

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

Myanmar Drives National Development to Secure Peace and Stability

The Nippon Foundation plans to support Myanmar’s human resource development efforts.

Honorary Chair Mr Yohei Sasakawa of the Nippon Foundation paid a courtesy call on U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they held cordial discussions on the government’s continued firm commitment to following the democratic path, its efforts to maintain peace and stability and promote national development, the plans of assistance to be provided by the Honorary Chair of the Nippon Foundation for Myanmar’s internal peace process within his capacity, and the Nippon Foundation’s planned assistance in developing human resources in Myanmar. — MNA/TTA



President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Honorary Chair Mr Yohei Sasakawa of the Nippon Foundation shake hands during the latter’s courtesy call.

Vietnamese businesses eye investment in Myanmar’s coffee sector

VIETNAMESE businesspeople are interested in investing in Myanmar’s coffee cultivation and production sector, according to U Thet Win, chairman of the Myanmar-Vietnam Friendship Association.

Vietnam ranks second globally in coffee cultivation and production, yielding about 1.7 million tonnes of coffee beans annually.

SEE PAGE 5



Foreign visitors observing Myanmar coffee on display at an exhibition.

Thai Expo invites food vendors

FOOD businesses are being invited to sell at Thai Expo, which will be held from 9 am to 5 pm between 4 and 6 December at the Yangon Convention Centre.

Thai Food Bazaar 2026 is the food court zone of the larger Thai Expo Mandalay 2026 event, bringing together well-known street food from Thailand, Myanmar and other countries, authentic Thai cuisine and food businesses in one place. Beyond food sales, it is a venue to introduce Thai food culture, a place for food businesses to meet new customers and a platform that brings food lovers together while helping businesses raise brand awareness and expand sales.

Booth space is limited. Thai restaurants, cafes and beverage brands, bakery and dessert shops, street food vendors, food franchises and food and beverage SMEs are eligible to participate in it.

SEE PAGE 5

China Datang Expands Renewables in Dapein Basin, Kachin State

CHINA Datang Corporation, a state-owned Chinese company, has announced plans to help meet Myanmar’s energy needs by building on the existing Dapein I Hydropower Plant in Kachin State.

China Datang Corporation has already conducted preliminary assessments and feasibility studies on wind, solar and hydropower resources in the Dapein River basin area.

Based on the findings, the company has also systematically drawn up project plans to increase the production of renewable energy in the region.

Although Myanmar’s energy and infrastructure sectors are still developing and face numerous investment challenges, China Datang Corporation has stated that it will work to overcome these difficulties and bring mutual benefits to both countries.

Located in northern Myanmar, the Dapein I Hydropower Plant has an installed capacity of 240 megawatts. It is China Datang Corporation’s first overseas investment project undertaken under a build-operate-transfer (BOT) arrangement, under a contract signed with the Myanmar Government. — TWA/KZL



The Dapein I Hydropower Plant.

ARTICLE

The Four Global Initiatives: A New Chapter in China-Myanmar Friendship

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker visits National Historical & Cultural Museum-Reserve in Nesvizh

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

Announcement Declaring a Public Holiday for Deepavali Day

AS the 13th Waning of Thadingyut, 1388 ME (8 November 2026), Sunday, is “Deepavali Day”, the Union Government has declared it an official office holiday within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, via Notification 138/2026.

13 buildings over 100 years old in Bago Region designated as ancient buildings

ACCORDING to the Bago Region Government, the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has designated 13 buildings in Bago Region that are more than 100 years old as ancient buildings.

Bronze commemorative plaques have been installed on five of these buildings in Bago Region (West). They are the Basic Education High School No 1 (Main Building) and Basic Education High School No 3 (Zeyanadi Main Building) in Pyay, Basic Education High School (Nawarat Hall and Pearl Hall) in Shwedaung, and Basic Education High School (Nawarat Hall) in Gyobingauk.

The Department of Archaeology and Na-



This photo features a century-old building designated as an ancient structure in the Bago Region.



tional Museum under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has designated a total of 397 buildings more than 100 years old across the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and various states and

regions as ancient buildings through notification orders, in accordance with Section 34(b) of the Protection and Preservation of Ancient Monuments Law.

For these designations, pagodas, stupas, monasteries, universi-

ties and basic education high school buildings were surveyed and registered based on criteria including cultural and historical significance, as well as architectural and artistic value. — Htun Htun/TH

Weather Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday, 20 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 21 OCTOBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, scattered in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 OCTOBER 2026: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 OCTOBER 2026: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — DMH

Film 24 Festival 2026 Offers K30M Prize for Best Short

CHANNEL 24, a free-to-air television channel, will organize the Film 24 Short Film Festival 2026 for emerging filmmakers, with the Best Short Film Award to be presented at the festival.

The festival is a film development initiative aimed at showcasing the talents and creativity of young filmmakers from across Myanmar and Myanmar filmmakers living abroad, as well as nurturing a new generation of directors, screenwriters and filmmakers. Participants will gain practical filmmaking experience, receive guidance from industry professionals and have opportunities to screen their films before an audience.

The judging panel for the Film 24 Short Film Festival 2026 will comprise Academy Award-winning



A press conference held to provide information about the Film 24 Short Film Festival 2026.

director Alinka Kyawswa Pachi Soe Moe (recipient of an honorary doctorate), Academy Award-winning actress Swe Zin Htike and Academy Award-winning director Maung Myo Min (Yin Dwin Phyt). Entries will be accepted from 30 October to 29 November 2026. Of the films submitted, 30 will be selected in December. Following the selection, workshops will be held, the top 10 finalists will be announced, and participants will proceed

to the mentorship programme’s final challenge, in which they will compete by making short films.

In addition, a People’s Choice vote will be held for the short films made by the top 10 finalists. The final screening and awards ceremony will be held in grand style in early 2027.

The festival will offer prize money of K30 million for the Best Short Film Award and K10 million for the People’s Choice Award. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker visits National Historical & Cultural Museum-Reserve in Nesvizh

AT the invitation of Ms Natyalya Kochanova, Speaker of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, a delegation led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe arrived at Minsk International Airport in Belarus yesterday.

The Speaker and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by Mr Igor Brylevich, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, Mr Sergei Aleinik, Chairman of the Standing Commission on International Affairs and National Security of the National Assembly, and U Maung Maung Soe, Ambassador of Myanmar to Belarus.

In the afternoon, Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe views the exhibits at the National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve "Nesvizh" in Belarus.

and his delegation visited the National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve "Nesvizh" in Nesvizh, Republic of Belarus.

The museum was inscribed on the UNESCO

World Heritage list in 2005 and features 15 exhibition halls housing over 24,000 historical artifacts. Furthermore, the museum complex includes the Nesvizh Town Hall, the historic

Slutsk Gate, and five historic parks (Castle Park, Old Park, Japanese Park, English Park, and Marysin-New Park), spanning an area of over 160 acres. — MNA/TH

Falam holds impromptu talk competition awards ceremony

THE awards ceremony for the impromptu speech competition was held at Falam City Hall yesterday afternoon.

The competition was jointly organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations and the Department of Basic Education to develop students, who are the country's future assets, foster their interest in reading and good reading habits, and encourage them to apply the knowledge gained from reading in practice.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Thaung Naing, who is in Chin State to oversee rehabilitation works, Chin State Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport U Nay Lin Aung, and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Work Committee.

The deputy minister and the state minister delivered opening remarks. Maung Bwe Lyan Thang from No 2 Basic Education High School, the first-prize winner in the high school category, and Maung Swee Ngun Mang from No 2 Basic Education High School, the first-prize winner in

the middle school category, then delivered impromptu speeches.

The deputy minister and officials subsequently presented prizes to the first-, second- and third-prize winners, as well as the consolation prize winners, in the high school and middle school categories.

Yesterday morning, the deputy minister and his team also visited the Office of the Staff Officer (Civil) of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, staff officer's house and the two-room staff quarters. They also inspected the progress of work at the office of the District Meteorologist and Hydrology Department.

After inspecting the staff quarters and office operations, the deputy minister stressed that departmental office buildings damaged in terrorist attacks had been repaired using State funds and that the buildings therefore needed to be used efficiently maintained. He also emphasized that, just as the infrastructure had been repaired and improved, staff morale needed to be boosted. — District IPRD/MKKS



An impromptu talk contest awards ceremony underway in Falam, attended by Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing.

Myanmar joins 4th ACHA meeting in Hangzhou, China

DEPUTY Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Aye Tun attended the two-day 4th Council Meeting of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA), held in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China, on 17-18 October.

