

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Kyaiktiyo cable car to resume operations next week



A technician repairs parts of cable cars to be ready for operations to transport pilgrims to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

The Kyaiktiyo cable car will resume operations in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, for pilgrims next week following the completion of mechanical maintenance and safety inspections. The system underwent thorough checks during the rainy season to ensure it could be used safely. As all this work has now concluded, the service will shortly reopen to facilitate travel for those visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda. — ASH/KZL

Switzerland supports climate resilience, renewable energy and local economic development in Ayeyawady Region

INITIATIVES aimed at enhancing climate resilience, increasing the adoption of renewable energy, and creating local economic opportunities are being implemented in Bogale and Mawlamyinekyun townships of Ayeyawady Region with support from Switzerland.

Representatives of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visited the two townships in September to assess progress on Switzerland-supported projects.

During the visit, the delegation focused on evaluating the implementation of the CRCI and RBF+ projects, which aim to strengthen climate resilience and promote local community development. The projects cover climate-smart agricultural practices, renewable energy promotion, systematic waste management, and local business development.

In addition, SDC representatives met with project implementation partners, local residents, and entrepreneurs to discuss the benefits achieved, challenges encountered, and practical lessons learned through the projects. Field observations indicated positive results from climate-smart agricultural practices, while investments under the RBF+ project have benefited both local businesses and the environment.

Although progress has been made under the CRCI project, continued attention is needed to ensure high-quality implementation and long-term sustainability. Switzerland will continue to support local communities in collaboration with partner organizations. — ASH/TH



This photo shows representatives of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visiting a project site to assess progress.

Yoke Thé performance to be held at Governor's Yoke Thé Theatre

PAGE 2

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE RANGOON

GOVERNOR'S Yoke Thé Theatre

An Elegant Evening of Myanmar Marionette Artistry

15th OCTOBER 2026 THURSDAY 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

150,000 MMK++ PER GUEST

Enjoy Governor's Burmese Feast Dinner with a Live Yoke Thé Performance

The Yoke Thé performance is advertised.

Hpa-an to ignite 9,000 lamps, balloons soar on Thadingyut

A ceremony featuring the offering of 9,000 oil lamps and the release of hot-air balloons will be held on 26 October at Thayhtamanaung Pagoda and Thiri Playground in Hpa-an, Kayin State, to mark the full moon day of Thadingyut, according to the Kayin State Regional Tourism Committee.

“The hot-air balloon release ceremony will take place at 7 am on 26 October at Thiri Playground in Hpa-an, with 200 small balloons and 32 large balloons to be released. The ceremony for offering 9,000 oil lamps will be held at 6 pm on the same day at Thayhtamanaung



This photo shows last year's ceremony featuring the offering of 9,000 oil lamps at Thayhtamanaung Pagoda and the release of hot-air balloons at Thiri Playground in Hpa-an, Kayin State. PHOTO: TOURISM HPA-AN

Pagoda,” a member of the Kayin State Regional Tourism Committee said. The festival is being organized by the Kayin State government, with the participation of government departments, private organizations and local communities, to attract tourists to Hpa-an during the Thadingyut festival period. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL PAGE 5



Over 20,000 acres of rainfed sesame harvested in Pwintbyu

NATIONAL PAGE 7



Myanmar Seeks UNESCO Heritage for Htamane, Acheik Weaving

NATIONAL

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

Yoke Thé performance to be held at Governor’s Yoke Thé Theatre



This file image displays the Myanmar Puppet Show, organized by the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, with audiences present.

FROM PAGE 1

THE Governor’s Residence located on Tawwin Road in Dagon Township will host a live Yoke Thé performance (Myanmar marionette) on 15 October at the Governor’s Yoke Thé Theatre.

“Come to enjoy Myanmar traditional artistry and its essence and spend an elegant evening with your loved ones,” said an official from the Governor’s Residence.

At the cultural event, Myanmar marionette artistry that is conserved for

years will be performed with Myanmar instruments, so visitors can enjoy the essence of Myanmar cultural heritages with a Myanmar feast dinner.

It will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and fee for attendance is K150,000 per guest.

The unique culture event, which aims to preserve the significance of Myanmar traditional marionette, has been passed down generation from generation. — Htun Htun/ZS

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4 pm Sunday 11 October 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: The weather is a few clouds over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 12 October 2026: The weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and southern Shan State, fairly widespread in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Magway regions and Kayin, Mon and eastern Shan states, scattered in Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

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

states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The Sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. The wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershower in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 October 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 October 2026: Isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 October 2026: Isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

Meteorological and Hydrological Forecast for the Second 10 days of October 2026

Bay of Bengal situation

1. A low-pressure area may form over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and may intensify into a Depression. The weather will be a few clouds to partly cloudy over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

2. Rainfall conditions are expected to be above normal in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah and (Southern & Eastern) Shan states, below normal in Sagaing Region and Kachin

and northern Shan states and about normal in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon, Chin, Rakhine and northern Shan states.

3. There may be thunderstorms in Sagaing Region and Kachin and northern Shan states for one to four days and in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern & eastern) Shan states for five to eight days.

Day temperature

4. Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and lower

Sagaing regions may experience 1.5 degrees Celsius or more of the average October temperature, while upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states may experience about the average October temperature.

Night temperature

5. Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states may experience about the average October temperature. — DMH

El Niño Conditions News

Issued on 11 October 2026

BASED on evaluations from the World Meteorological Organization and international climate centres, sea surface temperatures and atmospheric dynamics across the equatorial Tropical Pacific Ocean indicate very strong El Niño condition and El Niño conditions may reach its peak intensity during November and December 2026.

Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other

extreme weather events in the upcoming summer season.

Due to the El Niño phenomenon, the upcoming winter and summer seasons may bring high temperatures and water scarcity potentially leading to low water levels in rivers, lakes, wells and ponds shortages of drinking and irrigation water, heatstroke and dehydration, diarrheal diseases, due to water scarcity and reduce hydroelectric power generation alongside increase electricity demand. Therefore, all relevant sectors are advised to prepare in advance and take necessary measures to reduce the possible impacts. — DMH

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 10 am MST on 11 October 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 9:30 am MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal around 13 October 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL

Myanmar Packaging Forum 2026 Convenes to Boost MSME Market Access and Standards

THE Myanmar Industries Association (MIA) organized the Myanmar Packaging Forum 2026 at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) headquarters in Ahlon Township, Yangon.

The event aimed to advance local packaging standards, help micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) penetrate broader markets, introduce modern packaging machinery and practices, and foster collaboration among entrepreneurs, technicians, and investors.

Joining the forum virtually from Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than emphasized that superior packaging extends product shelf life, minimizes transit damage, attracts consumers, and aligns products with international standards. Noting the global shift toward eco-friendly, biodegradable, and sustainable materials, he urged domestic MSME owners to adopt sustainable packaging technologies to meet evolving international demand.

The event featured opening addresses by the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport, the UMFCCI President, and the MIA Chairman, followed by expert panel discussions on packaging advancements, an interactive Q&A session, and a summary review of key outcomes. — MNA/ST



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than delivers a speech at the Myanmar Packaging Forum 2026.

Artistes and Celebrities Visit 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw

ARTISTES and celebrities visited the 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium yesterday afternoon at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw to view the exhibits and purchase jewellery.

Upon arrival, the visiting artistes toured the displays of gems, jade, and pearls within the Maniyadana Jade Hall, where emporium officials guided them and explained details of the exhibits.

They then explored the private jewellery booths set up across the hall and purchased items of interest.

Organized by the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium, the 61st emporium is being held at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 8 to 17 October. — MNA/ST

Artistes and celebrities visit the 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium yesterday.



Over 200 Pearl Lots Sold on Day 4 of 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium

THE 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium continued its fourth day yesterday at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, drawing local and foreign traders to inspect and bid on displays of pearls, gems, and jade.

Officials announced that 228 pearl lots were sold via open tender on the fourth day from two tender batches (lots 461 through 700). Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo inspected the display grounds in the afternoon, observing traders examining jade lots and directing officials to provide necessary assistance.



Gem merchants evaluate the exhibits at the 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026.

Bidding also closed at 3 pm for 160 gem lots scheduled for fifth-day sales, with successful bids to be announced on the morning of 12 October.

Over the coming days, the emporium will sell 3,073 jade lots categorized into three groups. Groups A and B (1,605 jade lots) will be tendered from 13 to 15 October, while Group C (1,468 jade lots) will be tendered from 16 to 17 October. Alongside open tender biddings, private jewellery sales within the hall continue to attract strong buyer interest. The emporium runs through 17 October. — MNA/ST

MCDC, Engineering Federation Host Technical Seminar in Mandalay

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), in collaboration with the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (Mandalay Region), hosted a technical seminar at Mandalay City Hall at 9:00 am yesterday.

Mandalay Mayor U Khin Maung Aye opened the seminar, followed by remarks from regional engineering branch chairman U Shwe Zin on the event's goals and local initiatives.



