

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

Hpa-an City wins ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award

HPA-AN City in Kayin State has won the 6th ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award for 2025, an award presented every three years since 2008.

The ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award, selected by the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC), was presented at a ceremony held on 3 October in Langkawi, Malaysia.

The Kayin State government has announced that it will work together with government organizations, departments, and local communities to sustainably develop the environment of Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State and winner of the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award. The efforts will focus on ensuring clean water, clean air, and clean



This photo features the 6th ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award ceremony.

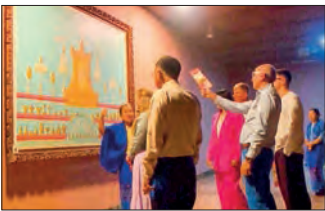
land, preserving biodiversity, keeping the land green for future generations, and protecting the natural ecosystems in the state’s tourist areas. In addition, the Myanmar Tourism Federation is promoting ecotourism activities in Kayin State, which offers many attractions that appeal to both domestic and international tourists. — ASH/TH



Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary.

72 new camera traps to monitor Bengal tigers in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary

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Belarusian entertainment troupe explores Yangon city



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Bagan Archaeological Museum receives 10,900+ visitors, earns K11+ million in five months

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission's official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



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

Weather Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 12 October 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North-east Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 13 October 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Mon State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and upper Sagaing regions and Kachin and Kayin states, scattered in lower Sagaing Region and Chin and (Northern and Southern) Shan states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities over the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 October 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 October 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 October 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

The Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Khamti and Homalin townships in Khamti District, Sagaing Region, will install 72 additional camera traps to conduct research on Bengal tigers, according to the sanctuary warden's office.

Last year, a total of 24 camera traps were installed during the tiger census, capturing

PHOTOS: HTAMANTHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.



72 new camera traps to monitor Bengal tigers in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary

images of Bengal tigers, Sun bears, and other rare wildlife, and this year, 72 camera traps will be installed from November in the 2025-2026 financial year to monitor the survival of these species.

"Last year, 24 camera traps were deployed in the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary, recording nearly 22 tigers. This November, 72 more camera traps will be installed to



further monitor the wildlife ecosystem, and batteries for the new cameras have already been ordered. The presence of Bengal tigers in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in northern Myanmar, and Indochinese tigers in the Taninthayi Forest reserve in southern Myanmar, is a source of national pride. We all need to work together to ensure their survival," said an official from the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary warden's office.

The Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is currently conducting a tiger census and survey, and installing research camera traps at four major streams: Nanpilin, Naneisu, Nanbugun, and Nanyanyin. Last year, camera traps were

installed in the Nanyanyin area to record number of tigers, and this year, 72 cameras are being installed at three points in Nanbugun.

The 531,456-acre Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1974 and designated as an ASEAN heritage park on 8 October 2019.

In Myanmar, tigers are protected under Section 19 (a) of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law. They are currently found in only 13 countries — Myanmar, Russia, China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam — and are being protected to prevent extinction. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Hoteliers urged to leverage up strengths to benefit tourism industry

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, met with officials and hoteliers from the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (PyinOoLwin Zone) yesterday morning at Shwe Nan Htike Hotel in PyinOoLwin.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted that PyinOoLwin is a well-known hill resort in Myanmar. Its cool climate, blooming gardens, scenic natural beauty, historic pagodas, and local food and souvenirs make it a unique tourist destination.

He emphasized that the region has great potential for ecotourism, cultural tourism, religious tourism, art and education tourism, leisure tourism, sports tourism, adventure tourism, health and wellness tourism, heritage tourism, and agro-tourism. The Union minister stressed the importance of leveraging these strengths to benefit the tourism industry and offered solutions based on entrepreneurs' business presentations.

He then visited Hotel Akimomi and Shwe Nan Htike Hotel



Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung meets hoteliers in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

in PyinOoLwin to review their operations and offer recommendations on business improvements.

Afterwards, Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic

Committee, along with officials, visited the PyinOoLwin District Stadium and the gymnasium. They discussed with local officials ways to further develop sports in the region and nurture a new generation of athletes.

They also met with temporarily displaced employees and residents, providing them with essential supplies to improve their living conditions, transportation, and access to food. — MNA/TH

Solar lanterns, relief supplies donated to earthquake-affected people

THE Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) and the Myanmar Blue Sky Rescue Development Council jointly donated 300 solar lanterns for the earthquake-affected people and relief aid worth K50,100 for each family.

Yesterday morning, the Mandalay Region government allocated solar lanterns to 500 earthquake-affected families of service personnel and relief aid to 1,500 families from Aungmyaythazan Township at the ceremony held at Kyintawyan Buddhist Temple on Strand Road in Chanayethazan Township.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung delivered a speech while Chairman of the



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung presents the first prize to Mann Aung Swe Lin Club in the invitational volleyball tournament yesterday.

Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) U Tin Oo and Mandalay Branch Association Chair U Kyaw Min explained bilateral friendship, participation in development sector, and cooperation in relief efforts in the post-earthquake period and handed over the donated items for 500 staff families to the Region Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister and regional ministers, and officials from the association also presented donated items to quake-affected people from Aungmyaythazan and Mahlaingmyathazan townships.

The ceremony was also attended by officials from the Mandalay-based Consulate-Gen-

eral of China, local authorities, officials from Myanmar Blue Sky Rescue Development Council and guests.

On 11 October, the Region Chief Minister inspected the MEVM and related accessories to be used at the 2025 multiparty democratic general election in Mandalay Region.

He watched the final match between Mann Aung Swe Lin club and New Generation Club in the invitational men's open volleyball tournament at Mann Aung Swe Lin Volleyball Club in Aungmyaythazan Township and presented prizes to the winning teams including Champion Mann Aung Swe Lin Club. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Magway Region call centre to inform people about election process

MAGWAY Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin, accompanied by regional ministers and officials, visited the Region Call Centre at the Magway Region Election Subcommission Office yesterday morning.

The call centre was established to respond to public inquiries about the upcoming multiparty democratic general election scheduled for 28 December 2025.

During the inspection, he instructed officials to provide

clear answers to questions regarding voter registration in accordance with the law and regulations. He also directed the Call Centre officials to systematically compile and maintain records of all election-related instructions, keep daily logs and telephone call records, and ensure uninterrupted phone lines. Additionally, he emphasized that officials should provide clear and accurate answers to all other election-related questions in line with the election law and



Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin gives instructions to officials on his inspection tour of the call centre yesterday.

regulations.

Then, the Regional Minister for Security and Border Affairs outlined the security plan, the Secretary of the Magway Region Government explained the

establishment of call centres across the region's districts and townships, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Magway Region Election Subcommission described functions of the

Magway Region Call Centre. The Chief Minister coordinated the efforts and provided necessary support based on the presentations. — Maung Nyinyar/TH

Belarusian entertainment troupe explores Yangon city

A Belarusian entertainment troupe led by musician and singer Mr Vladimir Sukolinsky, who is currently visiting Myanmar, toured several landmarks in Yangon yesterday morning.

The troupe first visited the National Museum, where they observed the royal regalia exhibition halls and other displays, and signed the museum's guest record book. They then visited Bogyoke Aung San Market, where they explored the area and bought souvenirs.

Afterwards, the group visited the sacred Botahtaung Pagoda and the Chaukhtetgyi Reclining Buddha Image, where they took commemorative photos with worshippers in a cheerful atmosphere. They also toured the Bago River Crossing Bridge (Thanlyin Bridge No 3) by car.

The troupe had previously



Belarusian entertainment troupe visit landmark in Yangon yesterday.

performed at the National Theatre in Yangon on the evening of 11 October and viewed the decorative lighting displays at the Yangon People's Square to mark the Thadingyut Festival.

They also gave performances in Mandalay City Hall on the evening of 5 October, at the convocation hall of the Defence Ser-

vices Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin on the evening of 6 October, and at the University of Foreign Languages in Yangon on 10 October. It is learnt that the troupe will continue to participate in the upcoming Myanmar-Russia-Belarus joint entertainment programme in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZL

Filming ceremony for TV series "My Lover, Her Husband" held

THE filming ceremony for the TV series titled "My Lover, Her Husband" was held at Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, on 10 October, according to actress Htet Htet Tun, who plays a leading role in the series. The story and script for "My Lover, Her Husband" were written by Swan Paing, who will also direct the series under Royal King Film Production.

