Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Friendship, Mutual Respect and Trust Key to Kayin State's Development

Younger generations bear a vital responsibility to learn from history and help build a brighter future.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 71st Anniversary of Kayin State Day, which falls on 7 November 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follow: -

Esteemed national brethren in Kayin State,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my best wishes for good physical and mental health, well-being and every blessing to all our ethnic brethren residing throughout the Union and in Kayin State, ethnic leaders, and all those actively involved in various sectors, including social affairs, education, culture and regional development.

SEE PAGE 5

President Stresses Religious Freedom, Mutual Respect and Peaceful Coexistence at Deepavali Celebration

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing has emphasized that mutual understanding, respect and peaceful coexistence among different ethnicities, religions and cultural traditions are essential foundations for national unity, peace and stability, calling on people of all faiths to practise the benevolent teachings of their respective religions and promote love, goodwill, compassion and harmony in society.

The President made the remarks while addressing a joint Deepavali celebration organized by Hindu communities in Myanmar at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township, Yangon, yesterday evening. In his address, the President extended his best wishes for physical and mental well-being to Hindu citizens in Myanmar and people around the world celebrating Deepavali.

SEE PAGE 3



President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend the third Deepavali commemorative ceremony in Yangon.



The Thai ambassador to Myanmar meets the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee chairman.

Thailand Eyes Fresh Investments in Myanmar

THAILAND stands ready to work closely with the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee (TSMC) to support Thai enterprises and encourage further Thai investment in Myanmar, according to Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tor Saralamba.

The Royal Thai Embassy in Myanmar stated that Ambassador Mr Tor Saralamba made these remarks during a meeting with U Soe Lin Han, Chairman of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee (TSMC), on 5 October.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to enhance the operations of over 20 Thai businesses located in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, noting that they have played a vital role in supporting Myanmar's economy, according to the embassy's statement.

Furthermore, the ambassador emphasized the importance of facilitating the import of essential raw materials to enhance supply chain security for Thai businesses and to boost Myanmar's economic growth. — Htun Htun/ZN

Myanmar invited to participate in 11th Global Economic Summit 2026 in India



This image illustrates a poster announcing the 11th Global Economic Summit 2026.

MYANMAR has been invited to participate in the 11th Global Economic Summit 2026, which will be held in Mumbai, India, on 26 and 27 November, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade). The summit will be held under the theme "Strengthening National Security and Resilience through MSMEs, Innovation and Indigenous Manufacturing: India's Strategic Path".

Discussions will cover defence and aerospace, dual-use technologies, modern manufacturing processes, mineral resources and energy security, maritime logistics infrastructure, global supply chains, international trade and investment, innovation and start-ups. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE Union Government has assigned Daw Lae Lae Aye, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same ministry.

Correction

PLEASE read the phrase "2026-2027 Financial Year Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill" instead of "2016-2017 Financial Year Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill" reported on the ninth day of the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, mentioned in Column 5 on Page 3 of the Global New Light of Myanmar, issued on 6 November 2026. — MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday, 6 November 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal, and a few clouds elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 7 November 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and southern Shan State, fairly widespread in Kayah, eastern Shan States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 November 2026: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and fairly widespread in Yangon Region. — DMH

U Aye Min Htwe presents Credentials to President of Republic of India

U Aye Min Htwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of the Republic of India, on 6 November 2026, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The Presentation of Credentials ceremony was held at 4 pm on 6 November 2026 at at the Ashoka Mandap of Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi. During the ceremony, U Aye Min Htwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, alongside Dr Fatoma Thera, Ambassador of the Republic of Mali, Mr Georget Mandehatsara, Ambassador of the Republic of Madagascar, and Mr Miguel Edjang Angue, Ambassador of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, presented their respective Credentials to Her Excellency Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of the Republic of India.



Newly appointed Ambassador U Aye Min Htwe (4L) is pictured during his presentation of his Credentials to the Indian president.

Following the presentation of credentials, during the meeting with Her Excellency Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of the Republic of India, Ambassador U Aye Min Htwe expressed his commitment to making utmost efforts to further strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and cordial relations between Myanmar and India. He also expressed his determination to promote and enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, education, culture, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges. Furthermore, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Myanmar, the ambassador conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India for its assistance and support towards the peace process and development endeavours of Myanmar. — MoFA

Gyobingauk Township Public Library Holds Reading Activities for Children and Families

THE Information and Public Relations Department is implementing the "My Library, My World Campaign" to encourage students, young people and the public to become familiar with books and literature, develop a habit of reading from an early age through regular engagement with libraries, and promote effective use of library services.

As part of the campaign, the "Every Child a Reader" and "Let's Read Together as a Family" programmes were held at the Public Library yesterday.

Staff Officer Daw Wint Nandar Htay of the Information and Public Relations Department explained the library's collection of various fiction and non-fiction books and publications, book-lending and reading services, and children's reading room facilities.

Under the "Every Child a Reader" programme, students from the Basic Education Middle School (Bodhi Yokkha), together with teachers and parents, took part in activities including selecting and reading their favourite books with their parents and retelling the stories, registering for library membership with their parents, storytelling using picture books, and displaying wall magazines.



"My Library, My World Campaign" is underway at the Public Library.

The students and parents enthusiastically participated in the activities.

The Gyobingauk Township Public Library will continue to organize programmes, including "Knowledge for Life Development" for young people, sessions on how to distinguish true and false news, talks, youth reading circles, family reading groups, training courses and activities under the "My Library, My World Campaign". — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/ST

NATIONAL

Safeguarding National and Ethnic Heritage for Future Generations

Like ancestors who built the country's historic heritage structures, everyone has a duty to preserve them for future generations.



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the maintenance and renovation work of the Maha Pasana Cave in Yangon.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, General Ko Ko Oo, U Tin Oo Lwin and U Myo Thant, the Yangon Region chief minister, the commander of the Yangon Command, deputy ministers, yesterday morning inspected the maintenance and renovation work being carried out to ensure the long-term sustainability and structural durability of the Maha Pasana Cave in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

The President viewed the maintenance work in the cave where the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held and gave necessary guidance to officials.

The Union Minister for Religious Affairs and officials reported to the President on the exhibits in the Buddha Museum, which was arranged to mark the 70th anniversary of the successful holding of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, include galleries featuring the life of the Buddha; the First, Second and Third Buddhist Synods; the Fourth Buddhist Synod during which Buddhist scriptures were inscribed on palm leaves; and the Fifth Buddhist Synod, during which the scriptures were inscribed on stone slabs under the reign of King Mindon; other galleries displaying documentary records of the construction of the Maha Pasana Cave and nine associated buildings for the convening of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, as well as photographs documenting the Synod's opening and proceedings. The museum also features statues of six Sangharajas from five Theravada Buddhist countries and 24 venerable members of the Sangha who served as leading participants in the Sixth Buddhist Synod, along with statues of the Nyaungyan Sayadaw, Masoyein Sayadaw, Mahasi Sayadaw and Mingun Sayadaw; the busts of donor U Nu and Sir U Thwin; seals and other items used during the Sixth Buddhist Synod; objects donated by foreign countries; and galleries displaying antique printing presses, metal type pieces and original printed editions of Pitaka scriptures.

Moreover, they explained matters related to the galleries documenting the publication of the Tipitaka scriptures and Atthakatha copies, as recited at the Sixth Buddhist Synod, in computer-typeset editions, as well as their translation into English; and galleries showcasing pagodas, stupas, temples and religious buildings constructed and established across Myanmar as symbols of the continued flourishing and perpetuation of the Buddha Sasana. Like ancestors who built the country's historic heritage structures, everyone has a duty to preserve them for future generations.

SEE PAGE 4

President Stresses Religious Freedom, ...

FROM PAGE 1

He described Deepavali as a highly revered religious festival for Hindus and a celebration symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness, goodness over evil and knowledge over ignorance. He explained that the word "Deepavali" combines the Pali words "Dipa", meaning lamp, and "Avali", meaning row, referring to rows of brilliantly arranged lamps, hence its other name, the Festival of Lights.

The President noted that Deepavali shares similarities with Myanmar's Buddhist lighting festivals of Thadingyut and Tazaungdine. While Buddhists celebrate Thadingyut by paying respect to elders and lighting lamps, Hindus mark Deepavali by sharing sweets and expressing affection for one another. Although the religious significance and traditions of the festivals differ, they share common social values, including loving-kindness, goodwill and peaceful coexistence.

He highlighted that Myanmar is home to various national races, religions and cultural traditions, stressing that mutual understanding, respect and friendly coexistence among diverse communities are essential foundations for national unity and long-term peace and stability.

Referring to the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the President highlighted provisions recognizing and protecting religious freedom. He cited Section 362 of Chapter VIII, which recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Animism as religions existing in the Union, and Section 363, which provides that the Union may assist recognized religions to the utmost of its capacity.

He also referred to Sections 34 and 354, which contain provisions concerning religious freedom and the right to freely profess and practise one's religion, faith and traditions. He stressed that people should be able to observe their religious festivals meaningfully in accordance with their beliefs, adding that mutual respect for the religious traditions and festivals of different faiths is essential for fostering trust and goodwill in society.

