

President U Min Aung Hlaing and Wife Grace 27th Performing Arts Competition Performances

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday afternoon enjoyed the competitions of contestants at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition at Hsinbyushin Hall and Pobbathiri Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, the President and his wife, along with accompanying members, watched the performances of ethnic traditional dance troupes representing various Regions and States at the Hsinbyushin Hall. The



President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watch a performance of the traditional ethnic dance troupe at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition.



competition of these dance troupes was held with the aim of reflecting ethnic unity, perpetually showcasing the Union spirit of sharing

fortune, and reviving and preserving the traditional dances of ethnic nationalities. At the Pobbathiri Gym-

nasium, the President, his wife and party viewed the participation of contestants from regions and states at the amateur level (second

class) men's and women's donmin contests and the amateur level (first class) men's donmin contest. After their compe-

tion, the President and his wife cordially greeted members of the panel of judges, contestants and audiences. **SEE PAGE 3**



This photo features the 1st International Freight and Logistics Artificial Intelligence Conference (Chongqing) 2026 in China.

Myanmar joins Intl Freight & Logistics AI Conference in China

U KYAW ZEYA LIN, Consul-General of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chongqing, attended the 1st International Freight and Logistics Artificial Intelligence Conference (Chongqing) 2026 in China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference was organized by the Yuzhong District People's Government of Chongqing Municipality and the Chongqing Port and Logistics Office and held at the Westin Chongqing. The event aimed to deepen the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology into the freight and logistics industry and establish a platform for industry exchanges.

At the opening ceremony, Mr Deng Guanghuai, a member of the Standing Committee of Yuzhong District of Chongqing Municipality and Deputy Mayor, and Mr Kang Jian, a Second-Level Inspector of the Port and Logistics Office, delivered opening remarks. The event was attended by representatives of foreign consulates-general based in Chongqing, local freight and logistics industry leaders, and other invitees. — ASH/TH

Falam Revels in Traditional Chin Harvest Festival

THE Chin Harvest Festival, also known as the Chin New Year Festival, a cultural heritage of the Chin people, was celebrated on 24 October at Fellowship Church in Falam Township, Chin State.

Haka Township Administration Committee Chair U Kyaw Win Oo gave an opening speech at the event. Chin harvest festivals are held in October every year in different areas by

different Chin languages, and this cultural heritage means an expression of gratitude for prosperity from successful agricultural products and the offering of first-harvest paddy and other crops.

The church's secretary said young generations will need to preserve cultural heritage passed down from ancestors, and it is important to strengthen friend-



This image features the Chin Harvest Festival (New Year Festival) in Falam.

ship and unity in the state. More than 1,000 residents from 11 Chin communities, including Lazio, Lente, Khualsim, Khualngo, Sim, Tapong, Ngawn, Zahau, Hlawnceu, Zaniat

and Tlaisum, attended the event, which featured Chin traditional dances. The festival is a significant event that unites Chin people and reflects their cultural heritage. — TWA/ZS

Farmers Told to Ready Drainage as Rains Loom 31 Oct-2 Nov

METEOROLOGIST U Win Naing has advised farmers to prepare drainage channels in advance to prevent waterlogging while preparing land for sowing winter crops such as beans, sesame and maize, as rainfall may return to lower Myanmar between 31 October and 2 November due to a new low-pressure system developing over the southern Bay of Bengal.

He issued the advisory at noon on 27 October

after analyzing the latest updates on Cyclonic Storm ARNAB (Cyclonic Storm

02B), daily rainfall forecast maps (M1-M7) from the METEOBLUE ICON

model, and images of new low-pressure systems that may develop over the southern Bay of Bengal on 30 and 31 October.

As rain is likely between 27 and 29 October, he also advised farmers to store harvested monsoon paddy in sheltered, covered places. He recommended harvesting mature paddy as soon as possible on 30 October, when rainfall is expected to ease temporarily.

SEE PAGE 4



This photo captures farmers preparing land for winter crop cultivation.

NATIONAL

Thadingyut Festivities Conclude as 250,000 Visitors Flock to Bagan

AROUND 250,000 visitors travelled to the ancient cultural heritage site of Bagan, attending the Bagan Thadingyut Festival on the day after the Full Moon Day, according to reports.

The Thadingyut Festival in Bagan was recognized as one of the busiest celebrations held in the ancient city. At the Alodawpyae Pagoda precinct, 1,000 small hot-air balloons were launched daily, with a total of 3,000 balloons released on the eve of the Full Moon Day, the Full Moon Day itself and the following day. The festival also attracted large numbers of devotees who performed meritorious deeds by offering oil lamps and flowers to the Buddha.

Visitors from across the country arrived in large numbers to pay homage at 19 prominent pagodas and



Pilgrims and visitors throng pagodas and temples in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

stupas in Bagan, including the four sacred Buddha-relic pagodas. The Shwezigon Pagoda, which usually receives the highest number of visitors, welcomed 57,137 foreign and domestic tourists, including visitors from the United States and China. More than 4,000 visitors travelled to Htilominlo Temple, while 1,174 domestic and foreign tourists visited the Lawkananda Bud-

dha-relic Pagoda.

The steady stream of visitors to pagodas and stupas filled hotels, guesthouses and monasteries, with some visitors having to sleep and rest within pagoda precincts due to the large crowds. Although visitor numbers on the day after the Full Moon Day were slightly lower than those on the Full Moon Day, around 250,000 tourists visited Ba-



gan, according to reports.

"This year, Bagan has been extremely crowded. Today marks the third consecutive day of small hot-air balloon launches from the Alodawpyae Pagoda precinct. As the festival includes MSME businesses and many other activities, our department is immensely pleased with the large number of tourists visiting the area," said

Daw San San Myint, Assistant Director of the Bagan Branch of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Throughout the Bagan Thadingyut Festival, the area was particularly lively with sales stalls offering traditional Myanmar foods, food products, fruit preserves, handicrafts, local products and clothing, alongside entertainment programmes and outlets

operated by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

The 2026 Thadingyut Festival attracted unexpectedly large crowds of tourists, exceeding local expectations and bringing considerable vibrancy to the ancient cultural destination throughout the festive period, according to reports. — Thitsa (MNA)/ST

Rain expected until 29 Oct in several states & regions

ACCORDING to meteorologist U Win Naing on 27 October, scattered to fairly widespread rain may occur in Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, and Taninthayi regions, as well as Mon and Kayin states, from 27 to 29 October due to the impact of the storm and moisture inflow from the east.

A possible low-pressure system is likely to form in the southern Andaman Sea, and moderate rain may return to Taninthayi, Mon, Kayin, Yangon, and Ayeyawady between 31 October and 2 November.

Due to Cyclone ARNAB, fairly heavy rain may occur in Rakhine, Chin,

and Upper Sagaing from 27 to 29 October. Meanwhile, in Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan, Kayah, and Kachin, isolated rain may occur due to residual clouds in the same period. After easing temporarily, rainfall is expected to return on 1 and 2 November.

Cyclone ARNAB has intensified into an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm with the maximum wind speed of 100 knots (approximately 185 kilometres per hour or 115 miles per hour) near the centre. The storm is forecast to continue to move west-northwest, heading toward the coast of Odisha in India. — Htun Htun

Pyay Shwesandaw to host Buddha Pujaniya Festival

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay Township, Bago Region, will be held on a grand scale from the 8th to the 11th waxing days of Tazaungmone, from 17 to 20 November, according to U Myat Soe, a member of the pagoda's board of trustees.

The festival will include a consecration ceremony, an opening ceremony and a rice-offering ceremony for 109 venerable monks on the morning of 17 November, the 8th waxing day of Tazaungmone.

"The annual Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Shwesandaw Pagoda will be held on a grand scale,



This photo captures the serene beauty of the Shwesandaw Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival in the previous year.

as usual. The opening ceremony, alms-giving ceremony and rice-offering ceremony will take place on the 8th waxing day of Tazaungmone.

"The procession of

the Buddha's sacred Tooth Relic, which has been enshrined at Myatswetaw Temple in the pagoda compound for a year, will take place on the 11th waxing day of

Tazaungmone, when the relic will be displayed on the pagoda platform.

"On the 2nd waning day of Tazaungmone, the Tooth Relic will be returned to Myatswetaw Temple, where it will be enshrined for another year. As the relic will be on display during the Tazaungdine festival period, the Tazaungdine Festival of Lights will also be held," U Myat Soe said.

On the evening of 26 November, the 2nd waning day of Tazaungmone, the Buddha's sacred Tooth Relic will be returned to the temple, where it will be enshrined for one year. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing and Wife Grace 27th Performing Arts Competition Performances

FROM PAGE 1

Also present at the competition venues were Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Leading Committee for Organizing the Competition Chairman

Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Soe and Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of

the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials.

The 27th Performing Arts Competition is being held at respective

locations with participation of contestants from regions and states under four national objectives: to enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural herit-

age 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. — MNA/TTA

Vice-President U Nyo Saw attends cultural competitions

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw, accompanied by Union ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers and officials, attended the singing and instrumental music competitions on the seventh day of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition yesterday and encouraged the contestants.

