

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

Abhidhamma Day Draws Pilgrims to Nay Pyi Taw Pagodas

ON Abhidhamma Day, which falls on the full moon day of Thadingyut, devotees made offerings dedicated to the Lord Buddha at the pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Pagodas and stupas in Nay Pyi Taw such as Maravijaya Buddha Image, Nayyaungpya Inn Pagoda, Yanaungmyin Pagoda, Pyinmana Phayakoesu, Sutaungya Sutaungpyae Pagoda, Sattasattaha Mahabodhi and the four key sites of Buddha (Buddha's birth, enlightenment, preaching and death) were thronged with pilgrims doing good deeds.

In the evening, pilgrims gathered at the Maravijaya Buddha Park to pay homage to the Buddha image and other religious structures, recite Buddhist scriptures, light oil lamps and release small hot-air balloons as part of the Thadingyut celebrations.



This image captures throngs of devotees at Nay Pyi Taw's Maravijaya Buddha Park. **PHOTO: PYAE SONE AUNG**

Similarly, shopping centres, including Ocean Super Centre, Junction Centre and Nay Pyi Taw Wholesale, and recreational sites such as Mingala Lake, Mingala Shan Lake and Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, also attracted crowds amid colourful LED decorations.

Across townships, wards and villages, residents lit oil lamps at pagodas and homes, released small hot-air balloons and paid respects to parents, elders and teachers.

The Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee will provide free transport from Bawga Thiri Bus Terminal in Pyinmana to the Maravijaya Buddha Image on 27-28 October to facilitate visits by pilgrims during the Thadingyut holidays. The service will be provided by the Tawwin bus line and a Yazamin electric vehicle. — Aye Aye Thant/KTZH

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Taunggyi fire during preparations for balloon leaves 1 child dead, 5 injured

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Regulators lower fuel price caps

Pilgrims Flock to Yangon Pagodas on Thadingyut Full Moon



Devotees throng the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut.

Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda and other prominent pagodas were crowded with devotees making religious offerings on Thadingyut Full Moon Day (Abhidhamma Day) yesterday.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees or-

ganized a series of religious ceremonies in the morning, including the offering of alms, Abhidhamma Day observances, and ceremonies marking the conclusion of the Buddhist Lent festival. Devotees and religious associations offered alms, flowers, water, lights and fruits to the Buddha images

and participated in Dhamma recitations and prayers.

After the religious occasions, they donated offerings and day meal alms to the Ovadacariya Sayadaws and monks. The pagoda area was crowded with pilgrims and donors who made food donations.

In the evening, the

pagoda board of trustees, religious association members and pilgrims offered oil lamps across the entire pagoda platform.

Similarly, at the ceremonies for the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut and Abhidhamma Day held by the trustees of the Botahtaung Pagoda, Kaba Aye Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Lokachantha Abhaya Labhamuni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill, Maha Dhamma Yanthi Eaindawya Pagoda, Santawshin Kyaikwyne Pagoda, Ngahtetgyi Pagoda, Chaukhtetgyi Pagoda, Shwephonepwin Pagoda, and Melamu Pagoda, pilgrims offered alms, flowers, water, oil lamps, fruits whereas the religious groups made Dhamma related activities dedication to the Lord Buddha. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/KTZH

UMFCCI urges economic sector cooperation, citing rice industry success

THE Central Executive Committee Meeting of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) was held yesterday afternoon at its meeting hall in Yangon.

It was attended by UMFCCI President U Aye Win, vice-presidents, the general secretary, the joint general secretaries, and committee members.

In his opening remarks, the UMFCCI president stated that the honour ceremony held on 22 October in Nay Pyi Taw to recognize the growers, producers, exporters, and sellers of "Myanmar Pawsan"—which won the World's Best Rice Award 2026—was a crucial ini-



The Central Executive Committee Meeting of the UMFCCI in progress.

ative that effectively supports the expansion of an essential national product into international markets.

Furthermore, he urged that this success was achieved through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, and if other associations work together like the Myanmar Rice Federation, they will be able to create promising potential and progress.

He also highlighted the constructive collab-

oration discussed with Malaysian entrepreneurs during the bilateral business dialogue held early last month, noting how current trends are shifting beyond mere cross-border trade towards models based on combining complementary strengths between both countries. Afterwards, attendees discussed plans to grandly hold UMFCCI's 35th Annual General Meeting. — TWA/ZN

Myitkyina Border Trade Exceeds \$36M Through 21 Oct

THE Myitkyina entry checkpoint in Waingmaw Township handled more than \$36 million in trade from 1 April to 21 October in the current 2026-2027 financial year. This checkpoint conducts border trade for Kachin State, processing 3,707 export and import vehicles in the past seven months of the current FY.

This checkpoint is aimed at facilitating trade, increasing revenue, eliminating illegal trade and preventing shortages of food commodities, consumer goods and animal feed in Kachin State. The Myitkyina entry point primarily inspects goods entering and leaving through the Kampaiti border, a China-Myanmar border crossing. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL

Bagan Records More Than 300,000 Visitors During Thadingyut Festival

The 2026 Thadingyut Festival was celebrated peacefully and joyfully across the country, with the Bagan ancient cultural region witnessing an exceptionally lively festival. The Thadingyut full moon day set a record for its large crowds, thanks to the collective efforts of departmental officials and social organizations throughout the festival period.

The record turnout was attributed to the successful launch of 3,000 small hot-air balloons, along with the vibrant organization of night markets and other fairs by relevant departments. Before the festival, the plan to launch 3,000 small hot-air balloons was publicized in national newspapers, attracting widespread public interest and drawing significantly more tourists to Bagan than during a normal fes-



tival period.

"Tourist arrivals were exceptionally high this year. The plan to launch 3,000 hot-air balloons, arranged by regional and district officials, was publicized in the media in advance, attracting nationwide interest and bringing in large numbers of visitors. The combined efforts of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, the hoteliers' association and

social organizations were particularly instrumental in boosting tourist arrivals. This year can be regarded as the busiest Thadingyut Festival in terms of tourist numbers," said U Htay Lwin, chairman of the Buu Pagoda trustee committee.

On the eve of the full moon day, the full moon day itself and the day following it, 3,000 small hot-air balloons were launched from the Alodawpyae Pagoda



The images top, above and left depict pagodas and temples throughout the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone teeming with devotees and visitors.

grounds. At the Shwezigon Pagoda, 500 oil lamps and 500 flowers were offered. At some of Bagan's 19 prominent pagodas and temples, devotees offered between 1,000 and 3,000 oil lamps and between 1,000 and 3,000

flowers, contributing to the exceptional crowds and making this year's Thadingyut Festival a memorable event.

On the Thadingyut full moon day, the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan received

93,779 monks and laypeople, along with 10 Turkish visitors. The Alodawpyae Pagoda welcomed more than 18,000 domestic tourists, while the Buu Pagoda received 13,246 domestic visitors. More than 19,000 domestic and international tourists visited the Htilominlo Pagoda, among other prominent religious sites.

In total, more than 300,000 visitors toured 19 prominent pagodas and temples in Bagan. Tourist arrivals on this year's Thadingyut full moon day were reported to have increased by more than 50 per cent compared with the corresponding festival period last year. — Thitsa (MNA)/ST

Free Bus Services for Pilgrims and Passengers in Nay Pyi Taw during Thadingyut Holidays

Under the arrangement of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, eight buses operated by the Tawwin bus line and one Yazamin electric vehicle are providing free round-trip transport for pilgrims from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory to Maravijaya Buddha Image from 26 to 27 October.

The buses run one trip each in the morning and evening. The first route stretches to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, pass-

ing through the Bawgathiri bus terminal, the Rose Roundabout, Shwenyaungbin bus terminal, Nay Pyi Taw Council office, Zabuthiri Hospital, Sibin Guest House 1/2, Thabyaygon Roundabout, herbal park, Myoma market, Thukha Tawwin housing estate, Wunna Theikdhi ward, NSA, Nyanatheikdhi ward, and the Home for the Aged.

The second route runs from Lewe to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, passing through Aung Zeya Triangle Junction, Lewe



Commuters board a free-service bus in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sports Ground, Shwe Ingyin, Dekkhinathiri Market, Kankaw Roundabout, Excel Capital Junction, Tongapuri Junction, Junction Centre, Advanced Market, the 1,000-bed hospital, Myoma Market, Thukha Tawwin Housing Estate, Danatheikdhi Ward and the Technological University.

The third route runs

from Theikchaung Junction to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, passing through the Zoological Gardens, Yezin Village, Pinlaung Junction, Hlekhwintaung Junction, Kyaukchet, Bawgathiri Bus Terminal, Rose Roundabout, Shwenyaungbin Gate, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office, Zabuthiri Hospital,

the Sibin Guesthouses 1/2, Thabyaygon Roundabout, the Herbal Park, Myoma Market, Thukha Tawwin Housing Estate, Wunna Theikdhi Ward, NSA, Nyanatheikdhi Ward and the Home for the Aged.

The fourth route runs from Theikchaung Junction to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, passing

through the 300-bed hospital, Kyidaungkan Junction, Nay Pyi Taw Central Railway Station, NSPU, Ingyin Roundabout, the Patta Police Station, Kumudra Lotus Roundabout, the Sibin Housing Estate, Thabyaygon Roundabout, the Herbal Park, Myoma Market, Thukha Tawwin Housing Estate, Wunna Theikdhi Ward, NSA, Nyanatheikdhi Ward and the Home for the Aged.

The bus lines provide transport service free of charge during Thadingyut holidays, including Abhidhamma Day, for pilgrims, departmental personnel and families to have easy access to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and Buddha Park. — Shin Oo Maung (Dekkhina)/TTA

NATIONAL

MRCS holds briefing to approve sEAP

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society held a briefing session on the Cyclone Simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) at its Yangon office.

The briefing session discussed the Cyclone Simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP), which was developed to address cyclone risks, and the activities to be carried out. Participants also provided suggestions and comments to make the protocol more comprehensive and effective and to facilitate its approval.

The briefing session aimed to provide a clearer understanding of the procedures that can be implemented in advance of a cyclone and to facilitate cooperation among relevant organisations.

The briefing session was attended by the Deputy Director of the Disaster Management Department of the Myanmar Red Cross Society and other officials; the Deputy Cooperation Coordinator and officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross; the Programme Coordinator and officials from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); and country representatives and officials from the German Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Korean Red Cross. — ASH/MKKS



This photo captures the Cyclone Simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) briefing session.

Night bazaar construction underway in Dala

YANGON Region Minister for Development Affairs and chair of the Yangon City Development Committee (Mayor), U Myo Myint Aung, visited a night bazaar construction site located beside Dala-Twantay Road in Dala Township on 25 October, along with YCDC secretary U Cho Tun Aung, committee members, department heads and officers.

The location of the night bazaar is at the front of No 1 and No 2 Mingala Sipin Lake beside Dala-Twantay Road, and the mayor and officials made a tour there and instructed that stalls be properly organized as well as that waste be disposed of systematically.

They continued visiting Kamakasit market, where upgrade works are being planned for implementation. After that, they visited a rainwater storage lake at Singu ward in Insein Township. — TWA/ZS



The mayor tours the night market construction site and Kamakasit market in Dala Township.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker enjoys Performing Arts Competition

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi observed the competitions at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

The Speaker enjoyed the participation of contestants from regions and states at the amateur level (second class) women's marionette contest at Sapphire Hall of MICC I.

He also watched the competition of participants from regions and states at the amateur level (second class) women's modern



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and dignitaries watch a contestant competing in the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Art Competition.

song contest at the Emerald Hall of MICC I.

Also present at the events were Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers, the Union Auditor-General, deputy ministers, members of the panel of judges, supervisors and contestants from region

and state teams, national brethren, staff and families, along with enthusiasts.

Relevant contests of the Performing Arts Competition are being held. At Sapphire Hall of MICC I, the amateur level (second class) men's and women's marionette contests were

held, while Emerald Hall hosted participation of contestants at the amateur level (first class) and (second class) women's modern song contests, where contestants showed off their excellent skills and talents.

— MNA/TTA

Myanmar Joins 20th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime

A Myanmar delegation led by Myanmar Ambassador/Chargé d'Affaires in Manila, Daw Ei Ei Tin, attended the 20th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and related meetings held at the Fairmont Hotel in Makati City, the Philippines, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The 20th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime was chaired by Juanito Victor C Remulla, Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Philippines, which holds



The 20th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in progress.

the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026. The meeting was attended by interior and security ministers from ASEAN Member States, interior

ministers and representatives from the ASEAN Plus Three countries, and Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Political-Security

Community Dato' Astana.

The meeting also focused on important regional initiatives, including declarations on preventing online sexual abuse or exploitation of children in the digital and artificial intelligence (AI) environment, as well as on preventing and combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. In addition, discussions covered emergency preparedness and ways to strengthen the role of law enforcement agencies in ASEAN countries in disaster relief operations. — ASH/KNN

POSCO donates 3 fibre boats for rescue operations

POSCO International Corporation donated three 40-foot-long fibre rescue boats to be used in rescue and fire service to the Yangon Region government.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu expressed his gratitude during the donation ceremony. U Arkar Aung, director at POSCO International Corporation (ex-

ternal relations and corporate social responsibility), transferred the boats to U Min San Aye, head of the regional fire services department.

The regional chief minister expressed his appreciation for the donation by presenting an honorary certificate and touring the fibre rescue boats. — TWA/ZS



The donation of fibre rescue boats by POSCO International Corporation.

NATIONAL

Performing Arts Competition
2026 enters Day 6



The sixth-day competition of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 (Central) in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE sixth day of the central-level 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 was held at designated venues 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 performing arts competitions, including marionette and theatrical drama performances, also showcased Myanmar’s cultural heritage and artistic traditions. The competitions were attended by Union-level officials, Union ministers, senior military officers, other senior officials, departmental staff and their families, and members of the public interested in traditional arts. — MNA/MKKS

‘Reflections of Heart’ concert set for
legendary songwriter’s classic songs

A grand concert entitled ‘Reflections of Heart’ will be held at Shwe Htut Tin Grounds (Hexagon Complex) in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, on Saturday, 28 November, giving audiences an opportunity to enjoy the classic songs of renowned songwriter Sai Kham Leik.

“Sai Kham Leik’s songs have shaped an era in Myanmar music and continue to live on in the hearts of generation after generation. At the ‘Reflections of Heart’ concert, my fellow musicians and I will pay tribute to his enduring musical legacy by performing his songs to the best of our ability. It will be a special evening when audiences can relive the songs



This image illustrates a poster for the music concert ‘Reflections of Heart’.

they once listened to, revisit cherished memories of the past and celebrate Sai Kham Leik’s musi-

cal legacy together. I would like to invite not only those who love his songs but also everyone who wishes to preserve their memories associated with his music to come and enjoy this special concert,” singer Aung Htet said.

At the “Reflections of Heart” concert, Sai Kham Leik’s classic songs will be performed by singers including Ringo, Myo Kyawt Myaing, May Sweet, Hayma Nay Win, Irene Zin Mar Myint, Aung Htet and Ni Ni Khin Zaw. The performances will be accompanied by the Music City band, led by music director and Academy Award winner De Ra Mo, which will provide musical support throughout the concert. — ASH/MKKS

Okpo’s concrete
road construction
inspected

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), conducted a field inspection yesterday of the ongoing concrete road construction in Ohnnae Village, Okpo Township, being implemented with funds from the Village Development Project (VDP).

Okpo Township DRD Head U Win Myint Soe and staff inspected the progress of the concrete road construction and met members of the Village Development Committee. The township DRD head instructed committee members to complete the project on schedule, pay special attention to meeting the prescribed standards and specifications, and carry out the remaining work systematically.

The project involves the construction of a 500-foot-long, 12-foot-wide and six-inch-thick concrete road in Ohnnae Village. The construction is being implemented with K15 million from the Village Development Project fund and K5 million contributed by local communities, together with labour contributions from the rural community. The project is being carried out collectively by residents with technical assistance and close supervision from DRD staff. The construction work commenced in the first week of October 2026 and is currently about 50 per cent complete.

Upon completion, locally produced goods will be transported more conveniently and at lower cost. The improved road access is also expected to contribute to improving the living standards of rural residents, according to the Department of Rural Development. — Aye Myat (DRD)



Officials oversee the ongoing concrete road construction in Okpo Township.

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NATIONAL



This image shows devotees making merit at Lashio's Mahamuni Pagoda.

Thadingyut Full Moon marked at Lashio's Mahamuni

THE face-washing ritual and alms donation events were held at the Mahamuni Buddha Image in Lashio, northern Shan State, on Thadingyut Full Moon Day (Abhidhamma Day).

The District Management and Administration Chairman-led Mahamuni Buddha Image face-washing team offered alms to 500 Sayadaws.

The Sayadaws and congregation also conducted a face-washing ritual and donated candles, flowers, water, alms and fruits, and the Sayadaws led the consecration ceremony. The devotees observed the Nine Precepts as taught by the Sayadaws. The District Management and Administration Chairman-led congregation donated offerings to the Sayadaws, shared merits and offered early alms to the Sayadaws. — Lu Maw (IPRD)/KTZH

Thadingyut Merit-Making Fills Myeik's Pawdawmu Pagoda

THE Myeik District Management and Administration Committee of Taninthayi Region organized a Thadingyut festival at Santawshin Pawdawmu Pagoda in Aungtheikdhi Hillock, Kalwin Village, Myeik, yesterday evening.

At the festival, Myeik District Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Myo Oo and officials offered flowers and water to the pagoda dedicated to the Buddha. Afterwards, departmental personnel and pilgrims gathered around the pagoda to light oil lamps and release hot-air balloons.

Residents celebrated by lighting lamps at pagoda.

Pagodas are pictured bustling with devotees and visitors in Myeik.



das, temples and monasteries, performing meritorious deeds, and decorating their homes with colourful lights. Similarly, residents have been flocking to the sandy recreation area on Strand Road to enjoy the colourful lights, market stalls and entertainment programmes. — Khaing Htoo (IPRD)/MKKS

Preventive measures against water shortages inspected in Thaegon

THE Nattalin District Department of Rural Development (DRD), conducted a field inspection in Kyoeyattha Village, Thaegon Township, Bago Region to prevent drinking-water shortages that may arise due to Super El Niño conditions. The inspection was led by Nattalin District DRD Head U Htay Lwin Soe, together with Thaegon Township DRD Head U Htet Naung and responsible officials.



Officials oversee precautionary measures to prevent water shortages in Thaegon Township.

During the inspection, officials assessed the availability and storage conditions of drinking water in elevated water tanks and earth-lined rainwater storage ponds in the village. District DRD Head U Htay Lwin Soe instructed village responsible persons to systematically distribute and use drinking water economically and to promptly contact the

Department of Rural Development for assistance if water shortages occur. The district DRD head also met local people and explained that El Niño weather conditions could result in higher temperatures and reduced water resources. He urged residents to use water systematically without wastage, conserve and protect existing water sources, store drinking water in advance, keep water storage facilities clean and properly maintained, and use water only as necessary.

Following the awareness-raising activities, informational pamphlets on water conservation and the prevention of water shortages were distributed to local communities, according to the Department of Rural Development. — Thuta (DRD)

Pakokku pagodas packed with visitors on Thadingyut Full Moon



Devotees throng the platform of one of Pakokku's pagodas.

LARGE numbers of devotees made religious offerings at major Buddhist monasteries and historic pagodas in Pakokku, Magway Region, on Thadingyut Full Moon Day (Abhidhamma Day), yesterday.

District Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Myint Naing and family offered alms to 68 Sayadaws at Sasana Vipulayama Pali Tekkatho (West) in Pakokku. The donation ceremony was attended by relevant officials and staff, and they took the Five Precepts from the Sayadaws and recited Gathas. As a promi-

nent centre of Buddhism, Pakokku is home to several revered religious sites, including Thihoshin Buddha, Shweku Buddha, PhaungdawU Pagoda and Shwemudaw Pagoda. On this auspicious day, locals and pilgrims from across the country visited these sites to recite Abhidhamma scriptures, bathe Buddha images, donate gold foil, replace new flowers, offer fruits, feed fish and listen to Dhamma talks at monasteries and monastic schools. Many also enjoyed snacks sold within the pagoda compounds. — Bamitha (Pakokku)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Frontline Tatmadaw troops honoured in Bawlakhe

A ceremony to honour and welcome Tatmadaw members returning from the frontline after performing security duties to maintain State stability and regional peace and tranquillity was held at a local battalion in Bawlakhe, Kayah State, yesterday morning.

Responsible personnel from the local station, officers and other ranks, family members, departmental officials, teachers and local ethnic residents attended the welcoming ceremony.

The returning Tat-



Triumphant Tatmadaw members receiving warm welcome home.

madaw members had tirelessly carried out operational duties on the frontline, day and night,

to ensure that ethnic people in various regions and states could live and work in peace and that their lives, homes and property remained safe and secure.

Officials from the local station and those attending the ceremony warmly welcomed the returning personnel with sprigs of Eugenia, accompanied by traditional music and dances. An official from the local station also delivered a congratulatory address to the returning Tatmadaw personnel. — MNA/MKKS

Shwe Kokko Phase II demolitions continue



This image shows the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown amid ongoing demolitions.

THE Government is prioritizing efforts to combat online fraud and online gambling as a national responsibility. To prevent the recurrence of online scam and gambling activities within illegal structures in the Shwe Kokko area, where such operations were heavily concentrated, systematic demolitions are being carried out to completely eradicate these buildings.

In ongoing operations, one five-storey building among the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II previously used for online fraud and gambling was completely demolished using heavy machinery today. Additionally, the mechanical demolition of another five-storey building was reported to be 70 per cent complete as of yesterday.

Of the 63 buildings scheduled for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, operations are categorized by building type: 25 buildings are slated for mechanical demolition using heavy machinery, four buildings for controlled explosive demolition, and 34 buildings located in proximity to residential homes for manual floor-by-floor demolition using labour. To date, all four structures slated for controlled implosion and three of the structures slated for mechanical demolition have been brought down. Systematic demolition will proceed for the remaining 56 buildings.

The Government, recognizing online fraud and online gambling as threats to the global socioeconomic fabric and national security, is collaborating closely with neighbouring and regional nations to vigorously suppress and completely eradicate these activities. — 100/ST

Myanmar deports 7 undocumented foreign entrants



Deportees are seen prior to their repatriation.

MYANMAR deported two Laotians, two Sri Lankans, one Nigerian, one Indonesian and one Indian, totalling seven individuals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authori-

ties officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

Awareness campaign held in Zeyathiri for drinking water security amid El Niño

AN awareness-raising session to ensure no shortage of drinking water because of the El Niño weather phenomenon was held on 22 October across five villages in the township, organized by the Zeyathiri Township Department of Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Township Head U Myo Zaw of the Zeyathiri Township Department of Rural Development explained that the El Niño weather pattern can cause irregular rainfall, droughts, and water scarcity. He high-

lighted the need to collect and store drinking water in advance, use water systematically without waste, and outlined dos and don'ts as well as precautionary measures against El Niño heat strain.

The awareness talks were held in Winpyan Village, Setgon Village, Doepingon Village, Kanthaaye Village, and Yezin Village within Zeyathiri Township, where awareness pamphlets were distributed to the attending village elders and villagers. — Naw Lu (DRD)

Taunggyi fire during preparations for balloon leaves 1 child dead, 5 injured

ACCORDING to locals, an explosion and fire occurred during the preparation of gunpowder rings for the Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State, leaving a 13-year-old child dead and five others injured.

The incident occurred at around 7:30 pm on 24 October when gunpowder rings exploded, while the "Pon Yate" balloon team was mixing gunpowder on Myayadana Road.

"I saw one person with a leg injury, and another with severe burns. They were covered up and car-



Firefighters extinguishing the fire in Taunggyi.

ried out," said a local living in Kantha Ward.

The house where the fire occurred belonged

to the fireworks master, where gunpowder rings for three large hot-air balloons were being pre-

pared. During the incident, all three gunpowder rings prepared for three groups exploded simultaneously, leading to the fatal fire and injuries.

Following the incident, the fire brigade responded and brought the fire under control. The homeowner has reportedly been detained in connection with the incident.

The 2026 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival is scheduled to be held from 18 to 24 November at the Ayyar Hot-Air Balloon Field in Taunggyi. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

Cyclonic Storm "ARNAB" News,
No 6, 2026

Issued at 4 pm MST on 26 October 2026

Cyclonic Storm"ARNAB" Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Cyclonic Storm "ARNAB" over the Central Bay of Bengal has moved westwards and it is centred at about 310 nautical miles west-northwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 310 nautical miles east-south-east of Visakhapatnam and 355 nautical miles east-southeast of Kakinada, India.

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

Position of Cyclonic Storm, centre pressure and wind

The Cyclonic Storm is located at Latitude 15.4 degree North and Longitude 88.2 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 1,000 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 40-45 miles per hour at 3:30 pm MST today.

Next 48 hours forecast

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and further intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal during next 18 hours and very likely to intensify into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm on 27 October 2026. Therafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam (India) around 28 October 2026 afternoon.

General caution

Due to the Cyclonic Storm, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in some Regions and States during today evening to 29 October 2026.

Squalls with rough sea are likely at times in the Deltaic and off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Deltaic and off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

Advisory

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

Regulators lower fuel price caps

REGULATORS slashed fuel prices to K4,835 for Octane 95, K4,435 per litre of diesel and K5,375 for premium diesel during the week ending 29 October; whereas the Octane 92 price showed an uptick to K4,715 per litre.

The price caps were set at K4,705 for Octane 92 and K4,850 for Octane 95, K4,485 for diesel and K5,440 for premium diesel last week ending 22 October.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee governs the market to ensure stable prices and secure



A vehicle refuelling at a petrol station in Yangon.

supply. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities

are taking action against those retailers at fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domes-

tic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

MILAS 2027 to showcase agricultural inputs and new technologies



Agricultural mechanization underway in a local paddy field.

THE Mandalay International Livestock and Agriculture Show (MILAS 2027) is set for 21-23 January 2027, from 9 am to 5 pm, at the Mandalay Convention Centre in Mandalay. Livestock breeders, farmers and those engaged in the industry are invited to study and purchase agricultural and livestock inputs and new technologies at the expo.

Upper Myanmar pos-

sesses pastoral and agricultural livestock regions, producing a wide range of crops and pigs, poultry, cattle and goats. Silver Sea Event Management is organizing the sixth MILAS expo for farmers and livestock breeders in Upper Myanmar.

Interested individuals can contact Silver Sea Journal at 09 409400055, 09 409400066 or 09 409400077. — NN/KK

Tenders invited for equipment purchase and rental for Kaytumadi Moat Bridge Project

BRIDGE Special Task Force 10 of the Bridges Department under the Ministry of Construction is seeking open tenders for the purchase and rental of construction equipment, valued at more than K200 million, needed for the ancient Kaytumadi city moat bridge project.

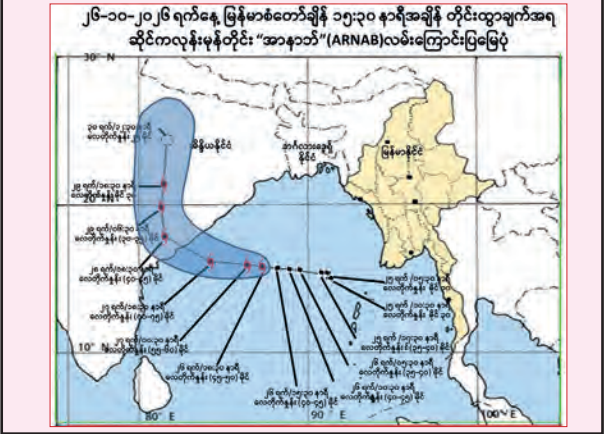
Bridge Special Task Force 10, based in Hlegu, will carry out the ancient Kaytumadi city moat bridge project in Toungoo during the financial year 2026-27 with funding allocated by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Tender forms will be on sale by 2 November at the

office of the Deputy Director (Civil) of the Bridge Special Task Force 10. Sample materials and original result submissions are due on 2 November. The date and time for opening equipment tenders will be announced. Equipment tenders will be opened at the office of the Director (Civil), the Depart-

ment of Highways, Bago Region.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the Bridge Special Task Force in Hlegu, during office hours from 19 October to 2 November, at 09 450005566, according to the tender committee. — NN/KK



OPINION

Nurturing teachers committed to professional ethics

Myanmar is a nation characterized by diverse ethnic nationalities, languages, and cultures; these diversities enrich our national cultural heritage and serve as valuable assets. Hence, it is essential to build mutual understanding, respect, trust, and unity among all ethnic nationalities.

Education is the foundational cornerstone not only for individual advancement but also for the development of the entire society; only when an educated society emerges can sustainable progress be achieved across economic, social, health, and technological sectors.

With the aim of producing qualified education personnel capable of fostering national unity and advancing the socioeconomic

Teachers must conduct themselves in accordance with the five duties of a teacher, training and nurturing students to become youths who can distinguish right from wrong and uphold social ethics; they must also work together to strengthen mutual affection, unity, and the Union spirit by cherishing and respecting the traditional customs and cultural heritage of all ethnic nationalities.

out-of-school youths can resume their studies, and that parents and local communities actively participate and cooperate.

In teaching, rather than relying solely on rote memorization, educators must guide students to develop thinking skills, critical analysis, and creative abilities. Students will be able to practically apply what they have learned within their social communities by connecting lessons to real-life situations. Teachers must encourage young people to set goals and work diligently for their future; at the same time, they are urged to guide them toward becoming individuals who can contribute meaningfully to their families, their local communities, and society as a whole.

Schools are fundamental places for nurturing disciplined and responsible youths; because teachers serve as role models for their students, they must constantly conduct their speech, behaviour, lifestyle, and personal ethics with integrity, while also treating all students fairly, acting with honesty, and showing genuine goodwill.

Teachers must conduct themselves in accordance with the five duties of a teacher, training and nurturing students to become youths who can distinguish right from wrong and uphold social ethics; they must also work together to strengthen mutual affection, unity, and the Union spirit by cherishing and respecting the traditional customs and cultural heritage of all ethnic nationalities.

development of ethnic nationalities, the State established the Institute for the Development of National Groups on 20 October 1964. On 10 May 1991, it was upgraded to the University for the Development of the National Races, where ethnic youth continue to be trained and nurtured as educators.

Therefore, teachers need to apply the academic knowledge and pedagogical skills they have acquired in practice to shape the future of student youths in their assigned regions. They should always bear in mind that educators are responsible not only for teaching academic subjects, but also for moulding their students' mindset, moral character, and life ambitions. Upon arriving at their assigned areas, they must strive to ensure that all school-age children have access to education, that

Reaching a significant milestone in any long-term creative endeavour is rarely about the final count alone. It is about the unseen discipline, the quiet hours of research and reflection, and the emotional resilience required to keep pressing forward despite repeated setbacks. Recently, I reached a personal milestone that caused me to pause, look back, and reflect on a long road: the publication of my 365th article in The Global New Light of Myanmar; today.

At first glance, the number 365 naturally evokes the idea of a calendar year – one article published for every single day without interruption. If one were to read this statistic without context, it would be easy to assume that I sat down and produced a published piece every morning for twelve consecutive months. In reality, my literary journey was far from a brief, continuous sprint. It spans a full decade, stretching from 2016 all the way to October 2026. Over these ten long years, contributing to the nation's leading English-language daily newspaper became an integral part of my weekly routine,

my identity as an educator, and my lifelong commitment to learning.

I still vividly recall the very beginning of this journey back in September 2016, when my very first article was accepted and published. It was a poetic reflection on the rain, thoughtfully titled “*Let My Love Go on, Rain,*.” Seeing those words in print for the first time filled me with an indescribable sense of joy and purpose. As an English language teacher with decades of classroom experience, I realized that writing for the daily press offered a unique platform – not only to explore literary expressions and personal reflections, but also to share meaningful insights, educational thoughts, and constructive commentary with readers across the nation and beyond. *The Global New Light of Myanmar* offered a respected and widely distributed platform, and

I felt a strong sense of responsibility to contribute thoughtful, well-crafted prose. However, what I initially envisioned as a simple, uninterrupted routine of writing and submitting soon transformed into a deep, rigorous, and humbling lesson in perseverance.

Averaging roughly three published articles per month over a decade may sound like a manageable pace when viewed from the outside. Yet, the road to securing those 365 printed pieces was anything but smooth or predictable. Behind every headline that bore my name – written under various pen names over the years – lay a vast, hidden mountain of trial, error, and intense effort. For every article that successfully passed editorial scrutiny and reached the printing press, at least two others were quietly set aside.

In total, alongside my 365 ac-

cepted contributions, I faced more than 600 rejections over the course of ten years.

In the early years of this journey, receiving a rejected manuscript was a bitter pill to swallow. After spending hours researching a topic, carefully selecting vocabulary, and polishing every paragraph, seeing a piece declined could easily trigger self-doubt. It was tempting to ask whether the relentless effort was truly worth it, or whether I should simply step back from public writing. Yet, as the years rolled on, my internal perspective underwent a fundamental shift.

I began to realize that those 600-plus declined submissions were not marks of failure or personal defeat; rather, they were essential stepping stones. Each rejection served as a silent, rigorous tutor. The declined manuscripts

forced me to re-examine my logic, refine my grammar, eliminate unnecessary wordiness, and sharpen my arguments. They pushed me to better understand the expectations of newsroom editors and the diverse interests of the readership. Without those 600 rejections testing my resolve and sharpening my craft, the 365 published articles would never have achieved the standard required for publication.

Writing consistently for a major English-language daily demands far more than momentary inspiration or a sudden burst of creativity. It requires a sustained habit of reading, meticulous fact-checking, careful nuance, and an acute awareness of cultural and social context. Over this ten-year partnership, The Global New Light of Myanmar served as my primary literary home. It challenged me to stay intellectually active, to keep

abreast of current affairs, and to continually refine my command of the English language.

Moreover, a writer never achieves anything in total isolation. No article reaches the printed page through the author's efforts alone. I owe a profound debt of gratitude to the editorial team, the copy editors, and the proofreaders who painstakingly reviewed my submissions week after week, ensuring that every published piece met the newspaper's standards. Equally important are the readers – those who took the time to read, reflect upon, and engage with my commentary over the past decade. Their silent presence gave purpose to every word I wrote.

Beyond the editorial desk, I must also express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated administrative and financial staff of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

By Junior Thin



Whenever I collected my manuscript fees (honorarium) after every twenty published pieces, their prompt, efficient, and courteous assistance made the process seamless, adding a warm touch of professional kindness to this long journey.

Reflecting on this decade-long journey brings a deep sense of quiet fulfilment. Reaching 365 published articles is not merely a quantitative marker or a personal trophy; it stands as a testament to what can be achieved when one refuses to surrender to difficulty. The true victory in any long-term pursuit lies not in avoiding rejection or seeking immediate praise, but in returning to the writing desk day after day, converting setbacks into lessons, and picking up the pen once more.

As this ten-year chapter closes with my 365th piece which title is “*Super El Niño in Late 2026: Why Myanmar Must Prepare Now,*” in print, I do not look at this achievement as a final destination or a cue to stop. Instead, I regard it as a meaningful milestone along an ongoing journey. Just as my very first piece urged me to press forward, I will continue to write, explore new ideas, and share further insights with our readers in the years ahead.

(My True Story: 9 October 2026)

Artificial Intelligence in Education: A Powerful Partner for Learning

By Chit Nay Zin Maung



cern that AI may prevent students from thinking for themselves. Although this concern is important, it also highlights the need for a better model of AI-supported education. When AI is used merely to provide an-

swers or complete assignments, students may become passive users who lack active engagement in learning.

However, when teachers intentionally integrate AI into problem-solving, discussion, and

collaborative learning, it can become a powerful tool for developing higher-order thinking skills. Students can use AI to compare different explanations, identify weaknesses in arguments, ask follow-up questions, and explore alternative solutions to problems.

The OECD has found that when Generative AI is used with clear educational purposes, it can support skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and argumentation. Therefore, the goal should not be to prevent students from using AI. Instead, students should be taught not simply how to let AI think for them, but how to think with AI without surrendering their own judgment.

AI and Educational Opportunities

One of the major benefits of AI is its potential to expand ac-

cess to high-quality educational resources. Students in remote and underserved communities, where educational resources may be limited, can benefit from AI-supported learning tools if they have adequate connectivity, devices, and digital skills.

AI can provide explanations at different levels of difficulty, support language learning, offer additional practice, and make educational resources available beyond normal classroom hours. This potential is particularly important for developing countries.

If governments invest simultaneously in digital infrastructure, teacher training, and affordable access to educational technologies, AI could help reduce some forms of educational inequality. However, technological access must go hand in hand with digital literacy. Simply providing AI tools does not auto-

matically create better education. Students and teachers need the skills to use these technologies effectively, critically, and responsibly.

A Human-Centered Approach

The positive potential of AI must be accompanied by responsible governance. UNESCO's guidance on Generative AI in education and research supports a human-centred approach that promotes ethical, safe, equitable, and meaningful uses of AI. It also emphasizes data privacy and appropriate policies.

This principle is especially important because education is not simply about transferring information. It is also about developing human character, creativity, communication skills, values, and citizenship. Therefore, AI should serve only as an agent of support. Teachers should remain

responsible for important educational decisions, while students should remain actively involved in their own learning.

Preparing Teachers and Students for the AI Era

Successfully integrating AI requires a new form of educational knowledge. Teachers need professional development that covers not only how AI tools work but also how to incorporate them into effective teaching strategies.

Students also need AI literacy. They should understand how AI systems generate information and recognize that AI can produce inaccurate or biased responses. They should know how to protect their personal information and understand appropriate ways to use AI in educational activities.

Therefore, educational institutions should establish clear guidelines covering academic integrity, privacy, responsible AI use, and assessment. UNESCO emphasizes the need for capacity building and coherent policy frameworks to ensure that AI provides meaningful support in education and research.

SEE PAGE 11

HEALTH/ENVIRON WORLD

Canadian youth seek climate action in landmark trial

FIFTEEN young Canadians will try to prove the federal government has breached their rights through insufficient action on climate change in a landmark trial that opens Monday in the west coast city of Vancouver.

The lawsuit by plaintiffs ages 17-25 is part of a growing global movement among environmental activists seeking to use courts to force government accountability on climate protections.

"I'm finally getting my day in court and my voice will finally be heard," said 19-year-old Calgary resident Sadie Vipond, one of the people suing Ottawa in the case, which is expected to last five weeks.

"Being on the stand

might be nerve-racking, but our futures and our rights are worth standing up for," she told AFP.

The plaintiffs plan to argue that successive governments have violated their constitutional rights to life, liberty and security by failing to protect them from the threats of climate change.

They want the court to compel the government to cut greenhouse gas emissions and honour its previously set emissions targets.

Those targets currently call for a 40-45 per cent reduction by 2030 compared with 2005 levels, but Prime Minister Mark Carney's government has already indicated those benchmarks may be missed. — AFP



A woman films the McDougall Creek wildfire in West Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, on 17 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nigeria evacuates Ebola patient to Switzerland

THE only confirmed case in Nigeria of Africa's latest deadly Ebola outbreak was evacuated Monday by air from Abuja, the capital, to Switzerland, where she has citizenship.

The patient, the 42-year-old wife of a Swiss embassy staff worker based in Abuja, had been travelling in

Uganda with her husband before returning to Nigeria.

Her condition was "much improved, stable, conscious, communicating, and her clinical laboratory test results closing towards baseline", said Nigerian health minister Muhammad Ali Pate in a statement. — AFP

Botanists comb Gabon's rich rainforests with nature on the line

EACH year, Gabon's lush rainforests yield the discovery of previously unknown plant species to botanists like Archange Boupoya — who believes that this exceptional yet largely mysterious natural wealth needs cataloguing to save.

"We cannot preserve that which we do not understand," said Boupoya, the director of the Sibang botanical garden, a sliver of tropical forest in the heart of the capital Libreville, brimming with orchids snaking up metal columns or floating down from the shaded canopy.

"So we're continuing still today to identify this biodiversity so that we can save it." Together with a thirty-some-strong team of fellow botanists, Boupoya strives to make Sibang a sort of "museum of plants" for his central African country, 88 per cent of which is still covered in jungle.

Understanding and protecting rare and exceptional species — a key theme of the United Nations' COP17 conference on



Archange Boupoya, botanist and director of the Gabon Herbarium, poses for a photograph at the Sibang Arboretum in Libreville on 15 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

biodiversity which opened on Monday in Armenia — is both their life's work and a monumental task.

"Unlike countries that are well-known botanically, like in Europe and Asia, Gabon remains very little understood," he explained — despite the importance of the country's forests for the whole planet.

Ten new species a year

For Gabon is part of the Congo Basin, considered

the Earth's second "green lung" after the Amazon rainforest, and a key natural sponge for absorbing planet-warming CO2.

Swathes of the country are carpeted with impassable jungles, with roads lacking.

"Each year, while conducting botanical surveys, we discover an average of 10 new species," said Boupoya.

According to the director, botanists believe

that the country is home to between 7,000 and 10,000 known plant species, of which around one-tenth are under threat.

As part of a four-decade partnership with scientists from the Missouri Botanical Garden in the United States, teams from Sibang "will go into the forest for two or three weeks, collecting plants before oven-drying them", Boupoya explained. — AFP

Chinese medical team holds World Stroke Day-themed outreach in Zanzibar

THE Pemba branch of the 36th Chinese medical team to Zanzibar, Tanzania, conducted a health education campaign and a free medical outreach on Sunday ahead of World Stroke Day, observed on 29 October.

The outreach, as part of China's "100 Medical Teams in 1,000 Villages" programme, offered local residents free clinical consultations, health advice, disease education and free essential medicines, bringing quality medical services to grassroots communi-

ties on Pemba Island, said Wang Shu, deputy leader of the medical team and leader of the Pemba branch.

Khamis Bilali, a health official with Pemba health authority, noted that grassroots medical resources on Pemba are limited and residents face barriers to accessing health care. The free clinic organized by the Chinese medical team responds directly to local needs.

"It allows residents to receive professional medical services near their

homes and eases difficulties in seeking treatment. The health talks also raise public awareness of disease prevention. This is a heartfelt initiative that benefits the people and has won wide appreciation from the community," he said.

At the venue, He Yanhong, an internist, delivered a special lecture on stroke prevention and control. Taking into account Zanzibar's tropical climate and local health profile, she explained stroke warning

signs, risk factors and emergency management in simple terms to help the audience develop scientific health habits.

The lecture was followed by a multi-disciplinary free clinic. Specialists in internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, ENT, orthopedics, radiology, and anesthesiology provided services targeting common local illnesses, chronic conditions, and maternal and child diseases. — Xinhua

Villain intrigue:
‘Clayface’, Holmes doc
lead N America box office

A buzzy new documenta-
ry about jailed tech CEO
Elizabeth Holmes gave
“Clayface”, a gory Bat-
man villain origin story, a
run for its money at this
weekend’s domestic box
office, industry estimates
showed Sunday. “Clay-
face”, from Warner Bros
and DC Comics, debuted
in first place with \$24 mil-
lion in the US and Can-
ada, but A24’s “You Can
See Everything” was not
far behind at \$20 million,
according to Exhibitor
Relations.

That represents the
second biggest weekend
ever for a documentary
— after Fahrenheit 9/11

(2004) — and an “ex-
tremely rare” 28-per-cent
increase from its debut
the prior week, according
to analyst David A Gross
of Franchise Entertain-
ment Research.

The three-hour doc-
umentary, co-directed by
comedian Nathan Fielder
and Lance Oppenheim,
follows Holmes and her
family at home in 2023
during the month before
she began an 11-year pris-
on sentence.

Holmes was convict-
ed of defrauding investors
in her medical testing
company Theranos after
touting lofty promises she
couldn’t deliver. — AFP

Nishiyama to become 1st female
“kishi” in shogi main ranks

SHOGI player Tomoka
Nishiyama said Monday
she will exercise her right
to join the game’s main
professional “kishi” ranks
as the first woman to do so.

The 31-year-old will
be promoted to “yodan”,
the entry-level rank in the
kishi system, on 1 April.

Under a new Japan
Shogi Association rule,
Nishiyama became the
first woman to qualify for
kishi status earlier this
month by winning her
fifth Hakurei title, the most
prestigious championship
in women’s professional
shogi.

Shogi, a traditional
board game similar to



Shogi player Tomoka Nishiyama speaks at a press
conference in Tokyo on 26 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

chess, has two separate
professional systems for
kishi and “joryu kishi”, or
female players.

Until last year, women
seeking to enter the kishi

ranks, which are open
to both male and female
players, had to advance
through the association’s
demanding competition
system, but no woman had

ever succeeded in doing
so.

The association in-
troduced the new rule
last year allowing female
professional players to
qualify for the kishi ranks
by winning the Hakurei
title five times. The new
rule was approved by a
majority vote in the asso-
ciation’s annual meeting
despite having drawn di-
vided opinion.

An Osaka native,
Nishiyama also entered
the association’s competi-
tion system at the age of 14,
but left at 21 and became
a joryu kishi. She is known
for her aggressive playing
style. — Kyodo

China, US educational
exchange, cooperation
benefit both sides:
spokesperson

EDUCATIONAL ex-
change and cooperation
between China and the
United States are desired
by both sides and benefit
both sides, and should not
be held back or disrupted,
Chinese foreign ministry
spokesperson Guo Jiakun
said at a regular media
briefing on Monday.

Last week, the US
side reportedly designat-
ed the Confucius Insti-

tutes on American uni-
versities and campuses
as a threat to US national
security. Guo said China
rejects vilification and
smears against Confucius
Institute, noting that ed-
ucational exchange and
cooperation between Chi-
na and the United States
help enhance mutual un-
derstanding between the
peoples of the two coun-
tries. — Xinhua

BRI-backed mega canal project benefits
highlighted in lecture to hundreds of
Cambodian students, faculty members

A lecture highlighting
the benefits of the Funan
Techo Canal (FTC) — a
mega project jointly in-
vested in by Cambodian
and Chinese companies
— was presented to hun-
dreds of college faculty
members and students
here in southern Cambo-
dia on Monday.

Organized by the
China Road and Bridge
Corporation (CRBC) and
the Funan Techo Coast-



An aerial view shows the construction area after a
groundbreaking ceremony of the Funan Techo Canal in
Kandal province on 5 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

al-Inland Waterway Co
Ltd, the event took place
at the Regional Polytech-
nic Institute Techo Sen
Takeo, showcasing a de-
tailed roadmap and outlin-
ing the strategic benefits of
the project.

The 172.6-kilometre
FTC project stretches from
southern Kandal province
to the sea in southwestern
Kep province, traversing
Takeo and Kampot prov-
inces. — Xinhua

Artificial Intelligence in Education: ...

FROM PAGE 9

Looking Towards the
Future

The future of ed-
ucation will not be de-
termined by technology
alone. It will depend on
how wisely societies com-
bine technological innova-
tion with human values.

AI has the potential to
make learning more per-
sonalized, make teachers
more effective, increase
access to educational re-
sources, and improve the
efficiency of research.

Therefore, the priori-
ty for policymakers should
be to create an environ-
ment in which innovation

and responsibility devel-
op together. Investment
in digital infrastructure,
teacher training, educa-
tional AI research, data
protection, and equal ac-
cess will be essential.

To put it in a nutshell,
Artificial Intelligence is
one of the most signif-
icant opportunities for

transforming education
in the twenty-first century.
When properly integrat-
ed, AI can provide stu-
dents with personalized
support, assist teachers
with challenging tasks,
encourage creativity and
critical thinking, and ex-
pand learning opportu-
nities.

However, the true
value of AI in education
does not lie in replacing
human intelligence but in
enhancing it. The class-
room of the future should
combine the analytical ca-
pabilities of AI with the
wisdom, empathy, and
creativity of teachers and
students.

Therefore, the chal-
lenge for the future is
not to choose between
humans and machines.

Instead, it is to build
an education system in
which human beings re-
main at the centre while
AI becomes a powerful
partner in learning.

**OECD: The Organ-
ization for Economic
Co-operation and Devel-
opment** is an internation-
al organization that stud-
ies economic and social
issues and gives policy
advice to governments.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Moscow Industrial Companies
Hold Business Talks in Bahrain

THE Mosprom Export Support Centre organized a series of meetings between Moscow-based industrial companies and prospective clients in Manama. Participants discussed cooperation in construction, IT, telecommunications, and the supply of confectionery products to the local market, Moscow's deputy mayor for transport and industry Maxim Liksutov, said.

"Moscow is firmly established as Russia's leading region in terms of trade with Arab countries, accounting for more than 30 per cent of Russia's total trade turnover with these nations. The Kingdom of Bahrain is a promising market for expanding Moscow's high-tech exports. Projects in pharmaceuticals and medicine, energy, robotics, additive manu-



Moscow Industrial Companies Hold Business Talks in Bahrain. PHOTO: PRESS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF THE MOSCOW GOVERNMENT

facturing, and the Industrial Internet of Things offer particularly strong potential for bilateral co-operation," Liksutov said.

The visit by Moscow business representatives to Bahrain aimed to strengthen trade and economic ties and expand the presence of Moscow-based companies

in the region. Neoros, a resident company of the Technopolis Moscow Special Economic Zone, also participated in the negotiations. The company develops and manufactures high-speed optical transceivers based on photonic integrated circuits.

In Bahrain, Neoros representatives met

with prospective clients, including solution integrators specializing in telecommunications, network infrastructure, and data centres. Among them were telecommunications operator stc Bahrain and local IT and telecommunications provider Almoayed Group. — SPUTNIK

Meta plans to raise \$35 bln
to fund its AI ambitions

META plans to raise \$35 billion through a stock offering to fund the development of its artificial intelligence, according to documents released Monday by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Facebook's parent company also announced

plans to launch an additional stock offering of up to \$60 billion, at a date yet to be determined.

The fundraising comes days after Meta created a new class of non-voting shares that it said would give it greater flexibility to raise capital as it competes in AI. — AFP

39 freight train cars derail in
Russia's Sverdlovsk region

THIRTY-NINE freight train cars were derailed and seven tank cars caught fire in Russia's Sverdlovsk region early Monday, disrupting rail traffic, local authorities said.

According to the Sverdlovsk Railway, the accident occurred at about 1:30 am local time (2030 GMT Sunday) on the Makartsevo-Sedelnikovo section of the Re-

shety-Aramil railway line near Yekaterinburg, the administrative centre of Sverdlovsk region.

The derailment blocked the adjacent track, prompting authorities to suspend rail traffic on the affected section. The Sverdlovsk Railway said passenger train services do not operate on the affected section. — Xinhua

British Airways, Iberia
resume flights to Israel



A British Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner is serviced at a gate of Chicago O'Hare International Airport in the northwest side of Chicago, Illinois on 15 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP

BRITISH Airways, the UK's flag carrier, has resumed flights to Israel, with a flight from London Heathrow landing at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on Monday.

The airline suspended services to Israel following the outbreak of the war with Iran on 28 February this year. It said it is keeping the

situation in the Middle East under constant review.

Spain's Iberia Express has also resumed flights to Tel Aviv, with a flight from Madrid arriving on Monday.

The airline has reinstated its daily service after suspending the route in mid-January amid increasing tensions in the Middle East. — Xinhua

Stocks mostly rise before tech
earnings, central bank calls

THE world's main stock markets mostly climbed Monday as investors geared up for the week's crucial run of central bank decisions and tech earnings, while oil prices retreated from a six-month high.

"The AI complex remains under a microscope ahead of what may be the most important stretch of earnings season so far," noted SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

"Microsoft, Alphabet and Amazon are about to walk on stage, and this is not one of those quarters where a company can simply beat the number, raise the guidance by a whisker and expect



A view of the exterior of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City on 19 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

applause. Investors want proof now.

"They want to know whether the billions going into the compute buildout are building a durable earnings machine or just a shinier version of the same old capex furnace," Innes

added.

This week also sees the release of earnings from South Korean chip-makers SK hynix and Samsung.

Results from Tesla and Meta last week stoked spending worries that weighed on stock

markets.

Wall Street ended in the red Friday, and Asia followed suit at the open on Monday, although some staged a recovery.

Europe's main stock markets were higher in late morning deals.

Oil prices dropped moderately following Friday's surge of more than three per cent fuelled by supply concerns heading into the northern hemisphere winter.

Interest rate calls

Also in view this week are monetary policy decisions from the Federal Reserve, European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of Japan (BoJ). — AFP

Trade between Russia, India rises by more than 20% in 2026 - Russian Lawmaker

TRADE between Russia and India increased by more than 20 per cent in 2026, Russian State Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said on Sunday.

“Trade between India and Russia has increased by more than 20 per cent this year,” Volodin said during a meeting with Om Birla, speaker of India’s People’s Chamber of Parliament.

The leaders of both countries, Russian Pres-



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands as they pose for photos before a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi, India, on 11 September 2026. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

ident Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are driving the strong momentum in the development of Russia-India relations, the speaker added. Lawmakers, for their part, should do everything possible to contribute to the development of these ties through parliamentary cooperation and provide legislative support for all decisions made at the level of the heads of state, he said. — SPUTNIK

Malaysia boosts Strait of Malacca security to ensure safe, stable trade: official

MALAYSIA is strengthening its maritime preparedness through continuous surveillance, information sharing and regional cooperation to ensure the Strait of Malacca remains safe, stable and open to international trade, Deputy Defence Minister Adly Zahari said on Monday.

The country’s armed forces are engaged in continuous surveillance and patrols to safeguard the strategic shipping lane, Adly reported to the coun-

try’s parliament.

He said Malaysia was also strengthening regional cooperation with littoral states through joint patrols involving Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, to enhance the effectiveness of patrols, information sharing and maritime domain awareness in response to a question on the area potentially becoming a geopolitical flashpoint and experiencing maritime disruptions similar to those in the Strait of Hormuz. — Xinhua

Russia Interested in All Profitable Energy Markets for Its Gas Exports - Kremlin

RUSSIA is interested in all markets that are profitable for it when it comes to gas exports, a point that Russian President Vladimir Putin has explained on numerous occasions, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Sputnik.

Peskov said that Russia was open to discussing gas supplies to Europe, provided there was interest from European nations and Russia had available volumes. Previously, Putin noted that Russia had



Gazprom’s Amur Gas Processing Plant, that extracts methane-associated gases from natural gas, as well as helium. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

never refused to supply energy resources to anyone. Rather, it were the Europeans themselves who chose to turn away from them, he said. — SPUTNIK

World’s 1st hydrogen engine for large ships cuts CO2 emissions by 95%

A Japanese marine engine manufacturer has developed what it says is the world’s first hydrogen-fuelled engine for large commercial vessels, capable of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by more than 95 per cent compared with conventional heavy fuel oil engines.

The engine by Japan Engine Corp was unveiled in early September and will be installed on a multipurpose ship to be built by Onomichi Dockyard Co

with Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd expected to begin onboard demonstration testing in April 2028.

The engine adopts a high-pressure direct injection system to enable stable hydrogen combustion and implements safety measures such as double-walled piping for hydrogen supply lines, as the chemical element is prone to leakage and highly flammable.

In August last year, Japan Engine, based in

Akashi in western Japan’s Hyogo Prefecture, also completed what it called the world’s first complete commercial ammonia-fuelled engine. While hopes are high for both hydrogen and ammonia to become next-generation fuels for large commercial vessels, challenges remain as the former faces the hurdles of high cost and slow adoption, and the latter requires stringent safety measures since it is toxic. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOE LINE 3 VOY.NO. (ML3001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOE LINE 3 VOY.NO. (ML3001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-10-2026** 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 MOE NAVIGATION CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (BY80N0S89)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (BY80N0S89)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0060N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0060N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Lula wins Brazil's presidential runoff; Flavio Bolsonaro refuses to concede defeat

BRAZILIAN incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, candidate of the ruling Workers' Party, won Sunday's presidential runoff, according to results released by Brazil's Superior Electoral Court on Sunday night.

With 99.99 per cent of the votes counted, Lula received 51.79 per cent of the valid votes, compared with 48.21 per cent for Flavio Bolsonaro, the Liberal Party's presidential candidate and son of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, according to the official tally.

Lula will be sworn in on 5 January 2027, for a four-year term, his fourth as Brazil's president.

Speaking in a live speech in Sao Paulo following his victory, Lula vowed to work with the



Brazilian incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (C), candidate of the ruling Workers' Party, delivers a speech following his victory in the presidential runoff in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 25 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

conservative Congress elected by the people and ensure greater public participation in the decision-making process.

He also stressed the

need to strengthen digital regulation after defeating foreign interference through digital platforms, stressing that Brazil is no one's backyard. Lula

also pledged to strengthen public healthcare, improve care for the elderly, respect women and continue efforts to combat climate change. — Xinhua

Japan to compile emergency cybersecurity package by next week: Takaichi

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Monday the government will compile by the end of next week an emergency package of additional cybersecurity measures, following a spate of data breaches at companies.

Takaichi also said at a ministerial meeting on the issue in Tokyo that her government will "strategically take all response options, including neutralization measures", to counter cyberattacks whose nature has been determined.

"A series of cyberattacks targeting Japanese companies and other entities has caused numerous incidents," Takaichi



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi speaks at a meeting of relevant Cabinet ministers regarding cybersecurity, at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 26 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

told the meeting, adding, "This is a serious situation that requires us to urgently strengthen our countermeasures."

Cybersecurity minister Toshiharu Furuka-

wa, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Ryosei Akazawa and Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi also attended the gathering.

The meeting comes

as Japanese internet services provider GMO Internet Group Inc said over the weekend that it had asked the government to take "active cyber defence" measures in response to a breach it has confirmed, in which customer information, including account passwords, was leaked and used in fraudulent transactions.

A law that took effect on 1 October enables the government to take "active cyber defence" measures to neutralize threats posed by servers used in cyberattacks. It is not designed, however, to be activated at the request of private companies. — Kyodo

British PM rules out rejoining EU in "this parliament"

BRITISH Prime Minister Andy Burnham ruled out Britain rejoining the EU in the current parliament in an interview broadcast on Monday by British media.

When asked whether he wants Britain to rejoin the EU, Burnham said he wants to see that happen in his lifetime, but he is "not proposing rejoining in this parliament".

"We are way away from that at this particular moment in time," he said.

Burnham said the "decade of experience" since Brexit has not "played out as people said it would at the time".

Brexit weakened Brit-

ain's economy and control of immigration, said Burnham, adding that the crisis of small boat crossings by illegal immigrants has arisen since Brexit.

2026 marks a decade since the Brexit referendum in June 2016 when some 52 per cent of the voters backed leaving the EU. Britain formally left the bloc in 2020.

Britain's Labour Party won a majority of seats in the House of Commons in the 2024 general election. Unless an early general election is called, the current parliament is expected to run for five years. —

Xinhua



British Prime Minister Andy Burnham arrives to address a press conference with the German Chancellor at the Chancellery in Berlin on 8 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Senior Saudi, Turkish, Pakistani officials to attend meeting in Tehran on regional security

SENIOR officials from Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan are scheduled to attend a meeting on regional security in the Iranian capital Tehran, Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Bagheri Kani said.

Bagheri Kani listed the foreign officials attending the meeting as Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization Director

Ibrahim Kalin, the official news agency IRNA reported on Monday.

He added that Munir announced the decision during talks with SNSC Secretary Mohsen Rezaei during a recent trip to Tehran. Rezaei will attend the upcoming meeting, which will focus on security issues in the West Asia region, Bagheri Kani said.

He expressed hope that the meeting's attendees could work towards establishing an "endogenous" security regime through regional participation. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Mbappe decides Clasico, Real Sociedad goes fifth in Liga

TWO goals from Kylian Mbappe gave Real Madrid a 2-1 win away to FC Barcelona in the first Clasico of the season on Sunday.

The win ended Barcelona's perfect start to the La Liga campaign and cut Real Madrid's deficit to the league leader to three points, with second-placed Atletico Madrid now just two points behind Barca.

Mbappe struck in the 41st and 87th minutes, while Raphinha equalized in the 61st. Real Madrid deserved the victory after neutralizing Barcelona's potent attack and repeatedly threatening on the counterattack.



FC Barcelona's player Pau Cubarsi (L) vies with Real Madrid CF's player Kylian Mbappe during the La Liga football match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF in Barcelona, Spain, on 25 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Athletic Bilbao beat Getafe 4-0 at home. Alex Berenguer opened the scoring with a free kick before Inaki Williams dou-

bled the lead with a solo run in the 35th minute. Aitor Paredes headed home from a corner in the second half, and Yuri Berchiche rounded off the win with a powerful free kick in the closing minutes.

Celta Vigo and Real Betis drew 0-0 in a game in which both sides showed signs of fatigue following midweek European fixtures.

Real Sociedad moved into fifth place in La Liga after a 2-1 home win over Levante, with all three goals coming in the first 27 minutes. Orri Oskarsson and Benat Turrientes scored for Real Sociedad, while Nacho Perez pulled one back for Levante. — Xinhua

Joshua Van to face Manel Kape in UFC title defence



This image depicts Van versus Kape.

UFC flyweight world champion Myanmar-born Joshua Van will face Portuguese fighter Manel Kape in his third title defence.

UFC officially announced the match-up on 25 October. The bout is scheduled for UFC 336 in Canada on 30 January 2027, which falls on 31 January in Myanmar time.

Van won the flyweight title by defeating Brazilian fighter Alexandre Pantoja in December 2025. He has since successfully defended his title twice in 2026, beating Japanese fighter Tatsuro Taira in his first defence before defeating former champion Pantoja in his second.

Van delivered strong performances in both title defences, demonstrating his ability to retain the championship. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Carrick on the brink as Bournemouth wins in Old Trafford, Liverpool beats Brighton

MANCHESTER United coach Michael Carrick is in danger of losing his job after his side suffered a 3-0 home defeat to Bournemouth on Sunday.

Carrick went into the game under pressure following a 4-1 Champions League defeat at Como and reports of public criticism from Bruno Fernandes.

The Portuguese midfielder was left out of Carrick's starting lineup on Sunday as Bournemouth claimed a comfortable victory. Rayan and Marcus Tavernier struck in the first half before Evanilson added a third in the 71st minute.

Elsewhere, Liverpool ended Brighton's winning streak in the league with a 2-0 victory at Anfield. The opening goal came in the 17th minute when a Pascual Gross own goal followed incisive work from Florian Wirtz. Alexander Isak doubled the lead four minutes later.

Crystal Palace coach Pierre Sage could also come under pressure after Palace fell 2-0 at home to Newcastle United. Will Osula and Harvey Barnes scored second-half goals to hand the visitors all three points. Hull City and Brentford drew 1-1. Oli McBurnie converted a first-half penalty



Manchester United's English coach Michael Carrick reacts after losing the UEFA Champions League, league phase matchday 3, football match between Como 1907 and Manchester United at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia in Como, northern Italy, on 21 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

to put Hull ahead before Dango Ouattara equalized for Brentford in the 63rd minute. — Xinhua

Barcelona defender Espart sidelined for seven weeks due to injury

FC Barcelona has suffered another injury setback, with the club confirming on Monday that defender Xavi Espart will be sidelined for around seven weeks after injuring his ankle in Sunday's Clasico against Real Madrid.

"Tests carried out have confirmed that Xavi Espart is suffering from an injury to the syndesmosis joint in his right ankle due to a collision with an opposing player in the game against Real Madrid. The player

will be out for around seven weeks," the club said in a statement on its official website.

The 19-year-old signed a new contract extension earlier in October after making an impressive start to the season, featuring on both sides of Barcelona's defence.

Espart was caught by a heavy challenge from Real Madrid midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni during Sunday's match and was forced off the pitch in the first half. — Xinhua

Liu double lifts China past US to top group at U17 Women's World Cup

LIU Yuxi scored twice as China beat the United States 3-2 on Sunday to finish top of Group E with three wins from three at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup.

China finished the group stage with 13 goals scored and two conceded while the United States ended on six points.

China will face France in the round of



Liu Yuxi (C) of China vies the ball with Mia Corona (L) and Kendra Hansen of the United States during the Group E match between China and the United States at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, in Rabat, Morocco, on 25 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Both teams had already qualified for the knockout stage before Sunday's match, but China needed a victory to overtake the United States, which entered the match ahead on goal difference. China Americans had scored had beaten Kenya 3-0 23 goals in victories over and Samoa 7-0 in earlier the same opponents. — Xinhua

Lula wins Brazil's presidential runoff; Flavio Bolsonaro refuses to concede defeat

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WORLD

UNESCO urges African creators to drive positive change

YOUNG digital content creators in Africa should use their platforms to drive positive social and economic transformation, a UNESCO official said at a media literacy event Monday in Nairobi.

Louise Haxthausen, director and representative of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, made the remarks at a regional event of the UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2026 in Nairobi, the

Kenyan capital.

The two-day event, under the theme “Digital Content Creators Play a Part: Driving Media and Information Literacy in Africa”, brought together policymakers, tech executives, scholars and 90 content creators from across Africa to explore strategies for advancing media and information literacy, combatting misinformation and promoting responsible platform use. — Xinhua

DR Congo’s Ebola cases near 10,000 as health workers face deadly attacks



Marie Bakikula, a caregiver at a UNICEF-supported nursery in Mongbwalu, poses for a photograph in Mongbwalu, north eastern Democratic Republic of Congo 10 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has recorded nearly 10,000 confirmed Ebola cases since the outbreak began in May, as deadly attacks on health workers pose further challenges to efforts to contain the epidemic, according to health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The latest report released Monday by the country’s health authorities that the cumulative

number of confirmed cases had reached 9,964, including 4,841 deaths, as of Saturday, with a case fatality rate of 48.6 per cent. The outbreak has affected 66 health zones across eight of the country’s 26 provinces.

The figures came as WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also condemned an attack that killed a nurse, in the northeastern Tshopo Province, on Saturday. — Xinhua

BRICS underpins emerging multipolar world order – Russian Speaker

THE BRICS group of developing economies has become a pillar of the emerging multipolar world order, which is based on the principles of equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, Russian parliamentary speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said on Monday.

“Over the 20 years of its existence, BRICS has become one of the pillars of the emerging multipolar world, a fair world order based on the principles of equality and mutually beneficial cooperation,” Volodin said at the plenary session of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

Volodin led the Russian delegation at the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, which began in New Delhi on Monday. The forum’s central theme is “Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric



2026 BRICS Summit in New Delhi. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Development”.

BRICS member states agree on the need to respect different approaches, national laws, and the right of every state to a sovereign path of development, the Russian official said.

A growing number of countries share the values of BRICS, and choose the path of equal dialogue and effective cooperation in the interests of their citizens, the speaker added.

BRICS is an inter-governmental associa-

tion established in 2006 by Russia, China, India, and Brazil, with South Africa joining in 2011. Several more countries joined the group in 2024. India is holding the BRICS rotating chairmanship in 2026. — SPUTNIK

Thailand launches \$1.5 bln household solar push

THAILAND offered subsidies worth up to \$1.5 billion Monday to help households install solar panels, as it seeks to boost renewable energy and reduce dependence on costly imports.

The government offered almost \$1,500 (50,000 baht) towards installation costs for up to one million households, while also promising low-interest loans and tax benefits for those fitting panels to their homes or land. “Today, we import a lot of our energy, we’re among the top buyers globally,” Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas told

reporters.

But he said this “was not a sustainable solution”.

The solar panel subsidy is expected to be ap-

proved at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, with applications to open soon after, Ekniti said. It will be funded out of a 400-billion-baht

emergency borrowing package announced earlier this year to cushion the economic impacts of the Middle East war. Around 60 per cent of electricity production in Thailand comes from natural gas, with renewables making up almost 11 per cent, according to government data from January to July 2026.

Much of the gas has historically come from offshore production or via pipeline from Myanmar, but declining production has forced Bangkok to step up liquid natural gas (LNG) imports. — AFP



This picture shows a solar panel on display at a home improvement centre in Bangkok on 22 April 2025.

PHOTO: AFP