contributing around seven to eight per cent of the city's gross

regional domestic product.

Under the project, the night economy will be managed under a smart urban model, with 80 to 90 per cent of transactions conducted via cashless payments, while all key areas will be equipped with security surveillance systems and digital infrastructure.

By 2045, Hanoi aims to attract 8 to 10 million international visitors annually to night activities, the report said. — Xinhua

German inflation hits 2-year high on energy shock

GERMANY'S inflation stood at 2.9 per cent in April, the highest since January 2024, as surging energy prices continued to drive up consumer costs in Europe's largest economy, official data showed Tuesday.

The reading followed a 2.7-per-cent rise in March. Inflation in Germany had hovered near the two-per-cent mark for several months before Middle East tensions escalated in late February and pushed up energy prices.

According to the Federal Statistical Office, Destatis, energy prices jumped 10.1 per cent year on year in April, the sharpest in-

crease in more than three years.

"Overall inflation increased for the second consecutive month as a result of another rise in energy prices linked to the (Iran) war," said Ruth Brand, president of Destatis. "Consumers are particularly feeling the persistent price pressure regarding motor fuels."

Concerns over conflict-related disruptions to energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have pushed fuel prices higher in Germany in recent months. Energy prices had already risen 7.2 per cent year on year in March, after falling 1.9 per cent in February. — Xinhua

Lufthansa to take majority control of Italy's ITA Airways

EUROPE'S largest airline group Lufthansa announced Tuesday its intention to expand its current minority stake in Italy's ITA Airways to 90 per cent.

Lufthansa "will exercise its option to acquire a majority stake in ITA Airways in June of this year" at "a previously agreed purchase price of 325 million euros", or \$382 million,

the Lufthansa Group said.

It added that the deal, which was approved by the company's board on Monday, remained subject to regulatory approvals in both the European Union and the United States.

Since acquiring a 41 per cent minority stake in ITA Airways in January 2025, Lufthansa has reserved the right to gradu-

ally increase its ownership.

The seller is the Italian government, which had previously held 59 per cent of the airline. It will now retain a 10 per cent stake.

The increased ownership means "ITA Airways will be fully integrated into the Lufthansa Group, both organizationally and financially", it said. — AFP



Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of German airline Lufthansa Carsten Spohr speaks during Lufthansa's annual general meeting, on 12 May 2026 in Frankfurt, western Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Topagri Myanmar Company Limited to Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2607N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2607N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-5-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

Thailand's consumer confidence sinks to 8-month low in Apr

THAILAND'S consumer confidence weakened further in April as elevated global energy prices amid ongoing conflict in the Middle East raised concerns about the impact on the domestic economy and living costs, a survey showed on Tuesday. According to a survey of 2,241 respondents conducted by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the consumer confidence index sank to 50.6 last month from 51.8 in March, hitting the lowest reading in eight months.

Consumers are expected to remain cautious in their spending through the first half of 2026, pending clarity on regional geopolitical tensions and the implementation of government measures designed to cushion economic impact, the university said in a statement.

Thanavath Phon-



A worker packs pineapples into plastic bags outside his wholesale shop at Mahanak Market in Bangkok early on 20 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP

vichai, president of the university, said economic uncertainty has triggered a noticeable slowdown in consumer spending, which is negatively affecting major purchases such as vehicles and real estate, as well as the vital tourism sector.

However, the Thai central bank's decision to keep its policy rate unchanged, aiming to manage inflation without increasing the fi-

nancial burden on businesses, helped support the sentiment, Thanavath told a news conference.

He noted that the government's relief campaign for vulnerable sectors, including transport, fisheries, and agriculture, aimed at preventing excessive consumer price hikes, is expected to boost consumer and business confidence as early as May. — Xinhua



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND REVENUE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO FILE INCOME TAX RETURN, ANNUAL SALARY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL COMMERCIAL TAX RETURN