At Mya Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I), he watched contestants



Vice-President U Nyo Saw and dignitaries watch cultural performing arts competitions yesterday.

from various regions and states compete in the amateur second-grade women's patriotic song singing competition, performing

traditional Myanmar songs.

He also visited Nilar Hall to watch contestants compete in the amateur

second-grade women's harp competition, performing the song "Nyent Thone Yan Kha" (Pat Pyo). — MNA/KZL

Seismic vibration survey conducted on YU campus

ACCORDING to a notification by the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, a microtremor survey was conducted inside the Yangon University campus to study the vibrational properties of the soil and to support seismic hazard assessments.

The task was jointly carried out from 19 to 22 October by the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies, the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, and the Department of Geology, the Yangon University.

A microtremor survey is a method of measuring



This image displays the seismic vibration survey inside the Yangon University campus.

and studying natural vibrations on the earth's surface. It is a process used to analyze subsurface soil stratification, the vibration

response, and potential changes in ground vibration during an earthquake.

The intensity of ground shaking caused

by an earthquake depends not only on the earthquake's magnitude and distance from the epicentre, but also on local soil types and subsurface structures. In some soft soil layers, earthquake waves can amplify, or the duration of shaking can become longer. Therefore, studying such soil data is crucial for seismic hazard assessments.

Detailed information on how relevant organizations will proceed to use the data and results obtained from this survey has not yet been released.

— TWA/ZN

Myanmar, Belarus to deepen cooperation in electric power, energy sectors



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin (2R) is pictured during the signing ceremony for Roadmap on Cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus.

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, accompanied by the Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus, attended the 30th Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday.

At the plenary session themed "Developing Energy, Developing the Economy," the Union minister highlighted Myanmar's strategic location between the Indian and Pacific oceans and invited international partners to invest in the country's energy sector, particularly in oil and natural gas exploration and production.

He also emphasized cooperation in renewable energy, liquefied natural gas development, refinery upgrades and expanding access to electricity, stressing the importance

of investment, modern technology and human resource development to strengthen energy security and ensure sustainable growth.

The Union minister also attended the signing ceremony of a Roadmap on Cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus. The roadmap covers upgrading power transmission lines, reducing electricity transmission and distribution losses, developing smart power generation and smart grids, and providing technical training for Myanmar trainees at Belarusian vocational institutions and universities.

The Union minister and party then visited international electricity and energy exhibitions at Energy Expo. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C watches Vidhura Jataka drama

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo attended a performance of the “Vidhura” Jataka drama staged by the “Thabin Manhon Shwe Yangon” dramatic troupe in accordance with traditional Myanmar customs at Zeyathiri Beikman Theatre Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening to preserve the country’s traditional cultural heritage.

The event was also attended by General Ye Win Oo’s wife, Daw Nilar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and their wives, the chairman and members of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), and officers and other ranks from various departments under the Office of the Command-



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo presents a bouquet of flowers to artistes.

er-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air). The performance was also broadcast live on an LED screen at Nawaday Hall, allowing officers, other ranks and their family members within the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) compound to watch it simultaneously.

The “Vidhura” Jataka grand drama opened with traditional Myanmar ceremonial scenes, including paying homage to the Buddha and the traditional maiden dance. The

performance depicted key episodes from the Jataka, including the enthronement of King Kauravya, a debate among four kings on virtue, Punnaka’s quest for Irandati, his dice game with King Kauravya, and Minister Vidhura’s perilous journey across seven mountain ranges. It also portrayed Vidhura’s encounter with the Naga King, his sermon in the Naga realm and his triumphant return to the kingdom. A duet dance brought the performance

to a close.

The “Vidhura” Jataka, the ninth of the Ten Great Jatakas recounting the Buddha’s previous lives, highlights the Bodhisattva Vidhura’s wisdom, truthfulness, moral integrity and steadfastness in upholding righteous principles despite dangers and hardships. The grand drama was staged to promote these virtues, encourage the practice of the four virtues of good people, raise awareness of the dangers of gambling, and inspire audiences to cultivate the seven noble treasures through the lessons of the Jataka.

Following the grand drama performance, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented a flower basket to the artistes who took part in the production and extended words of encouragement and warm greetings to them, according to reports. — MNA/TH

People throng 2026 Thadingyut MSME Fair & Music Concert



This image shows a festive scene of the 2026 Thadingyut MSME Fair and Music Concert in Yangon.

THE third evening of the 2026 Thadingyut MSME Fair and Music Concert in Yangon attracted large crowds with fireworks, hot-air balloon displays, live music and DJ performances. Visitors also enjoyed shopping, elephant rides and free meals provided by donors. The fair ran daily until 10 pm through 27 October, with shuttle buses arranged for visitors.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and his wife, regional ministers and their wives and residents happily participated in the events.

Similarly, the chief minister attended the final and prize presenta-

tion ceremony of the 2026 Yangon Region Chief Minister’s Cup Township-Level Cane Ball Tournament at Myathida Sports Hall of South Okkalapa Township yesterday morning.

Hlinethaya (West) Township won the championship, while North Okkalapa Township finished second and Thakayta Township placed third. Hlinethaya (East) Township received the consolation prize, and South Okkalapa Township won the Most Improved Team award. The tournament, featuring 360 athletes, was held from 23 to 27 October. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KTZH

Gyobingauk’s completed concrete wheel-track road project inspected

OFFICIALS from the Gyobingauk Township Department of Rural Development in Thayawady District, Bago Region, conducted an on-site inspection yesterday to assess the completion of an internal concrete wheel-track road in Kyungon Village, implemented with funds from the Village Development Plan (VDP) and local community contributions.

Township Head Daw Thi Thi Aung of the Gyobingauk Department of Rural



Officials are seen alongside the completed concrete wheel-track road in Gyobingauk Township.

Development, along with project officers and members of the Village Development Committee, reviewed the completed road

construction. The township head guided additional requirements for sustainability. The construction of the internal road – measuring

520 feet in length, featuring two concrete tracks, each two feet and six inches wide and six inches thick – was funded with K15 million from the VDP grant and K3.63 million contributed by local villagers, totalling K18.63 million. Under the close supervision of the Department of Rural Development staff, local villagers began construction in the first week of September, and the project has now been 100 per cent complete. — Than Lwin (Magway)

Farmers Told to Ready Drainage as Rains Loom 31 Oct-2 Nov

FROM PAGE 1

Cyclonic Storm ARNAB is expected to intensify significantly and move towards India. However, rain will continue in western and southern parts of Myanmar from 27 to 29 October. Furthermore, the new low-pressure system that may develop over the southern Bay of Bengal on 30 or 31 October could bring renewed, heavier rainfall to southern Myanmar and the Ayeyawady Delta region from 31 October to 2 November. — Htun Htun/KN

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
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ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 concludes

THE seventh and final day of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 was held at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with competitions in singing, dancing, recitation and instrumental music.

Contestants representing different regions and states competed in patriotic song singing, ethnic and rural traditional dances, verse recitation and instrumental performances featuring the Saing (traditional ensemble), Myanmar harp, xylophone, guitar and donmin. They showcased their skills in preserving and promoting Myanmar's traditional arts and cultural heritage across different education levels and age groups.

The final day events were enjoyed by the Union ministers, senior military officers, high-ranking officials, departmental staff and families, and enthusiasts. — MNA/KTZH



Images top and above showcase contestants competing in the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026.

Nattalin's preventive measures against water shortages inspected

OFFICIALS from the Nattalin Township Department of Rural Development (DRD), Nattalin District, Bago Region, led by District DRD Head U Htay Lwin Soe, conducted a field inspection in Chayapin Village to prevent drinking water shortages caused by the Super El Niño weather phenomenon. Nattalin District DRD Head U Htay Lwin Soe, Nattalin Township DRD Head U Hein Zaw and officials inspected the condition of drinking water stored in earth rainwater storage ponds in Chayapin Village. The district DRD head also instructed residents to use drinking water systematically and economically.



Officials oversee precautionary measures to prevent drinking water shortages in Nattalin Township.

Afterwards, the district DRD head met local communities and explained that the El Niño weather phenomenon could cause higher temperatures and a reduction in available water resources. He urged rural residents to use water systematically without wastage and to conserve and protect existing water sources. He also instructed residents to prepare for possible water shortages by storing sufficient drinking water in advance, keeping water storage tanks clean and properly maintained, and using water only as much as necessary. Following the awareness-raising session, informational pamphlets were distributed to local communities.

According to the Department of Rural Development, the field inspection and awareness-raising activities were conducted to help residents prepare for possible water shortages and ensure the systematic use and conservation of drinking water during the Super El Niño weather conditions. — Thanda (DRD)

Wakema's concrete village road construction inspected



This image captures the concrete village road construction in Wakerma Township.

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development in Wakema Township, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, , conducted a field inspection on the morning of 25 October to assess the progress of concrete road construction in Payaung Village under the Village Development Project (VDP).

During the inspection, Township Head U Tin Tun Aung of the Department of Rural Development in Wakema Township, together with relevant officials and members of the Village Development Committee, inspected the ongoing construction of a 960-foot-long concrete village road, measuring three feet in width and six inches in thickness.