On the morning of 17 October, the deputy minister met Mr Qiao Yunfei, head of China's National Cultural Heritage Administration, at the meeting hall of the Liangzhu Nara-da Resort in Hangzhou.

During the meeting, the deputy minister said that Myanmar would actively participate in ACHA's future action plans. He also mentioned that the Thanaka cultural tradition, an element of intangible cultural heritage, had been submitted for inscription on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, with



Deputy Minister U Aye Tun speaks at the fourth Council Meeting of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) in China.

a final decision expected in December this year.

Mr Qiao Yunfei highlighted the importance of preserving ancient palm-leaf manuscripts, which constitute a shared cultural heritage of China and Myanmar. He also emphasized the benefits of practical training programmes in disaster management before, during and after disasters for the protection

of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, expressing a desire for continued cooperation.

On the morning of 18 October, the deputy minister attended the opening ceremony of the 4th Council Meeting of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA), held at the Jade Cong Ballroom of the InterContinental Hangzhou Liangzhu.

In the evening, the deputy minister attended the council meeting at the Narada Hall of the Liangzhu Narada Resort.

During the meeting, cultural ministers, deputy ministers, secretaries, directors-general and ambassadors from 12 countries, including Myanmar, delivered remarks on behalf of their respective countries. A panel discussion on "Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk" was also held, during which representatives from Myanmar, Iran, Cambodia and the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) shared their perspectives.

The deputy minister and his delegation returned to Myanmar by air on the evening of 19 October. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Plans underway to fulfil needs of education sector across the nation

UNION-LEVEL organization members replied to queries raised by Hluttaw representatives at the 11th-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw at its meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

MP U Yan Naing Win from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 1 asked about the plans to construct a new school building at Basic Education Primary School in Hngetpyawtaw Kwin Village of Yekyi Township in Ayeyawady Region. Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing responded that the major repair will be carried out on a brick nogging building of the school and an RC building will be constructed in the coming financial year depending on the budget allocation.

The deputy minister



The 11th-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

also answered the question raised by MP Khun Thai from the Shan State Constituency 3, stating that a plan is underway to construct an RC two-storey school building at BEHS No 2 in West Ward of Pindaung, Shan State, in the coming FY.

About the question submitted by MP Daw Kyin

Thein from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 9, the deputy minister replied that due to the shortage of staff and the need to recruit additional personnel, as well as the need to ensure that the education of the younger generations, who are the future of the State, is not interrupted, all-out efforts are being made to

fill staffing requirements. Therefore, the full pension entitlement stipulated in Subrule (b) of Rule 233 of the Myanmar Civil Service Personnel Rules, which provides that employees who have reached the age of 55 and completed 30 years of service are eligible for a full-service pension, and the reduced pension entitle-

ment stipulated in Subrule (g) have been temporarily suspended since September 2022.

In responding to the question of MP U Tin Maung Win from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 8, the deputy minister explained that a two-storey school will be built at Palauk BEHS in Palaw Township in the nearest financial year based on financial allocation.

The deputy minister also answered the question raised by MP U Aung Chit Lwin from Sagaing Region Constituency 2, saying that a two-storey RC building will be built at Tamu Township Education Office on the priority of Sagaing Region based on the budget allocation in the coming FY.

The deputy minister responded to the ques-

tion submitted by MP U Bo Thein Naing from the Mandalay Region Constituency 2. He said that to foster patriotism among students, beginning with those in kindergarten (KG), help them understand moral principles, and develop well-mannered and cultured human resources, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has taken the lead in establishing the National Early Childhood Care and Development Committee to ensure more sustainable and effective outcomes. The committee is nurturing kindergarten children, formulating short- and long-term plans, and continuously implementing them.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its meeting for the 12th day on 22 October. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar tourism promotion office to open in Kunming

A high-level dialogue which highlighted the opening of the Myanmar tourism promotion office (Kunming) was held from 13 to 17 October in Kunming, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China.

During the rounds of dialogue, Permanent Secretary U Maung Maung Kyaw of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism said the friendship between Myanmar and China and the bilateral cooperation will be strengthened through the tourism sector, and the tourism office opened in Kunming will be a major passage which connects the government with the private sector.

For Chinese visitors to visit Myanmar with ease, the permit for visa on arrival has already been extended until 29 August 2027,



The high-level dialogue in progress in Kunming.

he said.

During his visit, a memorandum of understanding was signed on 16 October between China-based companies and travel companies from Myanmar for the opening of the Myanmar tourism office in Kunming, aiming to offer a systematic tour arrangement for Chinese visitors. The permanent secretary and his delegation also visited cultural and tourism-related infrastructures and model tourist destina-

tions in Yunnan Province and Dali.

When the Myanmar tourism office opens in Kunming, Myanmar's tourism industry can have direct access to the Chinese tourism market, and it can also support a safe re-arrival of tourists and help the local hospitality sector recover; in addition, it will bring many benefits for employment opportunities for the people and help improve foreign earnings. — TWA/ZS

Kehsi's VDP oriented committee formed

A ceremony to conduct an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and form a project committee took place in Ponlon Village, Kehsi Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Kehsi Township Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Kyaw Tun met villagers in the village and explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). The project officer explained the rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and forming the Village Development Commit-



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for the Village Development Project in progress in Kehsi Township, southern Shan State.

tee, as well as the tasks to be carried out by the village. Villagers formed a seven-member Village Development Committee by consensus to effectively carry out village development activities. Residents will undertake village development activities selected by local communi-

ties using K15 million in support funds from the Village Development Project (VDP) and contributions from residents, with technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Department of Rural Development. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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NATIONAL

NSPNC, Political Parties Advance Dialogue on Federal Union and Constitutional Amendments

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the working group of political parties concluded their second day of peace talks at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The meeting, focused on securing sustainable peace and laying the foundation for a democratic, federal union, brought together senior military-appointed officials and political party leaders, led by Union Minister for Defence and NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

Discussions throughout the session centred on defining a practical federal system suited to Myanmar's conditions, with an emphasis on equitable power-sharing between the Union government and regional or state authorities. Key speakers, including NSPNC member Lt-Gen Aye Win (Retd) and political party delegation



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the working group of political parties concludes their second and final day of the peace talks.

leader Dr Aung Myat Oo, highlighted the need to review the 2008 Constitution to improve intergovernmental relations and clarify responsibilities across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. While participants affirmed that a capable central government is essential for national policies, economic planning, and defence, they stressed that states and regions re-

quire sufficient autonomy and authority to effectively manage local development, demographics, and public welfare.

The dialogue also examined legislative schedules to identify enacted laws and remaining legislative gaps, as well as strategies to establish a more sustained, structured role for political parties in the broader peace process. NSPNC Secretary

Lt-Gen Min Naing underscored the importance of political parties presenting a unified voice and moving beyond dialogue into practical implementation. The two-day gathering concluded with the formal signing of agreed-upon meeting records and common understandings, followed by closing addresses from both delegations. — MNA/ST

‘Me and China’ Collection Launches to Strengthen Friendship

TO deepen China-Myanmar friendship and mutual exchange based on the genuine personal experiences and heartwarming moments of the Myanmar people, the “Me and China” story collection programme has been launched by the China Cultural Centre in Yangon in collaboration with partner organizations.

Individuals from all walks of life, across all age groups, occupations, and regions throughout Myanmar, are welcome to participate. Entries can be submitted in Chinese, Myanmar, or English, and are divided into three cat-



“China Documentary Festival” organized by the Chinese Embassy and the Cultural Centre.

egories: Essay Category – between 300 and 2,000 words; Photo and Video Snapshot Category – 1 to 9 photos with descriptions or short video clips

(15 seconds to 3 minutes in duration); Professional Category – short videos featuring China's development, culture, and lifestyle in a natural conver-

sational style.

Winning submissions will be featured on the official website and included in the “Me and China” China-Myanmar Pauk-Phaw Friendship Short Story Collection. Additionally, winners will receive certificates and Chinese souvenirs, as well as opportunities to participate in future seminars.

Interested participants can submit their creations along with the registration form by emailing cccygn@chinaculture.org with the subject line “Me and China” Story Collection. — TWA/ZN

Vietnamese businesses eye investment ...

FROM PAGE 1

Vietnam's strong coffee exports drive rising demand for coffee, while limited cultivation land is prompting interest in investing in Myanmar.

