

The GlobalNEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Tradition Inspires Bold New Creations

The competition will showcase artistic talent, sharpen professional skills, and foster unity across the creative community.

Artistes must continuously enhance their artistic skills and professional standards, and pass on the distinctive beauty of Myanmar art to future generations, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to launch the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competition, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and Chairman of the Leading Committee, Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Soe cut the ribbon to open the competition.

The President unveiled the signboard of the competition.

Speaking on the occasion, the President underscored that younger generations need to understand

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President U Min Aung Hlaing views around the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw.

MRCS, NRC hold partnership review talks

THE partnership review talks between the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) were held yesterday morning at the Strand Hotel in Yangon.

The meeting reviewed the achievements and challenges of the partnership between the MRCS and the NRC during 2024-2026 and drafted a plan of action for the next period, 2027-2029. The MRCS and the NRC have been working together on social welfare projects in eight regions and states since 2013.

At the meeting, My-



The partnership review talks between the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) is underway in Yangon.

annmar Red Cross Society President, Dr Myo Nyunt, noted that humanitarian and primary healthcare assistance had been provided to vulnerable communities through cooperation between the two societies.

SEE PAGE 5

Historic Aung San Stadium Reborn with 30,000 Seats



The image shows the progress of renovation works at the historic Aung San Stadium in downtown Yangon.

AUNG San Stadium in downtown Yangon, which is about 120 years old and has hosted historic Asian youth and South-East Asian sporting events, is undergoing major renovations to meet international standards.

The project began in 2023 with assistance from China. The new stadium is planned to accommodate 30,000 spectators in the main outdoor arena, while the indoor sports hall is expected to have a seating capacity of 3,000. The total construction period has not yet been specified.

Aung San Stadium was once regarded as one of the best stadiums in South-East Asia and the wider continent. It hosted the South-East Asian Peninsula Games, now known as the SEA Games, on three occasions, including in 1961 and 1969.

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 64/2026

10th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1388 ME
21 October 2026

Replacement of 1 Tatmadaw Representative in
Amyotha Hluttaw

PURSUANT to Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, the Union Election Commission has examined the notification requesting a change to the list of one Tatmadaw representative in the Amyotha Hluttaw nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for the multi-party democracy general election held in phases beginning on 28 December 2025.

Accordingly, the Union Election Commission hereby replaces Brig-Gen Aung Aung (BC 23750), whose name was listed in the Commission’s Announcement 33/2026 dated 8 February 2026, with Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw San (BC 27955).

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 65/2026

10th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1388 ME
21 October 2026

Replacement of 7 Tatmadaw Representatives in
Region or State Hluttaws

PURSUANT to Section 33 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law, the Union Election Commission has examined the notification requesting changes to the lists of seven Tatmadaw representatives in Region or State Hluttaws nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for the multi-party democracy general election held in phases beginning on 28 December 2025.

Accordingly, the Union Election Commission hereby replaces the seven Tatmadaw representatives in Region or State Hluttaws listed in the Commission’s Announcement 35/2026 dated 11 February 2026 with the corresponding replacements listed below:

- | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Kayah State Hluttaw
BC 26863
Col Than Soe Aung | replaced with | BC 33437
Col Naung Latt |
| (b) Sagaing Region Hluttaw
BC 24993
Col Win Tin Soe | replaced with | BC 31574
Col Min Thein |
| (c) Magway Region Hluttaw
BC 22405
Col Moe Min Thein | replaced with | BC 31823
Col Naing Zin Tun |
| (d) Mon State Hluttaw
BC 26829
Col Kyaw Swa Myint | replaced with | BC 30278
Col Ye Htut |
| (e) Rakhine State Hluttaw
BC 25775
Col Kyaw Thura | replaced with | BC 31682
Col Zaw Lin Tun |
| (f) Yangon Region Hluttaw
BC 21897
Col Win Tint | replaced with | BC 32763
Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo |
| (g) Shan State Hluttaw
BC 24970
Col Sein Win | replaced with | BC 35337
Col Kyaw Myo Min Latt |

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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

El Niño Conditions

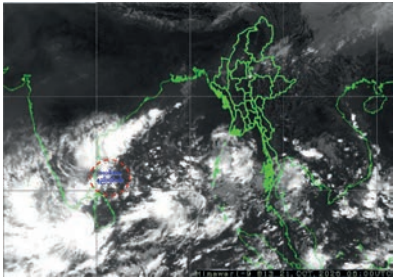
Issued at 21 October 2026

- (a) Based on evaluations from the World Meteorological Organization and international climate centers, sea surface temperatures and atmospheric dynamics across the equatorial Tropical Pacific Ocean indicate very strong El Niño condition and El Niño conditions may reach its peak intensity during November and December 2026.
- (b) Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events in the upcoming summer season.
- (c) Due to the El Niño phenomenon, the upcoming winter and summer seasons may bring high temperatures and water scarcity potentially leading to low water levels in rivers, lakes, wells and ponds shortages of drinking and irrigation water, heatstroke and dehydration, diarrhoeal diseases, due to water scarcity and reduce hydroelectric power generation alongside increase electricity demand. Therefore, all relevant sectors are advised to prepare in advance and take necessary measures to reduce the possible impacts.

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 21 October 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Off Tamil Nadu Coast.



138th Pujaniya Festival commences
at MDY’s Kyauktawgyi Buddha
Image

THE 138th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Maha Thetkyamarazein Kyauktawgyi Buddha Image — a historic landmark of Mandalay built by King Mindon — is currently underway.

The opening ceremony of the festival was held on 20 October, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Moe, and other officials, who officially inaugurated the event by cutting the ribbons.

This festival is being celebrated grandly for 11 days, from 19 to 29 October. During the festival period, the grounds are bustling with local product stalls, souvenir shops, various retail vendors, and theatrical performances provided for the public’s entertainment and leisure.



Officials cut the ribbons to open the 138th Buddha Pujaniya Festival.

Additionally, as a special auspicious event, a Sangha Dana meal offering and a rice offering ceremony will be held on the morning of 29 October, the final day of the festival. At this ceremony, alms bowls will be offered to 2,570 invited Buddhist monks, followed by a rice offering to 2,570 nuns in the afternoon. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker visits Victory Monument, holds talks with Belarusian Upper House Speaker in Minsk

THE delegation led by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Aung Lin Dwe arrived at Victory Square in Minsk yesterday morning to lay a wreath and pay tribute at the Victory Monument, followed by an exchange of warm greetings with the officials present.

The Victory Monument in Minsk is an iconic historical landmark built in 1954 in honour of the Soviet soldiers and Belarusian partisans who sacrificed their lives fighting against Nazi invaders during World War II.

Subsequently, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and his delegation arrived at the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, where they were welcomed by Ms Natalya Kochanova, Speaker of the Council of the Republic, and other officials.

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw then held bilateral talks with Speaker Ms Natalya Kochanova in the Fireplace Hall on the third floor of the upper house.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe holds talks with Ms Natalya Kochanova, Speaker of the Council of the Republic, and other officials.

During the meeting, both sides held cordial and candid discussions on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 22 September 1999, which marked its 27th anniversary on 22 September 2026, and the strong foundation of mutual trust and understanding built over the years. They highlighted how the foresight and friendship of the two countries' leaders, together with reciprocal visits, had deepened bilateral relations and generated mutual benefits. They also discussed the ongoing implementation of the comprehensive strategic partnership, the adoption

of the Cooperation Roadmap (2026–2028) to further strengthen bilateral relations, and the role of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting cooperation across the partnership. Furthermore, the discussions covered ways to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation, share best practices and experiences in parliamentary affairs, organize exchange visits by parliamentary delegations, and work closely together in international parliamentary forums for mutual benefit. Following the meeting, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Amyotha Hluttaw of the Republic of

the Union of Myanmar and the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus was signed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and Speaker Ms Natalya Kochanova in the Praesidium Meeting Hall on the second floor.

Afterwards, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw signed the Distinguished Visitors' Book.

In the afternoon, the delegation led by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw visited the Minsk Tractor Works, the Minsk Automobile Plant, and the First National Trade House shopping centre. — MNA/TH

MoFA Union Minister receives Chargé d'Affaires ai of Embassy of Belarus in Myanmar

U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Aleh Holubeu, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Belarus in Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides cordially discussed matters

pertaining to enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus, including the establishment of the Embassy of Belarus in Nay Pyi Taw, and the implementation of Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus (2026–2028). — MoFA



The charge d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Belarus in Myanmar calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Tradition Inspires Bold New Creations

FROM PAGE 1

the historical background, meaning and essence of traditional arts, as only through such understanding can they preserve traditional values in their creations while producing and presenting artistic works that are in keeping with the times.

He stated that technological advancements in the current era have created broader opportunities for artistic creation, documentation and dissemination, and that making proper use of these opportunities would help foster greater interest in Myanmar art among young

people and introduce it to international audiences.

He earnestly urged them to create works that are in keeping with the times while building on traditional arts, continuously enhance their artistic skills and professional standards, and pass on the distinctive beauty of Myanmar art to future generations.

