

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

President Congratulates Myanmar's Pawsan Rice on Winning World's Best Rice Award

I am especially delighted and proud that Myanmar's high-quality Pawsan rice has once again won the World's Best Rice Award for the second time at the International World Rice Conference 2026, held in Manila, the Philippines.

Winning such a prestigious international award is a remarkable achievement that recognizes Myanmar rice's quality, aroma, flavour and outstanding characteristics on the world stage, in keeping with the saying, "A New Era for Myanmar Pawsan Rice". It also enhances Myanmar's international reputation and national pride.

This achievement is also the fruit of Myanmar's agricultural development, the hard work and dedication of farmers, and the perseverance of all those involved throughout the rice production and supply chain. I believe that further improving the quality of Myanmar rice, expanding access to international markets and increasing the production of value-added rice products will make greater contributions to the country's economic development and improve the socioeconomic well-being of farmers.

I would like to extend my special congratulations and commendation to all farmers, rice producers, rice millers, traders, exporters and relevant organizations in Myanmar's rice sector for achieving this proud and remarkable success.

I wish Myanmar's Pawsan rice continued success in maintaining and enhancing its world-class reputation, securing a stronger foothold for Myanmar's agricultural products in global markets, and contributing further to the country's economic development.

President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

61st Myanma Gems Emporium commences

The 61st Myanma Gems Emporium will offer 700 pearl lots, 160 gemstone lots and 3,073 jade lots for sale to local and foreign gem merchants.



President U Min Aung Hlaing views around the 61th Myanma Gems Emporium at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the opening ceremony of the 61st Myanma Gems Emporium at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The President and dignitaries watched a documentary video clip on the production process of jewellery products and the preparations to hold the 61st emporium.

The President and party reviewed jade, gems and pearl lots to be sold at the emporium displayed at Maniradana Jade Hall and gave necessary guidance to officials.

SEE PAGE 3

Magway Airport operates weekly domestic flights

DOMESTIC flights have been provided at Magway Airport in Magway Region two days a week regularly, according to flight organizers. The domestic flights available at Magway Airport are: Magway-Yangon, Magway-Nay Pyi Taw, Magway-Mandalay and Magway-Heho.



An aircraft ready to take off at Magway Airport.

According to the flight schedules, the Yangon-Magway flight runs on Mondays, the Magway-Yangon flight runs on Thursdays, the Magway-Heho flight runs on

are on Mondays.

By requesting inquiries in advance to airline officials about the flight date, departure time and ticket availability, passengers are advised to plan their journeys to be smooth.

Providing domestic flights on a regular basis is aimed at offering an efficient travel experience for passengers from other regions and states as well as for residents. — TWA/ZS



Salon for special screening: Once Upon a Time in the Middle East

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 69/2026

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
9 October 2026

Retirement Granted from Union Minister Duties

PURSUANT to Section 235(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khine Win has been permitted to retire from duty.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 70/2026

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
9 October 2026

Reassignment of Union Minister

PURSUANT to Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win has been reassigned as Union Minister for Health.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 71/2026

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
9 October 2026

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Judges for Union Supreme Court

PURSUANT to Section 299 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Clause (vi) of Subsection (b) of Section 16 of the Union Government Law and Section 25 of the Union Judiciary Law, the following individuals have been appointed and assigned duties as Judges for the Supreme Court of the Union: -

1. Dr Myo Win Aung
2. U Saw Myo Myo

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 72/2026

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
9 October 2026

Retirement Permitted from Deputy Ministers' Duties

PURSUANT to the provisions of Section 235 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the following Deputy Ministers have been granted permission to retire from duty: -

1. Dr Zaw Myint Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
2. Dr Aye Tun Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 73/2026

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
9 October 2026

Retirement Granted from Deputy Governor Duties of Central Bank of Myanmar

PURSUANT to the provisions of Section 16 (c) of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Zaw Myint Naing has been permitted to retire from duty.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

(a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people
(b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation
(c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts
(d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

61st Myanma Gems Emporium 2026 enters Day 2

THE second day of the 61st Myanma Gems Emporium 2026 continued yesterday morning at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, which was crowded with local and foreign gem traders.

From the morning, local and foreign gem traders examined pearl lots, jade, gemstone lots and jade lots displayed in designated areas outside the hall. Traders inspected the pearl lots offered for sale at the Emporium and submitted their bids in the

designated tender boxes. In the afternoon, officials opened and examined the bids submitted for pearl lots numbered 1 to 240 and announced that 205 lots had been sold.

On the third day of the exhibition, pearl lots numbered 241 to 460 will be offered to local and foreign gem traders through an open tender system.

The exhibition is being held from 8 to 17 October, with 700 pearl lots offered from 9 to 11 October, 160 gemstone

lots from 12 October, and 3,073 jade lots, divided into three groups (A, B and C), offered from 13 to 17 October.

The 3,073 jade lots have been divided into three groups (A, B and C) to encourage and promote micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), taking into account factors such as jade quality and opportunities to enter domestic and foreign markets.

Foreign gem traders may purchase all gem-



Gem merchants evaluate the exhibits at the 61th Myanma Gems and Jewellery Expo 2026.

stone sets except Group C jade lots. They may make payments in US dollars, euros, Chinese yuan, Thai baht and other foreign currencies accepted by the Central Bank of Myanmar. Local gem traders may pay in Myanmar kyat for pearl lots, gemstone lots and Group B and C jade lots, while foreign currency must be used to pur-

chase Group A jade lots.

The Emporium is being held successfully to generate benefits for the State and its citizens. Measures are also being systematically implemented to manage precious gemstone resources sustainably and preserve the natural beauty of Myanmar for future generations. — MNA/MKKS

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

61st Myanma Gems Emporium commences

FROM PAGE 1

The President viewed the sale of products at private gems and jewellery ornament shops and observed the display of uncut jade lots outside the jade hall.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, departmental officials, officials from the Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, local and foreign gem merchants and

guests.

To generate foreign exchange earnings for the State and provide economic benefits for citizens, the Myanma Gems Emporium, which sells gems and jewellery, has been held since 1964. At the current emporium, reserve floor prices for pearl lots are set

in US dollars. Foreign gem merchants may make payments in US dollars, Chinese yuan, or Thai baht, while local merchants must pay in Myanmar kyats. For gemstone and jade lots, reserve floor prices are set in euros. Foreign gem merchants may pay in US dollars, euros, Chinese yuan,

or Thai baht, whereas local merchants must pay in Myanmar kyats. The minimum base price is set at US\$1,000 for pearl lots, 500 euros for gemstone lots, US\$1,000 for finished jade lots, and US\$5,000 for uncut jade lots.

A total of 700 pearl lots, 160 gemstone lots and 3,073 jade lots will be sold to lo-

cal and foreign gem merchants through the open tender system under the prescribed rules and regulations. Private gems and jewellery ornament showrooms are open at the Maniyadana Jade Hall. The 61st Myanma Gems Emporium will last till 17 October. —

MNA/TTA

Myanmar's Pawsan Rice Wins World Best Rice Award 2026

MYANMAR'S Pawsan rice has won the World's Best Rice Award at the International World Rice Conference 2026, organized by the US-based International Commodity Institute, The Rice Trader in Manila, the Philippines. The conference featured various international rice varieties and a rice quality competition. Myanmar's Pawsan rice previously won the World's Best Rice Award at the International Rice Conference, rice exhibition and competition held in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, in 2011. This is the second time that Myanmar's Pawsan rice has received the World Best Rice Award. In line with the slogan, "A New Era for Myanmar's Pawsan Rice", this international recognition is a great achievement. Special thanks are extended to the Government, ministries, Pawsan rice farmers, agricultural experts, researchers, rice millers, traders, companies and all those who have worked together



President U Ye Min Aung (centre right) of the Myanmar Rice Federation receives the award.

to achieve this success. Their continued cooperation and efforts are highly appreciated.

A total of 55 delegates, including a government-private sector export promotion delegation from the Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Rice Federation, along with rice-exporting companies, attended the International Rice Conference and related discussions and ex-

hibitions held in Manila, the Philippines, from 7 to 10 October 2026. U Ye Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Rice Federation, participated in a discussion under the title "Myanmar Rice Outlook 2026" and Myanmar's rice exhibition booth was also set up at the event. During the visit, discussions were held on increasing rice exports to the Philippines, Malaysia and African countries. Par-

ticipating companies also held negotiations to secure sales contracts. In accordance with the guidance of the government, the Myanmar Rice Federation is working to achieve the export target of three million tonnes of high-quality agricultural rice products in the 2026-2027 financial year. The Federation is making efforts through the private sector to meet and exceed this target. — MNA/KTZH

Soe San Private High School visits Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi receives teachers and students from the private high school.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met teachers and students from Soe San Private High School in Nay Pyi Taw, led by school head Daw Wah Wah Myint, at the Hluttaw Building yesterday afternoon.