The township head instructed the Village Development Committee members to ensure that the road construction was carried out systematically, met the required quality standards and was completed within the designated timeframe. He also

coordinated necessary assistance to address issues related to the implementation of the project.

The concrete road construction project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with financial assistance of K15 million from the Village Development Project and a community contribution of K5.9 million, bringing the total project cost to K20.9 million.

The construction work began in the first week of September, with local residents undertaking the work under the technical guidance of departmental staff. As of the inspection date, approximately 75 per cent of the project had been completed.

Upon completion, the road is expected to improve all-season transportation and facilitate access to economic activities, education, healthcare and other social services for 380 residents from 75 households in Payaung Village, according to the Department of Rural Development in Wakema Township. — Ngelay (DRD)

Open tenders invited for online marketing, boosting campaigns

THE Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has invited domestic tech firms to submit an open tender for online paid marketing and boosting marketing campaigns to promote Myanmar's tourism industry under the allocated funds of the Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division of the 2027-28 financial year.

Tender forms will be available starting from 29 October at the Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, at Office 33 in Nay Pyi Taw. The form fee is K10,000, and the tender submission deadline is at noon on 19 November.

Tenders will be opened and scrutinized at 2 pm on 20 November at Office 33. Tender forms can be downloaded at <https://qr.tourism.gov.mm/qrcodes/pdf/tender2026>. Individuals can enquire about details from the Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division via 067 3406129 or 09 459578172 during office hours, according to the ministry's tender committee. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
“ARNAB” News, No 8, 2026
Issued at 2 pm MST on 27 October 2026

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “ARNAB” Condition

According to observations at 12:30 pm MST today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “ARNAB” over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved west-northwestwards and persists. It is centred at about 560 nautical miles west-northwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 110 nautical miles south-southeast of Visakhapatnam and 120 nautical miles southeast of Kakinada, India.

It does not intend to move towards Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Very Severe Cyclonic Storm, centre pressure and wind

The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm is located at Latitude 16.0 degree North and Longitude 84.0 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 979 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 80-85 miles per hour at 12:30 pm MST today.

Next 24 hours forecast

It is likely to move northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh and the Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam (India) around 28 October 2026 afternoon.

General caution

Due to the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm, rain or thundershowers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in some Regions and States from today noon to 29 October 2026.

Squalls with rough sea are likely at times in off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flight and irrigation dams. — DMH

5 Civilians Wounded in Rocket Attack on Village Monastery in Loikaw

FIVE local ethnic civilians were wounded by shrapnel when a joint force of the KNPP, KNDF and PDF allegedly launched improvised rockets at Lehtwae Village in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, while residents were peacefully performing meritorious deeds and visiting pagodas, stupas, monasteries and recreational sites on 26 October 2026, the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut (Abhidhamma Day).

The incident occurred at approximately 1:30 pm on 26 October, the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, which is one of the most prominent of the 12 monthly seasonal festivals observed by Buddhists. While local



Map reveals the incident location of the terror attack.

ethnic residents of Lehtwae Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State, were performing meritorious deeds at the village monastery, the joint force of the KNPP, KNDF and PDFs reportedly launched improvised rocket attacks towards the

village from a location approximately 5,500 metres east of Lehtwae Village. The rockets landed and exploded near the monastery compound and residential houses, wounding two men and three women – innocent local ethnic civilians

who were peacefully making merit – with bomb shrapnel.

Security forces transported the injured individuals to Loikaw People’s Hospital for medical treatment. Security personnel are continuing necessary security operations in the area surrounding the incident site. It is further reported that local residents feel utter disgust and abhorrence towards what they describe as the heinous, brutal and inhumane acts of terror committed by the attackers, who allegedly deliberately targeted a crowded civilian area with destructive intent to inflict mass casualties on such a sacred and auspicious day. — 100/ST

Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown demolishing scam hubs

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

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to demolish key structures. Demolition work on one six-storey building is 10 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building is 80 per cent

complete.

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



Map shows the status of systematic demolition in the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown.

have been completely demolished. Work on the remaining 56 buildings will continue.

Recognizing online fraud and online gambling as serious threats to global socioeconomic stability

and national security, the Government remains committed to cracking down on these activities in close coordination with neighbouring and regional countries to eradicate them once and for all. — 100/MKKS

7 missing students at Mt Zwegabin safely arrive home

THE Hpa-an District Fire Services Department and private rescue groups managed to rescue seven students on 25 October after they were lost at Nwalabo Hill, which is situated close to Mount Zwegabin.

The seven Grade-12 students, including Maung Ye Yint, 18, went on a trek

to Mount Zwegabin on 25 October at around 9 am; from there, they continued visiting Nwalabo Hill. They got lost during their return due to heavy rain, and they took shelter in a gorge.

“A parent of a student came to us at around 7 pm. She said that one of the kids called at around 3:50 pm,

and they were frightened and lost during the heavy rain. Our rescue team and private social and rescue groups started a search at Mount Zwegabin at around 7 pm. We got connected with the kids so we could find them at around 9:30 pm,” said U Thant Zin Win, head of the district fire services department. Lightning struck near the area where the kids took shelter, and some of them got minor injuries as they ran in panic.

“We arrived back at the foot of the mountain at 12:25 am. We provided them necessary healthcare and drove them to their parents at 12:40 am,” he added. — TWA/ZS



A search and rescue operation underway.

NATIONAL

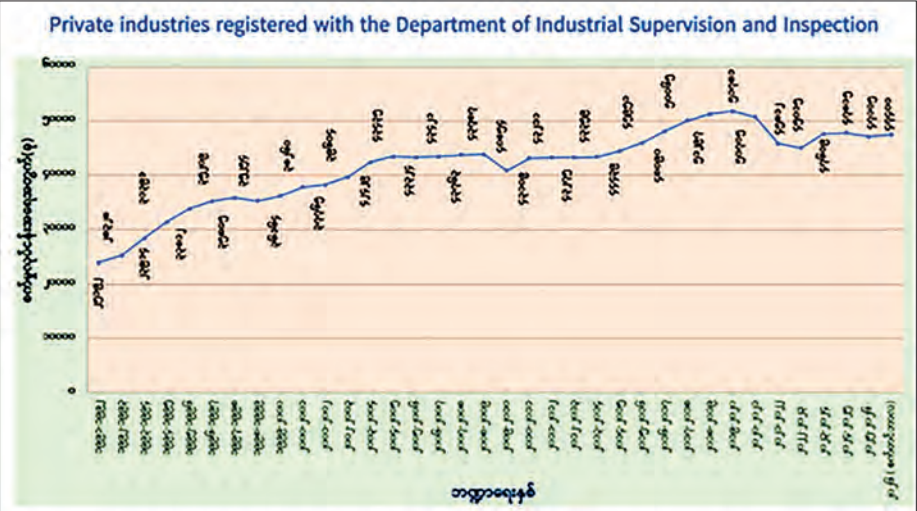
DISI-registered private industries reach 47,400 as of end-Sept

A total of 47,400 private industries have been registered with the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (DISI) at the end of September 2026, DISI's data indicated.

Yangon Region, a commercial hub of Myanmar, is home to 8,710 private industries, followed by Mandalay Region with 7,253 and Ayeyawady Region with 6,079.

Moreover, there are 8,321 registered private industries operating within the Industrial Zone. Large-scale industries make up about 48 per cent of the Industrial Zone with 4,007 businesses, medium-sized industries account for approximately 31 per cent with 2,569, and small-scale industries constitute around 21 per cent with 1,745, according to data released by the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (DISI).

The registered private industries totalled 47,609



in the financial year 2023-2024, up from 45,015 registered in the 2022-2023 FY. A total of 206 industries were officially listed in the 2024-2025 FY, reaching a total of 47,815 private industries. Some were deregistered, and the number of private industries registered with the DISI decreased to 47,105 in the 2025-2026 FY. About 300 businesses were registered so far in the current FY.

The majority of the

registered private industries are engaged in the food group. The list of registered private industries is classified into 24 business groups: food, tobacco, clothing, wood and finished wood slabs, printing, chemical, rubber and plastic, basic mineral, computer and electronic device, unclassified machine, beverage, fabric, leather, paper and paper products, charcoal fuel, pharmaceuticals, non-metallic minerals,

metal refining equipment, electronics, vehicle and trailer, furniture and machines and equipment repair and installation.

The DISI is providing services for small and medium enterprises to get access to technical assistance and funding, explore markets, register the private industrial enterprises in accordance with existing laws and conduct safety inspection to boiler and electrical usage at workplace. — KK



This image depicts a poster for the Traditional Myanmar Festival.

Traditional Myanmar Festival set for 6-8 Nov

MYANMAR'S Traditional Festival will be held between 10 am and 8 pm from 6 to 8 November at YCC, Inya Lake Hotel.

The festival will offer a chance to explore Myanmar's cultural heritage while enjoying traditional delicacies, art and fun experiences, according to organizers.

Visitors can attend talks to gain knowledge and new perspectives, learn how traditional Myanmar dishes are made, and discover the craftsmanship and skill behind

traditional flavours. They can also take part in a culture quiz by artist Daw Khaing Mar Lwin for a chance to win prizes, and join lucky draws.