The President urged people to put the benevolent teachings of their respective religions into practice in their daily lives and reflect on the essence of Deepavali. He noted that just as a single lamp illuminates its surroundings, cultivating love, goodwill, compassion and truth in one's heart can serve as a guiding light for one's family, community and nation.

Concluding his address, the President expressed his hope that the light of Deepavali would inspire good thoughts, loving-kindness and peace, strengthen friendship and mutual understanding among people of all faiths, and encourage citizens to work together to build a peaceful, prosperous and harmonious society and contribute to the progress and prosperity of Myanmar and its people.

After the ceremony, the President and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially greeted members of the Hindu communities and cultural troupes before joining the attendees for a celebratory dinner held in honour of the Deepavali festival, according to reports. — MNA/TH



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye is pictured during her inspection tour in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

Vice-President inspects industrial, livestock and youth centre in Kayin State

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye, accompanied by Union ministers, the Kayin State chief minister, Councillors of the Union Consultative Council and departmental officials, inspected industrial, livestock and youth development facilities in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday afternoon.

At the Hpa-an Industrial Zone, the Vice-President inspected production processes at the Thaifashion high-quality rubber footwear manufacturing and distribution factory and the modern agricultural machinery production line at the Shine Htoo Agricultural Machinery Factory. She instructed factory management to align production with market demand, prioritize workplace safety and fire prevention, and coordinate with relevant officials to address operational requirements.

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects university facilities in Kamayut, Yangon

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by inspection tour members and officials, inspected educational, administrative, sports and healthcare facilities at the university campus in Kamayut Township, Yangon, yesterday afternoon and provided guidance on infrastructural development, facility upgrading and maintenance.



President U Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection of educational, administrative, sports and healthcare facilities at the university campus in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region.

The President and his delegation arrived at the construction site of the new six-storey learning facility at the Yangon University of Education (Kamayut Campus). The Union Minister for Education reported on the zone-based layout of educational, administrative, staff, dormitory and sports facilities, as well as ongoing construction projects, including progress on the new six-storey building.

The President emphasized the importance of systematic, long-term planning for new infrastructure projects and instructed officials to incorporate appropriate safety measures against natural disasters and emergencies into the building design, given its expected large occupancy. He also gave further necessary instructions after inspecting the construction site and receiving updates from officials. The President proceeded to the Universities' Press, where he inspected printing and binding operations and reviewed published works. He instructed officials to ensure that books and publications were systematically printed and published on schedule through close coordination between the Universities' Press and printing facilities operated by other ministries.

The President then inspected the upgrading of the universities' sports grounds and grandstands, where officials reported on the progress of the work. He called for high-standard sports facilities and regular maintenance to ensure a clean and pleasant environment. The President subsequently inspected plans to upgrade the University's Swimming Pool and instructed officials to renovate it to meet university-level standards, ensuring a properly designed drainage system.

The President subsequently visited the Universities' Hospital to inspect healthcare services and preparations for patient wards, giving necessary instructions after hearing reports from officials. During the visit, the President also warmly greeted hospital staff and members of the public receiving medical treatment there, according to reports. — MNA/TH

Safeguarding National and Ethnic Heritage...

FROM PAGE 3

In response, the President stressed the need to engage experts to restore, preserve and display the historical archival photographs exhibited in the museum using modern technology, while maintaining their original appearance and ensuring that they are presented with clarity and high resolution. Efforts should also be made to ensure that a complete collection of documentary photographs showing the construction of the Maha Pasana Cave, where the historic Sixth Buddhist Synod was held, is maintained.

Furthermore, measures should be taken to preserve the historical antiques and Pitaka scriptures displayed in the galleries against deterioration and damage. Efforts should also be made to display archival photographs of ancient historical and prominent Buddha images, pagodas, stupas and grand temples in the country.

The President also inspected the maintenance of the Aparagoyana guest hall among four guest halls out of nine buildings associated with the Maha Pasana Cave to accommodate members of the Sangha at home and abroad to be able to participate in religious ceremonies.

At the Buddha Sasana Sangha Hospital, which is one of nine buildings associated with the Maha Pasana Cave, the President observed the arrangements to provide healthcare services to members of the Sangha at home and abroad to attend religious ceremonies at the cave and gave necessary guidance to officials.

After viewing the maintenance of buildings, the President offered alms, flowers and water to the Buddha image in the Maha Ordination Hall and instructed officials to conduct necessary maintenance for the ordination hall.

At the Pitaka Chamber on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, the President looked into the preservation and storage of Pitaka scriptures, religious literature and materials related to the propagation and flourishing of Buddhism inside the main building of the Pitaka Library; the preservation of Pitaka scriptures and exhibits related to the propagation of Buddhism in the Cambodia Hall and Sri Lanka Hall; and the preservation of exhibits on the propagation of Buddhism, ancient cultural and artistic works, and historical artefacts inside the Buddhist Cultural Museum building.

In giving guidance, the President said that as ancient artefacts, historical records and documentary evidence are invaluable national and ethnic heritage that cannot be assessed in monetary terms, special care and attention must be given to their preservation to ensure their long-term sustainability and prevent deterioration and damage. Scale models displayed in the museum should also be renovated and updated in line with modern standards.

Furthermore, the President noted that explanatory descriptions accompanying exhibits on the propagation and promotion of Buddhism, ancient cultural and artistic works, palm-leaf manuscripts, Parabaik folding books and historical artefacts should be written clearly and accurately, with correct Myanmar spelling and usage. Information should also be provided about ancient artefacts, pagodas, stupas and Buddha images, including relevant historical details, Buddha mudras (hand gestures and postures), years, eras and ages, so that visitors can easily understand and learn about them.

The President also inspected the functions of the Printing Press of the Publishing Branch of the Religious Affairs Department and gave necessary instructions to officials. He also observed the documentary photos of the metal-type press used to print the Pitaka scriptures for the Sixth Buddhist Synod, as well as documentary photographs recording the maintenance of the printing press. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Friendship, Mutual Respect and Trust Key to...

FROM PAGE 1

Today marks the 71st anniversary of Kayin State Day, a special and significant occasion that reminds us of and inspires pride in the historical traditions, national identity, traditional cultural heritage and unity of the Kayin people. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my heartfelt, sincere wishes in my congratulatory message to all ethnic people residing in the state, including the Kayin people, for their safety, peace and prosperity, and for success in all sectors, including education, health, economy and socioeconomic development.

Kayin State is located in the southeastern part of Myanmar and is endowed with abundant natural beauty, including rivers, creeks, lakes, waterfalls, lush green forests and magnificent mountain ranges. In particular, Mount Zwegabin stands as a prominent natural landmark of Kayin State, while ancient pagodas, natural caves and invaluable cultural heritage sites further enhance the state's prestige and splendour. In addition, the traditional arts and cultural characteristics of the Kayin people, including the Kayin Don dance, the sounds of the frog drum and traditional customs and practices, are precious cultural heritages that are recognized and appreciated not only within the country but also internationally.

Kayin State is also a region of distinctive historical significance. In 1951, under the Constitution (Amendment) Act, the Hpa-an area of Thanlwin District was designated as Kayin State. Subsequently, on 25 September 1952, under the Kayin State Extension Act, additional areas were incorporated, and the state was constituted with six townships. On 1 March 1960, Myawady was designated as a township, bringing the total number of townships in the state to seven.

Kayin State Day has been commemorated annually since 7 November 1955, and this year marks its 71st anniversary. This historic occasion not only commemorates the establishment of the State but also provides an important opportunity to value and preserve the history, traditional customs, literature, language and cultural heritage of the Kayin people, pass them on to future generations, and reflect of our responsibilities for the future development and progress of the State.

Since ancient times, various ethnic nationalities residing in Kayin State, including the Kayin people, have lived together on the same land and shared the same waters, building their communities through mutual affection, friendship, solidarity and assistance. It is the common responsibility of everyone to preserve and promote these long-standing traditions of peaceful coexistence and to build a community based on mutual understanding, trust and respect.

At present, prolonged armed conflicts and acts of violence in some areas of Kayin State have had adverse impacts on the daily lives, education, healthcare and economic activities of local people. Ensuring stability and peace in Kayin State is a fundamental prerequisite for making effective and beneficial use of the State's abundant natural resources and promising development potential, improving the socioeconomic conditions of local people, and achieving sustainable development.

Peace is the foundation of regional development, while mutual trust and understanding are also key forces in building lasting peace. Therefore, all relevant stakeholders need to work together with sincerity and goodwill to resolve differences through mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and dialogue, reduce and eliminate acts of violence and conflicts, and rebuild trust within communities. With a view to ensuring the peace and security of ethnic people residing in Kayin State and securing a better future for them, I earnestly urge everyone to actively participate in and make concerted efforts towards the peace process.

Education plays a vital role in the socioeconomic development of Kayin State. Young people must strive to acquire proficiency in modern fields of knowledge while valuing and preserving their national identity and cultural heritage. As a basic requirement, students should continue their education until they complete KG+9, in line with the education policy set by the State. Furthermore, efforts should be made to encourage and promote the development of qualified human resources in various fields, including science and technology, medicine, engineering, economics, agriculture, education, the arts and other disciplines. In particular, digital technology and modern technological fields, including artificial intelligence (AI), will become increasingly important in the future of education, employment and the economy. Therefore, young people need to engage in continuous learning and enhance their ability to apply their knowledge and skills in practice.