- Income Year or the Year in which Sale proceed or Receipt is accrued:** The period to file a tax return for the income year or the year in which sale proceed or receipt is accrued (reporting period) is from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.
- Return Receiving Offices:** Existing taxpayers have to file their returns at the respective revenue offices where their taxation matters are assessed. If the company which is not being a taxpayer yet, has to enter the IRD website to register electronically by clicking "e-Registration Button" pattern to get Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). After receiving TIN, e-Filing Management System and e-Payments System can be used. For an individual who is not being a taxpayer yet, has to file the returns to the respective township revenue offices.
- Return Filing Method:** Returns can be filed by either of the following three ways -
 - Filing in person:** In the case of filing a return in person, it is considered filed on the date it is stamped as received by the department.
 - Filing by mail:** In the case of filing a return by mail, it is considered filed on the date of the postmark.
 - Filing electronically:** In the case of filing a return electronically, it is considered filed on the date it is received electronically by the Department. If that date falls on public holidays, it is considered received on the next succeeding day. Electronic Filing is the process of submitting a tax return online through, the software (e-Filing Management System). User guide videos on how to register an account and submit an electronic tax return using the e-Filing Management System are available on the Internal Revenue Department's Website at www.ird.gov.mm.
(Note: The taxpayers from Large Taxpayer Offices and Medium Taxpayer Offices are required to file their tax returns electronically.)
- The process of completing a tax return:** The followings are required to follow-
 - The tax return forms specified by the Internal Revenue Department shall be used; respective forms are available either at www.ird.gov.mm or at the respective revenue offices.
 - Since taxpayers must attest to the accuracy and completeness of their tax returns, they must fill out the returns completely and correctly.
 - The return form must be signed and submitted by the taxpayer himself. If a tax return or part of a tax return was prepared for reword by some other person, that other person must also sign the tax return.
 - In case of filing the tax return electronically through e-Filing Management System by the new corporate taxpayer, the taxpayer's signature (original) must be sent to the respective revenue offices without fail by any means.
- Due Date of Submission:** June 30, 2026 (Tuesday)
- Penalties:** A person who fails to file tax returns on time, he or she is liable to a penalty equal to the greater of-
 - Five percent of the amount of tax owing, plus further one percent of the amount of tax owing for each month or part of a month during which the failure to file continues, but not beyond the time when the Director General issues an assessment; and
 - K 100,000
- Taxpayer Rights:** If the taxpayers face difficulties in filing a tax return on time, they may apply in advance to the respective revenue office, for an extension of the time for filing tax return with a sufficient reason.
- Enquiries:** If there are any unclear points, enquiries can be made at the respective revenue offices and please contact the following Taxpayer Service Offices for further questions;
 - Centralised Taxpayer Service Unit
No. 128/132, 2nd floor & 3rd floor, Pansodan Street (Middle Block), Kyauktada Township, Yangon
Ph: 01-8389311, 01-8389322
 - Taxpayer Service Unit (Naypyitaw)
Building No. 46, Internal Revenue Department, Naypyitaw.
Ph: 067-3430522, 067-3430544
 - Taxpayer Service Unit (Mandalay)
65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Aung Myae Tharzan Township, Mandalay.
Ph: 02-4030192, 02-4030637, 02-4030638, 02-4030639

Internal Revenue Department

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

All cruise ship passengers disembark after suspected hantavirus outbreak

ALL 122 passengers on a cruise ship hit by a suspected hantavirus outbreak disembarked on Monday at a port in the Canary Islands, the Dutch operator of the cruise ship said.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said the same day that the sole Japanese passenger on the vessel has arrived in Britain on a flight chartered by the British government and will undergo health monitoring there for up to 45 days, adding the person is in good health.

The MV Hondius, now carrying 27 crew members, is headed for Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

After the cruise ship arrived at the Port of Granadilla on the Spanish island of Tenerife on Sunday, passengers cleared health screenings and left the ship. They subsequently began returning home on flights ar-



Passengers of the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius wave as they leave in a military bus after disembarking in the port of Granadilla de Abona on the island of Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands on 11 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

ranged by their home countries and others.

The World Health Organization said on Monday the number of people infected with hantavirus rose to seven after a French national who disembarked was newly confirmed infected.

Although an American national has reportedly tested positive, the person is not included in the tally because the WHO deems further analysis necessary.

The cruise ship left Argentina on 1 April and had planned to travel through the Antarctic Circle before heading for Cape Verde, an island country off the west coast of Africa.

But the ship was denied entry by Cape Verde following reports of the suspected hantavirus outbreak and left the island's coast on Wednesday. — Kyodo

UN launches expansion project at Nairobi headquarters

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Kenyan President William Ruto on Monday launched a US\$340-million expansion project at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

The two leaders presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of conference facilities and the inau-

guration of ultra-modern and climate-resilient office blocks, cementing Nairobi's status as a diplomatic hub in the Global South.

