

The
Global **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

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.

Tazaungdine hot-air balloon releasing competition for 2025 launched at the Maravijaya Buddha Image

THE opening ceremony of the Tazaungdine hot-air balloon releasing competition for 2025 at the Maravijaya Buddha Image took place at the fountain square of the Maravijaya Buddha Park yesterday evening.

On arrival at the venue where the ceremony will take place, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla were warmly welcomed by ethnic people from the Myanma Radio and Television and artistes and cultural troupes from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture holding Myanmar traditional lanterns.

The Senior General and his wife cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the hot-air balloon releasing ceremony.

Small hot-air balloons were released simultaneously, fireworks were launched and the song with the title of “Myaing-Myaing-Hsaing-Hsaing La-Tazaungdine” was sung with dances. The Senior General, his wife and attendees enjoyed the performances.

SEE PAGE 3



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla together with State dignitaries enjoy releasing of hot-air balloon by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture at the opening of the Tazaungdine hot-air balloon releasing competition for 2025 at the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

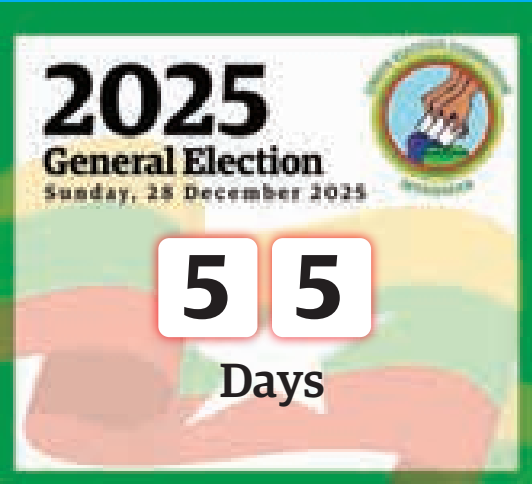
NATIONAL



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.

Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) delivers campaign speech

THE electoral speech of the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) is featured on page 10 of today’s issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of Director-General Daw May Khaing Win of the Office of the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar on the expiry of the one-year probation period.

Special Weather News

Issued at 4 pm MST on 2 November 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, due to the Easterly waves and due to a Low-Pressure Area over the Eastern Central Bay and adjoining near the Deltic coast, Myanmar and due to the cumulonimbus clouds formed by strong convection rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with regionally and isolated heavy falls in some region during 3 to 6 November 2025.

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strikes, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 2 November 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 10:30 am MST today, the low-pressure area over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining Eastern Central Bay of Bengal has moved over the Eastern Central Bay and adjoining near Deltic coast, Myanmar. It is likely to move North-Northwestwards and may reach over the Eastern Central Bay and adjoining Northeast Bay of Bengal and off and along Rakhine coasts and adjoining Deltic coasts. Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea, North Bay and Eastern Central Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 3 November 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and upper Sagaing regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (Northern

and Southern) Shan 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: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Rain or thundershowers with isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2025: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 2 November 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Eastern Central Bay and adjoining near the Deltic coast, Myanmar still persists. It is likely to move North-Northwestwards and may reach over the Eastern Central Bay and adjoining Northeast Bay of Bengal and off and along the Rakhine coasts and adjoining the Deltic coasts. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

(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)

Tazaungdine hot-air balloon releasing competition for 2025 launched at the Maravijaya Buddha Image

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General, his wife and party greeted contesting teams from Union-level organizations and ministries which will take part in the Tazaungdine hot-air balloon releasing competition for 2025 at the Maravijaya Buddha Image. These teams performed traditional dances.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees to the ceremony watched releasing of night lighting hot-air balloons and Seinnapan hot-air balloons by contesting teams and cordially greeted the people.

During the preparation to release the hot-air balloons, traditional cultural troupes performed traditional dances.

The Senior General and his wife paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and offered flowers, water and oil lights and ignited oil lights together with attendees to the ceremony at the opening ceremony of the Tazaungdine lighting festival at the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

The Senior General and his wife went round the Buddha image clockwise, beat Saddhadhipati Bell and cordially greeted monks, pilgrims and people who joined the lighting festival.



Preparations are underway to release a night hot-air balloon, organized by the Ministry of Transport and Communications at Tazaungdine hot-air balloon releasing competition for 2025 at the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Commission member and Prime Minister U Nyo Saw and his wife, Commission member and Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Com-

mission members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials, monks and people.

The lighting festival will take place on a grand scale at

the Maravijaya Buddha Image Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory from 2 to 4 November. During the festival, associations will recite religious verses and offer 9,000 oil lights on the platform of the image. Moreover, fireworks will be launched while night hot-air balloons and Seinnapan hot-air balloons will be released.

Furthermore, Matho Shwekya lotus robes will be weaved. The precinct of the Buddha Park will be illuminated with multicolour lightings. MSME businesses will display and sell domestic products, foodstuffs, personal goods and Myanmar traditional snacks. In addition, famous artistes will perform music, songs and theatrical performances. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Mandalay Region Chief Minister meets
Novosibirsk Governor-led Russian delegation



MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung met the Russian Federation's Novosibirsk Governor Mr Andrey Travnikov and his delegation at the Mandalay Region Government Office meeting hall yesterday.

During the meeting, they held open discussions on cooperation in social, economic,

education, health, tourism and trade sectors, the memorandum of understanding signed for establishing sister-city relations between Mandalay and Novosibirsk, arrangements for economic cooperation between the two cities from 2026 to 2028, and further collaboration to strengthen friendly ties between the two countries. Both sides also exchanged commemorative gifts.

After the meeting, the Chief Minister and Commander of the Central Command hosted a lunch for the delegation at IBIS Styles Hotel in Chanmyathazi Township. — MNA/KZL

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and the Russian Federation's Novosibirsk Governor Mr Andrey Travnikov discuss further collaboration to strengthen friendly ties in Mandalay yesterday.

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor inspects
quake reconstruction roads in
three townships

NAY Pyi Taw City Development Committee chair and mayor U Than Tun Oo visited the reconstruction of roads destroyed by the Mandalay earthquake in three townships of Nay Pyi Taw on 31 October.

The repair work has been carried out at Zabuthiri Township, Dakkhinathiri Township and Lewe Township, and he inspected the paving of asphalt concrete roads, sidewalks, traffic islands and roadside land-

scaping.

The Mandalay earthquake struck on 28 March 2025 left 3,795 people died, 86 people injured and 5,104 people missing, moreover 51,145 houses, 3,310 government buildings, 725 clinics and hospitals, 5,611 religious buildings, 56 railroads, 27 train stations, 101 bridges, 403 roads, 284 locations of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, 10 telecom towers, 56 concrete posts, 10 power transmission towers, 3,123 street lamp posts, 594 irrigated channels, six dams, 60 water retaining projects, 174 water resources and 6,424 pagodas and temples were destroyed, according to official figures.

— Htun Htun/ZS



This photo shows the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor inspecting road repair work.

K136.25 million in smuggled industrial
and electrical goods confiscated

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, authorities continue to prevent and take action against illegal trade in line with the law. To this end, joint inspection teams managed by the Customs Department conducted checks and seized unregistered goods.