Agriculture, livestock breeding and rural development play important roles in the socioeconomic foundation of Kayin State. Farming and livestock breeding are not only the main livelihoods of local people but also fundamental pillars for ensuring regional food security and promoting economic growth. Therefore, it is necessary to place emphasis on combining traditional farming methods with modern technologies, developing irrigation and drainage systems, improving crop quality and productivity, adding value to agricultural products, and expanding market linkages. The development of these activities will help increase the incomes of rural residents and create more employment opportunities.

In addition, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are important driving forces for regional economic development. Traditional handicrafts, traditional food production, agricultural products, livestock breeding and service industries in Kayin State can be further developed by combining local people's knowledge, skills and capabilities. In particular, improving the quality of locally produced goods associated with Kayin traditional culture and linking them with modern markets will contribute to increasing local people's incomes and strengthening the regional economy.

As Kayin State is a border region, emphasis should be placed on ensuring the smooth flow of border trade routes, promoting the growth of legal trade activities, and improving market access for locally produced goods. To achieve these objectives, it is important to maintain regional stability and peace, improve transport and communication networks, and create a favourable environment for business activities. Furthermore, all relevant stakeholders need to work together to ensure that trade activities are conducted in accordance with the law, prevent and combat the illegal trading of goods, and promote the lawful development of local businesses.

Regional development cannot be achieved through the economic sector alone; it also requires simultaneous improvements in public health, education and people's quality of life. A healthy and capable human resource base is a fundamental driving force behind the development of the nation and its regions, while quality education is a key resource in shaping the success of future generations. Therefore, in addition to ensuring that local people have access to healthcare and educational services, due attention must also be given to developing transportation and communication networks, electricity supply, clean drinking water and basic infrastructure in line with the needs of the region. Maintaining regional stability and peace is essential to achieving these objectives.

Conservation of the natural environment and resources is also important for the long-term development of Kayin State. By sustainably utilizing and conserving forests, rivers, water resources and natural ecosystems, a healthy environment can be passed on to future generations. Additionally, tourism activities based on natural beauty and cultural heritage should be systematically developed in a manner that does not adversely affect the natural environment or the interests of local communities.

SEE PAGE 6

Vice-President inspects industrial, livestock and youth centre in Kayin State

FROM PAGE 3

She proceeded to visit the Kayin State government's 10,000-bird-capacity continuous layer hen farming facility in the Hpa-an Livestock Zone. After receiving a briefing on the farm's implementation progress, she inspected its cleanliness, water and feed supplies, disease prevention and control measures, and livestock management practices.

At the Youth Centre, the Vice-President received reports on its facilities, training courses, educational lectures and implementation of activities across 16 youth development sectors. She also observed various activities, including sports, domestic science, music, painting, dance and computer training, as well as the library, gymnasium and accommodation facilities.

She emphasized the importance of systematically maintaining sports equipment and training aids and organizing programmes in sports, arts, technology and vocational training based on young people's interests. She also instructed officials to address youth feedback and needs and ensure that the centre effectively develops young people's knowledge, skills and capabilities, preparing qualified human resources for the nation's future.

The Vice-President and her delegation subsequently attended the opening ceremony of the Kawtmayan Resort in Kawtmayan Village, Hpa-an Township, held to commemorate the 71st Kayin State Day. Together with Union ministers, the Kayin State chief minister, Councillors of the Union Consultative Council and the resort's managing director, she cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the resort and unveiled its signboard. They also presented honorary cash awards to the traditional Kayin Don dance troupes. In the evening, the Vice-President and her delegation attended the 71st Kayin State Day Traditional Kayin Don Dance Competition at Thiri Ground in Hpa-an and watched performances by the competing troupes. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Friendship, Mutual Respect and Trust Key to...

FROM PAGE 5

Although the world today is undergoing rapid changes and advances in technology and communications, valuing and preserving one's national culture, literature, languages and traditional customs remain important. The literature and languages of the Kayin ethnic people, traditional arts, traditional attire, festivals and social customs are invaluable cultural heritages that reflect their national identity. Preserving these heritages means safeguarding one's original identity while continuing to progress and adapt in keeping with the times.

Therefore, families, communities and educational institutions need to work together to ensure that younger generations gain a broad understanding of the history and significance of Kayin State Day and develop a keen interest in studying and preserving traditional cultural heritages. Younger generations have a key responsibility to build a better future by learning from history.

Esteemed national brethren in Kayin State,

To ensure a brighter and better future for Kayin State, everyone must make collective efforts to ensure that children have access to safe education, young people can fulfil their potential and realize their dreams, equal opportunities are created for women, local people's agricultural, livestock breeding and production activities are developed, innovation among business entrepreneurs is encouraged and promoted, and cultural heritage assets are preserved and kept alive.

The strength of a state lies not only in its natural resources and economic potential but also in the unity, knowledge, skills, spirit and capacity for cooperation of the people living in that state. Therefore, it is necessary to further strengthen friendship, mutual respect and trust among the various ethnic nationalities for the future development of Kayin State. Only by promoting peace, education, healthcare, socioeconomic development and the preservation of cultural heritage in a balanced manner can the state's long-term development be successfully achieved.

The 71st Anniversary of Kayin State Day, which falls today, is an occasion to remember and take pride in the history of Kayin State and the cultural heritage of the Kayin ethnic people. It is also an opportunity for all of us to review our respective responsibilities and roles in shaping the future of the State. I wish for the literature, languages, traditional arts, customs and traditions of the Kayin ethnic people to remain alive and flourish through successive generations, and for friendship, solidarity and mutual assistance among ethnic brothers and sisters to grow ever stronger.

Thus, I sincerely extend my best wishes to all ethnic people residing in Kayin State for their safety and security and for them to enjoy peaceful and prosperous lives. May they make effective and beneficial use of the State's natural resources and development potential, and may they work together to build a prosperous future founded on peace and unity. With the conviction that "Let us value our history, preserve our culture, promote education and build unity to create a peaceful and prosperous future together," I urge everyone to join hands and work in unison to build a better future for Kayin State and the Union as a whole. In this spirit, I hereby extend this congratulatory message on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Kayin State Day.

Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma
U Min Aung Hlaing
President, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Focuses on Judicial Oversight, Infrastructure Upgrades, and Bilateral Ties

THE 24th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session was held yesterday morning at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, a Supreme Court judge, deputy ministers, a Nay Pyi Taw Council member, and parliamentary representatives. The session covered 12 starred questions touching on judicial integrity, mineral resource management, small and medium enterprise promotion, telecommunications, municipal utilities, and rural road infrastructure, concluding with the formal endorsement of six bilateral parliamentary friendship associations.



The third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw holds its 24th-day sitting in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Addressing questions regarding judicial supervision and public grievances, Supreme Court Judge Daw Thin Thin Cho explained that the Supreme Court exercises constitutional oversight across all court levels. She reported that disciplinary actions, including formal reprimands, salary increment freezes, demotions, and terminations, were administered to judicial officers and judges in 2025 for procedural lapses and misconduct, while 396 public complaint boxes maintained nationwide continue to be routinely inspected by scrutiny teams to trigger formal civil service enquiries where warranted.

On regional natural resources, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Latt Gyi stated that there are currently no plans to issue small-scale or artisanal mining permits in the Hpakant jade tract due to ongoing local security challenges and national conservation priorities.

Regarding enterprise growth, Deputy Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Aung Zeya highlighted ongoing media campaigns, including state television programming and product placement in films and dramas, to champion local goods and develop agro-industrial value chains.

Addressing connectivity and municipal matters, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Thet Win Aung detailed technical assessments to replace ageing copper-cable phone networks in Pobbathiri Township with Optical Line Terminal (OLT) systems, alongside telecom improvements in Kengtawng.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Khin Maung Latt clarified that budget constraints preclude a multi-billion-kyat steel redevelopment of the Myeik Myoma Market in the 2027-2028 financial year, though fire safety measures remain functional, and outlined phased electrical grid and street lighting repairs across Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe then detailed scheduled gravel paving, culvert maintenance, and budget-dependent road improvements for rural corridors in Minhla, Singaing, Hsipaw, and Thaegon townships.

Before adjournment, the Hluttaw deliberated on and officially approved the establishment of parliamentary friendship groups between Myanmar and Belarus, Indonesia, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and Russia, submitted by Dr Pwint San, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee. The session was adjourned until its 25th day on 9 November. — News Team/ST

Defence Services C-in-C offers rice to monks, visits landmarks in Luang Prabang Province



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo joins the group documentary photo during his observation tour in Luang Prabang Province, Laos.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and wife Daw Nilar, accompanied by senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Lao Ministry of National Defence and officials, offered rice and alms to members of the Sangha at Tak Bat (morning alms-giving ceremony) near the Wat Sene Monastery in Luang Prabang early yesterday morning.

The traditional Lao alms-giving ceremony, known as "Tak Bat", is a fine custom that reflects Buddhist faith, traditional culture and a peaceful way of life. Every day at dawn, from 5 am to 6 am, monks from various monasteries walk in procession to receive alms. Residents and Buddhist devotees lay mats and small stools along the roadside and offer traditional food, mainly steamed sticky rice, into the monks' alms bowls, along with other offerings. The alms-giving ceremony is also known to be a highly popular traditional event among international tourists.