The President noted that the competition will serve not only as a platform for testing artistic abilities but also as a venue for advancing professional skills and promoting unity within the artistic community.

He also instructed

the judging panel members to evaluate contestants fairly and transparently in accordance with the prescribed rules and judging criteria, assess their abilities and creative works from a professional perspective, and provide necessary advice and guidance.

Therefore, he reiterated his call for artistes, art enthusiasts, young people and all relevant organizations to cherish and preserve Myanmar's traditional arts, continuously study and learn various art forms, work together to nurture a new generation of artistes, and continually

enhance the quality of Myanmar arts.

As the Leading Committee Chairman, the Union Minister reported to the President on the arrangements for holding the competition.

After the ceremony, President U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, along with officials, greeted maestros who will serve as members of the panel of judges.

The ceremony was also attended by Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, deputy ministers, officials, members

of the panel of judges, and contestants.

The competition will last till 29 October with

participation of more than 2,400 contestants from regions and states. — MNA/TTA

Further key points from the speech delivered by the President at the Performing Arts Competition

1. Members of the Panel of Judges must evaluate contestants fairly and transparently in accordance with the prescribed rules and judging criteria.
2. The competition will serve not only as a platform for testing artistic abilities but also as a venue for advancing professional skills and promoting unity within the artistic community.
3. Young people and all relevant organizations have to cherish and preserve Myanmar's traditional arts, continuously study and learn various art forms, and work together to nurture a new generation of artistes.

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw tackles regional rebuilding, sports upgrades and illegal checkpoint tolls

THE 19th-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw took place at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and parliamentarians. During the session, MPs raised seven questions and tabled one motion concerning infrastructure upgrades, community rehabilitation, anti-extortion measures, and cultural preservation.

Addressing constituency questions, Union Election Commission (UEC) member U Khin Maung Oo



The third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw convenes its 19th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

stated that capital expenditure funds will be sought in the 2027–2028 financial

year to renovate the Waw Township sub-commission branch office in Bago Re-

gion, following an initial maintenance allocation of K6.76 million in FY 2022-

2023.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Myo Kyaw Thu explained development plans for sports facilities. He said estimated funding of K900 million has been earmarked in the FY 2027–2028 budget to construct a 150-foot by 20-foot two-storey reinforced concrete grandstand at Thaegon Township sports ground. Additionally, a budget of K947.51 million has been proposed for the same financial year to raise the ground level, pave a 400-metre cinder running track, and build drainage systems to upgrade the Hmawby Township sports

ground into a district-level facility.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu addressed post-conflict rehabilitation and public safety concerns. Regarding destroyed infrastructure and displaced residents in northern Shan State, including Nawnghkio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw, and Lashio, he stated that relief supplies, monthly cash aid, temporary shelters, and essential services are being provided, with over 360 schools reopened alongside operating healthcare centres.

SEE PAGE 5

HLUTTAW

Yangon Region records budget surplus of over K30B in FY 2024-25

YANGON Region recorded a budget surplus of K30.911 billion in financial year 2024-2025, according to a report on the findings and recommendations of the Public Accounts and Finance, Planning and Economic Committee.

Committee Chair Daw Zar Chi Lin read this report during the fourth day of the third regular session of the third Yangon Region Hluttaw on 20 October. The report addressed the Yangon Region auditor general's audit findings for FY 2024-2025. Yangon Region's original estimated revenue was K605.981 billion and ex-

penditure was K708.039 billion for FY 2024-25, producing an original deficit of K102.058 billion. Nonetheless, with the Union allocations and final March accounts, total revenue reached K817.451 billion and total expenditure, K786.540 billion, resulting in a surplus of K30.911 billion at the close of the financial year, according to the report.

The committee asked the relevant departments and organizations to base future budget estimates as closely as possible on prevailing market prices. As the activities in the auditor general's report came before the third



The fourth day of the third regular session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw.

Yangon Region Hluttaw, the committee said its findings and recommendations were solely based on the report submitted to the Hluttaw. Committee Chair Daw Zar Chi Lin also pro-

posed that the auditor general's financial year 2024-2025 audit report and the committee's findings, recommendations and comments be recorded in the Hluttaw's records. — ASH/KK

Historic Aung San Stadium ...

FROM PAGE 1

Construction of the stadium began in 1906 and was completed in 1909. It was originally known as the Burma Athletic Association (BAA) Stadium and was renamed Aung San Stadium on 17 October 1953. The stadium hosted various international and domestic sporting events, including international football matches, invitational tournaments, Southeast Asian Games events, and inter-state and regional football competitions until 2007. However, following expert assessments which found that approximately 70 per cent of the ageing stadium's structure was no longer in sound condition, domestic football competitions were

suspended at the venue in 2009 to allow for major renovation work.

Aung San Stadium has also been an important centre for Myanmar's sporting community, housing the sports federations for athletics, volleyball, chess, billiards, karate, taekwondo, weightlifting, and judo, among others.

The historic venue holds lasting memories of athletes' dedication and achievements, as well as the joy, sorrow, and celebrations shared by players and spectators throughout Myanmar's sporting history. Once upgraded to international standards, Aung San Stadium is expected to provide athletes with better, more comprehensive facilities. — Bala/KZL

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NATIONAL

27th Performing Arts Competition
kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central) for 2026 took place at the designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

The Maha Gita (classic song) contest, comprising the higher education level male contest, basic education level (aged 15-20) female contest, and basic education level (aged 10-15) female contest, took place at MICC I.

In modern song contest, which included the basic education level (aged 10-15) male contest, basic education level (aged 15-20) male contest, higher education level female contest, took place at the Emerald Hall of MICC I.

The contestants participated in the dance contest, which consisted of the basic education level (aged 15-20) female contest and higher education level male contest at Sinphyushin Hall.

The song composing contest was participated in by enthusiasts in male and female first-class and second-class competitions,



Images above, top and below showcase contestants and spectators at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Performing Arts Competition (Central).

higher education level male and female contests, and basic education level (aged 15-20) male and female contests at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism. The Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) hosted an orchestra troupe contest, and the candidates participated in higher education level male contest, basic ed-

ucation level (aged 10-15) female contest, basic education level (aged 15-20) male contest. The oboe contest took place at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), and the candidates participated in the higher education level male contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) male contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) female contest, the basic

education level (aged 15-20) male contest and the basic education level (aged 15-20) female contest.

The theatre of Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism hosted the short drum competitions, and the candidates participated in higher education level male contest, basic education level (aged 15-20) male contest, while other in Ohsi contest for basic education level (aged 15-20) male contest and higher education level male contest. The Pobathiri Hall hosted the piano contest, including the basic education level (aged 10-15) male contest, the higher education level male contest and the higher education level female contest.

The Yoke Sone contest took place at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, and the candidates participated in the first-class contest with “Suvanna Sama” Zet Taw. The Zet Taw contest was held at the city hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, and the group representing Bago Region participated in the first-class contest with “Vidhuya” Zet Taw.

Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, officials from ministries, organizations, parents of candidates and Thabin lovers enjoyed the competitions of contestants in the relevant events.

A total of over 2,400 contestants participated in the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central) for 2026. — MNA/KTZH

Yangon Zoo to Host
Thadingyut Festival

THE Yangon Zoo will celebrate the Thadingyut Festival from 24 to 27 October, along with a Thadingyut bazaar and entertainment.

During the festival, special entertainment by Myanmar traditional dances- oil lamp dance and Shwe Phyo Aung Myanmar Cultural Dance will be performed on 25

and 26 October.

Game activities and rewards, amateur acting competition, pop-up food stalls, photo booths and promotion booths will make visitors enjoy their time.

The Yangon Zoo has invited the public to have a Thadingyut date with family and friends during the festival. — TWA/ZS



This image illustrates an advert for Yangon Zoo's Thadingyut Festival.

MRCS, NRC hold
partnership review talks

FROM PAGE 1

Following this, Project Manager Mr Eunki from the Norwegian Red Cross detailed the cooperation activities and the scores achieved across the seven points applied in the partnership.

Subsequently, the Myanmar Red Cross Society's Project Management Unit, Health Department and Deputy General Secretary discussed the completed activities, which was fol-

lowed by a general open discussion among the attendees.

The two-day meeting was attended by the President, executives and deputy general secretaries from the relevant societies, chairpersons from the regional and state Red Cross Supervisory Committees, directors, heads of departments, deputy directors and officials from both the Myanmar and Norwegian Red Cross. — MNA/MKKS



Pyithu Hluttaw tackles regional rebuilding, sports upgrades and illegal ...

FROM PAGE 4

He added that the government is assisting with reconstruction materials, issuing replacement citizenship cards and household records, and conducting mine-clearance and security operations to facilitate safe

returns.

