

Pawsan Rice Must Stand as Myanmar's National Brand

New Pawsan varieties must be swiftly adopted in field cultivation to ensure research delivers full benefits to farmers and the public.



President U Min Aung Hlaing looks into the galleries on the export of Myanmar Pawsan, parboiled rice and broken rice at yesterday's event.

A ceremony to honour our farmers, producers and exporters of Myanmar Pawsan rice which won the World's Best Rice-2026 award, was held in conjunction with the workshop on the plans for sustainable development at the convocation hall of the Yezin University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning, with an address by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking on the occasion, the President revealed that Myanmar's Pawsan Hmwe rice has won the World's Best Rice award for 2026, marking its second victory 15 years after first receiving the honour in 2011, which serves as renewed international recognition of Myanmar Pawsan's quality, aroma, and taste.

SEE PAGE 4

Yangon's Daily CNG Supply Hits 26M Cubic Feet

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is distributing and selling approximately 26 million cubic feet of compressed natural gas (CNG) each day to vehicles in Yangon Region, ensuring that supply meets demand.

A total of 26,957 vehicles have been registered to use CNG. This includes 1,275 cargo vehicles, 5,516 YBS passenger buses, 642 other passenger vehicles, 17,991 chartered vehicles and taxis, 184 staff transport vehicles, 1,159 privately owned commercial vehicles and 190 departmental vehicles.

SEE PAGE 3

Falam Rebuild Advances with Staff Housing Completion

DEPUTY Minister for Construction Dr Thaung Naing inspected the completion of the renovation of two-room, two-storey staff housing and executive officer housing of the Falam Township Development Committee of Chin State and the Highways Department's warehouse and storage yesterday.

The deputy minister met Falam District and Township Education Officers at the Falam Township Education Office and instructed them to take special measures to increase the pass percentage of the matriculation examination.

He also inspected the preparations for the resumption of the training school at the weaving and vocational training school of the SMEs Department, the start of traditional jap weaving courses, and the renovation of the training rooms.

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Falam District Police Force members undergo medical check-ups at the Falam People's Hospital.

Embassy leave endorsement scrapped for Myanmar workers in Laos

THE Myanmar Embassy in Vientiane announced on 20 October that Myanmar workers in Laos no longer need to apply for a leave endorsement letter at the embassy when returning to Myanmar temporarily on leave.

Previously, an announcement issued on 1 May 2026 required Myanmar workers in Laos to

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OPINION

Preserving traditional heritage for generations to come

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NATIONAL **PAGE 4**

A photograph showing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and the Belarusian President sitting at a table, engaged in a meeting. They are in a formal setting with flags and a fireplace in the background.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Belarusian President in Minsk

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A photograph showing a meeting between the NSPNC and NSCN-K representatives. They are seated around a long table in a large hall, with a presentation screen in the background.

NSPNC meets NSCN-K for national unity and peacebuilding

NATIONAL

Press Statement

IN commemoration of the Full Moon Day of Kason (Buddha Day) on 30 April 2026, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in consideration of humanitarian concerns and as an expression of the State’s goodwill and benevolence, granted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently serving her term in Nay Pyi Taw Prison, permission to serve the remainder of her sentences at the designated residence.

On 3 August 2026, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was permitted to meet Mr Arnaud De Baecque, Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Myanmar. On 19 October 2026, officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and handed over two books along with one sealed envelope and a sealed diplomatic pouch sent by King Charles III of the United Kingdom.

On 22 October 2026, from 2:30 to 2:50 pm, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was permitted to communicate by telephone with her son, Mr Kim Aris (aka) Ko Htein Linn, through the Embassy of Myanmar in London. The communication was facilitated on humanitarian grounds, in line with the standards and procedures of the International Committee of



The images show Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaking by telephone with her son, Mr Kim Aris, on 22 October 2026.

the Red Cross (ICRC), and as a special measure exercised under the powers vested in the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
22 October 2026

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

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday, 22 October 2026

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 23 OCTOBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with a likelihood of isolated heavy fall in Bago Region and Rakhine State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULO-NIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (northern and southern) Shan States. In areas along the cumulo-

nimbus clouds, movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease in night temperatures in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 OCTOBER 2026: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 OCTOBER 2026: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

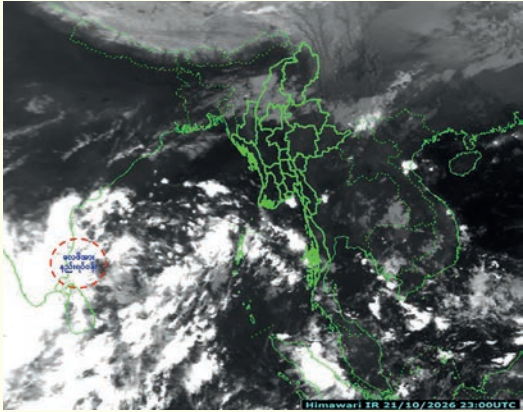
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 OCTOBER 2026: Partly cloudy. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 22 October 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Tamil Nadu Coast (India), North Sri Lanka and the Gulf of Mannar has reached over the Comorin Area (Southernmost tip of mainland India-Cape Comorin) and adjoining India (Southern coast of Tamil Nadu) and Kerala.

This is the last news for the Low-Pressure Area. — DMH



MORS to hold AI Video Clip Contest to promote road safety

THE Multisector Supporting Organization for Road Safety (MORS) will hold an AI video clip contest to raise awareness of traffic and road safety.

MORS will organize its fifth traffic and road safety awareness exhibition, contest, awards ceremony and motor show in November or December 2026 in Yangon.

Three-to-five-minute short AI video clips promoting road safety will be shown at the opening ceremony and award event, under five set themes: (1) Road Safety to Smart Society (Powered by AI); (2) Road Safety for a Better Society; (3) Safe Roads, Better Lives; (4) AI for Road Safety – Safe Roads, Bet-

ter Lives; and (5) Three Minutes of Creativity, A Lifetime of Safety. Prizes are K3 million for first place, K2.5 million for second, K2 million for third, and two consolation prizes of K1 million each, plus certificates.

Characters, voices, backgrounds and visual effects in the videos must be created using AI tools

and must feature Myanmar road infrastructure, scenery and culturally appropriate attire.

Videos must be in MP4 format, with a minimum Full HD resolution of 1920 by 1080 and a 4:3 aspect ratio. The video title and creator’s name must be displayed.

Entries must be sent by 6 pm on 11 Novem-

ber to morygn@gmail.com or via Viber 09 450112960.

Individuals can enquire for further details through the MORS office at 09 450112960 or morygn@gmail.com, or the secretary at 09 421110555 or myanmarheart@gmail.com. — NN/KK

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Future Teachers Urged to Shape Skilled Youth, Foster National Unity

Teachers must nurture students into competent and virtuous individuals who contribute to national development and foster the spirit of Union.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing urged future teachers to nurture qualified young people, promote national unity and contribute to the country's development during a guidance ceremony for students from the eighth intake of the five-year Education Degree Course at the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union. The ceremony was held at the Ngu Shwe Wah Hall of the Presidential Residence yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw of-

icers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chair, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and officials, as well as the university's rector, teachers and students.

In his guidance address, the President recalled that the Institute for the Development of the National Races was established on 20 October 1964 to produce qualified education personnel capable of promoting national unity and the socioeconomic development of ethnic nationalities. It was upgraded to university status on 10 May 1991. To date, the university has produced 14,698 teachers.

He said the students would soon graduate and begin serving the



President U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets students individually during a guidance ceremony yesterday.

country, urging them to apply their knowledge and skills to shaping the futures of young people in their assigned areas. Teachers must recognize

that their responsibilities extend beyond classroom instruction to developing students' attitudes, moral character and life goals. He compared teachers to

potters who mould clay, emphasizing their role in shaping the next generation.

Education, he said, is fundamental to both indi-

vidual advancement and the development of society. An educated population is essential for achieving sustainable progress in the economic, social, health and technological sectors.

The President highlighted the Government's education spending plans for the 2026-2027 financial year, stating that 6.92 per cent of the State budget had been allocated to the Ministry of Education. Including education expenditure by other ministries, the figure reached 9.22 per cent. Plans were in place to increase education spending to at least 10 per cent in the next financial year, 15 per cent in the following year and ultimately 20 per cent during the Government's term of office.

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Vice-President watches Vidhura Jataka drama, encourages contestants at performing arts competition



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye and dignitaries watch a performance of the Vidhura Jataka drama yesterday.

VICE-PRESIDENT Nan Ni Ni Aye, who serves as Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026, watched a performance of the "Vidhura" Jataka drama – one of the Ten Great Birth Stories of the

Buddha – held yesterday at the Open-Air Theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee City Hall.