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses proposals to restrict plastic products, draft data protection law

AT yesterday's 14th-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw held in Nay Pyi Taw, MP Daw Khin Swe from the Magway Region Constituency 12 tabled a proposal urging the Union Government to take measures to progressively reduce and restrict the production, import, sale and use of plastic products, particularly plastic bags, in order to protect public health and the natural environment.



The 14th-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session in progress yesterday, chaired by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives participated in discussions over the proposal.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that the continuation of discussions by the remaining Hluttaw representatives regarding the motion, the clarification and response by the Union-level dignitaries, and the seeking of the Hluttaw's decision will proceed at the 15th-day session to be held on 9 November.

MP U Kyaw Kyaw Latt from the Yangon Region Constituency 10 also submitted a motion urging the Union Government to draft and enact the Personal Data Protection Law as quickly as possible.

MP U Zaw Min Htoo from the Kayah State Constituency 11 seconded the motion. The Speaker announced that lawmakers wishing to discuss the motion could register with the director-general of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.

At the question-and-answer session, Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing stated that the construction of the required 90 feet by 30 feet one-storey RC school building for the Kanswe Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Pwintbyu Township will be carried out in accordance with the region's priority list, depending on the availability of the capital (construction) budget in the upcoming financial year, and there is no plan to upgrade the BEMS branch to the BEMS facility.

The deputy ministers also replied that the construction of new school buildings at the Ahtaung BEHS in Kyonpyaw Township, the Nanaw Village BEMS in Hsihseng Township, and the BEHS in Shwebontha Ward, Bokpyin, will be carried out according to priority order, based on the availability of the construction budget.

The Speaker sought approval for the replacement of a member at the Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and a chair at the Amyotha Hluttaw Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 15th-day meeting on 9 November. — MNA/TTA

Defence Services C-in-C offers rice to monks, ...

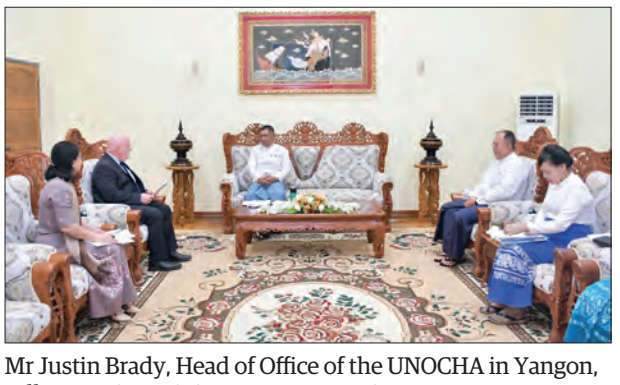
FROM PAGE 6

Subsequently, the Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation, led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, visited the historic Royal Palace Museum in Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage city in Laos, this morning and paid homage to the sacred Pha Bang Buddha Image. They toured the museum with keen interest, viewing the royal facilities, including the reception halls of the King and Queen, the library and bedrooms, valuable historical artefacts used by successive generations of the Lao royal family, and the royal throne. They also observed the artistic works on the palace walls, which vividly depict traditional Lao festivals and urban life in great detail. Officials accompanying the delegation provided explanations and guided them around the museum. The General and party posed for a documentary photo. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

MSWRR Union Minister receives UNOCHA Myanmar Head

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Ko Ko Lwin received Mr Justin Brady, Head of Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Yangon, at the ministry's meeting room yesterday morning.



Mr Justin Brady, Head of Office of the UNOCHA in Yangon, calls on Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Lwin.

Both sides exchanged views on UNOCHA's activities in Myanmar; the implementation and extension of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed between the Ministry's Disaster Management Department and UNOCHA; cooperation in humanitarian assistance; UNOCHA's fundraising efforts and approval of funding for Myanmar; and the Department of Rehabilitation's mine action plans.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister, the director-general, the deputy permanent secretary, relevant ministry officials and a representative of the UNOCHA office. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar Tatmadaw Goodwill Delegation Returns from Laos



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is seen being welcomed home at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

A Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife departed from Luang Prabang International Airport in the Lao People's Democratic Republic yesterday afternoon, concluding their goodwill visit to Laos at the invitation of Lt-Gen Saichay Kommasith, Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao DPR.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Major-General Vanhthong Boudtavong, Deputy Chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao Ministry of National Defence, and his wife; the Commander of the Luang Prabang Military Region Command and his wife; the Lao Military Attaché to Myanmar; the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) and his wife; and other officials.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation, led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and his wife, arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport in the evening. They were welcomed back by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Daw Nan Kue Ku; Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife; Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Win and his wife; senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief; the Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command; and officials from the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Defence Attaché Office in Myanmar.

During the visit, the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services held meetings with the Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff Department of Laos, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Discussions focused on strengthening friendly relations and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

The delegation also visited and paid homage at historical pagodas, stupas and monasteries, as well as prominent landmarks in Laos. — MNA/ST

OPINION

Preserving traditions and identity of Kayin State

Various ethnic nationalities residing in Kayin State, including the Kayin people, have lived together in Kayin State through thick and thin since time immemorial, building their communities through mutual affection, friendship and unity. It is the common responsibility of everyone to preserve and promote these long-standing traditions of peaceful coexistence and to build a community based on mutual understanding, trust and respect.

Ensuring stability and peace in Kayin State is a fundamental prerequisite for making effective and beneficial use of the State's abundant natural resources and promising development potential, improving the socioeconomic life of local people, and achieving sustainable development. Young people must strive to acquire proficiency in modern fields of knowledge while valuing and preserving their national identity and cultural heritage.

The literature and languages of the Kayin ethnic people, traditional arts, traditional attire, festivals and social customs are invaluable cultural heritages that reflect their national identity. Preserving these heritages means safeguarding one's original identity while continuing to progress and adapt in keeping with the times.

With a view to ensuring the peace and security of ethnic people residing in Kayin State and securing a better future for them, everyone should actively participate in and make concerted efforts towards the peace process. Peace is the foundation of regional development, while mutual trust and understanding are also key forces in building lasting peace. Therefore, all relevant stakeholders need to work together with sincerity and goodwill to resolve differences through mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and dialogue, reduce and eliminate acts of violence and conflicts, and rebuild trust within communities.

Improving the quality of locally produced goods associated with Kayin traditional culture and linking them with modern markets will contribute to increasing local people's incomes and strengthening the regional economy. It is necessary to place emphasis on combining traditional farming methods with modern technologies, improving crop quality and productivity, adding value to agricultural products, and expanding market linkages. The development of these activities will help increase the incomes of rural residents and create more employment opportunities.

Conservation of the natural environment and resources is also important for the long-term development of Kayin State. By sustainably utilizing and conserving forests, rivers, water resources and natural ecosystems, a healthy environment can be passed on to future generations. In addition, tourism activities based on natural beauty and cultural heritage should be systematically developed in a manner that does not adversely affect the natural environment or the interests of local communities.

The literature and languages of the Kayin ethnic people, traditional arts, traditional attire, festivals and social customs are invaluable cultural heritages that reflect their national identity. Preserving these heritages means safeguarding one's original identity while continuing to progress and adapt in keeping with the times.

ARTICLE

The United States' Myanmar Strategy Towards 2030: Implications for Foreign Direct Investment and National Economic Development

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun – Public Administration

Introduction

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays an important role in promoting economic growth, strengthening productive capacity, creating employment opportunities and facilitating technology transfer. For developing countries, including Myanmar, attracting responsible and sustainable foreign investment is an important component of national economic development. However, investment decisions are influenced not only by economic conditions but also by political stability, security, institutional capacity, infrastructure and the overall business environment.

In this context, the United States recently published Integrated Country Strategy for Myanmar has attracted attention because it identifies the objective of supporting a ceasefire that could provide a pathway towards a lasting peace agreement by 2030. The strategy also highlights opportunities for economic engagement, commercial cooperation and improving the operating environment for American businesses. These objectives demonstrate the connection between diplomatic engagement, security considerations and economic interests in international relations.

For Myanmar, this development presents an opportunity to consider how international engagement can contribute to peace, investment confidence and sustainable economic development. Nevertheless, the potential benefits should be assessed carefully in accordance with Myanmar's national priorities, sovereignty, existing laws and long-term development objectives. International cooperation can be constructive when it is based on mutual respect, equality and shared economic benefits.

The United States' Myanmar Strategy towards 2030

According to a report published by Reuters on 2 November 2026, the United States Department of State's Integrated Country Strategy for Myanmar was approved on 31 August 2026 and published on 16 October 2026. The strategy outlines Washington's intention to support a ceasefire that provides a pathway towards a lasting peace agreement by 2030. It also identifies the facilitation of multi-stakeholder forums to develop proposals concerning fiscal federalism and territorial demarcation.

In addition to its peace-related objectives, the strategy includes economic and commercial priorities. These include improving the domestic operating environment for American businesses, increasing United States exports to Myanmar and securing at least three major commercial or investment agreements valued at more than US$5 million each. To contextualize these targets, trade baseline data from 2025 indicates a significant trade asymmetry, with US exports to Myanmar standing at approximately US$78.7 million compared to US$762.3 million in imports. The strategy actively aims to correct this sharp trade deficit by expanding commercial access. The strategy also identifies Myanmar's rare-earth resources and cooperation against online scam centres as areas of interest.