A technical seminar co-organized by the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (Mandalay Region) in progress at Mandalay City Hall yesterday.

Key presentations covered building laws and compliance regulations by head of MCDC's building and warehouse department U Kyaw Thu Win, soil investigation and its significance by engineer Daw Khin May Htay, and public and environmental safety responsibilities of professional engineers, registered senior engineers and registered engineers by engineer U Zaw Win, followed by a Q&A session with attendees.

The event was attended by MCDC officials, regional executive members, and professional engineers, registered senior engineers and registered engineers accredited by the Myanmar Engineering Council. — MNA/ST

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

NATIONAL

Kachin State Govt Conducts El Niño Awareness Campaign in Myitkyina

THE Kachin State Government held an El Niño disaster awareness talk at the Sankar temporary displacement camp in Myitkyina at 10:30 am yesterday.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan highlighted that while the regional government is implementing precautionary measures against El Niño-induced hazards, public cooperation and awareness are vital to minimizing damage and responding effectively to natural disasters.



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and officials distribute educational pamphlets detailing preparedness guidelines to children at the Sankar temporary displacement camp in Myitkyina yesterday.

Departmental officials briefed temporarily displaced families on the science behind El Niño, the impacts of global climate change, and preventive

health practices. Following presentations and inquiries from camp residents, the Chief Minister outlined current preparations to prevent water shortages and deliver healthcare services. Concluding the event, state ministers and representatives from local women's affairs and maternal and child welfare supervisory committees distributed educational pamphlets detailing preparedness guidelines to camp households. — State IPRD/ST

Residents evacuated as Ma Mya Dam embankment subsides

THE embankment of Ma Mya Dam in Hmyinwataung Village-tract, Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, has reportedly subsided, prompting the evacuation of residents from nearby flood-vulnerable areas, including Hmyinwataung, Letpankwin and Sanywagi village-tracts. Four relief camps have been opened to accommodate evacuees and provide food and essential supplies.

Under the supervision

of the Myanaung District and Township Management and Administration Committees, local Tatmadaw personnel, departmental officials and village-tract administrators are coordinating evacuation efforts, issuing warnings and assisting residents, including elderly people from Yawkwin Village, to reach safety.

Water is being discharged through the emergency spillway, and authorities are continuing to warn residents along the down-



Evacuees from flood-vulnerable areas are seen at a relief camp in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region.

stream watercourse and injuries involving people or livestock have been reported. — Township IPRD/TH

Kalaw opens free basic tailoring course

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, opened a free basic tailoring course at Lamai Model Village in Kalaw Township, Shan State (South), yesterday morning with the aim of supporting the livelihoods of rural women, providing employment opportunities and developing skilled workers during the 2026-2027 financial year.

Kalaw District Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Zaw Lin delivered the opening address. An official explained that livelihood training courses

are conducted after assessing local products, market demand, labour requirements and the need for livelihood skills suited to local conditions. Training instructors then explained the lessons to be taught section by section, after which the district head and officials provided the trainees with teaching aids and materials.

A total of 20 women from villages in Kalaw Township are attending the 45-day free basic tailoring course, where skilled female instructors are providing both theoretical and practical lessons in basic tailoring techniques. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



The opening of basic tailoring course in progress in Kalaw Township yesterday.



This image shows triumphant Tatmadaw troops receiving warm welcome home in Pyay, Bago Region.

Frontline Tatmadaw members receive warm welcome home

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members returning from security and regional stability operations were warmly welcomed at a local battalion in Pyay, Bago Region.

Tatmadaw officers, other ranks, families, departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force members, Fire Brigade members, teachers, students and lo-

cal communities welcomed back returning troops with heartfelt enthusiasm.

They also welcomed home victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of

Eugenia and presented the cash prizes to the returnees. The event included traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/KZL

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Students visit national museum in Yangon

A group of 111 students from Basic Education High School No 3 in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, led by Headmaster U Maung Maung Hla and accompanied by supervising teachers visited the National Museum (Yangon) on Pyay Road at 9 am yesterday.

During the visit, the students explored galleries featuring the Lion Throne, Myanmar scripts and manuscripts, the Konbaung period, natural history and Myanmar’s prehistory, Myanmar’s urban culture, royal regalia, Myanmar traditional arts and crafts, ancient ornaments and jewellery, Myanmar paintings, Buddhist art, ASEAN coun-

tries and ethnic cultures.

Officials from the National Museum (Yangon) provided detailed explanations in each gallery, and the students showed keen interest in learning about the exhibits.

The visit helped students gain a better understanding of Myanmar’s rich historical heritage and the importance of preserving and protecting the country’s traditional cultural heritage.

The National Museum (Yangon) is open to the public daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, except Monday and public holidays. Visitors are welcome to explore the museum. — Kyaw Kyaw (IPRD)/KZL



Students from Thakayta Township views exhibits at the National Museum, Yangon, yesterday.
PHOTO: KYAW KYAW (IPRD)

Tanyang’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 Peinmon Village, Tanyang Township, Shan State (North), yesterday morning.

Tanyang Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw May Nwe Tun explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of enabling rural residents to expand systematic agricultural activities and implement village development activities with increased

revolving funds. The project in-charge and departmental staff explained the rules, applicable interest rates and repayment periods, after which officials handed over K51 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation group.

Peinmon Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K51 million from the MSY Village Project. The 11th round of revolving loans at low interest rates were disbursed to 35 members from the village engaged in systematic agricultural activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Field inspection of regional development projects underway in PyinOoLwin District



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung inspects ongoing work of the 3,000-acre Yadanabon Cyber City project area.

MANDALAY Region ly upgraded 24-foot-wide, Chief Minister U Myo 60-foot-long steel plate Aung inspected the new girder bridge across Gae-

laung Creek near Pweka-uk Waterfall, which has a load capacity of 20 tonnes, and instructed officials to ensure proper maintenance.

He also inspected development projects in PyinOoLwin, including the widening of a 1,500-foot section of Aung Zeya Road in Ward 7 from 24 feet to 50 feet to accommodate four lanes, a proposed night market in Ward 3, and plans to construct a football pitch with a running track on the grounds

of Basic Education High School No 4 in Ward 6. He coordinated with officials to address the requirements identified during the inspections.

The chief minister and his delegation also visited the 3,000-acre Yadanabon Cyber City project area to inspect ongoing work and completed perimeter tree planting, comprising 907 Khadawmi (Strychnos nux-blanda) trees and 1,450 Maezali (Senna siamea) trees. — Regional IPRD/TH

Over 20,000 acres of rainfed sesame harvested in Pwintbyu

ALL 24,721 acres of sesame cultivated during this year’s monsoon crop season in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region have been fully harvested, according to the Pwintbyu Township Agriculture Department.

Sesame harvesting began in September, and all cultivated acreage has now been harvested, with an average yield of 9.5 baskets per acre.

“This year, 24,721 acres of sesame were cultivated during the monsoon crop season in Pwintbyu Township, and harvesting has been completed on all the acreage, with an average yield of 9.5 baskets per acre. To ensure sufficient domestic edible oil supplies and reduce palm oil imports, we have encouraged farmers to expand cultivation using quality seeds, improve yields and adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP),” said Daw Moe Moe Wai, Head of the Pwintbyu Township Agriculture Department.

During the monsoon crop season, the depart-



Farmers harvest sesame in Pwintbyu, Magway Region.
PHOTO: HLAING WIN LAY (PWINTBYU MYAY)

ment also provided farmers with agricultural guidance and assistance to improve yields, obtain quality seeds suited to local conditions, adopt proper cultivation methods, prevent pest infestations, apply fertilizers systematically and produce quality crops.

Daw Moe Moe Wai added that expanding sesame cultivation and improving yields would help meet local edible oil demand. Surplus production could also be sold, contributing to improvements in farmers’ livelihoods and local socio-economic development. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyu Myay)/KZL

New Maximum Temperature Records

Issued on 11 October 2026

Sr No	Station	Date of New Record	New Max Record		Date of Old Record	Old Max Record		Past Years of opening station
			(°C)	(°F)		(°C)	(inches)	
1	Zaungtu	10-10-2026	37.1	98.8	30-10-2025	36.6	97.9	39
2	Pyapon	10-10-2026	36.2	97.2	5-10-2026	36.0	96.8	25

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Illegal buildings used for online fraud and gambling activities in Phase II of Shwe Kokko area under systematic demolition

THE Government has prioritized efforts to combat online fraud and online gambling as a national duty, working not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries to conduct effective inspections and crackdowns to prevent such syndicates from gaining a foothold in the country.

Demolition work on the remaining 63 structures in the Phase II of operations in the Shwe Kokko area resumed systematically on 6 October, following the classification of the buildings according to the demolition methods to be used: 25 structures are to be demolished using

heavy machinery, four using controlled explosives, and 34 located adjacent to residential homes are to be dismantled floor by floor through manual labour.