The competition performance was attended by Union ministers, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, senior

Tatmadaw officers and their spouses, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental officials, panel judges, supervisors, trainers, competing teams from various states and regions, civil servants and their families, and art enthusiasts.

The Vice-President warmly greeted the veteran artistes serving as the judges' panel for the Jataka Drama competition.

Afterwards, the Vice-President and other attendees enjoyed a performance of the Vidhura Jataka drama presented by the Mann Shwe Vidhura Jataka Drama Troupe, representing the Mandalay Region. The performers presented the scenes in sequence, incorporating the original dramatic script, singing, expressive crying, and captivating dialogue delivery. They followed the script closely, delivering their lines accurately while

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Yangon's Daily CNG Supply Hits 26M Cubic Feet

FROM PAGE 1

The required CNG is supplied through 41 filling stations that are open daily, including public holidays, from 4 am to 11 pm. There are no restrictions on the number of vehicles or the frequency of refuelling.

To help travellers

benefit from affordable transport fares, CNG is sold at a subsidized rate of K273.25 per kilogramme. Approximately 3,300 YBS buses, 31,000 taxis and 1,500 other vehicles visit the 41 filling stations each day for refuelling, with many vehicles refuelling twice a day. — TWA/KZL



Vehicles refuel at a CNG filling station.

NATIONAL

Pawsan Rice Must Stand as Myanmar's National Brand

FROM PAGE 1

He stated that everyone had to strive to make Myanmar Pawsan a high-quality National Brand that could represent and uphold the prestige of Myanmar.

He noted that during the 2025 monsoon paddy season, around 1.3 million acres of Pawsan paddy had been cultivated nationwide, yielding over 78 million baskets; he added that if high-quality Pawsan rice could be exported as premium rice, it would not only boost foreign exchange earnings but also ensure fair prices and income for farmers.

The President acknowledged that through the collaborative initiatives conducted with JICA from 2018 to 2024, new varieties Yezin Pawsan-1 and Yezin Pawsan-2 were success-

fully developed to enable all-season cultivation and high yields. He noted that farmers and the public will only be able to fully reap the benefits of this research once the results of developing these new Pawsan varieties are effectively applied directly in the field.

The President underlined that it was important not only to produce high-quality paddy, but also to secure fair prices, reduce production costs, and establish direct market access.

He stated that in order to enhance international recognition of the "Myanmar Pawsan", it was necessary to implement a branding strategy based on quality consistency, traceability of origin, and building consumer trust.

The President highlighted that for Myanmar

Pawsan rice to establish a sustainable standing in the international market, attention must be paid not only to increasing production volumes, but also to food safety, quality standards, and brand trust. Consequently, it was highlighted that systems such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and HACCP should be implemented as needed, alongside strengthening quality-testing laboratories and certification assurance systems.

He outlined that in order to secure a firm market presence for rice sold under the name "Myanmar Pawsan", everyone must participate in ensuring that there is no mixing of different varieties and no compromised quality.

He stressed that in implementing the rice ex-

port target for the 2026-2027 financial year, it is necessary to promote the role of high-quality rice.

The President expressed his hope that through this workshop, clear and precise targets could be established and implemented to sustain ongoing efforts toward further elevating the quality of Myanmar Pawsan rice, ensuring sustainable development, securing a solid standing in the international market, and increasing farmers' incomes.

The President presented honorary medals to responsible officials and farmers from export promotion for Myanmar's Pawsan, research, sustainable development, cultivation and production sectors.

President of the Myanmar Rice Federation U Ye Min Aung handed over

the World Best Rice-2026 award to President U Min Aung Hlaing.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung reported on winning the award for Myanmar Pawsan rice and the plans for sustainable development.

The President and party watched a video clip on holding the 2026 International World Rice Conference.

The MRF President handed over K3.25 billion to Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun. The funds included a transfer of K1.25 billion from the revolving fund for the rice seed sector; K1 billion from the revolving fund for Pawsan seed production enterprises, and K1 billion allocated to upgrade and

modernize the Thayaungchaung Farm in Patheingyi and the Myaungmya Research Farm into Centres of Excellence (CoE) for Pawsan seed production and research development.

A farmer spoke words of thanks. The President posed for documentary photos together with the attendees. After the ceremony, the President and the attendees viewed the galleries on the export of Myanmar Pawsan, parboiled rice and broken rice, and research for various crops at the exhibition.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries and officials. — MNA/TTA

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Belarusian President in Minsk

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe met Belarusian President Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko at the Presidential Palace in Minsk alongside senior Belarusian parliamentary leaders, including Council of the Republic Speaker Ms Natalya Kochanova.

Both sides discussed expanding bilateral ties across government and legislative sectors. The Myanmar delegation expressed appreciation for Belarus's diplomatic backing at the United Nations



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe pays a courtesy call on Belarusian President Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko.

while seeking continued support for Myanmar's bids to join the Eurasian Economic Union, the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BRICS.

Following the bilateral talks, the delegation toured

the Great Stone China-Belarus Industrial Park, home to 173 international firms, before visiting the Belarusian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War to view World War II historical exhibits and 3D displays. Later in the day, the delegation observed operations at the Hi-Tech Park, an IT hub employing over 60,000 specialists and contributing roughly three per cent of Belarus's GDP, before concluding the official visit at an evening banquet hosted by Speaker Ms Natalya Kochanova. — MNA/ST

Vice-President watches ...

FROM PAGE 3

adhering to traditional Myanmar theatrical conventions and incorporating creative artistic elements.

The Vidhura Jataka is the ninth of the Ten Great Birth Stories of the Buddha. The drama is performed with the objectives of fostering an understanding of the benefits of wisdom grounded in moral purity and integrity, promoting the practice of the four virtues of Sadunara, highlighting the dangers and negative consequences of gambling to encourage avoidance, and encourag-

ing viewers to cultivate righteousness and the Seven Noble Treasures while reflecting on the story.

The Vidhura Jataka Drama contest for the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 featured a troupe representing Bago Region on 21 October, followed by a troupe representing Mandalay Region yesterday. Troupes representing Mon State, Sagaing Region, and Yangon Region will continue their performances according to their scheduled dates from 23 to 25 October. — MNA/TH

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Lawmakers continue debates at Amyotha Hluttaw

AMYOTHA Hluttaw representatives raised questions on the education sector, waterway improvement, flight arrangements, and the port management at the 12th-day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

MP Daw Marlar Hsan from the Shan State Constituency 2 asked for the necessary allowance for education staff serving in remote areas of Ywangan Township. Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Kyaw Htin replied that in accordance with Notification 44/2019, Nyaungbintha, South Kyauktaw, Minpal-aung and Thitthamee villages in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South) are not included among the designated remote and socially disadvantaged areas entitled to regional allowances



The Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session convenes its 12th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

within Shan State. Therefore, education personnel serving in these villages are not eligible for the hardship/regional allowance.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Tun Lu responded to the questions raised by MP U Yan Naing Win from the Ayeyawady

Region Constituency 1 on the plan for allocation of the State budget or regional budget to dredge the Dhaka River, which is a main waterway of Yekyi, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships. The deputy minister said that the Ayeyawady Region Government will draft

the necessary action plans based on the findings of preliminary surveys for the waterway of the Daka River, concurrently calculate the required expenditures, and submit budget requests. Based on the funds allocated, implementation will proceed as a multi-year project.

Additionally, the Ministry of Transport will provide technical and operational support and cooperate in the implementation.

For the question on construction of retaining walls to prevent erosion of the Chindwin River in Hkamti submitted by MP U Aung Chit Lwin from the Sagaing Region Constituency 2, the deputy minister stated that to protect the Yankintaung Religious Meditation Centre in Hkamti, Sagaing Region, from erosion by the Chindwin River, budget funding has been requested for the upcoming 2027-2028 financial year to address the 150-foot collapsed section of the riverbank, and implementation to build the retaining walls will proceed once the funds are allocated.

The deputy minister also replied to the questions

raised by MP Saw Myat Htut Win (aka) Ko Sweet from the Kayin State Constituency 9, stating that due to existing restrictions on operating regular scheduled flights to Hpa-an airport, regular aircraft operations cannot be accommodated yet.

MP U Aung Kyu Naing from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 1 asked about the plan to build an international port in Kawthoung. The deputy minister answered that because of multiple limitations regarding the construction of an international port, a domestic coastal port is being built instead, starting from the 2026-2027 financial year and targeted for completion by July 2028.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 13th-day meeting on 2 November. — MNA/TTA

Future Teachers Urged to Shape Skilled Youth, Foster ...