These objectives indicate that the United States views Myanmar through several interconnected policy dimensions, including diplomatic engagement, economic cooperation, resource access and regional security. From an international relations perspective, this reflects the relationship between foreign policy and economic diplomacy, whereby countries pursue commercial and strategic interests through diplomatic engagement.

For Myanmar, the strategy should be understood as an indication of the United States' policy direction and potential areas of cooperation. Its implementation will depend on further dialogue, the positions of relevant stakeholders and the practical conditions surrounding economic and political developments. Therefore, it is important to distinguish between the objectives expressed in a foreign country's policy document and agreements or commitments formally reached between the countries concerned.

Political Stability and Its Relationship with Foreign Direct Investment

Political stability is an important factor influencing international investment decisions. Foreign investors generally consider the level of security, predictability of government policies, effectiveness of institutions, infrastructure conditions and the protection of their investments before committing capital to another country.

In situations where political uncertainty and security challenges remain significant, investors may postpone projects, reduce investment commitments or seek alternative destinations. Such circumstances can increase operational costs, disrupt transport and supply chains, affect workforce availability and create difficulties in conducting long-term business activities.

For Myanmar, improving stability and strengthening conditions for peaceful economic activities would therefore contribute to creating a more conducive environment for investment. A sustainable peace process can support the restoration of business confidence, facilitate the movement of goods and services, encourage infrastructure development and create better conditions for domestic and international enterprises.

However, peace and political stability should not be viewed as the only determinants of FDI. Investors also examine the consistency of laws and regulations, financial and foreign exchange arrangements, access to electricity, transportation networks, taxation, administrative procedures and the availability of skilled labour. Consequently, efforts to improve the investment environment should be accompanied by institutional and economic reforms.

The relationship between peace and investment is therefore mutually reinforcing. Improved stability can create opportunities for investment, while productive investment can generate employment, support local businesses and contribute to economic opportunities for communities. Nevertheless, investment must be properly managed to ensure that economic activities contribute positively to long-term stability and national development.

Myanmar's Foreign Direct Investment Opportunities

Myanmar possesses considerable economic potential due to its geographical position, natural resources, agricultural capacity, human resources and connectivity with major regional markets. Its location between South Asia and South-East Asia provides opportunities for trade, transportation, logistics and cross-border economic cooperation.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Myanmar's investment policy framework identifies several sectors for investment promotion, including agriculture, livestock and fisheries, manufacturing, infrastructure, power generation, renewable energy, telecommunications, education, healthcare, information technology and tourism.

Among these sectors, manufacturing deserves particular attention because it can contribute to employment generation, industrial development, export diversification and the expansion of domestic production capacity. Investment in agro-processing, food production, textiles, pharmaceuticals and other value-added manufacturing activities can strengthen the relationship between local producers and international markets.

Agriculture also represents an important area of potential cooperation. Myanmar has agricultural resources and production capacity that could benefit from modern technology, improved irrigation systems, agricultural machinery, research and development, storage facilities and processing industries. Responsible investment in these areas could improve productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and increase the value of agricultural exports.

Energy and infrastructure development are equally important. Reliable electricity, efficient transportation networks, modern logistics facilities and digital connectivity are essential for industrial development and investment expansion. Foreign participation in these sectors, where appropriate under national laws and policies, can support the development of productive infrastructure and improve the competitiveness of the domestic economy.

Myanmar's natural resources, including rare-earth minerals, also attract international attention. Nevertheless, the development of natural resources should be guided by national interests, environmental protection, responsible extraction practices, transparent investment arrangements and appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms. The long-term value of natural resources should not be measured solely by export earnings but also by their contribution to domestic industrial development, technological capacity, employment and public welfare.

International Economic Cooperation and Myanmar's National Interests

The United States' strategy also provides an opportunity to examine the wider role of international economic cooperation in Myanmar's development. Myanmar maintains economic and geographical connections with several important regional and international partners, including China, India, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and ASEAN member states.

In an increasingly interconnected global economy, maintaining constructive relations with different investment partners can provide greater opportunities for trade, investment, technology transfer and industrial cooperation. Diversification of investment sources can also help broaden economic opportunities and reduce excessive dependence on individual markets or partners.

In this regard, potential economic cooperation with the United States may offer opportunities in areas such as manufacturing, agricultural technology, digital services, energy, education, healthcare and infrastructure development. At the same time, cooperation with existing regional partners remains important for Myanmar's economic connectivity and participation in regional production networks.

The objective should not be to replace one economic partner with another. Rather, Myanmar should pursue an approach that encourages mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries willing to engage in accordance with Myanmar's laws and national development priorities.

Such an approach requires the careful assessment of investment proposals based on their economic value, technological contribution, employment potential, environmental and social impacts, financial feasibility and consistency with national development objectives. Investment decisions should be guided by the principle that international cooperation must produce tangible benefits for the country and its people.

National sovereignty and economic cooperation are not contradictory principles. A country can maintain its independent decision-making authority while developing constructive economic relations with international partners. In this regard, transparent policies, consistent regulations and effective institutional coordination are essential for building confidence among both domestic and foreign investors.

Challenges to Attracting Sustainable Foreign Investment

Despite Myanmar's economic potential, several challenges require continued attention. These include security-related uncertainties, infrastructure limitations, electricity supply constraints, foreign exchange difficulties, administrative procedures, access to finance and the broader international business environment.

International sanctions and compliance requirements also influence investment decisions. Foreign companies must consider applicable legal obligations in their home countries and international financial systems before undertaking business activities in Myanmar. Therefore, improving investment confidence requires not only domestic policy measures but also constructive engagement and clear communication with international business communities.

Another important challenge is ensuring that approved investment projects are translated into actual investment implementation. Investment approvals and commitments do not necessarily represent capital already invested in the economy. It is therefore important to strengthen project monitoring, facilitate implementation and improve the availability and reliability of investment statistics.

According to DICA's published statistics, the total yearly approved foreign investment amount for the 2025-2026 financial year, as of 31 December 2025, was approximately US$333.87 million. This figure represents approved investment capital and should not be interpreted as actual FDI inflows. Such distinctions are important when assessing investment performance and formulating appropriate economic policies.

Furthermore, responsible investment should remain a priority. Projects involving natural resources, large-scale infrastructure and land use require careful consideration of environmental sustainability, local community interests, labour standards and applicable legal requirements. Ensuring that investment activities respect these principles can help establish a more sustainable foundation for economic development.

Policy Priorities for Strengthening Myanmar's Investment Environment towards 2030

To benefit from emerging international economic opportunities, Myanmar should continue strengthening its domestic investment environment through a coordinated and long-term approach.

First, improving political stability and supporting constructive dialogue among relevant stakeholders are important for creating conditions in which economic activities can develop. Peace and stability provide a foundation for infrastructure development, business operations and long-term investment planning.

Second, investment-related laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be implemented consistently and transparently. Predictable regulatory arrangements, efficient investment facilitation and effective mechanisms for addressing investor grievances can strengthen confidence among both domestic and foreign investors.

Third, investment promotion should focus on productive sectors that generate employment, encourage technology transfer, support domestic enterprises and contribute to export development. Particular attention should be given to manufacturing, agro-processing, renewable energy, logistics, digital infrastructure and other sectors with strong potential to support national economic development.

Fourth, domestic businesses should be encouraged to participate more actively in investment projects through appropriate joint ventures, supplier relationships, technical cooperation and workforce development programmes. Such participation can strengthen local production capacity and ensure that the benefits of foreign investment extend beyond the immediate investment projects.

Fifth, Myanmar should continue promoting economic cooperation with a broad range of international partners. Engagement with the United States and other countries should be based on mutual respect, equality, transparency and shared benefits. This approach can expand investment opportunities while maintaining balanced and constructive international economic relations.

Finally, investment promotion should be accompanied by environmental protection and social responsibility. Sustainable economic development requires investment that creates long-term value without compromising natural resources, local communities or the interests of future generations.

Conclusion

The United States' Myanmar Strategy towards 2030 provides an important opportunity to examine the relationship between international diplomacy, peace initiatives and foreign direct investment. Its emphasis on supporting a pathway towards lasting peace, expanding commercial engagement and improving the operating environment for American businesses demonstrates how political and economic objectives can be connected within a country's foreign policy.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

MoFA Dy Minister receives Indonesian Ambassador, Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific & Africa

U NAING MIN KYAW, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a delegation led by Ambassador Mr Santo Darmosumarto, Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



MoFA Deputy Minister U Naing Min Kyaw meets the Indonesian delegation yesterday.

The two deputy ministers exchanged views on enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation, strengthening collaboration under the ASEAN framework, advancing Myanmar's peace efforts, and the upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

Deputy Minister U Naing Min Kyaw acknowledged Indonesia's constructive engagement regarding the developments in Myanmar. He stated that the Government prioritizes stability, peace and national development. He also highlighted that, as a responsible member of ASEAN, Myanmar has been cooperating to the fullest extent possible in implementing the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, without compromising its national sovereignty and national interests. He further emphasized that the ASEAN Affairs Committee had been established to enhance cooperation with ASEAN. He also discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation. Furthermore, he underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation with ASEAN through a Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned approach to restoring Myanmar's original role and rights within ASEAN.

Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Mr Santo Darmosumarto noted that his visit had provided valuable insights and information regarding the recent developments in Myanmar. He reaffirmed Indonesia's support for Myanmar's peace process and expressed Indonesia's willingness to continue working together to enhance Myanmar's original role and rights within ASEAN through a Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned approach. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Following the meeting, the deputy minister hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation led by the deputy minister for Asia-Pacific and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia at the MGallery Sofitel Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MoFA

Yebyu holds awareness talk on preventive measures against El Niño

AN awareness talk on preventive measures against natural disasters associated with the El Niño phenomenon was held at the meeting hall of the Yebyu Township Agriculture Department Office in the morning. The event was organized by the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region.

U Kyaw Htin Ko Ko, Acting Township Administrator of the Yebyu Township General Administration Department, explained that climate change associated with the El Niño phenomenon could lead to extremely high temperatures, reduced rainfall, drought and water scarcity. He highlighted the importance of conducting public awareness activities to prevent drinking water shortages and help residents prepare for possible impacts.

Daw Sanda Myint, Township Head of the DRD, then explained the importance of using water systematically to minimize wastage and storing water properly in reservoirs to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water. She also outlined the department's planned assistance measures in the event of drinking water shortages.

Officials from relevant departments also delivered sector-specific awareness talks on the possible consequences of the Super El Niño weather phenomenon and preventive measures that could be taken.

Afterwards, DRD staff distributed warning and awareness pamphlets on possible water shortages caused by El Niño to the people attending the event, according to the Yebyu Township Department of Rural Development. — Myo Myo (DRD)

Chin State accelerates recovery and reconstruction efforts



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han welcomes returnees in Falam, Chin State.

RECOVERY and reconstruction efforts are being accelerated in Chin State, while local civil society organisations in Falam are working together to facilitate the return of residents to their homes.

Government offices, education and healthcare services, social and economic activities, and banking services in Falam have resumed normal operations. Pension payments are also being made to retired government employees, encouraging more residents to return home.

Following the Head of State's guidance, deputy ministers are expediting recovery and reconstruction work. Local civil society organizations in Falam are also cooperating to help residents return home.

In this regard, more than 100 returnees arrived in Falam this afternoon via the Kalay-Falam-Haka Road. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, accompanied by members of the Falam District and Township Management and Administration Committees and departmental officials, welcomed them at the entrance to Falam, in front of the Independence Hsutaungpyae Pagoda. He also encouraged officials involved in the registration process and provided food supplies to the returnees.

In the morning, the deputy minister met staff at the Border Areas National Races Youth Development Training School in Haka and inspected the student dormitories, tailoring workshop, library and dining hall.

A total of 90 students from Haka, Thantlang, Falam, Tonzang, Mindat, Matupi, Kanpetlet and Paletwa townships in Chin State are currently attending the school. — District IPRD/KZL

55 complete agricultural machinery training in Meiktila

THE graduation ceremony for the third batch of the 2026-2027 Special Agricultural Machinery Operation and Maintenance Course was held at the Central Agricultural Mechanization Training School in Meiktila yesterday.

On behalf of the director-general of the Agricultural Mechanization Department, Principal U Tun Htein Lin delivered the graduation address.

A total of 55 trainees completed the eight-week course, which ran from 14 September to 6 November. They comprised 13 from Sagaing Region, six from Magway Region, four from Bago Region, 21 from Mandalay Region, seven from Ayeyawady Region and four from southern Shan State.

The graduates are expected to work for the Agricultural Mechanization Department, agricultural machinery service companies or in their own farming businesses. Principal U Tun Htein Lin said: "This is the third course conducted under this year's budget, and we plan to open a fourth batch. The courses aim to produce skilled agricultural machinery operators and maintenance workers to meet the needs of Myanmar's agricultural mechanization sector and create reliable employment opportunities for young people."

The fourth batch, comprising 50 trainees, is scheduled to begin on 16 November. Interested applicants from regions and states can contact their respective township agricultural mechanization offices or call 09 986705710, 09 429624084 or 09 790292700 for further information. Officials from the Meiktila District and Township Agricultural Mechanization Departments, training school officials, instructors and trainees attended the ceremony. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL



The concluding ceremony at the Central Agricultural Mechanization Training School.

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Russia cadets hold shooting competition

THE Myanmar-Russia Cadet Shooting Competition, hosted by Myanmar to strengthen bilateral friendship and military cooperation, foster closer ties between cadets and facilitate the exchange of shooting techniques, began on 4 November at the 600-metre ASEAN Shooting Range of the Defence Services (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) in Bahtoo Station.


Competing cadets take aim and fire during the shooting competition.

Senior officers from the Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) referees and Myanmar cadets attended the opening ceremony, along with members of the Russian Armed Forces shooting team, coaches and competing cadets.

At the ceremony, the flags of Myanmar and Russia were borne into the shooting range, hoisted and saluted. The Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training delivered the opening address, followed by a commemorative group photo.

The three-day competition featured the 300-metre cadet rifle and 25-metre cadet pistol events. At the closing and prize presentation ceremony, officials presented individual and team awards to the winners in each category.

During their stay at Bahtoo Station, the Russian team leader, coaches and competing cadets also visited the Bahtoo Spring and Yaksawk Myoma Market. — MNA/KZL

17 Chinese nationals detained for online gambling


Map shows the location where online scammers were arrested in Shan State (South).

THE Government of Myanmar attaches great importance to its national responsibility to detect and prevent online fraud and gambling, which pose serious threats not only to residents but also to the socioeconomic well-being of people worldwide. It is also cooperating with neighbouring governments to effectively detect, arrest and prosecute offenders.

In this regard, following reports of online gambling activities in Mongnawng Township, southern Shan State, combined teams comprising security personnel conducted an investigation in the area. At about 11:30 am yesterday, they arrested 17 Chinese nationals involved in illegal online gambling at a location about 1,500 metres southeast of Wamli Village.

During the operation, the teams also seized one temporary shelter measuring 15 feet by 50 feet, another measuring 15 feet by 20 feet, three measuring 15 feet by 30 feet, a temporary kitchen measuring 20 feet by 30 feet, a temporary store measuring 15 feet by 20 feet, five Starlink devices, 20 all-in-one computers, 50 assorted mobile phones, a generator, a freezer and other related equipment.

Upon completion of the necessary investigations, legal action will be taken against those involved in online gambling under existing laws, while the seized equipment will be dealt with in line with established procedures.

The Government continues implementing measures to combat online gambling and telecom fraud in cooperation with neighbouring countries, regional partners and international organizations, with the aim of eliminating such activities and preventing them from taking root in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

Warship Aung Zeya returns from BIMSTEC maritime exercise


Upon its arrival back, the warship Aung Zeya being welcomed home.

WARSHIP Aung Zeya of the Tatmadaw (Navy), carrying a delegation led by Rear-Admiral Kyaw Kyaw Htoo, returned to Yangon yesterday afternoon after participating in the First BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise, held in Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India, from 30 October to 3 November. Senior naval officers, personnel and family members welcomed back the delegation upon its arrival.

The warship departed Yangon on the evening of 27 October and arrived in Sri Vijaya Puram on the morning of 29 October.

From 30 October to 1 November, the delegation attended the opening ceremony, held coordination meetings for the practical maritime exercises, participated in friendly sports competitions, visited local sites and naval vessels of BIMSTEC member states, and attended a dinner reception.

On 2 November, Warship Aung Zeya proceeded to the exercise area and took part in the maritime security exercise in waters southeast of Sri Vijaya Puram, which continued until 3 November. The exercises included formation manoeuvres, ASIS boat-handling drills, air-defence drills and ship-handling exercises.

India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka participated in the Harbour Phase, while Bangladesh attended as an observer. Three naval vessels from India and Myanmar took part in the Sea Phase.

The Yangon-India-Yangon voyage covered approximately 1,059 nautical miles. — MNA/KZL

Myothit's completed concrete road inspected


Officials and village representatives are seen alongside the completed concrete road in Myothit Township, Magway Region.

OFFICIALS inspected the completed concrete road under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Yaypyae Village, Yaypyae Village-tract, Myothit Township, Magway Region, yesterday. The project was implemented by the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of Myothit Township during the 2026-2027 financial year.

Staff Officer Daw Thuza Lwin of the Myothit Township DRD and officials concerned examined the completed concrete road, which measures 600 feet in length, 12 feet in width and six inches in thickness. The staff officer instructed members of the Village Development Committee to prevent overloaded vehicles from using the road to ensure its long-term durability. She also coordinated with the committee to address necessary matters.

The concrete road construction project was implemented with K15 million in VDP funds and K15 million in public contributions, bringing the total cost to K30 million. With technical assistance from DRD staff, residents undertook the construction work, which began on 9 October 2026. The project has now been completed 100 per cent.

With the completion of the concrete road, local communities in Yaypyae Village can now enjoy improved and convenient transport throughout the year, according to the Myothit Township Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

ARTICLE/ NATIONAL

CBM nods to advance payment system for importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has approved an advance payment system for importers to ensure timely access to foreign currency and stabilize exchange rates, according to the CBM's announcement.