Myanmar produces only about 10,000 tonnes of coffee annually and still has ample land available for cultivation, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association. With global coffee consumption rising and major export markets

available, the association is carrying out awareness programs to boost Myanmar's coffee production. Myanmar cultivates only highland Arabica and lowland Robusta coffee varieties. Myanmar coffee beans are currently exported to 16 countries, including China, Thailand, the UAE, Japan and Qatar, and the industry aims to export nearly 5,000 tonnes this year. — ASH/KK

Thai Expo invites food ...

FROM PAGE 1

The Thai Food Bazaar 2026, which offers a simultaneous taste of Thai culture and Thai food, is accepting reservations for food court space. Interested businesses

can make booth enquiries through 09 970733234, 09 254277355, 09 790614713, 09 450045003, 09 777773929, 09 777737923, or Ms Sarapee Sripankaew (Thailand) at +66 61 961 6587. — NN/KK

Htantabin's VDP oriented; committee formed

A ceremony to conduct an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and form a project committee took place yesterday in Yayso Village, Htantabin Township, Yangon Region.

Htantabin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Cho Mie Aye explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). The project officer explained the

rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and forming the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be carried out by the village.

Villagers will undertake village development activities selected by local communities using K15 million in support funds from the Village Development Project (VDP) and contributions from residents. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



An inauguration and committee formation ceremony for the Village Development Project is underway in Htantabin Township.

NATIONAL

YR cultivates 27,000+ acres of prized Pawsan rice

YANGON Region has cultivated 27,144 acres of Pawsan rice as a monsoon crop, according to the Yangon Region Agriculture Department.

Pawsan rice, a Myanmar speciality recognized as one of the world's finest rice varieties, is mainly grown in 15 townships across eight districts of Yangon Region. Five varieties are cultivated: Pawsan Hmwe, Yezin-1, Yezin-2, Shwenantha Pawsan and Pawsan Yin.

"This year, the area under the five monsoon Pawsan rice varieties in Yangon Region has increased. It is a source of pride that Myanmar's Pawsan rice has gained international recognition for its quality. It is also encouraging that Myanmar's farmers have the opportunity to demonstrate their agricultural skills to the world. Farmers have



Myanmar's Yezin-2 Pawsan rice thrives in a lush paddy field.

followed the guidance and instructions of the Agriculture Department, contributing to good results and the production of high-quality rice," said Daw Khine Nwe Aye, Assistant Director of the Yangon Region Agriculture Department.

She added that the growing international recognition of Myanmar's Pawsan Hmwe rice offered numerous opportunities for farmers.

Yangon Region initially planned to cultivate

1,142,155 acres of monsoon paddy but has already planted 1,148,222 acres, exceeding the target. Monsoon paddy cultivation is expected to be completed by late October, with the remaining areas, including those where Pawsan rice will be planted after floodwaters recede, scheduled for cultivation by the end of the month.

The regional Agriculture Department estimates that Pawsan rice yields will average 72.25 baskets per acre this year,

slightly above last year's average of 72.21 baskets per acre.

On 9 September 2026, Myanmar's Pawsan rice won the World's Best Rice Award 2026 at the rice quality competition held during the International World Rice Conference 2026 in Manila, the Philippines. The award showcased the quality of Myanmar rice on the international stage. Maintaining this standard could open a new chapter for the country's rice sector.

Myanmar's well-known Pawsan varieties include Shwebo Pawsan, Pawsan Hmwe, Pawsan Baykya, Pawsan Gyi, Pawsan Yin, Myaungmya Pawsan, Pyapon Pawsan, Yezin Pawsan-1 and Yezin Pawsan-2. These varieties are widely consumed domestically and are prized for their quality. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

Discussion Held on Pesticide-Free Farm Exports



The discussion on ensuring pesticide residue-free agricultural exports.

A discussion on ensuring pesticide residue-free agricultural exports was held on 16 October at the Mingala Hall of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

During the event, Dr Ye Tint Tun, deputy minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, delivered opening remarks. He noted that while the state prioritizes the agricultural sector by exporting raw materials and finished products, the presence of pesticide residues acts as an obstacle to business operations. He urged all stakeholders to cooperate as a national duty to ensure crops are free from pesticide residues. Furthermore, he warned that reports labelling Myanmar

products as unsafe could severely harm foreign exchange earnings and the interests of business owners.

Next, UMFCCI vice president U Ye Min Aung emphasized the necessity of building good relations for exports through government-to-government (G-to-G) as well as association-to-business (B-to-B) channels. He also discussed the importance of thoroughly preparing inspection processes and collaborating with associations to boost exports and penetrate international markets.

Following this, an official presented guidelines on keeping export crops free from pesticide residue, and attendees asked questions and engaged in discussions. — TWA/ZN



Officials inspect a completed brick water tank in Sagaing Township.

OFFICIALS from the Sagaing District Department of Rural Development made a field inspection yesterday to check the completion status of a 5,000-gallon brick wa-

ter tank constructed in Arlaung Village, Sagaing Township, implemented under the regional government's allocated budget.

During the field in-

Completed 5,000-gallon brick water tank inspected in Sagaing

spection, Daw Yin Yin Cho, Head of the Sagaing District Department of Rural Development, together with Daw Aye Aye Nwe, Head of the Sagaing Township Department of Rural Development, and relevant officials, joined village elders to inspect the completed 5,000-gallon brick water tank. The district head provided additional instructions as needed.

The construction of the 5,000-gallon brick wa-

ter tank in Arlaung Village was implemented starting in the fourth week of May by a team of departmental engineers using a regional government-allocated budget of K19 million. The project is now 100 per cent complete. Thanks to the successful execution of this project, it will benefit 335 households and 1,620 residents in the village, according to the Sagaing District Department of Rural Development head. — Thu Thu

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NATIONAL

Tatmadaw regains control of villages along key transport routes

COALITION armed insurgents operating under the banner of the PDF, described as proxies of the terrorist groups NUG and CRPH, have temporarily taken control of towns and villages in certain regions and states to disrupt government administrative machinery and carry out various destructive acts for their own interests. In response, Tatmadaw columns have been conducting counter-terrorism operations.

Seeking to advance their own interests, coalition PDF terrorists temporarily seized certain towns, villages and areas, carrying out acts of terrorism and blocking vital transport links essential for regional development. They established defensive bases along public transport routes, extorted transit fees from travellers, arbitrarily

detained and tortured civilians, and killed those who refused to comply. Consequently, local communities faced severe disruptions to transport and the movement of goods, resulting in acute shortages of food and essential household items, interruptions in the supply of medicines and emergency medical supplies, and shortages of raw materials for local businesses. Finished goods were also unable to reach markets. As a result, the daily socioeconomic lives of local ethnic communities deteriorated sharply, and residents suffered greatly from the abuses committed by the insurgents.

To address the situation, Tatmadaw columns made sustained efforts to reopen vital transport routes temporarily controlled by the terrorists. They gradually regained

control of towns, villages and road networks one after another, fully securing and reopening the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htiyaing-Katha-Indaw-Mawlu-Nantsiaung-Mohnyin-Mogaung-Myitkyina route on 6 May 2026. This enabled the swift and smooth movement of goods and trade within the region and supported the recovery and revitalization of public services, including education and healthcare.

To eliminate insurgent outposts along the Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin and Indaw-Maugon-Kyauktan routes, which were reportedly used to intimidate and extort travellers, Tatmadaw columns systematically organized and deployed coordinated forces from Indaw town to conduct phased area security operations. During these suc-



A documentary photo of the restoration of Meza Village, Sagaing Region.

cessive operations, troops recaptured Lenaung and Kanni villages on 5 October, followed by Pintthachay, Meza, Lezin and Nantthe villages on 9 October. Operations continued with the capture of a terrorist camp near Kyauktaw village and Kyeinchaung village on 12 October, Pein-inn village on 13 October, Hsinging village on 14 October, and Nyaungkaing and Htantabin villages on 16 October. Finally, on 18 October, security forces successfully retook and secured Namkham, Lepyin and Maugon villages.

Tatmadaw personnel fought tenaciously to reclaim these settlements

along the transport corridors. During a total of 32 major and minor armed clashes with the terrorists, troops recovered 18 bodies of enemy fighters, along with 19 assorted firearms, ammunition and other military equipment.

During their temporary control of the area, coalition terrorists dug communication trenches throughout the villages and fortified residential compounds and fences with bunkers to mount determined defensive operations and carry out various destructive acts. They also blocked transport corridors, extorted money from

passing passenger vehicles and cargo trucks, tortured and killed civilians, and forcibly recruited residents into their ranks. These actions severely disrupted the movement of goods, drove up commodity prices and impoverished the population, affecting all aspects of daily life.

