

Murals at Saddhammaranthi Temple Draw Pilgrims

If visitors come on a pilgrimage and study tour to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, they can pay homage to the significant pagodas in Bagan and also study the 11th-century mural paintings and architectural designs inside the Saddhammaranthi Temple, according to officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The mural paintings inside the Saddhammaranthi Temple were created in the 11th century. There is a Buddha image on a throne facing east. From the arched entrance ceiling down to the lower walls, the interior is fully decorated with mural paintings, including numerous depictions of Buddha images. Behind the seated Buddha statue, on the back of the throne, a portrayal of the Maha Bodhi tree is painted in green and dark brown colours. On the rear wall, visitors can also observe artistic murals illustrating the Buddha reclining with His head on Mount Meru and scenes rendering the Buddha's Parinibbana.

The Shin Ijjagona Pagoda is located in the south of Saddhammaranthi Temple, while the Vinido Pagoda is in the northeast, Phayathonzu in the south, Malar Maphyit Malone Phyt Temple, a stone inscription of Theingathu Thamee (original), Thanbula Pagoda and Lemyethna Sutaungpyae Pagoda in the west. — Dipa Lin/KTZH



Visitors admire and photograph the interior murals at Saddhammaranthi Temple.



Passengers disembark from an L-410 aircraft.

MNA Resumes Flights to Hard-to-Reach Cities

WITH the President's guidance, Myanmar National Airlines, under the Ministry of Transport, has resumed operating L-410 small aircraft services from Yangon to Manaung and Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State, and from Myeik Airport in Taninthayi Region to Dawei, Bokpyin, and Kawthoung, to facilitate travel to areas with difficult transport access.

The Yangon-Manaung-Kyaukpyu-Yangon flight departed Yangon at 8 am yesterday and arrived back at Yangon International Airport at 11:50 am, while the Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik flight departed Myeik at 8 am and returned at 10:30 am yesterday. — MNA/MKKS

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A photograph showing a bird release ritual. A man in a green shirt is holding a cage filled with birds. Other people are visible in the background, some holding cages. The scene is outdoors.

Bird release ritual thrives in Yangon since colonial period

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A photograph of the Yangon Stock Exchange. A large digital screen displays stock market data. There are people standing in front of the screen, and the area is well-lit.

YSX stock trading values exceed K2.8B in Mar

NATIONAL

Yangon-Manaung-Kyaukpyu-Yangon flights launched

MYANMAR National Airlines has begun operating a new domestic air route linking with and, following guidance from the President to improve transport access to remote areas.

The Ministry of Transport arranged the expansion so that travellers can move more easily and smoothly between regions where overland travel

remains difficult.

Under the new schedule, flights will run three times per week, operating the route: Yangon-Manaung-Kyaukpyu-Yangon.

The maiden flight departed at 9 am yesterday using an XY-AMW aircraft, marking the official start of the service.

The Yangon-Kyaukpyu-Manaung-Kyaukpyu-Yan-



Images show passengers checking in for boarding.

gon rotation will be operated according to a fixed timetable, and locals have warmly wel-

comed the launch, expecting improved connectivity, trade opportunities, and easier

travel for both personal and business purposes. — Rakhine IPRD/ KZL



Gound services are being carried out for one of the aircraft operating on the Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik.

MNA expands flight services in Taninthayi Region

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) will expand its domestic flight services across towns in, aiming to improve connectivity for areas where transportation remains difficult.

Under the expansion, round-trip flights will operate on designated days, and the airlines has already launched the Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik route earlier today. According to

the weekly schedule, flights will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays for the Myeik-Dawei-Myeik route, while Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will see services running on the Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik route. These routes will be operated using the aircraft with a capacity of up to 19 passengers per flight.

Passengers can check detailed schedules and pur-

chase tickets through the official website of Myanmar National Airlines or via authorized ticket agents in respective cities. The expansion is carried out under guidance from the President through the Ministry of Transport to ensure easier and smoother travel for people in remote areas and strengthen regional connectivity. — Khaing Htoo (IPRD)/ KZL

Chaungzon to host Kason water-pouring festival, upholding Mon traditions

THE Kason Bayan Tree Watering Festival will be held in Chaungzon Township, Mon State, featuring Mon traditions and customs, including competitions, said Nai Aye Oo, Secretary of the Kason Bayan Tree Water-Pouring Festival Organizing Committee.

The Kason Bayan Tree Watering Festival, involving competing groups from all wards in Ywalut Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State, will be held on the full moon day of Kason, 30 April. Prizes will be awarded based on team attire and collective performance.

“We have already provided

the competing ward teams with funds for clothing. There will also be competitions in which the teams will be judged on their costumes, teamwork, appearance, and conduct, with first, second, and third prizes awarded. Consolation prizes will be given to the remaining teams,” said Nai Aye Oo.

Ywalut Village in Chaungzon Township is divided into eight wards. The annual Ywalut Bayan Tree Water-Pouring Festival attracts thousands of spectators from urban wards and other villages in Chaungzon Township.

— ASH/MKKS

Young women attend the Kason Banyan Tree Water-Pouring Festival in Chaungzon Township, upholding Mon traditions and customs.



Mild Earthquakes Strike Off Myanmar Coast

A slight earthquake struck the Myanmar sea at the southeast of Pyapon Township on 24 April, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The quake with 4.1 magnitude, which occurred at a

depth of 10 kilometres, hit the Myanmar sea at 1 pm on 24 April, about 72 miles southeast of Pyapon and distant about 83 miles from the Kaba Aye earthquake station, DMH said.

Just before it, a small quake

with 3.1 magnitude also struck off the southern coast about 90 miles southeast of Pyapon, at a depth of six miles below the sea bottom.

“Ascending to M 4.5 from M 3 in just six minutes is uncertain

for predicting that a powerful next one will come. But it may be a state happening at the edge of the southern Sagaing Fault, or it may be the beginning of a sequence of levelling up for the next one. We should

pay very close attention to the observation on the possibility of magnitude elevation around the epicentre within the same depth,” said an earthquake observer from AI Info Team. — Htun Htun/ZS

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Zeyathiri voters



PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met voters from Zeyathiri Township at the administrative office of Kyitaung village-tract yesterday.

During the meeting, he pledged that the Hluttaw will implement voters' desires in pursuance of the motto "The People's Voice, the Hluttaw's Voice; the People's Will, the Hluttaw's Will; the People's Expectations, implemented by

the Hluttaw."

He highlighted the intention of the meeting to listen directly to the voices and wishes of the local voters, a 100-day plan of government, plans to carry out the regional development measures together with the government, Hluttaw, party and people, and urged the attendees to work together in national tasks of the country through the community-based security system.

Local voters reported on religious affairs, roads, bridges, education and farming-related matters, and the Speaker attended to their needs. — MNA/KTZH

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with voters from Zeyathiri Township.

Power Supply to Rise Nationwide, Including Yangon

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy said it will increase electricity distribution to regions and states, including Yangon Region, by calculating output from various sources such as hydropower and natural gas.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy said that, in addition to electricity currently generated from hydropower, natural gas-fired, coal-fired, and solar power plants in Myanmar, output from additional natural gas supplies will be calculated and distributed to regions and states, including Yangon Region, to increase the electricity supply.