Once an import licence is granted, importers, under the new system, can pay in stages: 30 per cent of the total licence value when the import licence is obtained, 40 per cent when the bill of lading is presented, and the remaining 30 per cent when the import declaration is submitted.

The Central Bank will review and sell the necessary foreign currency for imports deemed essential to the country. The advance payment arrangement is expected to reduce late payments to foreign factories and suppliers and allow timely ordering and import of critical industrial raw materials and consumer goods.


A businessperson counting foreign currency notes.

It will also ease the burden on importers to settle the full amount at once and is expected to boost Myanmar's international trade confidence. — TWA/KK

Mudon inspects precautionary measures against drinking water shortages

THE Department of Rural Development (DRD), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection in Kadonpaw Village, Mudon Township, Mon State, yesterday to prevent drinking water shortages that may occur due to the Super El Niño phenomenon.


Officials oversee the preparedness to prevent drinking water shortages in Mudon Township.

Mon State DRD Head U Saw Myint Tun, Mawlamyine District DRD Head U Myint Naing Oo, Mudon Township DRD Head Daw Khin Sandar Win and officials inspected the existing drinking water storage conditions at elevated water tanks and earth rainwater storage ponds in Kadonpaw Village.

Mon State DRD Head U Saw Myint Tun instructed village personnel in charge to systematically distribute and use drinking water economically and to ensure that available water resources are used efficiently. He also urged them to contact the Department for necessary assistance if drinking water shortages occur.

Subsequently, the Mon State DRD head met local communities and explained that El Niño weather conditions could result in higher temperatures and a reduction in water resources. He urged rural residents to use water systematically without wastage and to conserve and protect existing water sources.

He further stressed the importance of making advance preparations for possible water shortages by storing sufficient drinking water, keeping water storage tanks clean and properly maintained, and using water only as necessary. Necessary assistance and coordination were also provided to address the requirements of the local community.

The field inspection and awareness activities were conducted with the aim of ensuring that residents have adequate access to drinking water and are well prepared for possible water shortages during the period of Super El Niño weather conditions. — Thuta (DRD)

The United States ...

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For Myanmar, the potential implications extend beyond investment opportunities with a single country. The broader priority is to establish conditions that encourage responsible investment, strengthen domestic productive capacity, expand international economic cooperation and support sustainable national development.

Lasting peace, political stability and a predictable investment environment are important foundations for achieving these objectives. At the same time, investment policies should protect national interests, respect national sovereignty and ensure that economic cooperation produces practical benefits for the country and its people.

As Myanmar looks towards 2030, the emphasis should be placed on transforming international economic opportunities into sustainable national development. Through constructive diplomacy, responsible investment promotion, institutional improvement and cooperation with all interested international partners, Myanmar can work towards an investment environment that supports economic resilience, employment creation, technological advancement and long-term prosperity.

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Precautionary measures against drinking water shortages inspected

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection in Kyaukhnget Village, Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State, yesterday. The visit aimed to assess the status of water resource usage and ensure that no shortages of drinking or domestic water occur as a result of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Nyaungshwe Township Head Daw Yu Yu of the Department of Rural Development, accompanied by engineering staff, examined the village's water storage tanks to ensure adequate reserves. They also evaluated the operational status of water supply systems previously established by the department, with the goal of preventing any potential shortages of drinking and domestic water caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

Subsequently, Daw Yu Yu met local villagers. She explained that the El Niño weather phenomenon could lead to issues such as excessive rainfall, drought, or water scarcity. She advised the villagers to store water in advance and use it systematically to prevent shortages. Furthermore, she provided guidance on necessary precautions and actions to take, as well as things to avoid, to protect against the impacts of El Niño and extreme heat.

She also informed them that, in the event of a natural disaster, they could promptly contact the relevant government departments for assistance. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaing)

Muji operator halts online store, app to bolster cybersecurity after leaks

RYOHIN Keikaku Co, the operator of the Japanese retail brand Muji, said Friday it temporarily shut its domestic online store and official app to bolster cybersecurity following reports of possible customer information leaks.

The move came just days after the company said around 1.09 million customer records, including credit card numbers, may have been leaked following unauthorized access to its system. Similar cybersecurity incidents have hit other Japanese companies. — Kyodo



It temporarily shut its domestic online store and official app to bolster cybersecurity. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Notice for change of distributor

We, **Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd.,** would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co., Ltd**. to **Royal Super Star Co., Ltd**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number	New Distributor
1	Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co., Ltd.	Gold-Aladdin	Flubendiamide 20% WDG	Provisional	P2021-5362	Royal Super Star Co., Ltd.

Royal Super Star Co., Ltd. (Address: 67st, Bet 36x37st, Mahar Myaing 1 Ward, Mahar Aung Myay Township, Mandalay, Myanmar. Tel:09428562250)

Notice for change of distributor

We, **Agrodan Chemical Co., Ltd.,** would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Amazing seasons Co., Ltd** to **First Start Company Limited.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number	New Distributor
1	Amazing seasons Co., Ltd	365 Guard	Copper Oxychloride 45% + Kasugamycin 2% WP	Provisional	P2026-7098	FIRST START COMPANY LIMITED

FIRST START COMPANY LIMITED (Address: Pyi Htaung Su Road, No. 1285, (50) Quarter, North Dagon Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.Tel:09428562250)

Notice for change of distributor

We, **Pilarquim (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.,** would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Buffalo Agro Science Co., Ltd**. to **Htet Myanmar's Land Agriculture Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number	New Distributor
1	Buffalo Agro Science Co., Ltd.	Ema Fighter	Emamectin benzoate 4% + Indoxacarb 16% SC	Provisional	P2026-7035	Htet Myanmar's Land Agriculture Co., Ltd.

Htet Myanmar's Land Agriculture Co., Ltd. (Address: Than Ta Da Street, No.6 Than Ta Da Quarter, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar. Tel:09428562250)

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2615N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (641W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (641W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT015)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT015)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2623E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2623E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Belgian king rejects PM's resignation, gives time for budget talks

King Philippe held off from accepting the resignation and spent the week consulting parties in the centre-right governing alliance in search of a compromise.

Belgium's King Philippe on Friday refused Prime Minister Bart De Wever's offer to resign and gave the governing coalition more time to thrash out a new cost-cutting budget, the palace said. "The king has decided to reject the prime minister's resignation and has asked him to resume budget negotiations immediately. The prime minister will report back to the king on Monday, 16 November," a statement said.

De Wever, a Flemish conservative, offered his resignation on Monday after coalition partners failed to reach agreement on the 2027 budget.

King Philippe held off from accepting the resignation and spent the week consulting parties in the centre-right governing alliance in search of a compromise. De Wever told parliament a day ahead of his Friday audience with the king that 2027 would begin under a stopgap budget based on the previous fiscal year.



Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever leaves the Royal Palace by car in Brussels, Belgium, 2 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

He described the failure to adopt a full 2027 budget as a "serious setback" for the government.

De Wever is seeking budget savings of 10 billion euros ($11.6 billion) by 2029 to curb Belgium's deficit, which exceeds five per cent of GDP.

Proposed measures have included spending cuts, notably in healthcare, and a VAT increase that is opposed by one of the coalition members, the francophone liberal Reformist Movement (MR). — AFP

$1M Romanov sapphire up for auction in Geneva

ROYAL jewels from some of Europe's top dynasties go up for auction in Geneva on Wednesday, led by a spectacular 198-carat sapphire linked to Russia's imperial Romanovs.

The vivid blue Ceylon sapphire, measuring roughly three by 3.5 centimetres, entered the Romanov collection in the mid-19th century although the gemstone itself is far older, Andres White Correal, chairman of jewellery at auctioneer Sotheby's, told AFP.

The sapphire was listed for sale after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and eventually made its way from the Bolsheviks via several owners to Cartier, which created its current diamond-set bracelet mounting in 2015, he said.

Sotheby's said the sapphire was once mounted by Faberge as a diamond brooch. — AFP

COP31 faces tough test as climate threats mount

NEARLY 200 nations gather for the COP31 summit in Turkiye on Monday but tensions over geopolitics, finance and fossil fuels are tempering expectations of a major breakthrough in tackling the climate crisis.

More than 100,000 people are expected at the UN's two-week climate negotiations in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya.

Tougher action on fossil fuels, the main driver of climate change, appears unlikely and budget-strapped developed countries are reluctant to commit more money to help developing nations cope with climate impacts.

An energy crisis and cost-of-living pressures, fuelled by the war in the Middle East, are also looming over the gathering.

"This is not going to be the COP that changes the world," said Paul Watkinson, France's former chief negotiator at climate summits.

"It's an intermediate COP in many ways. But it is an important conference and it does need to make sure it makes progress," he said.



Turkish security forces used water cannons and tear gas against environmental protesters opposing coal mine expansion during clashes in Ikizkoy, in the Milas district of the Province of Mugla, 28 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

A senior EU official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also tempered expectations, saying: "We cannot expect a revolution in terms of climate action from the Antalya COP."

The talks follow deadly floods in Nepal, searing heatwaves in Europe and major wildfires in Indonesia.

An exceptionally strong El Nino climate phenomenon is forecast to peak later this year, adding to extreme weather and possibly helping to make 2026 or 2027 the hottest year on record. — AFP

EU plans 'AI literacy' certificates for schoolchildren



The move comes as teachers and pupils around the world are grappling with the impact of artificial intelligence in the classrooms. **PHOTO: PEXELS**

THE European Union said Thursday it plans to start piloting an "AI literacy" certificate for schoolchildren, as part of efforts to address the impact of the fast-developing technology on education.