The festival will also feature cultural dance performances and appearances by artists including San Yay Moe and Project K, with lively entertainment that visitors can join in. Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend, explore and appreciate Myanmar's heritage together at the festival. — NN/KK

Okpo's livestock breeding activities inspected

OFFICIALS from the Okpo Township Department of Rural Development (DRD), Thayawady District, Bago Region, conducted a field inspection yesterday to observe the implementation of livestock breeding activities as family income-generating businesses with funds from the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Ohnnae Village.

Thayawady District DRD Head U Nyunt Zaw, Okpo Township DRD Head U Win Myint Soe and staff



A livestock breeding project in Okpo Township.

inspected the livestock breeding activities being carried out by local communities with RBF funds as family income-generating

businesses in Ohnnae Village. Afterwards, District DRD Head U Nyunt Zaw and staff inspected the maintenance and updating

of project-related records and accounts and gave necessary instructions for the effective implementation of the project.

According to the Okpo Township DRD, four livestock breeding groups in Ohnnae Village, namely Kyantineaung, Myintmohoo, Yaungnithit and Phokhwalay groups, have each been provided with a loan of K7.5 million under the RBF Project. — Aye Myat (DRD)

Tenders invited for bank erosion protection works in Kayin State

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport called on domestic entrepreneurs to submit bids in an open tender to carry out bank erosion protection works to the DWIR in Hpa-an.

This project is to be carried out with capital funds from the Kayin State government for the 2026-

2027 financial year.

The tender form has been available since 23 October. The deadline for tender submission is 3 pm on 5 November. The tender opening will be held at 10 am on 12 November at the DWIR (Region 11) in Hpa-an, Kayin State. Interested individuals can enquire about details through the DWIR at 09 259144161 during working hours. — NN/KK

Admissions open for YU Diploma in Aquaculture

THE University of Yangon is accepting admission applications for a postgraduate diploma programme in aquaculture, under the Human Resource Development Programme.

Applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree. The course runs

10 months, with classes on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am to 4 pm. The programme will accept 50 trainees. Applications will be accepted starting from 20 October and will close by 30 November. The course begins on 1 December. Individuals can enquire

through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Office (Room 307), Centre for Research and Innovation, near the Convocation Hall, University of Yangon, or contact the Fisheries Department, University of Yangon, via 09 420177563 or 09 409396906. — NN/KK

Double efforts to produce rice and rice products

The State places emphasis on enhancing the socioeconomic life of rural people. More than five million families of rural people are relying on their livelihoods engaging in paddy cultivation and production, milling, transport and chain of rice trading.

If mature paddy fields become lodged due to unexpected natural disasters such as rainfall and strong winds, any water remaining in the fields must be drained out as quickly as possible. It is then essential to harvest and thresh the crops immediately using both machinery and manual labour, utilizing harvesters, threshers, and mechanical dryers. Even if this involves harvesting early without using the traditional threshing plain area, doing so will significantly reduce crop loss.

Taking these measures minimizes crop loss and improves the quality of the paddy that farmers nationwide have cultivated

Only when rice prices are stable can all citizens' socioeconomic well-being be stable. Therefore, rice

producers must not only cultivate a single harvest of monsoon paddy, but also prepare in advance and vigorously produce summer paddy. In addition to ensuring nationwide self-sufficiency, efforts must be made to export surplus quantities of rice to international markets, thereby contributing to the growth of national revenue.

antee purchases at rates not lower than the designated basic reference price. The federation takes active steps to stabilize the market. These include releasing fair reference prices categorized by rice variety and season, conducting inspections and taking action to prevent unreasonable price gouging against consumers, and releasing emergency reserve rice for sale to stabilize the market whenever rice prices surge excessively.

Only when rice prices are stable can all citizens' socioeconomic well-being be stable. Therefore, rice producers must not only cultivate a single harvest of monsoon paddy, but also prepare in advance and vigorously produce summer paddy. In addition to ensuring nationwide self-sufficiency, efforts must be made to export surplus quantities of rice to international markets, thereby contributing to the growth of national revenue.

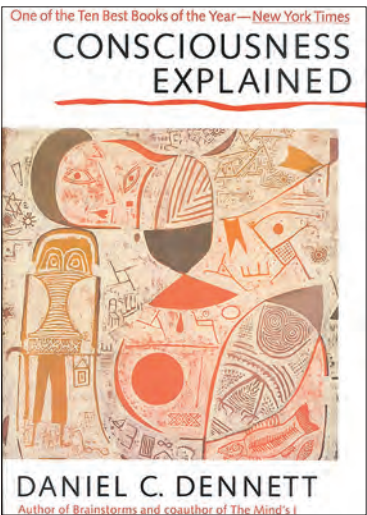
Comments on a question about human consciousness at the 2026 Nobel Medicine Prize announcement

By Myint Zan

Nobel selection committee member Professor Abdel El Manira (born 28 January 1965) state, 'we are far from understanding (how consciousness arises) ... we have to be humble about grand questions...'. In response to the subsequent query as to whether more concrete discoveries or findings can be made in the years ahead, the announcer Professor Thomas Perlmann (born 2 March 1959) stated, 'may be there could be a Nobel Prize some years in the future'.

Perhaps those two statements by the two learned scientists need to be viewed jointly and contrapuntally. To paraphrase the poem 'miles to go before I sleep', of Robert Frost (26 March 1874-29 January 1963), neuro-scientists and future Nobel Physiology and Medicine laureates had perhaps years, even decades, to

come to arrive at an explanation of 'how humans' inner subjective world operates from neuronal activity'. Almost immediately after this exchange, broadcast live on television, I was reminded of a book published in 1991 with the grand title (refer to the comments of 'grand question' by Professor Abdel El Manira above) *Consciousness Explained*. The author of the book was Daniel Dennett (28 March 1942-19 April 2024), a philosopher who taught at Tufts University in the United States. Dennett was not a neuroscientist.



Gardner's expertise includes, but is not limited to, aspects of mathematics and mathematical games. He was also a debunker of pseudo-science. As early as 1952, Gardner had published his book *Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science*. At that time, Dennett was only about ten years

old. I write this to state that Gardner was not a 'fringe person' to critique Dennett. Later, around 1983, Gardner outed himself as a 'mysterian'. Consequently, Gardner is of the firm view that consciousness can only, at best, be described or explained away, not 'explained'. He was of the view that since a dog's brain cannot do calculus or compose a symphony (not to say even add five plus five, yours truly would add), so humans' brains had limits to understand their own workings. In December 1995, Gardner wrote:

QUOTE

The question is whether we knew enough about quantum mechanics or undiscovered laws that may underlie quantum mechanics to explain consciousness and free will. Dennett thinks it is all very clear and easily explained. Indeed, he believed he had explained it. ... We believe that there are deep

mysteries about the brain that neurobiologists are nowhere close to solving.

(Emphasis added)

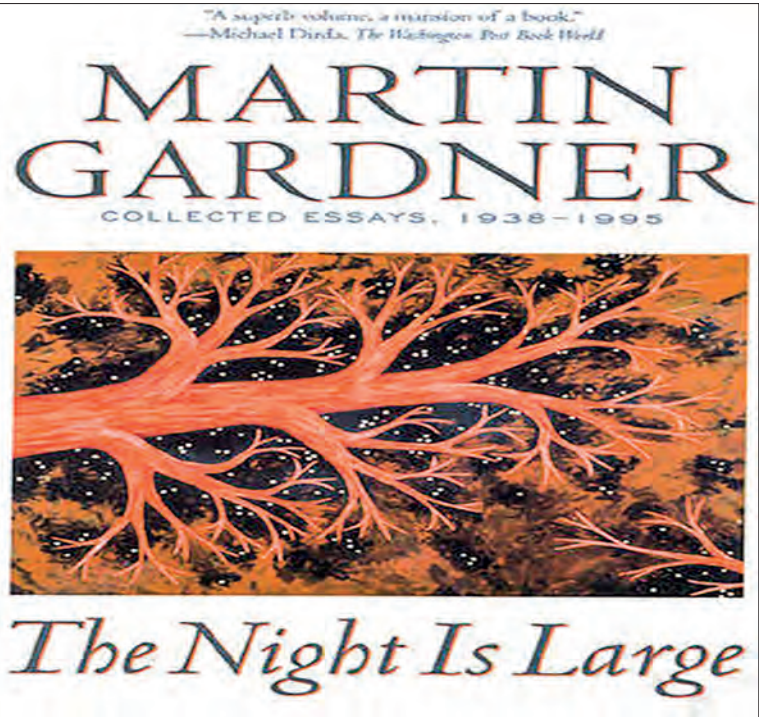
UNQUOTE

Martin Gardner, *The Night is Large* (Penguin Books), pp. xviii-xix.

More than 30 years after Gardner wrote Abdel Al Manira (as mentioned above) in October 2026 stated, 'we are far from understanding how consciousness arises'. Was Dennett overconfident or even arrogant in his claim (or is it an exclamation?) in 1991 that he had explained consciousness?

If Dennett and Gardner were to come back and listen to the three-minute exchange of views between the questions and the answers provided (a long way to solving the consciousness problem), what would they have commented?