"In Yangon Region, electricity supply will be increased from

the previous 16-18 hours to 18-20 hours per day, while in Mandalay Region it will rise from 14-16 hours to 16-18 hours. In addition, supply to other states and regions will be increased from the current 12 hours to at least 14 hours per day," said an official from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy will work to develop and implement an optimal power generation mix based on the energy resources available in Myanmar. It also plans to establish a power control system with technical assistance from Russia and will send experts to Russia for study and training.

— ASH/TH



This photo features one of the electricity distribution stations.

National Environmental Lab Project (Phase I) Opens



Union Minister U Hsan Oo speaks on the opening occasion of the National Environmental Laboratory Construction Project (Phase I).

THE opening ceremony of the "National Environmental Laboratory Construction Project (Phase I)," to be implemented in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory with funding from the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2025), was held yesterday morning at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo spoke on occasion that the National Environmental Laboratory Construction Project (Phase I) aims to prevent environmental pollution, analyze and assess air, water, and soil quality, enhance staff capacity, and collect baseline data for the development and establishment of national environmental quality standards, noting that to maintain good environmental conditions it is imperative to establish an environmental laboratory capable of conducting systematic analyses based on reliable data, and that the project to construct a national environmental laboratory will significantly contribute to the effective implementation of environmental conservation activities in Myanmar.

He added that the second and third phases of the project would proceed as scheduled and expressed his sincere gratitude to the government of the People's Republic of China, officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation programme, and all relevant officials for their comprehensive support and assistance in the successful implementation of the project.

Afterwards, Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong of the People's Republic of China, and Vice-Chair of the LMC National Coordination Unit (Myanmar), U Aung Kyaw Moe, delivered speeches.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo, and relevant officials, as well as officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar.

— MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw Honours Personnel for Sacrificial Service to the State



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo addresses the meeting with Tatmadaw members and their families.

AS discipline is the lifeblood of the armed forces, there can be no compromise when it comes to discipline, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo at a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from Mongphyat, Mongyawng, Tahley and Tachilek stations at the local battalions' hall in Mongphyat yesterday morning.

In his speech, the General said that Tatmadaw based on the spirit of comradeship is a strong institution. Only when Tatmadaw members cooperate with each other in their assign-

ments through the organizational spirit will they accomplish their missions.

He continued that discipline is the lifeblood of the armed forces; therefore, there can be no compromise when it comes to discipline. Breaking disciplines cannot be ignored. Ignoring the violations of the disciplines of a household or an organization leads to deterioration and ultimately causes damage and disruption within that household and organization.

He underlined that Tatmadaw members have taken oaths to

sacrifice their lives for the State. So, Tatmadaw honours those who served their duties with sacrifices for the State. Loyalty and obedience of individuals help build the unity of the organization.

The General instructed that the commander has to command subordinates with correct orders and necessary instructions. The regiments and units under good leadership and unity can accomplish any mission.

He stressed that Tatmadaw members need to encourage their offspring to complete at least KG+9 education. If so, those

who completed the KG+9 will have to continue learning at the technical institute, agricultural institute and livestock breeding institutes.

The General also urged Tatmadaw families to make efforts to achieve success in military-owned and manageable-scale agriculture and livestock breeding activities.

Significantly, the General said that as the Mongphyat, Mongyawng, Tahley and Tachilek regions are residences of ethnic people, Tatmadaw members have to uphold polite relations

with ethnic people, instructing them to effectively provide aid to the people in natural disasters without waiting for orders from superiors to win the trust and reliance of the people.

The General fulfilled the requirements of Tatmadaw members and families through coordination with officials.

The General presented food-stuffs and cash awards for Tatmadaw members and families of the military stations to the station commander, while the wife of the General also gave cash awards to the station's maternal and child welfare associations through the wife of the station commander.

Also, present at the meeting were Daw Nilar, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Triangle Region Command and officials.

After the meeting, the General and the party inspected Mongphyat Station by car. — MNA/TTA



Support Extended to Trainees in People's Military Service Training Batch 24

COASTAL Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, along with officials, met citizens from Taninthayi Region who will attend the People's Military Ser-

vice Training 24 yesterday morning at the hall of the local battalion in Myeik.

The commander first delivered a speech and presented equipment to the citizens who would attend the People's Military Service Training 24. Then, the commander and officials warmly greeted them, offered encouragement, and coordinated to provide the necessary assistance.

— MNA/MKKS

A trainee of the People's Military Service Training 24 receives essential uniforms and equipment.

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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.

Defence Services C-in-C, Wife Visit and Comfort Tatmadaw Patients, Families at Local Hospital

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, accompanied by his wife Daw Nilar, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Triangle Region Command and officials, yesterday morning gave words of encouragement to officers, other ranks, members of the Myanmar Police Force and people's military (local) members receiving medical treatment at the local Tatmadaw hospital in Mongphyat.

The General cordially asked about each patient's medical

condition and recovery and presented food supplies and cash awards. The wife of the General and the party visited the female medical ward and the child medical ward and comforted them.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the hospital and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA/TTA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is seen offering words of comfort to a patient undergoing treatment at Tatmadaw Hospital in Mongphyat.



Township stakeholders discuss development plans in Dawbon



The coordination meeting between Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, and ward administrators is underway yesterday.

A coordination meeting between Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, and ward administrators was held to enhance community development activities for residents. It took place at 10 am yesterday at the Township General Administration Department's meeting hall in Dawbon Township, Botahtaung District.

At the outset, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Win Kyaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative (PR) U Tint Zaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative (FPTP) U Win Hlaing, and

Region Hluttaw Representative U Thet Naing delivered introductory remarks. This was followed by an opening speech from U Htoo Htet, Chair of the Township Administration and Management Committee.

Officials from various departments, members of the Township Administration and Management Committee, and ward administrators then introduced themselves and discussed ongoing activities in their respective sectors, along with the basic needs of each ward.

Hluttaw representatives

encouraged departments to report any challenges they face and assured that efforts would be made within the Hluttaw to address the needs of locals and implement essential development projects. They also noted that requirements and difficulties could be submitted at any time for consideration.

The meeting concluded with extra remarks and a closing speech by U Htoo Htet, Chair of the Township Administration and Management Committee. — Chit Su Wai (IPRD)/ KZL

MNREC Union Minister urges collaborative efforts against threatening air pollution

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Hsan Oo, stated that air pollution is one of the greatest environmental threats to health, emphasizing the need for locals and relevant departments to collaborate on reducing “Fire Hotspots” – the primary cause of haze and air pollution – during a meeting with staff in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 April.

According to data from IQ Air, Yangon's air pollution reached the Red Level on the morning of 27 March, with an index of 175, ranking it the second most polluted city in the world. By that afternoon, Yangon's air quality ranking had dropped to 11th by 1:00 pm.

Similar Red Level conditions were recorded throughout January and February in Yangon. It is attributed to excessive levels of smoke, gases, dust, haze, odours, and water vapour.

According to World Health Organization standards, the Air Quality Index (AQI) is categorized as follows: 0-50: Good; 51-100: Moderate; 101-150: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups; 151-200: Unhealthy; 201-300: and Very Unhealthy; 301+: Hazardous.

Physicians advise Yangon residents to avoid spending a long time outdoors without protection, recommending wearing N95 or KN95 masks and drinking water regularly. — Htun Htun/ZN



This photo captures an aerial view showing air pollution in the Yangon Region during February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

NATIONAL

Over 500 members of PDF, KIA, AA and PLA terrorist groups reintegrated into society

THE government extends invitations to those from various armed opposition groups, including PDFs, to return to the legal framework and provides necessary aid for those returnees.