U Khin Yi explained the structure and main responsibilities of the Hluttaw, including legislation, representation of the public and coordination with the executive and judicial branches. He also discussed the electoral process, the qualifications and duties of Hluttaw representatives, and the roles of Hluttaw committees. Teachers and students raised questions about current parliamentary affairs and the Hluttaw's role in serving the State and the public. The Speaker and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Information Team provided detailed answers. The students then participated in a Mock Parliament training programme at the Training Hall of Hluttaw Building B.

Also attending the meeting were Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, committee chairpersons, members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Information Team and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA/MKKS



This photo shows the venue for the special screening organized by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

Salon for special screening: Once Upon a Time ...

FROM PAGE 1

THE salon for the special screening of the Chinese film "Once Upon a Time in the Middle East (Welcome to the Dragon Restaurant)" was held at Junction City in Yangon on 7 October, under the organization of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

The film tells the story of Xu Fu, a chef from northeastern China who opens a Chinese restaurant in the Middle East to pay off his debts.

"The film has a good purpose. The scenes are filmed naturally, and the presentation, sound, cinematography and acting are good. The camera movements are also excellent," said academy director Pachi Soe Moe.

More than 300 people attended the screening, including representatives from the Myanmar-China Friendship Association, the Myanmar Motion Pictures Business Cooperation and Association, Myanmar

Writers' Association, Myanmar Tea Association, China-Myanmar Development Association and the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon). Students from the No 1 Basic Education High School, No 2 BEHS Latha, No 14 BEHS Hlinethaya and No 4 BEHS Ahlon also attended the event.

The film will be screened at Cinema 5J Cineplex at Junction City, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay until 15 October. — Bala/KTZH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Focuses on Public Welfare, Agricultural Support, and UNESCO Bids for Traditional Heritage

THE 14th-day meeting of the third regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw took place at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The parliamentary session was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and Hluttaw representatives. During the proceedings, MPs raised 11 starred questions answered by relevant deputy ministers, followed by deliberations on a motion concerning national cultural heritage.

Addressing an inquiry regarding cost-of-living and hardship allowances for civil servants stationed



The 14th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session in progress yesterday presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

in remote regions, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu explained that regional assessment committees sys-

tematically review eligible locations using 11 benchmark criteria, including transport links, commodity prices, public healthcare,

local security, and climatic conditions. While assessments are submitted to the Union Government to adjust allowances where

warranted, the government currently has no scheme to match allowances to full basic salaries. In response to additional questions, he detailed urban zoning measures for fire-affected quarters in Kawkaeik, outlined constitutional steps required to officially register rural villages in Thazi and Lahe townships, and noted that planned police housing projects in Myinmu Township will proceed once local security conditions permit.

Responding to an inquiry regarding staff appointments and organizational setups for the regional diagnostic labo-

ratory in Dawei, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tun Win stated that the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department operates dedicated diagnostic, control, and assay laboratories nationwide for animal disease surveillance and food safety. He affirmed that the Dawei facility is currently adequately staffed by an appointed laboratory technician (at the rank equivalent to deputy assistant supervisor) under Union-level supervision, fulfilling regional diagnostic requirements.

SEE PAGE 5

NSPNC meets SNUC for national unity and peacebuilding

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Shanni (Tai Leng, Tai Lai) National Unity Council (SNUC) was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, following the SNUC's expressed desire to participate in discussions on national unity and peacebuilding.

The meeting was attended by NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing and committee members, along with a delegation from the SNUC led by

Chairman Sao Say Khun Aung. The delegation also included Vice-Chairman 1 Sao Say Sai Kam, Secretary Sao Say Sai Htoo, Central Committee members Sao Say Aung Tun and Sao Say Kawng Seng, and Joint Secretary Sao Say Wam Hfa.

During the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said that it was the second official meeting with the SNUC in Nay Pyi Taw. He highlighted the need to eliminate local terrorist groups and ensure regional stability, peace and development. He noted that some armed groups pursued commercial inter-

ests to gain control of local natural resources. He reaffirmed that the political aspirations of ethnic groups would be discussed in accordance with existing laws.

He also emphasized that ordinary citizens, including women and children, were suffering in conflict-affected areas and represented the human resources essential to the nation's future. He added that the government was undertaking projects to develop roads, bridges and other infrastructure in the Shanni region, stressing that adequate infrastructure was essential

to improving livelihoods and access to education and healthcare. As the SNUC/SNA was a peace partner, he encouraged its representatives to openly present and discuss their needs.

SNUC Chair Sao Say Khun Aung said that the SNUC/SNA was cooperating with the State to promote regional stability and development. He expressed his pleasure and honour at being allowed to participate in peacebuilding efforts for national unity. He also sought guidance on addressing the organization's weaknesses and expressed his desire to



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Shanni (Tai Leng, Tai Lai) National Unity Council (SNUC) meet in Nay Pyi Taw.

continue cooperating with the government.

The attendees subsequently discussed regional peace, stability and development, reviewed the fourth official round of discussions with the NSPNC, examined and approved the draft "Commitment to Cooperate for Peace", and addressed healthcare and education needs, as well as socioeconomic development through formal trade and production activities.

The NSPNC then explained in detail the procedures for submitting matters to Parliament in accordance with the Constitution. The issues discussed included official political recognition of the SNUC, military coordination, the historical distribution of the Shanni population, the designation of ethnicity on national identity cards and recognition of the region.

SEE PAGE 5

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

HLUTTAW

Questions Answered During Amyotha Hluttaw Debates

AMYOTHA Hluttaw representatives raised questions on repairing the damaged monasteries and nunneries, issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards, and the supply of electricity at the eighth-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw at its building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

MP U Win Tint from the Sagaing Region Constituency 4 asked about the plans to repair monasteries and nunneries damaged in the earthquake in Sagaing Region. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Lin Aung responded that a total of 220 prefabricated houses donated by the People’s Republic of China were installed at 110 monasteries and 97 nunneries. The work began on 21 May 2026 and was completed at the respective religious institutions by 24 July 2026. Therefore, the damaged buildings of monasteries and nunneries in Sagaing Township that were affected by the earthquake cannot be repaired at present. Such repairs can only be carried out when donors come forward to provide donations to the respective



The Third Amyotha Hluttaw’s third regular session enters its eighth-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

religious institutions.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Lin Zaw Tun replied to the queries raised by MP Daw Aye Chan Mon from the Mon State Constituency 6, saying that the issuance of household lists and Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to temporarily displaced persons, including replacement of lost or damaged documents, exchange of cards and issuance of duplicate copies, was carried out nationwide in regions and states from 16 February 2024 to 16 August 2026. During the 100-Day Plan, CSC was issued to individuals aged 18 and above at township immigration offices. Under the “La Min” Project, CSC was issued to students

above 10 at basic education middle and high schools. The “La Min” Project was implemented at township immigration offices to provide household registration and CSCs to individuals who had reached the ages of 10 and 18, as well as to those whose cards had been lost or damaged. From 20 April 2026 to 16 August 2026, a total of 1,017,963 CSCs were issued, and Unique Identity (UID) data were collected from 1,143,794 people.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw answered the questions raised by MP Daw Marlar Hsan from the Shan State Constituency 2, MP Saw Myat Htut Win (aka) Ko Sweet from the Kayin State Constitu-

ency 9, MP U Aung Kyaw Min from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 4 and MP Dr Kyaw Tun from the Shan State Constituency 6. He explained that the construction of an 11 kV power line, an 11/0.4 kV transformer and a 400-volt power line will be included in the annual allocations under the Shan State Government’s capital expenditure budget, starting from the 2027-2028 financial year to provide electricity to Nyaungpinwaing, Pyintha and Shwe Putho villages in Pindaya Township, Shan State (South).

He explained that the feasibility of implementing the Hatgyi Hydropower Project planned to be implemented on the Thanlwin

River between Hlaingbwe and Papun townships can only be determined after access to the project site becomes possible, field investigations are resumed, and a feasibility study report is submitted.

The deputy minister responded that the construction of the 22.3-mile-long 66 kV Kyaiklat–Maubin power line using 12-metre concrete H-pole suspension-type structures and ACSR 477 MCM conductors is being carried out with Union funds, with allocations of K 784.600 million for the 2025-2026 FY and K 421.528 million for the 2026-2027 FY. The construction of the 66 kV Maubin Substation will be included in subsequent plans starting from the 2028-2029 FY, subject to the availability of funding approved under the Union Budget.

He revealed that to enable electricity transmission and distribution to Mongphyat Township and surrounding areas, the project to construct a 40-mile-long 66 kV Kengtung-Mongphyat power line and a 66/11 kV, 10 MVA Mongphyat Substation will be included in the Union Budget allocation

for the 2027-2028 FY.

In accord with the approval of the Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that the Myanmar-Korea Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association will be established.

The Hluttaw approved the renaming of the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

Lawmakers discussed the MSME Development and Protection Bill. The Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee will re-hear the discussions of lawmakers for the bill.

MP Daw Zin Pa Pa Oo from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 11, who is a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read out the report of the bill committee for the Fourth Amendment to the Political Parties Registration Rules. The Speaker announced that the Hluttaw representatives may register with the director-general of the Amyotha Hluttaw office to discuss the rules.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its eighth-day meeting on 12 October. — MNA/TTA

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Focuses on Public ...

FROM PAGE 4

On questions related to agricultural progress, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun clarified the procedures for transferring Farmland Form 7 land-use certificates to legal heirs, emphasizing that streamlined processing at township land records offices enables farmers to access agricultural loans without undue delays. The ministry is also actively assisting Ayeyawady farmers through coordinated pest-control awareness campaigns to mitigate golden apple snail infestations in seasonal

paddy fields.

Furthermore, the deputy minister outlined broad policy initiatives supporting agrarian communities, such as commercial tax exemptions on critical agricultural machinery, fertilizers, and farm inputs under the Union Tax Law. The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank continues to disburse timely seasonal and developmental loans, while the ministry, in partnership with the Myanmar Rice Federation, is implementing designated specialized export zones backed by national economic development funds

to guarantee market stability for growers.

Later in the sitting, lawmakers debated a motion tabled by Dr Shwe Pyi Soe from the Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Constituency, calling on the state to seek UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status for Myanmar’s communal delicacy Htamane and the century-old Lunyagyaw weaving craft. Representatives from Amarapura, Kehsi, Chanayethazan, Thabeikkyin, Insein, and Kyaukpadaung constituencies supported the motion, underlining the importance of

systematic documentation, generational succession, cultural tourism benefits, and global safeguarding frameworks.

Deputy Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Aye Tun affirmed that preparations are well underway to complete the national nomination dossier for Htamane culture by 31 March 2027 and the Lunyagyaw weaving craft by 31 March 2028.

The Pyithu Hluttaw decided to place the motion on formal record for progress monitoring, before adjourning until 12 October. — MNA/ST

NSPNC meets SNUC for national ...

FROM PAGE 4

Following the discussions, representatives of both sides signed the agreed “Commitment to Cooperate for Peace” and exchanged the signed documents.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing explained that work was already underway on education, healthcare and regional development initiatives raised during peace talks with the SNUC. He noted that participation in Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) ceremonies, workshops and peace talks demonstrated active cooperation in support of peace.

Both sides subsequently coordinated the documentation of the meeting’s outcomes and signed the official record to confirm their agreement.

Sao Say Khun Aung, Chairman of the SNUC, expressed his thanks, while NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered the closing remarks. The meeting concluded with an exchange of commemorative gifts and a group photograph. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Myanmar marks 152nd World Post Day

THE ceremony marking the 152nd anniversary of World Post Day was held at the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. It was attended by Union Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, deputy ministers, guests and award-winning students.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo said that 9 October was designated as World Post Day to commemorate the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and recognise the contributions of postal organizations, service providers and workers worldwide.

This year's World Post Day theme, "ONE POSTAL NETWORK, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES", highlights the role of postal services in connecting people, providing essential services



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo speaks on the occasion of World Post Day's 152nd anniversary.

and creating new opportunities worldwide.

In line with its vision, "Myanmar Post for Everyone", Myanmar Post has been upgrading its postal network through technology, expanding its operations and introducing new services. The union minister urged officials to make greater efforts to provide quality services that benefit the country and its people by making effective use of the nationwide network of more than 800 post offices.

He also stressed that the effective use of digital technologies and the modernisation of postal services would help the sector keep pace with changing times and connect more effec-

tively with international markets.

The union minister urged the Posts and Telecommunications Department, which oversees the postal sector, Myanmar Post and other postal service providers to closely monitor the development strategies and agreements adopted at the 28th Universal Postal Congress, as well as international developments and technological advances in the postal sector; and continue working to develop Myanmar's postal services.

A video message for World Post Day 2026 from the Director-General of the UPU headquarters in Switzerland was then screened, along with commemorative

videos.

The Union minister presented awards to the winners of the national-level 55th International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People, which is open to participants aged nine to 15. The first prize went to Ma Pyone Thet Paing Htun from Sittway, Rakhine State; the second prize to Ma Su Myat Nadi from Pynmana, Nay Pyi Taw; the third prize to Ma Phyio Yadanar Zaw from Paungde Township, Bago Region; and the special prize to Ma Aye Ya Mon Thwe from Mawlamyine, Mon State.

Deputy Minister U Thet Win Aung presented certificates of honour to the members of the competition's judging panel.

After the ceremony, the Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials viewed an exhibition featuring commemorative photographs, publications and postal equipment illustrating the historical development and transformation of postal services. — MNA/KZL

Thanlyin's RBF dairy cattle farming activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected income-generating dairy cattle farming activities implemented under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Bothabyekan Village, Thanlyin Township, yesterday.

Director-General U Myo Naing Aung of the Department of Rural Development, Yangon Region Department of Rural Development Head U Kyi Saw and staff inspected the raising of dairy cattle under four groups and the storage of cattle feed. He met RBF members and discussed cattle feed prices, livestock production costs and selling prices, and coordinated neces-

sary arrangements based on village requirements. The Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project aims to provide necessary capital for agricultural and livestock producers as well as small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in rural areas and enable livelihood activities to be carried out through a group-based system.

Bothabyekan Village is implementing family income-generating dairy cattle farming activities through a group-based system using K30 million from the RBF Project and K120 million contributed by members, totalling K150 million. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials oversee an RBF dairy cattle farm in Thanlyin Township.

YR to conduct livestock data collection in Dec 2026

A coordination meeting on collecting livestock data in Yangon Region was held at the meeting hall of the Yangon Region Government Office on 8 October.

Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Chairman of the Yangon Region Animal Data Collection Supervision Committee Dr Htoo Maung stated that although the national livestock census is scheduled to be conducted in 2028, the animal data collection in Yangon Region would be carried out in December 2026 under the guidance of the President. Ward and village administrators, together with chairpersons of district management and administration

committees, will supervise the process and cooperate with the relevant general administration departments to ensure accurate data collection.

Secretary of the Region-level Animal Data Collection Supervision Committee and Director of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Myint Han said the data collection would be conducted to support the development and effective implementation of livestock development projects that contribute to the national economy and animal health programmes based on accurate livestock data. The data collection will be conducted from December among 1,246,967



A coordination meeting on collecting livestock data in Yangon Region in progress on 8 October. PHOTO:KANU

households in 2,525 wards and villages across eight districts and 21 townships where livestock are raised.

Livestock data collection teams have been formed at the township level. Chairpersons of the relevant district administration and administrative committees and officials from related departments

will provide necessary assistance in the data collection process, including the use of livestock data collection forms.

Finally, Minister Dr Htoo Maung coordinated with officials from the relevant departments to ensure the successful completion of the livestock data collection. — Nyein Thu/MKKS

Taunggyi's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Pinngo Village, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Taunggyi Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Win explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as enabling them to implement village development activities with increased revolving funds. Officials handed over K71 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Pinngo Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K71 million from the MSY Village Project. The 12th round of revolving loans at low interest rates has been disbursed directly to 67 members from the village, including 30 engaged in systematic agricultural activities and 37 engaged in systematic livestock farming. — Karan (Rural)

NATIONAL

Cybercrime Suspect Held for Attacks on Government, Private Online Services

THE State Government is working to develop an e-Government system to provide public services more quickly and effectively. It is systematically establishing public service platforms and digital infrastructure, including government services that interact directly with the public and network systems that connect government departments. It is also prioritizing the development of private online services and digital payment systems.

As part of efforts to develop the e-Government system, the authorities are identifying cybercriminals who illegally access, use, disrupt, disclose, publish, transmit or distribute information, cyber resources and critical information infrastructure without authorization, and taking effective action against them in accordance with cybersecurity laws.

In 2026, government departmental networks, private online service providers and some private digital payment systems were subjected to cyber-

attacks. The attackers reportedly threatened users of these services, demanding money in exchange for the return of their personal information and threatening to publish it online. Following investigations to identify and arrest those responsible, Wai Phyo Aung, also known as Aung Myo, who was responsible for the cyberattacks, was arrested on 10 September 2026.

Investigations found that the suspect, Wai Phyo Aung, also known as Aung Myo, had carried out cyberattacks and illegally obtained data from several sources. In the first week of June 2026, he obtained information from student accounts at an international college in Myanmar and data from a job-search website based in the country. In the second week of June, he obtained information about students at a foreign university in Myanmar. In the second week of July, he accessed data from a website operated by a motor vehicle rental agency.

In the second week of August, he obtained in-



This image shows a detained cybercrime offender, Wai Phyo Aung.

formation from a telecommunications website and the website of a private digital payment system. In the first week of September, he accessed data from a government online service website. He then demanded money in exchange for returning the stolen information and threatened to publish personal information online.

As the State Government is working to develop the e-Government system, such cyberattacks, the illegal acquisition of personal information, extortion through threats to withhold the information, and threats to disclose personal information online have had a significant impact on the development of the e-Government system, as well

as on national security and stability. Therefore, legal action is being taken against the arrested cybercrime suspect, Wai Phyo Aung, also known as Aung Myo.

The public is also urged to report confidentially to the relevant security organizations and individuals suspected of planning cyberattacks against the country's information infrastructure, private online service providers or private digital payment systems, as the State Government prioritizes the development of the e-Government system.

It is hereby announced that effective action will continue to be taken against those who carry out cyberattacks on online services under the e-Government system; steal State and citizens' information through cyberattacks; demand money in exchange for returning such information; or threaten to publish illegally obtained information relating to national security and personal data online. — 100/KZL

Myanmar Cracks Down on Illegal Foreign Entry

AUTHORITIES deported four Thai nationals involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge yesterday, and detained a further 22 illegal foreign entrants.

Officials handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

A total of 22 foreign nationals who had entered sites in the vicinity of Myawady, Kayin State, through illegal routes were identified and detained. They included one Chinese national, one Filipino, two Ugandans, three Burundians, three Ethiopians, three Pakistanis, four Nigerians and five Indians.

Between 30 January 2025 and 9 October 2026, a

total of 15,293 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 14,086 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries.

Among the remaining 1,207 individuals to be deported, there are 485 who were charged under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 722 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH



Immigration officials process the deportation of undocumented immigrants.



The Ngamoeyeik Reservoir supplies water to Yangon.

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is implementing the Kokkowa Water Supply Project and Toe River Water Supply Project under its master

plan to reduce groundwater use and ensure an adequate water supply for the city.

A YCDC official said excessive groundwater

New water supply projects to reduce groundwater use

extraction could cause groundwater depletion, saltwater intrusion, land subsidence and environmental damage. The committee is therefore developing alternative water supply projects to enable Yangon to stop relying on groundwater gradually. Once sufficient water is available, measures will be introduced under relevant laws and rules to effectively reduce groundwater

extraction. Action is also being taken against illegal drilling.

YCDC currently distributes 244 million gallons of water daily to Yangon residents through water sources and facilities including Hlawga Reservoir, Gyobu Reservoir, Phugyi Reservoir, Ngamoeyeik Water Treatment Plant, Lagwunbyin Water Treatment Plant, and the water supply stations at Thae Phyu and

Yangon Port.

To address the annual decline in Hlawga Reservoir's water area amid reduced rainfall from climate change, the Hlaing River-Hlawga Water Augmentation Project was launched on 11 May 2021 and completed on 15 August 2022. The project can replenish Hlawga Reservoir with 60 million gallons of water a day. The supplied water undergoes sedimen-

tation and treatment before entering the reservoir.

Yangon's current water distribution network comprises 486 miles of transmission pipelines, 1,256 miles of distribution pipelines, reservoirs and booster pumping stations. The system covers 61 per cent of the city, supplying water through metered connections to approximately 3.19 million people. — ASH/KZL

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515, 09 255597511

Prepare early to meet super El Niño's challenges

Sea surface temperatures and atmospheric conditions in the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the equator remain in a strong El Niño state, according to Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. Based on forecasts and analyses drawing on announcements from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and international climate centres, El Niño is expected to reach its peak intensity towards the end of this year.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and international meteorological agencies have forecast that the current El Niño could develop into a “Super El Niño,” potentially becoming one of the strongest on record, and is highly likely to persist through February 2027, with its effects possibly continuing from

March to May 2027. The El Niño phenomenon is also expected to cause extreme weather events, including generally abnormal rainfall patterns, unusual storm activity, higher daytime temperatures during the coming winter and summer seasons, and drought conditions.

Although Myanmar will soon enter the cold season, El Niño may bring hot and dry conditions and depletion of groundwater resources. At present, some townships are already experiencing temperatures higher than normal. Nevertheless, it is necessary to place emphasis on taking the required precautionary measures in advance to prepare for any severe weather conditions that may occur.

To cope with the hot weather associated with El Niño until the onset of the 2027 monsoon season, it is necessary to make preparations and take measures such as con-

serving and efficiently using drinking water and irrigation water, opening heat-relief shelters, storing water in dams and reservoirs, taking measures to prevent unnecessary water losses, stockpiling fruits and food supplies that can be stored for extended periods, cultivating late-monsoon crops to achieve the targeted production goals, and ensuring the continuity of livestock farming operations.

Due to El Niño, declining water levels in irrigation dams, reservoirs and other water storage facilities may lead to insufficient water for agricultural irrigation and hydropower generation. Reduced power generation could, in turn, have a cascading impact on many other sectors. Extremely high temperatures may cause dehydration and heatstroke and may particularly affect children, older people and those with chronic illnesses. Shortages of drinking water may also contribute to increased cases of diarrhoeal and other infectious diseases.

As natural disasters cannot be avoided and can only be effectively faced and overcome through proper preparedness, it is necessary to make preparations to minimize losses and damage across all sectors and to take measures to cope with and overcome the impacts of the Super El Niño during the coming dry season.

Sagaing as Myanmar's Gateway to India: Turning Connectivity into Investment

By Khant Ko Ko Aung

Sagaing Region occupies a strategically important position in Myanmar's economic geography. Sharing an international border with India and connecting western Myanmar with the country's central regions, Sagaing has long been important for agriculture, trade and transport. Today, however, its greatest opportunity may lie in transforming this geographical advantage into a new investment gateway linking India, Myanmar and South-East Asia.

Myanmar-India economic relations have continued to gain importance. During President U Min Aung Hlaing's visit to India in May-June 2026, Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that India was Myanmar's fourth-largest export destination and sixth-largest source of imports, with bilateral trade averaging around US\$1.5 billion annually. India had 39 investment projects in Myanmar and ranked as Myanmar's 11th-largest investor. The President also highlighted the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway as important initiatives for strengthening bilateral trade and opening the ASEAN-India economic corridor.

These figures demonstrate both progress and opportunity. The challenge now is not simply to attract more Indian investment into Myanmar, but to ensure that strategically located regions such as Sagaing can benefit from the investment, trade and logistics opportunities created by regional connectivity.

Sagaing is well positioned for this purpose. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the region covers approximately 93,704.5 square kilometres and has important investment potential in agriculture, agro-processing, infrastructure, livestock, tourism, mining and manufacturing. Its border with India gives it a particular advantage as Myanmar seeks to strengthen economic links with its western neighbour.

The strategic importance of Sagaing becomes clearer when viewed together with India's Act East Policy. India regards its Northeastern Region as a gateway to South-East Asia, making Myanmar a critical geographical bridge. One of the flagship projects under this strategy is the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, which is designed to connect Moreh in India through Tamu in Myanmar to Mae Sot in Thailand.

Recent progress on this connectivity is particularly important for Sagaing. India's Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region reported in August 2026 that the Tamu-Kalewa road section had been completed and handed over to Myanmar, while the Kalewa-Yargi highway section from kilometre 112 to kilometre 60

was completed and handed over in October 2025.

For Sagaing, these developments should encourage a shift in thinking—from a border-trade corridor to an investment corridor.

A road connecting countries creates economic value only when businesses, logistics facilities, warehouses, factories and supporting services develop around it. In this respect, Tamu, Kalay, Kalewa and Monywa can be viewed as interconnected economic nodes. Tamu can strengthen its role as a border-trade gateway; Kalay can develop as a commercial and service centre; Kalewa can support transport and logistics; while Monywa can become an important processing, manufacturing and distribution centre for the wider region.

Agriculture and agro-processing could be among the most promising areas for Indian investment. Sagaing has a strong agricultural base, while India provides a large nearby market. Instead of exporting mainly raw agricultural commodities, the region can attract investment in rice and pulse processing, oilseed processing, fruit processing, packaging, cold storage, agricultural machinery and other value-added industries.

This approach would cre-

ate a stronger local value chain. Farmers would gain access to larger markets, local businesses could become suppliers, and foreign investors could establish processing and export-oriented enterprises. Such investment would also have greater potential to generate employment and transfer technology.

There are opportunities beyond agriculture as well. At the Myanmar-India Trade and Investment Conclave, Indian businesses expressed interest in sectors including pharmaceuticals, information technology and agriculture. This provides an opportunity for Sagaing to attract not only large projects but also medium-sized enterprises, technology partnerships and joint ventures.

Monywa could have a particularly important role in this strategy. Its location within Sagaing and its existing commercial and industrial activities provide a foundation for developing an inland investment and distribution centre. With improved logistics and supporting infrastructure, Monywa could connect production areas in Sagaing with markets in central Myanmar and, through the western corridor, with India.

The region's trade-support

infrastructure can also contribute to this development. MyanTrade operates the Zayyar Trade Centre in Monywa, which provides services including export-product promotion, trade information, business matching, consultation, seminars and training. Such institutions could become more actively involved in connecting Sagaing producers and businesses with Indian investors and buyers.

Sagaing's opportunity should also be considered within the wider India-Myanmar-Thailand connectivity network. Although the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project follows a different route, it demonstrates India's broader effort to strengthen connectivity between its Northeast and Myanmar. The Kaladan project combines maritime, inland waterway, and road transportation, connecting India's Northeast with Myanmar and providing another important link between South and South-East Asia.

Together, these initiatives create a broader regional picture. India can gain stronger access to Southeast Asian markets, Thailand can benefit from improved connections with South Asia, and Myanmar can position itself as a bridge between the two regions. Sagaing, because of its location on the India-Myanmar overland

route, has the opportunity to become one of the important beneficiaries of this emerging network.

Nevertheless, connectivity alone will not automatically produce foreign direct investment. Investors also consider electricity, telecommunications, logistics costs, industrial land, skilled labour, customs procedures, taxation, regulatory predictability and the overall ease of doing business. Therefore, the development of Sagaing as an investment gateway must go beyond road construction.

A targeted investment strategy is needed. The Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa-Monywa corridor could be promoted as an India-Myanmar trade and investment corridor, with clearly identified opportunities for logistics, agro-processing, light manufacturing, warehousing and commercial services. Investment promotion should focus on projects that create employment, support local suppliers, increase exports and transfer technology.

Human-resource development will also be essential. A modern investment corridor requires skilled workers capable of operating factories, logistics systems, digital platforms and agricultural-processing facilities. Technical and vocational train-

ing, digital skills and language development should therefore be integrated into the region's investment strategy.

Most importantly, foreign investment should be connected with local economic development. Indian companies operating in Sagaing should have opportunities to work with Myanmar enterprises, purchase from local suppliers and employ and train local workers. This will help ensure that FDI creates benefits beyond the individual investment project.

Sagaing therefore has an opportunity that extends far beyond traditional border trade. Tamu can serve as the gateway, Kalay and Kalewa can strengthen the corridor, and Monywa can help transform connectivity into production, processing and investment. If these locations are effectively connected with infrastructure, business services and investment policies, Sagaing can become much more than a transit region.

Myanmar's growing economic engagement with India, together with the India-Myanmar-Thailand connectivity network, provides a strong foundation for this transformation. The opportunity is not simply to move goods from one country to another. It is to create an economic

corridor where investment arrives, industries develop, local businesses participate, and employment opportunities expand.

The strategic objective should therefore be clear: turn roads into corridors, corridors into markets, and markets into investment.

Sagaing should not merely be a place through which goods pass. It should become a place where investment arrives, businesses grow, and regional opportunities are created. With the right policies and infrastructure, Sagaing can become Myanmar's gateway to India and an important bridge connecting India with Myanmar and South-East Asia.

References
Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. (nd). Sagaing Region investment opportunities. Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Government of India, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. (2026, August 6). Initiatives for transforming NER Press Information Bureau.

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. (28 July 2023). Question No 1411: Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project. Government of India.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. (3 June 2026). President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the Myanmar-India Trade and Investment Conclave.

The Day One Computer Stopped a Bank

What Five Minutes in a Small Myanmar Town Taught Me About the Meaning of a Career

By Thaw Tar Oo

ing “employee” in the bank.

And that morning, it stopped working. The computer could no longer print the withdrawal slips. A printer problem may sound like a minor inconvenience. In a large

office, another computer or printer might simply take over. But there was no second computer handling the pension process.

When that one computer stopped, the process stopped

with it. The pensioners waited. Some had arrived before the bank opened. Most were over 60 years old. Some had travelled a long way from surrounding villages. Some had crossed the river by

boat, while others had travelled by trishaw.

My mother-in-law was 75. Looking around the bank, I began to understand that this was no longer just a computer problem. These elderly people had travelled there to withdraw money they were expecting to take home. After a long journey and hours of

waiting, they were now uncertain whether they would receive it at all.

The bank manager and staff tried to solve the problem, but they could not. Eventually, someone said the words everyone wanted to hear: “We need to call a computer technician.”

SEE PAGE 12



NATIONAL

Ten PDF members reintegrated into society in Mon State



Images reveal the reception and handover ceremony for returnees underway at the South-East Command Headquarters.

AS the Tatmadaw consistently prioritizes national peace and stability, counter-terrorism operations have achieved success, with areas temporarily held by terrorist insurgents fully regained. Local ethnic people have warmly welcomed and supported these efforts. With their enthusiastic backing, trust and cooperation with the Tatmadaw, members of armed terrorist organizations have come to understand the peace process. Consequently, they have been reporting to nearby local military camps and security forces

to return to the legal fold. In the latest development, 10 members of the PDF, comprising nine men and one woman, returned to the legal fold along with their weapons and ammunition. A ceremony to hand them over to their parents and guardians was held yesterday morning at Aung San Hall at the South-East Command Headquarters. Attendees included Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Win Than, Commander Brig-Gen Thura Zaw Lwin Soe, departmental officials, the returnees, and their parents and guardians.

The chief minister delivered an opening address, followed by the commander's explanation of relevant legal matters. Subsequently, the returnees handed over the weapons and equipment they had brought with them, comprising one AK-47 rifle, three homemade guns, one pistol, one revolver, five hand grenades and five walkie-talkies. The chief minister, the commander and officials received the surrendered items. The commander then presented monetary rewards for the surrendered weapons and equipment,

including K5 million for one automatic rifle, K9 million for three homemade guns, K2 million for one pistol, K2 million for one revolver, K1.5 million for five hand grenades, and K1 million for five walkie-talkies. In addition, K500,000 was provided to the 10 returnees at K50,000 per person. The total monetary reward amounted to K21 million. Gift packages were also presented and received by the returnees. Afterwards, the returnees signed pledges of good conduct and were systematically handed over to their parents and guardians. One of the returnees also delivered a speech expressing gratitude in response. The 10 individuals who accepted and placed their trust in the peace process, genuinely desired regional stability, and were handed over to their parents and guardians at the ceremony comprised one man from

Thingangyun Township and one man from Insein Township in Yangon Region; one man from Pyay Township in Bago Region; one man from Mawlamyinegyun Township and one man from Hainggyikyun Township in Ayeyawady Region; one man from Paung Township, two men from Bilin Township, and one man from Thaton Township in Mon State; and one woman from Dabayin Township in Sagaing Region. These members of the PDF had reportedly returned to the legal fold because they had been forcibly recruited through coercion involving their family members and relatives. They could no longer tolerate terrorist acts committed in the interests of terrorist groups, including threatening, arresting and killing innocent civilians and civil servants, as well as detonating mines to destroy non-military infrastructure, roads and bridges. Furthermore, they had faced internal discrimination, bullying, torture, killings and other abuses, along with poor living

and food conditions. Their morale had also declined as they could no longer withstand the Tatmadaw's counter-offensives. Having placed their trust in the peace process of the State and the Tatmadaw, they wished to live peacefully within the legal framework and contribute back to the State and the public, who had suffered losses because of their past actions. Consequently, they abandoned the armed path and returned to the legal fold. As those returning to the legal fold are warmly welcomed, provided with necessary assistance and systematically reunited with their families, it is understood that many others also wish to return. Those who wish to re-enter the legal fold are informed that they can contact and report to nearby district or township administrative bodies, military camps or police stations. They will be welcomed, provided with appropriate assistance, and given cash rewards commensurate with the weapons and ammunition they surrender. — 100/ST

Fees for various geographical indication services announced

THE Intellectual Property Agency has announced the fees payable for various services related to applications for the registration of Geographical Indications (GIs) under the Trademark Law. The prescribed fees are K450,000 for the examination of a geographical indication registration application (GI-1), K150,000 for the examination of a geographical indication re-registration application (GI-3), K80,000 for the examination of an application to correct clerical errors or other amendable mistakes in an application (GI-4), and K450,000 for the examination of an



This photo shows a meeting on intellectual property held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

opposition statement (GI-6). The registration fee for a geographical indication is K150,000, while the fee for the examination of an application for a certified copy of a registration certificate (GI-7) is K50,000. Other prescribed

fees include K80,000 for an application to amend information recorded in the register (GI-8), K450,000 for an application to declare a Geographical Indication registration invalid or to cancel it (GI-9), K100,000 for an application to use a

Geographical Indication mark (GI-10), K25,000 for an application to change representative details (GI-12), K 500,000 for an appeal application (GI-14), and K80,000 for an application to extend the time limit (GI-15). Geographical indication registration plays an important role in protecting local products against counterfeiting and promoting them in the market. Registration grants products legal protection and helps enhance their market reputation, potentially enabling them to command higher prices by verifying their authenticity and geographical origin. — TWA/TH

Rangoon's Golden Era Revived in Former Miss's Photos

IN commemoration of Yangon's historic landmark, Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market)'s 100th anniversary (1926-2026), a former Miss



Actress Nann Khin Zaya.

and actress, Nann Khin Zaya, documented a photo series called Golden Century, reviving the old Yangon (formerly Rangoon) of 1950-1960. With the pistachio green arch of Bogyoke Aung San Market, the actress shot her photos in a luxurious Myanmar woman look of the old Yangon with full costume and accessories such as a golden comb, golden earrings, a golden necklace, golden bangles and golden buttons. Beautifully combining the past and the present, the photograph series expressed images of old shop owners in their 70s, fabric shops, food vendors, old gravel passages and people's cheerful smiles. — TWA/ZS

Cotton MSMEs Slash Yarn Imports

STRENGTHENING the production capacity of cotton-based MSMEs could significantly reduce Myanmar’s dependence on imported yarn, said Union Minister Dr Charlie Than for Industry and MSME Development.

If we can successfully create greater value in the cotton agricultural industry chain, boost domestic production, and reduce reliance on imported inputs, value addition at every stage of the cotton value chain will rise signif-



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than delivering remarks at the workshop on the development of cotton-based industries and value chain cost analysis.

icantly, he said during the workshop titled “Development of Cotton-Based Industries and Value Chain Cost Analysis,” held to

mark World Cotton Day 2026 on 7 October.

The minister pointed out that if value addition improves across the en-

tire cotton value chain, it would help ease raw material shortages and reduce reliance on imported yarn.

He added that the effort would also improve cotton-based MSME production capacity, product quality and competitiveness, provide farmers with stronger market linkages and greater profitsharing opportunities, step into domestic value addition from raw materials and help the sector move up from the domestic market to export markets. — TWA/KK

Palm oil reference price shows slight rise

THE palm oil wholesale reference price set for the Yangon market slightly increased to K7,333 per viss this week ending 15 October, up from K7,269 last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding

transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. Complaints about overcharging can be lodged

over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

Shan State development body seeks tender for asphalt procurement

THE Shan State Development Supervisory Office has invited an open tender for the purchase of 196.46 tonnes of 80/100 grade asphalt required for projects valued at K20 million to K200 million and road works funded under the 2026-2027 supplementary budget.

The purchase will be made from domestic companies in accordance with prescribed specifications, with bids submitted in Myanmar kyat.

Tender forms are available by 21 October at the Shan State Development Supervisory Office in Taunggyi. The submission deadline is 22 October. The bid opening date will be announced separately. Interested individuals can enquire about tender forms, terms and conditions, and further details through the Shan State Development Supervisory Office in Taunggyi at 09 403712507 during office hours. — NN/KK

Restaurants Ordered to Issue Stamped Receipts, Pay Tax



Tax stamps used on receipts for restaurants.

THE Internal Revenue Department (IRD) issued a notice on 8 October reminding restaurant owners to strictly issue tax-stamped receipts to customers and remit the collected commercial tax to the relevant tax offices on a monthly basis, as some business owners have been failing to do so.

It referred to Section 40 (a) (3) of the Commercial Tax Regulations. The notice stated that despite improved compliance, audits revealed that some operators still show weak compliance.

Therefore, consumers are urged to request receipts bearing tax stamps

when paying their bills at restaurants.

Restaurant operators who fail to issue receipts with tax stamps are fined under Section 40(a) of the Union Tax Law. Furthermore, 30 per cent of the collected fine is awarded as a reward to informers, and the identity of informers will be kept confidential.

To avoid penalties, the IRD urges restaurant owners to comply by collecting commercial tax directly from consumers, issuing tax-stamped receipts, and regularly remitting the collected taxes to the respective tax offices every month. — TWA/ZN

Proposals invited for urban development project in railway station area

THE Mandalay Region Government’s Tender Invitation and Scrutiny Committee has invited tender proposals for an Urban Development project at the railway station area. The project will be implemented under a BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) system on a 7.5143-acre plot within the

railway yard in Kankauk Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mahlaungmyay District, Mandalay Region. During the first stage, domestic and foreign companies submitted Expressions of Interest (EOI). Two companies (MoNo Co Ltd and Shwemanmarlar Co Ltd) were shortlisted to pro-

ceed to the second stage. Tender terms and proposal forms are available at K1 million per set from 1 to 14 October during office hours at the Myanma Railways General Manager’s Office (Upper Myanmar), Mandalay Station (3rd Floor). Completed proposals must be submitted in person to the office by

2 pm on 1 December. Interested individuals can enquire about further details through the Commercial Department, Myanma Railways (Head Office), Nay Pyi Taw, in person or by dialling 09 891750134, according to the Mandalay Region government’s Tender Invitation and Scrutiny Committee. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 9 October 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.80~3,670.00	558.50~558.70	125.40~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	14,671,300.88	9,726,851.38	61, 355,317.39	-

ARTICLE/SCI/TECH

WORLD



Kenso Soai gives an interview to Kyodo News in Tokyo on 8 October 2026, a day after the Japanese organic chemist won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's Nobel chemistry winner says his discovery related to origin of life

Soai researched life's origin, inspired by Louis Pasteur's molecular asymmetry.

JAPANESE organic chemist Kenso Soai, who shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with a French scientist a day earlier, said Thursday the discovery that earned him the award is "directly related to the origin of life".

"In the long history of organic chemistry, nothing like this had ever been achieved before," Soai said in an interview with Kyodo News, referring to his experimental demonstration of asymmetric autocataly-

sis. Asked why he had devoted himself to the research, Soai said he had not initially set out to uncover the origin of life but had been "extremely impressed" by the work of French chemist Louis Pasteur, who discov-

ered molecular asymmetry.

"I want to speak about my research findings and the asymmetric nature of life," he said of the Nobel Prize award ceremony he will attend in Sweden in December. — Kyodo

The Day One Computer Stopped ...

FROM PAGE 9

The technician's shop was nearby, so he arrived quickly. Hope returned to the room. He sat down at the computer and began working. The bank manager stood beside him. He searched online for the printer driver and installed several different drivers.

Meanwhile, I sat quietly beside my mother-in-law and watched. I was perhaps watching a little more carefully than the other people in the room. After all, I was already a computer teacher, and some of the bank staff were my former students.

One of them came over to me. "Teacher, could you please take a look at the computer?" I told him, "Let the technician try first. If he can't fix it, I'll help." I did not want to interfere. I genuinely believed the technician would solve the problem. So, I waited.

Nearly 30 minutes passed. The technician tried different drivers, but the printer still refused to work. Finally, he told the bank manager that he could not fix the problem. He packed up his things and returned to his shop. The atmosphere in the bank changed almost immediately. The hope that had appeared when the technician arrived began

to disappear.

The pensioners looked disappointed. Some of them had travelled a long way. Those who had crossed the river also had another concern. They needed to get back in time for the ferry home. They had already spent hours waiting. Now they faced the possibility of returning without their pension money.

Then I heard a familiar voice from the computer desk. "Teacher! Teacher! Please come and take a look. Can you help us?" It was my former student. I looked up. And then something happened that I will never forget.

One by one, the pensioners turned towards me. For a few seconds, it felt as though every pair of eyes in the room was fixed on me. A moment earlier, I had simply been sitting quietly beside my mother-in-law. Now everyone was waiting for me. For one strange moment, I felt as though I were in a movie. And somehow, I had become the hero.

Of course, inside my head, the "hero" was thinking, "Why is everybody looking at me?" But there was no turning back. I stood up and walked towards the computer. Fortunately, I had a lot of experience installing printer drivers and solving com-

puter problems. I sat down, examined the problem and began working.

Within about five minutes, the printer started working. A sheet of paper came out. My former student saw it and called out excitedly. "The printer is working! The printer is working!" Suddenly, the mood in the bank changed again.

The staff smiled. The pensioners looked relieved. People began talking to one another again, and the bank immediately resumed processing the pension withdrawals. And for a few minutes, I really did feel like the hero in that movie.

The bank manager came over and thanked me. She explained that if the computer had not been fixed, it might have needed to be sent to the IT department at the head office. Sending it there and getting it back could have taken several days. That conversation reminded me of one of the realities of living in a small town.

In a large city, another computer, another technician or another solution may be nearby. In a small town, sometimes there is no immediate alternative. Sometimes, one computer really matters. I told the manager, "No problem. If you have another computer problem, call me and tell

me what is wrong. I'll do my best to help."

Then I returned to my chair, sat beside my mother-in-law and waited for her turn. I thought the story was over. It wasn't. After withdrawing their pensions, some of the pensioners came over to me before leaving the bank. "Thank you, my son," one of them said. Then another came. And another. Many of them said goodbye and thanked me.

Some were relieved that they could return home without being too late. Others were happy because they could still catch the ferry back to their villages. I had only fixed a computer. But for them, it meant they did not have to make the long journey again without their money. Then I looked at the woman sitting beside me.

My mother-in-law had watched everything. She smiled at me. "Good job," she said. "You helped a lot of people today, including me." That simple sentence stayed with me. I had not invented a new technology. I had not built a complicated system. I had done something that, because of my experience, was relatively easy for me. It took about five minutes. Yet those five minutes mattered to the people around me.

I felt happy, but more

than that, I felt proud, not because I had been the "hero" for a few minutes, but because something I had learned through my career had become useful to other people when they needed it.

That morning changed the way I thought about the meaning of a career. We often associate helping people with certain professions. Doctors save lives. Engineers build the infrastructure on which society depends. IT professionals develop and maintain the technology we use.

But helping people is not limited to a particular profession. A teacher can change a student's future. A driver can help someone reach an important destination safely. A farmer can feed families. A mechanic can keep someone's livelihood moving. A shopkeeper can provide something a community needs.

Every honest career has the potential to make someone's life a little better. Sometimes, we fail to recognize the value of our own skills because we use them every day. Something that feels ordinary to us may be difficult for someone else. Something that takes us five minutes may save another person hours, or even an entire day.

That morning, those pensioners did not need an advanced AI system. They did not need the most powerful computer in the world. They simply needed someone who could make

that one computer work again. And on that particular morning, I happened to have the skill they needed.

Since then, when I think about a career, I do not think only about qualifications, income or job titles. I also think about a simple question: How can what I know help the people around me? Perhaps that is a question worth asking, whatever our profession may be.

If possible, do what you love. And if you cannot always do what you love, learn to love what you do. Learn it well. Take pride in it. And when someone needs the skill you have, use it to help. Because on an ordinary morning in a small town, I learned that one computer, five minutes and one helping hand can mean much more than we imagine.

About the Author

Thaw Tar Oo is an IT professional, computer educator and entrepreneur based in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, Myanmar. He has operated a KMD Computer Training Centre franchise in Myanaung since 2013 and is the owner of Myat Thuta Computer & Electronic Sales and Service Centre. He holds a master's degree in Information Technology from INTI International University, Malaysia, and has a strong interest in technology, education and the practical use of IT to support people and local communities.

Japan watchdog orders partial business suspension at scandal-hit Prudential

JAPAN’S financial watchdog on Friday ordered Prudential Life Insurance Co to partially suspend its business over misconduct by sales staff, including improperly receiving money from customers.

The suspension will run from Tuesday through 31 January , with the Financial Services Agency determining that Prudential Life Insurance had failed to adequately manage and supervise its sales employees and that internal systems designed



File photo taken on 16 January 2026 shows Prudential Life Insurance Co’s logo in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

to prevent misconduct had not functioned effectively. The punishment came

after Prudential Life Insurance said Thursday a third-party probe by

lawyers had found that more than 100 former and current salespeople had engaged in fraudulent or inappropriate transactions with customers worth 5.2 billion yen (\$33 million) over more than three decades.

The agency on Friday also issued a business improvement order to Prudential Holdings of Japan Inc, the parent company, and a partial business suspension order to The Gibraltar Life Insurance Co, a group company. — Kyodo

Indonesia’s rice procurement reaches 4.11 mln tonnes

INDONESIAN authorities have procured 4.11 million tonnes of rice from local farmers as of 8 October, surpassing the government’s full-year target of 4 million tonnes, state-owned logistics company Bulog said Friday. Bulog President Director Ahmad Rizal Ramdhani said the absorption reached 102 per cent of the government-mandated target for 2026.

Rizal said this year’s procurement surpassed

the 3.19 million tonnes achieved in 2025 and broke Bulog’s previous historical record of 3.65 million tonnes recorded in 2012.

Rizal said Bulog will continue optimizing procurement instruments by strengthening purchasing networks at production bases and upgrading storage facilities to better support purchases during harvest seasons and stabilize grain prices for farmers. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORD SANTOS VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORD SANTOS VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0413N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0413N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (295N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (295N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2620S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2620S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0105N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0105N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25th October 2026 to 27th October 2026 (Thadinkyut Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Advertise with us/

Hotline: **09 2555 97511**
09 4542 37515

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Türkiye will not deploy troops abroad to launch an attack: FM

Türkiye is not going to send its troops to another country's territory and launch an attack there.



Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan speaks at a press conference in Ankara, Türkiye, on 8 October 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

TÜRKIYE will not deploy troops to another country's territory to launch an attack, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Thursday, stressing the defensive nature of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement.

Fidan said in a televised address that the pact is a defense agreement, "not an attack agreement".

"Türkiye is not going to send its troops to another country's territory and launch an attack there," he said.

On the conflict in Yemen, where the Saudi-backed government forces are fighting the

Houthi group, Fidan said Türkiye is "doing everything we can to resolve this through peace and dialogue."

On 7 August, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, which stipulates that an attack on any signatory will be considered an attack on all.

The three countries on Monday agreed to ensure "the rapid deployment of agreed forces and capabilities" to Saudi Arabia under the pact, as Riyadh faces intensified cross-border strikes launched by the Houthis group. — Xinhua

3 Saudis killed in attacks on Riyadh's King Khalid Intl Airport

THREE Saudi citizens were killed and a number of others of various nationalities injured in two attacks targeting Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on Thursday, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said Friday.

The first attack targeted facilities at the airport, while the second hit an aircraft belonging to the country's national carrier Saudia, GACA said in a statement.

The attacks left three dead, with airliner Captain Hamoud Ali Alkalhami among the killed. Emergency teams and relevant authorities responded immediately. All injured people, suffering minor or critical injuries, were transported to hospital, it said. — Xinhua

Finland to take part in NATO's nuclear deterrence exercise

FINLAND will participate in NATO's Steadfast Noon nuclear deterrence exercise in October by sending staff officers, the Finnish Defence Ministry said on Friday.

"Finland will participate in NATO's annual nuclear deterrence exercise, Steadfast Noon, from 12 to 24 October," the statement read.

Finland will send staff officers to take part in the alliance's maneuvers, the ministry said, adding that it assesses the most appropriate way of participation at these exercises on a case-by-case basis.

The Defense Ministry also said that no actual nuclear weapons are used or moved during the Steadfast Noon exercise. — SPUTNIK

Indian-origin South African jurist Navi Pillay wins 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

INDIAN-ORIGIN South African jurist and human rights pioneer Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for her efforts to promote peace and international law, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced.

In its official announcement on Friday, the committee said Pillay had demonstrated exceptional courage and integrity in advancing a more comprehensive global legal order and had played a significant role in ensuring that war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide are prosecuted.

"The Nobel Peace Prize for 2026 goes to a person who with exceptional courage and integrity has led the way towards a more comprehensive global

legal order.

In a post on X announcing the award, the Nobel Prize account said, "Today Navi Pillay has been awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote peace and international law."

The Nobel Committee highlighted Pillay's long career in advancing universal legal principles, from her early work defending Nelson Mandela and others who opposed apartheid in South Africa to her service as a judge in major international legal cases.

"Born into a family of Indian Tamil origin under apartheid in Durban, South Africa, Pillay became a lawyer and legal pioneer, confronting deep structural discrimination, segregation and exclusion," the committee said. — ANI



Indian-origin South African jurist and human rights pioneer Navanethem "Navi" Pillay. PHOTO: AFP

Global economic growth expected to slow to 2.6% in 2026: UNCTAD



The AI boom has helped Samsung and other semiconductor giants around the world post record profits. PHOTO: AFP

THE United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected that global economic growth will be 2.6 per cent in 2026, down from 2.9 per cent in 2025.

In its Trade and Development Report 2026 released on Friday, UNCTAD said developing economies are expected to grow by four per cent this year, easing from 4.7 per cent in 2025.

In 2026, rising energy prices are pushing up trade values, while trade in goods and services is projected to expand by about four per cent at constant prices, the report said. According to the report, Asia is set to account for 59 per cent of global growth in 2026. East Asia sits at the heart of the rapid expansion in semiconductors and advanced computing manufacturing. The report noted that artificial intelligence (AI) products have become the main driver of merchandise trade, yet growth in AI-related trade does not automatically translate into broad development gains.

The report warned that the energy shock and financial instability are putting the global economy to the test. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Everton's US owners mull sale of club two years after takeover

EVERTON'S American owners are considering selling the Premier League club less than two years after they took control.

The Texas-based Friedkin Group said in a statement on Friday it was exploring new investment options, "including the potential sale of a controlling interest". The Friedkin Group, which also owns Serie A club Roma, paid a reported £400 million (\$529 million) to purchase Farhad Moshiri's 94.1 per cent stake in December 2024. They oversaw Everton's move from Goodison Park to the new 53,000-capacity Hill Dickinson Stadium last year. "When TFG became custodians of Everton, the club faced significant financial uncertainty and challenges both on and off the pitch," Everton's statement said. "With that foundation now safely in place, the time is right to consider the next chapter for Everton. — AFP



Everton are historic giants of the English game, with nine league titles. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League Season's Matchweek 3 kicks off

DAGON Star United drew 2-2 with Sports and Physical Education Institute at Thihadipa Stadium in Thanlyin. Captain Thiha Zaw opened the scoring in 18 minutes before Nang Lin Phyto equalized for the institute in 58 minutes. Saw Sae Ka Paw Sei put the institute ahead four minutes later, but Ye Yint Phyto scored an injury-time equalizer in 90+2 minutes. The result ended Dagon Star United's winning run, while the institute earned its first point of the season. Institute defender Moe Soe Aung received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award and K1 million.

Sagaing United drew 1-1 with Chinland at YUSC Stadium. Razza Aung gave Sagaing the lead in



Players from the opposing teams vie for the ball in front of the goal during the Matchweek 3 fixture.

15 minutes before Philip equalized for Chinland in 39 minutes. Chinland earned its first point after two consecutive defeats, while Sagaing missed the chance to continue its winning run. Sagaing goalkeeper Aung Ko Latt received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award and K1 million.

Matchweek 3 continues on 10 October, with Ayeyawady United facing Thitsa Arman at Patheingyi Stadium and Myawady taking on Yadanabon at Thantlaryin Thihadipa Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

China looks ahead to LA28 after topping Asian Games medal table

AFTER wrapping up the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with 341 medals and topping the medal table for the 12th consecutive edition last weekend, Chinese athletes are now setting their sights on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, China's top sports official said at a conference on Friday.

"The 169 gold medals marked a new record for the Chinese delegation at an Asian Games held overseas. Chinese athletes set eight world records at the continental event and achieved world-class performances in many sports," said Gao Zhidan, director of China's General Administration of Sport. At the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, Chinese athletes excelled in sports such as athletics and swimming. China's women's volleyball team retained its title, while the men's football team also secured a podium finish.

A total of 548 Chinese athletes made their Asian Games debuts at the event, with young talents such as Yu Zidi, Zhang Zhanshuo, Chen Yujie, Yan Ziyi and Zhang Jiale showcasing the potential of the next generation. — Xinhua

Arteta urges 'respect' for process after Man City financial verdict

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta said it was vital to "respect the process" after Manchester City were found guilty of serious breaches of the Premier League's financial rules.

City's fate is uncertain after last week's bombshell announcement but they could face substantial points deductions, a fine or even expulsion from the top division. The Abu Dhabi-backed club remains adamant it has done nothing wrong and has appealed against the findings, which relate to the period between 2009/10 and 2017/18. Arteta was former City manager Pep Guardiola's assistant for three years from 2016 before leaving to join Arsenal, a team he had previously captained.

He faced the press on Friday for the first time in three weeks following



Mikel Arteta's Arsenal are second in the Premier League table **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

the international break, and was asked about his former club.

"Obviously I think it's very important that we respect the process, I think the timelines, and it's still an ongoing process that is not resolved, because it's been appealed," Arteta told reporters.

"And my position, I think the club's position, is not to make any further comments until this is fully resolved." The Spaniard, whose club host Leeds on Saturday, said he was confident the situation would be "resolved in the right way". — AFP

Figure skating: Hanyu to perform in March ice show 16 years after disaster

TWO-TIME Olympic men's figure skating champion and professional skater Yuzuru Hanyu will perform in an ice show in Miyagi Prefecture to mark the 16th anniversary of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan, organizers said Friday.

The event will be held at Sekisui Heim Super Arena in Rifu for three days from 12 March, marking its fifth consecutive year.

Hanyu, a native of Sendai, the prefectural capital, who was also affected by the disaster, said, "I want to send hope to those who suffered extensive damage and those who endured painful experiences." The show is titled "notte stellata", an Italian phrase meaning "starry night", inspired by the beautiful night sky Hanyu saw during a blackout, which gave him hope. — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows Yuzuru Hanyu. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Türkiye will not deploy
troops abroad to launch
an attack: FM
PAGE 14



WORLD

Malaysia unveils 2027 national budget to ease living costs

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim unveiled the national budget for 2027 on Friday with a focus on easing the cost of living through tax breaks, a higher minimum wage and other measures while also seeking to develop the country's burgeoning technology sector. Malaysia's Budget 2027, totalling 459.8 billion ringgit (US\$112.5 billion), aims to turn resilient economic growth into real gains for the people with better wages, smarter targeted support, stronger fiscal discipline and a bold push towards higher-value industries, Anwar, who is

also finance minister, told parliament in his budget speech. Among measures aimed at easing the cost of living is raising the minimum wage to 2,000 ringgit from the current 1,700 ringgit starting in June 2027, with the exception of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with annual sales below 50 million ringgit. The government will also introduce a minimum monthly salary of 2,500 ringgit for semi-skilled workers and graduates as the initial step in reforming the wage framework. — Xinhua

Iraq reopens air bridge to Iran after US sanctions waiver

AN Iraqi Airways jet has touched down at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport - the first international arrival since the US-Israeli 40-day war.

- Flight arrived from Najaf in central Iraq - a city sacred to Shia Muslims
- Iraqi Airways will operate one round-trip flight between Najaf and Tehran each day
- There are plans to expand flights to Mashhad and Isfahan
- Reciprocal deal allows

selected Iranian airlines, excluding Mahan Air, to operate up to 40 daily flights to Najaf. Iraqi Airways had suspended Iran flights in early March amid the military escalation between Iran and the US. It then negotiated an exemption on humanitarian and civilian grounds, covering religious pilgrims, students and medical patients travelling between Iraq and Iran. — SPUTNIK



The image shows Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) located outside Tehran, Iran. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

CIS will continue to participate in shaping new Eurasian security architecture: Statement

The Commonwealth of Independent States will continue to contribute to shaping a new architecture of Eurasian security.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) plans to continue contributing to a new architecture for Eurasian security, a statement by the heads of CIS member states on the occasion of the organization's 35th anniversary read on Friday.

"The Commonwealth of Independent States will continue to contribute to shaping a new architecture of Eurasian security based on the UN Charter, international law, and the principle of equal and indivisible security for all states of the Eurasian space," the statement read.

The intensification and expansion of cooperation among regional international organizations in the Eurasian space are becoming a reliable tool for ensuring security and reducing tensions in the region, it added.



The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Summit took place on 8-9 October 2026, in the Avaza National Tourist Zone near Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. PHOTO: PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

Other key points:

- CIS states will expand production cooperation ties and will promote greater effectiveness of joint activities in the scientific, technical, and innovation fields
- Legal cooperation among the CIS member states contributes to the improvement and convergence of national legal systems
- The expansion of cooperation with other international organizations in the Eurasian space is an important area of development
- One of the fundamental tasks of interaction among the countries of the Commonwealth is the preservation of the memory of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945
- The heads of the CIS member states confirm their commitment to the development of cooperation in the area of the protection of human rights and freedoms, ensuring access to justice, and strengthening legal guarantees

SPUTNIK

South Korea tests first homegrown hypersonic glide vehicle

SOUTH Korea successfully conducted its first test launch of a homegrown hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV), observed by President Lee Jae Myung, according to the presidential

Blue House on Thursday. The HGV refers to an advanced missile system that is launched into the upper atmosphere through a booster before detaching to glide at ex-

treme speeds and lower altitudes, the Blue House explained. Kang Yu-jung, chief presidential spokesperson, said in a written briefing that the domes-

tically developed HGV would be a game-changing strategic asset, characterized by unpredictable flight trajectories and overwhelming speed and capable of carrying out preemptive strikes against key strategic targets in emergency situations. — Xinhua

Developing nations should adapt AI locally

DEVELOPING nations can secure the biggest benefits from Artificial Intelligence (AI) by adapting existing tools to local needs rather than spending billions

of dollars on building advanced systems from scratch, says the World Bank's World Development Report 2026. The report urged governments to focus

on affordable AI applications, strengthen infrastructure and skills, and expand solutions that demonstrate results in public services. "Adapting AI tools to local con-

texts, without spending billions of dollars creating advanced AI systems from scratch, will deliver the biggest benefits," it said. — ANI