Consequently, Tatmadaw columns are working closely with local communities to carry out essential rehabilitation work and restore public healthcare and education services to revitalize socioeconomic life. Security operations are continuing with increased momentum. — 100/ST

Shwe Kokko scam compounds flattened in wide-ranging crackdown

TREATING the fight against telecom fraud and online gambling as a matter of national duty, the Government is systematically demolishing illegal structures in the Shwe Kokko area to prevent them from being used again for illicit scam and gambling operations.

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to dismantle key structures. The demolition of one five-storey building is 45 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building is 30 per cent complete.

Of the 63 structures targeted for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, the authorities have determined the demolition methods according to building type and surrounding conditions: 25 buildings are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four through controlled implosion, and 34 by manual, floor-by-floor dismantling because of their proximity to residential properties. So far, all four buildings designated for controlled implosion and two



Systematic dismantling of a five-storey building in Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown.

buildings designated for mechanical demolition have been completely demolished. Work on the remaining 57 buildings will continue.

Recognizing online fraud and online gambling as serious threats to global socioeconomic stability and national security, the Government remains committed to cracking down on these activities in close coordination with neighbouring and regional countries to eradicate them once and for all. — 100/MKKS

Philippine nationals linked to online scams repatriated

THREE Philippine nationals involved in online gambling, online scams and other crimes in Myawady Township, Kayin State, were repatriated to their home country through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II on 20 October, in line with legal procedures, on humanitarian grounds and in the spirit of friendly relations between the two countries.

Myanmar officials met departmental personnel and inspected records and data to ensure their accuracy and completeness and facilitate a smooth handover.

Between 30 January 2025 and 20 October 2026, authorities in Myawady Township detained 15,293 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar. After screening, 14,103 were repatriated to their home countries via Thailand under legal procedures.

Of the 1,190 foreign nationals remaining, 471 had been prosecuted under Sections 3(1) and 13(1) of the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The remaining 719 are



Immigration process underway for the repatriation of Filipino immigrants.

ready to be transferred to their respective countries and are being properly cared for.

The State is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries and international organizations to identify and arrest those involved in online scam centres, including foreign nationals directing such activities behind the scenes, and take effective and stringent legal action against them. It is also coordinating efforts to repatriate foreign nationals facing difficulties for various reasons, including victims of human trafficking, to their respective countries as soon as possible, according to the news release. — MNA/KZL

Elevating medical doctors’ professional competence

The Government is actively accelerating the implementation of healthcare services to ensure that every citizen enjoys good health and physical fitness and can live to their full life expectancy. Ensuring the health and fitness of the entire population is a fundamental requirement for building a modern and developed democratic nation.

Furthermore, efforts are being made to ensure that everyone has access to healthcare services, regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas or their economic status. The current life expectancy of Myanmar’s population is 69 years, and healthcare services are being vigorously supported and implemented with the aim of increasing life expectancy to over 70 years by 2030.

It is extremely important to have an adequate supply of skilled healthcare personnel to ensure the overall effectiveness and proper

functioning of the healthcare system. To promote the health and physical fitness of the entire population and improve the standard of healthcare, sufficient healthcare human resources must be developed and trained to ensure that healthcare services are accessible to everyone. In 2023, the Faculty of Medicine was additionally established at Naypyitaw State Academy. As a result, Myanmar now has a total of 17 universities, comprising six medical universities and 11 universities specializing in medical-related fields.

Newly qualified doctors must continually improve their knowledge and professional skills. When treating patients, they must act with goodwill and compassion, providing care with a family spirit and treating patients as they would their own parents, siblings and relatives.

In addition, they must strictly observe medical ethics and attach importance to listening to patients, clearly explaining medical conditions and treatment to patients and their families, safeguarding patients’ personal information and confidentiality, and respecting their dignity. They must strive to become good, responsible and patient-centred doctors who uphold the dignity of their profession and earn the trust of the State.

While the State is working to ensure an adequate supply of healthcare personnel, doctors must also strive to become medical professionals who are not only sufficient in number but also highly qualified and well-rounded in every aspect. Providing healthcare to each individual also means safeguarding the future of an entire family. They must make the best use of their knowledge and compassion for the benefit of the public and strive to become capable doctors whom the State can rely on and trusted healthcare professionals whom the public can place their confidence in.

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The Four Global Initiatives: A New Chapter in China-Myanmar Friendship

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

Today, the world faces growing deficits in peace, development, security and governance. In the face of mounting global challenges, people around the world have an increasingly urgent desire for stronger international cooperation. Against this backdrop, Chinese President Xi Jinping has proposed the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative. These initiatives share China’s wisdom for promoting world peace and development and inject fresh impetus into building a community with a shared future for humanity.

I. Prioritizing Development to Lay a Solid Foundation for Common Prosperity

Development is an eternal theme for humanity and the master key to solving all problems. The Global Development Initiative advocates a people-centered approach to development and strives to ensure that no country or individual is left behind. It seeks to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moving beyond the narrow perspectives of “Western-centrism” and “putting one’s own country first,” the initiative is committed to advancing equal rights, equal opportunities and equal rules for all countries, helping global development enter a new stage of greater balance, coordination and inclusiveness. In the five years since its launch, the initiative has mobilized more than US\$23 billion in funding and supported over 2,000 cooperation projects. Practical cooperation under the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund has benefited more than 70 countries and over 40 million people, earning widespread acclaim from the international community. The Fund has also

supported the implementation of five livelihood and development projects in Myanmar.

In June this year, Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing paid a state visit to China. The two sides signed a number of co-operative documents covering transport, science and technology, intellectual property, human resources development, public health, media and other fields. Guided by the Global Development Initiative, China and Myanmar have seen steady growth in bilateral trade and continued expansion of cooperation in improving people’s livelihoods. China has actively supported Myanmar’s post-earthquake reconstruction and backed 140 development projects in Myanmar through the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. Practical cooperation between the two countries is delivering tangible benefits to the people of Myanmar.

II. Promoting Common Security to Safeguard Peace and Development

Peace and security are essential prerequisites for development and fundamental aspirations shared by people around the world. The Global Security Initiative advocates the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. Upholding the principle that security is indivisible, it calls for a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture. It emphasizes that no country can ensure its own security in isolation from global security, and that absolute security cannot be achieved at the expense of other countries’ security. Moving beyond traditional geopolitical security theories, zero-sum games, bloc politics and confrontation between camps, the initiative offers new approaches to improving global security governance and addressing humanity’s security challenges. China has issued the Global

Security Initiative Concept Paper, establishing a systematic framework for translating its principles into action. On such international and regional hot-spot issues as the Ukraine crisis and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, China has maintained an objective and impartial position and worked to promote political solutions. In the four years since its launch, the initiative has received appreciation and support from more than 130 countries and international organizations. Its core principles have been incorporated into over 160 bilateral and multilateral documents, demonstrating the appeal of this new approach to security and the strength of its practical results.

In recent years, China and Myanmar have strengthened bilateral and multilateral law enforcement and security cooperation, working together to combat cross-border crimes such as illegal online gambling and telecom and online fraud. In July this year, Myanmar adopted its Anti-Online Scam Law. In September, the International Alliance Combating Telecom and Cyber Fraud was established in China. Implementing the Global Security Initiative and deepening China-Myanmar security cooperation will help better protect each other’s citizens and institutions in the other country, providing a solid foundation for both peoples to share the benefits of peace and socioeconomic development.

III. Promoting Exchanges Among Civilizations to Bring Our Peoples Closer Together

Civilizations are enriched by exchanges and mutual learning. The Global Civilization Initiative recognizes the diversity of world civilizations and advocates a vision of civilization based on equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness. It calls for promoting the common values of humanity. The initiative opposes imposing one’s own val-

ues and models on others and rejects ideological confrontation. It offers a practical path towards resolving barriers among civilizations and expanding exchanges and mutual learning. The United Nations General Assembly has formally established the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations. China has hosted the Ministerial Meeting of the Global Dialogue of Civilizations, signed cooperation agreements with more than 100 countries in areas such as culture, cultural heritage and tourism, implemented the Silk Road Culture initiative, held the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting, and taken the lead in establishing the Global South Think Tanks Alliance. In the three years since its launch, the initiative has resonated strongly around the world, and its contemporary relevance and practical value continue to grow.

This year, President Min Aung Hlaing attended China Film Week activities, while Chinese films and television productions, including Dear You and Once Upon a Time in the Middle East, have enjoyed popularity in Myanmar. A wide range of people-to-people and cultural activities, including China-Myanmar youth dialogues, media exchanges, cultural experiences and sporting events, have gradually brought the peoples of the two countries closer together. Implementing the Global Civilization Initiative and deepening China-Myanmar people-to-people and cultural exchanges will help the two peoples better understand one another, strengthen their bonds and carry forward the longstanding Pauk-Phaw friendship.

IV. Improving Global Governance to Build Consensus for International Cooperation

How should the world address global challenges and safeguard the international

order? These questions reflect humanity’s deep understanding of the lessons of history and its enduring pursuit of a better future. The Global Governance Initiative is guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit. It emphasizes sovereign equality, international rule of law, multilateralism, a people-centered approach, and real action. The initiative responds to the historical trends towards a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations, strengthening the international community’s confidence and resolve to uphold multilateralism. China firmly safeguards the authority and central role of the United Nations and supports the development and expansion of BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, through which the representation and voice of the Global South continue to grow. China has promoted the establishment of new multilateral financing institutions, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank. It has advanced the high-quality implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and worked to build an open world economy. The establishment of the International Organization for Mediation and the successful resolution of its first international maritime dispute have opened up a new avenue for resolving international disputes peacefully and efficiently. China has also helped establish the World Data Organization and the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, creating new platforms for digital-intelligent governance. In the year since its launch, the initiative has gained support and positive responses from nearly

160 countries and international organizations. More than 60 countries have actively joined the Group of Friends of Global Governance. The international community is gradually building consensus on reforming the global governance system and translating that consensus into coordinated action.

Myanmar has actively joined mechanisms such as the Group of Friends of Global Governance, the International Organization for Mediation and the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, working alongside other countries to uphold genuine multilateralism. This autumn, China will host the Global Governance Forum in Xiong’an New Area, providing an important opportunity for representatives from Myanmar and other countries to discuss ways to reform and improve global governance.

Practice has shown that the four global initiatives respond to the trends of history and the shared aspirations of the international community. They are steadily moving from vision to action and from blueprint to reality, generating an increasingly broad and far-reaching impact. At this new historical juncture, China stands ready to work with Myanmar to translate the four global initiatives into concrete action and deepen practical cooperation across bilateral and multilateral fields. By turning our shared vision into tangible benefits, we can further improve the well-being of both peoples and build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future characterized by political friendship and mutual trust, mutually beneficial development, coordinated and mutually reinforcing security, and closer people-to-people and cultural ties.

(The views and opinions in the article solely belong to the author).

UN climate panel head wants swift end to deadlock over key scientific report



The sun rises over a forest burned by a fire near Roquefort-des-Corbières, southern France, on 7 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

THE world’s top climate scientists will reconvene at the earliest opportunity, the panel’s chair said on Monday, after member states failed to agree on when to release its crucial new findings on global heating.

The IPCC, a United Nations body, is the global authority on climate science.

Its reports bring together the latest knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and options for responding. They are the key reference point for international agreements on how to tackle the climate crisis, are used by governments to develop national climate policies and have been quoted in international court rulings.

The IPCC suspended its latest negotiations late on Friday after a week of tough talks in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Many of the IPCC’s nearly 200 member countries want its next major report out in time for a crucial United Nations climate summit in 2028.

That summit is due to take stock of the world’s progress so far in cutting planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions and is a key decision-making point.

But some IPCC members — including Saudi Arabia, India and China — have argued that more time is needed to incorporate science and data from developing nations and have said the new report should be delayed until 2029.

“Reaching consensus on the schedule for our upcoming IPCC reports is vital,” IPCC chair Jim Skea said on Monday.

“Our reports... help communicate the scale of climate risks and the urgency of mitigation, adaptation and international cooperation.”

Best available evidence

Skea said that because the Addis Ababa meeting ran past the closing time, many countries — notably smaller nations most vulnerable to climate change — had to leave.

He said it was essential for all countries in the IPCC to be able fully to participate in the negotiations to ensure the body’s assessments on the state of the planet were “robust, representative and responsive to the needs of all countries”.

The IPCC, set up in 1988, knits together assessments from thousands of climate scientists who work voluntarily to compile its mammoth reports.

They are normally released every five to seven years. The most recent came out in 2021.

Skea said the meeting in Addis Ababa had agreed on many issues, including on artificial intelligence.

But member governments had not yet reached consensus on a timeline for completing the next report “and the IPCC budget that will support our work”.

“I will reconvene this plenary session at the earliest opportunity so the panel can effectively conclude its business,” he said.

Some 117 scientists working on the new report signed an open letter saying: “Our message to governments and to the world is simple: we will keep working.”

SOURCE : AFP

NATIONAL

ADVERTORIAL

Myanma Awba Group Supports Myanmar's Next Generation of Entrepreneurs Through Startup World Cup 2026

MYANMA Awba Group has supported Startup World Cup Myanmar, reaffirming its commitment to empowering entrepreneurship and innovation in Myanmar. The regional final took place on 17 October 2026 at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon, bringing together startups to pitch for a place at the global final.

Organized by YEN-D Myanmar Association, Startup World Cup Myanmar 2026 provides a platform for startups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and entrepreneurs to present business ideas, explore growth opportunities, and connect internationally. Ten SMEs from different sectors were shortlisted as finalists and presented their concepts to a panel of judges.



As a Diamond Sponsor, Myanma Awba Group supported the competition to nurture local entrepreneurial talent and contribute to the development of Myanmar's business community. U Thadoe Hein, Group Chief Executive Officer of Myanma Awba Group, joined the judging panel, assessing finalists on their ideas, innovation, growth potential, and broader economic impact. A spokesperson for Myanma Awba Group, U

Nyi Nyi Kyaw Lwin Oo, said: "Entrepreneurs with fresh ideas and the determination to turn them into viable businesses are important to Myanmar's future. To succeed, they need opportunities, access to networks, and confidence to take their businesses further. Startup World Cup Myanmar 2026 gives local entrepreneurs an opportunity to bring their ideas forward, learn from the experience, and compete on an international

stage." Startup World Cup is a global startup pitch competition organized by Pegasus Tech Ventures, bringing entrepreneurs from different countries together. Organized in collaboration with YEN-D Myanmar, the Myanmar edition selected "Kyar Nyo Thin" as its re-

gional winner. The team will represent Myanmar at the Grand Finale in San Francisco, USA, competing for the opportunity to secure USD1 million in investment. Myanma Awba Group believes supporting Myanmar's long-term development means creating opportunities for businesses



Yephyu's VDP introduced with committee formation

THE Yephyu Township Department of Rural Development, Taninthayi Region, held a briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and formed a village development committee at the village community hall in Singu Village yesterday. The village has planned to implement the VDP in the 2026-2027 financial year.

At the meeting, U Myint Oo Aung, Staff Officer of the Yephyu Township Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives, benefits and implementation procedures of the VDP. He also clarified the rules and criteria for selecting committee members, their duties and responsibilities, and the types of projects eligible for implementation under



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for the Village Development Project in progress in Yephyu Township, Taninthayi Region. the programme.

After the briefing, village officials raised questions on development activities, which U Myint Oo Aung addressed. Local communities then elected a seven-member Village Development Committee to reflect the community's collective will.

Under the programme, the village will receive a grant of K15

UMFCCI to host seminar on Enterprise Solution for Digital Transformation

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold an "Enterprise Solution for Digital Transformation Seminar" from 10 am to noon on 23 October in the Mingala Hall at the UMFCCI headquarters, aimed at helping workplaces to carry out digital transformation effectively.

The seminar is designed for business owners and managers and will focus on effectively implementing digital transformation in the workplace, choosing the right technology solutions to match business needs and delivering practical business results. It is organized by UMFCCI's Technology and Innovation Development



Committee. Those interested can register and attend via <https://ln.run/mjAOK>, UMFCCI said. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 20 October 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,655.00~3,671.00	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	16,668,008.56	5,080,100.72	11, 012,085.14	-

China to advance new legislation on cultural heritage protection

CHINA will work to advance the formulation of a cultural heritage protection law as part of efforts to better preserve and pass on its cultural heritage, an official said Tuesday.

Hu Kaihong, deputy director of the General Office of the Central Commission for Guiding Cultural and Ethical Progress, told a media conference that the move is outlined in the country's first five-year plan dedicated to cultural heritage protection issued in September.

The plan calls for improving the legal and regulatory framework and strengthening legal safeguards for various types of cultural heritage, including historic and cultural districts, said Hu, also di-



The State Council Information Office (SCIO) holds a press conference on strengthening cultural heritage protection during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), in Beijing, capital of China, 20 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

rector of the office of the central commission for cultural heritage protection.

Hu said the plan for the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) prioritizes protection, promotes the

rational use of cultural heritage and adheres to the principle of minimal intervention, while strengthening systematic protection and unified oversight.

The plan sets a tar-

get of fully identifying the country's cultural heritage resources by 2030, with an improved regulatory framework, a stronger body of laws and regulations, and a growing pool of professionals. — Xinhua

Gut-testing services gain ground among health-conscious people

MORE people in Japan appear keen to improve their gut health and dietary habits, with major food companies seeking to capitalize on the trend through mail-in microbiome tests and app-based services.

Ezaki Glico Co began offering a personalized health support service in September that combines a stool test kit, microbiome analysis and tailored nutrition guidance for 79,200 yen (\$500).

The service uses mRNA analysis technology, which, according to US developer Viome Life Sciences Inc, reveals not only which gut bacteria are present but also which are active and what functions they are performing.

By analyzing the sub-

mitted sample and a questionnaire about users' diets and lifestyles, the mRNA Health Tracker service gives them health scores based on 26 factors, including stress and digestion, as well as recommendations for foods to eat and avoid from a list of about 300 items.

Glico also sells frozen meal sets and supplements tailored to users' biological profiles.

"We would like to provide personalized diet and solution through the visualization of gut activities," Glico President Etsuro Ezaki said at a press conference on 9 October to announce the launch of the service in partnership with Viome Life Sciences.

— Kyodo



Supplied photo demonstrates the usage of Suntory Holdings Ltd's gut health support app. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Over 13 mln Australians use AI in daily lives: govt report

OVER 13 million Australians use AI tools in their daily lives, according to a government report, with uptake highest among people of prime working age.

Federal government agency Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) on Tues-

day released its annual report for 2026, revealing that an estimated 13.6 million Australians engage with AI tools on a daily basis.

The report said that AI uptake is highest among Australians in prime working age, with

74 per cent of people aged 25 to 34 and 72 per cent of those aged 35 to 49 reporting daily use.

It said that a survey found over 60 per cent of respondents reported using AI for information and advice and 39 per cent used AI to generate con-

tent for work or study.

JSA acting commissioner Trevor Gauld said in a media release that understanding shifts driven by the emergence of AI will be essential to helping Australia prepare for workforce opportunities and challenges. — Xinhua



This photograph taken on 1 October 2026 shows rapper Abisha (centre R), a member of Tamil Nadu's first all-women rap group Sollisai Sistahs, performing onstage next to journalist Kavya B (centre L) during the launch of the Indian multi-lingual rap album on climate crisis 'Climate Emergency Mixtape' at The Humming Tree in Bengaluru. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indian rappers use music to sound climate alarm

INDIAN rapper Kali needed little inspiration to write about dwindling water supplies — he drew on childhood memories of hauling plastic pots full of the precious resource.

Kali's "Neer Kodu" — "Give Water" in the Kannada language — is one of six tracks on the "Climate Emergency Mixtape", billed by its organizers as India's first multilingual rap album about the climate crisis.

The 29-year-old, whose real name is Akshay, grew up in Bengaluru and has been making music for more than a decade, citing Eminem and Akon as influences.

As a child, Kali walked for

around 10 minutes to fill pots with water from a public tap.

"We would always think... we should not waste this," he told AFP during the album launch this month.

Water shortages are a chronic problem in Bengaluru, India's tech hub, where many residents rely on groundwater wells that often run dry in summer.

Others depend on expensive water trucked in from elsewhere. Climate change threatens to worsen water stress as temperatures rise and weather patterns shift.

Powerful medium

India, the world's most popu-

lous country and third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, is vulnerable to extreme weather.

While some areas have faced drought, others have suffered deadly floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain.

Brikesh Singh from Asar Social Impact Advisors, which is one of the collaborators on the album, said music helped express the challenge faced.

"If we want to reach out to people who are experiencing the climate crisis, we need to change how society tells those stories," Singh said. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Thailand's rice exports fall 19% in first 9 months amid Mideast tensions

THAILAND exported 4.99 million tonnes of rice in the first nine months of 2026, down 19.26 per cent from a year earlier, while export value fell 16.84 per cent to US\$2.96 billion, the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday. However, export prices rose. The price of Thai white rice, five per cent broken, averaged \$482 per tonne in September, up 28.88 per cent compared to a year earlier, the ministry said in a statement.

Permanent Secretary



This aerial photo taken on 18 March 2026 shows rice paddies in Chiang Rai province. **PHOTO: AFP**

for Commerce Poonpong meeting the Thai Rice Ex-
Naiyanapakorn said after porters Association that

shipments to Iraq have fallen sharply since early this year due to tensions in the Middle East. Some rice is reaching Iraq via Türkiye, but volumes are small because of higher freight costs.

Rising purchases by the Philippines and Malaysia have partly offset the loss. Both countries are stocking up against risks arising from the El Nino weather phenomenon and to strengthen food security, he added. — Xinhua

Japan convenience store Sept sales up 0.5% on electronic cigarette demand

CONVENIENCE store sales in Japan rose 0.5 per cent in September from a year earlier, marking the third straight month of increase, partly buoyed by higher demand for electronic cigarettes ahead of an October tax hike, industry data showed Tuesday.

Same-store sales at seven major convenience store operators totalled 961.12 billion yen (\$6.1

billion), according to the Japan Franchise Association.

Average spending per customer grew 4.4 per cent to 770.0 yen, helped by strong sales of fried food, desserts, snacks, toys and rain gear. The number of customer visits fell 3.8 per cent to 1.25 billion, marking the 15th consecutive monthly drop, the association said. — Kyodo



File photo shows people walking past a Seven-Eleven convenience store in Tokyo in July 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Toyota eyes 2028 rollout of traffic-linked driver-assist system

TOYOTA Motor Corp aims to introduce a driver-assistance system in 2028 as part of a plan unveiled Tuesday to develop autonomous-driving technology that coordinates with traffic infrastructure.

The driver-assistance system will alert drivers to potential hazards, including objects that have fallen onto roads and the risk of entering areas where accidents have occurred.



Photo taken on 20 October 2026 shows Toyota Motor Corp's booth at the ITS World Congress in Gangneung, South Korea. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The Japanese automaker, which aims to eliminate traffic accidents by training artificial intelligence on various driving data collected from users around the world, is attending the ITS World Congress, one of the world's largest international conferences on next-generation transport technologies, being held in Gangneung in northeastern South Korea.

— Kyodo

New Zealand-India free trade deal takes effect

NEW Zealand exporters can start using the country's free trade agreement with India from Tuesday, with tariffs removed on more than half of New Zealand's exports to the South Asian country as the deal went into effect, a senior New Zealand official said.

Almost 57 per cent of New Zealand exports to India are now tariff-free, rising to 82 per cent over time, while tariffs on 95 per cent of current exports will eventually be removed or reduced, New Zealand Trade and Invest-

ment Minister Todd McClay said in a statement.

The agreement removes tariffs on sheep meat, wool and coal, and on more than 95 per cent of forestry and wood exports. It also provides preferential quota access for apples, kiwifruit and milk albumins, the statement said, noting that a second round of tariff cuts will take effect on 1 January 2027.

Tariffs on New Zealand wine exports to India, previously as high as 150 per cent, will fall to 25 or 50 per cent over 10 years, McClay said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (639W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (639W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2026** 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 UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0413W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0413W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

Indonesia’s economy remains resilient as government spending set to boost growth

INDONESIA'S economy has remained resilient amid global uncertainty, with steady growth, manageable inflation and higher government spending expected to support economic activity in the final quarter of 2026, Finance Minister Suhasil Nazara said Monday.

Indonesia’s economy grew 5.45 per cent in the first half of 2026, while annual inflation stood at 3.28 per cent in September, Suhasil said, adding that the figures reflected the country’s economic resilience despite external challenges.

“We will continue to maintain stability while promoting growth,” Su-

hasil said after a meeting with President Prabowo Subianto at the State Palace.

He said the government would continue using fiscal policy to sustain economic activity and shield the public from external shocks.

Government spending is projected to reach around 1,300 trillion rupiah (about US\$72.4 billion) in the fourth quarter, up from 1,200 trillion rupiah in the same period last year.

The increased spending is expected to stimulate domestic economic activity and strengthen social protection programmes, including food assistance.

— Xinhua

Cambodia’s milled rice exports hit record high

CAMBODIA'S milled rice exports have hit the 1-million-tonne milestone for the first time in history, driven by robust regional demand and favourable trade pacts.

Official data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) released Tuesday revealed the kingdom exported 1.01 million tonnes of milled rice from January to 19 October 2026. This surge successfully surpasses the 940,000 tonnes ex-

ported during the entirety of 2025, fulfilling a national strategic target originally established in 2010.

“Now, we have officially broken the historical record for rice exports,” MAFF Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson Khim Finan said in a statement shared with the media. “This stands as a brilliant achievement for the nation and the entire agricultural sector.” — Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **LEEDEN NATIONAL OXYGEN LTD.** a company organized under the laws of Singapore and having its principal office at 1 SHIPYARD ROAD, SINGAPORE 628128 is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -



SKY ARMOUR

(Registration Number - TM/2026/004726)

in respect of: - “Climbers’ harness.” - Class: 28

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates Company Limited
for **LEEDEN NATIONAL OXYGEN LTD.**
Phone: 09-780072249
Dated: 21st October, 2026

Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids
Goods
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Myanmar

Name of Project: Solar Power Project for Quake-Hit Rural Areas

Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households

RFB Reference No.: ICB S&I-QIP

1. The *Government of Myanmar* has received financing from the Government of the Republic of India toward the cost of the Solar Power Project for Quake-Hit Rural Areas, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households. This contract will be jointly financed by the Communities Contribution of Myanmar.

2. The *Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of solar PV Systems for households in the following Regions:
Lot 1– Solar PV Packages in Shan South

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding document during office hours *10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.* at the address given below.

4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of MMK 11,000. The Bidding Documents will be issued through hand deliver.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 3, 2026 (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked “ORIGINAL BID”, and the inner envelopes marked “TECHNICAL PART” will be opened at the address below on **November 3, 2026 (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time**. All envelopes marked “SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART” shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.

6. The address referred to above is :
Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development,
Department of Rural Development,
Office No. 36 (B), Pandita Street, Oattara Thiri Township, Naypyitaw,
Country: Myanmar
Tel : +95 673 418634, +95 673 418633
ksaung@gmail.com, myomyonpd@gmail.com, drdnep.solar@gmail.com

MYANMA Port Authority
“NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.30 feet to 20.63 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 26th to October 29th, 2026. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by **Eastchem Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Oakthar Phone Hlyan Company Limited** is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Citiusa 550 WP	Gote Kyoe Ka Wai	P2024-5345
2	Bicoaloo 700 WG	Phyote Swal Sone	F2025-5160

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.
Oakthar Phone Hlyan Company Limited

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by **Ruili Cheng Shan Import and Export Trade Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Company Limited** is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Cymo Goal	So Pyay	P2026-7141

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Company Limited. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

Advertise
with us/

Hotline:
09255597511

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Ruili Cheng Shan Import and Export Trade Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Gold & Super Company Limited** to **Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Company Limited**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Kaung Toe	Sodium Nitrophenolate 1.8% SL	Provisional	P2026-7096
2	Gold GA3	Gibberellic Acid 10% TB	Provisional	P2026-7095

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Company Limited. Tel: 09-250406611

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

UN chief calls for Security Council reform during Indonesia visit

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for reform of the UN Security Council during a visit to Indonesia, warning that some permanent members are undermining international peace and security by waging wars and disregarding international law.

Speaking at the Foreign Policy Circle Talks event at Indonesia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta on Monday, Guterres questioned whether the council’s current composition reflected today’s geopolitical realities.

“Unfortunately, to-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (L) and Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrmanatha Nasir attend a joint press conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, 19 October 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

day, we see permanent members of the UN Security Council waging wars while disregarding international law,” he said, adding that the council’s current structure no

longer adequately represents the world, limiting the United Nations’ ability to maintain international peace and security.

“Multilateralism is not an option but a ne-

cessity,” said Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrmanatha Nasir, stressing that no country, regardless of its strength, could address today’s global challenges alone.

Guterres arrived in Indonesia on 17 October for a three-day official visit, during which he met with President Prabowo Subianto and other senior officials.

The visit highlighted Indonesia’s efforts to strengthen multilateral cooperation and promote reforms aimed at making global institutions more representative and responsive to contemporary challenges. — Xinhua

Iran’s IRGC says 2 “violating” oilers caught fire after hitting naval mines in Hormuz Strait

IRAN’S Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said two “violating” oil tankers caught fire on Tuesday after hitting naval mines laid by its naval forces in the Strait of Hormuz, as its Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the country will not let any strike against it go unanswered.

In a statement published on its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said the oil tankers sought to cross the strait through the “illegal” route south of the waterway when they collided with the mines, warning that attempting to cross

the mined path in the strait is “illegal” and will result only in the burning of the “violators’ assets”.

The IRGC added that in another operation, its air defence forces shot down a US MQ-9 Reap-

er drone Monday night over the Strait of Hormuz, noting that its forces are constantly monitoring the situation in the region and will continue to exercise sovereignty and management over the strait.

Also on Tuesday, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said the country will not let any strike against it go unanswered and will respond with equal or greater force. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 20 June 2026 shows the Strait of Hormuz near Khasab, a small town in northern Oman. PHOTO: XINHUA

Malaysian chip-design startups eye global market share

MALAYSIAN semiconductor companies are working to turn chip-design capabilities into market-ready products, intellectual property and new markets, as the industry seeks to strength-

en the country’s position in the global technology supply chain, the Ministry of Economy said on Monday.

This includes collaboration with foreign companies to explore

the joint development, prototyping and commercialization of reconfigurable artificial intelligence (AI) chips, combining Malaysian chip architecture with advanced AI algorithms,

the ministry said in a statement following the launch of KL20 2026, an initiative to position the country’s startup ecosystem in the top 20 globally by 2030. — Xinhua

Russia’s Mishustin attends meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin participated in a meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tajikistan’s Dushanbe on Tuesday, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

Belarusian Prime Minister Alexander Turchin, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref, Kazakh Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister Daniyar Amangeldiev, Chinese Premier Li Qiang,

Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda and Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov attended the meeting.

SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Ularbek Sharsheev took part in the session.

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon greeted the delegates at a meeting in the Palace of the Nation, the official residence of the Tajik president. — SPUTNIK



Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin attends an expanded format meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Qatar to announce regional defence partnership to boost military capabilities: official

QATAR is preparing to announce a new regional defence partnership aimed at strengthening its military capabilities, particularly in air defence, counter-drone systems and cybersecurity, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said Monday.

Speaking at the Global Security Forum in Doha,

the minister said Qatar had conducted a defence review last year that identified air defence, counter-drone capabilities, cybersecurity and electronic warfare as key priorities.

The minister said Qatar would soon announce a new partnership with a regional partner to launch initiatives aimed at developing capabilities in these priority areas and other defence fields. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Vinicius to start against Leipzig as Mourinho rejects untouchable status

REAL Madrid coach Jose Mourinho confirmed Tuesday that Vinicius Junior will start Wednesday's Champions League home match against RB Leipzig, but insisted that no player was guaranteed a place in his lineup.

Vinicius missed Sunday's 4-1 La Liga win over Sevilla through suspension and will also sit out this weekend's Clasico away to Barcelona and two subsequent league matches as he serves a four-game ban following his sending-off against Villarreal.

Real Madrid produced arguably its best



Real Madrid's French forward (10) Kylian Mbappe and Real Madrid's Brazilian forward (7) Vinicius Junior (R) gesture during a training session ahead of their UEFA Champions League first round day 3 football match against RB Leipzig at the Ciudad Real Madrid training ground in Madrid on 20 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

performance of the season against Sevilla without the Brazilian, raising questions over whether Mourinho would immedi-

ately restore him to the starting lineup.

"Tomorrow, Vinicius will play as a left winger," Mourinho told reporters.

However, the Portuguese coach was less forthcoming about Yan Dimomande, who joined Real Madrid from Leipzig in the summer, saying the winger "doesn't even know if he'll be playing tomorrow or not".

Mourinho also rejected the suggestion that any player should be considered indispensable.

"The only thing that's untouchable is the club crest. I don't like the concept of an 'untouchable' player," he said.

"What makes a player untouchable is their performance on the pitch." — Xinhua

Maddison sparkles as Spurs end Premier League winless run

JAMES Maddison made a sensational return to Tottenham's starting line-up on Monday as Roberto De Zerbi's men beat Coventry 3-1 to claim their first Premier League win of the season.

On a feel-good night in London, Maddison marked his first start in 17 months with a spectacular early goal while Dejan Kulusevski returned to the matchday squad after missing the whole of last season.

Jack Rudoni levelled early in the second half but the home side were back in front just before the hour mark when Omar Marmoush lashed home his first goal for the club and substitute Ben Davies made the points safe in added time.

"I just wanted to play well, I just wanted to show my qualities and show what I bring to the team and what the team's missed in the last 18 months or what-



Tottenham Hotspur's English midfielder (10) James Maddison (2L) celebrates scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Coventry City at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on 19 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

ever it is from my last start," Maddison told Sky Sports.

"So the gaffer asked me to play and he wanted to enjoy watching me from the side, so hopefully I did that."

The Spurs playmaker said he believed he could help propel his team up the table as they seek to avoid the indignity of last season, when they narrowly escaped relegation. — AFP

Bayern set for Arsenal test without red-hot Olise

CHAMPIONS League hopefuls Bayern Munich are set for an early test of their title credentials when they host English champions Arsenal on Wednesday without in-form winger Michael Olise.

The London-born Olise, who started in Arsenal's junior system, is suspended after picking up two yellow cards inside a minute in Bayern's 3-3 draw with Viking last week.

After seeing a first yellow for a foul, a clearly frustrated Olise responded to some verbal provocation from Viking captain Zlatko Tripic by throwing the ball at his head to be sent off for the first time in his career.

After being thrust into Ballon d'Or contention due to last season's stellar showing, the former Crystal Palace winger has continued his excellent form this campaign. — AFP



Arsenal's Norwegian midfielder (8) Martin Odegaard attends a team training session at the Arsenal training centre in London Colney, north of London, on 20 October 2026, the eve of their UEFA Champions League, league phase football match against Bayern Munich. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar swimmer wins second Asian Para Games bronze



Winners of Men's 50-metre Breaststroke at the 5th Asian Para Games, including Myanmar's bronze medallist.

MYANMAR swimmer Nyi Lin Htet won the country's second bronze medal at the 5th Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, after finishing the men's 50-metre breaststroke (SB3) in 59.30 seconds.

Athletes from Japan, the Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar competed in the event.

A 15-member Myanmar delegation, comprising officials, coaches and athletes, competed in ath-

letics and swimming on 20 October.

Myanmar's Soe Pe will compete in the men's 100-metre athletics event at 6:50 pm on 21 October, while Lor Lah Win will take part in the women's 100-metre event at 7:58 pm. No Myanmar swimmers are scheduled to compete that day.

Nyi Nyi Lin Htet will compete in the men's 150-metre individual medley on 22 October and the men's 100-metre freestyle on 23 October. — MNA/KZL

Gabbasov's long road to gold leads past a friend

YERKIN Gabbasov from Kazakhstan knew that South Korea's Park Jinho was his friend and the arch rival on the shooting range at the 2026 Asian Para Games.

The 43-year-old fired a Games record 249.1 points in the men's 10-metre air rifle standing SH1 final on Monday, edging Park Jinho by 0.6 points and reversing their finish at the Paris Paralympics two years ago.

"I was preparing for two years because I wanted to beat my opponent and friend from Korea," Gabbasov said after securing Kazakhstan's first gold of the tournament. "We are friends in real life, but I wanted to beat him."

Park took gold in Par-

is, where Gabbasov's silver made him Kazakhstan's first Paralympic shooting medallist.

The Kazakh had already won the same event at the World Cup in Changwon, South Korea, earlier in 2024.

But his route to the international shooting stage had been a long one.

In 2007, Gabbasov fell from a building under construction. He spent two years confined to bed and had to learn to sit in a wheelchair.

He later found work at a public service centre in Kokshetau and tried several sports before taking up shooting seriously in 2021.

Three years later, he was on the Paralympic podium. — Xinhua



WORLD

Japan successfully launches probe in Martian moon mission

THE Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency on Tuesday said it successfully launched a spacecraft on the world's first mission to collect samples, including rocks and sand, from one of Mars' moons.

The probe, carried aboard H3 rocket No 10 for the Martian Moons Exploration mission, or MMX, successfully separated from the rocket and was placed into its planned orbit, the agency said.

"I believe we were able to place it into the planned orbit with exceptional precision," said Makoto Arita, JAXA's H3 project manager, during a press conference. "I'm very happy that we were able to launch MMX, a project that has attracted worldwide attention."

The rocket lifted off



People watch the launch of the H3 rocket, carrying the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) spacecraft, at the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture on 20 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

from the Tanegashima Space Centre on Tanegashima, a small island in southwestern Japan, at 4:41 am.

The spacecraft will head for Phobos, the larger of Mars' two moons,

which orbits approximately 6,000 kilometres from the surface of the planet and has a diameter of about 20 to 30 kilometres. The probe is scheduled to return to Earth with the samples in July 2031.

The latest liftoff comes as JAXA prepares to transfer H3 launch operations to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, which has led the rocket's development and manufacture. — Kyodo

EU unveils new Arctic strategy as geopolitical tensions rise

THE European Union (EU) unveiled a new Arctic strategy on Tuesday aimed at strengthening security, protecting critical infrastructure and expanding economic cooperation in the region amid growing geopolitical competition and accelerating climate change.

The strategy, presented by the European Commission and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, sets out four priorities: strengthening security and resilience, responding to climate change, promoting prosperity and creating opportunities for people and communities in the Arctic.

The Arctic is warming nearly four times faster than the global average, affecting ecosystems and local communities, while new shipping routes and

increasingly accessible resources are reshaping the region's security and economic landscape, resulting in growing geopolitical tensions, strategic competition and military activity, the Commission said in a press release.

Under the new strategy, the EU said it will work with member states and Arctic partners, in coordination with NATO, to improve preparedness, protect critical infrastructure and strengthen Europe's ability to operate in Arctic conditions, including by expanding European icebreaker capacity.

The EU also plans to establish a so-called Maritime Security Hub to help member states and partners share information and improve monitoring of maritime activities in the Arctic. — Xinhua

Indonesia uses dry ice, salt-based cloud seeding to combat wildfire haze

INDONESIA is conducting cloud-seeding operations using dry ice and salt to induce rainfall in four provinces affected by forest and land fires, with rain reported in several districts, State Secretary Minister Prasetyo Hadi said Tuesday.

Prasetyo said dry ice was being used to promote cloud formation, followed by dispersing sodium chloride to stimulate rainfall. Operations are underway in South Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and West Kalimantan

provinces.

In South Sumatra, eight flights have been conducted since 16 October, dispersing 1.6 tonnes of salt and four tonnes of dry ice. Officials reported a decline in PM2.5 concentrations and improved visibility following the operations.

West Kalimantan has conducted 107 cloud-seeding flights since 22 August, using a total of 98.8 tonnes of salt.

Meanwhile, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan have carried out 48 and 23 flights, respectively, with authorities estimating rainfall volumes of 67.45 million and 222.67 million cubic meters. — Xinhua



A firefighter battles a fast-moving brush fire amidst heavy smoke in Tegal Arum, Banjarbaru, South Kalimantan, on 20 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK to Send Typhoon Fighter Jets to Support Saudi Arabia — Defence Ministry

THE United Kingdom will send Typhoon fighter jets to support Saudi Arabia amid the current escalation with Yemen's Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, the UK Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

"The UK will fly defensive counter air missions to support the protection of Saudi cities and critical national infrastructure against aerial attack, using RAF Typhoon fighter jets," the statement read.

The fighter jets will be used only for defensive missions and will not carry out strikes against the Houthis, the ministry said.

The UK will also send military advisers to Saudi



Saudi Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets perform during a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the creation of the King Faisal Air Academy at King Salman airbase in Riyadh on 25 January 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

Arabia, along with an Airbus A400M Atlas transport aircraft to move military equipment within the country, the ministry also said. Furthermore, the UK military will expand its in-flight refuelling support for Saudi aircraft, it added.

Military actions be-

tween the Houthis and Saudi Arabia intensified in August after a four-year lull, after the Houthis began attacking Saudi tankers in the Red Sea in response to the shelling of Sanaa airport by the Yemeni army, which is supported by Riyadh. — SPUTNIK