Tatmadaw columns recapture and regain control, one area after another, from armed terrorist groups and PDF groups that had temporarily held territory in various regions and states. As a result, residents warmly welcome Tatmadaw members who are carrying out their duties with great sacrifice to restore peace and stability in the regions. Due to increasing public encouragement, support, and trust, as well as cooperation with Tatmadaw, members of these terrorist groups have become demoralized and no longer wish to continue resistance. Consequently, some PDF members, wishing to abandon armed struggle and live peacefully, have been reporting to nearby military camps and re-entering the legal fold, group by group, where they have been welcomed back by responsible officials in their respective areas.

Yesterday, a ceremony to transfer those returnees to parents and guardians took place at the parade ground of the Central



Weapons and munitions are displayed at a handover ceremony for returnees, who are being reunited with their parents and guardians, held at Central Command Headquarters.

Command, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Central Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Htay, departmental officials, parents and guardians of the returnees and guests.

The chief minister delivered a speech where the commander explained the legal provisions. The commander accepted 31 assorted arms, 48 grenades and grenade shells, one walkie-talkie, 35 magazines, 1,298 rounds of ammunition, and three mines handed over by the returnees. The Chief Minister and the commander presented K5 million for

an automatic rifle, K500,000 for a homemade gun, K300,000 per grenade/grenade shell, K200,000 per walkie-talkie and K100,000 per individual returnee, totalling K171.2 million and supplies to the returnees. Subsequently, those who re-entered the legal fold were required to sign pledges, after which they were systematically handed back to their parents or guardians.

The chief minister and the commander inspected the handed arms and ammunition, cordially greeted the returnees and served them with food.

At the ceremony, a total of

58 males and five females from Aungmyaythazan Township, four males from Chanayethazan Township, two males from Chanmyathazi Township, one male from Pyigyidagun Township, eight males and three females from Amarapura Township, four males and one female from Patheingyi Township, 11 males and three females from Kyaukse Township, one male from Myittha Township, one male from TadaU Township, two males from PyinOoLwin Township, four males from Nawngkhio Township, 118 males and nine females from Madaya Town-

ship, 14 males and one female from Thabeikkyin Township, 138 males and 15 females from Singu Township, 22 males and four females from Mogoke Township, 13 males from Mongmit Township, four males from Kyaukpadaung Township, nine males and four females from Myingyan Township, 16 males and one female from NyaungU Township, three males from Chauk Township, one male from Seikpyu Township, eight males from Ngaphe Township, three males and one female from Salin Township, two males from Minhla Township, eight males from Mindon Township, 14 males from Pakokku Township and one male from Yenangyoung Township, totalling 517— 470 males and 47 females — were handed over to their parents and guardians.

There are still individuals who wish to re-enter the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are urged to promptly contact and report to the nearest district or township administrative bodies, military units, or police stations, where they will be welcomed and provided with necessary assistance. Appropriate cash rewards will be granted for the arms and ammunition. — MNA/TTA

Applications open for MEXT undergraduate scholarship 2027

THE Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has announced that applications are now open for the Undergraduate Scholarship Programmes offered by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for the 2027 academic year.

Eligibility criteria include undergraduate – a total score of 450 in the matriculation examination or a minimum of 60 per cent in internationally recognized exams; College of Technology & Specialized Training College Programmes – a total score of 420 in the matriculation examination

or a minimum of 50 per cent in internationally recognized exams.

Detailed guidelines and application forms can be downloaded at <https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/>. Only those currently residing in Myanmar are eligible to apply. Online registration (Google Form) must be completed between 22 April and 13 May. After registering online, hard copies must be submitted to the MAJA office between 14 and 21 May. Documents will not be accepted if the online registration was not completed within the deadline.

Eligible candidates will be an-

nounced on 22 May, and the written examination will be held on 30 May. Successful preliminary candidates will undergo further screening by the Embassy of Japan to Myanmar. Exam details will be sent via email on 27, 28, and 29 May. For more details, candidates can contact the MAJA office during office hours through the following numbers: 01 7571015 (Ext 1), 09 262602121, and 09 428612151. — MT/ZN

Announcement for the 2027 MEXT Undergraduate Students Scholarship Programme registration.

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Air Quality Measurements in Yangon on 23 April

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

Bird release ritual thrives in Yangon since colonial period



This image captures a vender tending to bird cages. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

THE practice of releasing birds as an act of magic rituals (Yadaya in the Myanma Language) can be seen from the colonial period up to the present day at the famous pagodas, temples, markets and crowded public areas of Yangon.

The release of sparrows in Yadaya was introduced as a commercial activity by Indian communities during the colonial and Japanese periods. After independence, the Myanmar people gradually adopted the practice, and it remains widespread today, especially around well-known pagodas and crowded public places in Yangon.

“My wife goes to the wholesaler and buys different species of sparrows. I sell them

at Botahtaung Pagoda, Lucky Seven Tea House on 49th Street, and Bogyoke Market. Each bird costs around K2,500. The colourful Red Whiskered Bulbul is more expensive. If customers release them in bulk, we offer discounts. I have been doing this for about 25 years to make a living. At this time of year, birds are scarce, so prices are higher. In May, when paddy is abundant, more birds come in, and we sell at K2,000 per bird. We buy from wholesalers in batches of 50 to 200 birds at K300 to K500 each. Unsold birds are kept and sold the next day again, and payments are settled every three days. I would like to do other work, but since this job requires little capital, I have continued do-

ing it for my livelihood,” said 70-year-old U Tin Maung Tun from Dala Township.

Although birds are scarce in April, supplies usually increase starting in May, when birds are brought into Yangon markets from areas such as Taikkyi, Hmawby, Kungyangon, Khanaungto, and Twantay. Among the seven commonly traded species, the colourful Red Whiskered bulbul is the most expensive, sometimes fetching up to K5,000 per bird. The rich individuals mostly release sparrows.

In Yangon, there are about four main bird wholesale centres along Strand Road. Those with sufficient capital purchase birds in bulk worth K500,000 to K1 million and resell them near pagodas, markets, and crowded areas. Others who lack capital get birds on credit from wholesalers and settle payments every three days, earning smaller profits at K200 or K300 but maintaining a steady income.

Sparrows are mainly captured using nets in paddy fields and forest areas and then supplied to wholesalers. However, there are concerns that if the trend of selling birds as food, especially fried birds, increases, native bird species in Myanmar could face the risk of extinction in the future. — Oktha/KTZH

Music Association stresses need for owner permission in song use



This image discloses a press conference called by the Myanmar Music Association (Central).

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) has said that permission will need to be sought from respective artwork owners for using songs in theatrical shows, making cover songs, as well as making DJ remix songs and using them for commercial purposes on media platforms.

The copyright management committee issued this statement on 23 April, in response to complaints by song owners. The statement stipulates that permission of song owners is required for using any songs, whether for performance on a theatrical stage, creation of a cover version, or use in commercial advertisements and media platforms.

Nowadays, AI songs are generated by converting women’s vocals to men’s vocals or vice versa without the permission of the song owners, and this act is also unacceptable, it said. Similarly, permission from the song owner is also required to make DJ remixes, it said. Failure to obtain this permission infringes the law, said the statement.