During ongoing demolition operations until yesterday, two five-storey buildings designated for demolition using heavy machinery underwent further dismantling. One building was 85 per cent demolished, while the other was 10 per cent dismantled. Meanwhile, preparations for the use of explosives, including wiring, are underway for a 13-storey building scheduled for explosive demolition.

The Government is placing particular emphasis on cracking down



Image shows an illegal building used for online fraud and gambling activities destroyed by heavy machinery in Shwe Kokko area.

on online fraud and online gambling operations, commonly referred to as online scams, which threaten global socioeconomic

development and national security. It is working with neighbouring and regional countries to eliminate these activities completely. — 100/TH

Township-level VDP review meeting held in Kungyangon

A township-level review and discussion meeting involving relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Village Development Programme (VDP) was held at the meeting hall of the Department of Rural Development in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, on 10 October.

At the meeting, Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative U Tin Lin delivered the opening remarks. Daw Su Thida Lin,



The ceremony to review implementation of village development programme takes place in Kungyangon Township on 10 October.

Head of the Department of Rural Development in

Kungyangon Township, explained the objectives

of the township-level VDP review meeting and the key points to be discussed.

Village project working group members participated in the group discussions to review the difficulties encountered during project implementation, strengths and weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement. Officials reviewed the issues and suggestions raised during the discussions. — Myo Myo (DRD)

1.5M baht compensated for deceased Myanmar migrant worker



FAMILY of a Myanmar woman, Ma Thida Win, who passed away in Thailand's Rayong in a collision of motorcycle and 18-wheel truck was given compensation 1.5 million baht, according to a statement issued by the Worker Alliance Group (WAG) on 9 October.

Ma Thida Win died of severe injuries in the accident that happened on 27 July this year and her family requested the WAG to find justice for

Compensation 1.5 million baht was being transferred to the victim's family.

her death.

WAG and FED Foundation lodged a file at respective police station and held mediations with the vehicle owner and concerned persons. Following their intervention, a compromise was reached and was transferred to the compensation 1.5 million baht to the victim's bank account, said WAG.

In turn, the victim's family supported some financial assistances to WAG office for continuing giving helps to Myanmar migrant workers and for the sustainability of the group. — WA/ZS

Drugs worth K138.5M seized in Kentung, Lashio and Sangyoung

DRUGS worth K51 million in Kentung, K67.5 million in Lashio and K20 million in Sangyoung townships were seized on 8 October, and the suspects have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

At 5:30 pm on 8 October, a combined team including members of the Drug Enforcement Division of MPF searched a Toyota Hilux Vigo driven by Sai Sam Shen from Wampong Village, Mongping Township, near Kengfong Village in Kentung Township, following a tip-off. The team seized 51 kilogrammes of raw opium, valued at K51 million at the local rate of K1 million per kilogramme. Sai Sam Shen has been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, at 12:30 pm on 8 October, a combined team including members of the Drug Enforcement Division searched a Toyota Crown car driven by Aung Ko Ko Nyi with Ma Honey Soe, also known as Hwam Kham as a passenger. Both are from Ward 3 of Kutkai. In another case, officials also searched a Kenbo

Scoppy motorcycle driven by Kyaw Naing, also known as Ah Swint from Ward 7 of Lashio, on the Lashio-Meihon road in Ward 1 of Lashio, following a tip-off. The team seized 1.5 kilogrammes of Happy Water, a psychotropic substance, carried by the three suspects, valued at K67.5 million at the local rate of K45 million per kilogramme. Aung Ko Ko Nyi, Ma Honey Soe, also known as Hwam Kham, and Kyaw Naing, also known as Ah Swint, have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

At 10:30 am on 8 October, a combined team including members of the Drug Enforcement Division searched Ma Than Than Htwe, also known as Thay Thay from East Thadu Ward, Kyimyindine Township, who was walking along the Baho Road in North Sangyoung Ward, Sangyoung Township, following a tip-off. Officials seized 10,000 stimulant tablets from her shoulder bag, valued at K20 million at the local rate of K2,000 per tablet. Ma Than Than Htwe, also known as Thay Thay, has been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL



Suspects Aung Ko Ko Nyi, Ma Honey Soe, also known as Hwam Kham, and Kyaw Naing, also known as Ah Swint, are seen with the seized Happy Water.

NATIONAL

Applications for education allowances open until 31 Dec

APPLICATIONS for education allowances for children of workers insured under the social security scheme for the 2026-2027 academic year may be submitted until 31 December 2026.

For the 2026-2027 academic year, education allowances ranging from K30,000 to K75,000 will be provided according to the level of education.

Children of insured workers who have contributed to the social security fund for at least 36 months are eligible for the allowance, provided they are enrolled as full-time students at State-owned or State-recognized schools.

The allowance amount is determined by the child's education level, based on a monthly wage ceiling of K300,000 for insured workers.

The prescribed education allowance rates are K30,000 per child at the primary level, K45,000 at the middle school level, K60,000 at the high school level, K60,000 for students enrolled in distance education programmes at universities, and K75,000 for students pursuing full-time university education.

Insured workers wishing to apply for the education allowance must submit their applications, together with the supporting documents required under the Social Security Rules, through their respective employers to the relevant township Social Security Office no later than 31 December 2026. — ASH/TH



This photo features a ceremony for issuing permanent disability benefits (lump sum) held at the Mandalay Region Social Security Office on 2 October.

Construction begins on 7,000-tonne potato cold storage in Heho



A farmer is harvesting potatoes at a plantation in Shan State.

MYANMAR Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) has expanded into southern Shan State with two cold storage subsidiaries. MAEX announced on 9 October that a foundation-laying ceremony was held on 6 October for a 7,000-tonne potato cold storage facility in Heho, Kalaw District, Shan State (South).

MAEX, which is successfully implementing the Danyingon wholesale market project in Yangon, is continuing to expand its operations in line with its strategic objectives.

MAEX has established two wholly owned subsidiaries: Shan Taung Agro Exchange Co Ltd and Shan Taung Cold Storage Co Ltd to expand into southern Shan State, the main source of agricultural produce sold at Danyingon wholesale market. With approval from the Shan State Investment Committee (SSIC), these companies will operate a Collector Market as part of the Farmers' Direct Sales Wholesale Market (Heho) project, collecting, storing, and selling agricultural produce in connection with the Danyingon wholesale market.

The companies will also build a modern cold storage facility to improve the quality of seed potatoes and help stabilize prices for harvested potatoes. — NN/KK

Yangon cracks down on sinking illegal tube-wells

ACTION is currently being taken against illegal tube-wells sunk in Yangon, according to U Myo Myint Aung, Minister for Development Affairs of the Yangon Region Government.

The minister made this remark while responding to a question regarding underground water conservation, usage policies, and management plans, raised by Daw Khaing Su Yi Zaw, Regional MP for Bahan Township Constituency 2, during the Huttaw session held on 8 October.

The MP discussed that the demand for drinking and utility water has risen significantly due to development, with the increased population and the expansion of industrial zones, and groundwater consumption should be regulated for long-term sustainability.

In Yangon, groundwater has been extracted via tube-wells since the British colonial period, with approximately 60 to 65 per cent of the urban population relying on groundwater for drinking water.

Up until around 1960, water recharge and extraction levels were balanced. However, after the 1980s, the number of multi-storey contractor buildings surged, leading to a spike in water extraction.

A water resources expert estimated in 2023 that there are currently over 300,000 to 400,000 tube-wells serving households, schools, and industrial factories across Yangon. — TWA/ZN

Myanmar Seeks UNESCO Heritage for Htamane, Acheik Weaving

EFFORTS are underway to nominate the traditional Myanmar Htamane-making custom and Lunyagyaw traditional Acheik weaving for inclusion on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity next year, according to the fifth meeting of the Myanmar National Committee for the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, held on 9 October.

Dr Shwe Pyi Soe, Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, previously submitted a proposal to the Pyithu Hluttaw urging that Htamane, a traditional Myanmar food, and Lunyagyaw Kyogyicheik, a traditional Myanmar silkware weaving art, be included on UNESCO's heritage list. U Nay Lin Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw representative for North Okkalapa Township, seconded the proposal. Following the discussions, efforts have been initiated to seek UNESCO recognition for the two cultural traditions.

"Given that Myanmar is a Union inhabited by more than 100 ethnic groups, the rich diversity of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage forms the foundation for promoting the pride and identity of our ethnic groups," said Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Soe, who attended the fifth meeting of the committee.

Meanwhile, proposals have already been submitted to UNESCO for the inclusion of Myanmar's traditional Thanaka culture and tea culture on the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

UNESCO officially inscribed Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival on the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 5 December 2024. — Htun Htun/KNN



People working together to prepare traditional Myanmar Htamane.

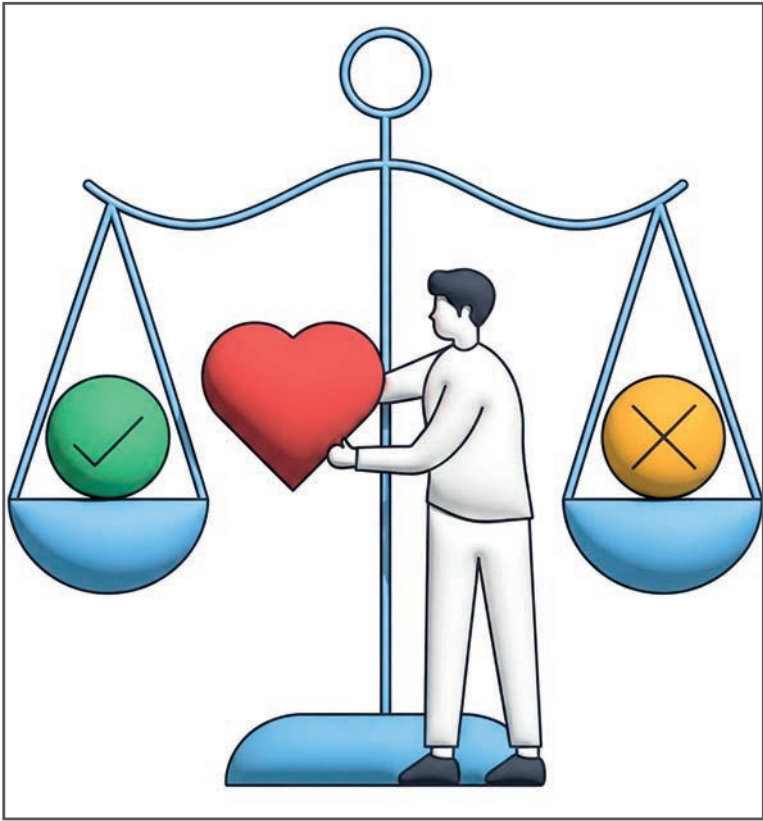
OPINION

Learning from Life Experiences

The journey through life is not always a path strewn with flowers. Every human being may have to endure hardships as a result of the ups and downs and vicissitudes of life, while happiness and well-being can also be attained through effort and perseverance. From the moment people enter this world, they begin to see and hear everything around them, gradually learning, acquiring knowledge and developing their skills. As they go through life, they learn from experiences of good and bad, right and wrong, and various events, enabling them to reflect, think, make decisions and act accordingly.

Therefore, everyone should constantly reflect on and examine themselves. We should strive to live and conduct ourselves in a humane manner. By learning from our own experiences in life, and by promptly correcting our mistakes without hesitation when we realize that we have truly gone wrong, we can remain humane and stay on the right path in life.

Bad thoughts and harmful habits can exert a strong influence over people. For example, everyone knows that smoking is harmful, yet many people remain addicted to cigarettes. They know that drinking alcohol is harmful, yet many are unable to give it up. Likewise, everyone knows that excessive entertainment and gambling can adversely affect their health and social well-being. However, those who cannot refrain from such activities continue to sink deeper into them. The lives of such people can never be truly wholesome or stable. Only those who can correct their mistakes can be considered truly capable. It is never too late to correct wrongdoing; what matters is having the willingness to change. Nor is it ever true that life has come to an end. Even when success has not yet been achieved, and one is experiencing setbacks, everyone has the opportunity to accept those setbacks and strive toward success. Indeed, life is not made up entirely of hardships. After difficult times, better times can come again. What is needed is simply the willingness to correct, improve and change. Nothing is impossible. However, one must make efforts to adapt, create and shape things in ways that are appropriate to one's circumstances. One must cultivate and maintain a firm and sound attitude towards life and the world. Otherwise, one's entire life may be ruined and become devoid of dignity and respect. To prevent this, we must always be mindful to ensure that everything we do in life follows the right path. Only then can we return to our original and proper state. Therefore, everyone should constantly reflect on and examine themselves. We should strive to live and conduct ourselves in a humane manner. By learning from our own experiences in life, and by promptly correcting our mistakes without hesitation when we realize that we have truly gone wrong, we can remain humane and stay on the right path in life.



What Goes Around Comes Around: Understanding the Reality of Kamma

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

We have all heard the phrase, "What goes around comes around". Whether spoken as a warning, a comforting reassurance, or a casual observation after witnessing poetic justice, this proverb captures an ancient truth that spans cultures and generations: Kamma is real. While pop culture often

reduces Kamma to a cosmic vending machine – where good deeds instantly buy rewards and bad deeds trigger immediate punishment – the true nature of Kamma is far deeper, more subtle, and profoundly psychological and spiritual. The True Meaning of Kamma At its core, the word Kamma

originates from Pali, meaning "action" or "deed". It is not a mystical force or an external judge keeping score of your life. Instead, it is the universal law of cause and effect. Just as physical laws govern the natural world – for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction – Kamma operates on human intention, energy, and behaviour. Every thought,

word, and action sets a ripple in motion. Intentional Energy: Kamma isn't just about what you do, but why you do it. Actions rooted in kindness, integrity, and empathy create a positive psychological and social environment. Actions rooted in deceit, malice, and selfishness create chaos, distrust, and friction. The Ripple Effect: When

you treat people with disrespect, you invite hostility. When you build others up, you foster loyalty and support. In this sense, your external world often reflects your internal state. Why Kamma Isn't Instant (The Misconception) One of the reasons people sometimes doubt Kamma is that justice doesn't always happen immediately. We often see unkind people thrive or hard-working, kind individuals face hardship, leading to the frustrating question: Does Kamma even work? The truth is, Kamma is not a microwave meal; it doesn't operate on a strict deadline. Cultivating Positive Energy Believing in Kamma shouldn't make you live in fear

of making a mistake; rather, it should empower you to live intentionally. Because what goes around truly comes around, you have the power to shape your own destiny through daily choices: 1. Choose Empathy Over Ego: Before reacting out of anger or pride, pause. Ask yourself how your words will impact the other person. 2. Practice Unconditional Kindness: Do good things not because you expect a reward, but because of the kind of person it makes you. 3. Take Accountability: If you mess up, own it. Cleaning up your past mistakes stops negative cycles of Kamma (Kammavatta in Pali) from repeating.

Historical Linguistics: Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives

By Maung Maung Aye



Historical linguistics is the study of how languages change, develop, and diversify over time. It examines not only the history of individual languages but also the relationships among languages and the social and cultural factors that influence linguistic change. Language is constantly changing because speakers introduce new expressions, adopt words from other languages, modify pronunciation, and develop new grammatical patterns. Historical linguistics helps us understand these processes by comparing different stages of a language and identifying systematic patterns of development. A fundamental distinction in linguistics is between synchronic and diachronic approaches. The term synchronic refers to the study of language at a particular point in time, while diachronic refers to the study of language across time. A synchronic approach describes how the components of a language function together at a particular period. A diachronic approach, in contrast, investigates how those components change from one historical period to another. For example, describing the grammar and pronunciation of Present-Day

English is synchronic, whereas tracing the development of English from Old English to Modern English is diachronic. Historical phonology is one of the major areas of historical linguistics. It investigates changes in pronunciation and sound systems. Sounds may be lost, added, replaced, or influenced by neighbouring sounds. Some sound changes occur regularly across a group of words and can reveal historical relationships between languages. The study of sound change is especially important in reconstructing earlier forms of languages and explaining differences between related languages. Historical morphology focuses on changes in the structure of words. It examines the development of prefixes, suffixes, roots, grammatical endings, and other morphological features. Languages may lose older inflectional forms or develop new ways of expressing grammatical information. English, for example, has lost many of the grammatical endings that were common in Old English. Such changes demonstrate how a language can gradually move from a more highly inflected system toward a less inflected one. Historical syntax studies

changes in sentence structure and grammatical organization. Word order, auxiliary verbs, negative constructions, question formation, and other grammatical patterns may change over time. The development of a more fixed Subject-Verb-Object order in English illustrates how syntactic systems can gradually change. Historical syntax therefore helps explain why grammatical structures in an earlier form of a language may differ considerably from those used today. Historical semantics examines changes in the meanings of words and expressions. Meanings can change through processes such as broadening, narrowing, amelioration, and pejoration. For example, meat once referred generally to food but later developed a more specific meaning referring to animal flesh. Semantic change can be influenced by social changes, cultural developments, technological innovation, and changes in the way speakers use particular words. Closely related to semantics is historical lexicology, which studies the development of a language's vocabulary. Words can enter a language through borrowing, disappear because they become obsolete, or develop new meanings and forms. Eng-

lish provides an excellent example of extensive lexical change because its vocabulary has been influenced by Latin, French, Old Norse, Greek, and many other languages. Vocabulary change therefore provides evidence of historical contact between different communities. Language contact is an important factor in historical language development. When speakers of different languages interact, they may borrow words, expressions, sounds, or grammatical patterns from one another. Trade, migration, colonization, education, travel, and political relationships can all contribute to language contact. Borrowing demonstrates that

language change is not always an internal process; languages can also be transformed through interaction with other languages. language study by comparing related languages. Linguists look for regular similarities in sounds, words, and grammatical structures to determine historical relationships. This approach has helped linguists classify languages into families such as Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Austronesian, and Afro-Asiatic. Comparative analysis can also provide evidence for reconstructing forms that existed in ancestral languages. Etymology is the study of the origins and historical development of individual words. It traces words through earlier stages and identifies their sources. For instance, many English words can be traced to Latin and French as a result of historical contact. Etymological analysis can therefore reveal not only the history of a word but also aspects of cultural interaction between language communities. Language reconstruction is another important area of historical linguistics. When an ancestral language has not been directly recorded, linguists can use evidence from related languages to reconstruct possible earlier forms. The comparative method is particularly useful for this purpose. Reconstruction does not necessarily produce an exact

record of the ancestral language, but it provides hypotheses based on systematic linguistic evidence. Historical dialectology examines how regional and social varieties of a language develop over time. Dialects may become different because of geographical separation, migration, social identity, political boundaries, and interaction with other speech communities. Historical dialectology is particularly useful for understanding how a single language can develop into several distinct regional varieties. Historical linguistics also considers the causes of language change. Linguistic changes may result from internal factors such as ease of pronunciation, analogy, and grammatical restructuring. External factors include language contact, migration, social change, political events, technological developments, and cultural influence. In many cases, several factors operate together rather than a single factor causing a particular change. The relationship between synchronic and diachronic linguistics is also important. A synchronic study provides a description of the linguistic system at a particular stage, while a diachronic study connects different stages and explains how

one state develops into another. For example, understanding the present-day English verb system requires synchronic description, but understanding why the system has its current form requires diachronic investigation. Thus, the two approaches complement rather than contradict each other. In conclusion, historical linguistics provides a comprehensive framework for understanding language as a changing and developing system. Its major areas include historical phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, lexicology, comparative linguistics, etymology, language reconstruction, and historical dialectology. Additional concepts such as language contact, borrowing, grammaticalization, and the causes of language change further explain the complexity of linguistic development. The synchronic approach shows how a language functions at a particular point in time, while the diachronic approach explains how that language has developed across time. Together, these perspectives enable linguists to understand both the present structure of languages and the historical processes that have shaped them.

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Mont Byne Daunt: A Traditional Myanmar Snack Rich in Heritage and Flavour

A Taste of Myanmar's Culinary Heritage

THE name 'Mont Byne Daunt' is distinctly Myanmar in character, evoking the charm and nostalgia of traditional Myanmar culture. It is believed to have been named after it resembles the small spindles, known as 'Byne Daunt', that were once used to hold cotton threads in traditional household weaving.

Mont Byne Daunt is a traditional Myanmar snack made from rice. There are two main varieties: a plain white version made entirely from rice dough without beans, and a savoury version in which butter beans are mixed into the rice dough.

The snack's appeal lies in its soft, chewy texture and harmonious blend of flavours. As you bite into the tender rice dough, the fragrant aroma of ground sesame seeds mingles with the rich sweetness of freshly grated coconut. A little salt adds a subtle savoury touch, balancing the flavours and preventing the snack from becoming overly rich.

Whether enjoyed with a steaming cup of tea in the morning or as an afternoon snack to stave off hunger, Mont Byne Daunt is a traditional Myanmar delicacy that never loses its appeal.

Ingredients

The ingredients needed to make Mont Byne Daunt are simple and readily available in most households.

1. Rice flour – the main ingredient.
2. Glutinous rice flour – a small amount to give the dough a softer, more tender texture.
3. Boiling water – for mixing and kneading the dough.
4. Grated coconut – freshly grated coconut is preferable.
5. Ground sesame seeds – roasted sesame seeds pounded with a little salt to bring out their fragrant aroma.
6. Fried onion oil – an optional addition for those who enjoy its distinctive aroma.



Traditional Myanmar Delicacy



Step-by-Step Preparation

1. Kneading the Dough
Combine the rice flour and glutinous rice flour in a mixing bowl and stir until evenly blended. Gradually add boiling water, mixing and kneading thoroughly until the dough reaches a moderately firm consistency and no longer sticks to your hands.
2. Shaping the Dough
Take small portions of the dough and roll them between your palms to form elongated pieces about the size of a finger. Their spindle-like shape

- is what gives Mont Byne Daunt its name.
3. Steaming
Lightly grease a steamer tray or perforated steaming basket with oil and arrange the shaped dough pieces inside. Steam for approximately 15-20 minutes, or until the dough becomes translucent and thoroughly cooked.

Giving Mont Byne Daunt a Modern Twist

In addition to enjoying this traditional snack in its original form, you can experiment with creative variations to make it even more appealing to modern tastes.

Naturally Coloured Mont Byne Daunt

For a colourful presentation, use natural ingredients to tint the dough when adding the hot water. Pandan leaf juice gives it a green hue, butterfly pea flower extract produces a blue-purple colour, and carrot juice adds an attractive orange shade.

These natural colours can transform the traditional snack into a visually appealing treat without relying on artificial food colouring.

Fusion Savoury Mont Byne Daunt

For a savoury twist, serve the snack with grated coconut alongside chicken or pork floss, crispy fried garlic and chilli oil. This combination creates a flavourful snack with a little extra crunch and heat, making it particularly appealing to those who enjoy spicy food.

Sweet-Dip Dessert Mont Byne Daunt

For a modern dessert-style variation inspired by Western churros, serve Mont Byne Daunt with a thick palm sugar syrup or coconut milk dipping sauce. The combination of soft, chewy rice dough and a rich, sweet dip offers a new way to enjoy this traditional Myanmar delicacy.

Serving Suggestions

Once the Mont Byne Daunt is cooked, arrange the pieces on a plate and generously sprinkle them with grated coconut and ground sesame seeds mixed with salt. Drizzle a little fragrant onion oil over the top, if desired, and serve while warm.

SEE PAGE 11



Weekly News Quiz

(for 12 October 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Thursday's newspaper (1 October 2026).

National News Quiz

1. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) is currently in discussions to resume repair and conservation work at the historic Phayathonzu in Minnanthu Village with a team of experts from which country?
A. India
B. China
C. Republic of Korea
D. Japan
2. How many vehicles were fitted with the automatic Toll-Pass RFID system on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway during its rollout between 17 and 25 September?
A. 482 vehicles

- B. 520 vehicles
C. 567 vehicles
D. 615 vehicles
3. The 61st Myanma Gems and Jewellery Exhibition, scheduled for 8 to 17 October at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, will feature how many pearls for sale via a tender system?
A. 500 pearls
B. 650 pearls
C. 700 pearls
D. 850 pearls

Global News Quiz

4. Following the parliamentary elections on 23 September, whom did King Mohammed VI appoint as Morocco's first female prime minister?
A. Najla Bouden
B. Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri
C. Samia Suluhu Hassan
D. Victoire Tomegah Dogbé
5. African industrialist Aliko Dangote broke ground on a US\$16-billion mega-refinery with a planned capacity of 700,000 barrels per day at which port in Kenya?
A. Mombasa
B. Kisumu
C. Lamu
D. Malindi

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

DELICACY/LIFE&SOCIAL
WORLD

Traditional ...

FROM PAGE 10

Traditionally, Mont Byne Daung is enjoyed with grated coconut, salted ground sesame seeds and aromatic oil. In some regions, it is also served with coconut milk, which adds another layer of richness.

The snack pairs particularly well with green tea or black tea, making it a popular choice for breakfast or an afternoon treat. It can also be enjoyed with coffee and other beverages.

A Traditional Preparation Method

Another traditional method begins by soaking rice in water before grinding it into a batter. A little salt is added, and the mixture is kneaded and shaped into small balls. These are boiled, mashed again and reshaped.

Butter beans are boiled separately and mixed with half of the prepared rice dough. The mixture is then steamed and served with grated coconut and ground sesame seeds.

Another popular variation is Mont Byne Daunt with Coconut Milk, in which the prepared snack is soaked or served with coconut milk to create a richer, creamier dish.

The Potential Health Benefits of Mont Byne Daunt

Mont Byne Daunt is not only delicious but can also contribute to a balanced diet when enjoyed in moderation. According to the nutritional figures cited for every 100 grammes of the snack, it provides approximately 322 kilocalories, 6.9 grammes of protein and 49 milligrammes of calcium.

Steamed Rather Than Deep-Fried

Unlike snacks that are deep-fried in large amounts of oil, Mont Byne Daunt is traditionally steamed. This preparation method avoids the need for substantial added cooking oil, although the snack's overall calorie content depends on its ingredients and serving size.

Naturally Gluten-Free

When prepared using rice flour and glutinous rice flour without wheat-based ingredients, Mont Byne Daunt is naturally gluten-free. It may therefore be suitable for people who need to avoid gluten, provided that the ingredients and preparation process are free from cross-contamination.

A Source of Energy and Nutrients

Rice provides carbohydrates, which supply the body with energy for daily activities. Sesame seeds contribute minerals, including calcium, as well as unsaturated fats. Fresh coconut provides dietary fibre, while the addition of butter beans can contribute protein and other nutrients.

Together, these ingredients make Mont Byne Daunt a traditional snack that combines familiar flavours with a variety of nutrients.

And with that, we come to the end of this week's culinary journey. Until next time! — MOON

Last Ceuta migrant camp removed ahead of Spanish king's visit

King Felipe and Queen Letizia are scheduled to visit the territory soon.

SPANISH authorities on Sunday cleared the last major migrant encampment in Ceuta, two days before a visit by Spain's king and queen, AFP reporters at the scene said.

The camp sprang up after a mass influx of more than 70,000 people into the Spanish territory from neighbouring Morocco on 30 and 31 July.

Although most returned to Morocco within days, thousands remain in Ceuta, sleeping rough in the streets or on beaches.

The sudden influx, during which scores of people died, sparked



Irregular migrants enter Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta, on 30 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

alarm across the European Union and triggered a political crisis in Madrid.

Police backed by sol-

diers arrived shortly after 8:00 am on Sunday at the El Guano esplanade, where hundreds of migrants had been camping

in makeshift shelters following earlier clearances of settlements on nearby beaches, an AFP reporter saw. — AFP

Japanese women in 30s, 40s not as physically active: govt survey

JAPANESE women in their 30s and 40s have shown a declining trend in physical fitness over the roughly 25 years through financial 2025, a govern-

ment survey showed Sunday.

The survey conducted by the Japan Sports Agency also showed that women in those age groups

were less likely to belong to sports clubs or similar facilities, while the number of those exercising at least once a week was also on a downward trend.

Some analysts say some women appear unable to exercise even if they want to because of time and financial constraints, as they face a heavy burden in balancing work with housework and child-rearing amid growing female social empowerment in Japan.

The physical fitness and athletic ability survey

has been carried out every year since financial 1964, the year of the first Tokyo Olympics, to assess the public's basic fitness and motor skills and reflect the findings in government policy.

The current set of test items has been used since financial 1998, when people in their 60s and 70s were added, broadening the target age range to 6 to 79. The financial 2025 survey was conducted from May to October last year and collected data from about 60,000 people. — Kyodo



A recent government survey reveals declining physical fitness among Japanese women. PHOTO: TOKYO SKYTREE

Anne Hathaway gives Tom Cruise's 'Digger' 10/10 rating

ACTOR Anne Hathaway has given Tom Cruise's latest film 'Digger' a perfect 10/10 rating, calling it a "brilliant movie" despite its mixed response from critics.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Hathaway, who recently joined the film review platform

Letterboxd, shared her review of the Alejandro G Iñárritu-directed film, which follows an oil tycoon who tries to stop a natural disaster that he himself has caused.

Praising the film, the Oscar-winning actor said she enjoyed its unusual story, humour and style.

In her review, Hathaway wrote, "I loved this brilliant movie," adding, "It's smart and trippy and aggressive and funny and ambitious. It's worth making the time see and decide for yourself what you make of it. For me? 10/10."

Apart from 'Digger',

Hathaway also gave five stars to 'The Odyssey'. She listed four other films among her favourites, including 'Moonstruck', 'It Happened One Night', 'Mirror' and 'Phantom Thread'.

Hathaway's review comes as her latest film, 'Verity', starring Dakota

Johnson and Josh Hartnett, has performed better than 'Digger' at the box office. — ANI

Digger earned US\$24.9 million globally, while Hathaway's film Verity earned over US\$70.8 million worldwide. PHOTO: ANI



ECONOMY
WORLD

India expanding trade footprint to strengthen global ties and empower MSMEs

Government leaders empower local micro enterprises through strategic trade policy initiatives.

INDIA is rapidly broadening its network of free trade agreements to integrate deeply with global economies, empower micro, small, and medium enterprises, and accelerate national economic expansion, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

Speaking at the 121st Annual Session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Union Minister stated that New Delhi has concluded nine trade pacts covering 38 developed economies over the past four to four and a half years, transforming the country into an attrac-



India strengthens global economic ties through multiple new trade agreements. PHOTO: ADANI PORT

tive destination for international trade.

Emphasizing the changing paradigm of global engagement, the Minister said, “When you see world leaders making up the line to engage with India to expand trading re-

lations. After all, in the last 4 to 4.5 years, we have concluded 9 Free Trade Agreements. Collectively covering 38 developed nations.” Contrast was drawn with the trade pacts executed prior to 2014, with Goyal pointing out that those old-

er agreements provided preferential access to an aggregate global gross domestic product of merely US\$10 trillion. He noted that earlier pacts often failed to prioritize domestic competitive advantage. — ANI

US allows 4 mln barrels of crude released amid Isaias disruption

THE United States on Saturday authorized the release of up to four million barrels of crude oil from its strategic reserves to offset supply disruptions caused by storm Isaias in the country’s southeast.

As part of the “emergency exchange”, Exxon-Mobil and BP American can each receive up to two million barrels “to help maintain refinery operations”, Energy Secretary Chris Wright was quoted

as saying in a statement released by his department.

The two oil giants will be required to return crude to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in 2027, contributing a “premium” amount beyond what was borrowed, the Department of Energy said. Oil production in the US Gulf coast region has been severely disrupted by Isaias, which made landfall in Florida on Friday as a Category 2 hurricane. — AFP



Energy officials authorize emergency petroleum distributions to support domestic refinery networks. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Slovaks adopt more cautious financial approach amid economic uncertainty: survey

THE financial mindset of consumers in Slovakia has changed significantly, with almost two-thirds of Slovaks now protecting their savings and avoiding financial risk, according to a European Consumer Payment Report quoted by the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR) on Saturday.

The report by credit management services company Intrum found that the share of Slovak respondents classified as “cautious savers” rose from 35 per cent in 2025 to 62 percent in 2026. The figure is 15 percentage points above the European average of 47 per cent. The shift reflects a more defensive approach

to personal finances, with households increasingly focusing on preserving existing savings and limiting exposure to financial risks amid economic uncertainty, the report said.

“Overall, Slovaks have maintained their financial stability over the past year. However, the way in which they manage their money

has changed significantly,” said Martin Musil, executive director of Intrum Slovakia.

The growing preference for financial security suggests that economic uncertainty is influencing household financial behavior even before repayment difficulties become apparent, Musil said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka incurs massive coal losses

SRI LANKA’S two national electricity generation bodies have collectively incurred an estimated loss of 15.765 billion Sri Lankan rupees (about US\$47.7 million) due to substandard coal supplied during 2025 and 2026, local media outlet Newswire on Sunday quoted Energy Minister Anura Karunathilaka as saying. Karunathilaka told the parliament recently that the National System Operator incurred an additional cost of 8.572 billion rupees to purchase electricity that could not be generated because of the poor-quality coal. The Electricity Generation Lanka incurred another 7.192 billion rupees to procure additional coal, carry out essential maintenance and meet increased handling costs, he said. — Xinhua

Vietnam real estate bonds surge up

VIETNAM’S real estate bond issuance reached 149.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$5.7 billion) in the first nine months of 2026, surging 126 per cent year on year, local media outlet VnEconomy reported Sunday, citing rating agency VIS Rating. The average interest rate on newly issued real estate bonds stood at around 11.4 per cent, up 110 basis points from the same period last year, according to the report. VIS Rating expects property bond issuance to remain high as developers face refinancing needs for 167 trillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$6.52 billion) in bonds maturing in the fourth quarter of 2026 and in 2027, alongside funding requirements for major development projects. — Xinhua

Afghanistan, Iran seal trade deals

PRIVATE-SECTOR delegates from Afghanistan and Iran have formalized 11 trade memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with a combined value of US\$451.8 million, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment announced in a statement on Saturday evening. The agreements were concluded on the sidelines of a major trade exhibition and encompass strategic sectors including construction, energy, mining, technology, telecommunications, and food supplies. A total of 323 domestic and foreign companies, among them Iranian firms, presented their products across approximately 700 booths during the six-day exhibition, which ran from Wednesday to Monday. Afghan authorities have renewed their call for expanded investment from both local and international organizations to address the nation’s economic challenges and generate sustainable employment opportunities. — Xinhua



Slovak consumers shift toward cautious financial habits during uncertain economic conditions. PHOTO: UNSPLASH

JR East to launch new “teppay” digital payment service on 20 Oct



File photo taken in November 2025 shows the “teppay” code payment service screen. **PHOTO: KYODO**
EAST Japan Railway Co will launch a new digital

payment service called “teppay” on 20 October, as the train operator aims to compete with rivals such as PayPay.
The service, using barcodes and QR codes, will be available on the mobile app for the “Suica”, a smartcard used for public transportation and shopping. The upper limit is set at 300,000 yen (\$1,800) for teppay, compared with 20,000 for Suica alone, in the hopes of allowing users to purchase big items such as electronics and pay accommodation fees. — Kyodo

SriLankan Airlines suspends Riyadh flights until 18 Oct



SriLankan Airlines said the safety and security of passengers and crew remain its highest priority. **PHOTO: SRILANKAN AIRLINES**

SRILANKAN Airlines has temporarily suspended all flights to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, until 18 October following a recent security incident affecting Riyadh Airport, the airline said on Saturday.
The national carrier said the suspension was introduced while safety and operational assess-

ments are being carried out.
SriLankan Airlines said the safety and security of passengers and crew remain its highest priority. The airline added that services to Riyadh will resume once conditions are assessed to be suitable for commercial flight operations. — Xinhua

Ethiopia inaugurates 1st national precious metals refinery

ETHIOPIA on Saturday launched its first national refining facility for gold and other precious metals, aiming to advance domestic value addition

and industrial processing capacity.
Inaugurating the National Precious Metals Refinery at the Bole Lemi Special Economic

Zone on the outskirts of the capital, Addis Ababa, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the refinery will increase export earnings, create skilled

jobs, support the jewellery industry, and foster a more transparent and competitive gold value chain. — Xinhua

Darwin’s largest short-stay accommodation facility closes

DARWIN’S largest short-stay accommodation facility closed on Sunday, with some residents asked to relocate about 100 kilometres south of the Northern Territory capital. The 400-bed YiSSA facility, which had been operating at capacity with a waiting list, provided temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, residents

from remote Aboriginal communities visiting Darwin for medical treatment and families escaping domestic violence, according to local media reports.
The Northern Territory government has established a smaller replacement facility in Batchelor, about 100 kilometres south of Darwin, with capacity for around 150 people.

The closure has raised concerns over access to health, legal and other support services that are concentrated in Darwin.
Danila Dilba Health Service said about 250 of its clients had YiSSA registered as their address and warned that some could face difficulties continuing to access services after the closure. — Xinhua

Major Amulsar gold mine begins operations in Armenia

ARMENIA on Saturday started operations at the Amulsar gold mine, a major mining project expected to generate about US\$130 million annually in taxes, duties and royalties for the state budget, Armenpress news agency reported.
Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan described the launch as an important step for

Armenia’s mining industry, investment climate and economy, noting that the government holds a 12.5-per-cent stake in the project.
The project, located in southern Armenia, could boost the country’s gross domestic product by about 1.5 per cent annually, Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan said at the launch ceremony, add-

ing that more than \$750 million has been invested in the project.
The Amulsar gold mine is expected to produce about 210,000 ounces of gold annually, the Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement on Saturday. The mine has gold reserves of about 73 tonnes, Armenia’s Economy Ministry said in October 2025. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2621E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2621E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (638W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (638W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MTT PORT KELANG VOY.NO. (637W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT PORT KELANG VOY.NO. (637W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2026** 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:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Trump says Russia willing to reach
Ukraine peace deal, criticizes Zelensky

Trump announced Russian diesel supply deal after calling President Putin.

US President Donald Trump said Saturday that Russia was willing to reach a deal to end the conflict in Ukraine, while accusing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky of being unwilling to negotiate a settlement.

Speaking to reporters, Trump said the conflict could have been resolved on multiple occasions and that Zelensky could have secured more favorable terms had he reached an agreement two years ago.

“I think that Russia would like to make a deal,” Trump said, adding that “for whatever reason, Zelensky does not want to make a deal.”



US envoys Kushner and Witkoff discussed ending the war in Miami. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Trump also called on Ukraine to hold an election and replace Zelensky with a new leader who

could reach a deal with Russia.

“President Putin would like to see a settle-

ment strongly. And he’s freeing up a lot of oil for the world,” Trump said. — Xinhua

South Korea completes trial of Arctic shipping route

A South Korean container ship returned on Sunday from a trial voyage through the Arctic, testing an alternative route opened by melting sea ice as conflict in the Middle East disrupts global shipping.

The “PanStar Acro” made the round trip to Europe in less time than the conventional route through the Suez Canal, officials said, but the initiative has drawn concerns that increased traffic could accelerate



Environmental advocates warn that expanded commercial shipping could threaten the fragile Arctic ecosystem. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Arctic ice loss.

The Arctic route could also expose operators to sanctions-relat-

ed risks because it runs along Russia’s northern coast.

“The ‘PanStar Acro’,

which embarked on a trial voyage along the Arctic shipping route on 22 August, docked at Jaseongdae Pier in Busan Port,” the South Korean oceans and fisheries ministry said in a statement to AFP.

The vessel sailed through the Arctic’s Northern Sea Route before making port calls at Felixstowe in Britain, Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Gdansk in Poland, and returning via the same route. — AFP

Poland suspects assassination attempts on leaders

POLAND’S interior ministry said Sunday that the country’s Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz may have been targeted by assassination attempts.

A “report about a potential assassination attempt on Prime Minister Donald Tusk, as well as on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz, was transmitted to the

police via the State Protection Service (SOP)”, interior spokeswoman Karolina Galecka said at a press briefing.

Earlier on Sunday, the ministry ordered authorities to take action “in connection with the

information received by (the police) concerning a possible assassination attempt on the prime minister... as well as the deputy prime minister”, who is also defence minister, Galecka wrote on X. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Panama declares emergency
after strong earthquake

PANAMA declared a state of emergency on Saturday to coordinate relief efforts and assist communities affected by a powerful earthquake that struck the country Friday.

Presidency Minister Juan Carlos Orillac told a press conference at the presidential palace that the declaration would ensure government agencies remain on standby and have the resources needed to assist those affected.

Orillac said President Jose Raul Mulino had ordered the creation of a commission to coordinate relief operations, manage resources and address the needs of affected communities.

The government has also set up donation collection centers, including one at Omar Park in Panama City, while provincial government offices will serve as additional collection points, he said.

The magnitude-7.5 earthquake struck Panama at 12:56 pm local time Friday, with its epicenter about 39 km northwest of Tonosi in Los Santos province. — Xinhua

China urges Arctic climate change
cooperation

FORMER Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying called for greater international cooperation on scientific research and environmental protection in the Arctic, saying climate change, rather than imagined security threats, is the real challenge facing the region.

Fu made the remarks while leading a Chinese delegation to the 2026 Arctic Circle Assembly, held from Thursday to Saturday in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. More than 2,500 representatives from over 70 countries and regions attended the event to discuss issues related to understanding, protecting, developing and governing the Arctic.

During a plenary session themed “How to Understand China”, Fu held a dialogue with former Icelandic President and Arctic Circle Chairman Olafur Ragnar Grimsson. — Xinhua

Cambodia celebrates traditional
Pchum Ben festival

CAMBODIA on Saturday started to observe its traditional three-day Pchum Ben holiday, also known as Ancestor’s Day, running from 10 to 12 October.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said that Pchum Ben is a deeply rooted tradition celebrated annually since ancient times.

“As we observe this traditional festival, I wish all families and loved ones a safe journey to your hometowns to reunite with your families,” he shared in a social media message. “May this occasion bring you good health, lasting happiness, and success in every endeavour.”

As part of the holiday rush, hundreds of thousands of workers and residents leave Phnom Penh to visit their families.

The prime minister said that to support travellers, the Phnom Penh Capital Administration arranged 600 free public buses to help ease financial pressure and ensure safe holiday transit. — Xinhua

Yangon City win derby, Shan United claim second straight victory

SHAN UNITED, the defending champions, and Yangon City secured victories on the final day of Matchweek 3 of the 2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar League with Grand Royal, AYA Bank and AYA Pay as main sponsors, on 11 October.

At Grand Royal Stadium in Bago, Shan United defeated Hanthawady United 2-0 to claim their second consecutive victory away from home and move level on seven points with leaders Dagon Star United. Hanthawady United continued to struggle, remaining winless af-



Hanthawady United and Shan United players compete during the match. **PHOTO: NYI NYI MIN (ML)**

ter the first three matches of the season. Mark Saki opened the scoring for Shan United in the 15th minute, while Edson Junior converted a penalty in the 52nd minute to seal the victory. Shan United defender Thet Hein Soe secured the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along with a commemorative prize and K1 million.

At YUSC Stadium, Yangon City defeated Yangon United 2-1 in the first Yangon derby between the sides since Yangon City earned promotion. The defeat was Yangon

United's first of the season, dropping them from second place in the standings. Yangon City took the lead just two minutes into the match when defender Pedro headed home from a corner. Yangon United equalized in the 20th minute through Than Paing, who also scored from a corner.