Approved by the General Assembly, the UNON expansion project focuses on the construction of new green office blocks for \$66.2 million and the upgrading of conference facilities at a

cost of \$265.7 million, increasing the number of meeting rooms from 14 to 30 and seating capacity from 2,000 to 9,000 delegates.

Once completed by 2029, the expansion project will position Nairobi as the third-largest UN global hub after New York and Geneva, with Vienna retaining the fourth position.

Ruto said the expansion of UN offices in Nairobi aligns with Kenya's commitment to multilateral efforts aimed at modernizing the global body and enhancing its capacity to address challenges facing humanity.

"As the only UN headquarters in the Global South, Nairobi stands as a powerful symbol that the United Nations truly belongs to all the peoples of the world and reflects the shared aspirations of humanity," Ruto said.

More than 70 UN agencies, funds, and programmes are hosted at UNON alongside over 6,000 staff members. — Xinhua



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (6th L) and Kenyan President William Ruto (5th L) attend a groundbreaking ceremony at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) in Nairobi, Kenya, 11 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

90% uranium enrichment possible if attacks on Iran renewed: MP

A senior Iranian lawmaker said on Tuesday that Tehran could consider enriching uranium to 90 per cent purity if the country comes under attack again.

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the remarks after US President Donald Trump warned that the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran is "on massive life support".

"One of Iran's options in the event of another attack could be 90 per cent (uranium) enrichment. We will review it in the parliament," Rezaei wrote on social media X. Meanwhile, Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said on Monday that the country's nuclear technology and uranium enrichment are non-negotiable, the official news agency IRNA reported. — Xinhua

Japan aid to help Cuban hospitals cope with worsening power outages

JAPAN will provide grant assistance worth 1 billion yen (\$6.4 million) to support the installation of renewable energy equipment, including solar panels, at 10 hospitals in fuel-strapped Cuba, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

In Havana on Monday, Japan's ambassador to Cuba Ka-

zuhito Nakamura and the UN Development Programme's resident representative in Cuba, Fernando Hiraldo del Castillo, signed and exchanged notes on the assistance, the ministry said in a press release.

A US oil blockade on Cuba has worsened fuel shortages and widespread blackouts. — Kyodo

SPORTS



This photo highlights the two best athlete awardees for 2025.

Ye Htun Naung, Phyu Phyu Than win 2025 best athlete awards

YE Htun Naung and Phyu Phyu Than won the 2025 Best Male Athlete and Best Female Athlete awards presented by the Myanmar Olympic Committee and the Myanmar Sports Media Federation.

The award ceremony took place yesterday morning at the Sports and Physical Education Institute in Tamu Township. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu delivered an opening address at the event.

Officials later presented awards to Ye Htun Naung for bodybuilding, Phyu Phyu Than for Sepak Takraw and Vice-President U Kyaw Than of the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation for the best administrator and coach award.

Ye Htun Naung said he began competing in bodybuilding in 2014 and later won gold medals at the South-East Asian, Asian and world-level championships, including consecutive world titles in Indonesia in 2025. — Bala/KZL

Ruud crushes Musetti to reach Italian Open quarters, Sinner awaits derby

CASPER Ruud strolled into the Italian Open quarter-finals on Tuesday after easily beating home hope Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-1, as Jannik Sinner gets set for a derby with qualifier Andrea Pellegrino.

Clay court specialist Ruud is yet to drop a set in Rome and he looked in fine form on a windy centre court, in stark contrast to eighth seed Musetti who has clearly been struggling physically in Rome.

Musetti was in tears at the end of his third-round win over Francisco Cerundolo and had to take a medical time-out for a problem with his left thigh during the second set against Ruud.

The Italian will drop out of

the top 10 of the men's world rankings ahead of the French Open next week, and he later told reporters that he is unsure of whether he will participate in Paris.

"I don't know, in the next couple of days we'll do some closer tests, something I've not been able to do given that I'm constantly playing," said Musetti.

"I just hope that the pain I felt is less bad than we think it might be."

Norwegian Ruud, who was destroyed by Sinner in last year's quarterfinals in Rome, is on the other side of the draw from the world number one and will face Karen Khachanov in the last eight. — AFP

MFF to hold Yangon selection trial for women's futsal

THE Myanmar Football Federation's Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee will hold another player selection trial in Yangon to form the Myanmar U19 women's futsal team.