For songs used by Zat Thabin (theatrical performers) groups during their tours nationwide, respective region, district or township music associations will inspect whether they have the permission of the respective song owners or not, it said. — MT/ZS

Thoroughly implement clean government and good governance

At present, Myanmar has returned to the correct democratic path in line with the will of the people and what the people desire. The past five-year period can be regarded as a time of efforts to review, correct, and implement improvements in the shortcomings of democratic practice, and the current five-year period is the stage in which the democratic system will begin to be implemented in a disciplined and practical manner. In other words, it is the beginning of writing a second new chapter in the implementation of the democratic system.

Indeed, everybody must learn lessons from the experiences that have occurred and strive to establish a “clean government and good governance.” With the cooperation of Union ministries and regional and state governments, efforts will be made to successfully achieve the set goals and objectives. It is necessary to work with all available capacity and capability to ensure the country’s development and meet the needs of the people in accordance with laws and procedures, without any shortcomings or weaknesses.

Therefore, the new government will strive to strengthen and firmly establish the democratic transition process on a solid foundation. By drawing lessons from past experiences, it will work toward achieving “clean government and good governance,” and believes that it will be able to continue successfully building a strong and robust new democratic nation without weaknesses or shortcomings.

Myanmar experienced many strengths as well as weaknesses during its period of democratic transition. Due to limited and developing experience, it also faced numerous difficulties and challenges. At present, Myanmar has re-established itself on the democratic path and is advancing toward a better future. Therefore, efforts must be made to further strengthen and build a more solid multiparty democratic system.

The new government has resolved that, in order to overcome difficulties across all fields and sectors—including global affairs, Myanmar’s internal affairs, peace, politics, economy, and social issues—the government and the people will work hand in hand in close cooperation to face and overcome these challenges together. The new government will continue to implement its objectives and processes aimed at strengthening a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system, and building a Union based on democracy and a federal system.

The rule of law is an essential and fundamental pillar for ensuring a country’s stability and development. In addition, all citizens must conduct themselves in a way that is free from corruption. Corruption significantly undermines a country’s development and also damages the moral character and mindset of individuals. Therefore, the new government will strive to strengthen and firmly establish the democratic transition process on a solid foundation. By drawing lessons from past experiences, it will work toward achieving “clean government and good governance,” and believes that it will be able to continue successfully building a strong and robust new democratic nation without weaknesses or shortcomings.

Short Stories: Essential Reading for Young Minds

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

AS YOUNG people develop a habit of reading, they are naturally drawn to both informative and imaginative literature. Informative writing presents knowledge and facts as understood by the author, allowing readers to gain education and broaden their perspectives. Essays, research papers, biographies, and educational texts all fall into this category. Sometimes, such writing is enriched with emotional appeal, making it both instructive and enjoyable.

In contrast, imaginative literature—particularly short stories—relies on creativity and emotional depth. Through vivid storytelling, authors evoke a wide range of feelings in readers: joy, sympathy, courage, admiration, or even reflection. Among literary forms such as novels, poetry, and drama, the short story stands out as a powerful and accessible medium.

For young readers, short stories are especially valuable. Unlike lengthy novels, they can be read in a single sitting, making them ideal for those with limited time. Despite their brevity, they deliver meaningful experiences, focusing on a single event or emotion. A well-crafted short story is concise, structured, and capable of leaving a lasting impression.

Historically, short stories have deep roots in human civilization, evolving from ancient folklore and oral traditions. Modern short stories began to flourish in the early nineteenth century, gaining recognition as a refined literary form. Writers have long debated their structure. Some, like Edgar Allan Poe, emphasized unity and completeness, suggesting that a story should be readable in one sitting. Others, such as Anton Chekhov, argued for a more open-ended approach, portraying life as it is, without rigid beginnings or endings.

In Myanmar, the short story tradition began in 1917 with the publication of Maung Thein Tin Ma Thein Shin in the Thuriya Magazine, written by the renowned author Shwe U Daung. This marked a significant milestone in Myanmar’s literary history. Since then, magazines and journals have played a vital role in nurturing new writers and promoting the art of short storytelling.

Short stories possess distinct characteristics: brevity, focus on a single effect, limited characters, and a clear thematic purpose. They often depict a moment in life, capturing human emotions and social realities in a compact form. Because of this, they are particularly effective in helping young readers understand both themselves and the world around them.

Reading short stories offers numerous benefits. It enhances literacy, expands vocabulary, and encourages critical thinking. It also nurtures creativity and emotional intelligence, allowing readers to empathize with different characters and situations. For young people who may feel intimidated by long novels, short stories provide an excellent entry point into the world of literature.

Moreover, young readers are encouraged to explore both local and international works. Myanmar short stories reflect cultural values, traditions, and everyday life, while foreign stories introduce new perspectives and global ideas. Together, they create a balanced and enriching reading experience. In today’s interconnected world, engaging with short stories from diverse backgrounds helps young people become more thoughtful, informed, and empathetic individuals. Literature, especially short fiction, does more than entertain—it builds bridges between cultures, deepens understanding, and inspires imagination.

Encouraging young readers to embrace short stories is not merely an investment in literacy but in shaping a generation that is creative, reflective, and capable of contributing meaningfully to society. As young people cultivate the habit of reading, they encounter two main categories of literature: informative writing and imaginative writing. Informative writing presents knowledge and facts as understood by the writer, giving readers opportunities to learn, think, and broaden their understanding. Essays, research papers, biographies, and other educational texts fall into this category. Some informative works also blend creativity and emotional appeal, allowing readers to enjoy them more deeply.

Imaginative literature, on the other hand, relies on creativity, emotion, and artistic expression. This includes novels, poems, plays, and, notably, short stories. Through imaginative writing, authors can stir emotions, such as joy, sympathy, courage, dignity, or heartfelt appreciation, within the reader. Among these literary forms, the short story holds a special place. Young readers often prefer it because it is engaging yet concise.

A short story is a literary form that can be read in one sitting and conveys a singular dominant impression. Despite its brevity, it expresses the writer’s artistic vision and emotional depth. It is compact, carefully structured, and centred around a single theme or effect. With only a few characters and a focused plot, it delivers meaning swiftly yet powerfully.

Human civilization produced tales and legends long before modern literature existed. Stories were expressed through songs, poems, folktales, and various forms of imaginative writing. As human knowledge evolved, these early narratives developed into more refined literary forms. The modern short story was born in the early nineteenth century and has since become a respected genre across world literature. Writers have offered different interpretations of what a short story should be.

Edgar Allan Poe, considered the father of the modern short story, believed that a story should be readable in one sitting and produce a single unified effect. Anton Chekhov, however, emphasized portraying life as it truly is—without rigid beginnings or conclusions—and showing characters in the midst of living.