FROM PAGE 3

He also outlined efforts to ensure that all school-age children attend school, while providing further educational opportunities for middle-school graduates through high schools specializing in industrial, agricultural and livestock-breeding subjects. Vocational education and pathways to university are being made available to qualified students. Non-formal education programmes are also being implemented to help young people who have left school for various reasons resume their studies.

The President urged the future teachers to ensure that children in their assigned areas have access to education, encourage those who have dropped out to return to school and secure greater participation from parents and local communities.

Emphasizing the importance of teach-

ing quality, he said that well-qualified teachers were essential to building a high-standard education system. Teachers should continuously improve their knowledge and teaching skills rather than rely solely on rote memorization. They should encourage students to develop critical thinking, analytical abilities and creativity, while linking classroom lessons to practical situations so that students can apply their knowledge in everyday life.

Schools also play a vital role in developing disciplined and responsible citizens. As role models, teachers must be mindful of their words, behaviour and moral conduct, while treating all students fairly and demonstrating honesty, integrity and goodwill.

Turning to national unity, the President noted that Myanmar's diverse ethnic nationalities, languages and cultures en-

rich the country's cultural heritage. He stressed the importance of fostering mutual understanding, respect, trust and unity among ethnic communities.

He explained that Union spirit involves loving one's own ethnicity, language and culture while respecting and valuing the traditions and cultures of other ethnic groups. Cooperation for the common good further strengthens this spirit. Having studied together for five years, the students had developed friendships and learned to embrace Union spirit. He encouraged them to set an example in their assigned areas by promoting friendship, mutual understanding and unity among ethnic communities.

The President also underscored the importance of developing young people, describing them as the next generation who would shoulder national respon-

sibilities. According to the 2024 Population and Housing Census, people aged 15 to 24 account for more than 16 per cent of the country's population.

He urged the future teachers to identify and nurture talented young people in their respective areas, helping them develop not only knowledge, practical skills and moral character but also physical fitness, mental resilience and social skills. Teachers should encourage young people to set goals, work diligently towards their ambitions and become responsible individuals who contribute to their families, communities and society.

As the students would soon enter public service, the President stressed the need for them to understand and comply with relevant laws, rules, regulations and professional ethics. Good civil servants must demonstrate competence, responsibility, hon-

esty, integrity and commitment to the public. In line with the principle that "good civil servants make a good nation", they should perform their duties with dedication, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Teachers, in particular, must maintain the trust and respect of students and parents.

He further urged the students to nurture their pupils into capable and virtuous individuals possessing the five strengths: physical, intellectual, moral, social and economic. They should uphold the five duties of teachers and guide students to distinguish right from wrong and respect social ethics. Respect for ethnic traditions and cultural heritage must also be encouraged to strengthen friendship, unity and Union spirit.

Concluding his address, the President called on the future teachers to uphold the Our Three

Main National Causes, apply their professional teaching skills and serve the interests of the State and the people. He urged them to fulfil their assigned responsibilities faithfully and with wholehearted dedication, expressing his wish that they would become worthy citizens upon whom the nation could rely.

On behalf of the students from the eighth intake, Ma May Thwe Phoo, an ethnic Shan student from Hsihseng Township in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South), delivered a speech of thanks.

Two students then presented commemorative gifts to the President. Following the ceremony, the President, attendees and students posed for a group photograph, after which he met the students individually, spoke with them and offered words of encouragement. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

NSPNC meets NSCN-K for national unity and peacebuilding

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) (AM) was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, following the NSCN-K (AM)'s expressed desire to participate in discussions on national unity and peacebuilding.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Defence NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae noted that the NSCN-K had previously signed a bilateral ceasefire agreement and that earlier discussions had covered local development, education, healthcare, and transport infrastructure, while



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) holds peace talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) (AM) underway.

inviting the Naga group to present its development needs for the government's consideration and encouraging open discussions on challenges to cooperation in ensuring regional peace and stability.

U Ann Mai, Chairman of the NSCN-K (AM), expressed gratitude for the invitation to the peace talks, described the political dialogue as an important historical milestone for achieving sustainable

peace, and emphasized his commitment to cooperation to ensure the region kept pace with other areas in education, healthcare, transport infrastructure, and economic development while improving the

socioeconomic well-being of the local population.

During the general discussions, participants addressed several issues, including the possible submission of a proposal to Hluttaw, in accordance with the 2008 Constitution, to incorporate additional townships into the Naga Self-Administered Zone, negotiations on political aspirations to achieve lasting peace in line with the government's four policies, the upgrading of villages and village tracts in the Naga Self-Administered Zone to towns in accordance with the rules and procedures of the relevant administrative bodies and departments, the identification of priority road sections to improve regional transport links, and coordination with relevant ministries to enable local students who meet the required qualifications to attend appropriate universities, colleges,

and training institutes for studies in education and healthcare.

Subsequently, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Nang discussed cooperation with the Tatmadaw and government departments in the region to promote security and regional development. He also emphasized the need for systematic supervision of armed group members on the ground to prevent actions that could undermine the peace process.

Both sides then agreed on the record of the discussions and signed the official meeting record to confirm its contents.

Following the discussions, NSCN-K (AM) Chairman U Ann Mai delivered a vote of thanks, and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered the closing remarks. Commemorative gifts were exchanged, and the meeting concluded. — MNA/TH

Myanmar attend World Summit on Investing in Children's Well-being



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin speaks at the World Summit on Investing in Children's Well-being in Uzbekistan.

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, attended the World Summit on Investing in Children's Well-being hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan in Samarkand on 21-22 October.

The summit, themed "Investing in Children's Wellbeing: A Path to Sustainable and Equitable Development for Future Generations," brought together gov-

ernment representatives, international organizations, experts and other stakeholders from more than 100 countries.

Discussions focused on social protection for children and families, preventing violence and abuse against children, child health, early childhood development, inclusive education and improving access to essential services, particularly for children with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations.

The Second International Congress on Childhood Cancer was also held alongside the summit, focusing on early diagnosis, access to treatment and long-term care for young patients.

The events aimed to strengthen international cooperation, prioritize investment in children and promote a safer and more equitable future for coming generations through the world summit. — MNA/KTZH

Falam Rebuild Advances with Staff ...

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday afternoon, the deputy minister visited the Falam District Police Force personnel being given medical check-ups at the Falam People's Hospital; the opening of the Falam District/Township Court at

the three-story building of the Falam District Highways Department; the renovation works of the office building and staff housing of the Falam Township Co-operative Department, the staff housing of the Falam District Agriculture De-

partment and Falam District Bureau of Special Investigation, as well as the materials from the renovation of the buildings to reuse, with instructions to ensure the proper operation of the office. — District IPRD/MKKS

Embassy leave endorsement scrapped ...

FROM PAGE 1

apply for a leave endorsement letter when returning to Myanmar on temporary leave.

However, this has been relaxed because most workers faced difficulties due to short leave allowances and insufficient time to obtain all required documents. The embassy said the change helps workers return on time, protect their jobs, and speed up the process.

Furthermore, under the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Re-



The Embassy of Myanmar in Vientiane, Laos.

spect to Taxes on Income signed between Myanmar and Laos in 2009, the embassy informed that it currently does not collect income tax from Myanmar citizens in Laos. According to the statement, PJ (Passport for Job)

holders who are returning to Myanmar on leave or upon completing their employment can present their tax receipts with documents showing income tax paid to the Lao government to obtain a tax clearance certificate. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

27th Performing Arts Competition continues 2nd day

THE second day of the central level of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 was held at the designated sites in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Competitions in traditional and modern singing, dancing, song composition, orchestra, flute, violin, piano, marionette and Drama were held across vari-

ous venues.

Contestants from regions and states competed in different age groups and education levels, showcasing their skills and the beauty of Myanmar traditional cultural heritage through music, dance, singing and theatrical performances.

The contests were enjoyed by the Union Con-

stitutional Tribunal chairman, Union ministers, high-ranking officials, departmental staff, Tatmad-



Contestants are seen competing in the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026.

aw members, families and enthusiasts.

The competitions feature five categories: amateur (first class), amateur (second class), higher education, basic education level aged 15-20, and basic education level aged 10-15. The event will continue at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw until 29 October.

— MNA/KTZH

Outstanding young men, women and soldiers return from study tour of China



Returning outstanding youth and soldiers are seen being welcomed at Yangon International Airport.

A study tour delegation comprising outstanding young men and women of the new generation and soldiers returned to Yangon International Airport by air yesterday after visiting the People's Republic of China from 16 October under the guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The delegation included male and female students who excelled in the 2025-2026 academic year matriculation examination. They are children of serving and retired service personnel and substitute-appointed employees. The delegation also included soldiers who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions.

Yangon Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Tin Min Latt and senior Tatmadaw officers, U Aung Ye Win, Senior Head of Department of Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited, and officials welcomed back the delegation at Yangon International Airport. The students' parents and relatives also gathered at the airport to welcome them back and extend greetings.