It is notable, indeed noteworthy, that Prof. Perlmann, the



Chair in the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine announcement, stated that the more concrete views and discoveries of the nature of consciousness may, in the future, receive the Nobel (medicine?) prize. He did not give a timeline for that postulated or hoped-for eventuality.

Daniel Dennett and Martin Gardner had opposed views on the knowability (so to speak) or otherwise of the full nature and workings of human consciousness. Neither were Nobel laureates in any field.

Nevertheless, what would

they have commented on Professor Perlmann's statement that some persons in the (near, medium term or distant?) future might receive a Nobel Prize in the sciences for solving or effectively 'tackling' the 'grand question' about human consciousness? Such research and possible future Nobel prizes may not be restricted to the fields of physiology or medicine but may also extend to the other scientific fields of chemistry and physics, but – one might mischievously add – not 'economic sciences'.



Myanmar: Where Culture Lives in Every Heart

By Moon Cherry K

A Heritage We Can See and Feel

Myanmar's cultural heritage can broadly be understood in two forms: tangible and intangible heritage. Tangible heritage includes pagodas, stupas, ancient buildings, sculptures, paintings, traditional handicrafts and historical artefacts. Intangible heritage lives through languages, literature, beliefs, customs, festivals, music, dance, performing arts and traditional knowledge.

Myanmar's Remarkable Landmarks

Among Myanmar's most recognizable landmarks is the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda,

Thanaka: The Golden Heritage of Beauty

If you are a foreign visitor walking through a Myanmar market for the first time, something may immediately catch your eye: the pale golden paste on people's cheeks. "What is that?" you may wonder. It is Thanaka, one of the most distinctive symbols of Myanmar.

Made traditionally by grinding Thanaka bark or wood with water on a circular stone slab, the paste has been used for generations, particularly by women and children. People apply it for beauty, freshness and protection from the sun. Sometimes it appears as simple circles on the cheeks; sometimes it is carefully painted into leaves, flowers or other patterns.

More than a traditional cosmetic, Thanaka represents an enduring connection between everyday life and cultural identity.

Festivals That Keep Our Traditions Alive

Among Myanmar's most joyful traditions is Thingyan, the Myanmar New Year Water Festival. During Thingyan, water symbolizes cleansing the old year and welcoming the new one with a fresh mind. Water, the golden-yellow Padauk flower (Myanmar's national flower), and Mont-lone-yay-paw (glutinous rice balls) have become inseparable symbols of Myanmar's New Year celebrations.

Other traditional festivals also preserve Myanmar's rich cultural heritage. During Thad-

ingyut and Tazaungdine (Festivals of Lights), homes and pagodas glow with lights, while traditional ceremonies and acts of respect reflect Myanmar's rich religious and cultural heritage. People pay respect to parents, teachers and elders during Thadingyut, while Tazaungdine is marked by traditional Kathina robe-offering ceremonies. The preparation and sharing of Htamane, a traditional glutinous-rice delicacy, is another cherished custom that strengthens family and community bonds. They remind us that culture survives not simply because it is recorded, but because people continue to practise and share it.

A Taste of Myanmar

Food can tell the story of a

nation without saying a word. Visitors to Myanmar often want to experience the country's traditional cuisine. Mohinga, rice noodles served in a rich fish-based broth, is one of Myanmar's best-known dishes. Laphet Thoke, or fermented tea-leaf salad, offers another uniquely Myanmar flavour.

Rice, curries, vegetables, soups and ngapi, a traditional fermented fish or shrimp product, also form an important part of Myanmar cuisine. These foods represent more than taste; they reflect family life, hospitality and the pleasure of eating together.

The Ten Flowers and the Hands of Artisans

Many Myanmar children grow up learning about the country's traditional arts and crafts known as Pann Semyo, often translated as the "Ten Flowers".

These traditional crafts demonstrate the extraordinary

skills of Myanmar artisans, including work associated with carving, masonry, metalwork, sculpture and decorative arts. Myanmar is also celebrated for lacquerware, woodcarving, weaving, gold and silver work, and other handicraft traditions.

The country's natural treasures are equally famous. Myanmar has long been internationally associated with precious stones, particularly jadeite, rubies and sapphires. Yet the greatest treasure is perhaps the knowledge of the craftspeople who transform natural materials into works of beauty.

Myanmar's Traditional Costumes and Lifestyles

Myanmar's cultural beauty lies in the diversity of its ethnic communities, each with its own traditional costumes, customs and ways of life.

SEE PAGE 11

HEALTH/ENVIRON
WORLD

Gasping for air: Borneo residents struggle as island burns



A woman wearing a face mask pushes a cart filled with used plastic bottles along a road amid thick haze from forest and land fires in the region in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, on 25 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUDARSONO shuddered as he inhaled from an oxygen tank while being evacuated from his small house in Palangkaraya on Indonesian Borneo, yellow, acrid wildfire smoke billowing all around.

The 57-year-old fell sick after going out with three friends days earlier to fight fires creeping closer to homes on the outskirts of the city in Central Kalimantan province, one of the regions hit hardest by months of blazes and haze.

“I wore a mask, goggles, everything, but I was surrounded by smoke. I went home since I couldn’t take it anymore,” the construction worker and farmer told AFP as he was being loaded into an ambulance to go to hospital last week.

Sudarsono’s backyard had been blackened by flames, with only a few tree stumps and a cloying smoke left. “I hope that there will be no more haze, that Central Kalimantan will be free from fires so people can feel safe, work and earn a living,” Sudarsono said before the ambulance doors closed.

He is among more than 11,000 people treated for respiratory infections in Palangkaraya during a months-long wildfire crisis that has also affected Indonesia’s neighbours with toxic haze pollution.

More than 300,000 people in seven provinces were laid low by respiratory tract infections from August to October, according to Indonesia’s health ministry.

At a nearby shelter run by NGOs in Palangkaraya, Alexandra Surya Habsari was treated with a nebuliser and oxygen for breathing difficulties and a headache.

“I’m really fed up, but I don’t even know who I’m supposed to be angry with... this is already way beyond what can be considered normal for a human being to endure,” Alexandra told AFP.

The toxic smog emitted by wildfires contains harmful elements including formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide and ammonia, as well as PM2.5 particles small enough to penetrate the lungs or bloodstream.

The World Health Organization has linked PM2.5 exposure to increased illness and death.

Breathing ‘poison’

The Southeast Asian giant has for months struggled to contain fires that deforestation monitor Nusantara Atlas says have consumed more than 1.9 million hectares in the nine months to September.

The government has not confirmed or disputed the figure. — AFP

Europe needs to better prepare for warmer temperatures: EU

THE European Union on Tuesday warned of the need to better prepare for a feared 3C rise in global warming as it unveiled new rules to force member states to act.

Fuelled by climate change, the world’s fastest-warming continent experienced a relentless series of heatwaves that began unusually early in the spring, shattering temperature records and causing tens of thousands of excess deaths.

The EU pointed to scientific evidence that shows the world is on a path to warm by 1.5C above pre-industrial levels by 2030, 2C by 2050, and 3C by 2100.

The European Commission wants to build up climate risk preparedness by 2030.

The commission said the estimated economic losses from climate damages between 2022 and 2025 stood at around 200 billions euros (\$223 billion).

The EU has focused on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and has a target of climate neutrality

-- being an economy with net-zero emissions -- by 2050.

But after warnings by independent advisors that adaptation was necessary and the extreme weather this summer, the EU knows it must also plan at a greater scale.

“Even as we work hard to reduce emissions, we must prepare for the impacts of climate change, which are neither fair nor equally distributed. Europe lacks preparedness” EU vice-president Teresa Ribera said.

— AFP



Women cool off with water from a fountain during a heatwave in Thessaloniki on 22 August 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Researchers in Australia find potential new treatment for rare genetic disorder

RESEARCHERS in Australia have discovered a way to release a genetic “brake” that silences healthy genes in Prader-Willi syndrome, opening a potential new path to treating the rare genetic disorder.

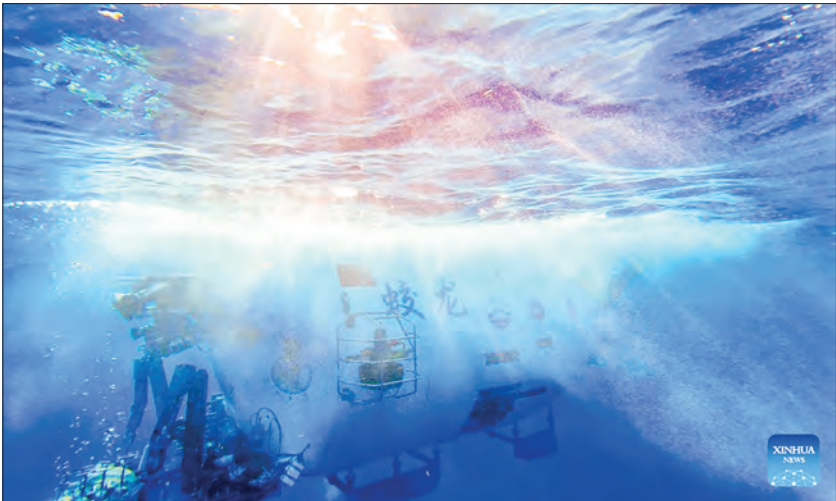
Researchers at Australia’s Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) found that removing a protein called SMCHD1 lifted the genetic “brake”, allowing

healthy but dormant genes to switch back on, according to a WEHI statement released Tuesday.