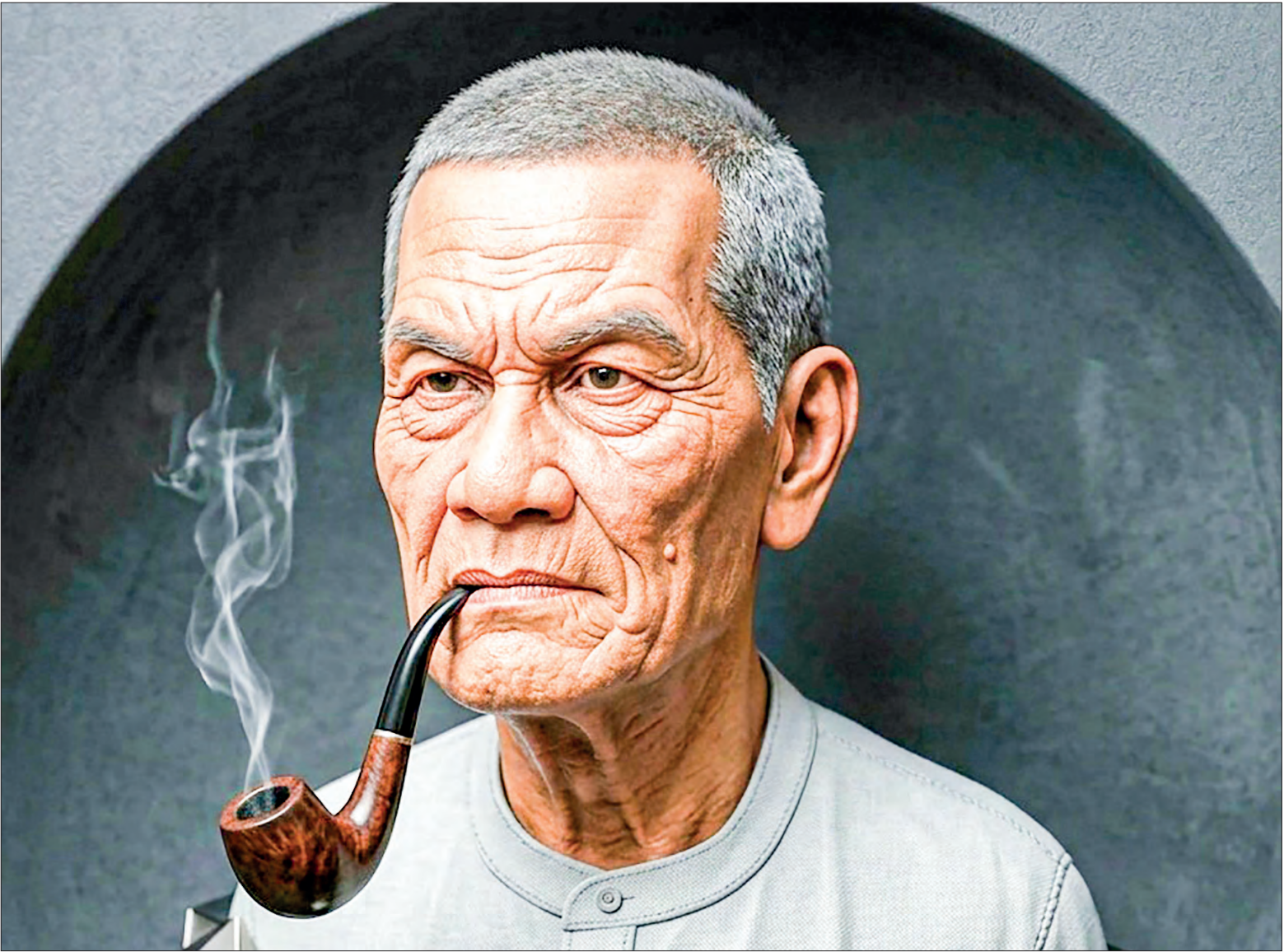
The development of Myanmar’s short stories formally began in 1917, when the Thuriya Magazine published the country’s first short story, Maung Thein Tin Ma Thein Shin, written by Shwe U Daung. This milestone marked the beginning of a proud tradition. Later, magazines such as Pefu Hlwa, Pan Wethi, and Shwe Amatay became platforms where many new writers practised, improved, and eventually contributed to classic Myanmar short stories. Our literature continues to grow through the creativity and artistic effort of successive generations of storytellers.

Short stories possess distinct characteristics:

- Clear, shared themes
- A narrative that builds toward a focused effect
- A limited cast of characters
- A compact structure
- Length short enough to be read in a single sitting

Because a short story captures only one moment or situation in life, it is particularly effective in helping readers reflect, understand emotions, and appreciate human experiences. For young people, reading short stories provides many benefits. Those who are not yet accustomed to reading long novels often find short stories more approachable. With limited time, they can still enjoy reading and gain knowledge. A good short story not only entertains but also inspires thought and imagination, helping young readers grow intellectually and emotionally.

A wide variety of short stories exists today. To see the development of modern techniques and writing styles, young readers should explore both Myanmar and international works.



The development of Myanmar’s short stories formally began in 1917, when the Thuriya Magazine published the country’s first short story, Maung Thein Tin Ma Thein Shin, written by Shwe U Daung. ILLUSTRATION: GRAPHIC ART

Recommendations for young readers include:

- *Zay Khwin Taung by Khin Khin Htoo*
- *Short Stories 3 by Ma Sandar (National Literary Award), which includes:*
- *U Khet, Daw Thet*
- *There Are Two Grandfathers*
- *Mann Kyae Koe Pin*
- *Soon Yae, Hsan Yae*

These works not only enhance imagination and critical thinking but also broaden the reader’s social understanding. Short stories, small as they are, open windows to knowledge, creativity, and emotional maturity. Encouraging young people to read them is an investment in developing thoughtful, perceptive, and culturally aware future generations.

Another key benefit is the development of critical thinking skills. Short stories often present situations that require interpretation and reflection. In The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe, readers are invited to question the reliability of the narrator and explore themes of guilt and madness. Such stories encourage deeper analysis and independent thinking.

Short stories also help build emotional intelligence and empathy. Through characters and their experiences, readers learn to understand different feelings and perspectives. For instance, The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant illustrates the consequences of pride and dissatisfaction, helping readers reflect on human nature and personal values.

In addition, short stories enhance creativity and imagination. Writers often use symbolic language and vivid imagery, inspiring readers to think beyond the surface. Stories like The Lottery by Shirley Jackson present unexpected endings and social commentary, encouraging readers to imagine different interpretations and meanings.

Short stories are also an excellent way to introduce cultural awareness. By reading stories from different countries, young readers gain insight into diverse traditions and ways of life. Works by Anton Chekhov or James Joyce expose readers to different cultural settings while still addressing universal human experiences.

Finally, short stories are time-efficient and accessible. In today’s busy world, young people often struggle to find time for long novels. Short stories offer a practical solution, allowing readers to gain knowledge, enjoyment, and inspiration even within a limited time.

In conclusion, short stories are more than just brief narratives—they are powerful tools that develop literacy, thinking, empathy, and creativity. By exploring both classic and modern works, young readers can build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and a deeper understanding of the world.

YSX stock trading values exceed K2.8B in Mar

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) amounted to K2.889 billion from 693,616 shares traded in March 2026, according to YSX's monthly report.

At present, shares of eight listed companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX)-are traded in the securities market.

FPB topped the trading on equity with over K1.67 billion from 404,745 shares, followed by MTSH with stocks worth K499 million from 80,925 shares, EFR with K261 million from 142,712 shares, FMI with over K259.47 million from 21,061 shares, MAEX with K94 mil-



This photo shows a stock index display panel at the Yangon Stock Exchange.

lion from 25,081 shares, MCB with K42.58 million from 4,920 shares, AMATA with K35.9 million from 9,051 shares, and TMH with K16.2 million from 5,121 shares.

The stock trading values were estimated at K1.7 billion with 469,160 shares traded in February.