Responding to queries on illegal toll collection at checkpoints in Mon State, the deputy minister affirmed that joint security teams are strictly monitored by regional administrative bodies to avoid impeding trade, and

that legal action will follow any verified complaints. On officially designating four villages in Zeyathiri and Dekkhinathiri townships in Nay Pyi Taw, he noted that formal recognition requires following constitutional and territorial expansion procedures

through the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

Later in the session, Dr Shwe Pyi Soe from Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency tabled a motion calling for the enactment of policies, laws, and rules to safeguard national language, literature, culture,

and traditional customs, which was seconded by Daw Than Than Aye from Thingangyun constituency. The Hluttaw agreed to deliberate the proposal, inviting MPs to register for upcoming debates. The Speaker also informed the chamber of the receipt of

the MSME Development and Protection Bill, which was returned with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The meeting adjourned in the afternoon, with the 20th-day session scheduled for 23 October. — News Team/ST

NATIONAL

Nationally honoured paddy grows on 20,669 acres in Bago Region

ACCORDING to the Bago Region Department of Agriculture, the cultivation of nationally honoured paddy varieties, Pawsan, is being carried out across 20,669 acres in the Bago Region.

In 2026–2027, a total of 2,728,161 acres of paddy were cultivated in the region. This included 10,189 acres of Yezin Pawsan-1 and 10,480 acres of Yezin

Pawsan-2, making up the aforementioned 20,669 acres. A total of 925 acres of Yezin Pawsan-1 and 381 acres of Yezin Pawsan-2 were harvested, yielding 89.27 baskets and 90.42 baskets per acre, respectively.

In addition, 3,839 acres of high-quality Ngakywe Hmwe and 3,315 acres of Taungpyan Hmwe

were planted, bringing the total to 27,823 acres. The regional Department of Agriculture estimates that 68 baskets of Ngakywe Hmwe and 73 baskets of Taungpyan Hmwe can be produced per acre. During the previous monsoon season, yields stood at 60 baskets of Ngakywe Hmwe and 68 baskets of Taungpyan Hmwe per acre.

“I am very proud that Myanmar’s Pawsan paddy won first prize as the best rice in the world. The department has been able to produce new short-duration Pawsan paddy varieties. If farmers expand the cultivation of high-quality and highly consumable Pawsan paddy varieties in fields that suit the region, the market for Pawsan paddy production will boost farmers’ incomes and support socioeconomic development,” said U Than Aung San, Deputy Director of the Bago Region Department of Agriculture.

For the 2026-2027 summer paddy season, out of the 460,985 acres earmarked for planting, 47,303 acres have been allocated for Yezin Pawsan-1 and 57,284 acres for Yezin Pawsan-2, totalling 104,587 acres. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS



A thriving Yezin-1 Pawsan paddy field in Daiku Township. PHOTO: REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Awareness drive on possible water resource depletion, systematic use of drinking water during El Niño

THE Kawa Township Department of Rural Development, Bago District, Bago Region, conducted an awareness-raising session on possible water resource depletion and the systematic use of drinking water caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon at Makyatgyi Village on 20 October.

Daw Khine Shwe Zin, Township Officer of the Kawa Township Department of Rural Development, explained the possible conditions and impacts that may occur due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, as well as the necessary pre-



An awareness-raising session on possible water resource depletion and the systematic use of drinking water amid El Nino in progress in Kawa Township.

paredness and response measures.

She also explained that the El Niño weather phenomenon may cause higher temperatures and

a decrease in water resources. Therefore, rural people were urged to use water systematically without wastage and to conserve and protect existing water resources.

In addition, she provided awareness on the importance of preparing for possible water shortages by storing sufficient drinking water in advance, keeping water storage tanks clean and properly maintained, and using water only as much as necessary.

A total of 50 residents from Makyatgyi Village attended the awareness-raising session. — Thuta

Myitkyina inspects retaining wall construction for bridge approach road



Officials oversee the construction of a retaining wall in Myitkyina Township.

THE Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection to check the progress of a retaining wall construction project along the approach road to the Namkwayt Creek-crossing bridge on an inter-village road in Namkwayt Village-Tract, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, yesterday.

Kachin State Department of Rural Road Development Director (Civil) and engineering staff examined the ongoing construction work. Project engineers briefed the progress of the project, after which the director (Civil) instructed responsible personnel to ensure the work is completed within

the designated timeframe and in compliance with prescribed quality standards, while coordinating necessary arrangements based on village requirements.

The retaining wall project along the bridge approach road, measuring 360 feet long and five feet and nine inches high, is being constructed using funds allocated by the Kachin State government. Work commenced in the fourth week of August and is currently 50 per cent complete. Upon full completion, the project will benefit 4,812 residents from 888 households in Namkwayt Village-Tract by ensuring reliable road connectivity and supporting local socioeconomic development. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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NATIONAL

Tatmadaw columns wipe out terrorists along Laungshae-Hlinedote-Kyindwe route, regain control of Hlinedote village

TATMADAW columns have been conducting security operations to drive out and defeat the combined groups of AA terrorists and terrorist insurgents operating under the name of CDF, who have been carrying out terrorist acts around the Laungshe-Hlinedote-Kyindwe route. The operations are aimed at reopening the route, and Hlinedote Village, located along the route, was recaptured and brought back under control yesterday.

Since December 2023, the combined groups of the AA terrorist group and CDF terrorist group have used excessive force to attack security personnel responsible for protecting Kyindwe Town, which is located along a communication route connecting Chin State and Rakhine State. They temporarily gained control of the town

and unlawfully committed destructive acts. As a result, locals, including children and elderly people, had to abandon their homes, buildings and belongings and flee to safer areas.

While temporarily controlling Kyindwe, terrorists group established temporary defensive positions inside religious buildings, hospitals, clinics, schools and departmental buildings in the town, and carried out explosions and destruction. They broke into the homes and shops of locals who had temporarily fled their homes and forcibly took valuables, foodstuffs and household items. They also entered and occupied villages along the Kyindwe-Hlinedote-Laungshe communication route and carried out destructive acts, blew up roads and bridges, built fortified defensive positions, planted mines along the



A documentary photo session follows the recapture of territory once held by terrorists.

route, collected extortion money from vehicles travelling along it, and arrested, tortured and killed innocent travellers.

Because of restrictions on cargo vehicles, the flow of goods within the region halted, resulting in excessively high commodity prices. Local ethnic residents have been suffering great hardship in making a living, while regional development and socioeconomic conditions have deteriorated

significantly in all aspects.

Therefore, to restore regional stability and peace and enable residents to live and work with security and confidence, Tatmadaw columns have been preparing and assembling the necessary forces in Laungshae to regain control of the Laungshae-Hlinedote-Kyindwe route, which terrorist insurgents had temporarily controlled, as soon as possible. The columns divided into separate units and

coordinated their security operations, fighting and defeating the insurgents courageously and daringly despite difficulties, without putting their own lives first and using their bodies as barricades.

In these operations, they recaptured Point 610 Hill on 24 September; Rinkae Village on 25 September; Point 934 Hill and Swelwekyin Village on 26 September; Point 1059 Hill on 29 September; Mashwatwi Village on 4 October; Point 1276 Hill on 8 October; and the terrorist insurgents' camp near Point 1732, about 12,000 metres northeast of Kyindwe, on 20 October. Yesterday, 21 October, they recaptured and regained control of Hlinedote Village.

In their efforts to recapture villages along the route and positions occupied by the combined terrorist insurgent groups, Tatmadaw

columns fought fiercely and courageously regardless of their lives. A total of 26 major and minor clashes broke out with the terrorist insurgents. Tatmadaw columns seized 11 bodies, 12 various types of weapons, ammunition and related equipment from the enemy.

Tatmadaw columns are continuing to accelerate the necessary security operations to regain control of and reopen the Laungshae-Hlinedote-Kyindwe communication route as soon as possible, as it is important and greatly contributes to the socioeconomic development of locals and the flow of goods. The repairs to infrastructure, roads and bridges damaged by the acts of terrorists will be carried out as necessary in cooperation with responsible officials from the relevant departments and residents. — 100/KTZH

Online scam hubs demolished in Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown

THE Government has prioritized efforts to combat online fraud and online gambling as a national duty, and demolished the illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area.

During ongoing demolition operations until yesterday, one five-storey building designated for demolition using heavy machinery underwent further dismantling. It was 60 per cent demolished.

Demolition work on the remaining 63 structures in Phase II of operations in the Shwe Kokko area resumed systematically, following the classification of the buildings according to the demolition methods to be used: 25 structures are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four using controlled explosives, and 34 located adjacent to residential homes are to be



This image displays systematic demolition of scam-related structures in the Shwe Kokko area.

dismantled floor by floor through manual labour. Four buildings designated for demolition by explosives and two buildings designated for demolition using machinery have already been demolished. The remaining 57 buildings will also continue to be systematically demolished.

The government is

placing particular emphasis on cracking down on online fraud and online gambling operations, commonly referred to as online scams, which threaten global socioeconomic development and national security. It is working with neighbouring and regional countries to eliminate these activities.