After conducting selection trials in Mandalay and Taunggyi, officials have already chosen 10 preliminary players. Another trial will take place at the YRG Futsal Stadium on 16 and 17 May, with participants required to arrive by 8 am.

Following the Yangon trial, more preliminary players will be added, while eligible players from Myanmar women's futsal clubs will also be selected.

Myanmar is preparing the team for the inaugural ASEAN U19 Women's Futsal Cham-



This image features a poster for player selection trial for the U19 women's futsal team. PHOTO: MFF

ampionship, which the ASEAN Football Federation plans to hold later this year. — Ko Nye Lay/KZL



The traditional Myanmar Lethwei team alongside officials are seen before departing for Japan.

Myanma Lethwei team leaves for Japan competition

A traditional Myanma Lethwei team led by Dr Myat Thin Khine departed for Tokyo via Thailand on Myanmar Airways International flight at 9 pm yesterday to compete in the Knock Out Muay Thai event in Japan. Officials from the Traditional Myanmar Lethwei Federation and the Myanmar Muay Federation saw the team off at Yangon International Airport.

In the competition on 15 May, Super Yay

Chan will face a Thai fighter in the 63-kilogramme division, Saw Ba Hein will take on a Japanese fighter in the 63-kilogramme division, and Daung Mike Thway will compete against a Japanese opponent in the 51-kilogramme division.

Two coaches, Kyel Sin Phyo and Hanthawady Thar, also accompanied the team to teach traditional Lethwei in Japan for one year. — Bala/KZL



WORLD

WHO says more hantavirus cases may emerge in coming weeks after Spain-led cruise evacuation

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Tuesday said additional hantavirus cases could still emerge in the coming weeks following the evacuation of passengers from the outbreak-hit cruise ship MV Hondius, while stressing that the global public health risk remains low.

“Given the long incubation period of the virus, it is possible that we may see more cases in the coming weeks,” Tedros said at a joint press conference with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez held at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid.

According to Tedros, 11 hantavirus-related cases have so far been reported, including three deaths. Nine of the 11 cases have been confirmed as Andes virus infections, while the remaining two are considered probable cases.

“Our assessment continues to be that the global public health risk remains low,” he said, adding that there is currently “no sign” of a larger outbreak.

Tedros said WHO recommends that all evacuated passengers undergo active health monitoring for 42 days from their last exposure date, either in designated quarantine facilities or at home, with the monitoring period lasting until 21 June.

“Anyone who becomes symptomatic should be isolated and treated immediately,” he added. — Xinhua



Students interact with an AI-powered assistant known as “Qian Xiaowa” during a Chinese class at Qixi Township Central School in Kaihua County, east China’s Zhejiang Province, 17 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

China opens global AI education service platform

CHINA on Tuesday announced the launch of a global AI education service platform during the 2026 World Digital Education Conference in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, aiming to promote cross-border sharing of high-quality educational resources and further integrate AI into education.

The launch comes as part of a broad-

er upgrade to the Smart Education of China, a digital education platform now accessible in around 220 countries and regions. The upgraded platform expands its international services with new features, including a lifelong learning hub and a Chinese language learning community.

The conference, which runs from 11 to 13 May, also saw the release of a report outlining China’s policy progress and

innovative practices in smart education.

An initiative on AI education was also unveiled at the event, calling for better use of AI to support well-rounded and sustainable human development. It also urged stronger efforts to bridge the global digital divide by making better use of smart education platforms to share high-quality resources and digital tools. — Xinhua

Japan, OECD launch economic security plan focused on supply chains



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (R) meets Mathias Cormann, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, at her office in Tokyo on 12 May 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Japanese government and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Tuesday that they have launched a new cooperation plan aimed at strengthening economic security and advancing trustworthy artificial intelligence governance amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed hope in a meeting with OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann at her office that Japan and the

OECD will work together to lead discussions in the international community based on the plan, the Foreign Ministry said.

The cooperation plan is intended to “strengthen a rules-based international economic order” while promoting sustainable growth and fair competition. It also aligns with the free and open Indo-Pacific vision promoted by Japan.

Cormann called Japan a highly important and trusted partner, adding that he looks

forward to advancing the plan together, according to the ministry.

The plan places a strong emphasis on supply chain resilience in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, AI and quantum technology.

Japan and the Paris-based organization said they will expand analysis of vulnerabilities linked to critical minerals and advanced technologies while enhancing tools that monitor trade flows, supply chain dependencies and export restrictions. — Kyodo