The stock trading in March is up by over K1.18 million (224,456 shares) compared to that of February. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$7.76M to edible oil & LNG-importing companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3.7 million to edible oil-importing companies and US\$4 million to LNG-importing companies on 23 April.

CBM sold over \$3 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1 million to LNG-importing companies on 22 April.

CBM sold over \$2.22 million to edible oil-importing companies on 21 April, in addition to a transaction of over three million baht in the market.

CBM has been continuously injecting US dollars into the edible oil import sector, with \$2.48 million on 20 April, along with a transaction of 3.86 million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold three million baht in the foreign exchange market, in addition to an injection of \$881,250 to edible oil-importing companies on 10 April.

CBM announced on 9 April that it would inject \$49 million into the fuel sector and \$8.16 million into edible oil businesses. CBM made transactions of over 2.39 million baht on that day, in addition to sales of \$1.36 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1 million to fuel oil-importing companies.

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

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 24 April 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,664.30~3,668.00	558.10~558.60	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	31,256,137.60	17,300,713.60	7,545,494.10	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE number of foreign currencies traded in the Foreign Exchange market was sold for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, industrial raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical raw materials, fertilizers, wheat, consumer goods, and construction materials for import. The CMP sector contributed US\$3.59 million to the edible oil sector and US\$3.33 million to the LNG sector. — MNA

Yangon palm oil wholesale reference price edges up

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market soared to K7,285 per viss this week ending 30 April, up from K6,985 per viss last week ending 23 April, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The rise in palm oil price was attributed to a sharp drop in the palm oil output in major producing countries starting from January 2026, strengthening Malaysia ringgits, Indonesia's tax hike in palm oil export from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent starting from 1 March, low global stock levels in palm oil reserve situation with tight supplies dropping to 19 per cent in 2025-2026 financial year from 20 per cent, pushing the FOB price in the producing countries, the Department of Consumer Affairs speculated the market price.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bill legalizing assisted dying in England and Wales set to fail

A contentious bill to legalise assisted dying in England and Wales was set to fail Friday after running out of parliamentary time, having been stuck in the UK’s unelected upper house.

The bill has “no prospect” of becoming law in parliament’s current session set to end next week, a lawmaker co-sponsoring the legislation confirmed Friday.

MPs in the House of Commons backed legalizing euthanasia for adults who have been given less than six months to live and can clearly express a wish to die, in a historic vote last June. But more than 1,200 bill amendments subsequently introduced in the unelected House of Lords mean it will not pass before parliament’s prorogation, which will conclude its current session and is expected on Tuesday. — AFP

Francis Kere: Africa’s sustainable architect conquering new continents

FRANCIS Kere, the sole African Pritzker Prize winner (2022), has unveiled the Goethe-Institut in Dakar, Senegal — a sustainable cultural centre using local bricks, open-air ventilation, and a central baobab tree as a communal “palaver” hub. This Burkina Faso-born architect, now Berlin-based, prioritizes bioclimatic design with African materials like clay and bamboo, adapting principles from his award-winning 2001 Gando Primary School to global projects.

The perforated brick walls enable cross-ventilation, minimizing energy use while echoing traditional aesthetics. Kere laments overreliance on glass and concrete, advocating earthen alternatives amid energy crises like the Strait of Hormuz closure. His portfolio spans Benin’s National Assembly (palaver tree-inspired, due 2027), Burkina Faso’s Sankara mausoleum amid jihadist con-



The newly installed Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, by Burkinabe architect Diebedo Francis Kere, is pictured during its press preview in Kensington Gardens in west London on 20 June 2017. PHOTO: NIKLAS HALLE’N / AFP/FILE

flict, a Las Vegas art museum with local red rock, and Brazil’s “house of wisdom” library.

Despite expanding to Eu-

rope, America, and beyond, Kere vows fidelity to roots: “If you give me sand, mud, and bamboo, I can create a project.” He

builds 11 schools yearly in Burkina Faso, fearing global fame might distance him from Africa. — AFP



Salmon can swim almost twice as far if there is cocaine in the water, scientists have discovered. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/REDDIT

Funny old world:
the week’s offbeat news

YOUR weekly roundup of offbeat stories from around the world.

Salmon’s a bit high

Salmon can swim almost twice as far if there is cocaine in the water, scientists have discovered.

More and more of the drug is getting into rivers and streams as human consumption of the stimulant hits new highs. And the result is not to be snorted at.

Researchers at Australia’s Griffith University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences found wild salmon exposed to cocaine swam 1.9 times further than their clean-living cousins.

Which may explain why they are always swimming against the tide and trying to jump up waterfalls.

Scientists were unable to say whether coked-up fish thought they were smarter, sexier and better dancers than other salmon, though we can safely make the leap.

Everybody dance now

It might be interesting to test the water

some politicians have been swimming in given the groovy moves world leaders have been throwing lately.

US President Donald Trump found time from posting memes of himself as “Doctor Jesus” healing the sick to dust off his “YMCA” dance moves for supporters, while Hungarian politician Zsolt Hegedus stole the show on election night in Budapest with his zany display of dad dancing as he celebrated the ousting of Viktor Orban.

But Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has bested them both, drumming up support for his re-election run by touring the country with his newly-formed rock band.

The 50-year-old took up drumming last year and has since been putting the percussion into politics, with a string of gigs billed as “We play, you dance”.

While Pashinyan is no Phil Collins, he does write his own songs. It can only be a matter of time before he forms a trio with Vladimir Putin — who famously serenaded Sharon Stone with “Blueberry Hill” — and Turkmenistan’s Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who likes to rap about his favourite horse. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

Japan’s ruling party urges PM to mull Hormuz minesweeping after ceasefire



Ruling Liberal Democratic Party policy chief Takayuki Kobayashi (C, L) hands a proposal on the government's response to the Middle East situation to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (C, R) at her office in Tokyo on 24 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) policy chief Takayuki Kobayashi emphasized that protecting sea lanes is vital to Japan's national interests.

THE ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Friday urged Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to consider dispatching Japan's Self-Defence Forces to the Strait of Hormuz for minesweeping if a formal ceasefire is reached in the US-Israeli conflict with Iran.

In a proposal on the government's response to the Middle East situation, the LDP said sending minesweepers should be considered if there remain "obstacles to safe navigation" through the strait, a key artery for Japan's oil supplies, even after a formal ceasefire.

The LDP also said Japan should make efforts to diversify energy resource suppliers and flexibly consider "continuous support" to help households cope with higher utility bills amid global oil price surges caused by supply disruptions.

"Securing sea lanes is a key challenge directly linked to our national interests," LDP policy chief Takayuki Kobayashi told reporters after handing the proposal to Takaichi, who heads the LDP.

Kobayashi said Takaichi told him, "The situation is severe but we will firmly keep the Japanese economy running to protect people's livelihoods," adding that the government shares the party's overall recognition as reflected in the proposal. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BIREF

German business morale falls to lowest level since Covid

GERMAN business morale dropped in April to its lowest level since the Covid pandemic as the Middle East war hit Europe's top economy hard.

The closely watched Ifo institute confidence barometer dropped to 84.4 in April from 86.3 in March, marking its lowest level since May 2020. "Companies are considerably more pessimistic about the coming months. They also assessed their current situation as worse," Ifo president Clemens Fuest said.

"The German economy is being hit hard by the Iran crisis."