Both sides continued to attack in an entertaining contest, before Karam scored the decisive goal for Yangon City in the 70th minute following an unsuccessful clearance by Yangon United defender Hein Zeyar Lin. Yangon City defender Pedro received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along

Myanmar qualified for the 2027 AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup after defeating Hong Kong SAR 2-1 in the final Group G qualifier at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 11 October.

With qualification at stake, both teams gave their all, but Myanmar came from behind to secure victory. The result earned Myanmar a place in the final tournament for the third time, marking their second consecutive appearance.

Japanese coach Yuki Tetsuro, who previously achieved notable success with Myanmar's senior women's national team also guided the U17 side to Asian qualification in his first tournament in charge.

Both teams fielded their strongest line-ups, with Myanmar applying pressure from the opening whistle. However, Hong



Myanmar U17 women celebrate after securing qualification. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

Myanmar U17 women qualify for Asian Cup

Kong, who were strong at long-range shooting, took the lead in the 28th minute through Wang Yi's long-range effort. Myanmar continued pressing for an equaliser and captain Shin Thant Phyu Sin Pyone levelled the score in the 42nd minute, leaving the teams tied 1-1 at half-time.

Myanmar maintained

their attacking pressure after the break, and Thet Thet Wai scored the decisive goal with a long-range shot in the 60th minute. Myanmar then focused on protecting their lead and effectively contained Hong Kong's attempts to find an equalizer. At the end of the Group G qualifiers, Myanmar topped the group with

six points from two wins to secure qualification. Hong Kong finished with three points, while Guam lost both matches and failed to qualify.

Myanmar secured their place in the final tournament with a 9-0 victory over Guam followed by the 2-1 win over Hong Kong. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Tennis: Retired Nishikori shares fond memories with icon Federer

JAPAN'S recently retired former world No 4 Kei Nishikori enjoyed a reunion with all-time great Roger Federer in Tokyo on Sunday as the pair reflected on their rivalry and played as a doubles pair in an exhibition match.

The 36-year-old Nishikori, who won three of his 11 career meetings against the 20-time Grand Slam winner from Switzerland, recalled serving as his boyhood hero's train-

ing partner for a week when 16 in Miami. "I was able to learn a lot, that those were the kind of shots the world No 1 hits and the dedication he makes in training.

"It was a great experience," Nishikori said at an event also featuring wheelchair tennis greats Shingo Kunieda and Briton Gordon Reid.

Federer, now 45, said he remembers their first encounter



Kei Nishikori (R) and Roger Federer (2nd from R) take part in an exhibition match at an event at Ariake Tennis Park in Tokyo on 11 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"vividly," calling it "definitely not a normal practice." — Kyodo

Swimming: Matsushita sets short course world record in 400 IM

JAPAN'S Tomoyuki Matsushita set a swimming short course world record to win the men's 400-metre individual medley on Sunday by clocking 3 minutes, 54.33 seconds at the national championships. The 21-year-old Paris Olympics silver medalist shed 0.48 from the previous record set in 2019 by his compatriot Daiya Seto, who failed to make the final in Saga in southwestern Japan. — Kyodo



Japan's Tomoyuki Matsushita reacts after setting a 400-metre individual medley world record at the swimming short course national championships in Saga on 11 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10



- C. Republic of Korea (From the Phayathonzu temple conservation story on Page 1)
- C. 567 vehicles (From the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway TollPass RFID story on Page 5)
- C. 700 pearls (From the 61st Myanma Gems Emporium story on Page 3)
- B. Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri (From the Moroccan female prime minister appointment story on Page 11)
- C. Lamu (From the Kenya mega-refinery project story on Page 13)

Trump says Russia willing to reach Ukraine peace deal, criticizes Zelensky
PAGE 14



WORLD

India-UAE joint military exercise continues in full swing

THE India-UAE Joint Military Exercise MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026 is in full swing at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. The 14-day exercise, being conducted from 5 to 18 October, brings together 92 personnel with equal representation from the Indian Army and the UAE Army. The Indian Army is represented by troops from a Bhairav Battalion, while the UAE Army contingent comprises troops from a Mountain Infantry Battalion. — ANI

Rescue efforts underway for passengers stranded at sea

RESCUE efforts are underway for 73 passengers stranded aboard the MV Awka in the Solomon Islands after the vessel's engine failed, with aircraft and vessels mobilized to deliver essential supplies. The vessel issued a distress signal at around 7 am local time on Friday while traveling from Anuta to Vanikoro in Temotu Province. The 73 passengers do not include the crew, the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) reported on Saturday. MV Awka has been drifting at sea amid rough seas and swells, raising concerns about conditions on board, SIBC News reported. France, Australia and New Zealand had received the distress signal and offered assistance, including food, drinking water and medical supplies, Temotu Province Premier Stanley Tehiahua told SIBC News. — Xinhua

US to use new Greenland base for anti-submarine operations near strategic Atlantic chokepoint

THE US will gain a base for anti-submarine operations near the strategically important Greenland-Iceland-UK (GIUK) gap under a 22 September agreement with Denmark and Greenland, Troy Bouffard, director of the Center for Arctic Security and Resilience at the University of Alaska, told Sputnik. "The immediate value is access, surveillance, and logistics. Narsarsuaq restores the historic North Atlantic air bridge toward Iceland and provides a base for anti-submarine and undersea operations near the western edge of the GIUK gap," Bouffard explained.

The agreement also provides for a smaller facility at Mestersvig in eastern Greenland, potentially supporting radar, communications, space surveillance, and unmanned systems. "Missile warning or

The pact additionally allows for a smaller auxiliary facility at Mestersvig to support future radar, communications, and unmanned systems.



The US already has extensive access to the Arctic island. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

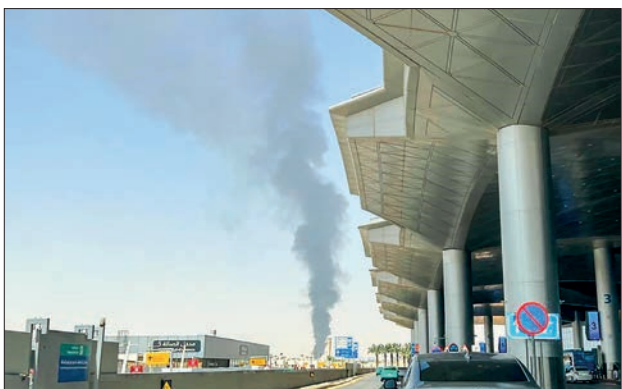
homeland defense sensors could be added over time, though no such plans have been announced," Bouffard

added. He stressed that the agreement also prevents non-NATO countries from establishing military installations in Greenland, while reaffirming Danish sovereignty over the island. — SPUTNIK

12 killed, 309 injured in attack on Riyadh airport

AN attack targeting King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Saturday afternoon has killed 12 people and injured 309 others, the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation said, as Yemen's Houthi group and Saudi Arabia continued exchanging strikes on major airports.

The Saudi aviation authority said in a statement early Sunday that the fatalities included four Saudi citizens and eight foreign residents — two Bangladeshis and one each from the United States, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Sudan. The injured are receiving treatment at several hospitals, with some in seri-



This photo taken with a mobile phone on 19 September, 2026 shows thick smoke rising near King Khalid International Airport in northeastern Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. PHOTO:

ous condition, the authority said. The authority said in an earlier statement that operations at the airport had been temporarily suspended pending damage assessments and safety checks.

Following the Saturday attack, the Houthi group said in a statement that it was ready for reciprocal measures with Saudi Arabia to keep airports, seaports and other facilities with humanitarian functions out-

side the escalating military confrontation.

Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported Saturday that Saudi Arabia launched a new wave of air and missile strikes across Houthi-held areas in Yemen, targeting Sanaa International Airport in the Houthi-held capital, areas near the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait and several northern provinces.

Also on Saturday, Yemen's government forces said that more than 1,150 Houthi fighters had been "neutralized" and over 180 military and logistical vehicles destroyed or damaged in over 1,900 strikes across multiple fronts in Yemen in the past 24 hours. — Xinhua

EU proposes cutting aid to Africa, Middle East

THE European Union is proposing to cut funding for aid programs for countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East by \$16.7 billion in its next seven-year budget, according to a negotiating document published by the Council of the EU on Saturday.

A comparison table in the document lists 60.532 billion euros in the European Commission's original proposal for the Sub-Saharan Africa budget line, compared with \$58 billion in the new draft put forward by the Irish presidency. Funding for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf budget line is set to fall from \$48 billion to \$41 billion.

Funding for programs in sub-Saharan African countries is therefore set to be cut by \$9.75 billion, while funding for countries in the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf would be reduced by a further \$6.8 billion. At the same time, total spending under the Global Europe heading, which covers international aid and foreign policy programs, is proposed to be cut from \$240.8 billion to \$199 billion, a reduction of nearly \$41 billion. — SPUTNIK