In Prader-Willi syndrome, the protein switches off certain genes essential for development and

brain function, contributing to developmental delays, intellectual disability and an insatiable appetite that can lead to obesity. About 400,000 people worldwide live with the condition, the statement said. — Xinhua

China’s manned deep-sea submersible completes 7,000-metre dive tests



The manned submersible Jiaolong is pictured during its 465th dive operation on 2 October 2026. The dive reached a depth of 7,056.9 metres. China’s manned submersible Jiaolong recently completed multiple 7,000-metre dive tests and returned safely, reaching a maximum depth of 7,056.9 metres. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Mongolia warns of widespread extreme winter weather risk

At least 83 per cent of Mongolia’s territory is at some level of risk of experiencing dzud, an extreme winter weather phenomenon, this winter, the country’s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change said Tuesday. Dzud is a Mongolian term for severe winter conditions that can cause large numbers of livestock to die because of frozen ground, deep snow or a lack of accessible pasture.

“A recent dzud risk assessment showed that 26 per cent of the country’s total territory faces a very high or high risk of experiencing dzud this winter,” the ministry said in a statement. — Xinhua

German climber dies in 1,500-metre fall on Nepal mountain

A German climber fell about 1,500 metres (4,920 feet) to his death on Monday, a day after reaching the summit of Ama Dablam mountain, according to a trekking company operator.

Wolfgang Waschiczek, 57, was reported missing from Camp 3, which lies at around 6,200 metres. He had been resting after reaching the 6,812-metre summit on Sunday, before his planned descent.

“After a successful summit, he spent a night at Camp 3 on Sunday, and on Monday morning, his guide found him missing,” Gokul Thapa, head of the trekking company Real Himalaya, told AFP.

Thapa said Waschiczek’s personal trekking guide, Sonam Lama, had left him in the tent for a few minutes to return borrowed equipment, telling him to stay inside. When he returned, Waschiczek was missing.

Waschiczek’s body was spotted by another Sherpa at Camp 2 at around 8 am on Monday at an altitude of about 4,600 metres, Thapa said. — AFP



The Himalaya range Ama Dablam mountain (L), which peaks at 6,812 metres, is pictured from Khumjung village in the Everest region, some 140 kilometre northeast of Kathmandu, on 16 April 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Meghan on TV menu for ‘Junior MasterChef Australia’

PRINCE Harry’s wife Meghan says she has agreed to feature as a special guest in television cooking sensation “Junior MasterChef Australia”.

Meghan, who was a guest judge on “MasterChef Australia” this year, is to appear in next year’s contest for young cooks on Network 10.

“When they approached me to come back and work with this young group of talent, it was an easy yes,” the Duchess of Sussex said in a statement



Britain’s Prince Harry (R), Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan (C), Duchess of Sussex, decorate birthday cupcakes during a visit to Epic Partners in Nottingham, central England on 15 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tuesday.

“I love cooking with my own kids, so seeing what these young stars create in the kitchen is going to be a lot of fun.”

The series is to be filmed in Melbourne next year, according to Australian broadcaster ABC.

Harry, the second son of King Charles III and estranged brother of heir to the throne Prince William, married Meghan, an American former actor, at Windsor Castle in May 2018. — AFP

Nordic leaders call for overhaul of digital platforms to protect children

NORDIC leaders on Tuesday called for fundamental changes to the design of social media and other digital platforms to better protect children and young people’s health and development.

At a meeting in Helsinki hosted by Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo and

attended by representatives from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Aland Islands, a joint declaration was adopted stressing the urgent need to strengthen online protection for minors.

The declaration

warned that smartphones, social media and artificial intelligence pose significant risks to children’s and young people’s well-being, mental health, learning and development. The full extent of their impact remains unclear.

Children are gaining access to digital platforms

too early and too extensively, and the platforms are not designed to support healthy growth and learning, according to the declaration.

Several Nordic countries are currently preparing legislation and recommendations on age limits for social media platforms. — Xinhua

Myanmar: Where Culture Lives in Every Heart

FROM PAGE 9

The country is home to eight major ethnic groups and numerous ethnic subgroups, creating a rich cultural mosaic.

The longyi is one of the most recognizable forms of traditional Myanmar clothing, worn by both men and women. Men traditionally wear a paso, often paired with an Eingyi and, on formal occasions, a Taikpon jacket and Gaung Baung headwear. Women wear a Htamein with an Eingyi, including traditional blouse styles such as Yinzi and Yinbon. These costumes remain especial-

ly prominent at weddings, religious ceremonies, festivals and donation ceremonies.

Beyond the national dress, each ethnic community preserves its distinctive cultural identity. Kachin traditional costumes feature colourful woven patterns, while some Kayan women are known for wearing brass neck coils. Rakhine traditions include the graceful oil-lamp dance, while Chin, Shan, Kayin, Mon and other communities maintain their own distinctive textiles, dances, festivals and cuisines. Together, these traditional costumes and

ways of life reflect Myanmar’s cultural richness and the importance of preserving its heritage for future generations.

Faith, Music and the Rhythm of Life

Religious traditions remain closely connected with community life. Shinbyu, or the Buddhist novitiate ceremony, is an important rite of passage in many families, during which boys temporarily enter the monastery as novice monks. Families regard the ceremony as a significant opportunity for merit-making.

Myanmar’s perform-

ing arts add another dimension to its cultural landscape. The powerful sound of the Hsaing Waing traditional orchestra, the gentle beauty of the Saunggauk, or Myanmar harp, traditional dances and lively Zat Pwe performances have entertained communities for generations. These traditions carry stories, emotions and collective memories from one generation to another.

Passing the Treasure Forward

Cultural heritage cannot survive through admiration alone. It must

be practised, protected and passed on. Children should learn from an early age to value traditional arts, literature, music, crafts, customs and historical places. Artisans and performers should have opportunities to teach younger generations. Heritage sites must be protected, and communities should continue practising traditions rather than allowing them to exist only as displays for visitors.

At the same time, preserving culture does not mean rejecting the modern world. A country can embrace progress while

remaining proud of its roots. Myanmar’s greatest cultural treasure is not only its golden pagodas, ancient cities, traditional foods or colourful costumes. It is the living connection between its people and their heritage.

When a child wears Thanaka, when a family shares Mont-lone-yay-paw during Thingyan, when an artisan teaches an ancient craft, when the notes of a Myanmar harp are heard, or when someone simply says “Mingalaba” with a welcoming smile, culture continues to live. Our heritage was handed to us by generations before us. What we protect today will become the gift we leave to generations yet to come.

ECONOMY WORLD

Putin calls Russia one of key players in global gas market

RUSSIA is one of the key players in the global gas market and ranks first in terms of natural gas reserves, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

"Russia is one of the key players in the global gas market. We rank first in the world in terms of natural gas reserves and second in terms of its production," Putin said at the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit in Moscow.

Any attempts to exclude Russia from the global gas market have serious consequences, including rising costs for other countries, Putin explained.

Europe is dealing a blow to its own industry and the social sector by shunning Russian gas, Putin added.

Vladimir Putin called



Russian President Vladimir Putin at Gas Exporting Countries Forum. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

for strengthening cooperation among gas-exporting countries, with a focus on relying on sovereign technologies.

The main problem in the global gas market today is related to supply disruptions, as large volumes of supply have been lost from the market, the

Russian president added.

"It is necessary to work on optimizing transport routes, taking into account the geographical location of the forum's member countries," Putin said. Global gas prices have risen sharply, but they could just as sharply fall back, Putin said.

"Prices have risen sharply, but we understand that they could just as sharply fall back, returning to their previous levels," Putin said.

The global gas industry is currently experiencing upheavals, the Russian president added. — SPUTNIK

German business morale rises sixth time in a row

BUSINESS sentiment in Germany has risen for the sixth month in a row, a closely watched survey said Monday, adding to signs of tepid recovery in Europe's top economy.

The Ifo Institute's closely watched business climate index rose to 90.2 points in October, beating expectations in an analyst poll by financial platform FactSet. The indicator is now at its highest level since May 2023. "The economic recovery is continuing," Ifo head Clemens Fuest said in a statement.

For the first time in more than three years, German manufacturers were positive on both their current business situation and on their outlook.

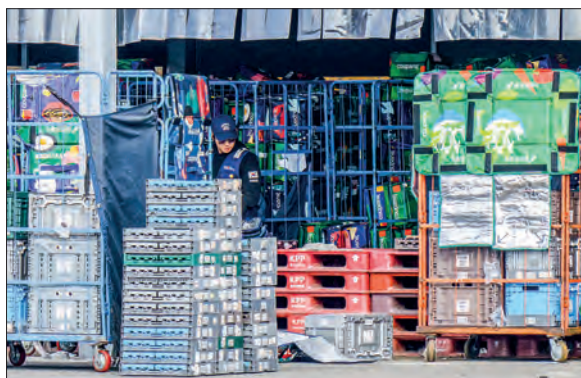
Germany's economy has struggled since a burst of pent-up pandemic demand at the end of 2022,

registering only low growth as fierce Chinese competition has eaten into export markets for products from cars to chemicals.

Tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump have also complicated matters for Europe's traditional exporting powerhouse as have spikes in energy prices resulting from the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

A run of positive data has nevertheless raised hopes that the worst may be over and the government earlier this month lifted its full-year projection to 1.3 per cent, up from its April forecast of just 0.5 per cent. "The business climate continues to creep upwards," LBBW bank economist Jens-Oliver Niklasch said. "It is particularly encouraging that optimism is on the rise." — AFP

S Korea's real GDP grows 1.0% on quarter in Q3



A worker sorts through reusable delivery bags of South Korean e-commerce giant Coupang in Seoul on 9 December 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea's economy delivered a better-than-expected performance in the third quarter, driven by a semiconductor export boom, strong facility investments and significant growth in government spending, central bank data showed Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, expanded 1.0 per cent in the July-September quarter compared to the previous quarter, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It was more than three times higher than

the 0.3 per cent growth forecast estimated in August by the central bank, which projected an annual growth outlook of 3.3 per cent for 2026.

The quarterly growth rate rebounded sharply from negative 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter last year to 1.8 per cent in the first quarter this year, before maintaining positive momentum with an increase of 0.6 per cent in the second quarter and 1.0 per cent in the third quarter. Outbound shipments of the export-driven economy mounted 2.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter in the third quarter thanks to strong demand for semiconductors, machinery and electrical equipment. — Xinhua

SpaceX strikes AI chip lease deal as Musk warns rivals

SPACEX said Monday it has struck a deal with private equity giant Apollo Global Management to lease specialized chips for developing artificial intelligence.

The contract, which has yet to be finalized, runs for about five years and is worth roughly \$40 billion, plus interest and certain fees, Elon Musk's company said in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Apollo will buy the graphics processing units (GPUs), considered the most powerful chips for building generative AI models.

The chips are Nvidia's Vera Rubin GPUs, which Nvidia began rolling out in the second half of this

year. Apollo is to make the processors available gradually starting in the first half of 2027.

xAI, Musk's AI company that was absorbed by SpaceX in February, built two massive data centres in Memphis, Tennessee, Colossus 1 and 2, in just

two years. Together they house several hundred thousand GPUs.

These data centres and the chips they run, known as cloud infrastructure, are essential for developing and running large AI models. — AFP



The SpaceX logo is displayed at a SpaceX facility on 4 August 2026 in Hawthorne, California. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

China’s industrial profits post strong growth on electronics, high-tech gains

CHINA’S major industrial firms posted strong profit growth in the first nine months of 2026, driven by robust gains in the electronics industry and high-tech manufacturing, official data showed Tuesday.

Profits of major industrial firms with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (about US\$2.98 million) rose 15.5 per cent year on year during the January-September period, maintaining double-digit growth since the beginning of the year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

In September alone,

industrial profits at those firms increased 14.4 per cent year on year, with the growth rate up 10.2 percentage points from August.

NBS statistician Yu Weining attributed the overall profit growth to intensified macroeconomic policy support, steady industrial production and accelerated development of new quality productive forces.

The electronics industry emerged as a key growth driver, with profits doubling from a year earlier and contributing 9.6 percentage points to the overall increase in industrial profits. — Xinhua



Workers work at a workshop of Harbin Electric Machinery Co Ltd in Harbin, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 21 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Boeing reports smaller loss but misses expectations

BOEING on Tuesday reported a smaller quarterly loss compared with the same period last year when huge costs associated with a plane certification delay weighed heavily on results.

The aviation giant reported a third-quarter loss of \$116 million, compared with a loss of \$5.3 billion in the year-ago period when delays to the 777X certification led to a \$4.9 billion hit.

The results translated into a larger earnings per share loss than analysts expected, but the company pointed to recent commercial aircraft certifications and Pentagon awards as signs of progress in its turnaround. — AFP

Vietnam’s air passenger traffic tops 110M in first 10 months

MORE than 110 million passengers travelled through airports in Vietnam in the first 10 months of 2026, up over 10 per cent from the same period last year, the Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday, citing the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam (CAAV).

Of the total, international passenger traffic reached nearly 43 million, up over 11 per cent year on year, while domestic passenger traffic stood at nearly 68 million, up more than nine per cent.

Vietnamese airlines carried more than 50 million passengers during the period, an increase of



This photo taken on 26 December 2025 shows a Sun Phu Quoc Airways aircraft landing at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. PHOTO: AFP

over seven per cent year on year, the report said. The carriers handled more than 16 million international passengers, up two per cent, and nearly 34 million domestic passengers, up over nine per cent. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (0257)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (0257)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB642A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (SB642A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING CO S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (166W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (166W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (-)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Voting begins in Israel’s
closely contested
parliamentary election

VOTING in Israel’s parliamentary election began at 7 am local time (0500 GMT) on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s political future in focus.

Netanyahu has campaigned on his security record and close ties with US President Donald Trump, while his opponents accuse him of failing to take responsibility for the 7 October attack and of deepening the country’s political divisions, including by promoting a highly controversial judicial reform.

The latest opinion polls showed a tight race between Netanyahu’s right-wing bloc and opposition parties led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot. Neither camp is expected to secure the 61 seats needed for an outright majority in the 120-member Knesset, potentially leading to weeks of coalition negotiations after the election. A total



A woman casts her vote at a polling station in the Druze village of Daliyat al-Karmel, in northern Israel, on 27 October 2026, on the day of Israel’s legislative election. **PHOTO: AFP**

of 7,331,981 Israelis are eligible to vote at 12,018 polling stations across the country, according to the Central Elections Committee, which oversees the election. Thirty-six party lists are competing.

The election, Israel’s first since the Hamas-led attack on 7 October 2023, is widely seen as a referendum

on Netanyahu’s leadership, with voters divided over his handling of the wars, security failures, and the country’s future direction. “I think this is one of the most important elections the country has ever had,” said Roy Azulai, 30, a computer engineering student who arrived at a polling station in Tel Aviv

early Tuesday morning.

“We definitely need a change of direction. We’ve had enough of wars and corruption,” he said.

Ahia Yedia, 51, a flower shop owner, said he had voted for Netanyahu’s Likud party in most elections since turning 18 and planned to do so again. — Xinhua

Saudi-led coalition says
intercepted missiles
launched towards Riyadh;
Houthis claim attack on
Saudi oil refinery

THE Saudi-led coalition said Tuesday it had intercepted two ballistic missiles launched by Yemen’s Houthi group towards the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Coalition spokesman Turki Al-Maliki said on social media platform X that Saudi air defences intercepted and destroyed the two Houthi missiles launched towards Riyadh.

Explosions were heard in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, on Tuesday afternoon. Local residents received alerts via mobile apps.

Earlier in the day, the coalition said Saudi air

defences had intercepted and destroyed three ballistic missiles launched by the Houthi group towards Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Province. In a separate announcement, the coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed four Houthi drones launched towards the kingdom’s southern region.

Yemen’s Houthi group said earlier it had launched a ballistic missile at the Ras Tanura oil refinery in Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Province, claiming the attack caused large fires at the facility. — Xinhua



Vehicles move along a main street in Saudi Arabia’s holy city of Mecca on 20 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

India orders evacuations as Cyclone
Arnab looms

INDIAN authorities ordered nearly 100,000 people to evacuate homes in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, ahead of a severe cyclone the national weather office expects to make landfall by Wednesday.

Neighbouring Nepal and Sri Lanka have also issued weather warnings.

Cyclone Arnab is forecast to hit India’s south-western Andhra Pradesh coast as a “very severe cyclonic storm”, with gusts of up to 150 kilometres (93 miles) per hour on Wednesday morning,



People carry umbrellas along the Bay of Bengal coast during rainfall in Andhra Pradesh’s Kakinada on 27 October 2026 ahead of cyclone Arnab’s expected landfall. **PHOTO: AFP**

the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin. Torrential rain lashed the coast in

the port city of Kakinda as heavy waves crashed on shore.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before,” Kotesb Kumar, 35, told AFP, adding the government warned people to stock up on groceries.

“There was a cyclone here three years ago, but the water didn’t rise this much.” Cyclones, called hurricanes in the North Atlantic and typhoons in the Pacific, are a regular menace in the Bay of Bengal and northern Indian Ocean. — AFP

China, Indonesia
hold joint counter-
terrorism training

THE opening ceremony for the “Sharp Knife 2026” joint army counter-terrorism training between China and Indonesia was held in south China’s Guangdong Province on Tuesday.

Following the opening ceremony, troops from both countries are scheduled to begin specialized training in reconnaissance, communications, unmanned systems, sniping and counter-terrorism.

This joint training is a planned military exchange

between the two militaries for this year, aimed at improving their combat-oriented training capabilities.

Troops from both sides are organized into mixed groups to jointly conduct specialized sub-training, tactical coordination and comprehensive drills.

The two sides will also engage in thematic seminars, weapon and equipment displays, sports competitions and cultural exchanges. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Yangon Region cycling competition held

THE Yangon Region 14-district preliminary track cycling competition was held at the Thuwun-na Cycling Training Ground in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.



Scenes from the Yangon Region 14-district preliminary track cycling competition.

The competition was organised by the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department and the Yangon Region Cycling Subcommittee.

The events included the men's 1,000-metre and 4,000-metre individual time trials; 800-metre, 1,600-metre and 10,000-metre individual races; 1,200-metre team Olympic sprint; 4,000-metre team pursuit; and women's 500-metre and 3,000-metre individual time trials.

After the competition, officials presented awards to the winners of each event. — ASH/KZL

Harry Kane wins 2026 Ballon d'Or, first English winner in 25 years

HARRY Kane won the 2026 Ballon d'Or on Monday, becoming the first Englishman to claim football's most prestigious individual award in 25 years.

The 33-year-old Bayern Munich striker scored 73 goals for club and England last season, breaking several scoring records for Bayern and at the World Cup.

He captained England to a third-place finish, its best World Cup result in 60 years, and scored six goals at the tournament to surpass Gary Lineker as England's all-time leading World Cup scorer.

Kane also led Bayern to a Bundesliga and German Cup double, scoring a hat-trick against Stuttgart in the cup final, and helped the club reach the Champions League semifinals. "My journey wasn't straightforward," Kane said. "I had to fight my way to be the very best right now. I hope that can give you inspiration as well."

No English player had won the award since Michael Owen in 2001. The ceremony was held in London for the first time, marking the 70th anniversary of the inaugural award, won by Stanley Matthews in



Harry Kane (R) and women's Ballon d'Or award winner Alexia Putellas pose for photos during the award ceremony. PHOTO: XINHUA

1956. Earlier, Spain's Alexia Putellas won her record-equalling third women's Ballon d'Or, ending former Barcelona teammate Aitana Bonmati's three-year reign.

The 32-year-old led Barcelona to four trophies last season, including the Women's Champions League, and played a key role in Spain's Women's Nations League triumph. — Xinhua

Betis, Valencia among five La Liga clubs in Copa del Rey action

FIVE La Liga teams will face lower-division opposition away from home on Wednesday as the first round of Spain's Copa del Rey continues.

Real Betis, Valencia, Celta Vigo, Alaves and Levante will all be on the road under competition rules that give lower-division clubs home advantage in the early rounds.

Betis travels to the Madrid region to face CDA Navacarnero, which competes in the Segunda Federacion, Spain's fourth tier.

Betis coach Manuel Pellegrini is expected to make extensive changes to his starting lineup, although competition regulations require clubs to have at least seven registered first-team players on the field throughout

the match. Celta Vigo also faces fourth-tier opposition when it visits Salamanca UDS, coached by former Athletic Club captain Iker Muniain.

Muniain was part of the Athletic side that won the 2024 Copa del Rey, scoring in the penalty shootout against Mallorca as the Basque club ended a 40-year wait for the trophy.

The former Spain international will be hoping for a better result than Salamanca managed when the teams met in December 2024, when Celta cruised to a 7-0 away victory. — Xinhua

Osaka unveils crane outfit in Tokyo before win over Paolini



Japan's Naomi Osaka poses for her fans after her victory against Italy's Jasmine Paolini during their women's singles match at the WTA Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament at Ariake Coliseum in Tokyo on 27 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

NAOMI Osaka paid tribute to her Japanese heritage with a crane pattern outfit before beating Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) in her tournament opener in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The former world number one is appearing at the Pan Pacific Open for the first time in four years and she came onto the court wearing a blue robe with long kimono-like sleeves.

She said the crane pattern was a nod to her mother's home in the northern island of Hokkaido and that the occasion "felt like a homecoming".

"It felt like on the fashion side I was always giving these great moments to the Slams, and I felt like coming home I wanted to

do something special here too," the four-time Grand Slam winner said.

Osaka is known for grabbing headlines with her flamboyant custom-made outfits.

She channelled NBA fashion trailblazer Allen Iverson at the US Open and wore an audacious "jellyfish-inspired" outfit in Australia.

She also drew on her Japanese heritage with a kimono-inspired white dress at Wimbledon.

She said her latest Tokyo outfit was made by the same designer.

Asked if she planned to unveil more outfits this week, she replied: "It would be fun if you watch it and then be surprised." — AFP

Ronaldo in line for Portugal return after fallout with coach

CRISTIANO Ronaldo is in Portugal's preliminary squad for next month's Nations League matches, opening the door to an international return after his fallout with coach Jorge Jesus, a federation source told AFP on Tuesday.

The 41-year-old abruptly left the Portugal camp on 30 September during the opening qualifiers for the Nations League, before accusing Jesus of breaking his word about giving him game time.

A spokesperson for the Portuguese football federation (FPF) confirmed reports Ronaldo was in line for a return to the squad ahead of games at home to Denmark and in Wales on 14 and 17 November.

Jesus will announce his final squad on 6 November, the spokesperson added.

The FPF last week announced it had handed Ronaldo a 30-day suspension for walking out.

The suspension was backdated, meaning he will be free to return by the end of this week. — AFP



WORLD

Mediator Qatar urges 'good faith' from Iran as talks renew

QATAR on Tuesday said Iran must show good faith with its neighbours to prevent further escalation, following renewed efforts to end the US-Iran war.

The comments came a day after senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan held talks with Iran in an attempt to stop the Middle East war from reigniting.

Qatari foreign ministry official Ibrahim Al-Hashmi said the region needed a new security framework to prevent further violence.

"The ball is now in Iran's court to commit to these principles and demonstrate good faith," he said. "We have heard positive statements from the Iranian side... but they still need to demonstrate good faith, stop threatening countries of the region, and reopen the Strait of Hormuz so that all those efforts can go towards having a safe and prosperous region," he added. — AFP

EU cybersecurity revision could cost the Netherlands up to 2.2B euros in 1st year

A proposed revision of the European Union's Cybersecurity Act, known as CSA2, could lead to losses ranging from 290 million euros (US\$324.02 million) to 2.2 billion euros (\$2.46 billion) for Dutch businesses in the first year of implementation, according to a report by SEO Amsterdam Economics.

The report, titled The Price of Security and commissioned by the Netherlands China Business Council (NCBC), cautions that the impact could extend beyond businesses directly affected by the restrictions, spreading through supply chains and hitting firms in other sectors of the Dutch economy.

— Xinhua

DR Congo Ebola cases top 10,000 as outbreak spreads across Africa

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) said Tuesday that it has reported more than 10,000 confirmed Ebola cases since the outbreak began in May, according to data released Tuesday by the country's health authorities.

The latest report showed that the country had recorded a total of 10,060 confirmed cases, including 4,887 deaths, as of 25 October, with a case fatality rate of 48.6 per cent.

The outbreak has affected 66 health zones across eight of the DRC's 26 provinces.

The eastern province of Ituri remained the epicentre, accounting for 71.7 per cent of all confirmed cases, the report said. — Xinhua

Leaders of GECF member countries adopt Moscow Declaration

LEADERS of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) member states adopted the Moscow Declaration on the sidelines of the organization's eighth summit in the Russian capital on Tuesday, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

The plenary session was attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Mozambican President Daniel Chapo, President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, and Libyan Presidential Council Chairman Mohammad Al-Manfi. Acting Venezuelan President Delcy Rodríguez delivered a video address. Algeria was

represented at the level of Prime Minister, while other countries sent their respective ministers.

Following the plenary session, the heads of

delegations adopted the Moscow Declaration of the eighth summit of the heads of state and government of the GECF member countries. Earlier in

the day, the GECF plenary session took place at the Moscow's World Trade Centre, chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin. — SPUTNIK



Plenary session of the 8th Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow on 27 October 2026. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Greenhouse gas levels hit new record highs in 2025: UN

GREENHOUSE gas concentrations in the atmosphere rose to new record highs in 2025, locking in climate impacts that will persist for centuries to come, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Levels of the three main greenhouse gases — the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — all rose to unprecedented figures in 2025, the UN's weather and climate agency said.

The World Meteorological Organization said the rise would lead to more long-term temperature increases for the planet.

The WMO's 22nd annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin comes ahead of

the COP31 UN climate summit in Antalya, Türkiye, running from 9 to 20 November.

"Another year, another new record," said WMO deputy secretary-general Ko Barrett.

"Greenhouse gases

are trapping an unprecedented amount of heat in the atmosphere, providing energy for more extreme weather and associated risks to our economies and societies.

"The past 11 years have been the warmest

on record and this trend is set to continue. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) has a very long life-time and so will affect the global climate not just for years but for decades and even centuries."

El Nino effect

The bulletin looks at greenhouse gas concentrations — the amount of those gases in the atmosphere — rather than new annual emissions amounts as the world burns more coal, oil and gas.

In 2025, carbon dioxide concentrations were at 426.8 parts per million (ppm); methane at 1,948 parts per billion, and nitrous oxide at 339.1 parts per billion. — AFP



A family walks past a banner welcoming delegates to the Pacific Pre-COP31 Summit at Nadi International Airport in Nadi on 4 October 2026 ahead of the summit's opening ceremony. PHOTO: AFP