

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Thilawa SEZ Captivates Domestic and Overseas Investors

DOMESTIC and foreign investment is returning to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, developed by Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co Ltd (MTSH), according to the company's 13th annual general meeting held on 23 October.

MTSH's partner company MJTD was able to lease 9.64 acres for the long term during the current financial year, ensuring readiness for infrastructure on 67.56 acres. This way, investors can begin construction and investment immediately, MTSH Chairman U Win Aung said. "Interested domestic and foreign factory operators constantly come to discuss with us," he said.

SEE PAGE 7



The Thilawa Special Economic Zone is attracting domestic and foreign investments.

Vice-President Applauds Performing Arts Contestants

Vice-President U Nyo Saw yesterday watched the competitions of contestants at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition, which was held on the fourth day.

Together with Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe and party, the Vice-President enjoyed the presentation of contestants in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' dancing contest at Hsinbyushin Hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre. The Vice-President watched the performances of contestants in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys' xylophone contest at the National Muse-



Vice-President U Nyo Saw and dignitaries watch the marionette contest titled "Suvannasama" at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 yesterday.

um (Nay Pyi Taw) and the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys' solo traditional orchestra contest at the Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the National Library.

In the afternoon, the Vice-President enjoyed the presentation of the marionette troupe representing Yangon Region in the marionette troupe amateur (first class) event

at the drama contest titled "Suvannasama" at the Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism.

The 27th Performing Arts Competition is held in accord with the objectives: to enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people; to preserve na-

tional characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generations; to explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts; and to function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Eyes Bigger Share of China's Coffee Market

EFFORTS are underway to expand the market presence of Myanmar coffee in China as cooperation between the two countries in the coffee industry continues to strengthen, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA).

Myanmar's coffee industry has grown rapidly in recent years and gained increasing recognition in international markets, an MCA official said.

"The association has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with coffee training acad-

emies, coffee associations, and chambers of commerce in China's Yunnan Province. We plan to expand business-to-business (B2B) channels to establish direct links for exporting and selling Myanmar's high-quality Arabica and Robusta coffee in the Chinese market," the official said.

In Myanmar, coffee is primarily cultivated in Shan State and Mandalay Region, with Arabica varieties grown in the highlands and Robusta varieties in the lowlands. The MCA is also working



This photo features coffee cultivation in Myanmar.

to attract Chinese investment in infrastructure development, including value-added processing

plants, coffee-roasting facilities, and supply-chain logistics across the country. — ASH/TH

Indonesia Expo 2026 Unveils Scholarships for Myanmar Students

SEE PAGE 3



Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), a public university attended by international students.



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NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

- (a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people
- (b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation
- (c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts
- (d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

Famous artistes to entertain at Mandalay lighting festival



The Mandalay lighting festival held in the previous year.

LED by the Mandalay Region government, the Thadingyut lighting festival 2026 will be organized on 26 October, Thadingyut Full Moon Day, with a music concert featuring famous singers.

The festival will be celebrated along 26th Street (between 66th and 73rd Streets) in Mandalay, with colourful lighting decorations adorning the street.

At the music concert, local famous singers – May Khalar, L Seng Zi, Melody,

Ye Htut Kyaw, Bo Ma (Kaytumadi), Chit Zwe Thar, Ekari Su San, Khine Zin Lin, Yoon Mi, Naw Htoo and DJ Bella and dancers, as well as the Mahn Sipin band, will entertain the public. In addition, 12 Satuditha booths (food donations) will serve Myanmar snacks along the street.

Mandalay residents are urged to join the lighting festival, which is going to be celebrated along the moat. — TWA/ZS

Gold Market Rate as of 24 October 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,100,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Visa-on-arrival extended for 5 key tourist markets

THE Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has extended the visa-on-arrival facility for tourists from China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Macao Special Administrative Region of China travelling to Myanmar by air for a further year on a trial basis.

The visa-on-arrival facility for tourists from China and India travelling to Myanmar by air has also been extended for the third time for a one-year trial period. The extension will be valid from 30 August 2026 to 29 August 2027.

Similarly, the visa-on-arrival facility for tourists from Japan, the



Chinese tourists seen during a trip.

Republic of Korea and the Macao Special Administrative Region has been extended for the second time for a one-year trial period, from 21 October 2026 to 20 October 2027. — TWA/MKKS

Weather Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 24 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area over the East-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal persists. It is likely to intensify into a Depression during the next 12 hours and move west-northwestwards and intensify into a Deep Depression on 25 October 2026 and may reach over the West Central Bay of Bengal and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm on 26 October 2026. It is likely to continue to reach the West Central Bay of Bengal and Andhra Pradesh coasts on 28 October 2026. Weather is a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 October 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in southern Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Chin and Rakhine states and isolated in the remaining regions and states, with isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine and southern Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Ra-

khine and southern Shan states. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds' movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur, and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The sea will be moderate elsewhere in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthyai Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 October 2026: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — DMH

Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at noon MST on 24 October 2026

ACCORDING to observations at 11:30 am MST today, the low-pressure area over the East-Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal further intensified into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure

Area. It is likely to intensify into a Depression during the next 12 hours and move west-northwestwards and intensify into a Deep Depression on 25 October 2026 and may reach over the West Central Bay of Bengal and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm on 26 October 2026. It is likely to continue to move over the West Central Bay of Bengal — Andhra Pradesh coast on 28 October 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL



A promotional poster for the Indonesia Expo 2026.

Indonesia Expo 2026 Unveils Scholarships for Myanmar Students

FROM PAGE 1
INDONESIA Expo 2026 will introduce opportunities for Myanmar students to access scholarships offered by seven higher education institutions in Indonesia.

The expo will be held at Novotel Yangon Max in Yangon on 30 and 31 October. The seven Indonesian higher education institutions taking part are Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), BINUS University, Sampoerna University, President University, Universitas Widyatama, Institut Teknologi dan Sains Bandung (ITSB) and Universitas Negeri Malang. Sekolah Indonesia Yangon (SIY) and Indonesian International School (IISY), both based in Yangon, will also participate.

At the expo, representatives of the Indonesian higher education institutions will explain their respective academic programmes, admission requirements, languages of instruction, tuition fees, living costs and support services for international students. Particular emphasis will be placed on introducing scholarship opportunities.

A student currently studying at Indonesian International School (IISY) in Yangon received a full

scholarship to study at President University for the current academic year. This is expected to help Myanmar students gain greater access to similar opportunities.

In addition, a programme to introduce educational opportunities through direct meetings between the participating universities and international schools in Yangon will take place on 29 October. Universitas Widyatama and the University of Foreign Languages in Yangon are also planning to sign a cooperation agreement.

Approximately 6,000 international students are studying at universities across Indonesia. Top public universities, including Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and the University of Indonesia (UI), host some of the largest numbers of international students.

More than 1,000 international students are studying at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM). Popular fields of study among international students include cultural and social studies, economics and management, medicine, dentistry, Indonesian language and culture studies (BIPA), and international relations. — ASH/KNN

President's Office Union Minister inspects livestock and regional development activities in Yamethin

UNION Minister U Tin Aung San at the Ministry of the President's Office, who is also chairman of the Leading Committee for Agriculture and Livestock Based Economic Development and the Establishment of Special Development Zones, inspected agricultural, livestock and regional development activities in Yamethin District, Mandalay Region.

Accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Aung Zeya, Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Myo and officials, the Union minister met departmental officials in Yamethin and stressed the need for accurate agricultural and livestock production data, higher crop yields, multiple cropping,

expanded grape cultivation and increased agricultural exports.

He also called for expanding poultry, pig, goat and cattle farming, dairy production and cotton-based industries, while promoting agro-based manufacturing, local food sufficiency and rural employment. He urged officials to prepare for possible drought and high temperatures caused by climate change and El Niño by ensuring adequate water supplies and managing water resources effectively.

The Union minister then inspected a livestock farm in Pyawbwe Township raising 70,000 layers and 103 dairy cattle, and fertilizer production, snack manufacturing and cotton



Union Minister U Tin Aung San observes a vineyard of Daw Nwe Ni Tun in Yamethin, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

ginning businesses. They also examined irrigation facilities, a monsoon paddy seed production demonstration plot, grape plantations, a grape wine production business and cotton farms.

During the visits, the Union minister emphasized improving product quality and production

standards, expanding domestic and export markets, strengthening market links for farmers and ensuring sufficient water for agriculture and livestock farming. He also inspected water storage conditions at Kyinikan Reservoir and visited a cattle farm in Setol village. — MNA/KTZH

Ninth judicial training programme opens for 40 Myanmar judges

A total of 40 trainees from different levels of the judiciary, including directors, deputy directors, assistant directors and staff officers from the Supreme Court of the Union, as well as judges and judicial officers from district and township courts, will attend the Ninth Training and Capacity-Building Programme for Myanmar Judges and Judicial Officers, which will be held from 26 to 30 October at the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

The Myanmar delegates will study topics including the Indian



Myanmar judges and judicial officers are seen at the Yangon International Airport yesterday before departing for India.

Constitution, the Indian judicial system, judicial ethics, judgment writing, court administration, the Evidence Act, forensic science in the investigation of crimes and misdemeanours, the role of the judiciary in protecting the

environment and wildlife, alternative dispute resolution, crime management, cybercrime, artificial intelligence and judicial oversight. The trainees will also have the opportunity to visit courts in Bhopal, the State Museum, the

Tribal Museum, the Boat Club and the Great Stupa.

The training programme has been conducted under the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Office of the Union Chief Justice and the National Judicial Academy of India to develop the professional capacity of Myanmar judges and judicial officers. A total of 360 judges and judicial officers, including those attending this programme, have been sent to participate in training at the National Judicial Academy in India. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Performing Arts Competition
2026 enters Day 4

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

Competitions in singing, dancing, songwriting and playing traditional musical instruments, including the Saung (Myanmar harp), Hsaing Waing (traditional Myanmar orchestra), xylophone, Ozi, Dobat, Donmin, and mandolin, were held across different education levels and age groups. Traditional theatre competitions, including marionette and theatrical drama contests, also showcased Myanmar's cultural heritage and artistic traditions. Contestants captivated Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior military officers, senior officials, departmental staff and families, and enthusiasts.

— MNA/KTZH



The images above depict competitors displaying their artistic talents while helping preserve traditional Myanmar performing arts and cultural heritage.

Indonesia Expo 2026
set for 2 days at Novotel
Yangon Max



This photo captures a press conference of the Indonesia Expo 2026.

THE Indonesia Expo 2026, hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon, will be held over two days at Novotel Yangon Max on 30 and 31 October, according to a press conference held by the embassy on 22 October.

A total of 39 groups, including Indonesian companies, educational institutions and associations, will exhibit at the event, along with 19 Myanmar companies known as Friends of Indonesia.

The Indonesia Expo 2026 aims to showcase Indonesian products, promote trade and strengthen economic ties between Indonesia and Myanmar. It will introduce Indonesian products, services and business capabilities to the Myanmar market, while creating opportunities for businesspeople from both countries to meet and exchange ideas.

The Indonesia Expo 2026 will feature exhibitions in various fields, including aviation, banking, education services, traditional textiles and clothing, energy, fertilizers and consumer goods. The exhibitions will also showcase products and services from industries such as pharmaceuticals and medical devices. In addition, the education sector will introduce opportunities for Myanmar students to study in Indonesia, including scholarship opportunities.

— ASH/MKKS

Temporary Water Outage Alert in Certain Townships of Yangon

THE Yangon City Development Committee has announced a temporary water outage in some townships of the Yangon Region due to planned water pipeline repairs. The maintenance will take place from 9 am on 27 October until 6 am on 28 October.

A leak has been identified in a 1200 mmø HDPE pipe located on Tabinshwehti Street beside No 3 Highway in Mingaladon Township, necessitating these maintenance works. During the maintenance period, residents in Mingaladon, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, and Thingangyun townships may experience low water pressure.

Meanwhile, Thakayta, Dawbon, and Tamway townships will experience both water outages and low water pressure. Residents are urged to store water in advance. The YCDC apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Currently, the Ngamoeyeik Water Treatment Plant (Nyaunghnapin) supplies water daily to Mingaladon, Insein, Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya (industrial zone), South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Thingangyun, and Tamway townships. — TWA/ZS



The Ngamoeyeik Water Treatment Plant (Nyaunghnapin).

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NATIONAL

130th Intake cadets of OTS (Bahtoo) explore Nay Pyi Taw

CADETS of 130th Intake of the Army Officer Training School (Bahtoo), accompanied by their supervisors and instructors, visited prominent sites in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 23 to 24 October to learn about the Tatmadaw's history and traditions, honour heroic figures, explore the country's cultural heritage and gain regional knowledge.

On 23 October, the cadets paid homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda and donated money. They also visited the White Elephant shed and fed the precious white elephants. They then paid tribute at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw), which commemorates heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country, before visiting the



Cadets of 130th Intake of the Army Officer Training School (Bahtoo) are seen at the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday.

Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium.

The cadets subsequently visited the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), where they observed military uniforms, equipment and exhibits documenting the history of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, from the Burma Independence Army to the present day. They also

viewed displays representing the Army, Navy and Air Force, and exhibits from various military corps and directorates. Officials answered their questions and provided explanations.

On 24 October, the cadets paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Town-

ship, which is described as the world's tallest sitting marble Buddha image. Buddha image trustees and officials explained its history and answered the cadets' questions. The cadets also made donations. They continued their visit to the magnificent Agga- dhipati Sasana Beikman, stone-inscription pagodas, Sudhamma rest houses, the Mucalinda Lake and other religious structures. The cadets, accompanied by their supervisors and guardians, also visited the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and paid homage to the Sattasattaha Mahabodhi Bodh Gaya (Nay Pyi Taw), and the four key sites of Buddha (Buddha's birth, enlightenment, preaching and death). — 100/KTZH

Laymyethna rehabilitation and development task underway

REHABILITATION and regional development work in flood-hit Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, is being carried out under the management of the regional government.

As rehabilitation and development work continues in Laymyethna Township, the Ayeyawady Region Government yesterday provided offering baskets, dried noodles, solar lights, rice and canned fish to the Charity Sayadaw on behalf of the Chief Minister. Sayadaws and residents from Dedaye Township donated cash to support the rehabilitation of households



Officials provide diesel to farmers in Laymyethna. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

affected by flooding in Laymyethna Township.

Officials are assisting residents in returning to Yephyu Village in Chingon Village-tract, Laymyethna

Township. Farmers in Laymyethna Township who replant winter crops, such as winter beans and peas, on farmland damaged by the 2026 monsoon floods

will receive eight viss of winter beans per acre. The State will also provide 2.5 gallons of diesel per acre to farmers in Aingthabyu and Letkarein village-tracts to enable them to resume growing winter beans, green beans and peas on flooded farmland in Laymyethna Township.

The assistance will be provided at the Htun Thit Sa fuel filling station in Aingthabyu Village-tract. Diesel will be supplied to the remaining village tracts in due course, depending on the availability of the allocated fuel quota. — Township IPRD/MKKS

Tatmadaw friendship football team returns from India



A friendly match between Myanmar and Indian Tatmadaws in action.

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw friendship football team, led by Maj-Gen Thein Naing of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), returned to Myanmar yesterday evening after competing in a friendly football tournament in India aimed at strengthening friendship and ties between the Indian and Myanmar armed forces.

Lt-Gen Pyae Sone Lin of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials welcomed back the team at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

The 30-member delegation, comprising officials, coaches and players, played two matches against Indian armed forces football teams on 21 and 23 October.

During their visit to India, the team also visited Iskcon Temple, Nandroling Monastery, Mysore Palace and other prominent sites in Bengaluru. — MNA/KZL

Highway Drivers Urged to Obey Traffic Rules During Thadingyut



Vehicles are seen alongside the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

THE Expressway Maintenance and Supervisory Body has issued a notice advising vehicles travelling on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway during the traditional Myanmar Thadingyut festival holidays to strictly follow traffic rules and drive with special caution.

As a high volume of travellers is expected to use the expressway during the Thadingyut public holidays from 24 to 27 October, drivers are required to systematically comply with established regulations.

To ensure that travelling citizens reach their destinations safely and smoothly, the Expressway Maintenance and Supervisory Body has additionally requested drivers to exercise extra caution while driving and to strictly adhere to stipulated traffic rules and road regulations. — TWA/ZS

EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.7 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about nine miles north-northwest of Lahe), latitude 26.45°N, longitude 95.39°E, with a depth of 95 kilometres (about 145 miles) miles northwest of the Myitkyina Seismological Observatory, was recorded at 23 hours, 36 minutes, and 16 seconds MST on 23 October 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL

Weekly
Roundup

18 October
VP inspects development projects in Myeik, Dawei

Vice-President U Nyo Saw inspected work processes of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, including the production of import-substitute canned fish of Myanmar Makro Industry Company Limited, the operation of the 100-tonne OK Yadana advanced rice mill and the milling of rice.

19 October
VP calls for regional development and agricultural growth

Vice-President U Nyo Saw met officials from the Kayin and Mon state governments and inspected industrial, agricultural and youth development facilities during his visits to Hpa-an and Mawlamyine. VP overviews preparations for Performing Arts Competition

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, who serves as Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026, inspected preparations to successfully hold the competition in Nay Pyi Taw. Ordinances, Martial Law Order issued

The President's Office issued Ordinance 7/2026 on validity of ordinance that shall remain in force for the remaining townships for a further 90 days from today, with the exception of Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region, Kyaukme and Hsipaw townships in Shan State.

The President's Office also issued Ordinance 8/2026, stating that the martial law order was issued and the executive and judicial power for these town-

ships was entrusted to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. This ordinance remains in force for 90 days from today.

Martial law order issued

Martial Law Order 5/2026, saying that the martial law order 4/2026 issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on 7th Waxing of the Second Waso of 1388 ME (21 July 2026) remains in effect, except in Ngazun Township of Mandalay Region and Kyaukme and Hsipaw townships of Shan State.

20 October
President receives Thai Minister of Energy

A delegation led by Minister of Energy Mr Akanat Promphan of Thailand paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall.

VP oversees regional development projects in Yangon

Vice-President U Nyo Saw reviewed plans to carry out development projects at Botahtaung Port of Yangon Region.

Amended Pyithu Hluttaw Law enacted

The Seventh Amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law was enacted on 19 October as the 2026 Pyithu Hluttaw Law No 6.

King Charles III sends two books, sealed envelope and diplomatic pouch to prisoner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs handed over two books along with one sealed envelope and a sealed diplomatic pouch sent by King Charles III of the United Kingdom to prisoner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday morning. The books were The Land Gardeners – Soil to Table and SOIL : The World at Our Feet.

21 October
Nippon Foundation Honorary Chair calls on the President

Honorary Chair Mr Yohei Sasakawa of the

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

22 October
Tradition inspires bold new creations

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to launch the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

23 October
Farmers, producers and exporters of Myanmar Pawsan rice honoured

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

President meets UDNR students

President U Min Aung Hlaing met students from the eighth intake of the five-year BEd Course at the University for the Development of the National Races.

MoFA issues press release

From 2:30 to 2:50 pm on 22 October 2026, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was permitted to communicate by telephone with her son, Mr Kim Aris (aka) Ko Htein Linn, through the Embassy of Myanmar in London. The communication was facilitated on humanitarian grounds, in line with the standards and procedures of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and as a special measure exercised under the powers vested in the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. — GNLM/TTA

Shwe Kokko Phase II scam compounds flattened

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

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe

Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to dismantle key structures. The demolition of one five-storey building is 85 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building is 45 per cent complete.

Of the 63 structures targeted for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, the authorities have determined the demolition

methods according to building type and surrounding conditions. Of these, 25 buildings are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four through controlled implosion and 34 by manual, floor-by-floor dismantling because of their proximity to residential properties. So far, all four buildings are designated for controlled implosion and two buildings

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

Recognizing online fraud and online gambling as serious threats to global socioeconomic stability and national security, the Government remains committed to cracking down on these activities in close coordination with



Systematic demolition of a scam-related five-storey building.

neighbouring and regional countries to eradicate them once and for all. — 100/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar avocados to target intl markets through improved varieties

MYANMAR will combine local avocado varieties with high-quality imported varieties to improve fruit quality and expand exports, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun said at the Myanmar Avocado and Fruit Festival 2026, held at Myay Padetha Island (Pearl Island) in Bahan Township on 24 October.

“There are also opportunities to export high-quality fruits grown in cool climates, such as strawberries, to international markets. I encourage



Venders arrange Myanmar avocados for sale.

growers, producers and traders to work together, address their mutual needs through close cooperation, and jointly

promote the development of this industry,” said the deputy minister. Myanmar-grown avocados are known for

their quality and nutritional value, with growing domestic consumption and potential in international markets. The festival also provides business-matching opportunities to connect farmers, producers, traders and exporters. While avocado grown from seeds previously took seven to 12 years to bear fruit, grafting techniques have shortened the period to around three years for commercial harvesting. The festival will be held until 26 October. — Bala/KTZH

MDY to host Power, Machinery and Auto Parts Expo in Jan 2027

THE fifth edition of Mandalay Power, Machinery, Auto and Spare Parts 2027 will be from 9 am to 5 pm between 22 and 24 January 2027 at the Mandalay Convention Centre in Mandalay.

lay, organized by Silver Sea Event Management. The expo will showcase and sell solar batteries and inverters, generators, various manufacturing machines, rice

and oil mills, vehicles and spare parts, bringing together machinery owners and businesspeople from upper Myanmar. Major companies are invited in advance to participate in the exhibition.

Interested individuals can enquire for further details through Silver Sea International Ltd via 09 409400055, 09 409400066 or 09 409400077. — NN/KK

Tenders open for Homalin’s Nam Panga Hydropower Project materials

THE Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy seeks an open tender for materials needed for the Nam Pin small hydropower project in Homalin Township, according to Construction Task Force

2 of the department. That project is being carried out with funding from the Sagaing Region government in Homalin district, Sagaing Region. The tender covers the production and delivery of 61,568 cubic metres of CVC concrete, valued at

more than K200 million, for the project (Lot 12). Tender forms will be sold by 4 pm on 4 November. Tender applications will be accepted until 4 pm on 5 November. Tender forms and detailed information can be obtained from the office

of the Assistant Director (Civil) 3 in Mandalay. Individuals can enquire for further details of the tender by dialling 09 428479420 or 09 968110751, according to the tender committee in Monywa, Sagaing Region. — NN/KK

MTE to sell teak, hardwood logs, sawn timbers

THE Export Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) will auction off about 300 tonnes of teak logs from Yangon, about 616 tonnes of hardwood logs from regional areas, over 330 tonnes of teak sawn timber from the Forest-Based Industry Depart-

ment and the Department of Forest. The sale will take place at 9 am on 5 November at the Tawwin Hall of Myanmar Timber Enterprise headquarters in Kyogon, Insein Township, Yangon. Any change to the tender date will be announced, according to the enterprise.

MSMEs are invited to purchase the raw materials in competitive bidding. Details on the open tender are available at Myanmar Timber Enterprise headquarters and on its website, www.mte.gov.mm, or by dialling 01 287430, 01 528771 or 01 528764. — NN/KK

Thilawa SEZ Captivates Domestic and Overseas Investors

FROM PAGE 1

MTSH is working to develop the manufacturing and logistics sectors, which play a pivotal role in the country’s sustained economic development. In financial year 2025-26, MTSH earned net profit of K11.4 billion, with the net profit margin rising to 106 per cent from 66 per cent recorded in the previous FY, according to the report. “Amid economic changes, the business achieved revenue growth, and the board of directors decided to distribute a dividend of K150 per share for FY 2025-26. The company has also been able to pro-

ly maintain its strong financial position and its image as a company that regularly pays dividends on the Yangon Stock Exchange,” CEO U Myint Zaw said. The company group will prioritize expanding renewable energy production, managing assets for optimal use, improving regular income-generating capacity, and identifying new infrastructure and development opportunities that deliver long-term benefits. At present, 104 domestic and foreign companies operate at least 24 types of businesses within the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. — TWA/KK

Thadingyut MSMEs Fair stages 600+ booths at Yangon’s People’s Square



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials view around the booths at the Thadingyut MSME Fair in Yangon.

A total of 628 booths are available for sale at the Thadingyut MSME Fair, which opened at Yangon’s People’s Square on the morning of 24 October, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu said at the opening ceremony of the Yangon Thadingyut MSME Fair and Music Concert.

The fair features 628 stalls, including those operated by industrial zones and MSME entrepreneurs in Yangon Region, as well as exhibitors from Bago

Region, Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, Shan State, Kayah State and Rakhine State. This year’s fair showcases MSME products, improved packaging, machinery, modern packaging technologies and packaging materials. The fair will run from 24 to 27 October. A special programme for Thadingyut full moon day will include a hot-air balloon launch and a fireworks display. — Bala/MKKS

Encouraging cultivation and production of cotton

MYANMAR'S cotton can contribute to improving the country's socioeconomic conditions and serve as a resource for meeting citizens' clothing needs. Among the three basic necessities of human life, clothing is the second most important after food. Therefore, cotton cultivation should be expanded, and yields increased, with greater emphasis placed on developing this agricultural sector to ensure self-sufficiency in domestic cotton consumption and generate foreign exchange earnings through exports.

In Myanmar, cotton cultivation covered more than 800,000 acres in the 2011-2012 financial year, but the cultivated area declined year by year. Efforts were made in subsequent years to promote cotton cultivation. During the 2021-2022 cotton-growing season, the average yield of cotton was 436 viss per acre across over 330,000 acres. In 2025-2026, cotton cultivation covered over 540,000 acres, with an average yield of 499.2 viss per acre. Such cotton production substantially exceeds domestic demand.

To achieve high yields and superior-quality cotton, it is essential to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). For pest and disease prevention and control, modern techniques such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and crop rotation should be adopted rather than relying excessively on chemical pesticides alone. To ensure the systematic implementation of these practices, agricultural experts must continuously conduct research, studies and evaluations, while consistently transferring technical knowledge to farmers to raise their awareness.

seeds to meet farmers' needs.

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In the era of traditional agriculture, success was measured primarily by "quantity" – how much the cultivated area had expanded and how much yield had been achieved. However, in today's increasingly competitive global market, quantity alone is no longer sufficient to remain competitive. The time has come for the cotton-growing sector to make a necessary transition from quantity to quality.

At current global market prices, cotton is valued at between US\$1,800 and US\$1,900 per tonne. If Myanmar can achieve its targeted cotton yield of 700 viss per acre, sales of surplus cotton could generate approximately US\$500 million in additional revenue. As cotton cultivation is a beneficial sector for the country, the relevant ministries as well as cotton farmers should make concerted efforts to achieve the targeted yield per acre.

At present, Myanmar still imports a large proportion of the cotton yarn, fabrics and textiles required for domestic consumption, spending substantial amounts of foreign currency each year. Therefore, farmers should cultivate long-staple cotton varieties that offer high yields, are resistant to diseases and are suitable for local climatic conditions, such as Ngwe Chi and Shwe Taung varieties. In addition, efforts must be made to ensure the timely distribution of high-quality, pure cotton



Book Title	-	A Precious Moment for Oneself
Translator	-	Team Nyana
Publishing House	-	Pann Satt Lann
Publication Date	-	September 2026 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K10,000

A Precious Moment for Oneself

“YOU can approach this book creatively and use it as you see fit. Choose the way that works best for you. Will you read one chapter a week consistently for an entire year? Will you gather friends every week to discuss the chapters? Will you glance through the contents and carefully pick only the topics that resonate with you? Will you read it cover to cover in one sitting, and then take time to revisit the sections most beneficial to you? Or will you simply pick it up, flip to a random page, and read whatever chapter falls open? Whichever way you read it, it is guaranteed to bring you immense benefit.” With this promise, we introduce a notable new title to readers.

Falling into the categories of mindfulness, personal devel-

opment, and stress reduction, the book is a Myanmar translation of A Moment for Me: 52 Simple Mindfulness Practices to Slow Down, Relieve Stress, and Nourish the Spirit by Catherine Polan Orzech. Translated by Team Nyana, it has been published under the title A Precious Moment for Oneself.

The book serves as a practical handbook for anyone who feels that mindfulness and meditation have become just another chore on their to-do list. Drawing on more than twenty years of mindfulness teaching experience, author Catherine Polan Orzech curates 52 simple, accessible practices. These can be integrated once a week throughout the year or practised individually whenever needed. The central message

is clear: mindfulness does not require profound religious awakening or esoteric enlightenment; rather, it can be discovered in the modest moments of daily life.

Author Catherine Polan Orzech, MA, LMFT, is a licensed marriage and family therapist with over two decades of experience in teaching mindfulness. She is a certified teacher of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC). Currently holding academic appointments in the departments of psychiatry and obstetrics and gynaecology at Oregon Health & Science University, she actively participates in clinical research on mindfulness and women's health.

The translation collective,

Team Nyana, is well known among Myanmar readers for translating titles such as The Charisma Myth, Fascinate, and Power. Their translation style is distinguished by its fluid prose, preserving the original author's intent while ensuring effortless readability for a Myanmar audience.

“This book will prove immensely beneficial to those who have never meditated before, those unfamiliar with the deeper nuances of mindfulness, or those with a passing familiarity seeking a more profound understanding. If you are already an experienced practitioner who has meditated for years, it will support your ongoing practice and deepen your insights. The exercises within will undeniably foster a harmonious relationship between your heart and your daily life,” the book notes.

Readers are encouraged to approach the work by reading, pausing to reflect, and engaging directly with the exercises. Through this steady rhythm, qualities of mindful enquiry, radical acceptance, patience, and compassion can infuse heart, mind, and spirit. It is an invitation to navigate life's journey anchored in serenity and genuine joy.



Book Title	-	Women Who Have Forgotten Themselves
Translator	-	Nora
Publishing House	-	Sar Yeik Myaing Sarpay
Publication Date	-	September 2026 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K13,000

Women Who Have Forgotten Themselves

“YOU don't have to be a woman who is always okay. You will lose yourself while understanding others so that they can be comfortable, swallowing your own words so you don't end up refusing, satisfying the needs of other people until you no longer even know what you want yourself. One day, you tend to reach the point where you say, 'I'm truly exhausted.'”

The author introduces the book to readers, stating that “this book is not a book that will teach you to be more patient. It is a book that will help you understand why you are the only one bearing everything alone. It's time to choose yourself, to recognize that your own needs matter, to dare to say 'I can't,' 'I don't want to,' 'No,' to stop sacrificing your life for the sake of

others' satisfaction, as you were not born to carry the weight of other people's expectations”.

Nora named this book under the title of “Women Who Have Forgotten Themselves”, by translating the original work The Emotionally Exhausted Woman: Why You're Feeling Depleted and How to Get What You Need by Nancy Collier.

Nancy Collier is a recognized psychotherapist, interfaith minister, and mindfulness teacher. She has studied Eastern spiritual thought for many years and has written books such as Can't Stop Thinking and The Power of Off. Her writing style combines genuine kindness with clarity and deep insight to help relieve the emotional burdens of women.

The translator, Nora, stud-

ied English at the University of Foreign Languages. Holding a BA (English), Diploma in English, MA (English), Diploma in Accounting (LCCI, UK), Diploma in TESOL (London Teacher Training College, UK), Certificate in TKT (Cambridge), and Certificate in TEFL. She also attended a postgraduate diploma course in creative writing and editing at Yangon University. She has translated books since March 2020, working on What I Know for Sure (Oprah Winfrey), The Silent Patient (Alex Michaelides), The Guest Cat (Takashi Hiraide), My Brilliant Life (Ae-ran Kim), The Dark Side (Danielle Steel), and Without A Mother's Love (Amanda) between 2021 and 2026.

This book is intended to explore and reveal the deep-rooted

causes of the emotional exhaustion that modern women experience daily. Since this book describes a psychotherapist's many years of practical experience, it is especially suitable for those who are constantly exhausted, women struggling with both work and family, those who don't allow themselves to rest, those who find it hard to be a “good girl,” those who fear displeasing others and frequently suppress their own needs, those who want to reconsider the meaning of self-care, those who feel that spa treatments and beauty care don't truly help them, those interested in emotional growth, and those who want to understand women's circumstances from a structural perspective.

Guardians of Myanmar's Winter Beauty

By Min Min Zan

Myanmar's winter, cool and bright,
With misty dawns and stars at night,
The golden fields, the mountains fair,
A precious beauty beyond compare.

Super El Niño may bring the heat,
And make our winter less complete.
With wiser choices, watchful eyes,
We'll guard our land beneath the skies.

Save every drop, let forests grow,
Use water wisely, let kindness flow.
With knowledge, care, and actions wise,
We'll keep our winter paradise.



My Character of Neglect
ငိုဝါသနာ ဥပေက္ခာ

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Dear friend,

If and when
Where you can see well
I am in a place again...

As always, with Osi dance,
Or as usual, with Dopat dance,
I will even be able to dance.

Now, friend...
Where you can hear well
Since I am only in a place...

Which I can sing, the elegy finding
Or which I can sing, the dirge searching
I can only sing _
Whoever comes to me,
Whatever he sniggers at my hobby,
Now I just neglect it, friend.

သူငယ်ချင်း...

အကယ်၍သား
မင်းမြင်သာသည့်
နေရာတခုမှာ ငါရှိပါလျှင်...

ငါကနေကျ၊ ဆိုးစည်ကနှင့်
ငါကနေကျ၊ နိုးပတ်ကနှင့်
အကကိုပါ၊ ကနိုင်မှာတည်း။

ခုတော့ သူငယ်ချင်း...
မင်းကြားသာသည့်
နေရာ၌သာ၊ ငါရှိပါ၍...

ငါဆိုတတ်ရာ၊ တမ်းချင်းရှာ၍
ငါဆိုတတ်ရာ၊ လွမ်းချင်းရှာ၍
ငါသိချင်းသာ၊ ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်
ငိုဝါသနာ၊ အယ်သူလာ၍
ဘာပဲ ငြေငြေ၊
ခုတော့ ဥပေက္ခာပဲ သူငယ်ချင်း။
တက္ကသိုလ်မင်းမော်

Time of Sunset

By Maung Swan Yi, Translated by Myint Zan

when the sun first arises
it is misty
when the sun sets
'tis twilight time
twixt the two
there are similarities:
the heat isn't intense
the sun is not high
but one's traversing to the day
the other towards the night:
very different directions indeed

one person who gets up very late thinks and
enthuses that
the setting of the sun
to be the time when the dawn arrives:
such delusions -
meanwhile the sun sets:
all the environs are darkened

နေဝင်ချိန်

နေဝန်းပေါ်စ၊ မှုန်ပျူနှင့်
နေဝင်စချိန်၊ မှိုင်းမှိုန်မှိုန်သည်
ပူရှိန်မပြင်း၊ နေမင်းမမြင့်
တူကာဖြင့်တည့်၊ 'နေ့' နှင့် 'ည' ဆီ
ရှေးရှုသည်မှီ
ဦးတည်ချက်ချင်း ခြားလှ၏။

ဆည်းဆာရောင်မှိုန်၊ နေဝင်ချိန်ကို
ရောင်မှိုန်တက်စ၊ အရှုတံထဟု
နောက်ကျနိုးသူ၊ တဦးလူက
တွေးယူမှားလျက်၊ စိတ်အားတက်စဉ်
နေလုံးဝင်၍
ဝန်းကျင်မှောင်ကျွန်းလေပြီ။ ။

မောင်စွမ်းရည်

Composed on 2 February 1963, Translated on 24 October 2026

NATIONAL

Entertainment

27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 continues

THE central level of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 was held at the designated sites in Nay Pyi Taw starting on 22 October. U Nay Min Tun, Chairman of the Yangon Region Competition Organizing Committee, visited the Myanmar International Convention Centre to watch Yangon Region

contestants who competed in the modern singing categories for female contestants aged 15-20 and 10-15 under the basic education level. He also watched Yangon Region contestants competed in the basic education men's Hsaing Waing ensemble category at the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw. Later, he visited No 3 Transit Centre



to observe preparations by Yangon Region's traditional free-verse poetry contestants and provided necessary guidance. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Innocent Colours Artwork set for 13 Oct-4 Nov



THE “Innocent Colours Artwork” group art exhibition will be held at GoodMood Gallery in Pabedan Township, Yangon, from 13 October to 4 November, according to artist Ei Shwe Win, one of the participating artists. The exhibition will feature diverse paintings in watercolour, oil, acrylic and other styles, covering a wide range of subjects. The partic-

ipating artists are Moe Myint, Soe Naing Soe, Khin Khin Hwe, U Saw, Nay O Thiri, May Thuwun, Thet Hnin Khine, Thin Su Su Nyein, Ei Shwe Win, Khine Shwe War Lwin, Khine Mar Cho and Amara. “The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 5 pm. We warmly invite everyone to come and enjoy the artworks,” artist Ei Shwe Win said. — ASH/KTZH

Theatrical troupe to perform at Traditional Myanmar Fun Fair

AS a special feature of Myanmar's Traditional Fun Fair, the traditional theatrical troupe led by young male dancer San Yay Moe will perform from 2 pm to 6 pm on 6 November. In addition to the performance, visitors will be able to relive the atmosphere of traditional

markets from their childhood, enjoy and purchase traditional Myanmar foods, and shop for local products and traditional handicrafts from various regions in one place. The three-day Myanmar Traditional Fun Fair will begin on 6 November at the Yangon Convention

Centre (YCC), Inya Lake Hotel. Project K will perform on 7 November, followed by ethnic traditional dances and discussion sessions on 8 November. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Rock in Mandalay music concert ready for music lovers

THE highly anticipated Rock in Mandalay concert, awaited by young people and music lovers, will be held in Mandalay. PuMA Energy Drink is proudly supporting the event as the Proud Sponsor and Exclusive Energy Drink Partner. The concert will feature popular artistes and bands, including Lay Phyu

with Rock Star band, Wanted, Reason, Wai La with Mercury IX, Eternal Gosh, Velocity Double Tape, 3:16 and Industry One, promising exciting performances for music fans. The concert will take place on 30 October 2026 at the outdoor area of Mandalay Hill Resort, formerly the Novotel Hotel. — TWA/KTZH

Fashion shows remain designer Shattr's priority

MYANMAR fashion designer Shattr said he enjoys creating designs that follow current trends and prefers to focus on his passion rather than compete with others. “I like seeing people look beautiful in the outfits I design for them, as well as when I dress myself, so I create designs

that follow trends. I don't compete with anyone; I just do what I love and enjoy myself. Among Myanmar designers, I'm the one who holds the most fashion shows. Rather than doing photo shoots like others, I prefer seeing models bring my designs to life on stage. I especially love seeing

my outfits look stunning on the runway,” Shattr said. He is known for frequently organizing fashion shows and prefers the lively movement of models showcasing his designs on the runway over conventional fashion photography. — TWA/KTZH



2 more awards for supporting actors called for

ACADEMY Aung Khine has called for two additional Myanmar Academy Awards for supporting actors, saying they have long been overlooked in the Myanmar film industry. He made the remarks in connection with 'Hlwa Hlat Lwint Wa', an upcoming film from Alpha Picture Hub.



“Supporting actors have been losing their place in the industry for a long time. I'm grateful that this film allows genuine supporting actors to shine. Although some of us have already received awards, there are many excellent supporting actors who have missed out on Academy Awards. I hope they will be given proper consideration. If two more awards were added, I would be happier than words can express,” he said. His comments recognized the film's focus on supporting actors and highlighted the need to give greater recognition to talented performers who play important roles behind the leading stars. — TWA/KTZH

Actors praise actress for reaching new acting heights

ACTOR Nyi Htut Khaung praised Ma Joe's acting, saying her performance had reached a new level after they worked together on the film 'Thike Kyo'. He also referred to actress Thazin Nwe Win.



“After Ma Joe, I got to work with her in 'Thike Kyo'. In the scenes we shared, Ma Joe's acting had reached the next level. She can handle a variety of characters and always tries her best, no matter what role she gets. And there's also Thazin Nwe Win, who had been out of the spotlight. That's what matters,” Nyi Htut Khaung said. Actor Htoo Aung also expressed his support for Ma Joe's artistic journey and said they would work together to deliver their best performances in the film 'Atta Ahmaung'. “Now, with everyone's love and support, Ma Joe is steadily moving forward and rising to a new level. As she continues to progress, those of us who are ahead of her will join hands with her to bring 'Atta Ahmaung' to life in the best possible way,” Htoo Aung said. — TWA/KTZH

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina seeks Malvinas sovereignty via diplomacy

ARGENTINE President Javier Milei reaffirmed Wednesday that his country would seek to recover sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, known in Britain as the Falkland Islands, through diplomatic means.

Speaking at an event in Madrid, Milei said he did not believe war could resolve the dispute.

He also said foreign companies extracting natural resources on the islands or in disputed waters would be barred from operating in the Vaca Muerta oil field in Argentina's Neuquen Province. — Xinhua

KDDI denies wrongdoing in Mongolia wildfire

JAPANESE telecom company KDDI Corp denied on Friday that employees of its group firm were violating any laws or regulations when they inadvertently caused a large-scale wildfire in the Mongolian steppes earlier this month.

The visit by seven Mobicom Corp employees, including one Japanese national, was part of legitimate work at the request of local authorities, KDDI said, dismissing speculation on social media that it had been for recreational purposes.

According to KDDI, the group was permitted to enter the Numrug nature reserve in eastern Mongolia from 6 to 8 October to attend a ceremony for the opening of a network built by Mobicom and check the quality of the work. — Kyodo

Slovakia opens polling stations for local, regional elections

POLLING stations opened at 7 am (0500 GMT) on Saturday in Slovakia for local and regional elections, with voters set to elect representatives to municipal and regional council bodies for four-year terms.

Voting will continue until 8 pm (1800 GMT), with 6,029 polling stations established across 2,926 municipalities, towns, cities and city districts. Nearly 4.41 million people are eligible to cast ballots.

Voters are electing mayors, members of municipal and city councils, governors of self-govern-

ing regions and regional councillors. In the capital Bratislava and the eastern city of Kosice, voters are also choosing district mayors and members of district councils.

Voting is restricted to polling stations in voters' places of permanent residence. Both Slovak citizens aged 18 and above and eligible foreign nationals may vote. Slovak voters must present a valid identity card, while foreign nationals are required to show an identity card indicating a long-term residence permit. — Xinhua

Top DPRK leader attends 1st meeting of entire army since 9th WPK congress

The gathering focused on building the strongest combat ranks and units.

KIM Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), attended the third meeting of company leaders of the Korean People's Army running from Thursday to Friday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Saturday.

The meeting marked the first gathering of the entire army after the historic Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), said the report. The meeting was arranged to mobilize all the company leaders of the entire army to turn all the companies into "elite combat ranks" and "all-mission units capable of fulfilling any com-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected major munitions factories and wheeled missile/rocket launchers from 16 to 18 September 2026, as reported by state media. **PHOTO: KCNA/SPUTNIK**

bat duty independently", while consistently regarding it as the starting point in strengthening the entire army, it said.

Addressing the gath-

ering, Kim, general secretary of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, stressed that the main spirit of the meeting is to "build the

strongest army and accelerate the Korean-style military revolution by training the strongest companies", said the report. — Xinhua

Qatar, US discuss regional de-escalation, freedom of navigation in Hormuz Strait

QATARI Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed the latest regional developments and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions on Thursday during a phone call, according to statements from both countries.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and their close strategic partnership, as well as ways to strengthen ties and enhance regional security and stability through continued diplomatic efforts and



The Indian vessel 'Nanda Devi' carrying liquefied petroleum gas docked in Gujarat on 17 March after Iran allowed it to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

joint coordination.

During the call, the Qatari minister reaffirmed Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and initiatives aimed at reaching a solution that

guarantees freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement to achieve lasting peace in the region.

In a separate state-

ment, the US State Department said Rubio reaffirmed Washington's commitment to Qatar's security and freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz on 28 February, barring safe passage of vessels belonging to or affiliated with Israel and the United States following their joint strikes on Iranian territory.

US officials, including President Donald Trump, have claimed that the waterway is open and under the US forces' control, and oil is being transported through it. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Trump modifies scope of 50% tariffs on Canadian products

Several specific product categories are removed while other items are added.

US President Donald Trump on Friday signed a proclamation modifying the scope of 50-per-cent additional tariffs on certain Canadian products, removing some goods from the tariff list and adding others, with the changes set to take effect on 30 October.

According to the proclamation posted on the White House website, products including plywood sheets, some paper products, certain machinery and refrigeration equipment, and certain packing crates and boxes imported into the United States from Canada will no longer be subject to the additional 50-per-cent ad valorem duty.

Instead, certain valves, carpets, waste products and other items imported into the United



The image shows a transport truck crossing the Peace Bridge from Buffalo, New York, into Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, with US and Canadian flags visible in the background. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

States shall be subject to the additional 50-per-cent ad valorem duty.

The changes will apply to goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouses for consumption, on or after 30 October, according to the proclamation.

“The modification in this proclamation will offset the burden or disadvantage on US commerce, is consistent with the public interests and the interests of the United States, is required by the public interests, and will better

serve the public interest,” the proclamation states. It describes the duties as a response to what it calls Canada’s “discrimination or unreasonable and unequal imposition” on US auto and auto parts exports. — Xinhua

India-EU FTA may become operational in next 4-5 months

UNION Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday expressed confidence that the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would move rapidly towards signing and could become operational within the next four to five months, urging Indian and German businesses to begin preparations to maximise its benefits.

Addressing an India-Germany business roundtable here, Goyal said companies should start identifying potential customers and collaborators, exchanging



The elimination of import duties makes European luxury goods, fast fashion, and premium apparel highly price-competitive for India’s rapidly expanding affluent demographic. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/ FILE**

product samples and quality requirements, and discussing pricing rather than wait for the

agreement to come into force. “This is the time we need to see business-

es start probably doing sampling, exchanging notes of quality required, exchanging pricing, get everything in order so that when the trade agreement comes into effect, we be the first off the block, get the maximum advantage of this agreement,” he said.

The minister said the agreement, finalised earlier this year, would move towards signing quickly, expressing confidence that it could be signed before the end of the calendar year, subject to the requisite procedures. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia cuts gas exports to Singapore

INDONESIA cut exports of natural gas to Singapore on Saturday to prioritize domestic demand, an official said, with the two countries at loggerheads over regional air pollution emanating from wildfires on the vast archipelago.

The head of SKK Migas, a state agency supervising the oil and gas sector, told AFP Indonesia would cut a total of 31 million standard cubic feet per day from its supply to Singapore.

Fifteen million standard cubic feet per day was being cut from Natuna in Indonesia’s Riau island, and 16 million from Sumatra, SKK Migas chief Djoko Siswanto said in a statement. — AFP

Argentine judge dismisses president crypto case

A federal judge on Friday dismissed a criminal case against Argentine President Javier Milei and his sister in which they were accused of promoting a suspected cryptocurrency scam that resulted in at least \$100 million in losses for investors.

“The reported events do not constitute a criminal offense,” Judge Marcelo Martinez de Giorgi said in a ruling reviewed by AFP.

Milei had hailed the \$LIBRA meme coin in a social media post in February 2025, saying: “The world wants to invest in Argentina. \$LIBRA.” — AFP

Japan PM reviews fuel subsidy programme



The temporary price relief measure may face reduction or complete removal. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Friday instructed industry minister Ryosei Akazawa to review gasoline subsidies, a government source said, after suggesting that the scale of the assistance could be reduced.

Earlier Friday, Takaichi said she would issue the instructions, noting that subsidies for gasoline and other fuels were introduced as a “temporary

measure” to curb price surges following the outbreak of the US-Israeli war with Iran in late February.

Takaichi also told reporters in Tokyo that her government would take into account proposals from ruling and opposition parties to gradually review the subsidy program and consider an “exit strategy” while assessing its “fiscal burden”. — Kyodo

Singapore launches fund for industrial decarbonization

SINGAPORE on Friday launched a 143 million Singapore dollars (US\$112 million) funding initiative to accelerate the development and commercialization of low-carbon technologies for industry, its largest single funding program to date dedicated to industrial decarbonization research and development.

The initiative will support research into technologies tailored to Singapore’s specific industrial emissions challenges, with funding focused on carbon capture, carbon utilization

and other emerging technologies, the Advanced Energy and Decarbonisation Office and the Singapore Economic Development Board said in a joint statement.

Up to 100 million Singapore dollars will be set aside for company-initiated projects. Companies, including startups and technology providers, can initiate and design projects in partnership with Singapore’s public research institutions. The government will co-fund up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs. — Xinhua

India’s Infosys cuts annual growth forecast despite AI gains

INDIAN IT giant Infosys cut its annual revenue growth forecast on Friday despite beating quarterly revenue estimates on the back of strong demand for its artificial intelligence services.

Infosys is India’s second-largest software services exporter and earns more than 80 per cent of its revenue from Western markets.

The Bengaluru-headquartered firm, along with its competitors, has struggled with a demand



Infosys headquarters in Bangalore, India. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

slowdown in recent years fanned by global uncertainty made worse by the Middle East war and fierce

competition from generative AI solutions.

The company reported revenue growth of 10.7 per

cent year-on-year to 492.44 billion rupees (\$5.19 billion) in the July-September quarter, marginally higher than the 491.32 billion rupees analysts projected.

Net profit rose 6.2 per cent to 78.23 billion rupees.

“As enterprises move to AI adoption at scale, the strong growth in AI revenues is a recognition of our differentiated market positioning and client confidence,” said Salil Parekh, chief executive officer and managing director. — AFP

Britain’s retail sales up 0.7% in Q3

BRITAIN’S retail sales volumes grew 0.7 per cent in the third quarter (Q3) of 2026, up from the second quarter; data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed Friday.

The growth was led by the sales increase of motor fuel, which has returned to monthly sales levels last seen before the start of the Middle East conflict despite recent price hikes, said Hannah Finselbach, senior statistician at the

ONS.

Food and drink sales also contributed to the growth, partly helped by the warm weather and the World Cup, while falls in jewellers, hardware shops and footwear stores partially offset the growth, she added.

However, Britain’s monthly retail sales volumes fell 0.4 per cent in September, following a 0.7 per cent rise in August, the data showed. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2622E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2622E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Notice for change of distributor

We, SHANGHAI E-TONG CHEMICAL CO., LTD., would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Seinn Lae Thwin Co., Ltd. to Jade Farm Myanmar 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	Seinn Lae Thwin Co., Ltd.	Yonta Biso	Bispyribac-sodium 40% SC	Provisional	P2022-5543	Jade Farm Myanmar Company Limited

Jade Farm Myanmar Company Limited. (Address: No.68, Takaung 5th Street, 14 Ward, Shwe Pauk Kan Myo Thit, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. Tel:09428562250)

Notice for change of distributor

We, SHANGHAI E-TONG CHEMICAL CO., LTD., would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Network Marketing Limited to Jade Farm Myanmar 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	Network Marketing Limited	E-T Pro 50 EC	Profenofos 50% EC	Full	F2019-2072	Jade Farm Myanmar Company Limited

Jade Farm Myanmar Company Limited. (Address: No.68, Takaung 5th Street, 14 Ward, Shwe Pauk Kan Myo Thit, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon.Tel:09428562250)

Notice for change of distributor

We, SHANGHAI E-TONG CHEMICAL CO., LTD., would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Yonta Myanmar Company Limited. to Jade Farm Myanmar 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	Yonta Myanmar Company Limited	E-T Mhao Kainn	Propineb 70% WP	Provisional	P2025-6882	Jade Farm Myanmar Company Limited
2		E-T Mhao Shinn	Tebuconazole 50% + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG	Provisional	P2026-6983	

Jade Farm Myanmar Company Limited. (Address: No.68, Takaung 5th Street, 14 Ward, Shwe Pauk Kan Myo Thit, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. Tel:09428562250)

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Dedicated conservation initiatives celebrate Cambodia's rich natural heritage while actively encouraging public action to protect it. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

24 OCTOBER

“Amazing Nature of Cambodia” held in capital, showcasing rich natural heritage

OFFICIALS, conservationists, and youth joined forces over the weekend to organize “Amazing Nature of Cambodia”, an event celebrating the kingdom's rich natural heritage and encouraging public action to protect it.

Held on Saturday and Sunday at the AEON Mall Sen Sok City in Phnom Penh, the exhibition showcased Cambodia’s forests, rivers, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems. It highlighted their critical role in providing clean water, food, and livelihoods, while fostering cultural identity and driving tourism opportunities that bolster the national economy.

Khvay Atitya, an undersecretary of state and spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment, said the event brought environmental education directly to urban communities and young people who have limited opportunities to experience these natural settings firsthand. — Xinhua

23 OCTOBER

APEC finance ministers call for shattering trade barriers

REPRESENTATIVES of APEC economies at the APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting held in Hong Kong have called for removing tariffs and other barriers hindering regional cooperation, Paul Chan, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, said after attending the gathering.

“We learned to appreciate openness, innovation and cooperation even more upon conclusion of the meeting,” Chan told Xinhua. He said representatives of APEC economies agreed on fostering investment and industrial chain cooperation in the region.

Many ASEAN economies like Malaysia and Vietnam, for example, welcome investment from Chinese mainland firms for their potential to help power local economic upgrade and create more jobs. — Xinhua

22 OCTOBER

Africa faces ‘complex’ Ebola outbreak

THE World Health Organization warned on Thursday that Africa faced a “complex” Ebola outbreak after the virus crossed from east Africa to Nigeria, which has reported the first case in the west of the continent.

Nigeria on Tuesday announced an imported case of the Bundibugyo strain behind a major DR Congo Ebola outbreak, in a woman, a wife of a diplomat who had a history of travel to Uganda.

The continent's most populous nation is the fourth African country affected by the outbreak, which this week came to span the continent, with Kenya in the east reporting nine cases since 6 October.

The outbreak began in the Democratic Republic of Congo and has become the deadliest in the country's history. — AFP

21 OCTOBER

Nvidia CEO urges Europe to go all in on AI

EUROPEAN companies from automakers to drug firms to banks need to embrace artificial intelligence, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said Wednesday, as the continent looks to capitalize on the technology even as the United States and China drive its development.

Speaking at a Nvidia-hosted conference in Berlin, the boss of the US chip giant said European companies needed to be comfortable working with AI.

“Whether it’s in the automotive industry, because we’re building self-driving cars, or the way you manufacture with robotics, the way you discover new drugs in health-care, your financial services industry, all of these different industries have to become AI companies,” Huang said. “Every single one of them.”

Concern has risen in Europe that its traditional industrial champions will lose out as software and artificial intelligence become increasingly important parts of a product's design and usefulness. — AFP

20 OCTOBER

NASA advances lunar rover for Moon Base

NASA on Tuesday provided an update on the development of crewed and robotic lunar rovers to support its planned Moon Base initiative, highlighting efforts to develop the surface mobility capabilities needed for future exploration and sustained human operations on the Moon.

NASA's Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover is scheduled to embark on a mission to the lunar South Pole region in 2027 to explore permanently shadowed craters in search of water and other potentially valuable resources that could support sustainable lunar exploration.

The rover will be delivered to the lunar surface by Blue Origin's Blue Moon Mark 1 lander and is expected to travel more than 30 kilometres, collecting data on local temperatures, lighting conditions and terrain. NASA said the data could help scientists better understand the origin and distribution of water on the Moon and assess how lunar resources might be used to support future exploration. — Xinhua

19 OCTOBER

India billionaire launches mega Jio IPO

THE digital arm of conglomerate Reliance Industries launched its potentially record-breaking IPO, testing billionaire owner Mukesh Ambani's digital ambitions after a turbulent year marked by energy conflicts and clashes with Elon Musk.

Jio Platforms, home to the country's biggest wireless operator, is looking to raise up to \$3.2 billion in what is likely to be the country's biggest-ever listing.

Retail investors have until Friday to participate in the offering, with shares priced between 1,065 and 1,119 rupees. Most analysts expect gains when the stock debuts in Mumbai next week – likely 28 October – despite the weak performance of Indian equities this year.

Launched a decade ago, Jio's wireless service disrupted the market with steep discounts that helped it rapidly win customers from rival telecom firms Bharti Airtel and Vodafone. — AFP

18 OCTOBER

Anthropic proposes law regulating AI to lawmakers

ANTHROPIC, the creator of the AI assistant Claude, confirmed on Friday it is circulating a draft bill among US lawmakers aimed at regulating artificial intelligence to address the lack of federal legislation on the risks posed by the new technology.

According to the draft, first reported by Politico on Friday, Washington could block a model's release or use if there is an imminent risk of killing or seriously injuring more than 50 people, or causing more than \$1 billion in damages, but only with a judge's approval.

A company spokesperson told AFP that the proposal “grants the federal government the ability to block or deter dangerous deployments of the most powerful models.” — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar beat Guam in FIFA U15 football festival opener

MYANMAR began their campaign in the FIFA U15 World Cup and Football Festival with a 3-0 victory over Guam on 24 October in Azerbaijan. Myanmar have been drawn in Group W alongside Ghana, the Bahamas, Guam, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. They will face Ghana at 2 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 25 October.

The tournament, organized by FIFA for



Myanmar and Guam compete in the FIFA U15 World Cup and Football Festival. **PHOTO: MFF**

the first time, features youth teams from more than 190 countries. Myanmar's U15 team are coached by head coach U Aung Zaw Myo. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Top-ranked Rybakina to face Fernandez for Ningbo title

TOP-RANKED Elena Rybakina closed in on her fourth WTA title of the year as she beat Diana Shnaider on Saturday to set up a Ningbo Open final against Leylah Fernandez.

Three-time Grand Slam winner Rybakina, the number one seed and defending champion, defeated the 13th-ranked Russian 6-3, 7-5. Rybakina, who usurped Aryna Sabalenka as world number one in her US Open triumph in September, missed last week's Wuhan Open with a foot injury. The Moscow-born Kazakh threatened to run away with the first set but struggled to put Shnaider away when serving at 5-3 up.

Rybakina twice double-faulted as she uncharacteristically saw an astounding 10 set points come and go. — AFP

Yadanabon and Yangon City win in M-League

YADANABON and Yangon City secured victories on the opening day of Matchweek 5 of the 2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League on 24 October.

Yadanabon defeated Ayeyawady United 5-1 at Patheingyi Stadium, bouncing back from an unexpected defeat to Hanthawaddy in Matchweek 4 with a convincing win. Yao Victor opened the scoring in 34 minutes, followed by Htet Phyo Wai in 40 minutes, while Dos Santos converted a penalty in 72 minutes. Phyo Khant Nyein added another goal in 85 minutes before Swan Laman completed the scoring in 88 minutes. Sai Kham Nyi scored Ayeyawady United's consolation goal in 45+3 minutes. Yao Victor received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along with a commemorative prize and K1 million.

At Padonma Stadium, Yangon City beat Sagaing United 3-1 to record their third consecutive victory and maintain their position near the top of the standings. After a goalless first half, Than Toe Aung put Yangon City ahead in the 54th minute, but Kwin Sa Sha equalized for Sagaing United three minutes later. Karim restored Yangon City's lead in 81 minutes before Rodrigo sealed the win in 90+5 minutes. Yangon City midfielder Myat Kaung Khant received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along with a commemorative prize and K1 million.

Matchweek 5 continues on 25 October, with Dagon Star United facing Thitsa Arman at Thihadipa Stadium and Chinland taking on Myawady at Star City Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Ayeyawady United and Yadanabon compete in the Grand Royal M-League. **PHOTO: NYI NYI MIN (ML)**

Long-term project planned to promote school football and safety

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) will work to develop a long-term project to promote football in schools across Myanmar and create a safe school environment through football activities.

The initiative will be pursued through cooperation between ASEAN and FIFA. The first meeting of the ASEAN-FIFA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Implementation Working Group was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with MFF Joint General



The first meeting of the ASEAN-FIFA MoU Implementation Working Group, attended by MFF Joint General Secretary U Si Thu Win.

Secretary U Si Thu Win representing Myanmar. The meeting discussed the MFF's ongoing

the Ministry of Sports Affairs, the MFF proposed developing a long-term project entitled "Creating a Safe Environment in Schools through Football Activities" to promote a safe school environment through football.

Officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports also participated in the first ASEAN-FIFA MoU Implementation Working Group meeting online. — ASH/KZL

Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games conclude with hopes for inclusive society

THE Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games concluded Saturday with a closing ceremony, as organizers expressed hope that the continental sporting event would leave a lasting legacy in fostering a more inclusive society.

A record 45 countries and regions sent around 4,000 athletes and officials to compete in 18 sports, including boccia, which has no Olympic counterpart, at the fifth Asian Para Games, according to the organizing committee.

More than 20 world

records were set during the seven-day competition held in Aichi and neighboring Shizuoka prefectures.

China topped the medal standings by amassing 435 medals, including 207 gold, while host Japan followed with 186 medals, including an Asian Para Games-best 64 gold.

Unlike the Asian Games, where South Korea finished third, Uzbekistan emerged as a force at the Asian Para Games, placing third in the medal standings with 145 medals,



The closing ceremony of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games is held in Nagoya on 24 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

including 45 gold.

Asian Paralympic Committee President Majid Rashed declared the games closed at the ceremony at Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, attended by Crown Prince Fumihito and Crown Princess Kiko. — Kyodo



The Met Opera, based at the Lincoln Centre in Manhattan, is one of the world's most prominent opera houses - now running performances of 'Macbeth' and 'La Boheme'. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Met Opera goes for big and bold, despite shaky finances

GIVEN its well-documented financial woes, the Metropolitan Opera might not seem a likely place to find multiple bold and costly new creative projects.

But the storied New York house thinks going big is its best hope: in the space of four days, it commissioned dual world premiere operas on two continents.

The ambitious sprint culminates Monday with the debut performance of "Lincoln in the Bardo", an adaptation of George Saunders' Booker Prize-winning novel about US president Abraham Lincoln's struggle to confront the loss of his 11-year-old son as he faced heavy criticism

Metropolitan Opera launches bold new world premiere opera productions globally.

early in the Civil War.

"Bardo," written by rising US composer Missy Mazzoli, comes on the heels of the Warsaw premiere of the Met-commissioned "The Mothers of Kher-son", the story of Ukrainian mothers who tried to save their kidnapped children after Russia's invasion.

"The only possible path out of the financial struggles and challenges we face is by being bold, by demonstrating the absolutely indispensable nature of the Met as a cultural

institution," Met General Manager Peter Gelb told AFP. Playing it safe would mean "certain failure", Gelb said.

The Met has partnered with New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani to give away 70,000 tickets this season under the "Opera for All" programme unveiled last month.

The house paired the Mamdani announcement with the launch of the "Make the Met Forever" campaign to raise \$1.5 billion. — AFP

Greece bans social media for minors

GREECE'S parliament passed a law Friday banning children under 15 from social media, joining a growing number of countries imposing curbs on young people's use of the apps. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced plans for the ban in April, taking to TikTok — one of the most popular social networks with young people in Greece — to explain the "difficult but necessary" measure.

After a heated debate in a parlia-

mentary session that started Thursday and stretched into Friday, Mitsotakis's conservative New Democracy party used its majority to pass the bill which no other parties backed, the Ana news agency reported. The opposition socialist Pasok party abstained after seeking an alternative bill that would have banned social media for under-13s and parental controls for 13- and 14-year-olds. Other left wing and nationalist parties voted against. — AFP

More than a sweet – Türkiye's lokma tradition offers comfort in grief

Community members share sweet treats to honour departed loved ones.

OUTSIDE the historic Hacı Bayram Mosque in Ankara, the capital of Türkiye, strangers reached for golden pieces of lokma, a traditional fried dough sweet soaked in syrup.

The retired Ankara resident had arranged for the sweets to be distributed to the public to mark the second anniversary of his mother's death.

In Türkiye, this practice takes a distinctive form known as hayir lokmasi, or charity lokma, in which freshly prepared sweets are distributed free of charge to the public to honor deceased loved ones or mark joyful occasions, such as births and personal achievements. Families typically hire a mobile lokma van, where a specialist prepares and fries batch-



lokma, a traditional Turkish dessert made of small, deep-fried dough balls soaked in sweet syrup or honey. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

es of yeast-based dough on site, coats the golden pieces in light sugar syrup, and serves them on small disposable plates with toothpicks. Their prayers,

Kirbas said, helped ease the grief of those mourning a loved one, reminding them that they did not have to bear their sorrow alone. — Xinhua



Waterfront homes in El Gouna, the Red Sea town that hosts the ninth El Gouna Film Festival from 15 to 23 October 2026. **PHOTO: MARC RYCKAERT, CC BY 3.0 VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Egypt's El Gouna Film Festival concludes with "Safe Exit" winning top prize

EGYPT'S ninth El Gouna Film Festival (GFF) concluded on Friday evening, with the Egyptian film "Safe Exit" winning the top prize at the closing ceremony. Directed by Mohammed Hammad, "Safe Exit" received the Golden Star for Best Feature Film.

In the documentary competition, "Citizen Osa-

Numerous international films competed across multiple competitive categories.

ma", directed by Ahmed Hassouna, won the Golden Star for Best Documentary and Best Arab Documentary, while "Stolen Memories", directed by Anders David-

sen, took the Golden Star for Best Short Film. Other major awards went to "Yesterday the Eye Didn't Sleep", directed by Rakan Mayasi, which won Best Arab Feature Film, and "American Doctor", directed by Poh Si

Teng, which received the Cinema for Humanity Audience Award. GFF artistic director Andrew Mohsen said audience numbers had grown from one edition to the next. While the festival is often associated with crowded venues and red-carpet appearances, Mohsen said its focus remained on cinema itself. — Xinhua