On 31 October, two major seizures were reported: one type of industrial item (estimated value K67.2 million) was confiscated from a container at Myanmar Industrial Port and four types of electrical goods (estimated value K69.05 million) were seized from a passenger's luggage at Yangon International Airport, both lacking valid



Confiscated illegal phones at Yangon International Airport.

documentation. The total estimated value of the seized items from these two cases amounted to K136.25 million, and relevant cases were opened in line with customs procedures.

Such illegal imports can harm legitimate business owners by weakening their market

competitiveness and may also cause a loss of entitled revenue for the State. Therefore, responsible officials will continue tightening inspections and preventive measures against illegal import activities, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

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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.

NATIONAL

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)



MSME Tazaungdine Fair and Concert underway at Yangon’s People’s Square

THE Yangon Region MSME Tazaungdine Fair and Concert began yesterday morning at People’s Square and continues to draw crowds of vendors and buyers of local products.

The fair features more than 630 stalls, including those from industrial zones, MSME entrepreneurs, the Small-scale Industries Department, the Cooperative Department, the Yangon Region Investment Committee, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and the Myanmar Rice Federation, as well as regional and state-based local product vendors, food shops, and restaurants. Local products such as clothing, food, ornamental fish, pet reptiles, and Myanmar Thanaka are on display and available for purchase at



Photo shows a talk show programme on the topic on loans, standards, and support for MSMEs at the Tazaungdine market fair in People's Square in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: KYAW SAN MYINT (IPRD)

the fair. In addition, the Myanmar Oil and Oil Producers Association is selling oil at affordable prices, and the venue is bustling with visitors eager to buy.

At the Tazaungdine market fair, a talk show discussed topics such as loans, standards, and support for MSMEs, attracting

the interest of business owners and festival-goers alike.

The entertainment pavilion also featured performances by famous artistes, DJs, dance groups, and new-generation singers, making the Tazaungdine market fair even livelier. People from across the country enjoyed the performances together in a spirit of warmth and community while also sharing rice and dishes provided by the Yangon Region Government, the Yangon City Development Committee, and donor families. To ensure a clean and orderly festival, garbage bins and mobile toilets were provided for proper waste disposal, and shuttle buses were arranged to make travel to and from the festival more convenient. — Kyaw San Myint (IPRD)/TH

MPT invites entries for Tazaungdine digital photo contest

MPT has invited the public to participate in a Tazaungdine digital photography contest, which marks the Tazaungdine lighting festival and the full moon day of Tazaungmone at three prominent pagodas in Yangon, with prizes to be awarded, according to the MPT Yangon office.

The “Lighting Festival with MPT” event will take place at Botahtaung Pagoda, Kaba Aye Pagoda, and Sule Pagoda on the full moon day of Tazaungmone. The programme will begin at 4 pm and continue until 5:30 pm, during which an oil-lamp offering ceremony to the pagodas

will be held. Over 15,000 candles will be lit to form the MPT brand logo, symbolizing light overcoming darkness, unity, and connectivity. Photographs of devotees lighting candles in honour of the Buddha will be selected for the competition and awarded.

The “Lighting Festival with MPT” digital photo contest will run from 1 November to midnight on 13 November. Prizes include eleven awards of 111 GB data packages, ten awards of K30,000 worth top-up cards, ten awards of K10,000 top-up cards, and two Infinix Note 50 smartphones as non-telecom prizes.

“Tazaungdine is a meaningful religious festival in Myanmar symbolizing light, charity, and unity. Our ‘Lighting Festival with MPT’ will be held splendidly at famous pagodas rich in tradition, and we warmly invite the public to join and celebrate,” said Mr Yoshinori Yagi, Advisor to the Commercial Department, MPT JO.

The “Lighting Festival with MPT” will also be held at notable pagodas in Bago Region (East), Mon State, and Shan State (East), as well as Yangon Region, on the full moon day of Tazaungmone. — Oktha/KZL



The advertise poster for MPT’s Tazaungdine digital photography contest.

NATIONAL

Russian delegation observes cultural heritage sites in Mandalay and Bagan

A delegation led by the Governor of Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation arrived in Mandalay yesterday morning, and the Mandalay Mayor, students and officials welcomed them at Mandalay International Airport.

After arrival, the Novosibirsk Governor and delegation met the Mandalay Region Government and visited key cultural heritage sites in Mandalay, including the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, Kuthodaw Pagoda and Shwenandaw Monastery. Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs U Aung Kyaw Moe and officials briefed them on the historical significance and cultural heritage of the sites.

Following the visit in Mandalay, the delegation proceeded to NyaungU by Tatmadaw



The delegation led by the Governor of Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation visits pagodas in ancient Bagan yesterday.

aircraft, where Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and

Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan and officials welcomed them at the

airport.

The delegation then ob-

served the Bagan Archaeological Museum and received a briefing from the Director of the Bagan Branch under the Department of Archaeology and National Museum regarding the management of Bagan World Heritage cultural properties.

They continued to visit notable pagodas in ancient Bagan, including Shwezigon Pagoda and Ananda Temple, and observed the artistic works.

The delegation also enjoyed the sunset beauty of Bagan from Nanmyint Tower and then visited U Ba Nyein lacquerware industry and lacquerware shops in new Bagan to observe traditional Myanmar lacquer craftsmanship. — Township IPRD/KZL

Maravijaya Buddha Image Tazaungdine Market Fair buzzes with theatrical performances, music, and entertainment

STARTING yesterday evening, the Maravijaya Buddha Image Tazaungdine Market Fair, Po Chit theatrical performances, and shows by famous national singers have been held in designated areas outside Maravijaya Buddha Park, with enthusiastic participation from both Nay Pyi Taw residents and people from across the country.

The Tazaungdine festival at the Maravijaya Pagoda festival is celebrated yearly with great enthusiasm and this year is especially crowded with pilgrims, who can enjoy more than 300 stalls selling MSME products, ethnic traditional foods, and local goods, along with entertainment programmes, making the festival a joyful experience for all attendees.

Visitors to the festival were warmly welcomed by officials at the booths, who explained the region's traditional foods, cultures, and MSME products in an engaging manner that captured the attendees' enthusiastic attention.

In addition, regional MSME product showrooms, ethnic traditional food stalls, One Region One Product showrooms, EV

car and motorcycle displays, Rakhine and Shan traditional food stalls, food and local products from Mandalay, Magway, and Ayeyawady regions, MSME food and consumer goods shops from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, handicrafts and art showrooms, and traditional clothing and Myanmar food stalls are selling products at cheaper prices, attracting eager pilgrims, while it is also heartening to see people supporting local food stalls by purchasing traditional snacks.

Similarly, to allow festival-goers to enjoy Myanmar theatrical art, which combines music, dance, percussion, bells, and drums, a performance by the famous theatrical performer Po Chit was included, drawing a large crowd of spectators.

The Po Chit theatrical show, performed with modern stage sets, audio effects, and technology, featured outstanding actors and actresses singing, and dancing, along with opera, stage plays, comedians' heartwarming jokes, and lively orchestra performances that enhanced the production, leaving the audience fully satisfied, with the show scheduled



People crowd at the Maravijaya Buddha Image Tazaungdine Market Fair in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: PO PYAE SONE, THIHA

to run every night during the festival.