During their visit to the People's Republic of China, the delegation visited several historical landmarks, cultural sites, educational institutions and commercial establishments, as well as tourist attractions in Beijing and Guangzhou.

On 17 October, the delegation visited the Temple of Heaven Park and Wangfujing pedestrian shopping street. They also observed the night views of the venues that hosted the Olympic Games.

On 18 October, the delegation visited the Great Wall of China in Beijing and toured the city centre.

On 19 October, the delegation paid homage to the Buddha's tooth relic enshrined at Lingguang Temple. They also visited the Summer Palace, a well-known historical imperial garden.

Similarly, on the morning of 20 October, the delegation visited Guangzhou Zoological Garden. In the evening, they studied the operations of Goodchains Company at Guangzhou Airport and visited the business operations of Xiaobai Supply Chain.

On 21 October, the delegation visited Jinan University, toured the Baima area and went shopping. They also visited Canton Tower, one of Guangzhou's prominent landmarks. — 100/KZL

120 jaywalkers penalized in Yangon

A total of 120 people have faced legal action for crossing roads unlawfully in Yangon since a campaign to promote road and traffic safety began on 12 October, according to the Yangon Region Traffic Police Division 2.

Most violations were recorded near Sule Flyover and Hledan Flyover. From 12 to 22 October, action was taken against 76 men and 44 women for crossing roads outside pedestrian crossings and designated areas.

"Since the road and traffic safety campaign began, action has been taken against 120 jay-

walkers. Elderly people and wheelchair users who cannot access the flyovers are advised to cross at the pedestrian crossing north of the Sule Pagoda. While

enforcement is necessary, measures must also be taken to make crossing roads more convenient for pedestrians.

SEE PAGE 11



The road and traffic safety campaign is underway in Yangon. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

Police beef up security in Yangon Region

POLICE personnel from township police stations across Yangon Region, in cooperation with traffic police and local administrative officials, conducted operations to strengthen the rule of law and prevent crime.

As part of the operations yesterday, police personnel from Wanetchaung, Tamway, Twantay and Myaungtaka townships, together with members of the Thakayta, Latha, Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Hline-thaya (West) and Taikkyi

traffic police units, carried out various activities. They conducted daytime patrols, bicycle patrols, vehicle checks, and raised public awareness to ensure pedestrians use pedestrian crossings.

Yesterday evening, police personnel in Bahan, Sangyoung, Taikkyi, Tamway, Dagon Myothit (North), Kayan, Kyauktan, Mingala Taungnyunt, and Htaukkyant townships conducted patrols in police vehicles with light bars, night patrols, vehicle checks, crime reduction activities in the respective areas and guest-list checks. — Aung Thu/MKKS



Police personnel conduct vehicle checks in Yangon Region.

Daily newspapers available online

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

OPINION

Preserving traditional heritage for generations to come

The 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026, featuring more than 2,400 contestants from various regions and states, is being held in grand style at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the State, from 21 to 29 October.

The Performing Arts Competition is being organized with four objectives: to enhance national prestige and integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people; to preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation; to explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts; and to function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building.

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition was first held in 1993, more than 30 years ago. If these competitions had not been held annually, some traditional cultural and artistic disciplines might have faded, fallen into obscurity, disappeared or become distorted over the past three decades. Therefore, we must faithfully fulfil our responsibility to preserve and safeguard the cultural heritage that remains clearly identifiable today, ensuring that it is neither lost nor damaged and can endure for generations to come.

If national culture weakens, a people's distinct identity will also diminish, and, in the long run, the ethnic group itself could disappear. The Performing Arts Competition serves as a dignified platform for preserving and safeguarding national culture and the cultures of ethnic nationalities, as well as passing these traditions on to younger generations. Therefore, everyone involved in the competition must take their responsibilities seriously and work with the utmost care and commitment to ensure that the competition achieves its objectives and succeeds as intended.

Despite changes and advances over time, and the growing influence of modern cultural and artistic forms, Myanmar's traditional cultural arts, which have flourished for thousands of years, have neither faded into obscurity nor disappeared. Instead, they continue to be cherished and supported by the people of all national races to this day. This will be clearly demonstrated through these competitions.

If national culture weakens, a people's distinct identity will also diminish, and, in the long run, the ethnic group itself could disappear. The Performing Arts Competition serves as a dignified platform for preserving and safeguarding national culture and the cultures of ethnic nationalities, as well as passing these traditions on to younger generations. Therefore, everyone involved in the competition must take their responsibilities seriously and work with the utmost care and commitment to ensure that the competition achieves its objectives and succeeds as intended.

As summer temperatures climb, air conditioners and electric fans become essential household appliances. During prolonged heatwaves – made more intense by climate change and events such as Super El Niño – cooling systems can provide welcome relief from dangerous heat. They help people sleep, work, and recover when outdoor conditions become unbearable.

Yet cooling is not automatically synonymous with safety. Very low temperatures, sudden changes between hot and cold environments, poor hydration, direct exposure to drafts, and neglected appliance maintenance can all create health problems. The goal is not to avoid air conditioning or fans, but to use them thoughtfully. A few simple habits can make indoor spaces comfortable while protecting the respiratory system, heart, skin, and overall well-being.

Choose Comfort Over Extreme Cold

One of the most common mistakes during a heatwave is setting the air conditioner to an extremely low temperature. After spending time outdoors in intense heat, many people walk into a freezing room and immediately

Staying Cool Without Compromising Your Health

By Junior Thin



Keep Cold Air from Blowing Directly at You

Fans and air conditioners work best when they circulate air around a room rather than direct a powerful stream at one person. Sleeping beneath a fan or sitting directly in front of an air-conditioning vent for hours may leave the neck, shoulders, back, or face exposed to continuous cold air.

Some people respond with muscle tightness, stiff necks, spasms, or headaches. Cold, dry airflow can also irritate the eyes, nose, and throat. People who already suffer from sinus problems, allergies, asthma, or sensitive airways may be especially uncomfortable.

Adjust the direction of the vent or fan so that air moves indirectly across the room. Use oscillation settings where available, and avoid positioning the bed or desk directly beneath a draft. At night, a lower fan speed or a timer can provide enough comfort without chilling

the body for hours. If persistent weakness, facial changes, severe pain, or other unusual neurological symptoms occur, seek medical attention rather than assuming they are caused by the weather.

Do Not Forget to Drink Water

Cool indoor environments can create a false sense of security. Because people sweat less in air-conditioned rooms, they may not realize that the body is still losing fluids. They may also drink less because they do not feel intensely thirsty.

Over time, inadequate fluid intake can lead to dehydration. Warning signs include a dry mouth, fatigue, dizziness, headache, dark-coloured urine, and reduced urination. Dehydration also makes urine more concentrated, which may increase urinary discomfort and contribute to the risk of urinary tract problems in vulnerable individuals. Severe fluid loss can place additional strain on kidney function and the cardiovascular system.

Keep water within reach at home, at work, and beside the bed.

Drink regularly throughout the day rather than waiting until thirst becomes overwhelming. People with kidney, heart, or other medical conditions should follow their healthcare professional's advice about fluid intake, since some conditions require individual limits.

Balance Cooling with Humidity

Air conditioners remove moisture from the air as they operate. This dehumidifying effect can make a room feel comfortable, but excessive dryness may irritate the respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. A dry nose or throat can feel scratchy, and irritated mucous membranes may be less effective at trapping particles and protecting the body from airborne irritants.

If the room feels uncomfortably dry, modest steps can help. A basin of water or a damp cloth may add a small amount of moisture, although such items must be kept clean and changed frequently to prevent microbial growth. A properly maintained humidifier can also be considered where ap-

propriate, but it should be cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions. Humidity should be balanced – not excessive – because damp conditions encourage mould and dust mites.

Clean Equipment Means Cleaner Air

Temperature settings are only one part of healthy cooling. Air conditioners and fans continually collect dust, pollen, mould spores, and other particles. If filters, blades, coils, or protective grilles are neglected, the appliance may circulate those contaminants throughout the room.

Air-conditioning filters should be inspected and cleaned regularly. Depending on the model, household dust levels, and frequency of use, cleaning may be needed every two weeks to once a month. Fans also require attention: unplug the appliance before cleaning, then remove dust from the blades, grille, and surrounding areas. Always follow the manufacturer's safety and maintenance instructions.

Dirty equipment can worsen allergies, trigger asthma symp-

toms, and contribute to chronic nasal or sinus irritation. Clean filters do more than improve airflow and energy efficiency; they help ensure that the cool air entering the room is also as clean as possible. If there is a persistent musty smell, visible mould, water leakage, or poor performance, professional servicing may be necessary.