"It will help young pupils understand how AI works, check what it tells them, spot manipulation, and know when to switch off," said European Commission vice president Roxana Minzatu.

Brussels said it would look to launch the new certificate for 15-year-old learners for the 2027/2028 school year.

The move comes as teachers and pupils around the world are grappling with the impact of artificial intelligence in the classrooms.

The EU — which does not control the educational policies of its 27 member states — is already backing efforts looking at how to safely deploy AI to teach children.

At the same time, Brussels is pushing legislation to curb access to social media for young teenagers.

Minzatu insisted the two initiatives were not contradictory. "AI has the potential of really amplifying certain educational processes: tutoring, personalized learning," she said. — AFP

SPORTS

'I thought he'd come back': Jesus on Ronaldo retirement

PORTUGAL coach Jorge Jesus said on Friday he had expected Cristiano Ronaldo to return to the national team despite their highly publicized rift, but respected the veteran forward's decision to retire from international football.

Ronaldo, 41, announced on Thursday that he would not play for Portugal again, bringing the curtain down on a record-breaking international career after a bitter end.



Cristiano Ronaldo called time on his Portugal career after a record 146 goals and 234 caps for his country. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"Of course I thought he would come back, of course I thought I would call him up, of course I thought I would speak with him, but you have to respect him," Jesus told reporters after naming his squad for upcoming Nations League matches against Denmark and Wales.

"He decided that it was the moment to leave the national team."

Ronaldo made his debut for Portugal in 2003 and went on to play a world record 234 times for his country, scoring 146 goals.

But his speed and edge have been blunted with age and he fell out with Jesus at the end of September.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner accused the coach of broken promises after asking him to warm up during a match against Norway without bringing him on. Ronaldo immediately left the team camp and was handed a 30-day suspension and token fine.

He apologized and it was rumoured he intended to return to the Portugal fold, but Ronaldo instead said that he had played his last match for his country. — AFP

JFA honorary chief Tashima intends to vie for FIFA presidency

KOZO Tashima, honorary president of the Japan Football Association, said Thursday he intends to run for the FIFA presidency in the March election.

"It's not about winning or losing. What matters is sharing with the world the integrity that Japan's football has built over the years," Tashima told reporters after the JFA's board meeting in Tokyo.



The 68-year-old Tashima has served on the FIFA Council. **PHOTO: Kyodo**

"The most reassuring thing is that the Japan Football Association is fully behind me," the former JFA president said.

The 68-year-old Tashima has served on the FIFA Council.

Tashima's FIFA presidency bid comes as incumbent President Gianni Infantino, known for his close ties with US President Donald Trump, faces criticism over the football governing body's decision not to enforce a suspension of a US player at this summer's World Cup. — Kyodo

Injuries to Barcelona trio see Spain coach Luis de la Fuente call new faces into squad

SPAIN coach Luis de la Fuente on Friday named his squad for the final two UEFA Nations League group-stage matches against the Czech Republic and England.

Spain, the reigning world champions, have already secured a place in the quarterfinals after winning their opening four matches, but must still ensure they finish top of a group that also contains Croatia.

De la Fuente will be without several players due to injuries, with FC Barcelona trio Eric Garcia, Dani Olmo and Rodri Hernandez all sidelined with muscle problems.

The coach has responded by handing first senior call-ups to Real Betis goalkeeper Alvaro Valles and midfielder Marc Roca, and Como defender Jacobo Ramon, while recalling Atletico Madrid midfielder Pablo Barrios and Real Sociedad winger Ander Barrenetxea in a 27-man squad that includes four goalkeepers. — Xinhua

Carrick insists Man Utd can recapture former glories

MICHAEL Carrick said patience is needed to restore Manchester United to their former glory as he prepares for Sunday's clash against Aston Villa, which could be his final match in charge.

United snapped a nine-game winless run with a thrilling fightback from 2-0 down to beat Roma 3-2 in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The Red Devils have not won in the Premier League since August and sit outside the relegation zone only on goal difference.

Carrick has been handed a stay of execution by the United board but a two-week international break following the Villa match gives them an opportunity to make a change unless he can prove his team are on the right track.

The former midfielder was part of United's golden age under former manager Alex Ferguson, during which they won multiple major trophies.

The club's fortunes have declined significantly since the Scot retired after the club's last Premier League title-winning season in 2013. — AFP



Manchester United's match against Aston Villa could decide Michael Carrick's future. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Russia claims two golds at 2026 trampoline Worlds

RUSSIA claimed two gold medals at the 2026 Trampoline World Championships here on Friday.

Russia missed the women's tumbling team podium at last year's championships in Spain, but bounced back this time, topping the qualification stage with a lead of more than one point over runner-up Belgium.

Aleksandra Liamina and Arina Kaliandra, competing in the first and third rounds, respectively, both finished first to earn Russia 20 points in the final. The team's new member, Elena Neiman, added eight points in the second round.

Belgium finished second with 22 points, while France came third with 21.

"We waited for this victory for a long time," said Neiman, "I'm so glad that we are here as a team and stand together on top of the podium."

Russia also claimed the men's double mini-trampoline team gold, scoring two eight-point results and one 10-point result. Portugal took home the silver medal while the bronze went to the United States.

"We are a young team that didn't think about medals in the beginning, so it's quite a surprise to us," said Aleksandr Butko of Russia. — Xinhua

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Turkish parliament ratifies Mecca Defence Pact

THE Turkish parliament has ratified the Mecca Defence Pact, an agreement concluded between Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.

"279 lawmakers voted in favour of the bill, 119 voted against it, and there were no abstentions. The bill has been approved," the parliament said on Thursday.

The agreement will enter into force once signed by the Turkish president.

The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed on 7 August 2026, by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye. Under the terms of the document, an armed attack on any of the signatory nations is considered an attack on all three. — SPUTNIK

Global South seeks to break Western grip on media narratives

MEDIA leaders from the Global South called for closer cooperation at the ongoing 7th World Media Summit to challenge Western-dominated narratives that often reduce their countries to conflict, poverty and crises while overlooking achievements and innovations.

In interviews with Xinhua, media executives and experts said the international media landscape remains structurally imbalanced, with major Western media outlets wielding disproportionate influence over news distribution, resources and narratives.

Deeper technological cooperation could help Global South media expand their reach, amplify their own voices and bring a wider range of perspectives to the international discourse, they said. Western media often portray the Global South through a narrow lens of conflict, poverty, and instability while overlooking achievements. — Xinhua

NASA unveils latest experimental aircraft X-70

NASA on Wednesday unveiled its latest experimental aircraft, the X-70 Fractal, to accelerate the development and testing of advanced aviation technologies.

The aircraft was unveiled during a summit at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The crewed X-70 features advanced, rapidly reconfigurable flight-control technology that will allow NASA to explore aircraft maneuverability in ways never before demonstrated in crewed flight, the agency said. The aircraft can also carry up to 907 kilogrammes of experimental payloads in internal and external locations, enabling a wide range of research and flight-testing opportunities, according to NASA. — Xinhua

Trump announces big peace agreement to involve all of Europe

Trilateral talks involving Russia, the United States, and Ukraine are set to take place in Abu Dhabi on 10-11 November.

US President Donald Trump announced the preparation of a large-scale peace agreement that will go beyond the Ukraine conflict and could involve all of Europe.

"There's going to be an agreement. It's going to be a big agreement, and it's going to involve more than Ukraine. It's going to involve more than Ukraine, and I could even say it might involve all of Europe. It's going to be a big, beautiful agreement, and everyone's going to be thrilled," Trump said.



A photograph shows the emblem of the United Arab Emirates on the fence of the Qasr al-Watan presidential palace in Abu Dhabi. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trilateral talks involving Russia, the United States, and Ukraine are set to take place in Abu Dhabi on 10-11 November. According to media reports, the US side will be represented by Jared Kushner and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff. — SPUTNIK

India focused on becoming AI application capital of the world

INDIA is focused on becoming the artificial intelligence (AI) "application capital" of the world, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Speaking to media on the sidelines of the launch of the Semicon 2.0 Web Application Portal, Vaishnaw said the global AI industry is witnessing significant turbulence and rapid changes, with further developments expected as the technology continues to evolve.

"We in India are very focused on making India the application capital of the world," he said, adding that the industry's focus is on leveraging AI models across enterprises and transforming sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and education.

"All those applications, that is where a huge focus of our industry is, and they are progressing very well on this," he added.

Commenting on the launch of the Semicon 2.0 Web Application Portal, Vaishnaw said the platform has been designed to accept only complete applications, ensuring participation from serious players in the semiconductor industry.

"A special focus has been placed on preparing this portal that portals should accept only those applications which are complete in all respect," he said, adding, "The purpose of this is that only the extremely serious players should participate in this."

"There is no place for frivolous applicants," he stressed.

Apart from this, the Minister said the roadmap for developing an indigenous graphics processing unit (GPU) chip "is getting finalized". — ANI



Visitors gather during the Semicon India 2026 Conference and Expo, held from 17 to 19 September 2026, at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE**