

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

Myanmar, Malaysia Seek Greater Investment and Economic Cooperation at Business Dialogue

Malaysian investors were urged to explore opportunities across agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, technology and other key sectors.

The Myanmar-Malaysia High-Level Business Dialogue 2026 was held in Kuala Lumpur yesterday with the aim of promoting investment and economic cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia, with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, attending and delivering remarks on opportunities to strengthen bilateral economic ties.

The dialogue was jointly organized by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) at the InterContinental Kuala Lumpur Hotel.

Senior Myanmar officials accompanying the President, Malaysian government officials, UMFCCI President U Aye Win and members, NCCIM Pres-



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the Myanmar-Malaysia High-Level Business Dialogue 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ident Mr Norsyahrin Hamidon and officials, as well as leading businesspeople from both countries attended the event. The Myanmar

delegation was warmly welcomed by officials and business leaders upon arrival. In his opening remarks, President U Min Aung

Hlaing said Myanmar and Malaysia share historical ties and are both ASEAN member states located in the South-East Asian peninsula. Bilateral relations have gradually expanded beyond political and diplomatic ties into such areas as trade, investment, con-

nectivity and technology, energy, tourism, education and culture.

He said the time was ripe to build the existing friendly relations between the two countries into a stronger economic partnership.

The President noted that economic and technological changes were taking place rapidly worldwide, while regional and global challenges were increasing the importance of economic resilience. Against this backdrop, mutual trust, respect and mutually beneficial cooperation among regional countries had become increasingly important. Malaysia is currently an important trading partner of Myanmar, with bilateral trade reaching US\$1.662 billion last year and exceeding US\$1.01 billion through August this year, he said.

SEE PAGE 3

Bogyoke Aung San Market celebrates centenary

A historic landmark and a tourist destination in Yangon, the Bogyoke Aung San Market's centenary celebration opened yesterday.

The centenary celebration was opened with a ribbon-cutting led by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials.

Along with the regional chief minister, regional cabinet members, department officials and guests attended the ceremony,



The opening of the Bogyoke Aung San Market's centenary event.

and they visited stalls at their music and dance performances. Artistes entertained the audience with

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Myanmar rice exports earn US\$338M+ in H1

MYANMAR'S rice and broken rice exports by sea exceeded 970,000 tonnes in the first half of the current financial year 2026-2027 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$338 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar's rice export volume is registered at 169,559 tonnes (\$51 million) in April, 136,262 tonnes (\$42 million) in

May, 223,714 tonnes (\$74 million) in June, 170,195 tonnes (\$64 million) in July, 148,548 tonnes (\$59 million) in August and 123,385 tonnes (\$47 million) in September.

The Ministry of Commerce aims to earn approximately \$1.179 billion from rice exports, with export targets of 1.8 million tonnes of rice and 1.2 million tonnes of broken rice through sea and border

trade routes this FY, totaling three million tonnes.

Myanmar's rice export in FY 2025-2026 (April-March) exceeded 2.7 million tonnes, bagging \$861 million, MRF's data showed. Myanmar earned over US\$1.129 billion from exporting 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice during FY 2024-25 (1 April-31 March).

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NATIONAL

Bagan’s hotels, guesthouses fully booked ahead of Thadingyut Festival



Travellers are pictured in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

HOTELS and guesthouses in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone, which usually sees a high influx of visitors during the Thadingyut Festival, have been fully booked for the upcoming festival period, according to the Bagan Branch of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

“We expect this year’s Thadingyut Festival to be livelier than last year. Hotels have already reached full capacity in terms of bookings in recent days. There will be market fairs, lighting festivals, floating-light events and other festival activities, and we expect more tourists to visit Bagan,” said Daw San San Myint, Assistant Director of the Bagan Branch of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

She also invited people to visit Bagan, which is home to a wealth of Myanmar’s cultural heritage and is often described as the heart of Myanmar, to enjoy its pagodas, stupas, temples and natural scenery from both the ground and the air, as well as to make merit and enjoy traditional cultural and religious festivities.

During the upcoming Thadingyut Festival, in addition to lighting oil lamps at pagodas, stupas and temples across the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, a range of special activities will be organized. Local foods, handicrafts, souvenir clothing, traditional items, paintings, sand paintings, various toys and locally produced goods will be sold from ox carts as part of the special festival activities. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

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

President U Min Aung Hlaing pays official visit to Malaysia

A high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw Airport by special aircraft yesterday morning to pay an Official Visit to Malaysia at the invitation of His Excellency Dato’ Seri Anwar Bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by the President was seen off at the airport by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials of the Malaysian Embassy in Myanmar.

The President is accompanied by Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi,



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing receiving warm welcome upon his arrival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with the Malaysian Guard of Honour taking positions on either side of the red carpet.

U Tin Maung Swe, U Min Naung, U Myint Kyaing, U Maung Myint and U Tun Ohn, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Naing Oo, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers and officials.

The special aircraft

carrying the high-level Myanmar delegation led by the President arrived at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia at about 12:30 pm local standard time. They were warmly welcomed by officials from the Malaysian government led by Malaysia’s Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Mr Datuk Seri Johari

Abdul Ghani, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Aung Kyaw Moe and his wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Nyi Nyi Oo and officials. The Malaysian Guard of Honour also took positions on either side of the red carpet, saluted, and accorded an official welcome. — MNA/TTA

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 7 October 2026

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 8 OCTOBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in southern Shan, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and northern Shan State, scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (northern and southern) Shan States. In areas 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: Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 OCTOBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 OCTOBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 OCTOBER 2026: Partly cloudy. — DMH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Malaysia Seek Greater Investment and Economic Cooperation at Business Dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, rubber and raw materials, and garments to Malaysia, while importing fuel and lubricants, petroleum products, palm oil, food products, industrial finished goods, electronic products, plastic raw materials, chemical raw materials and pharmaceuticals from Malaysia.

He said the complementary nature of products traded between the two countries provided opportunities to increase bilateral trade and raise the proportion of value-added products. In particular, Myanmar could work with Malaysian businesses to transform agricultural, livestock, fishery and other raw materials into value-added products meeting international standards in quality, packaging and food safety.

He also highlighted opportunities for joint ventures and business-to-business cooperation by combining Malaysia's technology, management expertise, quality standards, market linkages and distribution networks with Myanmar's resources and production base.

Investment, he said, played a key role in strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. Malaysia is currently Myanmar's ninth-largest foreign investor, with 32 investment projects worth more than US\$1 billion being implemented in Myanmar.

He invited Malaysian investors to explore opportunities in food production and processing, agricultural processing, halal food, fisheries, rubber and rubber-based products, packaging, cold storage and logistics, industrial



This image captures the Myanmar-Malaysia High-Level Business Dialogue 2026 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.

production and other value-added sectors.

The President also encouraged cooperation in modernizing the entire farm-to-market supply chain, including seeds and agricultural inputs, modern machinery, post-harvest loss reduction, drying, cleaning, cold storage, packaging and distribution. The integration of digital logistics, warehouse management, cargo tracking and quality-control systems could further reduce post-harvest losses and improve export supply-chain management, he said.

He invited Malaysian investors to cooperate in the palm oil sector, noting Malaysia's experience in palm cultivation, palm-oil milling, refining and value-added edible-oil production. He said such cooperation could be undertaken in Taninthayi Region, which is geographically and climatically suitable for palm cultivation, while vegetable-oil production could also be developed nationwide.

Opportunities also exist in livestock and meat and fish production, he said, adding that Myanmar was prepared to develop production systems meeting required

standards and cooperate with Malaysian investors to gain access to the Malaysian halal food market.

He further pointed to opportunities in livestock farms, animal-feed production, animal healthcare, meat processing, halal certification, food traceability, cold-chain facilities and meat-production technology.

The President said Myanmar was prioritizing infrastructure development and that opportunities were also available for Malaysian businesses to invest in iron, steel and cement production.

He invited Malaysian investors to participate in Myanmar's special economic zones, including Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukpyu. While the Thilawa Special Economic Zone is currently the most successful, the Dawei and Kyaukpyu zones are expected to become strategically important in the future.

He said investment could extend beyond factory construction to the development of industrial clusters, supplier networks, logistics hubs and export-processing facilities, creating long-term supply-chain linkages between Malaysian and

Myanmar companies.

Cooperation among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) was also highlighted as an important area. He proposed e-commerce development, joint vocational training schools and cooperation in manufacturing MSME products, as well as regular business, supplier and technology matching programmes between MSMEs from the two countries.

He also emphasized the importance of financial services, particularly remittance channels, given the large number of Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia. Cooperation among banks, remittance-service providers and fintech companies could help establish secure, fast and transparent digital payment and remittance systems in compliance with relevant regulations.

He called for stronger links between banks in the two countries, improved cross-border payment and settlement systems, expanded trade-finance services and greater access to financial support for MSMEs.

Malaysia's experience in digital banking, payment technology and

banking risk management could also be shared with Myanmar, he said.

Education, healthcare and tourism were identified as further areas for cooperation. The President said Myanmar was promoting these sectors as part of human-resource development and that Malaysian businesses could explore opportunities to establish education-related businesses, offer joint training programmes and expand education services in Myanmar.

In healthcare, he highlighted potential cooperation in hospitals and clinics, pharmaceutical production, medical equipment, medical tourism, telemedicine and teleconsultation, health technology and skills development.

He also noted Malaysia's successful transition from a natural-resource-based economy towards a modern technology-driven industrial economy, including the semiconductor, artificial intelligence and data-centre sectors. Myanmar's Yadanapon Cyber City near PyinOoLwin, covering more than 2,800 hectares, was highlighted as an opportunity for investment in information technology, software development, high-tech industries and digital services.

He said Malaysian companies in electrical and electronics, semiconductors, machinery and equipment and digital technology could combine their experience with Myanmar's manufacturing capabilities, workforce and market base to develop assembly, component manufacturing, technical training and technology-transfer activities.

He proposed cooperation between Malaysian technology companies

and Myanmar universities, technical schools and private businesses in internship programmes, vocational training, technical certification and skills development.

To make bilateral economic cooperation more practical, the President suggested strengthening a regular Business Dialogue and Business Matching Mechanism involving government departments, business associations, chambers of commerce and the private sector.

He also proposed establishing a Business Information and Investment Facilitation Platform to connect investment opportunities, tradable products, required technologies and quality standards, potential business partners and market needs in one place. Through such mechanisms, discussions could lead to concrete investment projects, joint ventures, export contracts and technology partnerships, he said.

He added that Myanmar protects domestic products and investments under four intellectual property laws and places emphasis on technology cooperation, the creation of quality employment and the development of domestic production and infrastructure while safeguarding investors' interests in accordance with its policies.

The President said Myanmar would support Malaysian investment projects and give priority to increasing bilateral trade and investment.

He described the dialogue as not merely a platform for exchanging opportunities but also as a platform for initiating practical economic cooperation between the two countries.

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds 2nd coord meeting with committees' chairpersons, secretaries

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi presided over the second work coordination meeting with the chairpersons and secretaries of committees formed under the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the meeting, the Speaker said that the Third Pyithu Hluttaw has now entered its third regular session and emphasized that the work of parliamentary committees plays a crucial role in bringing the Hluttaw's activities to a significant level of progress.

He said the committees were formed to strengthen the Hluttaw's legislative work through detailed study, scrutiny, discussion and recommendations in their respective sectors, and that they are responsible for carrying out specialized tasks in



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi presides over the second work coordination meeting with the Pyithu Hluttaw committees' chairpersons and secretaries.

practice. Therefore, committee members need to continuously enhance their knowledge and expertise in their respective areas.

He also called for consultations with relevant organizations on laws under review by the

respective committees so that they can be amended, supplemented or repealed in line with changing circumstances, or new laws enacted where necessary. He stressed the need for committees to develop legislative calendars to

make the legislative process more systematic and effective.

He emphasized that the Hluttaw must give due consideration to the voices and aspirations of the people while also focusing on legislative matters that

contribute to the interests of the State. He called for consultations with relevant organizations on matters concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, protection of women and children from violence, care for older persons, the development and well-being of farmers, and disaster prevention and preparedness. Where existing laws are insufficient, he said, consideration should be given to enacting new legislation.

He also urged the committees to use Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess and measure their performance and ensure tangible progress. In addition, he encouraged them to study and review the practices of parliaments in other countries and work toward building a Hluttaw that serves the

interests of the country and its people.

Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn said that the role and effectiveness of the Hluttaw would be enhanced through the improved performance of individual representatives. The seminars and training courses will be conducted to further strengthen the capacity of Hluttaw representatives.

He also noted that the representatives serving on the committees have considerable experience and suggested that closer coordination and cooperation with relevant organizations will help ensure greater effectiveness in carrying out their duties and exercising their assigned powers.

The participants coordinated the discussion, and the Speaker concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar, Malaysia Seek Greater Investment and Economic ...

FROM PAGE 3

By combining Myanmar's natural and human resources with Malaysia's technology, investment and market linkages, the two countries could establish a long-term cooperation chain from trade to investment, from investment to value-added production, and from value-added production to regional market connectivity.

He called on Malaysian businesspeople to view Myanmar not merely as a market but as a part-

ner for production, value-added manufacturing and regional supply-chain connectivity, and invited them to pursue long-term mutually beneficial cooperation.

During the dialogue, Malaysian businesspeople also discussed their country's development and experience in international port operations, logistics and transportation, integrated agriculture including palm oil and coconut cultivation, energy and technology, steel and mineral pro-

duction, and construction.

They also presented strategic economic perspectives on international and regional developments, requirements for aligning government policies and implementation standards to facilitate comprehensive economic cooperation with Myanmar, and practical recommendations and opportunities for increasing investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

In response, the President said the oppor-

tunities and prospects for strengthening investment and economic cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia had already been highlighted in his opening remarks. He welcomed the broad-ranging discussions and recommendations put forward by Malaysian businesspeople.

He said political and security stability was necessary for economic development and that Myanmar was continuing efforts towards political stability. He also said in-

vestment was protected by laws and invited Malaysian businesses to invest in Myanmar with confidence.

He further said the issues openly discussed by Malaysian businesspeople represented practical matters reflecting Myanmar's actual needs. The government was making efforts from various angles to strengthen the economy and would provide necessary support for foreign investments.

He encouraged Malaysian businesspeople to

visit Myanmar, study current market conditions firsthand and identify investment opportunities. He described the inaugural meeting as successful and constructive and called for the two sides to expand cooperation and jointly create a broader and more practically beneficial new economic front.

The dialogue concluded with the President cordially greeting the businesspeople from both countries. — MNA/ST

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw answers 10 questions, approves two motions on electricity, education and other matters

ON the 13th day of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, ten questions concerning electricity supply, staff housing, new school buildings, educational storage facilities, student loans, international standards for universities, convocation halls and the redrafting of the Private Education Law were answered, while two motions were discussed and approved.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw responded to a question concerning the Tiddim electricity supply project. He stated that, in order to supply electricity to Tiddim Township through the national grid, plans had been initiated in the 2022-2023 financial year



The 13th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

to construct 40 miles of 66 kV power lines and a 66 kV substation. Although tenders were invited, the materials could not be transported to the worksite due to local security conditions.

The materials are currently being stored at the central warehouse in Nay Pyi Taw, while construction plans remain temporarily suspended. He added that, once local conditions

permit, the remaining procurement and construction works will be carried out using Union funds.

Regarding the electrification of the 12 remaining villages in Htugyi region

of Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region, Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw explained that the construction of 6.76 miles of 11 kV power lines and twelve 11/0.4 kV transformers would be prioritized in stages, depending on capital fund allocations from the Region Government budget. The construction of 400 V power lines within the villages must be undertaken through self-reliance.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing responded to questions concerning school infrastructure. He said construction of a single-storey RC building containing four classrooms at Warkhwa Basic Education High School (Branch)

in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region, would be scheduled according to the regional priority list, subject to capital budget allocations in upcoming financial years. Similarly, construction of a single-storey building containing three classrooms at Yaesin Basic Education Primary School in Mahlaing Township would be scheduled according to regional priorities and the availability of capital funds, while a single-storey building containing four classrooms at Htanbinkan Basic Education High School (Branch) in the same township would be planned according to regional priorities and future budget allocations.

SEE PAGE 6

MNPIFER Union Minister leads Myanmar delegation to attend 6th Russia-Myanmar Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation Meeting and related meetings

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe attended the sixth Russia-Myanmar Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation meeting and business discussions held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 5 October 2026.

The Myanmar delegation, led by the Union minister, and the delegation of the Russian Federation, led by Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, who serves as the Co-Chair of the Myanmar-Russia Joint Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, held a bilateral meeting. Subsequently, the plenary session of the Joint Commission was convened. At



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe attends the sixth Russia-Myanmar Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation meeting in Moscow, the Russian Federation.

the session, the Co-Chairs discussed the cooperation between the two countries in promoting economic and investment development, as well as progress made and plans in the energy, information and communications technology (ICT), education, and health sectors. They also exchanged views on the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two

countries.

Furthermore, the record of discussions of the 6th Russia-Myanmar Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation meeting was approved, and bilateral agreements were signed and exchanged with the aim of expanding cooperation in health, education, energy, trade, and investments.

In addition, a Business-to-Business (B2B) Session was held to enable business owners from both nations to discuss economic opportunities and establish business connections.

Moreover, on 4 October 2026, the Myanmar delegation met with representatives from the Roscongress Investment Fund and JSC "CenterInform" to discuss potential for cooperation.

The commission meeting and related meetings were attended by the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe, alongside a total of 37 representatives from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and various business associations who participated in the B2B session. — MNPIFER

Bogyoke Aung San Market celebrates centenary

FROM PAGE 1

The centenary celebration started on 7 October and will end on 11 October.

The market, which is located on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Pabedan Township and formerly known as Scott Market,

was established in 1926. It was named after Mr Gavin Scott, the Municipal Commissioner of the time. In 2026, Yangon's iconic heritage market reaches its centenary, standing as a living testament to the city's history and culture. — Htun Htun/ZS

Myanmar rice exports earn US\$338M+ in H1

FROM PAGE 1

The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association,

Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, and Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

MoC Deputy Minister inspects repair work in Falam

REPAIR works are currently underway in Falam on a two-storey, six-unit staff housing building at Falam People's Hospital; a two-storey RC building with eight units for nurses; a two-storey RC building with four units for doctors; and the one-storey RC convocation hall, trainees' dormitory, classroom building and principal's office of Falam Nursing Science School.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Thaung Naing, who is in Chin State to oversee rehabilitation works, inspected the ongoing repairs yesterday morning together with Chin State Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transportation U Nay Lin Aung and



Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing and officials are pictured during their inspection tour in Falam, Chin State.

members of the state's rehabilitation and reconstruction committee.

The deputy minister instructed officials to expedite the repair works so that the buildings can be put back into use and nursing training courses can resume at the earli-

est possible time.

The hospital superintendent also explained plans to temporarily convert a two-storey, six-unit staff housing building into a temporary hospital. The deputy minister instructed the officials to complete the work sys-

tematically within the set timeframe and ensure that essential health services can resume immediately upon completion. He also urged relevant departments to conduct thorough inspections and formally take over the renovated facilities.

The medicines and medical supplies for Tiddim and Tonzang People's hospitals arrived in Tiddim on Tuesday evening. A 100 MA fixed-type digital X-ray machine for the Tiddim People's Hospital (100-bed) has also been installed and prepared for use. The medicines and medical supplies will subsequently be transported from Tiddim to Tonzang. — District IPRD/KTZH

Police beef up security in Yangon Region

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

As part of the operations yesterday, police personnel from Dagon Myothit (East), Kyimyindine, Pabedan, North Okkalapa and Sangyoung, together with police personnel from the Kamayut and Hline-thaya (East) traffic police units, conducted bicycle and motorcycle patrols, provided security, checked

suspicious vehicles and motorcycles, questioned and recorded individuals who had illegally returned from overseas, distributed awareness pamphlets encouraging people to use pedestrian crossings, and promoted traffic safety.

Yesterday evening, police personnel in Dagon Myothit (North), Hline-thaya (West), Thaunggyi, Kyimyindine and Hlegu townships also conducted vehicle checks, inspected suspected vehicles, inspected KTV lounges, checked guest registers and carried out security patrols. — Aung Thu/MKKS



Region Police Force.

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw answers 10 questions, approves two motions ...

FROM PAGE 5

For Maingaw Basic Education High School (Branch) in Mongshu Township, Shan State (South), he said construction of a single-storey building containing three classrooms, major repairs to address roof leaks in the two-storey brick-nogging building and construction of 280 feet of boundary wall would be planned according to the State's priority list, subject to future fund availability. He added that there is currently insufficient space for additional staff housing, but existing staff quarters would be urgently repaired to ensure safety. At Myoma Basic Education High School in Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, construction of a new two-storey RC extension containing five classrooms would be arranged according to the regional priority list,

subject to future capital budget availability. At the Kyonpyaw District Education Office in Ayeyawady Region, a single-storey RC storage facility would be constructed using capital construction funds according to the regional priority schedule in upcoming financial years.

Addressing questions concerning higher education loans and standards, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint stated that the Ministry of Education annually awards scholarships to eligible students from genuinely low-income families. However, Myanmar currently has no plans to provide comprehensive student loans for higher education, although living allowances and stipends continue to be provided to needy full-time students.

Regarding the up-grading of universities to

international standards, Dr Zaw Myint noted that the ministry has established the National Education Standards and Quality Assurance Assessment Committee to strengthen quality assurance processes. Universities conduct internal and external audits in line with ASEAN University Network Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) criteria at both programme and institutional levels. Efforts are also being made to meet the five pillars and 17 performance indicators of Times Higher Education (THE), as well as the 11 indicators of the QS Asia University Rankings. Overall, the Ministry is continuously promoting Myanmar universities under the framework of "Quality Education, Digital Transformation, Research & Innovation, Internationalization & Quality Assurance".

Regarding Mohnyin University, Dr Zaw Myint stated that the Department of Higher Education has scrutinized and scheduled the construction of a university-level convocation hall in accordance with procedures for the 2027-2028 financial year, subject to budget allocations.

Concerning the Private Education Law enacted on 22 October 1984, Dr Zaw Myint noted that its terminology, penalties and financial rates are no longer aligned with current circumstances. The Department of Basic Education is reviewing the necessary amendments, including provisions for online and digital learning systems. As the proposed amendments would affect more than half or two-thirds of the original provisions, the department is systematically working

to draft a new law in accordance with legislative procedures.

Next, U Win Myint Maung, representative from Kyaukpadaung Constituency, submitted a motion urging the Union Government to reinstate and implement a special nurturing programme for outstanding arts and science students (Arts/Science Excellence Awards) in accordance with Section 368, Chapter 8 of the 2008 Constitution. The motion was supported by U Hla Myint, a representative from Madaya Constituency. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly's decision and, with the approval of the assembly, the motion was accepted for discussion. Representatives were invited to register their names to participate in the debate.

Similarly, U Thet Naing Oo, representative

from Hpa-an Constituency, submitted a motion urging the Union Government and the Ministry of Health to establish major outpatient departments to ease the healthcare burden on citizens and establish regional specialized hospitals capable of providing international-standard treatment for major diseases. The motion was supported by U Ye Tun Win, a representative from Thayetchaung Constituency. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly's decision, and the motion was accepted for debate, with interested representatives invited to register their names.

The 13th day of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was adjourned, and it was announced that the 14th day of the session would be held on 9 October. — News Team/TH

NATIONAL

48 Members of DPLA and KNPP Return to Legal Fold in Shan State

IN line with the Tatmadaw’s continued emphasis on maintaining national peace and stability, successes have been achieved in counter-terrorism operations, with areas temporarily controlled by terrorist insurgents being fully regained. Local ethnic people have welcomed and supported these developments, actively cooperating with the Tatmadaw out of trust, reliance and enthusiasm. As a result, members of armed terrorist organizations have come to understand the peace process and reported to nearby military camps and security forces to return to the legal fold.

Among those who returned to the legal fold were 48 individuals — 43 men and four women from the so-called DPLA, and one man from the so-called KNPP — who surrendered together with arms and ammunition. A ceremony to systematically hand them over to their parents and guardians was held this morning at Thanlwin Hall of Eastern Command.



A handover ceremony for returnees is underway in Taunggyi Township, Shan State.

The ceremony was attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe, Eastern Command Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Naing Oo and officials, officials from the Pa-O and Danu Self-Administered Zones, departmental officials, members of the Myanmar Police Force, invitees, the returnees, and their parents and guardians.

First, the Shan State Chief Minister delivered an opening address of honour, after which the Eastern Command Com-

mander gave an educational briefing to the returning youth. The Shan State Police Chief, Police Brig-Gen, then gave a briefing on legal matters.

Afterwards, the returnees surrendered the weapons and ammunition they had brought with them, comprising two MA-1 rifles, one AK-47 rifle, six assorted magazines, two hand grenades and 251 rounds of assorted ammunition. The weapons and ammunition were accepted by the State Chief Minister,

the Commander and responsible officials.

The State Chief Minister and the Commander subsequently presented cash rewards of K15 million for the three automatic rifles, K600,000 for the two hand grenades and K4.8 million, at a rate of K100,000 for each of the 48 returnees. The total cash rewards amounted to K20.4 million, together with gifts, which were received by the returnees.

Following this, a representative of the returnees expressed words of gratitude. The returnees then signed pledges before being systematically handed over to their parents and guardians.

At today’s ceremony, those who returned to the legal fold, having placed their faith in the peace process and genuinely wishing for regional stability, and who were subsequently handed over to their guardians, comprised 24 men and four women from Yatsauk Township in Southern Shan State; 12 men from Pindaya Township; one man from Ywangan Town-

ship; one man from Okpho Township in Bago Region; one man from Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region; one man from Magway in Magway Region; one man from North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region; one man from Myeik Township in Taninthayi Region; one man from Phyu Township in Bago Region; and one man from Mese Township in Kayah State.

DPLA and KNPP members reportedly returned to the legal fold and renounced the path of armed struggle for several reasons. They said they had been forcibly recruited through coercion involving their family members and relatives; could no longer tolerate terrorist acts, including threatening, arresting and killing innocent civilians and civil servants for the benefit of terrorist organizations, as well as blowing up and destroying non-military infrastructure, roads and bridges; and had faced hierarchical discrimination, internal bullying, torture, killings and other abuses

within the groups.

They also reportedly suffered hardship, deprivation and low morale because they were unable to withstand the Tatmadaw’s offensives. Having come to trust and accept the peace process of the State and the Tatmadaw, they wished to live peacefully within the legal framework and contribute back to the State and the people who had suffered losses as a result of their actions.

As returnees are being welcomed back, provided with necessary assistance and systematically reunited with their parents and guardians, many others are reportedly still wishing to return to the legal fold. Those who wish to return will be welcomed and provided with the necessary support, as well as appropriate cash rewards for surrendered weapons and ammunition, after contacting and reporting to nearby district and township administrative bodies, military camps or police stations. —100/ST

Phase II Crackdown Demolishes Online Scam Hubs in Shwe Kokko

THE government places special emphasis on combating online scams and online gambling as a national duty and carry out effective inspections, investigations and crackdowns in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries, with the aim of preventing such activities from becoming established anywhere in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the illegal buildings in the KK Park area that were used for online scam and gambling

activities were systematically demolished in three phases, and the demolition of all these buildings was completed on 9 January.

Similarly, a total of 140 illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area that were used for online scam and gambling operations were classified according to their respective types, and arrangements were made for their complete demolition. In the first phase, 77 buildings were systematically demolished on 26 July.

In the second phase, the remaining 63 buildings

were classified according to the methods required for their demolition. Of these, 25 buildings are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four buildings are to be demolished through controlled blasting, and 34 buildings, which are located in proximity to residential houses, are to be demolished manually, floor by floor. Systematic demolition of these buildings has been continuing since 6 October.

As part of the ongoing demolition work, one five-storey building among those designated for demo-



This image captures the demolition of scam-related structures in the Shwe Kokko area.

lition using heavy machinery was demolished, with 40 per cent of the building

having been demolished as of today. Moreover, preparatory work involving the

placement of explosives has been underway at one six-storey building.

The government carries out measures, in coordination with domestic forces and the governments of neighbouring countries, to address online scam and gambling activities as a national duty and to ensure that such activities cannot establish a foothold anywhere in Myanmar. The remaining buildings designated for demolition will continue to be demolished as quickly as possible. – 100/ KTZH

OPINION

ARTICLE

Exposing destructionists undermining peace and stability of the State

In Myanmar, the government is systematically implementing the democratic system desired by the people and striving to ensure peace, stability and development in the country. In this process, the government is taking measures to identify, prevent and take action against any acts aimed at disrupting or undermining peace and stability. The people who desire peace, stability and development should also collectively oppose, condemn and work to counter such acts.

At present, domestic and foreign violent groups and destructive elements are employing various means to disrupt peace and stability and undermine the administrative machinery, while the government, the Tatmadaw and security organizations are continuously working to identify and counter such activities. Within the country, action is being taken in accordance with the existing laws against those who create and spread hate speech, content intended to undermine public confidence in the State, fake news and misinformation through various social media platforms to disrupt national peace and stability, inciting unrest and causing instability in social and economic life.

The government and the Tatmadaw are effectively combating armed insurgent groups in order to further strengthen peace and stability in the country, and stability and peace have now been achieved. At such a time, if some people residing in the country continue to engage in various activities supporting armed groups in order to prolong their existence, they should be aware that doing so not only exposes themselves to considerable danger but also constitutes an obstruction and disruption to national peace, stability and development. They should therefore recognize that violating the law while residing in the country carries serious risks.

be aware that they may face legal action under the Counter-Terrorism Law.

The government and the Tatmadaw are effectively combating armed insurgent groups in order to further strengthen peace and stability in the country, and stability and peace have now been achieved. At such a time, if some people residing in the country continue to engage in various activities supporting armed groups in order to prolong their existence, they should be aware that doing so not only exposes themselves to considerable danger but also constitutes an obstruction and disruption to national peace, stability and development. They should therefore recognize that violating the law while residing in the country carries serious risks.

Therefore, engaging in acts of terrorism will never lead to success and will only cause harm and loss to the State and the people. The State will take effective action against those who, in any way, assist, support or provide resources to terrorist organizations. Therefore, everyone should exercise particular caution to avoid inadvertently supporting or becoming involved in terrorist activities.

The reflection “When the Rain Stops, Do We Remember the Umbrella?” published in The Global New Light of Myanmar dated 23 September 2026, presents a simple but powerful image of human relationships. An umbrella is precious when rain is falling. It gives shelter, protects us from discomfort, and helps us continue our journey. Yet when the sky becomes clear, the same umbrella can easily be forgotten, abandoned, or treated as an unnecessary burden. Through this metaphor, the writer, Laura Htet (UDE), reminds us that some people are valued only while they are useful. When their help is no longer needed, the gratitude and affection shown towards them may disappear.

This idea deserves strong support because it exposes a common weakness in human behaviour. During difficult times, people often seek comfort, advice, protection, and encouragement. They promise that they will never forget those who stand beside them. However, once their problems are solved and their lives become comfortable, they may become distant from the very people who helped them survive. The essay expresses this painful truth clearly: “Just as an umbrella may be forgotten when the rain has stopped, the people who once protected them from the storm may also be forgotten.” This quotation is not merely a poetic comparison. It describes a moral failure – the failure to remember the people whose kindness made our recovery possible.