A Cooler, Healthier Summer

Extreme heat makes artificial cooling indispensable, but comfort should not come at the expense of health. The safest approach is balanced: choose moderate temperatures, avoid sudden transitions and direct drafts, drink water regularly, and keep cooling equipment clean. Pay particular attention to children, older adults, pregnant people, and anyone with heart, kidney, respiratory, or blood-pressure conditions.

Small habits can make a significant difference. Cooling systems should help the body recover from heat – not force it to cope with another extreme. With sensible settings, adequate hydration, clean appliances, and awareness of warning signs, families can stay comfortable, breathe easier, and navigate the hottest months more safely.

Quality Circles: Improving Our Work by Examining Our Thinking

By U Khin Maung Myint



competent work and weaknesses in the working system may receive less attention. **Anchoring** keeps us attached to the first explanation, even when later evidence challenges it. (psnet.ahrq.gov)

An investigation can consequently become an exercise in proving an accusation rather than discovering what happened.

Hindsight bias creates another trap. After knowing the outcome, we may feel that the danger should have been obvious from the beginning. Fair judgement asks what information, resources and choices were available at the time. Yesterday's uncertainty should not be judged as though everyone possessed today's knowledge.

(ahrq.gov)
Rank can influence discussion too. A senior person's explanation may go unchallenged because of their position. When agreement becomes a duty, useful questions remain unasked. A quality circle must therefore offer more than seats around a table: it must allow respectful differences of opinion. These concerns can be understood alongside Buddhist principles familiar to many in Myanmar, while remaining relevant to people of every faith and none.

Buddhist attention to causes and conditions provides a useful analogy. An error rarely becomes fully understood merely by naming the person involved. Unclear

cludes solving problems, but its spirit is cooperation rather than accusation.

For Myanmar, this offers a practical opportunity. Institutions are made of people drawn from society. Habits learned in homes, classrooms and communities accompany us into offices, hospitals, factories and uniformed services. When admitting an error invites humiliation, silence can become a means of self-protection.

Yet silence does not repair a faulty machine or improve a public service. Sweeping dust beneath the carpet leaves the room unclear.

Blame also has a quieter companion: **cognitive bias**, the tendencies in human thinking that can distort judgement without our awareness. Education, seniority and good intentions do not make anyone immune.

Confirmation bias leads us to favour evidence that supports an existing belief. Once an employee is labelled "careless", every subsequent mistake may appear to confirm that judgement. Their

A pointing finger may identify a person, but it does not necessarily identify the cause of a problem. When something goes wrong, the easiest question is often, "Who is to blame?" The more useful question is, "What happened, why did it happen, and how can we prevent it?"

The difference can determine whether an institution merely punishes mistakes or learns to improve.

Japan gave this approach an organized form through quality circles. The movement began in 1962 under Professor Kaoru Ishikawa, working with the Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers. He encouraged frontline workers to form small groups to study quality control and improve their work. Its origins were broader than a single motorcar factory. (juse.or.jp)

A **quality circle** brings together people familiar with a particular area of work. They identify a manageable problem, examine evidence, propose changes and assess the results. Its purpose in-

both wisdom and humility.

Consider a public office where citizens repeatedly submit incomplete applications. One explanation is that applicants are inattentive; another is that the instructions are confusing. If officials accept only the first explanation, they may overlook an opportunity to improve the service.

A quality circle could examine rejected forms, ask applicants about their difficulties, simplify the guidance and compare results. Fewer repeat visits would provide better evidence of success than another reprimand.

To support fair inquiry, members should distinguish observations from interpretations and consider several explanations. A valuable question is: "**What evidence might show that our first assumption is wrong?**" Junior staff can offer observations before the most senior person announces a conclusion. Changes should then be tested against agreed measures. Such practices can challenge bias, although a

meeting alone cannot guarantee sound judgement.

Compassion also requires accountability. Honest mistakes, repeated disregard of procedures and deliberate misconduct deserve different responses. Serious wrongdoing still requires proper investigation and proportionate action.

The first step need not be expensive: one willing team, one recurring difficulty and one achievable change. Leaders must give members time, listen fairly and act on useful suggestions. Consultation without action soon becomes an empty ceremony.

A nation's institutions improve when its people can examine both their working methods and their own assumptions.

When a roof leaks, blaming the person who reports the rain will not keep the family dry. We must inspect the roof – and remain willing to discover that our first explanation was wrong.

Let the pointing finger become a helping hand, and certainty give way to enquiry.

NATIONAL

12 investments with 9,300+ jobs approved in Yangon Region

TEN foreign investments and two Myanmar citizen investments, totalling 12, have been approved for Yangon Region's industrial sector.

The Yangon Region Investment Committee approved the decision at its meeting held on 20 October at the regional investment committee office in Yankin Township.

As the regional investment committee chair, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, committee members and guests attended the meeting. The majority of approved businesses are CMP gar-



A CMP garment workplace.

ment factories that can create many job opportunities. The total investment of the businesses is US\$15.848 million and more than K3.1 billion, with employment creation for 9,315 people.

During the meeting, officials also discussed proposals submitted by 60 companies, of which eight proposals are for expanding investment. — TWA/ZS

Steering Committee sets reference paddy price at K1.35M per 100 baskets

THE Steering Committee on Protection of Farmers' Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits set the reference paddy price at K1.35 million per 100 baskets, according to its notification 1/2026 issued on 21 October.

The announcement was made under the Law of the Protection of the Farmers' Rights and Enhancement of Their Benefits to ensure a fair market and fair prices for paddy farmers.

The reference price applies to 100 baskets of paddy at 46 pounds per basket, with 14 per cent moisture content and free of sand, weeds, dust, sand and gravel, meeting the specified quality standards.

If the prevailing market price is at or above the benchmark price, paddy will be bought at the market price. If the market price falls below the reference price, paddy will be bought at the base price. The set price applies to the 2026 monsoon paddy and 2027 summer paddy. Farmers who have difficulty selling at the reference price can contact township representatives of the Myanmar Rice Federation or the federation's head office at 01 2301128, 01 2301129 or 01 218266. — NN/KK

Myanmar Insurance market runs with 27 operators

MYANMAR'S insurance market has 27 operators, including state-run Myanma Insurance, according to the Insurance Business Regulatory Board.

The market includes nine domestic private life insurers, three joint-venture life insurers, five wholly foreign-owned life insurers, six domestic private general insurers, three joint-venture general insurers, and state-run Myanma Insurance, which underwrites both life and general insurance, according to the board's 41st regular meeting 2/2026 held on 21 October in the meeting hall of Office 34, Ministry of Finance and Revenue, in Nay Pyi Taw.

Board Chairman and



Staff process insurance applications at a local insurance office.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Htin for Finance and Revenue stated that the market allows balanced ownership among domestic, wholly foreign-owned and joint-venture companies, with a full range of insurance types permitted and firms competing in the market. He urged the board to continue working to develop the insurance sector systematically, expand new insurance products to give the public greater protection, and support the national economy through market development.

The board secretary reported on the completion of decisions from the 40th meeting, and members discussed six new insurance products: a new microfinance insurance product, a new PRU

Metta insurance product, a new AIA wealth management insurance product, a new customizable wealth-growth life insurance product, a new overseas parcel insurance product and a new Daiichi Smart Protect health insurance product. The deputy minister delivered closing remarks.

The board has authorized 72 insurance types, 24 foreign insurance representative offices, five adjuster and surveyor companies, 70 corporate insurance agents, 25,819 individual insurance agents, one insurance agent qualification testing centre and 25 in-house insurance agent training schools. — NN/KK

UMFCCI discusses export licences, shipments, earnings repatriation



The meeting on export licence applications, actual shipments, and repatriation of export earnings is in progress.

EXPORT business associations and relevant officials met to discuss seeking export licences, actual shipments and the repatriation of export earnings, according to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Participants discussed applying for and obtaining licenses to export, shipping in line with export licenses, and receiving commodity transactions through designated bank transfer systems after shipment.

He said companies that fail to return export earnings are being handled under existing laws.

UMFCCI General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe said that export associations are cooperating on the repatriation of export earnings. Officials from participating export associations reported on their supervision of licence applications, actual shipments, payment transfers and export earnings repatriation, and offered recommendations on cases where earnings have not been returned.

— ASH/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 22 October 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,655.00~3,671.00	555.30~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.50~43.60
Trading amount in the market	8,257,252.98	5,488,065.42	29,666,200.76	23,034,000.00

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

600+ heat relief shelters opened across Yangon Region

TO protect against heat risks caused by very strong El Niño conditions, a rare extreme phenomenon, over 600 heat relief shelters capable of accommodating more than 150,000 people have been opened across 14 districts and 45 townships in Yangon Region, according to U Nay Lin Tun, the regional minister for Information, Relief, and Religious Affairs.