— 100/ KTZH

3 Chinese nationals detained in online scam crackdown in Laihka

THE Government regards the detection, prevention and deterrence of online fraud and online gambling syndicates, which pose serious threats to the socioeconomic well-being of regional communities and people worldwide, as a national duty. In close coordination with neighbouring governments, authorities are taking effective measures to identify, apprehend and prosecute those responsible.

Acting on intelligence that online fraud and gambling activities were being conducted in Laihka Township, southern Shan State, combined security task forces carried out investigative and operations. At approximately 10:40 am yesterday,

near Hopong Village, located about 30,000 metres southeast of Laihka, security forces uncovered makeshift facilities used for cyber-fraud operations. These comprised a temporary workshop tent measuring 30 feet by 15 feet, a large temporary living tent measuring 40 feet by 15 feet, a smaller living tent measuring 20 feet by 15 feet, and a temporary mess tent.

Items seized at the site included three Starlink satellite receiver units, eight laptops, four power stations, 20 mobile phones of various models, seven network switches, three network routers, one large generator, 30 plastic chairs, four folding tables and other related paraphernalia. During further combing opera-

tions in the surrounding area, joint teams detained three Chinese nationals.

Authorities confirmed that, following the necessary interrogations and investigations, the apprehended suspects would face stern legal action under existing laws. The confiscated equipment and assets would also be dealt with in accordance with established procedures.

To eliminate online scams and gambling activities and prevent illicit syndicates from establishing bases in Myanmar, the Government remains actively committed to combating cybercrime in close collaboration with neighbouring countries, regional counterparts and international bodies. — 100/ST

Serving national interest through energy prosperity

Increasing domestic fuel production is not intended solely to replace imports. It is also aimed at reducing foreign exchange expenditure, meeting the energy needs of domestic manufacturing sectors, and generating sustainable long-term economic benefits for the nation.

According to historical records, oil refining operations in Myanmar began in 1871 under the name Rangoon Oil Company. Later, in 1925, the Burmah Oil Company (BOC) constructed the Thanlyin Oil Refinery, which had a processing capacity of 800,000 gallons of crude oil per day. Crude oil obtained from domestic oil fields was transported through pipelines to the refinery for processing to meet domestic consumption needs and for export.

To ensure energy security, excessive dependence on imported energy and raw materials must be reduced. In addition, renewable energy sources should be integrated appropriately, while energy storage capacity and the ability to respond effectively to emergencies must be enhanced.

The electricity and energy sector plays a vital role in the nation's economic development, industrial production and the daily lives of the people. Therefore, in implementing energy projects, balanced efforts must be made to increase production capacity, ensure cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency, develop technology and human resources, maintain workplace safety, and protect the environment.

Along with increasing the refinery's capacity, efforts must be made to simultaneously enhance its long-term operational sustainability, economic viability and product quality. The foremost requirement for achieving these objectives is ensuring an adequate supply of crude oil as feedstock. Regardless of how high the refinery's capacity may be, production targets cannot be met if there is an insufficient supply of raw materials. Therefore, priority must be given to increasing domestic crude oil production, making efficient use of available crude oil, and ensuring a continuous supply of the necessary feedstock.

A review of the global energy sector shows that technology and market conditions are evolving and changing rapidly. Myanmar must strike a balance between meeting its current energy needs and promoting long-term energy development. While making efficient use of energy resources such as oil and natural gas, the country must also give simultaneous priority to the use of renewable energy, energy conservation, and the development and application of new technologies.

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The newly opened oil refinery in Thanlyin marks an important milestone in revitalizing the domestic oil refining industry and meeting the nation's energy needs. Building on this achievement, continued efforts must be made to ensure that subsequent projects are completed on schedule, meet the required quality standards, and deliver economic benefits.

Along with increasing the refinery's capacity, efforts must be made to simultaneously enhance its long-term operational sustainability, economic viability and product quality. The foremost requirement for achieving these objectives is ensuring an adequate supply of crude oil as feedstock. Regardless of how high the refinery's capacity may be, production targets cannot be met if there is an

Is Myanmar Ready for FDI? Assessing Investment Readiness in a Changing Economic Landscape

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun (Public Administration)

Foreign direct investment (FDI) can play an important role in Myanmar's economic development. It can bring capital, technology, new skills, employment opportunities, and access to international markets. It can also help local businesses improve their productivity and become more competitive. However, attracting foreign investment requires more than having natural resources, a strategic location, or a large number of potential business opportunities. Investors also need confidence that they can establish and operate businesses under clear, reliable, and predictable conditions.

This raises an important question for Myanmar: Is the country ready to attract and retain sustainable foreign investment?

Myanmar has several advantages. Its location between China, India, and Southeast Asia creates opportunities for trade, manufacturing, logistics, and regional business cooperation. The country also has agricultural resources, a domestic market, and potential to develop food processing, energy, manufacturing, and service industries. These strengths provide a foundation for future investment.

However, having investment potential does not automatically mean that a country is ready to receive investment on a large scale. Investors must consider whether they can operate efficiently, obtain necessary inputs, access financial services, transport goods, and plan their businesses over the long term. Myanmar's readiness for FDI must therefore be assessed by looking at both its opportunities and the practical challenges investors face.

Myanmar's current economic conditions make this assessment particularly important. The World Bank's June 2026 economic report estimated that the economy contracted by 2.0 per cent in the 2025/26 financial year and projected growth of 2.0 per cent in 2026/27. The Asian Development Bank's September 2026 outlook

projected growth of 2.2 per cent and inflation of 24.0 per cent for 2026. Although the forecasts differ, both point to an economy facing significant pressures.

For businesses, economic uncertainty affects costs, demand, financing, and future planning. High inflation makes it more difficult to estimate project expenses, while weak demand can reduce expected sales. Foreign investors must consider these factors before committing capital, particularly when a project requires substantial initial investment and several years to generate returns.

Nevertheless, these challenges should not lead to the conclusion that Myanmar has no investment opportunities. Rather, they show why investment promotion must go hand in hand with efforts to improve the conditions under which businesses operate.

One important factor is political and security stability. Foreign investors usually make decisions based on long-term business plans. They need to assess whether employees can work safely, goods can move reliably, supply chains can function, and projects can be completed on schedule. Uncertainty in these areas can increase costs and delay investment decisions. Improving the availability of reliable information, maintaining clear administrative procedures, and providing consistent communication can help reduce avoidable uncertainty. However, administrative improvements alone cannot remove wider political and security risks.

Another important factor is the regulatory environment. Investors need to understand the rules governing company registration, investment approval, licensing, taxation, employment, land use, and financial transactions. Clear laws and regulations are important, but their consistent implementation is equally important. When procedures are unclear, requirements are difficult to understand, or administrative decisions take longer than expected, busi-

nesses may face additional costs.

Myanmar can strengthen its investment environment by improving access to official information, making administrative procedures more transparent, and encouraging better coordination among the relevant government agencies. These improvements do not mean removing necessary regulations. Instead, they mean ensuring that rules are clear, procedures are efficient, and decisions are made consistently. A predictable regulatory environment would benefit both foreign investors and domestic businesses.

Infrastructure and financial services are equally important. Electricity is essential for manufacturing, food processing, cold storage, commercial services, and many other business activities. Unreliable electricity can interrupt production, increase operating costs, and make it difficult for companies to meet delivery schedules. Improving electricity reliability and exploring commercially viable renewable-energy solutions would therefore support both existing businesses and potential new investors.

Foreign exchange and banking arrangements also influence investment decisions. Businesses need to make payments, finance imports, receive export earnings, and meet their financial obligations through lawful and reliable channels. Uncertainty in these areas can make it difficult to prepare budgets and manage projects. Improving the clarity and predictability of financial procedures, within the applicable regulatory framework, would help investors make better-informed decisions.

Transport and logistics also affect Myanmar's competitiveness. The country's geographical location offers potential advantages, but those advantages can be reduced by high transportation costs, delays, and disruptions to trade routes. Efficient transport links, reliable delivery schedules, and effective customs procedures are important for businesses that

depend on imported materials or export markets. Improvements in logistics would support investment while also helping domestic producers reach customers more efficiently.

Myanmar must also consider the changing international investment environment. Countries compete to attract foreign capital, and investors compare potential destinations according to market opportunities, operating costs, infrastructure, regulations, and risks. According to UN Trade and Development's World Investment Report 2026, global FDI increased by 6 per cent to approximately US\$1.6 trillion in 2025. However, investment recovery was uneven, and many developing economies continued to face difficulties attracting capital.

This international environment means Myanmar cannot depend on its geographical position and natural resources alone. It must also demonstrate that investment projects can be implemented and operated under commercially workable conditions. At the same time, the country can explore opportunities to strengthen regional economic connections and develop industries that support domestic production, employment, exports, and technology transfer.

Not every sector, however, has the same level of readiness. Agriculture and food processing may offer opportunities to increase the value of domestic products and improve connections between farmers, processors, and markets. Manufacturing may support local production and create opportunities to participate in regional supply chains. Renewable energy and related services may contribute to improving the wider business environment. Other sectors may offer opportunities where market demand, infrastructure, skills, and financing are sufficient.