"This is the first time I will be acting as a couple with Oak Soe Khant in a series. In the story, Ko Nyi Nanda and Ya Mone Myint Myat play a father and daughter. Oak Soe Khant and I portray a couple who separate due to financial issues. I hope the audience will look forward to how this drama unfolds," said actress Htet Htet Tun. The series will feature Oak Soe Khant, Nyi Nanda, Htet Htet Tun, Ya Mone Myint Myat, Su Pan Htwar, Min Thu, Bhone Lyan, Shin Ye Htut, Min Khit, Htet Lin, Hnine Shin Myint Mo, Sweet, Thuza Pwint, Kyel Sin, Mo Ko Khant, Htoo Wint Thandar, Nann Hteik Htar, Kay Khine Kyaw, Kyel Lay, Aung Ye Yint, Shin Min Htut, Nyein Chan Kabar, and child actor Tone Tone Swan Paing. — ASH/KZL



The filming ceremony for the TV series "My Lover, Her Husband" in progress.

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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.

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority”.

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



Security forces conduct mine clearing operation, medical teams provide treatments to locals

TATMADAW, in cooperation with residents who want to forge stability and peace, has fully regained control of Kyaukme Township in Shan State (North) after conducting counter-terrorism operations to ensure the safety and stability of local people.

Departmental officials and Tatmadaw is co-working to restore normal administration and reopen schools for children from Kyaukme and people’s hospital to provide health care services for residents.

They have been conducting mine clearing operations,

especially in departmental offices and public areas frequently used by locals.

A temporary hospital is operated by surgeons and nurses from Ministry of Health and Tatmadaw at Labha Muni Chinese Temple, to provide medical services to the local people. Yesterday, a total of 105 patients — 102 outpatients and three inpatients — received health care services. — GNLM

Health staff provide healthcare services to residents in Kyaukme yesterday.



AYA Pay, CB Pay and Wave available for YPS services at six counters

IN order to offer efficient service, payment for YPS services can be made easily by AYA Pay, CB Pay and Wave at six YPS counters, according to Yangon Payment Services-YPS.

Wave and AYA Pay can be used for the purchase and top-up of YPS card and QR service at YPS counters in Sule, Myanmar Plaza, Hledan, Thakin Mya Park, 8th-Mile and Pansodan.

Similarly, CB Pay is now available at Myanmar Plaza.

At present, YPS services are available for YBS (2), YBS (3), YBS (4), YBS (6), YBS (7), YBS (8), YBS (10), YBS (11), YBS (12), YBS (13), YBS (14), YBS (15), YBS (17), YBS (18), YBS (19), YBS (21), YBS (22), YBS (23), YBS (24), YBS (25), YBS (26), YBS (27), YBS (28), YBS



AYA Pay, CB Pay and Wave can be used for YPS services payment.

(29), YBS (30), YBS (31), YBS (32), YBS (35), YBS (36), YBS (37), YBS (38), YBS (39), YBS (40), YBS (42), YBS (43), YBS (55), YBS(57), YBS (58), YBS (59), YBS (60), YBS (61), YBS (62), YBS (63), YBS (64), YBS (65), YBS(66), YBS (68), YBS (72), YBS (76) , YBS (77), YBS (78), YBS(79), YBS (80), YBS

(81), YBS (84), YBS (85), YBS (87), YBS (88), YBS (89), YBS (90), YBS (92) , YBS (93), YBS (94), YBS (96), YBS (97), YBS (100), YBS (103), YBS (104), YBS (105), YBS (106), YBS (107), YBS (108), YBS (109), YBS (110), YBS (111), YBS (112), YBS (113), YBS (114), YBS (115), YBS (116), YBS (117), YBS (118) , YBS (119) YBS (120), YBS (128), YBS (130), (131), YBS (132), YBS (133), YBS (134), YBS (135), YBS (136), YBS (137), YBS (138), YBS (139), YBS (140), YBS (141), YBS (142), YBS (143), YBS (144) and YBS (145).

For more information, inquiries can be made to YPS Facebook page messenger or call centre’s hotline number 09 772666699, from Monday to Friday between 9 am and 5 pm. — MT/ZS

57 further Myanmar workers granted for job training and OWIC application

A total of 57 Myanmar workers who are going to work in Japan through the management of authorized overseas employment agencies have been allowed to join the job training course and Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) application, according to the Safe Migration under the Ministry of Labour.

The ministry made the announcement on 10 October.

The 57 workers will have to attend the overseas job training course on 16 October and apply the OWIC on 17 October, and they will have to resubmit if they are unable to do by the schedule, it said.

The agencies will have to prepare and immediately resub-



Myanmar workers seen at the airport in 2024.

mit a list of workers to be sent, the date of dispatch within one week from the date of departure, passport copy, OWIC copy and Excel soft copy to the Department of Labour at dolmigration-japan@gmail.com.

In announcement released on 8 October, the ministry said 75 workers have been granted for the overseas job training course and OWIC application. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

10-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K3.353 bln



Confiscated illegal timbers, industrial materials, motorbike, vehicle and vessel across regions and states.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 October, the combined teams impounded illegal teak and timbers worth K3.968 million in Lewe Township, illegal teak and timbers worth K582,480 in Toungoo Township and an unregistered vehicle worth K15 million in Amarapura Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export/Import Law.

On 9 October, the on-duty teams seized an unregistered vehicle and two unregistered motorbikes worth K15 million in Mawlamyine, Bilin and Thanbyuzayat townships, a Toyota HiAce worth K15 million carrying foodstuff valued at K5.88 million without official documents in Kyaikmaraw Township. The action was taken under the Export/Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty teams nabbed illegal timber worth K1.505

million in Taikkyi Township, an unregistered vehicle worth K15 million at the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint and industrial materials worth K9.014 million without official documents from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was conducted under the Export/Import Law and Customs procedures on 2, 8 and 9 October.

On 9 October, the combined team under the Bago Region illegal trade eradication task force impounded illegal timbers worth K340,992 in DaikU Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the on-duty team under the Mandalay Region task force nabbed foodstuff worth K26.052 million without official documents from a Mitsubishi Canter Truck worth K60 million at the Myitnge checkpoint in Mandalay on 6 October. The action was conducted under the Customs procedures.

On 7, 8 and 9 October, the on-du-

ty teams under the Yangon Region task force seized 11 unregistered motorbikes worth K3.75 million in Botahtaung, Shwepyitha, Mingaladon, Dawbon, Thakayta, Mingala Taungnyunt, Kamayut and Pazundaung townships. The action was taken under the Export/Import Law.

Similarly, the on-duty teams from Customs Department seized consumer goods and foodstuff worth K17.630 million without official documents and two vehicles worth K50 million at the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint on 9 October and industrial materials worth K2.246 billion without official documents and a vessel worth K870 million at the Thakayta Port. The action was conducted under Customs procedures on 10 October.

The Steering Committee reported 39 arrests on 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 October, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K3.353 billion. — MNA/MKKS/KZL

‘Three Challenges’ art exhibition showcases diverse works in Yangon

A collective art exhibition titled ‘Three Challenges’ is being staged at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, from 11 to 15 October, according to participating artist Moe Nyo.

Featuring works by 20 artists, the exhibition presents a wide range of subjects, genres, and techniques, including pieces by prominent late painters. All artworks were curated by the Artistic Space Art Gallery.

“The exhibition showcases over 100 paintings in various media such as watercolour, oil, and acrylic. It runs from 10 am to 5 pm daily, and we warmly invite everyone to visit and enjoy the show,” said artist Moe Nyo.

Notable participants include Zaw Maung (Mingun), Win Pe, Win Pe Myint, Tin Maung Oo, Sein Myint, Soe Naing, Malar, Mote Thone, Moe Nyo, Moe Yin (Lushay Taungtan), MPP Ye Myint, MT Aung, Mu Mu, Lun Kywe, Kan Nyunt, Khin Maung San, Khin Maung Yin, Bo Gyi, Arkar Myo, and Aye Myint. — ASH/KZL



A general view of the ‘Three Challenges’ collective art exhibition.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Office of the State Administration Council https://sacoffice.gov.mm	
2. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm
4. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm	5. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm
6. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm	

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

Domestic stability has become a crucial priority in multipolar era

❖ In the social and cultural sphere as well, during this Multipolar era where shifts in power are occurring rapidly, domestic stability has become a crucial priority.

❖ It is necessary to eliminate false news and misinformation, to advance media professionalism, and to respond effectively to efforts by foreign influences attempting to exert their impact.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the opening of the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World held on 21 March 2025)

Myanmar sees a resurgence and recovery in October's tourist season

AN official from the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) told GNLM that the tourist arrivals in October of this open season have increased, indicating a state of recovery.

The open season starts in October, and during the Thadingyut holidays, domestic tourism was more than the expected, he said.

“We had a lot of tourists during the Thadingyut holidays. And we’re seeing a boom in tourism. It’s a remarkable sign

of the recovery of the tourism market. We saw a slight increase in the number of Thadingyut travellers compared to last year,” the source stated.

This year’s tourist season is expected to be busy, particularly for domestic tourists. Famous destinations include Inlay Lake, Taunggyi, PyinOoLwin, Bagan, Hpa-an, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung. Some eager local travellers have already started booking hotels for the coming Tazaungdine holidays.

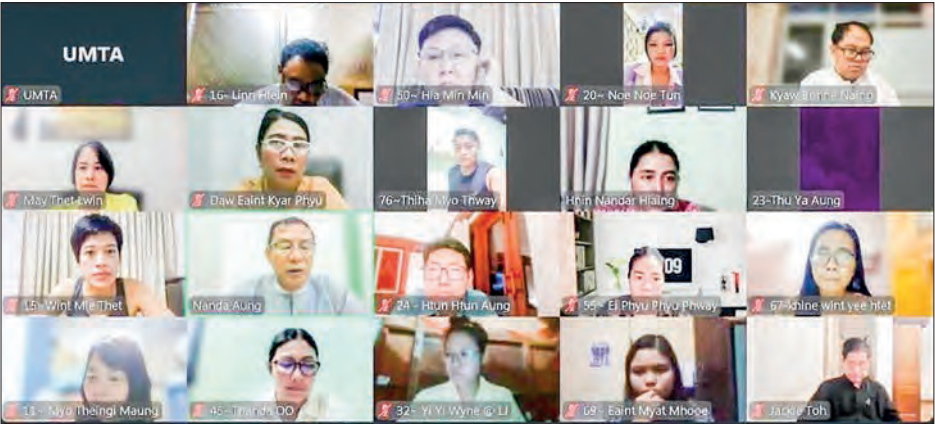
Most of them are domes-



A documentary photo shows the entry of local and foreign visitors to Myanmar.

tic tourists, and the number of foreign visitors remains decent. In addition, the open season is coming and sales of outbound trips to India, Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore have increased due to travellers’ growing interest. — MT/ZN

UMTA opens Tour Operator and Travel Operation Management Programme



Tour Operator and Travel Operation Management Programme is being launched online.

THE Tour Operator and Travel Operation Management Programme, aimed at continuously improving the quality of the tourism sector in Myanmar, has been opened according to the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA).

Organized by the Human Resources Department of the UMTA, the orientation ceremony and the first lesson of the online programme were launched on 10 October.

The course is based on the ASEAN Common Competency Standards for Tourism Professionals (ACCTSP) and designed in accordance with the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on

Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP) Guideline. It will be held online from 10 October to 1 December and will be attended by 86 participants from the tourism industry.

At the ceremony, U Nanda Aung, director of the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, and Dr Thet Lwin Toe, patron of the UMTA, delivered opening speeches, U Kyaw Bhone Naing, chair of the UMTA, explained the objectives of the course, and the trainers gave introductory remarks.

The UMTA has invited all interested ones among tourism employees, travel agents, and others to attend this course. — MT/ZN

Bagan Archaeological Museum receives 10,900+ visitors, earns K11+ million in five months

IN the five months from 1 April to 9 September of 2025-2026 financial year, the Bagan Archaeological Museum has received a total of , 10,953 visitors and K 11 million entrance fees, according to the museum’s official.

During that period, the museum earned K10.86 million from 10,860 local visitors and K930,000 from 93 foreigners, totalling K11.79 million.

“Tourist arrival is less in the rainy season. Now, it is open season and more tourists are coming. It is more crowded on festivals and public holidays,” he said.

In September, the museum earned K 4.39 million from 4,130 locals and 26 foreigners. Most foreign tourists are from China, Japan, Indonesia, Germany, Spain, Korea, Malaysia, and Canada, according to the statistics of the museum.

The Bagan Archaeological Museum is open daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm except Mondays and public holidays. The entrance fee is set at K 1,000 per domestic tourist, K 10,000 per foreign tourist and is free for monks, children under 12 years and students with the school recommendation letter.

From April to March of 2024-2025 financial year, the museum collected K 64.038 million from 59,133 local and foreign visitors. — MT/ZN



Outstanding students seen to the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

Reduce disaster risks to ensure safer societies

THE 2025 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for two actions to increase funding for DRR in public and international budgets, and to ensure all development and private investments are risk-informed and resilient.

Countries around the world are increasingly facing severe natural events, driven by extreme weather and risk-blind planning. They are exploring various ways to reduce disaster risks and to raise funds to rehabilitate disaster-affected areas as independently as possible. In this context, the rising cost of disasters reflects both the growing impact of climate change and the consequences of poor development choices.

To address this, national strategies must integrate DRR and climate adaptation. Governments should empower the private

The 2025 theme for International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) is “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters”. This theme emphasizes the need for a decisive shift in global investment from reactive disaster response to proactive risk reduction, urging increased public and private sector funding for resilience-building to prevent greater costs from future disasters.

The 2025 theme for International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) is “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters”. This theme emphasizes the need for a decisive shift in global investment from reactive disaster response to proactive risk reduction, urging increased public and private sector funding for resilience-building to prevent greater costs from future disasters.

On the other hand, necessary organizations, such as rescue squads, should be established to conduct timely search and rescue operations, as well as relief and rehabilitation efforts, whenever a disaster strikes. Moreover, public awareness of disaster risk reduction should be promoted so that people understand how to respond during disasters and carry out appropriate actions in their aftermath.

In fact, there are two key components in addressing disasters: the government must manage funds to strengthen disaster resilience and reduce risks for both the people and the nation, while the public must strictly follow the directives and recommendations of local authorities and relevant departments regarding climatic conditions. By doing so, both the government and the people can more effectively overcome the challenges posed by disaster risks.

sector with regulations, risk data, and incentives to promote resilient investments. At this juncture, a major issue is that both public and private economic strategies often ignore disaster risks. The private sector, which controls 75 per cent of investments, frequently overlooks climate threats, increasing vulnerability and potential losses.

While direct disaster costs reach around \$202 billion annually, the broader economic impact is estimated at \$2.3 trillion. Developing countries suffer the most, while wealthier countries face high financial losses. Despite this, investment in disaster risk reduction remains minimal. Less than 1 per cent of public budgets are allocated to DRR, and only 2 per cent of Official Development Assistance projects included DRR goals between 2019 and 2023. Humanitarian funding for preparedness is also declining, according to the United Nations.

The Architecture of Inner Peace

IN an age of relentless stimulation – where notifications, deadlines, and expectations compete for our attention — the pursuit of inner peace has become both a personal refuge and a psychological necessity. Inner peace is not a passive escape from reality, nor is it a fleeting moment of silence. It is a cultivated state of mental clarity, emotional balance, and spiritual alignment. It is the art of being whole in a world that often feels fragmented.

Beyond Calmness

Psychologically, inner peace refers to a stable state of mind characterized by emotional regulation, self-awareness, and resilience. It is not the absence of problems, but the presence of a deeper understanding of oneself. Inner peace allows individuals to navigate life’s uncertainties without being overwhelmed by them. It is the quiet strength that emerges when one is no longer in conflict with their own thoughts, emotions, or identity.

Unlike temporary relaxation, inner peace is enduring. It is not dependent on external conditions but arises from within. It is the result of intentional practices, reflective thinking, and a willingness to confront discomfort with compassion.

Pathways to Inner Peace The Power of Presence

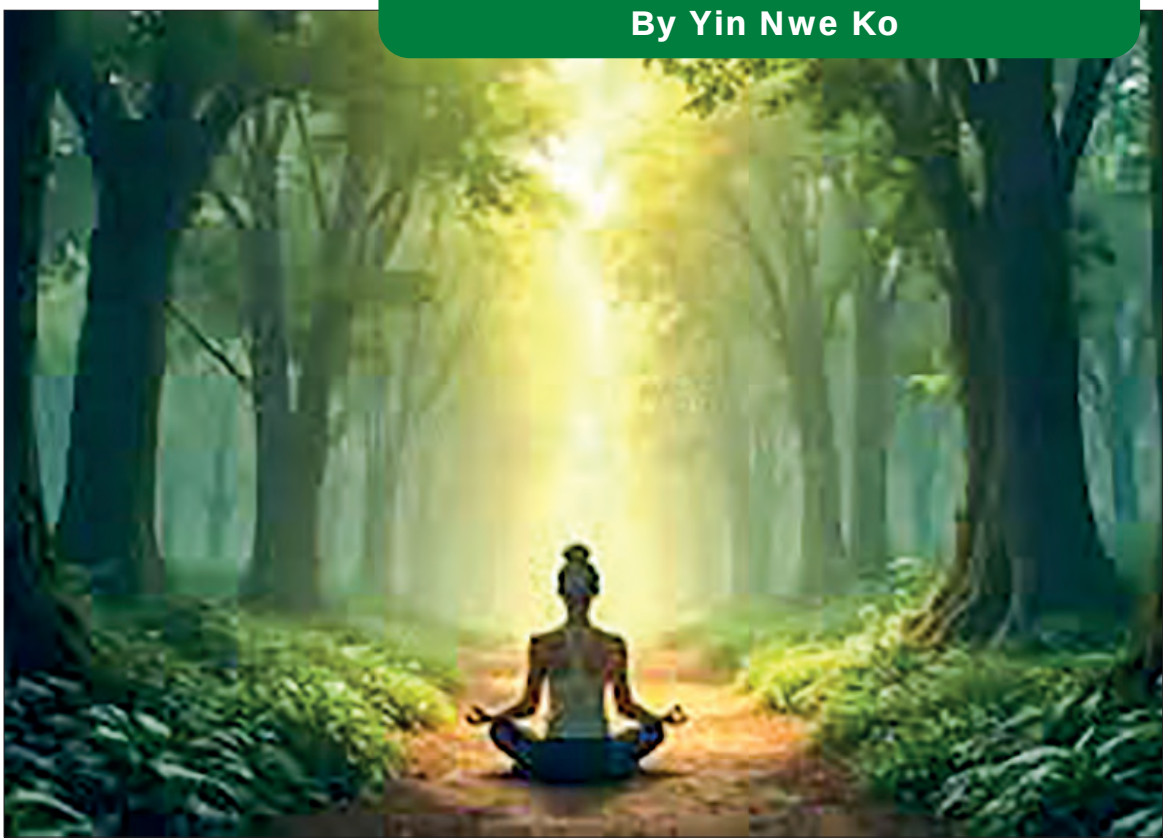
Mindfulness is the foundation of inner peace. It involves paying attention to the present moment with openness and curiosity. When individuals practice mindfulness, they become observers of their own thoughts rather than victims of them. This shift in perspective reduces impulsive reactions and fosters thoughtful responses.

For example, a teacher overwhelmed by classroom stress may pause to take three conscious breaths before responding to a disruptive student. This simple act of awareness can transform tension into understanding. Over time, mindfulness rewires the brain, enhancing emotional regulation and reducing anxiety.

Making Peace with Reality

Inner peace requires the courage to accept what is. This includes accepting one’s past, limitations, and the unpredictability of life. Acceptance does not mean giving up; it means letting go of resistance. It is the recognition that some things cannot be changed – and that peace lies in surrendering the need to control them.

Psychologist Marsha Linehan, who developed Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, emphasizes radical acceptance as a key to



emotional healing. When individuals stop fighting reality, they free up energy to focus on what they can influence. This shift fosters inner stability and reduces emotional suffering.

Gratitude: Reframing the Inner Narrative

Gratitude is a powerful psychological tool that reshapes perception. By focusing on what is good, even in difficult circumstances,

individuals cultivate a mindset of abundance. Gratitude interrupts negative thought patterns and reinforces positive emotions.

Research shows that people who keep daily gratitude journals experience increased happiness, better sleep, and stronger relationships. Gratitude is not about ignoring pain – it is about acknowledging beauty alongside it. It is the practice of saying, “Even here, there is something to be thankful

for.”

Training the Mind for Stillness

Meditation is the gymnasium of the mind. It strengthens attention, calms emotional turbulence, and fosters self-awareness. Through regular practice, individuals learn to observe their thoughts without attachment. This detachment creates space between stimulus and response,

a space where peace can enter.

There are many forms of meditation, from breath-focused techniques to loving-kindness practices. Each offers a unique path toward inner stillness. Neuroscientific studies reveal that consistent meditation reduces activity in the amygdala (the brain’s fear centre) and enhances connectivity in regions associated with empathy and decision-making.

Compassion and Empathy: Expanding the Inner Landscape

Inner peace is not a solitary achievement. It flourishes in connection. When individuals extend compassion to others, they dissolve the boundaries of ego and cultivate a sense of shared humanity. Empathy allows us to see beyond our own suffering and recognize the pain — and dignity — of others.

Compassion also includes self-compassion: the ability to treat oneself with kindness during moments of failure or distress. Psychologist Kristin Neff’s research shows that self-compassion leads to greater emotional resilience, reduced anxiety, and improved motivation. When we stop judging ourselves harshly, we create space for healing and growth.

The Psychological Impact of Inner Peace

The benefits of inner peace are both profound and measurable. Individuals who cultivate inner peace experience:

- Lower levels of cortisol and stress-related inflammation
- Improved immune function and cardiovascular health
- Enhanced emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills
- Greater resilience in the face of adversity
- Increased creativity and clarity in decision-making

Inner peace is not just a feeling – it is a psychological resource. It equips individuals to face life’s challenges with grace and wisdom. It transforms reactive patterns into reflective choices and fosters a sense of purpose beyond survival.

Obstacles to Inner Peace - and How to Navigate Them

Despite its value, inner peace is often elusive. Common obstacles include:

- **Over-identification with thoughts:** Believing every thought is true leads to emotional chaos.
- **Unresolved trauma:** Past wounds can echo into the present, disrupting inner stability.
- **External validation:** Seeking approval from others

undermines self-trust.

- **Digital overload:** Constant stimulation fragments attention and erodes presence.

Navigating these obstacles requires patience, support, and intentional practice. Therapy, journaling, nature immersion, and digital detoxes are all tools that can support the journey toward peace.

Towards Outer Peace or The Ripple Effect

As we arrive at the threshold of this reflection, a deeper truth emerges: inner peace is not confined to the individual. It radiates outward. A person who is at peace with themselves becomes a source of calm in their relationships, classrooms, and communities. They listen more deeply, judge less harshly, and respond with empathy rather than reactivity.

In this way, inner peace becomes a quiet revolution. It is the seed from which outer peace grows. When enough individuals cultivate stillness within, the collective atmosphere begins to shift. Conflicts soften. Dialogue deepens. Compassion becomes contagious.

Peace in the world begins with peace in the mind. And every breath taken in awareness is a step towards a more harmonious humanity.

The Most Underrated Key to Lasting Success

By Laura Htet (UDE)

Now, consistency doesn’t sound very glamorous, does it? It doesn’t make headlines. It’s not flashy or dramatic. We won’t get applause for showing up every single day, especially when nobody’s watching. But what consistency does give us is steady, reliable progress. It’s the act of showing up, even when we’re tired, even when we’re distracted, even when the thought crosses our mind that maybe it’s not worth it.