The minister said this while answering a question about forming



U Nay Lin Tun, Yangon's regional minister, explaining over 600 heat shelters.

community-based disaster prevention teams in Yangon Region, raised by U Aung Pyae Phyo, a

Region Hluttaw representative for Mayangon Constituency 2, during the Hluttaw session on

19 October.

In his response, 626 heat relief shelters have been prepared to provide temporary shelter and heat relief for up to 152,685 people.

“We have arranged 626 heat relief shelters across 14 districts and 45 townships so that the public in Yangon Region can take refuge from the extreme heat. A total of 152,685 people will be able to seek temporary relief from the heat,” he said. — TWA/ZN

Water conservation measures at 57 dams, reservoirs in Magway amid El Niño threat

SYSTEMATIC preparations and water management measures are being implemented at 57 dams and reservoirs across Magway Region to prevent water loss and wastage caused by the El Niño phenomenon, according to the Magway Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

These preventive measures are necessary because the El Niño weather pattern can lead to extreme temperatures, falling water levels, and water shortages. The total storage capacity at full supply level across the 57

dams, lakes, and reservoirs in Magway Region is 2.5 million acre-feet, of which more than 1.96 million acre-feet is currently stored.

In addition to supplying irrigation water for more than 230,000 acres of monsoon paddy cultivation this year, sandbags have been stacked at certain reservoirs to increase their water storage capacity. Lakes and ponds are also being renovated to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water for the public.

“Irrigation water can be supplied for the usual cultivated acreage during



This photo features a dam in Magway Region.

the upcoming summer paddy season. To conserve water in dams, lakes, and reservoirs, we encourage farmers to grow crops that require less water,” said U Zaw Wan, head of the Magway Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

Preparations must

also be made to address potential flooding associated with El Niño-related climate impacts. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued a notice on 11 October stating that the El Niño phenomenon could reach its peak in November and December. — TWA/TH

YR stores water in reservoirs ahead of potential El Niño-related shortages



Officials inspect Zamani Inn Reservoir.

THE Yangon Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department has taken advance measures to store water in reservoirs to prevent potential water shortages in Yangon Region caused by severe El Niño conditions.

U Win Htike, Director of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, and officials inspected water storage conditions at the Banbwagon and Zamani Inn reservoirs in Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships.

The reservoirs are

important water resources for ensuring adequate supplies of drinking water and irrigation water in the region. By collecting and storing rainwater during the monsoon season, the reservoirs help reduce flooding in low-lying wards and farmland downstream. They also store sufficient water to provide local communities with adequate supplies of drinking water and industrial water during periods of water scarcity in the summer, according to the department. — ASH/KNN

120 jaywalkers penalized in Yangon

FROM PAGE 7

Installing escalators at the flyovers would help,” said an official from the Kyauktada Township Traffic Police Unit.

Sule flyover has the highest number of pedestrians in Yangon, followed by Hledan Flyover and Maha Myaing Flyover in Sangyoung Township.

Some commuters suggested that installing warning signs and metal fencing to prevent people from crossing underneath the flyovers would be more

effective than announcements alone. They also recommended installing roofs over the bridges to protect pedestrians from the heat during the El Niño period and provide shaded places for them to rest briefly.

Pedestrians and drivers also stressed the importance of road safety, urging drivers to give way to pedestrians at crossings and advising people not to cross roads when traffic lights are green for vehicles. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

Kehsi's rural farm-to-market road project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the progress of a rural farm-to-market road and slab culvert construction project in Mway-taw Village, Kehsi Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Kehsi Township Department of Rural Development Technical Officer

Daw Theingi Win and engineering staff inspected the construction of a two-mile-long farm-to-market road measuring 12 feet in width, featuring a two-foot-thick earth embankment and a nine-inch-thick sand-and-gravel surface, along with a slab culvert measuring five feet in length, 18 feet in width and five feet in height. She met members of the village

farm-to-market road implementation committee and representatives of the tender-winning company, urging them to complete the works within the stipulated timeframe and according to set standards, while coordinating necessary support based on village requirements.

The road and slab culvert construction project is being implement-

ed by the tender-winning company using K227.917 million in Union funds allocated for the 2026-2027 financial year, with technical assistance and close supervision from Township DRD staff. Work commenced in the first week of August, which, upon full completion, will help lower transport costs for local agricultural produce. — Karan (Rural)

ECONOMY
WORLD

Farming by data: how smart agriculture is reshaping China’s fields

Sensors and artificial intelligence technologies transform modern farming practices.

AS autumn winds ripple through fields of fragrant rice at a Beidahuang farm in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, grower Wei Guodong rubs a freshly plucked panicle between his palms, revealing plump, gleaming grains.

“This year’s harvest looks solid,” he says with a smile.

The farm belongs to Heilongjiang Agriculture Company Limited, the A-share-listed arm of Beidahuang Group, a major state-owned agribusiness in the province.

Wei’s confidence had been boosted months earlier, during the seedling stage, when the greenhouses at the farm under-



An exhibitor introduces agricultural technologies by showing the real-time scene of the monitor of a planting base at the food and agricultural products exhibition area of the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China’s Shanghai, 7 November 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

went a full-chain smart upgrade that is now reshaping rice production in one of China’s major grain-producing regions.

Liu Dong, a manager at the 852 Farm branch, said the company invest-

ed this year to retrofit its seedling greenhouses with sensors, automated film rollers, smart irrigation valves and panoramic cameras. The system monitors soil pH, temperature, humidity and light

around the clock, allowing a single skilled technician to manage up to three greenhouses and cutting labour costs by about 60 per cent.

That same data-driven approach runs through the summer growing season, when crops are most vulnerable to weeds, pests and weather. At the farm, an AI laser-weeding robot uses industrial cameras to distinguish crops from weeds in milliseconds. With millimeter-level positioning and a weed-removal rate above 95 per cent, the machine can cover 80 to 100 mu (about 5.3 to 6.7 hectares) a day, easing labor shortages while reducing herbicide use. — Xinhua

Protests reflect France’s economic, financial dilemmas

FRANCE has been shaken by a wave of violent protests sparked by student anger over crumbling schools and staff shortages, which were soon joined by citizens facing soaring energy bills and a cost-of-living squeeze.

INSEE data shows that France’s consumer prices rose by 3.1 per cent year-on-year in September, driven heavily by a 21.3 per cent surge in energy prices that has severely tightened family budgets.

Sluggish economic growth, marked by a 0.2 per cent contraction in the first quarter and zero growth in the second, has further eroded citizens’ ability to cope with rising living costs.

France faces severe financial constraints as its public debt reached 119 per cent of GDP by the end of the second quarter, while 10-year government bond yields

crossed the five per cent threshold for the first time since 2002.

The government’s debt servicing burden is mounting, with interest payments projected

to rise from 79.2 billion euros this year to 91.2 billion euros next year, alongside high social protection spending that accounts for 31.9 per cent of GDP — Xinhua



People gather at Place de la Republique during a protest in Paris, France, 17 October 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan PM, Yokohama mayor agree on horticultural expo

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Yokohama Mayor Atsumi Harasawa agreed Thursday to cooperate to ensure the success of an international horticultural expo opening in the city next March.

Takaichi told Harasawa, “Let’s join forces and do our best,” according to the mayor, who disclosed their conversation to reporters after the meeting at the prime minister’s office. Harasawa took office after winning Sunday’s mayoral election. — Kyodo

Norway wealth fund reports financial loss

NORWAY’S sovereign wealth fund, the world’s largest with assets of more than \$2 trillion, on Thursday reported a negative return of 278 billion kroner (\$31 billion) in the third quarter as it was weighed down by higher interest rates.

It posted a negative return of 0.5 per cent in the quarter, dragged down by a negative return of 3.5 per cent in its fixed-income investments, while its equity and property portfolios increased by 0.5 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively. “The fund’s return was close to flat, ending slightly negative as rising interest rates led to weaker results on our fixed-income investments,” the fund’s deputy CEO Trond Grande said in a statement. — AFP



Representative image displaying smart television screens equipped with modern digital streaming interfaces. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/HISENSE-INDIA

Google, Glance partner to bring AI-powered shopping to Android TVs in India, US, Japan

GOOGLE and Glance have partnered to bring artificial intelligence (AI)-powered shopping and product discovery to Android TVs in India, the United States and Japan, aiming to turn the television screens into interactive platforms for lifestyle inspiration and online shopping.