Each opportunity must be assessed according to its own requirements. A project that can operate under current conditions may not face the same constraints as a large manufacturing project that depends on reliable electricity, imported machinery, and interna-

tional supply chains. Investment promotion should therefore focus on identifying commercially viable opportunities while being transparent about the conditions that still need improvement.

It is also important to distinguish investment approvals from actual investment. An approved project does not necessarily mean that the full proposed capital has entered the country, that construction has been completed, or that the business has begun operating. To understand the real performance of FDI, Myanmar needs to examine not only approved investment figures but also actual capital inflows, project implementation, business operations, employment, exports, and other economic benefits.

This distinction matters because the objective of investment promotion is not simply to increase the number or value of approved projects. The broader objective is to encourage productive investment that can operate successfully and contribute to the economy over time. Monitoring the progress of approved projects and understanding the reasons for delays or cancellations can help policymakers identify where further improvements are needed. Is Myanmar ready for FDI, then? The answer is not simply yes or no. Myanmar retains important investment opportunities, but the readiness of the overall economy remains affected by economic uncertainty, infrastructure limitations, financial constraints, regulatory implementation, and political and security risks. The extent of these challenges also differs across sectors and projects.

The way forward is to connect investment promotion with practical improvements in the investment environment. Greater economic predictability would help businesses plan for the future.

Clearer procedures and better coordination among government agencies would reduce avoidable administrative difficulties. More reliable electricity, financial services, and logistics would improve the ability of businesses to operate competitively. Better monitoring

of actual investment would also help ensure that policy decisions are guided by evidence rather than approval figures alone.

Investment readiness is not a condition that a country achieves once and then maintains automatically. It requires continuous improvement in policies, institutions, infrastructure, and business services. Myanmar's task is to build on its existing strengths while addressing the constraints that prevent investment opportunities from becoming successful operating businesses.

Ultimately, the question is not only how much foreign investment Myanmar can attract, but also whether that investment can be implemented, sustained, and translated into lasting economic benefits. By combining realistic assessment with consistent improvements, Myanmar can work towards an investment environment that supports responsible investors, strengthens domestic businesses, creates employment, and contributes to long-term economic development.

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The Good We Seek Begins with Us

By Laura Htet (UDE)



When we enjoy a delicious meal, one of our first thoughts is often to share it with the people we love. When we discover a good book or listen to a meaningful Dhamma talk that touches our hearts, we may feel the same desire. We want the people around us to experience the same happiness, wisdom and comfort that we have found. There is a special kind of joy in sharing something good, especially when it has made our own lives a little better.

Perhaps kindness works in much the same way. When we are treated with patience, we feel respected. When someone speaks to us gently during a difficult moment, we feel understood. And when a person shows us genuine warmth without expecting anything in return, we may remember that simple act long after the moment has passed. These experiences remind us that the way we treat others matters more than we sometimes realize.

Human behaviour has a quiet but powerful influence on the people around us. When we spend time with someone who speaks calmly, listens carefully and treats others with respect, we may gradually begin to adopt the same habits. Their example teaches us that we do not always need to raise our voices to make ourselves heard or respond harshly whenever we disagree. Sometimes, a gentle answer can achieve what anger never could. In the same way, impatience, hostility and unkind words can spread from

one person to another, turning a small misunderstanding into a painful conflict. Every day, we have opportunities to decide which kind of influence we wish to leave behind.

Most of us know how unpleasant it feels to be shouted at, insulted or treated as though our feelings do not matter. We may remember the sting of harsh words spoken by someone we trusted or the disappointment of being judged without being understood. Yet, when we are tired, frustrated or upset, we sometimes allow our emotions to lead us into treating others in precisely the same way. We speak before thinking and hurt people before realizing the weight of our words. Emotional maturity begins when we learn to pause, recognize our feelings and choose our responses carefully. We can express anger without cruelty, disagree without humiliation and correct a mistake without attacking someone's dignity.

A simple question can sometimes change the way we behave: would we be comfortable receiving the same treatment we are about to give? If the answer is no, perhaps we should reconsider our words or actions. This does not mean that we must hide our feelings or remain silent when something is wrong. Rather, it reminds us that honesty and kindness can exist together. We can stand up for ourselves while still respecting the humanity of others.

SEE PAGE 11

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore to help advanced manufacturers adopt AI

SINGAPORE has set aside more than 45 million Singapore dollars (about US\$35.22 million) over the next three years to help small and medium-sized enterprises in the advanced manufacturing sector adopt artificial intelligence (AI) solutions, Enterprise Singapore said on Wednesday.

The newly launched Catalytic AI Solutions initiative aims to address barriers to AI adoption, including high development costs, limited access to industry-specific solutions and uncertainty over potential outcomes, the government agency said in a statement.

The initiative will bring together solution providers, system integrators, trade associations and chambers to support the deployment of AI solutions.

Enterprise Singapore is also developing similar initiatives for the logistics and wholesale trade sectors, with more details to be announced. — Xinhua

AI driving acceleration of online radicalization: Australian authorities

AUSTRALIAN authorities have warned that artificial intelligence (AI) is accelerating the speed at which people can be radicalized or manipulated online.

Sandra Booth, acting deputy commissioner of National Security Investigations at the Australian Federal Police (AFP), told a parliamentary inquiry into AI on Wednesday that youth radicalization and manipulation is one of the greatest challenges the agency has ever faced. She told the enquiry that radicalizing or manipulating individuals online used to take months or years, but now it is happening within days in some cases.

"This can be attributed to artificial intelligence, a growing grievance generation, young people searching for purpose and belonging, and the sophistication of these online networks," Booth said.

"While technology and AI bring many opportunities to society, including for law enforcement agencies, the AFP is deeply concerned AI is accelerating and lowering the skills required to actively manipulate and radicalize victims online, and cause serious harm."

The bipartisan parliamentary enquiry into AI was established in August to examine the opportunities and risks presented by the emerging technology. — Xinhua



Digital security concept depicting risks and threats associated with online platforms and networks. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKIPEDIA

US regulators certify Boeing 737 MAX 10 after delays

The approval clears the way for deliveries to begin in 2027 following extensive flight testing.

US officials gave final approval Tuesday to the Boeing 737 MAX 10, certifying the latest long-delayed version of the popular single-aisle aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a certificate confirming the largest plane in the MAX family "complies with all applicable design and safety requirements", a Department of Transportation press release said.

The move, which follows US certification of the 737 MAX 7 in August, clears the way for increased plane deliveries



In this file photo, Boeing 737 MAX 9 airliners are pictured on the flight line at the Boeing Renton Factory in Renton, Washington. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

in the coming years, a key aspect of Boeing's plan to improve financial performance after a lengthy period of weakness.

"The FAA's decision follows a thorough review of the aircraft's design and safety requirements," said FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford. "We will continue to hold Boeing to the high-

est safety standards as the company begins production of the 737 MAX-10."

Boeing, which expects to commence 737 MAX 10 deliveries in 2027, said it undertook more than 2,000 hours of flight testing and supplied tens of thousands of pages of documentation.

"Our flight test team ran a disciplined, methodical campaign to validate every system," said Chris Payne, general manager for 737 airplane development programmes. "That rigor gives us confidence as we move towards deliveries." — AFP

Google rolls out new Gemini tools to help small businesses save time

GOOGLE has announced a set of new Gemini tools aimed at small business owners, led by a dedicated business landing page inside the Gemini app. The company says tens of millions of small business owners already use Gemini to brainstorm products, handle customer feedback and analyse performance, and that the new tools are meant to give them time back so they can focus on the work they started their companies for. The announcement was published on Google's India blog by Vishnu Sivaji, Senior Director of the Gemini app.

The landing page is designed as a central hub where owners

can build their brand, analyse finances and understand customer insights. Gemini can also now connect to Google Business Profile, Google Ads and Google Workspace, as well as third-party apps including Adobe, Canva, Dropbox, Shopify, Wix, Zoho and Xero.

Businesses can now define their brand style in Gemini by uploading a website, brand kit, fonts or colour palettes. Paired with Nano Banana 2.1, Google's latest image-generation model, Gemini can produce end-to-end visuals for product launches and marketing campaigns. Google says Gemini remembers the brand style, so



Google has rolled out new Gemini artificial intelligence tools designed to assist small business owners. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

owners do not have to upload their guidelines each time they want new on-brand material. — ANI

Researchers identify new subtype of depression

RESEARCHERS in Australia have identified a subtype of depression linked to disruptions in the body's internal 24-hour clock that regulates the sleep-wake cycle, potentially paving the way for more targeted behavioral and medical treatments.

The study analyzed clinical and genetic data from more than 10,000 Australians with severe, recurrent or persistent depression, identifying nearly a quarter of participants as having what researchers termed "circadian depression", according to a statement released Wednesday

by Australia's University of Sydney. The subtype is characterized by symptoms including seasonal patterns of illness, longer sleep when depressed, waking feeling exhausted, and being a night owl, according to the study published in the British Journal of Psychiatry. — Xinhua

ARTICLE/LIFE&SOCIAL WORLD

Tourism forum opens to boost China-Belarus cooperation

The event brought together more than 150 tourism industry representatives from China and Belarus.

THE China-Belarus Tourism Forum opened on Tuesday in Brest, Belarus.

The event brought together more than 150 tourism industry representatives from China and Belarus to explore opportunities for bilateral tourism cooperation, with a series of events, including panel discussions, B2B negotiations, as well as tourism and cultural visits, scheduled to take place.

Belarusian Ambassador to China Alexander Chervyakov highlighted the all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. He noted that tourism helps the



Mutual visa exemption policies and the opening of multiple direct flight routes had made travel between the two countries more convenient. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

peoples of the two countries better understand each other, build mutual trust and strengthen their friendship. He described the forum as an important opportunity to advance bilateral tourism cooperation, with partici-

pants contributing valuable experience, unique insights and constructive suggestions.

Yang Junke, science and technology counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Belarus, said that China-Belarus relations

had maintained strong momentum under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, with economic and trade, people-to-people and interregional cooperation continuing to deepen. — Xinhua

Egypt's film festival launches initiative to support displaced filmmakers

SAFE Harbour MENA, a CineGouna initiative at the ongoing El Gouna Film Festival (GFF), is helping displaced filmmakers from the Middle East and North Africa develop their projects and reconnect with the film industry.

Launched in partnership with the International Film Festival Rotterdam and the International Emerging Film Talent Fund, it's the programme's first region-focused edition and targets filmmakers displaced within the region who face barriers to professional networks, funding and project development.

GFF opened its ninth edition on 15 October in the Red Sea resort city of El Gouna, running until 23 October. The festival features 77 films from around the world alongside screenings, discussions and indus-

try events.

Safe Harbour MENA selected four filmmakers, including Syrian filmmaker Ezel Manay and Sudanese Ahmed Nagm Eldin. Through online preparation and an intensive in-person program in El Gouna, participants receive training, individual project guidance and meetings with producers, distributors and festival representatives.

Manay, who moved to Türkiye after the war in Syria, said the programme gave him his first chance to pitch Temporary Protection, a story rooted in his refugee experience and centered on his father.

"I thought that the matter was limited to funding, but I was surprised that there were people I wanted to meet before and found them here," he said. — Xinhua

The Good We Seek Begins with Us

FROM PAGE 9

The same principle applies to the words we speak when someone is absent. Few of us would feel comfortable knowing that our private struggles, mistakes or personal affairs were being discussed carelessly behind our backs. We want others to understand us fairly, not turn our weaknesses into entertainment. Yet gossip can become so common in everyday conversations that we sometimes forget the person being discussed has feelings just as real as our own. Before repeating a story, we can ask ourselves whether it is true, whether it is necessary and whether sharing it might cause unnecessary harm. Choosing not to gossip is not merely an act of restraint; it is an expression of empathy, loyalty and respect.

Personal freedom is another gift we value deeply. We appreciate being able to express our opinions, make our own decisions and choose a path that reflects our values. Although advice from people who care about us can be helpful, constant interference can make even good intentions feel burdensome. Sometimes, we become so convinced that we know what is best for another person that we forget to respect their right to decide for themselves. We can offer guidance without demanding obedience, express concern without controlling someone else's life and disagree without denying their freedom. Respect becomes meaningful when we allow others the same independence that we wish to enjoy ourselves.

Warmth and con-

sideration are equally important in our relationships. Being treated coldly, ignored or made to feel inferior can leave us questioning our own worth. Often, the deepest hurt does not come from a dramatic argument but from small, repeated moments in which we feel unimportant. A dismissive reply, an unwillingness to listen or a lack of appreciation can gradually create distance between people who once felt close. By contrast, a sincere greeting, a patient response or a simple expression of gratitude can help restore a sense of connection. We do not need wealth, authority or extraordinary talent to make someone feel valued. We only need to remember that every person deserves basic courtesy and consideration, regardless of their

position or circumstances.

Of course, treating others kindly does not guarantee that everyone will treat us the same way. Some people may misunderstand our intentions, take our generosity for granted or continue to behave in hurtful ways. Kindness should never require us to accept abuse or abandon our own well-being. We can remain respectful while establishing healthy boundaries, forgive without forgetting important lessons and care about others without allowing them to control our lives. True consideration includes both compassion for others and respect for ourselves.

Perhaps we cannot change the whole world through a single conversation or one generous act. Nevertheless, we can make a meaningful

difference in the small spaces we occupy every day: our homes, workplaces, classrooms and communities. We can listen more patiently, judge less quickly, speak more thoughtfully and become more willing to understand perspectives different from our own. When misunderstandings arise, we can seek clarity rather than rush to blame. When someone makes a mistake, we can remember our own imperfections before passing judgement.

At the end of the day, it may be worth reflecting on a few simple questions. Did our words bring comfort or pain? Did we respect another person's feelings and freedom? Did we offer the understanding we would have appreciated in their place? We will not always behave perfectly, but every honest reflection gives us another opportunity to grow.

A kinder world does not begin with extraordi-

nary achievements. It begins with ordinary people making thoughtful choices in ordinary moments. When we give others the kindness, respect, patience and understanding we hope to receive, we help create an environment in which trust can grow, and relationships can flourish. We may never know how deeply a gentle word or a considerate action affects someone else's life, but that does not make its value any less real.

Ultimately, giving others what we would love to receive is more than a pleasant principle; it is a way of living that reflects the values we wish to see in the world. We may not be able to decide how others treat us, but we can decide how we treat them. And perhaps one of the most meaningful contributions we can make to humanity is to ensure that the goodness we hope to find in others begins with us.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Germany’s cost-of-living squeeze
lays bare deeper economic strains

Germany faces deep economic strains and rising cost-of-living pressures.

GERMANY’S annual inflation rate climbed to 3.3 per cent in September 2026, driven by a 14.9 per cent year-on-year increase in energy prices, with heating oil soaring by 74.9 per cent.

Similar cost-of-living protests over purchasing power and austerity have recently erupted in other European nations, including France, Italy, and Portugal.

High oil and gas prices could inflate Germany’s annual energy import bill by up to 40 billion euros, according to the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

Energy-intensive manufacturers facing surging transport, raw



This photo taken on 15 September 2026 shows prices displayed at a gas station in Berlin, Germany. PHOTO: XINHUA

material, and power expenses risk shrinking profits, which threatens investment and job creation.

Industrial pressures are exemplified by the LEUNA-Poly-

amid plastics plant in Saxony-Anhalt shutting down operations and risking 400 jobs after facing an 80 percent cost surge.

Germany faces the challenge of balancing

energy security, affordability, and industrial competitiveness amid shifting global energy markets and lingering Middle East tensions.

— Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese companies set up, expand GCCs in India as focus shifts to AI

MORE than 100 Japanese companies have established or expanded their Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India, with operations increasingly shifting towards artificial intelligence (AI), engineering, product development and cybersecurity, according to a report by real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield.

The shift marks a move beyond traditional back-office support and cost reduction towards higher-value technology and innovation activities, as Japanese companies seek specialised talent and capabilities to support their global businesses, the report said. — ANI

NZ greenhouse gas emissions fall 2.9% in Q2

NEW Zealand’s greenhouse gas emissions from industries and households fell 2.9 per cent in the June 2026 quarter, driven mainly by declines in manufacturing and household transport, official data showed Wednesday.

Greenhouse gas emissions from industries and households decreased by 550 kilotonnes during the quarter, according to the national statistics agency Stats NZ.

Manufacturing emissions fell 6.4 per cent, or 126 kilotonnes, driven by decreases in petroleum, chemical, polymer and rubber product manufacturing, which dropped 49.4 per cent, and food, beverage and tobacco product manufacturing, down 13.4 per cent, statistics showed. — Xinhua

Afghanistan launches new
railway track to boost Central
Asian trade links

AFGHAN authorities have inaugurated a new 1,694-metre railway track at Naibabad station on the Hairatan-Mazar-i-Sharif line to strengthen trade links with Central Asian countries, the Ministry of Public Works announced in a statement on Tuesday.

Based in northern Balkh province, the project is expected to bolster commercial relations with Uzbekistan, streamline the movement of goods, expand the capacity of Afghanistan’s railway network, and foster greater bilateral economic exchange, according to the statement.

Three weeks earlier, the country inaugurated the first phase of the fourth section of the stra-



The long-envisioned Trans-Afghan Railway aims to eventually connect Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan with 700 kilometres of track. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

tegic Herat-Khaf railway, a 43-kilometre stretch valued at US\$58.5 million in western Herat province, advancing efforts to integrate the landlocked nation into Eurasian transport corridors and beyond. Hairatan

Dry Port remains a vital border gateway linking Afghanistan and Uzbekistan and onward connections to broader markets in Central Asia, China, Russia, and Europe via rail and road networks. — Xinhua

Brazil’s progress in curbing
deforestation benefits global
economy: study

BRAZIL’S progress in curbing deforestation across the Amazon rainforest and the Cerrado savanna over the past three years has spared the global economy an estimated 1.16 trillion reais (US\$232 billion), according to a study published on Tuesday.

The economic benefit stems from prevention, including curbing the release of harmful greenhouse gases and their damaging impact on climate change, said the study by Brazil’s prestigious think tank, the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), whose findings were published by the state-run news agency

Agencia Brasil.

Of the total estimated benefits, 67-192 billion reais (\$13.4-38.4 billion) represent the prevention of climate-related damage to Brazil’s own economy, according to the study.

The study compares

deforestation in 2019-2022 with that in 2023-2026. Data from the National Institute for Space Research showed that from August 2025 to July 2026, deforestation fell by 41.8 per cent in the Amazon and by 23.8 per cent in the Cerrado. — Xinhua



A riverboat in the Brazilian Amazon transports logs on 18 September 2020. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE

India's
core sector
growth
accelerates
to 7.9% in
Sept

INDIA'S core sector growth accelerated to 7.9 per cent in September, compared with 5.9 per cent in August, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday.

The data also highlighted that the growth in the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) was driven by strong performance in iron ore, electricity, coal, refinery products, cement and steel, while fertilizers, natural gas and crude oil recorded negative growth during the month.

Iron ore production recorded the highest growth at 18.4 per cent year-on-year in September, followed by electricity at 11.4 per cent and coal at 10.7 per cent. Refinery products grew 10.3 per cent, cement output increased 9.8 per cent, and steel production rose 4.9 per cent during the month.

In contrast, fertiliser production declined 11.7 per cent in September, while natural gas output contracted 4.6 per cent and crude oil production fell 1.4 per cent year-on-year. – ANI

TENDER NOTICE

1. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) invites bids for monthly equipment rental for the ASK Development Project in Daw Nyein, Pyapon.
- 3 Nos × Excavators (20–25 tons)
 - 2 Nos × D6 Bulldozers
 - Preferably one supplier for all equipment
 - On-site mechanic and wear-and-tear spare parts required
 - Submission Deadline: 31 October 2026
 - Submission Address: BP-2 Building, Shwe Zabu River View Condo, Kyee Myindaing Kanner Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon
2. Contact Information-
- Email: caowei1676@gmail.com
 - Phone: 09672093455

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GLS HAIPONG VOY.NO. (010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPONG VOY.NO. (010N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2026** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

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PUBLIC NOTICE TO MARGA LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.
AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

We act for and on behalf of our Client, Mr. Alexis Morgan André, and hereby issue this public notice as follows:

Our Client, Mr. Alexis Morgan André, paid an initial deposit on 28 December 2018 towards the purchase of Unit M, Level 22, the Central Tower 8 to be constructed on Land Plot Nos. 7 and 8, Myay Taing Block No. (85-Kanbe), located at the corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township, Yangon Region (the "Unit"), a development project to be undertaken by Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. Thereafter, the parties entered into an agreement, and our Client duly and faithfully made all installment payments in accordance with the payment schedule prescribed by the seller. As of 11 March 2021, our Client had fully paid ninety percent (90%) of the total purchase price of the Unit in strict compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement. Under the agreement, the Unit is required to be physically handed over upon full payment of ninety percent (90%) of the total purchase price.

However, despite the lapse of approximately eight (8) years since the purchase of the Unit, our Client learned upon inquiry that construction of Central Tower 8 has not commenced to date. Accordingly, our Client, through his attorney, formally contacted the responsible representatives of Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. on two separate occasions through official correspondence seeking clarification on the status of the construction works and the anticipated handover of the Unit. Nevertheless, no clear, definitive, or satisfactory response has been provided regarding the handover date of the Unit.

As our Client has paid approximately ninety percent (90%) of the total purchase price of the Unit, our Client continues to maintain legal and equitable rights, interests, and entitlements in respect of the said Unit. Due to the failure to hand over the Unit within the contractual timeframe, the failure to commence construction works to date, and the continuing breach of contractual commitments, our Client has suffered substantial financial losses and other damages.

In light of the foregoing losses and damages sustained by our Client, Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. is hereby called upon to immediately refund all sums paid by our Client towards the purchase of the Unit together with appropriate compensation for the losses and damages suffered.

Furthermore, without the prior written knowledge, agreement, and express consent of our Client, neither Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. nor any other person or entity shall have any right to unilaterally terminate the agreement, repossess the Unit, resell, lease, mortgage, gift, transfer, or otherwise deal with or dispose of the Unit in any manner whatsoever.

Should the above notice not be complied with, our Client reserves the right to pursue all legal remedies available under the applicable laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, including the commencement of legal proceedings against Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. Accordingly, this notice is hereby published for the information of Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. and the general public.

By Instruction of Our Client,

K & A Legal Alliance Limited
Kyi Chan Nyein (LL.B., LL.M.) Saw Nyan Htun (LL.B., LL.M.)
Advocate (Reg. No. 16905) Advocate (Reg. No. 18753)

Room No. (403), 4th Floor, Condo F, Kabar Aye Housing Estate,
Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Ward (5), Mayangone Township, Yangon Region.
Tel: +95 9420182076, +95 9250279216

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0106N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY. NO. (0106N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2026** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML048)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML048)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2615N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2615N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

King Charles lauds Omani peace efforts on Sultan's state visit

The first state visit to Britain by a sultan of Oman for 44 years comes amid severe turbulence in the Middle East.

KING Charles III praised Oman's peacemaking attempts in the Middle East Tuesday as Sultan Haitham bin Tariq began the first state visit by an Omani ruler to the UK in nearly half a century.

Hailing longstanding diplomatic, military and royal ties at a Windsor Castle banquet, the British monarch paid tribute to Muscat's "noble efforts" to help reopen the choked Strait of Hormuz.

"I would especially like to recognize, at a time when conflict has returned so painfully to the region, Oman's enduring commitment as a trusted interlocutor to all parties," Charles told around 160 guests at the lavish dinner.



Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (L) shares a light moment with Britain's King Charles III during the State Banquet at Windsor Castle, Windsor, on 20 October 2026, the first day of a three-day State Visit to the United Kingdom by The Sultan of Oman.

PHOTO: AFP

"Oman's role across the Gulf and her 'constructive neutrality' — as you put it — matters far beyond Hormuz, and is worthy of our utmost respect," Britain's king added in a toast to the Omani sultan. — AFP

Macron slams 'stupid' comments based on AI videos

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday criticised world leaders for making "stupid" comments about the rioting on the sidelines of protests in France, in an apparent swipe at US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Macron said the leaders were taking aim at France in the context of upcoming elections in their countries and added that they had been influenced by fake videos generated by artificial intelligence (AI) about the riots. — AFP

Russia holds leading position in exporting oil, natural gas to China

RUSSIA is holding a leading position in exporting oil and natural gas to China, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said on Wednesday.

"Russia firmly holds the lead in exporting oil and natural gas to China," Mishustin said at the 31st regular meeting of the heads of government of Russia and China.

Russia will continue to reliably ensure uninterrupted energy supplies to China and is ready to strengthen co-operation in the energy sector, the government head added.

Relations between Russia and China are at the highest level and exemplary today, Mikhail Mishustin said.

Russian-Chinese partnership at its highest level in history - Russian PM "Russian-Chinese comprehensive strategic partnership is at its highest level in history and serves as a model of interstate relations," Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said at the meeting with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang in Saint Petersburg. — SPUTNIK



A gas treatment facility is pictured at Gazprom's Chayanda oil and gas. It is one of the largest in eastern Russia. PHOTO: TASS/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

India, US review strategic roadmap

AGAINST the backdrop of the US Freedom 250 Reception hosted by Ambassador Sergio Gor, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held wide-ranging discussions in Mumbai on Tuesday, reviewing the full scope of India-US ties and committing to an early conclusion of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is on an official visit to India from 20 to 21 October at the invitation of EAM Jaishankar, marking his second visit to the country following an earlier trip to New Delhi in May.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is on an official visit to India from 20 to 21 October at the invitation of EAM Jaishankar, marking his second visit to the country following an earlier trip to New Delhi in May.

Both sides engaged in detailed deliberations spanning key strategic sectors, including trade, defence, technology, and energy security. "They welcomed the progress made in negotiations on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and reaffirmed their commitment to working towards its early conclusion," the MEA stated, adding that the ministers also exchanged views on broader regional and global developments. — ANI

Russia, 17 countries urge chemical weapons probe mechanism

RUSSIA and 17 other countries have called on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to review the mechanism for investigating possible uses of chemical and biological weapons, according to a joint statement published on the Russian Foreign Ministry's website on Tuesday.

"We call upon the UN secretary-general to organize a review of the existing rules and procedures of the mechanism, set out in UN General Assembly document A/44/561 of 4 October 1989," the statement said.

The mechanism's core principles and procedures have not been updated since they were approved by the General Assembly in 1990. It was signed by Russia, Algeria, Venezuela, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, China, Bolivia, Belarus, Burundi, Kazakhstan, Mali, Niger, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, Equatorial Guinea and the Central African Republic. — SPUTNIK

BBC to close three TV, radio channels

THE BBC reported Tuesday it will close its BBC Three and BBC Scotland television channels in the spring, as the corporation continues to make 500 million pounds (US\$669 million) of savings over two years.

Both services will become online-only, which means that they will continue to produce and host some content on iPlayer, without the need to fill a terrestrial TV schedule, according to the report.

The BBC also announced that it will close Radio 4 Extra, which largely airs speech programs from the BBC's archive, including comedy, drama and documentaries.

The decision was made in response to "immediate cost pressures", said BBC Director-General Matt Brittin, adding that "we all know that means tough choices".

"Against the backdrop of significant financial challenges, we must focus our resources where they will have the greatest impact for audiences," said Director of BBC Scotland Hayley Valentine. — Xinhua

SPORTS

MDY to host first combined Enduro Games 2026 Final

MANDALAY will host the Enduro Games 2026 Final on 1 November at Mandala Thiri Stadium, featuring bodybuilding, fitness and kettlebell sport competitions for the first time in a combined event.

The competition is open to fitness enthusiasts from across Myanmar and will run from 8 am to noon between 68th, 106th and 107th streets at Mandala Thiri Stadium.

The event will combine bodybuilding with fitness competitions focusing on strength, power and endurance. It will also feature Kettlebell Sport (GS), a relatively rare event in Myanmar.

Competitions will include



Participants prepare for the Enduro Games 2026 Final.

running, deadlifts, dumbbell snatches, clean and press, push-ups and sit-ups. Cash prizes, trophies and medals will go to the top five male and female competitors.

Those wishing to com-

pete can register by providing their names, email addresses and phone numbers before 7 pm on 29 October. Fitness enthusiasts are encouraged to take part in the competition. — TWA/KZL

Ma Law Lar Win wins bronze in 100m at Asian Para Games

MYANMAR para-athlete Ma Law Lar Win won a bronze medal in the women's 100-metre race with a time of 14.67 seconds at the 5th Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, securing Myanmar's third bronze medal of the Games.

The Myanmar para-sports team is currently competing in the 5th Asian Para Games in Nagoya. Yesterday, Ma Law Lar Win of the Myanmar para-athletics team claimed the bronze medal in the women's 100-metre sprint, earning Myanmar its third bronze of the competition.

On 22 October, Myanmar's athletes will continue to compete in several events. Swimmer Nyi Nyi Lin Htet will take part in the men's 150-metre individual medley, while para-athletes



The image shows a scoreboard listing the winners, including Myanmar's Law Lar Win.

Lance Corporal San Tin and Zaw Min Tun will compete in the 400-metre race and the high jump, respectively.

The Myanmar para-sports team is participating in swimming, athletics, and taekwondo at this year's Games. As of 21 October, the team has won three bronze medals for Myanmar, comprising two in swimming and one in athletics. — MNA/KZL



Bournemouth coach Marco Rose looks on during his side's 5-1 Premier League defeat at Chelsea. PHOTO: AFP

Rose salutes Bournemouth's past heroes ahead of AC Milan clash

BOURNEMOUTH manager Marco Rose paid tribute Wednesday to the team that helped preserve the club's English Football League status as they prepare to face Italian giants AC Milan in a landmark European fixture.

The Cherries opened their inaugural Europa League campaign with victory at Real Sociedad and then won 3-0 at home to Sturm Graz last week.

A match at home to AC Milan, one of Europe's leading clubs, was the last thing on Bournemouth fans' minds when the side were on the brink of dropping out of the Football League following a 17-point deduction ahead of the 2008/09 season as a result of failing to meet their terms for exiting administration.

But Steve Fletcher's memorable goal against Grimsby eventually secured survival in Bournemouth's final home game of the season at Dean Court, which was followed by a mass pitch invasion after the final whistle by joyous Cherries fans. — AFP

'Complete threat' Ngumoha excites Liverpool captain Van Dijk

LIVERPOOL captain Virgil van Dijk said there was "much more to come" from Rio Ngumoha following the teenage winger's central role in a thrilling Champions League win over Villarreal.

The six-time European champions fell 2-0 behind inside 30 minutes at Anfield on Tuesday but Ngumoha helped inspire a dramatic fightback as Liverpool won 4-3, with Alexis Mac Allister scoring twice following a pair of assists from the 18-year-old.

It looked as if a Villarreal side managed by Inigo Perez, a close friend and former assistant of Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola, had exposed the flaws in the home side's high-intensity game.

But Ngumoha's speed and skill was a key factor as Liverpool won from 2-0 down in the Champions League for the first time since defeating Villarreal in the 2022 semi-final to main-

tain their 100 per cent record in this season's edition.

"He was a complete threat constantly and their defender had a tough time," said Van Dijk, who added Ngumoha was reaping the rewards of being in the same squad as Mohamed Salah before the Liverpool great left Anfield at the end of

last season.

"Everyone is chipping in but for him to work with Mo last year was obviously massive as Mo was one of the best wingers at the club and experienced everything, so why not soak in all the information and show it on the pitch and show your own qualities?"

said veteran Dutch defender



Rio Ngumoha starred in Liverpool's win over Villarreal. PHOTO: AFP



WORLD

SCO urges efforts to narrow digital divide among member states: joint communique

THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states said on Tuesday that efforts should be made to narrow the digital divide among them.

In a joint communique issued at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of Member States of the SCO in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, heads of the delegations noted that in recent years, digital transformation has become an important area of cooperation within the SCO, calling for efforts to enhance access to digital services for the general public and businesses, including residents in remote areas.

While advancing digital transformation, it is essential to strengthen information security, ensure the reliability of digital infrastructure and data security, and enhance digital literacy, said the heads of the delegations.

They also stressed the importance of ensuring equal access to artificial intelligence technologies for all member states, while respecting national interests and adhering to the principle of the peaceful use of science and technology. — Xinhua



The 25th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Dushanbe under the chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan. **PHOTO: MFA. TJ**

South Korea guides crowd-pulling shark out of canal

A shark that has become a viral sensation in South Korea was coaxed out of a canal in which it was stuck, authorities said on Wednesday, as falling temperatures raised concerns for its survival.

South Korean authorities said they had coaxed a shark that had become a viral sensation out of a Busan canal where it was stuck, as falling temperatures raised concerns for its survival. The shark — nicknamed “Bukhang” by fans — was spotted in an artificial waterway in the southeastern port city of Busan last month, with climate activists linking its appearance to climate change.

“The shark has left the waterway,” an oceans ministry spokesperson told AFP on Wednesday evening, without providing further details. It was not immediately clear if the shark had also swum out of the harbour into which the canal flows. — AFP

Putin expresses interest in restoring economic cooperation with US during meeting with Witkoff

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed interest in restoring economic cooperation with the United States.

Earlier in the day, US President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff arrived in St. Petersburg for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

During his meeting with US special envoy Steve Witkoff, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was pleased to welcome him to Russia and thanked US President Donald Trump for his attention to efforts to resolve the conflict in Ukraine.

“Dear Mr Witkoff, we are very pleased to welcome you to Saint Petersburg this time,” the Russian president said during the meeting.

Putin also inquired



Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff attend a meeting, with Russian Direct Investment Fund CEO - Special Presidential Representative for Investment and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries Kirill Dmitriev and Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov nearby, at the Constantine Palace in Strelna, a suburb of Saint Petersburg, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

about the outcome of the recent talks in Norway and said he would discuss with Witkoff the possibility of meeting US President Donald Trump in China.

“These and other topics could certainly be the focus of our attention today, including a possible meeting [with Trump] in China. There are also some considerations here that I would like to share with you,” Putin told Witkoff and asked him to convey to Trump his most sincere words of gratitude for his efforts to resolve the Ukrainian crisis. — SPUTNIK

3 new sites added to India’s Tentative List by UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre

THREE new sites have been added to India’s Tentative List by UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre, marking an essential step towards formal nomination for World Heritage status.

According to a press release issued by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, the newly included sites cover key geological and archaeological landscapes, namely the Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang and Andaman Subduction Volcanoes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape in Chhattisgarh.

Highlighting the significance of the achievement, the Indian mission noted that inclusion on the inventory is a crucial preliminary stage for any historical or natural site under consideration for

global recognition. “Addition to the Tentative List is a prerequisite before any property may thereafter be nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List,” the Permanent Delegation of India stated. — ANI



The Karst-mud-volcano Complex. **PHOTO: INDIACINEHUB.GOV.IN**

Enriched nuclear materials remain in Iran

ENRICHED nuclear materials will not leave Iran, as it is a property of the Islamic Republic only used within the country, Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Secretary Mohsen Rezaei said on Tuesday.

“Not a single particle of enriched nuclear material will leave Iran. These materials are a vast asset and a national treasure of the Iranian people, intended for use only within the country,” Rezaei was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency. — SPUTNIK