By sixty, most of us have collected more than photographs and possessions. In the cupboards of memory lie words we wish we had not spoken, relationships we handled poorly, opportunities we neglected, and secrets we have never quite made peace with.

When the Rain Stops: The Meaning of Gratitude, Loyalty, and Moral Practice

By Thin Hlaing Hmwe

ery possible.

The central message of the essay is that genuine relationships should not be measured only by usefulness. The writer asks important questions: “Did they love us, or did they love what we gave them? Did they value our presence, or did they value our usefulness?” These questions encourage readers to examine the foundations of their own relationships. A person who stays close only when we can solve problems, provide money, offer emotional support, or create opportunities may not truly value us as a human being. By contrast, a sincere friend remains connected even when there is no advantage to gain.

The essay is especially convincing because it does not argue that people must remain dependent on those who once helped them. Circumstances naturally change. People grow, become stronger, move to new places, and follow different paths. The writer wisely states, “We do not have to remain dependent on someone simply because they once helped us.” This is an important distinction. Gratitude does not mean permanent dependence, and remembering someone does not mean refusing to move forward. Instead, gratitude means recognizing the value of past kindness even after our immediate need has ended. As the essay beautifully explains, “Gratitude is not dependence. Gratitude is remembrance.”

Nevertheless, the meaning of this message becomes fuller and more powerful only when the person who writes it also practices it. A moral lesson is not complete merely because it is expressed in beautiful language. It gains authority when it is reflected in the writer’s conduct. If an author urges readers to remember those who supported them but personally forgets, dismisses, or ignores people after receiving their help, the words may still sound attractive, but their moral force becomes weaker. Readers naturally judge not only what a writer says, but also whether the writer’s life gives

credibility to those words.

This does not mean that a writer must be perfect or must maintain every relationship forever. No human being can live without mistakes, and every relationship has its limits. The writer may need to leave unhealthy connections, establish boundaries, or protect personal well-being. Practising gratitude does not require constant contact or unlimited sacrifice. It requires honesty, respect, and remembrance. A brief message, a sincere acknowledgement, or a willingness to speak kindly about past support can demonstrate that a person has not treated another human being as a disposable tool.

For this reason, the author’s own practice of the principle would deepen the essay’s significance. If the writer has personally remembered mentors, friends, family members, or colleagues who offered help during difficult seasons, then the essay becomes more than an observation about other people. It becomes a testimony. If

the writer continues to show appreciation even when there is no longer anything to receive, readers can feel that the words arise from lived experience rather than from abstract judgment. The metaphor of the umbrella

– holding tightly to them in a crisis and then putting them aside when the crisis ended. Perhaps a friend listened to us when we were emotionally exhausted. Perhaps a family member supported us financially. Perhaps

did. Their role in our lives may have changed, but their value has not disappeared.

The essay also teaches us how to identify true relationships. “During peaceful days, everyone can walk beside us,”



then becomes not only an image but also a standard by which the writer’s own character can be understood.

This principle applies equally to readers. We should ask ourselves whether we have ever treated someone as an umbrella

a teacher gave us confidence when we doubted ourselves. Perhaps a colleague helped us through a difficult period at work. When our situation improves, we may not need their assistance in the same way, but that does not erase what they

the writer observes. “But during difficult days, when there is nothing to gain and no reward to receive, the people who stay become much easier to recognize.” The reverse is also true: when our success returns, the way we treat those who helped

us reveals our character. Do we acknowledge them, or do we behave as if we achieved everything alone? Do we preserve their dignity, or do we contact them only when we need something again? Our answers show whether our loyalty is genuine.

Ultimately, the essay is a call to ethical consistency. It asks us to make our behaviour agree with our words. If we praise loyalty, we must practice loyalty. If we speak about gratitude, we must remember those who helped us. If we believe that people should not be discarded after their usefulness ends, we must ensure that we do not discard others. The writer’s own life and relationships, therefore, are part of the message. When the author embodies the values expressed in the essay, the writing becomes more complete, more trustworthy, and more moving.

The rain of life will eventually stop, and every storm will pass. We may no longer need the same shelter, advice, or protection. But the people who stood with us in the rain should never be reduced to the temporary function they served. Their kindness helped shape who we became. As the essay concludes, “The memory of who stood beside us in the rain should never be forgotten.” These words deserve our agreement – not only in speech, but also in action. The true measure of gratitude is not how warmly we remember people while we need them, but how respectfully we remember them when we no longer do.

After Sixty: The Skeletons in Our Cupboards

Psychology recognizes that



pushing painful memories away may help us cope temporarily. Yet keeping the cupboard firmly shut can become exhausting. The past returns through regret, defensiveness or sleepless reflection.

Buddhism invites us to examine these experiences with mindfulness and compassion. We notice a memory, acknowledge the feelings it brings, and

resist turning it into a permanent verdict on ourselves. “I acted unwisely” allows the possibility of change: “I am forever a bad person” closes that door.

The teaching of impermanence – Anicca – reminds us that neither our circumstances nor our character are fixed. We cannot change yesterday’s action, but we can change how we act

today. Kamma is not a reason to surrender to fatalism: our present intentions and conduct matter.

Where we have caused harm, remorse can lead to an apology, restitution and a firm commitment not to repeat it. Endless self-punishment, however, does little for the person we injured. The more meaningful response is better conduct.

The Buddhist practices of loving-kindness, Mettā, and compassion, Karuṇā, can include ourselves. This does not excuse misconduct. It helps us face it without hatred, just as we might guide someone else towards responsibility without declaring them beyond redemption.

Nor must every secret become a public confession. Dis-

closure requires judgement: will it help repair harm, or merely relieve our discomfort at another person’s expense? Some memories are best explored privately with a trusted listener or counsellor.

After sixty, opening the cupboard need not become an inventory of failures. It can become an exercise in understanding: what needs repair, what needs grieving, and what can finally be released.

We cannot empty the past of its mistakes. We can stop adding to them – and meet the years ahead with greater honesty, compassion and peace.

By U Khin Maung Myint

NATIONAL

Myanmar Garment Sector Endures With 500+ Factories, Faces Labour Gap

MORE than 500 garment factories are actively running across Myanmar, with some experiencing labour shortages, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry’s General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe.

“Over 500 to nearly 600 garment factories are operating at present. There are over 500 member factories of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association. Worker migration results in shrinking domestic labour forces; therefore, many factories genuinely need workers.



A garment factory operating in Myanmar with a female workforce.

There are many jobs available at these factories. These factories and workshops are not fully staffed. I would say the number of workers needed is far

greater than the number of workers displaced from the factories that have closed.” She added.

The CMP factories operate with only about

700,000 to 800,000 workers, whereas they should be running with more. At this point, we are struggling to find enough workers even to operate with 500,000 to 600,000. Therefore, there are many vacancies still available for locals,” she said.

Most garment factories are working on the CMP (CutMakePack) basis. Workers face stagnant wages and salaries, while employers continue to grapple with a shortage of skilled labour, resulting in a significant ongoing demand for workers. — ASH/KK

Black gram, mung bean seeds set for flood-hit farmland in Ayeyawady

ACCORDING to the Ayeyawady Region Department of Agriculture, black gram and mung bean seeds will be distributed to enable replanting in farmland affected by flooding across Ayeyawady Region.

More than 57,000 acres of farmland were submerged by floods in Ayeyawady Region. In areas where sufficient water for paddy cultivation cannot be secured, plans are underway to grow black gram, mung beans, soy-

beans and sunflowers. To facilitate this, the Natural Disaster Management Committee has approved K2.6 billion, according to reports.

Using the approved funds, the Ayeyawady Region Government has procured and stored 17,363 baskets of black gram seeds and 384 baskets of mung bean seeds for direct distribution to farmers. Currently, short-duration 90-day paddy varieties are being prioritized for



This photo shows black gram and mung bean fields cultivated in Ayeyawady Region.

replanting in areas where floodwaters have receded, with ploughing fees, diesel fuel and seed paddy being provided for the affected acreage, according to reports.

Of more than 10,000 acres of paddy fields to be replanted in areas where floodwaters have receded, 1,035 acres will

be cultivated using transplanters, 2,000 acres using drum seeders and 7,763 acres through manual transplanting. The Department of Agriculture is also providing maintenance support and technical guidance to prevent crop damage and maintain crop yields, according to reports. — ASH/TH

Unauthorized use of VFV land subject to prosecution

THE Central Committee on Management of Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land has warned that legal action will be taken against anyone who fences off, operates businesses on, or resells vacant, fallow, and virgin land without obtaining permission under the law.

The committee stated that anyone who occupies boundaries, fences, operates businesses on, or

resells vacant, fallow, and virgin land in Ayeyawady Region, including the western coastal areas of Shwethaungyan, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, Goyangyi, and Hainggyi, without applying for permit will be committing an offence under the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law.

Anyone operating on the vacant, fallow, and virgin land with-

out applying for rights, or continuing to use the land after being ordered to vacate by the Central Committee or a relevant management committee when permission is deemed inappropriate, will face legal action under Section 22(b), Sub-section (3) of the law. The committee in Ayeyawady Region stated that action will be taken in accordance with these provisions under Sections 27 and 27(a) against anyone who trespasses, occupies, or uses vacant, fallow, and virgin land without authorization. — NN/KK

Construction work tenders called for Bwetgyi Reservoir Repair Project

THE Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department has invited domestic entrepreneurs and companies to submit open tender for one contract of above K200 million valued earthwork (excavation, filling and transport) and three contracts of construction material procurement required for the repair of the D/S embankment from 600 feet to 1,900 feet in Aunglan Township.

This project is to be implemented under the 2026-2027 Union capital budget of the IWUMD, Thayet Township, Magway Region.

Tender forms are available until 15 October at the IWUMD. The submission deadline is 4:30 pm on 19 October. The bid opening date will be announced. Bid opening will take place at the Guest House of the IWUMD at the corner of Taungdwingyi Road and Circular Road, Aung Mingala Ward, Magway City. Interested individuals can enquire about further details through the IWUMD in Thayet Township, or by dialling 09 401619866 or 09 428128088, according to the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee. — NN/KK

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Nyaungshwe



Officials oversee the progress of an agricultural project in Nyaungshwe Township.

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 2 October regarding the activities implemented under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Tilaw Village. The project is being carried out by the Nyaungshwe Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kalaw District, southern Shan State, aiming to create employment opportunities, increase family incomes, and reduce poverty among rural residents.

District Head U Aung Zaw Lin of the Kalaw District Department of Rural Development, Township Officer Daw Yu Yu of the

Nyaungshwe Township Department of Rural Development, along with project staff, inspected the agricultural activities implemented in Tilaw Village using K36 million from the MSY village project fund.

They also checked the completion of the required monthly record-keeping forms. District Head U Aung Zaw Lin of the Kalaw District Department of Rural Development coordinated and addressed necessary matters during the visit.

According to U Aung Zaw Lin, loans totalling K36 million have been disbursed to 57 farmers in Tilaw Village. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaing)

INTERVIEW

Interview with Asian Games Gold Medallists in Esports

SUCCESS in sports can bring a country international recognition while enhancing national pride, promoting peace and friendship, building a positive national image, inspiring younger generations, and creating economic opportunities. For this reason, countries around the world increasingly seek to strengthen their national image through achievements in sports. Myanmar is likewise placing special emphasis on the development and promotion of sports.

At the 20th Asian Games, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 19 September to 4 October, Myanmar's national Esports team, Zanaka, won the gold medal in the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) competition, defeating several experienced and highly competitive Asian teams.

Myanmar's first appearance in an Esports event at the Asian Games resulted in a historic gold medal, opening a new chapter for the country's Esports sector. The five MLBB players – Myo Myint Ko Ko Kyaw, Hein Htet Oo, Kyaw Thura, Han Htoo Swe, and Shine Lin Aung – overcame strong opponents step by step, from the group stage through the Grand Final. They eventually defeated Indonesia in the championship match to become Asian champions.

Myanmar finished 22nd among the 45 participating countries at the Asian Games. The achievement also marked Myanmar's highest-ever success at the Asian level in Esports, signalling the beginning of a new golden era and opening the door to greater achievements in digital sports.

Here are the heartfelt reflections of the MLBB athletes and officials who brought the historic Asian Games gold medal for the country.

Dr Kaung Myat San



Shine Lin Aung.



Hein Htet Oo.



Kyaw Thura.



Myo Myint Ko Ko Kyaw.



Han Htoo Swe.



Min Tun Aung (Instructor).