The surge in oil and gas prices triggered by US-Israeli attacks on Iran and the near total closure of the Strait of Hormuz has weighed on Germany, where energy-intensive industries account for almost a fifth of industrial output. — AFP

Thailand's exports jump 18.7% in Mar

THAILAND'S exports grew for a 21st successive month in March, driven by industrial shipments amid robust expansion in the global technology supply chain and a short-term easing of US tariff measures, official data showed on Friday. Exports, a key driver of the South-East Asian country's economic growth, expanded 18.7 per cent year-on-year last month to US\$35.16 billion, reaching a record high and jumping sharply from a 9.9 per cent increase in February, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The uptrend was also attributed to a continued rise in global manufacturing, as reflected in sustained demand and new orders in international markets, said Nantapong Chiralerspong, director-general of the ministry's trade policy and strategy office. — Xinhua

Study warns of global decline in fish growth linked to overfishing

SCIENTISTS warn that overfishing and environmental change are eroding the biological foundations of many fisheries, with a new analysis revealing a global decline in fish growth over the last century.

Researchers from Australia's James Cook University (JCU) analyzed nearly 7,700 growth records covering 1,479 marine species from 1908 to 2021, and found declining growth performance from about 1908 onwards, with the greatest declines concentrated among commercially valuable species, said a recent university statement.

Human-driven pressures are causing large-scale changes to the ecologies and life histories of fishes, said Helen Yan who led the study as part of her PhD programme at JCU.

Researchers measured growth performance — a life-history trait that captures the trade-off between growth rate and body size — across 113 years. — Xinhua



Human-driven pressures are causing large-scale changes to the ecologies and life histories of fishes. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Porsche exits sports car maker Bugatti Rimac



Porsche is parting ways with Croatian ‘supercar’ manufacturer Bugatti Rimac. PHOTO: AFP

GERMAN carmaker Porsche announced on Friday the sale of its stakes in sports car manufacturer

Bugatti Rimac to a consortium led by a US fund founded by the Egyptian billionaire Sawiris family.

The amount of the transaction, which still has to be approved by regulators, has not been disclosed.

The announcement comes after the German luxury car brand warned it would face a difficult year under pressure from competitors and US tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump.

Under the terms of the agreement, Porsche will sell all of its 45 per cent stake in Bugatti Rimac, a joint venture founded in 2021 with Croatian “supercar” manufacturer Rimac, which holds the remaining 55 per cent. “Following completion, Rimac Group is set to take control of Bugatti Rimac and form a strategic partnership with HOF Capital and BlueFive Capital to support its continued growth,” according to a statement from the German carmaker. — AFP

Maldives repays US\$400 mln swap facility to India

THE Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) has repaid a US\$-400-million currency swap facility obtained from India in October 2024, the Maldives’ state media PSM News reported Friday.

The facility was provided through the US dollar/euro swap window of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation currency swap framework for 2024-2027, which is designed to assist member states facing short-term balance of payments pressures,

PSM News said. Separately, the government has also repaid \$50 million from a US\$150-million Treasury Bill budgetary support package arranged through the State Bank of India in 2019, PSM News reported.

Earlier this month, the Maldives settled a \$500-million sukuk, or bonds, issued in 2021, repaying both the principal amount of \$500 million and the associated coupon of \$24.68 million. — Xinhua

Intel earnings signal recovery at US chip maker

SHARES in Intel soared on Thursday after it smashed quarterly earnings expectations in what could be a sign that the US chip maker is on a path to recovery.

Intel reported revenue of \$13.6 billion in a seven per cent increase from the same quarter a year earlier, but logged a \$3.7 billion loss that was less than the market had anticipated.

It forecast revenue in the current quarter would range from \$13.8 billion to

\$14.8 billion. Shares soared more than 19 per cent in after-market trades.

“The next wave of AI will bring intelligence closer to the end user, moving from foundational models to inference to agentic,” Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan said in the earnings release.

“This shift is significantly increasing the need for Intel’s CPUs and wafer and advanced packaging offerings.” — AFP

Lufthansa loses fight over bailout at EU top court

GERMAN airline giant Lufthansa Thursday lost a legal battle over a six-billion-euro (\$7-billion) pandemic-era government bailout when the EU’s top court ruled Brussels mishandled its approval of the cash injection.

Europe’s biggest airline group by revenues received the bailout in 2020 to save it from collapse as government lockdowns to prevent the spread of Covid-19 brought air travel to a halt.



Lufthansa received a massive government bailout during the pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

The European Commission approved the move, but Irish no-frills carrier Ryanair and German

airline Condor brought legal action, claiming this broke state aid rules.

The European Court of

Justice (ECJ) on Thursday dismissed a challenge from Lufthansa, and upheld an earlier ruling by a lower tribunal which had overturned the approval by the commission, the EU executive.

“The Court of Justice dismisses Lufthansa’s appeal and thus upholds the General Court’s ruling to annul the decision by which the Commission had approved the recapitalization of Lufthansa,” it said in a statement. — AFP

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacture Eastchem Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Moshini 200 WP	Yarma 200 WP	Dinotefuran 200g/kg WP	Full	F2022-3485

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.

Address- Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd. No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SCHUYLER TRADER VOY.NO. (106491)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SCHUYLER TRADER VOY.NO. (106491) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-4-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO., LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



This screenshot from a video clip shows people participating in a navy open-day event in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 23 April 2026.
PHOTO: HAN FANGDA/XINHUA

China marks navy's 77th anniversary as its role in safeguarding peace grows

CHINA on Thursday celebrated the 77th anniversary of the founding of its navy, whose growing strength has become an important force for regional and global stability.

As part of these celebrations, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy opened naval bases in more than 10 cities to the public, with dozens of active-duty vessels on display, according to the navy.

The lineup includes guided-missile destroyers, frigates and amphibious transport docks, along with support vessels such as replenishment ships and hospital ships. Many of the vessels have taken part in missions including escort operations in the Gulf of Aden, overseas visits and joint exercises. To mark the occasion, the navy also released a short

The lineup includes guided-missile destroyers, frigates and amphibious transport docks, along with support vessels such as replenishment ships and hospital ships.

film, "Into the Deep", showing an aircraft carrier group operating alongside other naval forces, supported by carrier-based aircraft and shore-based missile systems in coordinated precision strikes.

China's drive to develop a capable navy has been tied to both its geography and its history. With more than 18,000 kilometres of coastline and a vast maritime domain, the country has increasingly emphasized safeguarding its waters, shaped in part by over 470 foreign naval incursions from 1840 to 1949. Founded in 1949, the same year as the People's Republic of China, the PLA Navy has developed into a modern strategic service with a full range of naval branches and both conventional and nuclear capabilities. In just over a decade, the navy has built a trio of aircraft carriers. The first, Liaoning, a refitted Soviet-made vessel, entered service in 2012, followed by Shandong in 2019, China's first domestically built aircraft carrier. — Xinhua

US soldier allegedly bet on Maduro operation using intel

A US soldier faces charges for using classified information to bet on online prediction markets related to the US operation to capture former Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro, the Department of Justice said Thursday.

US Army soldier Gannon Ken Van Dyke, 38, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, allegedly made over \$400,000 by using the online platform Polymarket to bet on outcomes related to US forces arriving in Venezuela's capital Caracas and deposing Maduro — an operation he helped plan and execute, according to justice officials. The US military launched strikes on Caracas on 3 January, arresting Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores and whisking them to New York to face drug trafficking charges. "Our men and women in uniform are trusted with classified information in order to accomplish their mission...and are prohibited from using this highly sensitive information for personal financial gain," Acting US Attorney-General Todd Blanche said in a statement. — AFP



The logo of the prediction market online platform Polymarket is seen outside their new location called "The Situation Room" during its opening day in Washington, DC, on 20 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



IEA said nearly 20 per cent of LNG supply has been lost due to the conflict.
PHOTO: IEA

IEA sees 'tight' liquefied natural gas markets through 2027

LIQUEFIED natural gas (LNG) supplies are likely to remain strained through the end of 2027 due to disruptions and infrastructure damage from the US-Iran war, the International Energy Agency said Friday.

Energy prices have soared since Tehran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz to Gulf tanker traffic and began striking oil and gas targets in neighbouring countries in retaliation for US and Israeli attacks.

"The combined effect of short-term supply losses and slower capacity growth could result in a cumulative loss of around 120 billion cubic metres of LNG supply between 2026 and 2030," the Paris-based agency said in a new report.

It said nearly 20 per cent of LNG supply has been lost due to the conflict, and warned that new investments to increase production are likely to be delayed. — AFP

SPORTS

China's Zhang takes high jump silver at Asian Beach Games

CHINESE high jumper Zhang Hao took the silver medal in the men's high jump at the 2026 Asian Beach Games here on Friday.

Leonard Grospe of the Philippines tied with Zhang on 2.05 metres, but won the title on countback after having made fewer attempts. Yeh Po-Ting of Taiwan Province of China, who also jumped 2.05 metres, tied with Zhang for second place.

Zhang, bronze medallist at China's 15th National Games, cleared 1.80 metres, 1.90 metres and 2.00 metres on his first attempt. He cleared 2.05 metres after two attempts but failed to

conquer 2.10 metres.

"In adapting to compete on the beach, I changed my run-up. However, when I marked 2.00 metres, I tried to clear 2.05 metres by using my old run-up, which cost me my first attempt. Then I changed my run-up again and succeeded," Zhang told Xinhua. "I chose not to skip 1.80 metres because I wanted to get more accustomed to the sand. On a normal synthetic track I would choose a higher starting height, but today I played it safe because my ankle was quite painful. My goal was to finish the event smoothly and avoid injury," Zhang added. — Xinhua



Gold medallist Leonard Grospe (R) of the Philippines, silver medallists Zhang Hao (L) of China and Yeh Po-Ting of Taiwan Province of China pose for photos during the awarding ceremony of the men's high jump of beach athletics at the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 24 April 2026. **PHOTO: PAN YULONG/XINHUA**

Bundesliga relegation fight goes down to wire

THE battle to avoid relegation from German Bundesliga is heating up as the season reaches its climax. With four matchdays remaining in the 2025/26 campaign, many clubs are locked in a tense struggle for survival, setting the stage for a nerve-racking weekend of fixtures.

Despite sitting in the relegation places, Wolfsburg (24 points, 17th) and St Pauli (26 points, 16th) still have a chance to escape, while Cologne, Moenchengladbach, Hamburg (HSV), and Werder Bremen (all on 31 points) along with Union Berlin (32 points) are far from secure.

While Union and its coach

Marie-Louise Eta face a delicate neighbouring duel in Leipzig, Cologne finds itself ahead of the Rhine-derby against Leverkusen. Hamburg's poor form is a major concern as it hosts a Hoffenheim side chasing a UEFA Champions League spot — a goal also shared by Leipzig and Leverkusen. — AFP



Injured Spain star Yamal will come back stronger at World Cup: Flick

BARCELONA coach Hansi Flick said on Friday that injured teenage star Lamine Yamal would return to action at the World Cup this summer with Spain, even "stronger" than he is now.

The 18-year-old was ruled out for the rest of the season with a hamstring injury which

he suffered on Wednesday as Barcelona beat Celta Vigo in La Liga.

Yamal won and converted a penalty to help his side stay nine points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table, but immediately went down injured and was substituted.

"It's not easy this situation

for us, but also for him," Flick told reporters.

"He knows it was his first muscle injury. What I can feel is that he is very focussed. He has the motivation — he is out for us, but I think for the World Cup he will be there and he will be stronger, (he will) come back stronger than now." — AFP



Barcelona's Spanish forward Lamine Yamal (C). **PHOTO: AFP**

St Pauli midfielder and captain Jackson Irvine is pushing his side to beat the drop. **PHOTO: AFP**



WORLD

THE Arctic is of strategic importance for Russia's economic development and the protection of its sovereignty, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

"I have repeatedly noted the special strategic importance of this region for our country, for the domestic economy, for building Russia's industrial potential, for ensuring national security, and for protecting our sovereignty," Putin said during a meeting with members of the Russian government.

Putin also emphasized the growing global role of the Arctic, including in terms of sustainable supply chains.

Russia is strengthening its Arctic logistics network and will protect its interests in the region, Putin said, adding that Russia is ready to cooperate in the Arctic with all interested countries.

The northern Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor is one of the safest, most reliable and effective routes, Putin said.

"The importance of the northern Trans-Arctic route as the safest, most reliable and efficient one is becoming more and more obvious against the background of disruptions in global transport chains due to numerous conflicts, including, as we are now seeing, in the Middle East," Putin said during a meeting with members of the Russian government. — SPUTNIK

Arctic of strategic importance for Russia's economic development: Putin

Putin emphasized the growing global role of the Arctic, including in terms of sustainable supply chains.



The launching ceremony for the Lead Project Arktika nuclear icebreaker at Baltiysky Zavod Shipyard in St Petersburg. In the icy Arctic Ocean, this ship breaks ice year-round to clear paths for cargo vessels. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

Trump says ceasefire between Israel, Lebanon to be extended by 3 weeks

US President Donald Trump announced on Thursday that the current 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended by three weeks, shortly after the two countries held their second ambassador-level talks here Thursday afternoon.

The United States is going to work with the government of Lebanon to help it protect itself from Hezbollah, Trump said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social.

Trump said he met with representatives of Israel and Lebanon in the Oval Office, along with US Vice-President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and US ambassadors to Israel and Lebanon.

"The Meeting went very

well!" Trump claimed, providing no details.

"I look forward in the near future to hosting the Prime Min-

ister of Israel, Bibi Netanyahu, and the President of Lebanon, Joseph Aoun," Trump added. — Xinhua



Vehicles drive past a billboard depicting Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun and reading "the choice is for Lebanon" on 24 April 2026 in the capital Beirut. PHOTO: ANWAR AMRO / AFP

China unveils international partners for Mars mission

THE China National Space Administration (CNSA) on Friday announced the results of its international collaboration selection for Tianwen-3, China's first Mars sample-return mission.

Following a call for cooperation proposals in April 2025, in which the CNSA announced it would open up 20 kilograms of payload resources for international collaboration, the agency received 28 applications.

Five projects were subsequently selected based on the criteria of high scientific value, effective mission support, solid engineering feasibility and

high technological maturity, the CNSA said during the opening ceremony of the 11th Space Day of China held in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The Tianwen-3 mission, part of China's planetary exploration programme, is planned for launch around 2028. It aims to bring Martian samples back to Earth around 2031. The Tianwen-3 spacecraft comprises a lander, an ascent vehicle, a service module, an orbiter and a return module.

According to the CNSA, three scientific instruments will be carried on the orbiter. — Xinhua