The partnership will

allow users to explore products across categories such as fashion, home décor, travel, food and wellness through an interactive experience on supported Android TV devices. The integration aims to transform the television screen when it is not being actively used into a platform for product discovery. — ANI

India’s hotel capacity
needs major expansion

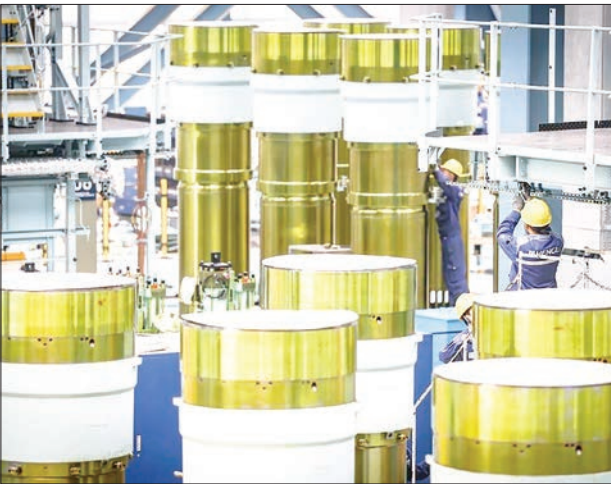
INDIA will need an estimated 1.9 lakh to 2.1 lakh additional hotel rooms by 2035, translating into 120-125 million square feet of new hospitality real estate, as rising domestic tourism, business travel and demand for premium experiences drive sectoral expansion, according to a report by CBRE. The report said India’s hospitality sector had moved beyond post-pandemic recovery into a more sustained growth phase, supported by rising incomes, infrastructure development and changing travel preferences. “India’s hospitality sector has transitioned from a period of post-pandemic recovery to a more sustained phase of growth, positioning itself as one of the most resilient alternative real estate sectors,” CBRE said. — ANI



India’s hospitality sector had moved beyond post-pandemic recovery into a more sustained growth phase. PHOTO: ANI

China unveils 5-year plan to
strengthen industrial foundation,
upgrade manufacturing

CHINA on Thursday released a five-year plan to accelerate upgrading of its industrial foundation capabilities, in a further step towards building an innovation-driven manufacturing powerhouse. The document, jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and other government departments, calls for integrated efforts in technological breakthroughs and their application, addressing weaknesses in China’s industrial foundation systematically, and achieving a comprehensive upgrade towards stronger innovation, greater self-reliance and higher quality. Industrial foundation, the bedrock of manufac-



The image shows workers in the engine assembly workshop at the Hengli Heavy Industries industrial park in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China. PHOTO: XINHUA

turing competitiveness, covers a range of areas including core components, basic materials and foundational software, as well as related talents, market conditions and the policy environment. While China has built the world’s largest and most complete industrial system over the past decades, its industrial foundation remains a weak link,

experts said. “The most critical issue is that China’s industrial foundation is large but not strong,” said Zhou Ji, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He pointed to a structural imbalance, namely an oversupply of low-end products alongside a shortage of high-end ones. Vulnerabilities and risks persist particularly in areas like integrated circuits and industrial software, Zhou noted. As China pursues high-quality economic development and advances its new industrialization drive, the strengthening and upgrading of its industrial foundation has become increasingly critical. — Xinhua

Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by Shandong Qiaochang Modern International Co.,Ltd and distributed by Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Company Limited is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Shwe Dar	Kaung Htet	P2022-6003

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

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

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Qingdao Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to OAKTHAR PHONE HLYAN COMPANY LIMITED. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. NO.
1	Profenco 500 EC	Profenofos 50% EC	P2025- 6621
2	Amfine 20 SP	Acetamiprid 20% SP	2025- 6619
3	Abamco 18 EC	Abamectin 1.8% EC	P2025-6734

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
Phone : 09456060160, 09456060180

Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by Ruili Cheng Shan Import and Export Trade Co.,Ltd and distributed by Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Poe Swam Thar	Pyae Sone	P2024-6476

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

Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to OAKTHAR PHONE HLYAN COMPANY LIMITED. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. NO.
1	Golden Knife 72 WP	Cymoxanil 8% + Mancozeb 64% WP	P2023-6235

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
Phone : 09456060160, 09456060180

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shandong Max Agro Co.,Ltd have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “ Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd ”, to new distributor name “Our Farm Co.,Ltd”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Max Dipo	Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC	P2026-7150

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

US Democrats accuse Trump administration of election 'intimidation'

Democrats sued Donald Trumps over alleged midterm election voter intimidation.

DEMOCRATIC Party leaders have sued US President Donald Trump and members of his administration, accusing them of aiming "threats and intimidation" at state and local officials in the run-up to the 3 November midterm election.

Democratic governors, Congressional leaders and other party entities filed suit in federal court on Tuesday against Trump, Attorney General Todd Blanche, the Justice Department and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, among others.

Justice and Homeland Security officials have



A privacy booth during the first day of early voting in Minneapolis on 16 October. **PHOTO: AFP**

"sought to bolster their interference efforts through a persistent stream of threats and intimidation directed towards state and local election officials across the country," the complaint reads.

Democratic officials

railed against the government's request "with just 48 hours' notice" that California refuse to send ballots to more than 20,000 registered voters, citing doubts about their citizenship.

They called the gov-

ernment's list "remarkably slapdash", akin to one issued in Nevada, where officials initially alleged there were 16,000 noncitizens on the voter rolls, only to reduce the number to 185.

Nevada later found all of those people to be citizens, the Democrats argued.

The suit calls on the federal judge to declare these actions unlawful, as they represent a violation of the separation of powers and to bar federal officials from "continuing to unconstitutionally impose themselves upon election administration procedures". — AFP

Ceuta migrant crisis stokes anger at Sanchez ahead of Spain vote

MARI Carmen Mata remains furious with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over his response to the mass arrival of migrants in Ceuta, a crisis complicating the Socialist leader's bid for re-election next month.

"We want nothing to do with him," the 58-year-old nursing assistant told AFP in the centre of the Spanish territory in north Africa.

More than two months after upwards of 70,000 migrants entered Ceuta from neighbouring Morocco on 30 and 31 July, life in the city, home to around 80,000 people, remains far from normal.

Most returned to

Morocco in the following hours, but thousands have remained for weeks in often dire conditions.

A sense of abandonment among residents is giving fresh ammunition to the main opposition

conservative Popular Party (PP) and the far-right Vox ahead of an early general election on 29 November.

Criticism in Ceuta — governed by the PP for more than 25 years

— centres largely on the central government's migration policy and what many see as a lack of firmness towards Morocco, which claims sovereignty over the territory. — AFP



Spanish forces escort migrants to the Ceuta-Morocco border gate in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in North Africa, 1 August 2026. **PHOTO: VCG/CGTN**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy police arrest 8 for mafia-tainted tenders after earthquake

ITALIAN police have arrested eight people among 51 suspects in an ongoing investigation over corruption and mafia-infiltrated rebuilding contracts following a 2016 earthquake in central Italy.

Italy's financial police said they had seized assets worth over 57 million euros (\$64 million) in the province of Ancona, on Italy's eastern coast, as part of a broad anti-fraud investigation that uncovered "infiltration by mafia-type organised crime". Police said in a statement they uncovered "an unlawful system in the sector of contracts obtained for private reconstruction following the 2016 earthquake and for public tenders" issued by the Marche region and other entities.

Subcontracts for private reconstruction work using public funds went to organized crime groups in Calabria and Campania, while public officials and entrepreneurs engaged in "acts of corruption", police alleged. — AFP

Danish researchers confirm Guinea-Bissau vaccine seizure

A team of Danish researchers in charge of a controversial US-funded trial of a hepatitis B vaccine confirmed Thursday that their premises had been searched by police in Guinea-Bissau.

"Police attended the Bandim Health Project's premises in Bissau on Monday and sealed the refrigerator containing the hepatitis B vaccines intended for the proposed HBV-NSE study," one of the project leaders, Christine Stabell Benn, told AFP in an email.

"The study has not started. No children have been enrolled or vaccinated as part of the trial. The police action therefore did not interrupt an ongoing clinical trial," she stressed. — AFP

Protests banned in parts of Paris

PROTESTS will be barred in parts of Paris on Thursday, the police said Wednesday, as the French government braced for a fresh wave of demonstrations in the coming days. The ban, which lasts from 8 am to 8 pm (0600 to 1800 GMT), will cover key areas of the French capital including the Elysee presidential palace, both houses of parliament, as well as tourist havens such as the Louvre museum and the Champs-Elysees. — AFP

DPRK warns ROK not to interfere in border fortification

A senior official of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Thursday warned the Republic of Korea (ROK) not to interfere in the DPRK's fortification project along the southern border; the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

Kim Yo Jong, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, made the remarks in response to a latest ROK criticism from Kim Byung-joo, a special presidential adviser for defence policy, the report said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Swimmer Nyi Nyi Lin Htet garners Asian Para silver



Silver medallist Nyi Nyi Lin Htet.

MYANMAR swimmer Nyi Nyi Lin Htet won another silver medal for the country in the men's 150-metre individual medley at the 5th Asian Para Games, currently taking place in Nagoya, Japan.

In the event held yesterday, two swimmers from Thailand, one from the Republic of Korea and one from Myanmar competed. Nyi Nyi Lin Htet finished

in 3 minutes and 01.23 seconds to secure the silver medal for Myanmar.

As of 22 October, Myanmar's para-sports team had won one silver and three bronze medals, bringing its total medal tally to four at the 5th Asian Para Games.

Nyi Nyi Lin Htet will compete in the men's 100-metre freestyle event on 23 October. — MNA/KZL

Foden can be one of Premier League's best again, says Maresca

ENZO Maresca said it is his job as Manchester City boss to help Phil Foden rediscover his best form after the England international ended his long goal drought.

Foden had not scored for 10 months before netting in City's 3-2 win over Ipswich last weekend and then scored a Champions League hat-trick in a 5-1 rout of AEK Athens on Tuesday. The 26-year-old swept the board of personal awards for the Premier League's best player in the 2023/24 season after a 27-



Manchester City's Phil Foden celebrates scoring against AEK Athens. PHOTO: AFP

goal campaign.

But Foden, who has admitted struggling with mental health issues, has

failed to hit top form for the past two seasons.

"Since we started I sat down with Phil two or three

times, especially at the beginning. Just to show him, I don't know if love is the right word to use, but just to show him how important he is," said Maresca, who took charge of City in June.

"I said many times that I know Phil from years ago so I know how for different reasons, the last few years it was not good enough.

"When you have more players like Phil available, you are a better team because again it's a matter of improving players. If you improve the players, you improve the team. — AFP

Asian Para Games: Ogiwara wins gold in 100-metre backstroke

JAPAN'S Kotaro Ogiwara finished top in the men's 100-metre backstroke S8 final for athletes with physical impairments at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games on Thursday, while

wheelchair racer Tomoki Sato stood on top of the podium for the second consecutive day.

Ogiwara clocked an Asian Para Games record of 1 minute, 5.26 seconds to

claim gold, and Kota Kubota, a silver medalist at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, finished third in Nagoya.

"1:05.26 isn't my best time, but it's my first Asian title, so I think I'll just take it

simply as something to be happy about," the 24-year-old Ogiwara said. The captain of Japan's swimming team has already set his sights on gold at the next Paralympics. — Kyodo

Chinese athletes rack up wins on day 3, claim 100th gold

CHINESE athletes racked up victories across multiple events on Wednesday, the third competition day of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games.

On the athletics field, 33-year-old Zhou Feifei settled the men's javelin throw F55 contest with his opening attempt, earning the Chinese delegation its 100th gold medal of the Games. His throw of 37.63-metre set a world record, leaving the rest of the competition as a battle for second place.

In a similar feat, Liang Hongxia won the women's discus throw F11 with one decisive effort, breaking the world record with 42.19 metres.



Chinese athlete Liang Hongxia poses with her new world record after the women's discus throw F11 final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games on 21 October 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

In the women's 100-metre T35, Zhou Xia took gold in an Asian Para Games record of 13.57 seconds, adding to the title she had already claimed in the 200-metre T35. "I was

so tired after the race that I didn't even look at the big screen. All I wanted was to run a lap of the stadium with the national flag around my shoulders," she said. — Xinhua

Arsenal 'concerned' about Saka injury, says Arteta

ARSENAL coach Mikel Arteta said the club was "concerned" about the severity of an injury to winger Bukayo Saka after Wednesday's pulsating 2-2 Champions League draw at Bayern Munich.

Saka, Arsenal's joint top goalscorer this season alongside Victor Gyokeres, went off early after falling



Bukayo Saka was subbed out early in Wednesday's match at Bayern. PHOTO: AFP

to the turf grabbing his thigh and was replaced by Eberechi Eze. Eze scored

Arsenal's opener and Declan Rice scored late to clinch a draw for last season's runners up after an Alphonso Davies goal and a Harry Kane penalty for the hosts.

Arteta said Saka's injury was as yet unclear, but told reporters the club's medical staff were worried. — AFP

Boxing: Inoue expects title at stake in next bout around March

JAPAN'S undisputed super bantamweight world champion Naoya Inoue said Thursday his next bout will take place "around March" and implied the opponent would

be American Jesse Rodriguez should it become a title defense.

Attending an event in Tokyo to look back on his epic battle in May with compatriot Junto

Nakatani, Inoue also told reporters that he would move up a class and fight a featherweight title bout straight away if the title defence does not materialize. — Kyodo



WORLD

China: Arctic actions match intl law

CHINA'S activities in the Arctic, aimed at promoting the peace, stability and sustainable development of the region, are in line with international law, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday.

Mao made the remarks in response to a related query noting that the EU's new Arctic strategy identifies China's growing presence in the region and its cooperation with Russia as security concerns.

Mao said the Arctic bears on the common interests of the international community, and countries' rights and freedoms to carry out activities in the Arctic in accordance with the law need to be fully respected. "Dividing countries into blocs out of Cold War mentality and inciting geopolitical confrontation are not in the interest of peace, stability and development in the Arctic region," she added.

— Xinhua

Uzbekistan to introduce revised Latin alphabet in Apr 2027

UZBEKISTAN will introduce a revised version of its Latin-based Uzbek alphabet on 22 April 2027, following a new law signed by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Wednesday.

Under the legislation, all existing documents, national currency, and official securities issued prior to the effective date will remain fully valid. Official state symbols, signage and organizational insignia will also remain in use until replaced through natural wear or per an implementation programme to be approved within two months.

The revised writing system updates the alphabet structure to 28 letters and an apostrophe. Several multi-letter combinations and specific character representations are replaced with individual letters, while the overall alphabet count is streamlined.

— Xinhua

Sisi: Egypt defends Saudis, avoids Yemen attack

EGYPTIAN President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday that Cairo's proposed military support for Riyadh was to "defend Saudi territory, and does not include an attack on Yemen". At a government event titled Egypt Forum 2026, Sisi said "we are talking about defending the land and borders of the kingdom", he said in a speech. "The situation cannot bear any further instability in other countries, we want to restore the countries that have lost their stability," he added.

Sisi on Saturday had asked parliament to authorize support for Saudi Arabia in its war with the Houthis, "if requested".

— AFP

19th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum kicks off in Istanbul

Forum details Türkiye's global role, energy, economy, tech, and transit.

The 19th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum is being held in Istanbul for the first time, bringing together leading politicians, economists and business leaders from around the world. This year's main objective is to discuss ways to overcome the global energy crisis and establish new logistics chains between East and West.

The opening session features Turkish Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek; Russian



Kirill Dmitriev, Chief Executive Officer, Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF); Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for Investment and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries. **PHOTO: ROSCONGRESS PHOTOBANK**

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko; Kirill Komarov, first deputy director of Russia's state

nuclear energy corporation Rosatom; and Antonio Fallico, head of the Italian-based Conoscere Eurasia Association.

Discussions during the forum will cover Türkiye's role in the global economy, energy, US-Eurasia relations, re-industrialization, technological sovereignty, financial markets, healthcare, and transport systems.

The event will also examine the changing geopolitical position of Eurasia and opportunities for economic cooperation amid growing global uncertainty. The forum will conclude on Friday. — AGENCIES/SPUTNIK

Bharat International Rice Conference draws buyers from 153 countries

THE Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2026 is set to open at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, recording 32,467 registrations and drawing 4,856 buyers from 153 countries, said BIRC.

The three-day event running from 23 to 25 October brings together global exporters, importers, millers, policymakers, and food businesses to explore new markets and assess the 2027 rice price outlook.

The conference features 65 speakers, nine knowledge sessions, and 2,038 pre-scheduled business-to-business meetings coordinated through the BIRC digital platform and the EY team.

Exhibition space for the major industry gathering has been fully sold out for the second consecutive year.

The comprehensive

knowledge programme covers vital industry topics, including crop surveys, price forecasting, new export markets, sustainability, and profitable rice milling.

Key opening sessions, such as "Global Rice Demand and Sup-

ply Outlook 2027", will examine potential price movements and market trends for both Basmati and non-Basmati rice.

Nine Experience Zones, including the Global Rice Archive, will showcase diverse rice varieties, farming com-

munities, and commercial applications.

A public-facing Rice Festival on the final day will welcome consumers, chefs, and families with chef competitions, cultural performances, and a culinary section curated by ITC Hotels. — ANI



Exhibition space for the major industry gathering has been fully sold out for the second consecutive year. **PHOTO: BIRC**