Think about the last time we tried to learn something new. Success, for most of us, is built quietly, step by step, by repeating small actions until they become part of our lives. And the name for that steady, quiet force is consistency.

thought, “How am I ever going to get this?” But when we came back the next day, it felt a little less impossible. By the third or fourth day, we recognized some of it. A week later, we realized we were starting to get the hang of it. That slow shift from “I can’t do this” to “This isn’t so bad” is what consistency creates.

And it’s not just about studying. Think of the first time we tried exercising after months of doing nothing. On day one, we probably felt clumsy and out of breath. Our muscles ached, and we wondered if we were cut out for it at all. But if we stuck with it, day after day, our bodies slowly got stronger. Or think about the first time we cooked a new recipe. We might have burned it, or missed an in-

gredient, and the result wasn’t what we hoped. But after a few tries, we started to figure it out. Suddenly, what was once frustrating began to feel natural.

That’s the gift of consistency. It takes what feels scary and heavy at first and slowly transforms it into something familiar.

Of course, not everyone learns or grows at the same speed. Some people seem to pick things up easily. They have talent, or maybe more experience, and we watch them succeed after only one or two tries. Meanwhile, we’re still struggling on our fourth or fifth attempt. It can be discouraging. But here’s the truth: consistency is the equalizer. Talent can give someone a head start, but persistence can outlast talent. A

steady effort, repeated over time, often beats natural ability.

And the benefits go deeper than just skills. Consistency builds qualities inside us that nothing else can. Every time we go through difficulty, we build patience. Every time we come back after failure, we grow resilience. Every time we show up when it’s inconvenient, we practice discipline. Slowly, without even realizing it, we become stronger people – not just in what we can do, but in who we are.

There’s something else consistency gives us, and it’s very powerful: self-trust. When we prove to ourselves that we’ll show up tomorrow, no matter how today went, we start believing in ourselves in a new way. We don’t

fear failure as much because we know we’ll always try again. And that kind of trust makes us braver. It gives us the courage to take risks, because we know failure won’t end our story. We’ll keep showing up until we figure it out.

The funny thing is, people usually only notice the big victories – the prize, the promotion, the medal, the moment of recognition. But those moments are just the tip of the iceberg. What people don’t see are all the quiet, unseen actions that came before them: the mornings we woke up early when nobody else was awake, the evenings we stayed late practising alone, the days we kept going even when motivation was nowhere to be found. That invisible effort is what builds visible success.

Now, let’s be honest. Consistency doesn’t mean we’ll never fail. In fact, we’ll fail plenty. We’ll forget things we learned, we’ll make mistakes, we’ll skip days, we’ll lose momentum. But failure isn’t the enemy here — quitting is. As long as we come back, as long as we get back on track, we’re still moving forward. Every time we choose to try again, we’re proving to ourselves that we’re serious about our goals.

Sometimes it feels boring. Progress can feel painfully slow, like nothing’s changing. But this is when we have to remember that growth is often hidden. Just like a plant growing roots underground before it finally pushes through the soil, we are growing too, even if we can’t see the results

right away.

And one day, we’ll look back and surprise ourselves. We’ll remember the times we wanted to quit, the days that felt hopeless, and we’ll be proud that we kept going. We’ll realize that our success didn’t come from a single lucky moment. It was built slowly, through every small choice we made to keep showing up.

Because consistency isn’t about being perfect every single day. It’s about refusing to give up. It’s about showing up again and again, even when we’re tired, even when it feels like nothing’s changing, even when starting over feels frustrating. It’s about trusting that every small step counts. That is the quiet, unstoppable power of consistency. It may not be flashy, but it’s steady. It’s reliable. And if we hold on to it, it will take us further than we ever thought possible.

TECH/ENVIRON: WORLD

China's superconducting quantum computer ready for commercial use

A superconducting quantum computer, built using the same chip series as the advanced "Zuchongzhi 3.0" prototype, has been developed and is now ready for commercial applications.



The superconducting quantum computer prototype "Zuchongzhi 3.0" was launched on 3 March, marking a breakthrough in China's quantum computing advancements. **PHOTO: CGTN/FILE**

CHINA'S superconducting quantum computer, similar to the "Zuchongzhi 3.0" model, has been deployed for commercial use, marking a crucial step toward the practical application of quantum computing.

Using the same chip series from the "Zuchongzhi 3.0," the machine, featuring 105 readable qubits and 182 couplers, was set up by a team from the China Telecom Quantum Group (CTQG) and QuantumCTek Co., Ltd., leading quantum compa-

nies based in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province.

It processes quantum random circuit sampling tasks at a speed quadrillion times faster than the world's most powerful supercomputer.

Quantum computing is widely regarded as a key technology for the next generation of information revolution.

In March this year, Chinese scientists, including Pan Jianwei, Zhu Xiaobo and Peng Chengzhi from the University

of Science and Technology of China, successfully built the 105-qubit superconducting quantum computing prototype "Zuchongzhi 3.0," once again breaking the world record for quantum computational advantage in the superconducting system. Quantum computational advantage, also known as "quantum supremacy," refers to the point where quantum computers outperform the most advanced classical supercomputers in specific tasks. — Xinhua

Indian pilots' body demands grounding of Air India's Boeing 787 fleet for electrical checks

THE Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has demanded that the federal government ground the private airline Air India's entire Boeing 787 fleet for electrical checks, following recurring electrical glitches and maintenance concerns in the said aircraft.

The Federation wrote a letter to India's Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, expressing concerns in the aftermath of two major incidents within a span of one week involving Air India's AI-117 and AI-154 aircraft.

Earlier this month, an un-commanded deployment of Ram Air Turbine (RAT) on Air India flight AI-117 was reported at Birmingham. Following the incident, India's civil aviation regulator, the Directorate General

of Civil Aviation (DGCA), asked the private airline Air India to reinspect the RAT on planes with replaced power conditioning modules. Simultaneously, the DGCA also sought a "comprehensive report" from the US aircraft maker Boeing on the preventive measures to be implemented with respect to the un-commanded RAT deployment incident, said media reports.

Speaking to Xinhua over the phone, FIP president RS Randhawa said that repeated technical problems, particularly electrical glitches, besides other safety concerns, were reported in the said aircraft fleet. He confirmed the FIP's demand for grounding Air India's Boeing 787 fleet for electrical checks. — Xinhua

Death toll from heavy rains in Mexico climbs to 37

AT least 37 people have been killed as torrential rains and landslides battered Mexico in recent days, the National Coordination of Civil Protection said Saturday.

According to the agency, 22 deaths occurred in Hidalgo state in central Mexico, nine in the state of Puebla, five in Veracruz and one in Queretaro.

Authorities are providing assistance to the families of the victims and to thousands of people affected by the rainfall.

Heavy rains, intensified by tropical storm Raymond off the Pacific coast, have triggered flooding, landslides and widespread damage across several states in Mexico.

Local and national authorities, supported by the army and the navy, are working to reopen access, assess the damage, and deliver emergency aid. Civil protection officials said that recovery efforts could take weeks. — Xinhua

New Zealand sets 2050 farm methane cut at 14-24% below 2017 levels

NEW Zealand set a 2050 target to cut farm methane emissions by 14-24 per cent from 2017 levels on Sunday, aiming to reduce climate impact without harming agriculture or exports.

Approved by Cabinet and based on the 2024 Methane Science Review, the move follows extensive consultation with the farming sector.

"We're delivering a practical, fair pathway that recognizes New Zealand agriculture efficiency, protects jobs and production, and upholds

our climate commitments," Agriculture, Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay said in a statement.

The government reaffirmed its commitment to overall net zero climate goals by 2050, with agriculture continuing to make an important and fair contribution to achieving this reduction, said Climate Change Minister Simon Watts.

Key policy changes include a legislated review of the methane target in 2040, no tax on agricultural meth-

ane emissions, and reliance on processor incentives and sector partnerships rather than taxation, said the government statement.

Over 400 million NZ dollars (US\$230 million) is being invested by the government with industry to develop methane-cutting technologies, with 11 tools expected by 2030 and the first available from 2026, it said.

The government has also launched an on-farm emissions calculator, McClay said. — Xinhua



Over 400 million NZ dollars (US\$230 million) is being invested by the government with industry to develop methane-cutting technologies. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Gamers fight in France as Evo comes to Europe

While a 100,000-euro (\$116,000) prize pool was on offer, the true incentive was qualifying for the March 2025 Capcom Cup 12 in Tokyo, featuring a \$1.2 million payout.

OVER the weekend, the French Riviera's glitzy Nice hosted the inaugural European edition of Evo — the Evolution Championship Series — the world's premier esports tournament for fighting video games like Street Fighter 6, Mortal Kombat, and Tekken 8. In a vast hangar-like venue, players and fans fixated on computer screens, ignoring the scenic views outside.

Drawing 5,000 competitors

from 93 countries, this marked a historic milestone for the 29-year-old US-based event, which had never ventured to Europe before. "It's a golden opportunity to measure up against global adversaries," said top French Street Fighter player Julien Thomas, 23, from Paris.

Organizers anticipated massive excitement, with Bandai Namco's esports manager



Organizers compared the esports event to the Olympics. PHOTO: AFP

Florent Gay noting players had "waited a long time" for this. Competitors vied for a 100,000-euro (\$116,000) prize pool, but the real stakes were qualification for Tokyo's Capcom Cup 12 in March 2025, boasting \$1.2

million.

The tournament featured intense knockout rounds, culminating in Sunday's main-stage finals for the top eight. French player Nahil "Pepito" Gassim, advancing through six matches

before falling to a Chinese rival, called Evo victory "becoming a gaming legend." Organizer Bertrand Amar likened it to "the Olympics of fighting video games" — open to all, with a grueling path to glory. — AFP

Art world's 'troublemakers' join forces in 'joyful' London show



US artist Shepard Fairey has joined forces with Briton Damien Hirst and French street artist Invader for a unique 'joyful and playful' collaboration in London. PHOTO: AFP

RENOWNED subversive artists Shepard Fairey (US), Damien Hirst (UK), and Invader (France) have collaborated on "Triple Trouble," a vibrant exhibition opening Friday at London's Newport Street Gallery. Blending their individual styles with hybrid pieces, the show — 18 months in the making — celebrates mutual admiration amid global divisions, emphasizing hope over despair.

Fairey, famed for the 2008 Obama "Hope" poster and post-Paris attacks Marianne artwork, described the trio as "troublemakers" turned collaborators. Hirst, a contemporary art titan known

for death-themed installations like preserved animals fetching millions, adds provocative depth. Invader, the anonymous mosaic master inspired by 1978's Space Invaders game, infuses urban pixel art into cityscapes worldwide.

The process involved exchanging ideas and shipping works between studios, yielding playful hybrids like Fairey's fiery "The Flames of Discontent" enhanced by Hirst's butterflies and Invader's aliens. "It's joyful, it's playful," Fairey told AFP, advocating an "inside-outside strategy" to subvert systems from within — rooted in punk, graffiti, and hip-hop influences. — AFP

Diane Keaton, Oscar-winning star of 'Annie Hall,' dies at 79

HOLLYWOOD legend Diane Keaton, best known for her iconic roles in Annie Hall and The Godfather films, has died at the age of 79, PEOPLE confirmed.

"There are no further details available at this time, and her family has asked for privacy in this moment of great sadness," a spokesperson told PEOPLE.

The Los Angeles Fire Department told PEOPLE that they responded to her home early that morning and took a 79-year-old woman to a local hospital.

Born Diane Hall in Los Angeles in 1946, Keaton was the oldest of four children. Her father was a civil engineer, and her mother, who stayed at home, inspired Keaton's creative side. "She sang. She played the piano. She was beautiful. She was my advocate," Keaton once told PEOPLE.

Keaton started acting in school



Keaton started acting in school plays and later studied drama in college before dropping out to move to New York. PHOTO: ANI

plays and later studied drama in college before dropping out to move to New York. She adopted her mother's maiden name, Keaton, when she began her career in theatre. — ANI

Exhibit on Monet's prolific Venice visit debuts at Brooklyn Museum

IN 1908, 68-year-old Claude Monet reluctantly travelled to Venice with his wife Alice Hoschede, amid his work on water lilies. Yet, the trip sparked one of his most productive periods, yielding 37 paintings that capture the city's shimmering canals and architecture.

Opening Saturday at New York's

Brooklyn Museum and running through February 2026, "Monet and Venice" showcases 19 masterpieces like "The Palazzo Ducale" and "The Grand Canal," plus archives including postcards and photos. Co-curator Lisa Small notes Monet "fell in love with the city," but he completed the works at Giverny in mourning after Alice's 1911 death. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

SK Group to showcase ‘K-AI’ leadership with global AI events

SK Group is set to elevate the global standing of Korean artificial intelligence by hosting two major international AI events — the Future Tech Forum AI at the APEC CEO Summit in late October 2025 and the SK AI Summit 2025 in early November, according to a report by Pulse, the English service of Maeil Business Newspaper Korea.

The report noted that the conglomerate stated on Friday that it will lead the Future Tech Forum AI, a side event of the APEC CEO Summit, in Gyeongju on 28 October, followed by the SK AI Summit 2025 at COEX in Seoul from 3 to 4 November.

Both gatherings will bring together global tech leaders and scholars to discuss AI strategies, industry collaboration, and the

Two upcoming events will convene international tech leaders and scholars to explore key AI advancements, including strategic frameworks, cross-industry partnerships, and the cultivation of robust national AI ecosystems.



During CES in Las Vegas in January 2025, SK Group operated a joint exhibition booth with affiliates SK Telecom, SK hynix, SKC, and SK Enmove. The theme of the exhibit was “Innovative AI, Sustainable Tomorrow”. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

development of national-level ecosystems.

Attendees include Ha Jung-woo, senior presidential secretary for AI future planning; Chey Tae-won, Chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and SK Group; SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang; Naver CEO Choi Soo-yeon; Amazon Web Services (AWS) CEO Matt Garman; Kim Kyoung-hoon, Head of OpenAI Korea; Choi Ye-jin, AI professor at Stanford University; and Nitin Mittal, Global AI Leader at Deloitte Consulting.

Chey Tae-won, serving as Chair of the APEC CEO Summit, will deliver the keynote speech, sharing Korea’s vision and progress in fostering an AI-driven economy. — ANI

Japan-assisted Mumbai’s first underground metro line fully operational



This stretch, also known as the Aqua Line, covers a total of 27 stations, 26 underground and one above ground. **PHOTO: ANI**

THE Mumbai Metro Line 3 (Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ corridor) became fully operational on 8 October, marking a major milestone in the city’s transport network. The 33.5 km underground corridor, supported by Japanese funding through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), now connects Aarey in the north to Cuffe Parade in the south.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the final segment between Acharya Atre Chowk and Cuffe Parade stations at an event held at Navi Mumbai International Airport. The ceremony was attended by Japan’s Ambassador to

India ONO Keiichi, Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, among others.

This stretch, also known as the Aqua Line, covers a total of 27 stations, 26 underground and one above ground. The newly constructed metro corridor will reduce travel time between Mumbai International Airport and Cuffe Parade to about 45 minutes, cutting the north-south Mumbai journey from nearly two hours, according to the official release. — ANI

Japan diaper firms step up recycling as waste set to grow in aging society

FACED with a swelling mountain of used adult diapers, Japanese manufacturers are finding new ways to recycle them — transforming waste into resources to curb incineration and carbon emissions.

This follows the Environment Ministry’s 2020 guidelines promoting the recycling of used diapers, encouraging private companies and local governments to develop solutions.

While production of diapers for children has been falling amid Japan’s

declining birthrate, demand for adult products is expected to grow.

The share of used diapers in general waste is projected to reach about seven per cent in fiscal 2030, up from around five per cent in fiscal 2020, according to the ministry.

Used diapers are usually incinerated with general waste, but their high moisture content makes them difficult to burn and reduces combustion efficiency. — Kyodo

Iraq criticizes US sanctions on Iraqi entities as “regrettable”

THE Iraqi government on Saturday criticized the recent US Treasury sanctions imposed on Iraq’s entities, describing the move as a “deeply regrettable” unilateral action that contradicts the “spirit of friendship and mutual respect” between the two countries.

In a statement, Iraqi government spokesperson Basim al-Awadi said US sanctions on Iraqi entities, under the pretext of their alleged association with parties subject to US legal measures, were taken without prior consultation or dialogue, which represents “a negative precedent in the approach to relations between allied nations.”

The US Department of the Treasury announced the sanctions on Thursday, which it said aimed to take action “against individuals and companies that assist the Iranian regime in evading US sanctions, smuggling weapons, and engaging in widespread corruption in Iraq.”

The Iraqi government reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law and international treaties and agreements it has signed, calling on its international partners, particularly the United States, to pursue cooperation and information-sharing on technical and financial matters, the statement said. — Xinhua

Australian airline Qantas
says millions of customers' data leaked online

AUSTRALIAN airline Qantas said Sunday that data from 5.7 million customers stolen in a major cyberattack this year had been shared online, part of a leak affecting dozens of firms.

Disney, Google, IKEA, Toyota, McDonald's and fellow airlines Air France and KLM are also reported to have had data stolen in a cyberattack targeting software firm Salesforce, with the information now being held to ransom.

Salesforce said this month it was "aware of recent extortion attempts by threat actors".

Qantas confirmed in July that hackers had targeted one of its customer contact centres, breaching a computer system used by a third party now known to have been Salesforce.

They secured access to sensitive information such as customer names, email addresses, phone numbers and birthdays, the blue-chip Australian company said.

No further breaches have taken place since and the company is cooperating with Australian security services. — AFP



Qantas said in July that hackers had targeted one of its customer contact centres, breaching a computer system used by a third party. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

India-EFTA trade pact to
boost US\$100 billion worth of
investments, create 1 million jobs



The pact between India and EFTA members (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein) includes commitments for \$100 billion in investment and 1 million jobs in India over 15 years. **PHOTO: ANI**

INDIA'S trade landscape marked a historic milestone as the India-Europe Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on 10 March 2024, officially came into effect on 1 October 2025.

According to a government release, this is India's first Free Trade Agreement with four developed European nations: Switzerland, Nor-

way, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. It also promises to bring in US\$100 billion in investments and create one million direct jobs over the next fifteen years.

Under the agreement, the EFTA nations have pledged to attract US\$50 billion in investments within the first ten years and an additional US\$50 billion over the next five years. These investments are expected to focus on sectors such as renewable energy, life sciences, digital transformation, and engineering. To facilitate these, a dedicated India-EFTA Desk has been set up as a single-window platform for investors.

The TEPA provides balanced market access between both sides. EFTA has offered tariff concessions on 92.2 per cent of tariff lines, covering 99.6 per cent of India's exports. In return, India has granted access on 82.7 per cent of tariff lines, representing 95.3 per cent of EFTA's exports, while protecting sensitive sectors like dairy, soya, coal, and select agricultural products. — ANI

Brunei ministry warns public over fake investment website

BRUNEI'S Ministry of Finance and Economy has advised the public to be cautious of false information circulating online regarding the alleged launch of a government investment platform.

In a press release issued on Saturday, the ministry urged the public not to be misled by an article published on a website titled "Brunei Darussalam Government Launches Government Bond Platform," dated 6 October 2025.

The ministry clarified that the information is false, warning that cheating by impersonation is a punishable offence under Section 419 of the Penal Code, which carries a penalty of imprisonment of up to seven years and a fine.

The ministry further reminded that disseminating false information likely to cause public alarm is a criminal offense in Brunei under Section 34 of the Public Order Act, punishable by a fine of 3,000 Brunei dollars (US\$2,318), three years' imprisonment, or both. — Xinhua

Mizuho finishes major
update of core banking
system, 1st since 2019 rollout

MIZUHO Bank on Sunday completed the first major update of its core banking system, introduced in 2019, after suspending its cash machine and online banking services overnight.

In 2021, the major Japanese bank suffered a series of system failures to its key system called "Minori," which included cases in which automated teller machines, or ATMs, failed to return inserted bank books and bank cards. For the latest system update, an official of Mizuho Bank said it has "prepared well" to avoid further disruptions, noting that it has conducted multiple rehearsals. — Kyodo

S&P lifts Egypt's credit rating
due to IMF-backed reforms

S&P Global Ratings on Friday announced it was upgrading Egypt's credit rating, praising the progress made by the government's IMF-backed economic reform programme.

The US ratings agency raised Egypt's sovereign debt rating to B from B-, adding that its outlook for the North African country was "stable." "The upgrade reflects the reforms undertaken over the past 18 months by the authorities," S&P said in a statement. It added that the government's moves to liberalize the foreign exchange regime, supported by an International Monetary Fund reform programme, had led to a rebound in economic growth. — AFP

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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.
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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Trump directs US Defence Secy to use available funds to pay troops amid government shutdown



The directive to pay military members does not apply to the hundreds of thousands of federal civilian employees who have been furloughed or are working without pay. The White House began the process of laying off federal workers on Friday, 10 October. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The government shutdown began on 1 October. Trump labeled it a “radical left shutdown”.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday (local time) directed Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth to use “all available funds” to ensure that American troops receive their paychecks on 15 October despite the government shutdown.

The US President stated that he is using his authority, as Commander-in-Chief, to give directions to the Defence Secretary.

Raising objections over US Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer’s recent “every day gets better” remarks, Trump also labelled the government shutdown, which started on 1

October, as a “radical left shutdown”.

“Chuck Schumer recently said, “Every day gets better” during their Radical Left Shutdown. I DISAGREE! If nothing is done, because of “Leader” Chuck Schumer and the Democrats, our Brave Troops will miss the paychecks they are rightfully due on 15 October. That is why I am using my authority, as Commander in Chief, to direct our Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, to use all available funds to get our Troops PAID on 15 October,” Trump said in a post on Truth Social. — ANI

Nepal President hospitalized, health condition normal

NEPAL President Ram Chandra Paudel was admitted to the Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Centre in Kathmandu on Saturday after experiencing health-related complications. According to the hospital, the President’s health condition is currently stable and being closely monitored.

In an official statement

released by the Centre under the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, the hospital said, “Honourable President Ram Chandra Poudel has been admitted to this centre for treatment after experiencing health problems. We would like to inform you that his health is currently being examined and his health condition is normal.”

— ANI

Egypt to host Gaza peace summit on Monday



Palestinians make their way to Gaza City through the so-called “Netzarim corridor” from Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip on 11 October 2025. **PHOTO: EYAD BABA / AFP**

AN international summit will be held in Egypt’s Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday to finalize an agreement aimed at ending the war in Gaza, the Egyptian Presidency announced on Saturday.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and US President Donald Trump, with the participation of leaders from more than 20 countries, the statement said.

The summit aims to end the war in the Gaza Strip, enhance efforts to bring peace and stability to the Middle East, and usher in a new phase of regional security and stability, according to the statement.

The ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas entered into effect on Friday, following three days of intensive negotiations in Sharm El Sheikh between the two sides mediated by Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States.

The first phase of the plan includes Israeli troop withdrawals from Gaza City, Rafah, Khan Younis, and the north, the opening of five crossings for aid, and the release of hostages and prisoners. — Xinhua

Iran welcomes US talks, firm on uranium enrichment

IRAN has halted implementation of its agreement with the IAEA and ended cooperation on nuclear programme issues, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced on local television, adding that negotiations with the E3 — France, Germany and the United Kingdom — were “no longer relevant.”

Regarding talks with the United States, Iran would consider reentering them only if it receives a “reasonable, balanced, and fair proposal,” Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi underscored.

The country’s top diplomat reiterated that Iran will not abandon its right to enrich uranium but is willing to take confidence-building steps to demonstrate the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

“Of course, this is conditional on the other side also taking steps to build trust — by lifting part of the sanctions,” Araghchi told state television.

The Islamic Republic has consistently denied Western claims, underscoring the entirely peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. — SPUTNIK

Clashes on Afghan-Pakistani Border

AFGHANISTAN and Pakistan exchanged cross-border artillery and heavy gunfire in several eastern provinces on Saturday.

Clashes reportedly involving small arms, RPGs, mortars, and artillery occurred in Hel-

mand, Kandahar, and Zabul provinces in the south, Paktia, Paktika, and Khost in the south-east, Kunar and Nangarhar in eastern Afghanistan, according to local media.

Clashes are reportedly continuing sporadically along

various sections of the border. The Spin Boldak, Torkham, and Angur Ada border crossings remain closed. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Iran expressed concern over the sudden spike in hostilities, calling for “self-restraint.” — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Haaland fires Norway closer to World Cup as Italy stay in hunt

ERLING Haaland scored a hat-trick to pass 50 international goals in record time as Norway cruised to a 5-0 thrashing of Israel on Saturday, edging closer to qualifying for a first World Cup finals since 1998.

Before the match in Oslo, hundreds of people attended a pro-Palestinian demonstration, chanting "Free Palestine" to protest against Israel's "genocide" in Gaza, AFP journalists reported.

Norwegian police dispersed a gathering of pro-Palestinian activists with tear gas and made several arrests.

Inside the Ullevaal Stadium, several dozen Israeli fans waved their country's flag and a banner reading "Let the Ball Talk!".

Norway now lead Group I with 18 points, six more than second-placed Italy, who beat Estonia 3-1 in Tallinn to stay on track for qualification.

The comfortable win in Oslo leaves Norway firmly in control of the group as they seek a place at next year's finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

After a meek performance, Israel take on Italy in Udine on Tuesday knowing they must win to keep alive their fading hopes of qualifying. — AFP



Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick as Norway took a step towards the 2026 World Cup finals. PHOTO: NTB/AFP

Press conference held for AFC U17 Women's Qualifiers Group C



Head coaches from Myanmar, Indonesia, and Macau SAR teams seen during the press conference. PHOTO:MFF

A press conference for the 2026 AFC U17 Women's Qualifiers Group C, in which the Myanmar U17 women's team is competing was held at the press briefing hall of Thuwunna YTC in Yangon yesterday. Head coaches from Myanmar, Indonesia, and Macau SAR attended the event.

Myanmar U17 women's head coach Tashio said, "I am delighted to host the qualifiers as the home team. I have encouraged my players to work hard and set their own ambitions. Although there is some pressure, we are determined to win. During the past three months, we have focused on improving both the players' technical and tactical abilities. I have also taught them to make their own decisions not only on the pitch but off the pitch as well. We will strive hard to achieve success".

Indonesia U17 women's head coach Timo said, "I grew up in Indonesia and later studied at a university in the United States. We carefully selected players nationwide, giving them enough time to prepare. Although we had hoped to play more matches, we were disappointed when the Mongolian team withdrew. For me, the goal is not only to win but also to help the girls develop their football skills and play better".

Macau SAR head coach Chen Yang said, "Most of our players are students as well as amateur players. It was challenging to select the team, and some of them even play futsal. Since most of our players are still learning, they will face many challenges. We are here to enjoy football and learn how to play happily rather than focusing solely on winning".

Group C of the AFC U17 Women's Qualifiers features Myanmar, Indonesia, and Macau SAR. The fixtures are as follows: Indonesia versus Macau SAR at Padetha Stadium at 3:30 pm on 13 October; Myanmar versus Macau SAR at Thuwunna Stadium at 4 pm on 15 October; and Myanmar versus Indonesia at Thuwunna Stadium at 4 pm on 17 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Woods undergoes lower back disc replacement surgery

TIGER Woods underwent lumbar disc replacement surgery in his lower back after experiencing pain and a lack of mobility, the 15-time major golf champion announced on Saturday.

Woods said he had the successful operation on Friday in New York at the hands of Dr. Sheeraz Qureshi.

"After experiencing pain and lack of mobility in my back, I consulted with doctors and surgeons to have tests taken," Woods said in a statement.

"The scans determined that I had a collapsed disc in L4/5, disc fragments and a compromised spinal canal.



Tiger Woods announced he has undergone a lumbar disc replacement surgery after experiencing lower back pain. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

"I opted to have my disc replaced yesterday and I already know I made a good decision for

my health and my back".

There was no timetable given for when Woods might return to competitive golf after the latest in a series of operations and injuries that have kept him inactive since last year's British Open.

Woods suffered severe leg injuries in a 2021 car crash but returned at the 2022 Masters and finished 47th.

Woods, who turns 50 in December, had a back operation last September. He was rehabilitating from that setback when he announced last March that he had suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon. — AFP

Messi brace lifts Inter, Mueller grabs game-winner for Whitecaps

LIONEL Messi scored twice to spark Inter Miami to a 4-0 victory over Atlanta United, seizing the lead in Major League Soccer's scoring table in a key victory for the Florida club.

The Argentine superstar scored his 25th and 26th goals of the season, moving ahead of Los Angeles FC's Denis Bouanga in the race for the Golden Boot after starting the day tied with the Gabon international on 24 goals.

Miami, already assured of an MLS Cup playoff berth, continued their push for better playoff position.

They pulled level with Cincinnati on 62 points in the Eastern Conference, four points behind leaders Philadelphia, who have clinched the Supporters Shield as the team with the best regular season record in the league.

Messi's 39th-minute strike to open the scoring was a beauty.

Baltasar Rodriguez robbed an Atlanta defender and found Messi just outside the box. Messi strode forward and curled a left-footed shot around Pedro Amador and out of the reach of Atlanta goalkeeper Jayden Hibbert in the upper left corner of the net.

Hibbert had denied Messi in the 13th minute as the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner came up empty on a string of early attempts. — AFP

Trump directs US Defence Secy to use available funds to pay troops amid government shutdown

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WORLD

India Mobile Congress 2025 concludes, highlights India's rise in digital connectivity, next-gen tech

The IMC highlighted India's innovative ecosystem and its role in shaping the future of telecom and digital infrastructure.

THE India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 concluded in New Delhi on 11 October, after four days of discussions, exhibitions, and demonstrations.

The event began on 8 October at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, the event is Asia's most influential technology and telecom forum and hosted its largest edition this year.

The IMC aimed to bring together global stakeholders, innovators, and industry leaders to collaborate and shape India's digital and technological future.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the inaugural ceremony of India Mobile Congress on Wednesday and highlighted India's remarkable achievements in the technological sector.

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi highlighted India's progress in developing indigenous technology and emphasized the role of initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

He noted that Indian industry, startups, and academia are collaborating across sectors to develop and scale indigenous technology and create intellectual properties through research and development.

The Prime Minister said, "Today,



The India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, Asia's premier technology and telecom forum, concluded on 11 October in New Delhi after a four-day event that drew record participation. **PHOTO: ANI**

with government support, Indian industry, startups, and academia are working together across many sectors. Bharat is moving forward in every dimension. India

is emerging as an effective platform for innovation and progress."

He added that this is the best time to invest, innovate, and make in India,

citing opportunities in manufacturing, semiconductors, mobile technology, and startups. — ANI

China launches Gravity-1 rocket from sea

CHINA sent a Gravity-1 carrier rocket into space from waters off the coast of Haiyang, east China's Shandong Province, on Saturday.

The rocket blasted off at

10:20 am (Beijing Time), placing three satellites into their designated orbits. The Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre conducted the offshore mission.

A wide-field satellite and two

experimental satellites were on-board the carrier rocket.

The Gravity-1 carrier rocket made its debut flight in January 2024. — Xinhua



A Gravity-1 carrier rocket carrying a wide-field satellite and two experimental satellites blasts off from waters off the coast of Haiyang, east China's Shandong Province, 11 October 2025. **PHOTO: GUO JINQI/XINHUA**

Osaka expo draws over 25 mln visitors ahead of closing after 6-month run

THE World Exposition in Osaka has attracted more than 25 million visitors, according to an estimate released by organizers on Sunday, ahead of its closing the following day after a six-month run.

At the closing ceremony for the event, in which 158 countries and regions participated, the flag of the Bureau International des Expositions, the Paris-based body that oversees world expos, will be handed to Saudi Arabia, the 2030 host.

While daily visitors to the Osaka expo fell below 100,000 in the early months after its opening in April, the number surged in recent weeks to over 200,000 per day, fuelled by growing attention on social media and word of mouth.

A total of 22.07 million tickets were sold and licensed merchandise, including plush toys of the official mascot Myaku-Myaku, generated about 80 billion yen (\$525 million) in sales as of late August. The organizers are expecting an operating surplus of up to 28 billion yen.

The total number of visitors also surpassed the 22.05 million recorded at the expo in Aichi Prefecture in 2005. — Kyodo