In addition, to allow festival-goers to enjoy modern music, a stage show featuring nationally renowned singers — including Kai Zar, Wai La, Nay Min Ein, Hlwan Paing, Shwe Htoo, G Lat, Wai Gyi, He' Lay, Phyo Gyi, Phaw Wae, Joe Lay, Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Wyne Su Khine Thein, Cherry Thin, Sandi Myint Lwin, Yadana Mai, Irene Zin Mar Myint, Su

Htet Hlaing, Mi Sandi, Thar Soe, Than Tha Moe Theint, and Nan Su Yati Soe — took place, with the artistes performing popular songs accompanied by the Hi Bird Band and the Runner Band, drawing a large and enthusiastic crowd.

In addition, the children's playgrounds, a popular attraction for the pilgrims' children, are equipped with games such as a Ferris wheel, a pirate ship, and

children's cars, where children can be seen happily playing.

The Tazaungdine Market Fair, Po Chit drama, and entertainment programmes by famous singers will be held for three days during the festival from 2 to 4 November, allowing visitors to enjoy the Maravijaya Buddha Image Light Festival, the market, and performances while making merit. — Khit Lunge/TH

NATIONAL

Investment in disaster prevention enhances the resilience of the nation

❖ Investment in disaster prevention not only enhances the resilience of the nation but also helps protect economic and other development gains from being lost due to natural disasters.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the second cash donation to provide aid for the people affected by the devastating Mandalay earthquake and to initiate rehabilitation efforts held on 29 May 2025)

South Korean business leaders keen to boost investments in Myanmar

SOUTH Korean businessmen are expressing strong interest in expanding their businesses and investments in Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER).

The interest was highlighted on 29 October during a meeting with the delegation of the Myanmar-Korea Economic and Security Research Association (MERS) and MERS Chairman Choi Shin-il made these remarks.

Choi also discussed investment opportunities in Myanmar, the benefits of the law on investment, terms and conditions of legal support and the investment process.

Similarly, the Union Minister for the MIFER, Dr Wah Wah Maung, discussed that investment issues for Korean businesses will be assisted in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law and Rules.

During the meeting, the

Myanmar-Korea officials openly discussed the investment opportunities that South Korea could bring in the near future.

South Korea is currently ranked 6th in terms of foreign investors and 9th in terms of trade with Myanmar, according to the data released.— Htun Htun/ZN

A garment investment in Myanmar by a South Korean textile company.



10th Thailand Education Fair (Myanmar) to take place in Yangon

THE 10th Thailand Education Fair (Myanmar), which is the most suitable educational exhibition for students planning to attend a Thai university for the November 2025 intake, will be held in Yangon on 2 November.

It will be organized by the AMAUT (Association of Myanmar Alumni from Universities in Thailand) and will feature leading schools from Thailand.

With the support of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, the event will be held grandly at the Novotel Hotel (Pathein Room), Yangon, on Sunday, from 9 am to 4 pm.

This is a must-attend education fair for all students planning to study in Thailand. It is recommended for those who wish to explore foundation programmes, who have received HND, GED, or IGCSE results



The advertisement announcing the upcoming 10th Thailand Education Fair (Myanmar) to be held in Yangon.

but not decided yet on which school to choose, who want to inquire about the application process, who are interested in Dual Programmes, Exchange Programmes, or transferring to another country, who wish to inquire about Partial or Full Scholarships, and who have questions regarding credit transfer.

Furthermore, parents and teachers will receive free consultations with school officials from Thailand.

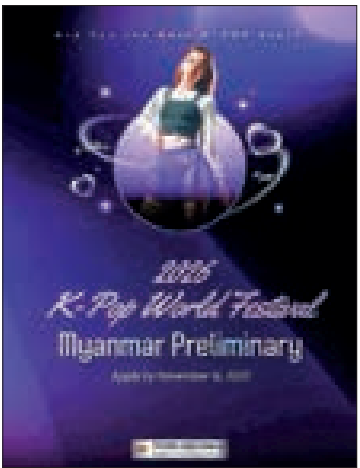
Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about the latest educational trends and international pathways all in one place at the AMAUT booth. The organizers warmly invite matriculation students, O level or A level international students, graduate students and post-graduate students for free attendance. — MT/ZN

Applications open for 2026 Changwon K-Pop World Festival until 16 Nov

INTERESTED contestants for the 2026 Changwon K-Pop World Festival can submit their application by 16 November, said the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar.

The Changwon K-Pop World Festival is the biggest K-pop festival where worldwide K-pop fans gather every year, and it brings a chance for those who passed their regional competitive auditions to entertain on stage.

The annual K-pop festival is held late in the year; however, this 2026 event has been scheduled in April, so the worldwide audition (regional competitions) will be held in November.



This image showcases a poster for the 2026 Changwon K-pop World Festival.

For the 2026 contest, regional audition and final competition will be held online in Myanmar, and potential individual or group winners will have an opportunity to compete in the main event held in South Korea.

Enthusiasts can submit an application by 16 November at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDzn0C0jCVaEu1s3vtlPB7eG-FjLDaaux35wYN97OwEP-ei3g/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=113712871509468437855>. Further announcement on the date of the online final competition will be made, and all K-pop lovers making K-pop cover dance and cover song are welcome to join. — MT/ZS

OPINION

ARTICLE

Combat online fraud, scams and gambling

ONLINE scams and gambling activities have become a significant threat to Myanmar’s peace, stability, the rule of law, and the security of citizens’ social and economic well-being. Recognizing the seriousness of these threats, the government is actively implementing measures to detect, prevent, and eliminate such activities not only within the country but also in border areas. Authorities are currently taking vigorous legal action against criminal groups and individuals involved in these offences.

These online scams and gambling schemes are not confined to Myanmar; they are widespread across the globe. The Myanmar government is working diligently to combat these activities while collaborating with neighbouring countries and international partners to ensure a coordinated approach. In today’s era of advanced technology, criminals and unscrupulous individuals exploit the extensive use of on-line platforms across political, economic, and social sectors worldwide for personal gain.

As the government continues to combat online fraud and gambling as a matter of national responsibility, parents and guardians also play a crucial role in ensuring that their children are not drawn into such criminal activities. Citizens who become aware of gangs or groups conducting online scams or gambling are urged to report them confidentially to the relevant security authorities. Such cooperation will help reduce criminal activity, protect communities, and maintain national security throughout the country.

authorities successfully arrested agents and operators involved in online gambling in several townships in Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

These gambling systems are designed to favour operators rather than players, ensuring that participants inevitably face losses. Many individuals who participate in such schemes end up losing substantial amounts of family money and assets. Likewise, some young citizens seeking employment for their livelihoods were recruited to work in online gambling operations. Hence, they were involved in these criminal activities and eventually faced legal consequences. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, their involvement caused harm to society and violated the law.

As the government continues to combat online fraud and gambling as a matter of national responsibility, parents and guardians also play a crucial role in ensuring that their children are not drawn into such criminal activities. Citizens who become aware of gangs or groups conducting online scams or gambling are urged to report them confidentially to the relevant security authorities. Such cooperation will help reduce criminal activity, protect communities, and maintain national security throughout the country.

A Voter’s Guide to Electronic Voting in Myanmar

By Ms Monn



The journey from the paper ballot to the electronic vote is a natural evolution for a nation moving forward. ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK

FOR generations, the foundation of democracy in Myanmar has been the paper-based voting system. Citizens go to their local polling station, receive a physical ballot, and mark their choice in a private booth before placing it into a sealed box. This method, while familiar, involves a lengthy and manual process for both voting and counting. Today, we stand at the beginning of a new chapter. To modernize our elections and strengthen our democratic process, the Union Election Commission has announced a significant change: the upcoming election will introduce electronic voting, or e-voting.

This shift to digital technology marks a major step forward for our nation. Now, my text is designed to guide you through this change. It will explain clearly how e-voting works, address common questions, and demonstrate the security measures in place. Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge you need to feel confident and assured, ensuring that every voter can trust that their voice will be heard and their vote will be counted accurately and securely in this new system.

What is e-voting?

Electronic voting, or e-voting, is a modern way to cast your vote using technology instead of paper. For the upcoming election in Myanmar, this will mean using a secure Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at your local polling station.

Instead of marking a paper ballot, you will make your selection on a machine, which then records it electronically. This method is different from online voting over the internet, which is not being introduced now. The goal is to make voting simpler and counting faster and more accurate. This system is not new; it is trusted worldwide. Countries with large populations, like India and Brazil, have used EVMs for years to run smooth elections. By adopting this proven technology, Myanmar aims to strengthen its electoral process, ensuring every vote is counted securely and accurately, just as before, but with greater speed and efficiency.

Why e-voting matters for Myanmar

The shift to eVoting is a significant step forward for our nation. First, it modernizes our electoral process, bringing Myanmar in line with global technological advancements. This update is crucial for making voting more accessible and efficient. For voters, it can simplify the process, reducing the chance of errors and shortening waiting times at polling stations. For the nation, it means results can be counted and announced with unprecedented speed. Most importantly, eVoting has the potential to greatly enhance transparency and public trust in election results.

The electronic system minimizes human error in counting and provides a clear, digital record,

making the process less open to manipulation. By ensuring that every vote is accurately recorded and counted, this new system can strengthen the foundation of our democracy and give the people of Myanmar greater confidence in the integrity of their elections.

Benefits of e-voting

The introduction of e-voting brings several important benefits to Myanmar. Firstly, it allows for faster vote counting and result announcement. Unlike manual counting, which can take days, electronic tallying can be completed in hours, providing quicker clarity. This technology also offers convenience for voters, particularly those in remote areas, as portable machines can make voting more accessible. A key advantage is improved security and fraud prevention; with proper safeguards like encryption, eVoting can make ballots tamper-proof, strengthening the result’s integrity.

Furthermore, it is environmentally friendly by significantly reducing paper usage for ballots. Finally, eVoting leads to reduced human error in vote tallying. The machine accurately records each vote as it is cast, eliminating mistakes that can happen during manual counting. Together, these benefits create a more modern, efficient, and trustworthy electoral system for everyone.

Addressing common voter concerns

We understand that any

change can bring questions. It is normal and responsible to ask how this new system will protect your vote. Let’s address some common concerns directly.

“Will my vote still be secret?”

Yes. The electronic voting machine is designed to protect your privacy completely. It does not record any personal information that links you to your vote. The process is as anonymous as walking into a private booth. The machine only records the choice itself, not who made it.

“What if I make a mistake on the machine?”

The system is built to be user-friendly and includes a “review” step. Before you finally cast your vote, the screen will clearly show

your choices for you to confirm. If you see an error, you can easily go back and correct it. This ensures your vote reflects your true intent.

“How do we know the machines are working correctly?”

Every EVM undergoes rigorous testing before Election Day by election officials and in the presence of political party representatives. After the polls close, a mandatory verification process takes place. A sample of machines will have their electronic results cross-checked with a printed paper record (if available) or a manual audit to ensure the count is perfect. This multi-layered check ensures the machines are accurate and reliable. **A step-by-step guide to e-vot-**

ing on election day

Knowing what to expect can make you feel confident. Here is a simple guide to what voting will look like:

Identification and Verification: As always, you will go to your assigned polling station. An election official will check your identity and voter registration details.

Receiving Your Access: Once verified, you will be directed to an available Electronic Voting Machine.

Making Your Choice: The machine’s screen will clearly list the candidates and their symbols. You will tap the screen next to your chosen candidate. The selection will be highlighted.

Confirming Your Vote: The machine will show you a summary screen to review your choice. This

is your chance to make sure it is correct.

Casting Your Vote: Once you are sure, you will press the “CAST VOTE” button. Your vote is now securely and permanently recorded inside the machine. You will hear a confirmation beep or see a thank-you message.

Completing the Process: After casting your vote, the machine will reset for the next voter. You can then leave the polling station, having completed your civic duty.

The future is secure: Safeguarding your vote

Security is the highest priority in the design of the eVoting system. The Union Election Commission is implementing multiple layers of protection to guarantee that the election results are a true reflection of the people’s will.

Physical Security: The voting machines are stored in highly secure locations before and after the election. Seals and strict chain-of-custody protocols are used so that any attempt to tamper with them would be immediately detected.

Digital Security: The software inside the machines is certified and sealed. They are not connected to the internet or any external network during the election, making them immune to online hacking. Each machine is a standalone, secure unit.

Transparency and Observation: The entire process, from the testing of machines to the counting of votes, will be open

for observation by political party agents and independent observers. This transparency is key to building public trust.

Your Role in a Modern Election

The success of this new system depends not just on technology, but on you, the voter. Your willingness to learn and adapt is what will make Myanmar’s democracy stronger. You are encouraged to attend any public demonstrations or information sessions held by the Election Commission to try the machine for yourself. Ask questions and read the informational materials provided. An informed voter is a confident voter.

Embracing a New Era for Democracy

The journey from the paper ballot to the electronic vote is a natural evolution for a nation moving forward. It is a change that honours the past principle of one person, one vote, while embracing the future’s tools for greater efficiency, accuracy, and trust. This transition is about more than just speed; it is about strengthening the very voice of the people. By understanding the process and the robust safeguards in place, every voter in Myanmar can participate with confidence, knowing that their vote will be counted as cast. Together, we are building a more resilient and transparent electoral system for generations to come.



Environmental factors impact life expectancy. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

Let’s Improve Our Life Expectancy

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

LIFE expectancy is a powerful indicator of a society’s health and well-being. It reflects not only the average lifespan of a population but also the quality of life, access to healthcare, and environmental conditions. In recent decades, many countries have seen impressive improvements in life expectancy

due to advancements in medicine, sanitation, and public health. However, challenges such as chronic diseases, poor lifestyle choices, and unequal access to healthcare continue to limit progress. To ensure longer, healthier lives for all, we must focus on improving both personal habits and public systems.

First and foremost, lifestyle choices play a crucial role in determining how long and how well we live. A balanced diet, regular physical activity, adequate sleep, and avoidance of harmful substances such as tobacco and excessive alcohol are foundational to a long life. Unfortunately, modern lifestyles often encourage unhealthy habits – processed foods, sedentary behaviour, and high stress levels. Encouraging healthier behaviours through education, community programs, and media can empower individuals to take control of their well-being.

Second, access to quality healthcare is essential. Preventive care, early diagnosis, and effective treatment can significantly reduce deaths from diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart conditions. Governments and the private sectors must work together to make

healthcare more affordable, accessible, and inclusive, especially in underserved and rural areas. Additionally, investing in mental health services is critical, as emotional well-being directly affects physical health and longevity.

Environmental factors also impact life expectancy. Clean air, safe drinking water, and unpolluted surroundings are necessary for a healthy life. Climate change, pollution, and unsafe living conditions disproportionately affect vulnerable populations and contribute to a range of health issues. Policies aimed at environmental protection, sustainable development, and urban planning can help create healthier living environments and support longer lives.

Education is another powerful tool in improving life expectancy. People with more education tend to make healthier lifestyle choices, have better access to healthcare, and enjoy improved economic opportunities. Promoting education at all levels, especially for girls and marginalized groups, has a direct and positive impact on health outcomes across generations.

See page 11



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) talks about its policy, stance and work procedures

Dr Khin Saw Nwet, a Central Executive Committee member of the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P), presented the policy, stance and work procedures of her party through radio and television on the evening of 1 November.
The full text of the presentation is as follows: -



Mingalaba! I am Dr Khin Saw Nwet, a Central Executive Committee member of the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P).

With regard to the policy.

All ethnic groups must participate in building a multiparty democratic nation. This ensures adherence to the democratic path and enables actions that are in accordance with the law.

The policies of the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) emphasize sharing and exercising rights, living together in unity, and mutual cooperation – principles that form the foundation for constructing a federal union based on democracy.

Regarding ideology and stance.

The Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) loves and cherishes the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is committed to promoting and preserving the distinct cultures, literature, and arts of all ethnic groups living in Myanmar, while encouraging the fair distribution and exercise of democratic rights and fostering a spirit of unity among communities. The party also aims to ensure the successful conduct of multiparty democratic general elections, reflecting its dedication to democratic principles. Furthermore, the party hopes that all ethnic groups residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will actively cooperate to hold elections that broadly represent the various communities. Our party believes in participating alongside the people in efforts to implement democracy. The Lisu people themselves have never supported any organization that challenges the country in a sectarian or ethnically biased manner. For this

reason, historians and scholars have honoured the Lisu by studying and highlighting their literature, culture, and traditional customs. Despite living dispersedly in different parts of the world, such as India, Yunnan Province in China, and Southeast Asian countries, the Lisu ethnics maintain a shared language and a culture worthy of appreciation. Fostering mutual respect and affection between individuals of different ethnicities has always been a core principle of the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P).

In following the path of democracy, peace plays an extremely important role. May there be peace throughout the world. The Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) also aims for a beautiful, prosperous, and fertile Myanmar. If armed groups openly express their goodwill, show mutual respect among ethnic communities, and participate in initiatives that benefit the nation, they can help and support local ethnic communities affected by natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. Such cooperation and compassion would be welcomed by all. After all, the capacity for loving-kindness resides in every human heart.

Therefore, the desire for everyone to live together in unity, love, and peace, grounded in loving-kindness, reflects the core principle and great compassion of the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P). All ethnic groups are free to follow their own beliefs, yet the shared foundation is mutual goodwill. The Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) also upholds the principle that all ethnic communities should freely practice their faith, love the nation, and collectively work for the country’s benefit – this too is a central belief of the party.

Our party holds the principle that the education and overall development of ethnic communities should advance without discrimination between highland and lowland areas, providing opportunities for all to thrive. Lisu youth serving as local people’s militia under Tatmadaw, who participate in national defence, share the party’s belief in willingly cooperating, supporting, and uniting with other ethnic groups for the benefit of the nation. The party also upholds the aim of ensuring that all ethnic groups living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar can have their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter met and can live free from all dangers — this reflects the sincere intentions and core values of the Lisu National Development Party

(L.N.D.P).

Work procedures

To promote modern and advanced education for all ethnic groups living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) will coordinate with the Social Welfare Department to provide teaching materials and make donations to Lisu, Shan, and Rawang villages in PutaO District, Kachin State.

To provide employment opportunities for young ethnic men, training programmes in small-scale industrial and household skills will be conducted, along with development projects to enable them to carry out productive work.

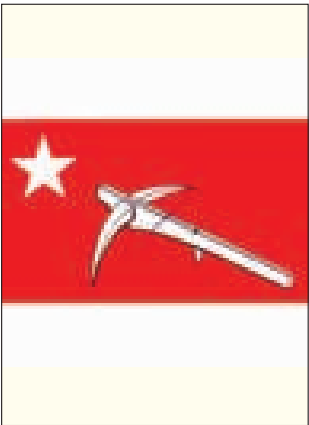
Without discriminating between Buddhism and Christianity, necessary donations will be carried out by inviting business owners to participate. Efforts will also be made to preserve the cultural heritage of ethnic groups by collaborating with small hotel and tourism support groups in PutaO District, attracting international tourists, increasing national revenue, and implementing e-tourism initiatives. To achieve reconciliation and unity among ethnic communities, strong national cohesion is essential. Given the current situation, ending armed conflicts is necessary to restore and maintain national unity.

Agriculture, livestock farming, mining, jade extraction, amber mining, and manufacturing are the main livelihoods and economic activities for residents of Kachin State. Therefore, the Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) will take the lead in promoting initiatives as a process to ensure that ethnic people can legally exercise their economic rights in accordance with the law.

The Dulay Party will rapidly advance social and economic development and human rights,

The Dulay Party will quickly expand employment opportunities and educational progress,

It is the Dulay Party that will turn trust into action.



Thanbyuzayat holds pre-election meeting with political parties

A meeting with political parties participating in the multiparty democratic general election was held on 1 November in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, at the General Administration Department. The meeting was attended by the chairman of the Township Management and Administration Committee, the chairman and members of the Township Election Subcommission, and representatives from each party.

At the ceremony, U Aung Moe Lwin, Chairman of the Township Management and Administration Committee, delivered the opening speech, while U Than Win,

Chairman of the Township Election Subcommission, and Daw Win Win Myat, Township Election Officer, explained matters related to the successful conduct of the election, election rallies, and campaigning.

Then, representatives from the attending political parties — namely the Union Solidarity and Development Party, the National Unity Party, the People’s Party, the National Interest Progress Party, independent representatives, and the Mon Unity Party — raised their questions, which were explained and discussed by the responsible officials. — IPRD/TH



NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Let’s Improve Our Life Expectancy

From page 9

❖ Promoting Healthy Life-styles

One of the most effective ways to improve life expectancy is by encouraging healthy lifestyles. This includes regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and avoiding harmful habits like smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and drug abuse. Physical activity strengthens the heart, reduces the risk of chronic diseases, and improves mental health. A nutritious diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins helps prevent obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Public education campaigns and school programs can play a vital role in spreading awareness about healthy choices.

❖ Access to Quality Health-

care

Access to affordable and quality healthcare is crucial for detecting and treating diseases early. Preventive care, such as vaccinations and regular health screenings, helps identify potential health issues before they become serious. Investments in healthcare infrastructure, training of medical professionals, and expanding health insurance coverage can ensure more people receive the care they need. Mental health services also need to be expanded, as psychological well-being is closely tied to physical health.

❖ Improving Sanitation and Clean Water

In many developing regions, life expectancy remains low due to poor sanitation and a lack of clean drinking water. Diseases like cholera, typhoid,

and dysentery still claim many lives. Improving water quality, waste disposal systems, and hygiene education can significantly reduce illness and increase life expectancy. Governments and international organizations must work together to invest in basic infrastructure in under-served areas.

❖ Reducing Poverty and Inequality

Social and economic factors also play a major role in life expectancy. People living in poverty often lack access to nutritious food, clean water, education, and healthcare. By reducing income inequality, improving education, and creating job opportunities, societies can give people the tools they need to live healthier, longer lives. Universal education and social protection programs can break

the cycle of poverty and poor health outcomes.

❖ Combating Environmental Pollution

Environmental factors such as air and water pollution have a direct impact on health and longevity. Exposure to polluted air, especially in urban areas, can lead to respiratory diseases and shorten life spans. Governments should enforce stricter environmental regulations, promote clean energy sources, and encourage sustainable practices. Individuals can also contribute by reducing waste, recycling, and supporting eco-friendly initiatives.

Moreover, improving life expectancy is a shared responsibility that involves individuals, communities, governments, and international bodies. By focusing on healthy

lifestyles, expanding health-care access, improving sanitation, reducing poverty, and protecting the environment, we can create a healthier world where people not only live longer but also enjoy a better quality of life. Small actions at both the personal and policy level can lead to big changes in the years to come.

In addition, improving life expectancy is not just about living longer; it’s about living better. By promoting healthy lifestyles, expanding access to healthcare, protecting the environment, and supporting education, we can build a future where more people enjoy long, fulfilling lives. Governments, communities, and individuals all have a role to play in making this vision a reality. Let us take the necessary steps today to ensure a healthier tomorrow.

Artist Kaung Sithu showcases diverse works in ‘Whispers of the Mind’ solo exhibit

THE solo art exhibition “Whispers of the Mind” is currently taking place at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region. The exhibition runs from 1 to 5 November, according to the gallery.

It features paintings by artist Kaung Sithu, created using various mediums including watercolour, oil, and acrylic. The works present diverse themes and styles for visitors to enjoy.

“Artistic Space Art Gallery is now showcasing the solo art

exhibition titled ‘Whispers of the Mind.’ This show presents a collection of different themes, categories, and painting styles by artist Kaung Sithu in one place. We respectfully invite everyone to come, view, and support the exhibition,” said a gallery representative.

The displayed paintings come in various sizes, such as 24x24 inches, 36x24 inches, 18x24 inches, and 18x18 inches. The exhibition is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. — ASH/KZL



Visitors enjoy artistic works at the “Whispers of the Mind” solo art exhibition.

Myanma Railways to launch online ticketing and payment system



This photo features trains operated by Myanma Railways.

MYANMA Railways is preparing to implement an Online Ticketing and Payment (ORTP) system, which will be piloted on passenger trains operating along the Yangon-Mandalay route to make ticket purchasing more convenient.

Passengers travelling on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay route on trains No 7 Up/8 Down, No 31 Up/ 32 Down DEMU, and No 27 Up /28 Down RBE can register by contacting the designated sta-

tion phone numbers for their desired route starting five days before the travel date.

At the time of registration, if a Myanma Railways official confirms that a seat is available for the passenger’s itinerary, the passenger may pay the ticket fare via Viber using any online payment method or MMQR code. After making the payment, the passenger must take a screenshot of the transaction and send it to the Viber account of the railway staff who handled the call. Once the

staff member receives proof of payment, the passenger will be provided with the train and seat number according to the itinerary.

In addition, passengers must arrive at the station one hour before departure, pay at the ticket booth, and present proof of identity to collect their train tickets. Travellers may also report any incidents of overcharging or illegal ticket sales by calling the designated Myanma Railways phone numbers. — ASH/TH

ECONOMY
WORLD

Meeting FY26 fiscal targets may be challenging amid weak tax growth: Union Bank of India

ACHIEVING the full-year Financial Year 2026 (FY26) fiscal targets appears challenging amid subdued growth in corporate and income tax revenues, according to a report by the Union Bank of India.

The reduced fiscal deficit target for FY26 was premised on strong tax collections, even as the government maintains its strong capital expenditure push to stimulate consumption and job creation.

“The reduced fiscal deficit target for FY26 was premised on strong tax collections, while the government continues its robust capex push—essential for stimulating consumption

and creating jobs. However, achieving the full-year FY26 fiscal math appears challenging amid subdued growth in corporate and income tax revenues,” the report added.

In April-September FY26, India’s fiscal deficit reached Rs5.73 lakh crore (37 per cent of Budgetary Estimate), a 21 per cent year-on-year increase from Rs4.75 lakh crore (30 per cent of RE) in the same period last year. The rise was primarily driven by higher capital expenditure in the first half of FY26, which outpaced revenue growth.

Total expenditure grew 9 per cent year-on-year, while re-



In April-September FY26, India’s fiscal deficit reached Rs5.73 lakh crore (37 per cent of Budgetary Estimate), a 21 per cent year-on-year increase from Rs4.75 lakh crore (30 per cent of RE) in the same period last year.

PHOTO: ANI

ceipts rose by a modest 5.7 per cent. The government remains

committed to reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.4 per cent of GDP in

FY26, down from 4.8 per cent in FY25. — ANI

Latin America weathered Trump tariffs better than feared: regional bank chief



Well-established trade networks helped Latin America mitigate the impact of US President Donald Trump’s tariffs, CAF president Sergio Diaz-Granados says. PHOTO: AFP

THE impact of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump “has been less than expected” in Latin America, the head of the region’s development bank told AFP in an interview.

US customs duties, imposed under President Trump to counter perceived unfair trade practices, have impacted dozens of global economies by raising export costs to the world’s largest market.

Economists warned of potential slowdowns in global

trade, but Sergio Diaz-Granados of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean noted the effects have been milder than anticipated, thanks to established trade networks and quick adaptations.

Latin America’s proximity, cultural ties (e.g., Hispanic communities), and US investments provided comparative advantages. Direct negotiations with Washington further mitigated the tariffs, leading to clearer outlooks with adjusted

supply chains.

The region is projected to grow at 3.2 per cent in 2026, 0.3 points below the global average. Mexico is recovering its export pace, benefiting Central and northern South America.

However, low investment, weak productivity, and insecurity have kept growth below par for a decade. Diaz-Granados stressed the need for over four per cent growth to address poverty and inequality gaps. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

PM Modi champions Africa’s ‘development without dependency’ ahead of G20 Summit

WITH South Africa gearing up to host the G20 Leaders’ Summit in November, the theme of “development without dependency” has emerged as a defining pillar for Africa’s economic resurgence and equitable global partnerships — a vision championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who advocates self-reliant, mutually beneficial cooperation between India and Africa.

In an opinion piece published on IOL, one of South Africa’s leading news platforms, academic and international relations observer Nereshnee Govender writes that PM Modi’s approach draws on shared histories of resistance and aspirations for equitable development.

During his 2018 address to the Ugandan Parliament, the Prime Minister outlined his “Ten Guiding Principles for India-Africa Engagement”, framing a partnership rooted in respect for Africa’s priorities and a rejection of neo-colonial patterns of aid and influence, states Govender in IOL. — ANI

Carney promises bold budget as US threat grows

CANADA’S new Liberal government has unveiled its first budget, with Prime Minister Mark Carney saying “bold risks” are needed to reform an economy facing unprecedented economic threats from the United States.

US President Donald Trump’s trade policies have hit Canada hard, driving up unemployment and squeezing businesses in crucial tariff-hit sectors like autos, aluminum, and steel.

Carney, a former central banker who only entered politics in January, has warned Canadians that the Trump-era disruptions in US-Canada relations are not a passing phase. — AFP

Russia ready to include Ningbo Port in trade expansion plans with China

The Ningbo-Zhoushan port is the largest in the world in terms of cargo turnover and the largest in China in implementing smart logistics management technologies.

RUSSIA is ready to include the Chinese port of Ningbo in initiatives aimed at expanding trade with China, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko said on Sunday.

Chernyshenko is visiting China. In the Chinese city of Ningbo, he visited the Ningbo-Zhoushan

port, which is the largest in the world in terms of cargo turnover and the largest in China in implementing smart logistics management technologies.

“We are focused on practical cooperation and specific results. We are ready to include the port of Ningbo in strategic initiatives



The Ningbo-Zhoushan Port pictured on 15 August 2021, in east China's Zhejiang province. **PHOTO: SUO XIANGLU/XINHUA**

to expand trade between China and Russia, to diversify export routes, including the Northern

Sea Route,” Chernyshenko said. The deputy prime minister added that the development of the

Northern Sea Route is a promising direction for cooperation. — SPUTNIK

Japan auto mechanic job availability up on low birthrate

THE ratio of job openings to job seekers for auto mechanics and technicians in Japan eclipsed 5.00 in fiscal 2024, far greater than the overall 1.14, as the country's birthrate continues to fall.

The ratio rose by 0.10 point to 5.09 compared to the previous year, recent government data showed. It means there were 509 job openings for every 100 job seekers.



Photo shows cars being driven in Kochi, western Japan, on 15 October 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The labour shortage in the industry has raised concerns over its potential adverse impact on automobile safety, with its tough working environment and low pay also believed to be contributing factors.

According to the data from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the ratio has been

on the rise since hitting 4.50 in financial 2020, when it began taking records.

The number of automotive service businesses that closed, were disbanded or went bankrupt climbed to a record high

of 455 in financial 2024 due to a chronic labour shortage, with some companies forced to delay deliveries or limit the number of units on order, according to Teikoku Databank Ltd. — Kyodo

Chinese, Saudi business leaders eye deeper tech, infrastructure cooperation

CHINESE and Saudi business leaders have voiced strong confidence in the prospects of bilateral cooperation, with the digital technology wave accelerating joint ventures across sectors from

logistics to sustainable energy.

China's comprehensive supply chain and large-scale management capabilities give Chinese companies a core advantage in the global

artificial intelligence ecosystem, Senior Vice President and CFO of Lenovo Group Winston Cheng said during the recently-held 9th Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh. — Xinhua

Two-wheeler sales to outpace passenger vehicles on festive and rural boost

TWO-WHEELER sales to outpace passenger vehicles on festive and rural boostTwo-wheeler sales are set to outpace passenger vehicles for the remainder of the year, driven by strong festive demand, improved rural sentiment, and selective discounts.

A sectoral update by Philip-Capital noted that discounts in the two-wheeler segment are very selective, while passenger vehicle discounts are gradually declining.

The report added that the rural demand picked up in the last week of Diwali, as farmers received payments from mandis, coinciding with the wedding season, further boosting sales.

“Looking at the strong impetus, two-wheeler growth is likely to outperform passenger-vehicles in balance part of the year,” the report added. Inventory levels remain low to moderate, reflecting robust wholesale momentum in November. — ANI



Two-wheeler sales to outpace passenger vehicles on festive and rural boostTwo-wheeler sales are set to outpace passenger vehicles for the remainder of the year, driven by strong festive demand, improved rural sentiment, and selective discounts. **PHOTO: AFP**

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russian and US officials hold informal talks at APEC Summit in South Korea

At the APEC leaders' meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk engaged in a brief, informal conversation with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.



This year, delegations from all participating states were present at the summit in Gyeongju, as well as invited leaders – the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/APEC.ORG**

RUSSIAN Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk had an informal conversation with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent during the APEC leaders' meeting in the South Korean city of Gyeongju, according to video broadcasts of the summit events.

Overchuk headed the Russian delegation at the summit, and Bessent headed the US delegation. The broadcast showed the conversation, which took place on Saturday, lasted only a few minutes, and was conducted without an interpreter.

The central event of the APEC summit week – the leaders' summit – began on Friday in South Korea and lasted through Saturday. This year, delegations from all participating states were present at the summit in Gyeongju, as well as invited leaders – the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates. — SPUTNIK

Friday in South Korea and lasted through Saturday. This year, delegations from all participating states were present at the summit in Gyeongju, as well as invited leaders – the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates. — SPUTNIK

US Joint Chiefs Chairman visits Israel

US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Dan Caine visited Israel over the weekend and held discussions with Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir on the situation in Gaza and other regional issues.

In a post on X by the IDF, "The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US Armed Forces, General Dan Caine, visited Israel over the weekend as the official guest of the Chief of the General Staff, LTG Eyal Zamir."

The post further read, "During the visit, the General and the Chief of the General Staff held a joint situational assessment, during which they discussed regional challenges – focusing primarily on the situation in Gaza and future challenges in both nearby and distant arenas."

On 29 October Israel Defence Forces carried out air strikes, killing nine people in Gaza, following an alleged violation of the US-brokered ceasefire deal by Hamas, CNN reported. — ANI

Supermarket explosion kills at least 23 in Mexico

A supermarket explosion killed at least 23 people in northern Mexico on Saturday, according to local officials, with investigators saying the blast was an accident possibly caused by a faulty electric transformer.

"Sadly a number of the victims we've found were minors," Alfonso Durazo, governor of Sonora state, said in a video message as he announced the toll of 23 dead and another 11 injured.

Durazo said the survivors were being treated at hospitals in the city of Hermosillo, where the explosion took place. "I have ordered an extensive and transparent investigation to determine the causes of the incident and figure out those responsible," he said.

The prosecutor's office said in a statement that "the working assumption is that the incident was accidental, and the investigation is looking into a transformer located inside the store." — AFP

US not sending any high-level officials to COP30

THE United States will not send any top officials to the COP30 climate talks in Brazil later this month, a White House official said Saturday, as President Donald Trump instead works to boost fossil fuels.

Trump, who withdrew from the Paris climate agreement for a second time upon his return to the White House in January, had not been expected to attend a leaders' summit ahead of the annual UN climate conference in Belém.

But it now appears he will not dispatch any top negotiators to the talks, to be held



from 10 to 21 November, either.

"The US is not sending any high level representatives to COP30," a White House official said on condition of anonymity.

"The president is directly engaging with leaders around the world on energy issues, which you can see from the historic trade deals and peace deals that all have a significant focus on energy partnerships." — AFP

The United States has confirmed it will not send any top-level officials to the COP30 climate talks in Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

New generation Lethwei Championship semifinals held

THE Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation supervised semifinals of the New Generation Lethwei Championship, organized by the Myanmar Traditional Tawwin Ayeya Lethwei Club. The event took place at 1 pm yesterday at Theinbyu Traditional Lethwei Arena in Yangon.

In the 55 kilogramme class, Shine Htet Oo (Lethwei WARRIORS) faced Sup Rain Aung (MAD). Sup Rain Aung requested a timeout in the first round due to a kicking strike, and Shine Htet Oo secured a knockout in that round. Meanwhile, Saw Ruby (YMA) also knocked out Nyla (Tawwin Ayeya) in the first round.

In the 60 kilogramme class, Aung Ko Oo (MFC) landed multiple punch combinations against

Toe Lon (MK1), resulting in two referee counts in the first round. Toe Lon fought on bravely until the end of the third round, but Aung Ko Oo won on points. Kyaw Gyi (Tawwin Ayeya) and Key Paing (MK1) traded heavy blows, yet the decision went to Kyaw Gyi on points.

In 75 kilogramme class, in the bout between Shan Hsone (DOJO9 Club) and Nyi Htet (Wan Wan Club), Shan Hsone suffered an injury from a kick in the first round, and Nyi Htet was declared the winner by a doctor's decision. In the contest between Khant Si Nay Win (Tawwin Ayeya) and Aubrey (MK1), the fight went the full three rounds, and Khant Si Nay Win won on points.

New generation double-rope bouts also took place and were crowd-pleasing matches. In the championship bouts, Shine



Khant Si Nay Win (Tawwin Ayeya) and Aubrey (MK1) compete in the men's 75 kilogramme semifinal at the New Generation Lethwei Championship in Yangon yesterday.

Htet Oo (Lethwei WARRIORS) will meet Saw Ruby in the 55 kilogramme class, Aung Ko Oo (MFC) will face Kyaw Gyi (Tawwin Ayeya) in the sixty-kilogramme class, and Nyi Htet (Wan Wan Club) will take on Khant Si Nay Win in the 75 kilogramme class. The championship finals will be held at 1 pm on 7 December. — Arkar Lin/KZL

First-ever cross-boundary torch relay held for China's National Games



This photo taken on 2 November 2025 shows the launching ceremony of the torch relay for China's 15th National Games in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S National Games celebrated a milestone on Sunday as its first cross-boundary torch relay is held simultaneously in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, with one week before

the Games opens.

Following the launch ceremony in the southern coastal city of Shenzhen, the torch relay started in Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen - four

key cities of the Greater Bay Area.

200 torchbearers from all walks of life will carry the flame, including physicist Xue Qikun and former Olympic diving champion Yang Jinghui.

The "source flame" was extracted and ignited from combustible ice lying more than 1,500 meters beneath the surface of the South China Sea in September.

Following the relay, the torch flames from the four cities will converge in Guangzhou later on Sunday, at Guangdong Olympic Sports Centre to be merged into a single flame, which will light the main cauldron at the opening ceremony of the 15th National Games on 9 November. — Xinhua

Pereira sacked as Wolves head coach after winless Premier League start

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers dismissed head coach Vitor Pereira on Sunday after a ten-game winless streak in the Premier League so far this season.

Saturday's 3-0 defeat to Fulham marked Wolves' eighth league loss of the campaign, leaving the Midlands outfit bottom of the table, eight points adrift of safety.

"Upon his arrival at Mo-

lineux last December, Pereira and his coaches made an immediate impact, guiding the team to a successful second half of the Premier League campaign," the club said in a statement released on Sunday. "However, results and performances this term have fallen below acceptable standards, and as a result a change in leadership was deemed necessary," the statement added. — Xinhua



Wolverhampton Wanderers dismissed head coach Vitor Pereira on Sunday after a ten-game winless streak in the Premier League so far this season. **PHOTO: DARREN STAPLES / AFP**

Spanish cyclist Lazkano protests innocence after doping ban

SPANISH cyclist Oier Lazkano insists that he is innocent of doping in a communique issued in the wake of the provisional ban he was given on Thursday by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) for alleged irregularities in his Athlete Biological Passport.

The 25-year-old former road race champion has also been provisionally suspended by his Red Bull-Bora-Hansgrohe team, although the irregularities date from when he was riding with the Spanish Movistar team between 2022 and 2024.

Lazkano responded to the allegations on Sunday with a statement in which he explained that "on 30 October 2025, I received official notification from the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). I want to make something absolutely clear: I have never used doping substances or prohibited methods". "I have always respected the rules of cycling and the fundamental values of clean sport. My career, built with effort and dedication, is based on honesty, integrity, and daily work". — Xinhua



China, Russia to deepen practical cooperation in humanities cooperation

Various activities under the framework of the China-Russia Year of Culture were brilliant and achieved complete success, pushing humanities cooperation to a new height.

CHINESE State Councilor Shen Yiqin and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova co-chaired the 26th session of the China-Russia Committee on Humanities Cooperation in Beijing on Saturday, pledging to deepen practical cooperation in various fields of humanities.

Shen, also the Chinese chairperson of the China-Russia Committee on Humanities Cooperation, said that since the 25th session last year, both sides have efficiently implemented the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, continuously deepened humanities cooperation, and organized a series of thematic activities that resonated emotionally with the peoples of the two countries.

Various activities under the framework of the China-Russia Year of Culture were brilliant and achieved complete success, pushing humanities cooperation to a new height, Shen said, adding that the year 2026 marks the beginning



Chinese State Councilor Shen Yiqin and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova co-chair the 26th session of the China-Russia Committee on Humanities Cooperation in Beijing, capital of China, 1 November 2025. **PHOTO: YIN BOGU/XINHUA**

of China's 15th Five-Year Plan, and the next five years will provide more new opportunities for China-Russia humanities cooperation.

Shen called on the two sides to deepen practical cooperation in various fields of humanities, comprehensively improve the effectiveness of cooperation, and make new contributions to further promoting the development of China-Russia bilateral relations and lasting friendship between the two countries. — Xinhua

Egypt unveils world's largest museum dedicated to single civilization at grand ceremony



This photo taken on 1 November 2025 shows a drone and light show during the inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Giza, Egypt. **PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA**

AFTER two decades of construction, Egypt on Saturday inaugurated the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) — the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization — during a grand ceremony held near the pyramids and the Sphinx, marking a landmark cultural event for the country renowned for its rich heritage.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi officially inaugurated the colossal museum complex on the Giza Plateau in a ceremony attended by 79 delegations from around the world, including heads of state, members of royal families, and government officials.

In his speech, al-Sisi hailed the opening of the museum as “a living testament to the genius of the Egyptian people.”

“The Egyptian people were and still are builders of civilizations, creators of glory, and messengers of peace,” he said, describing the opening of the GEM as “writing a new chapter in the history of the present and the future.”

According to the Egyptian president, the GEM is the largest museum in the world dedicated to a single civilization — the civilization of Egypt. — Xinhua

Brunei tourism players push for digital transformation

BRUNEI hoteliers, travel agents, event management companies, and service providers took part in a digitalization networking session recently aimed at strengthening digital transformation in the country's tourism sector.

Salinah Mohd Salleh, acting director of Brunei's Tourism Development Department, emphasized that digitalization is now a necessity to enhance competitiveness and attract more tourists.

She expressed hope that the session would inspire participants to strengthen innovation and digital adoption within the tourism industry.

The event focused on providing participants with opportunities to introduce their services, identify industry challenges and needs, and explore the potential of digital technology in advancing Brunei's tourism landscape.

— Xinhua