Dr Kaung Myat San
(President, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation)

(President, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation)

My parents and grandparents often told me about the golden era of Myanmar football in the 1960s, when legendary players such as Maha Duu tried for Myanmar to win an Asian Games gold medal. Today, our MLBB Esports team has achieved another historic gold medal through a team-based sport. This is also the first historic gold medal Myanmar has won on the Asian stage since the 2000s through a modern digital sport based on technology and brain power, defeating some of the world's leading countries. This achievement represents a dream that generations of Myanmar athletes have hoped to fulfil. It has also made one of the biggest dreams of my life a reality, so I am incredibly happy and proud.

From the 2025 PUBG Mobile World Cup championship and the 2026 MLBB World Cup silver medal to this Asian Games gold medal, these consecutive achievements have demonstrated Myanmar's emergence as a Digital Sports Powerhouse in Asia and the world. We have shown that the intelligence, technological ability and determination of Myanmar's young people can compete at the highest international

level. Since becoming President of the Federation, one of my main goals has been to create opportunities for Myanmar Esports athletes to proudly represent the country and compete successfully on the world's and Asia's highest official sporting stages, including the SEA Games, Asian Games and Olympics.

Seeing our athletes raise the Myanmar flag to the highest point on the Asian stage and hearing the National Anthem played after they won the gold medal through their Myanmar spirit, mutual trust and teamwork made me immensely proud and happy as Federation President.

I would also like to express my special thanks to the President of the State for allowing us to participate in the Asian Games and to the Ministry concerned for its close guidance and support throughout the competition.

The Asian Games gold medal we have won is not only a victory for the Esports community. It is a victory for Myanmar's youth, the entire Myanmar sporting community, and all Myanmar people.

Together with this historic Asian gold medal, we have fulfilled the hopes of the entire nation

and opened a golden door for a new era of Esports in Myanmar.

Since the establishment of MESF, more than K8 billion has been provided in investment and support for the development of young people and Esports in Myanmar. We sincerely thank KBZ Bank, U Aung Ko Win, Founder of KBZ Group, MESF Founder and Lead Patron; Daw Nan Lang Kham, Founder of KBZPay, MESF Founder and Honorary Patron; and Daw Nan Kham Naung for their continued support and close guidance toward restoring Myanmar's golden era of Esports. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to KBZ Bank and KBZPay for providing prize money and K500 million in grassroots funding in recognition of this historic gold medal; to our partners, including Lipo-Vitan D, Sinoda, U9 and Kaung Thukha, for their support throughout the Asian Games journey; to the media for covering and sharing information about our achievements; and to our fans, families and the people of Myanmar for their unwavering support.

Min Tun Aung (Coach, MLBB)

As a coach, I worked closely with the players,

was not only for ourselves but also represented our country.

That made us extremely excited. Deep inside, our entire team wanted to show the world what Myanmar could achieve.

Whenever I think about winning the gold medal for our country, I feel an overwhelming sense of happiness and pride.

Now that we have become Asian Games champions, teams from other countries will be watching us closely. We will work hard to maintain the standard we have achieved.

We are motivated to compete at increasingly higher-level international tournaments. To continue bringing home medals and bringing pride to Myanmar as we move from the Asian stage to the world stage, we will continue our intensive team training without slowing down.

Shine Lin Aung (Asian Games Gold Medallist)

I chose Esports because, during the COVID-19 period, mobile games became very popular among young people. At that time, I realized that these games could actually become a career path, which led me to choose Esports. I want young people to make the right choices for their future. Everyone should try to do something that can contribute to their country, their community and the people around them. I consider Esports to be the light of my future. I have a deep dream of using this path to show the world what Myanmar is capable of and to raise the Myanmar flag on the global stage. With the strength and support given to us by the people, we will continue moving from the Asian level toward the world stage. I am determined to continue bringing pride and honour to Myanmar

Hein Htet Oo (Asian Games Gold Medallist)

At the previous MSC tournament, we competed under the name YG and achieved success. This time, however, competing at the Asian Games under the name Team Myanmar meant that our success

was not only for ourselves but also represented our country.

That made us extremely excited. Deep inside, our entire team wanted to show the world what Myanmar could achieve.

Whenever I think about winning the gold medal for our country, I feel an overwhelming sense of happiness and pride.

Now that we have become Asian Games champions, teams from other countries will be watching us closely. We will work hard to maintain the standard we have achieved.

We are motivated to compete at increasingly higher-level international tournaments. To continue bringing home medals and bringing pride to Myanmar as we move from the Asian stage to the world stage, we will continue our intensive team training without slowing down.

Kyaw Thura (Asian Games Gold Medallist)

Countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia are major powers in MLBB, with strong and well-established teams. For future competitions, we will study these teams carefully and prepare ourselves to overcome them.

At these Asian Games, the Indonesian team was the opponent we paid particular attention to. They have excellent teamwork and very precise rotations, so we prepared especially carefully for that match.

I would also like to sincerely thank my teammates and friends who worked tirelessly together from the group stage all the way to becoming Asian champions.

I am grateful to our Federation President and our coach for their constant support and guidance. Most importantly, I would like to thank all the Myanmar fans who supported us and encouraged us to win the gold medal for our country.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

Digital systems expand across public hospitals and medical universities



The coordination meeting on the implementation of digital and e-Government processes at medical universities and universities related to medical sciences.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said that the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Department of Digital Development, is implementing the Hospital Information System (HIS) in public hospitals.

The Union minister remarked at a coordination meeting on the implementation of digital and e-Government processes at medical universities and universities related to medical sciences.

As part of efforts to develop digital systems in the health sector, the Hospital Information System (HIS) is being implemented in public hospitals, while tele-medicine systems are also being introduced at major hospitals. In addition, the Food and Drug Administra-

tion (FDA) is implementing e-Submission and digital payment systems.

The Union minister also instructed medical universities and universities related to medical sciences to work towards establishing a common digital platform through which all universities can use the digital student information management system. He also stressed the need to strengthen data security.

The coordination meeting was attended by the deputy minister for Health, the permanent secretary, officials from the Department of Human Resources for Health, and academic officials from medical universities and universities related to medical sciences. — TWA/ KNN

Honorary certificate awarded for clean alleys in Kyauktada, Lanmadaw

TO recognize the clean-alley project carried out by the Yangon City Development Committee in Kyauktada and Lanmadaw townships, a ceremony to present honorary certificates was held on 7 October in the two townships.

The honorary event was held first in Kyauktada Township's Ward 1, 33rd Street alley and attended by Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional cabinet members, Hluttaw MPs and department officials.

The chief minister paid a visit to the alley and awarded the honorary certificate to concerned parties for their contribution to the clean-alleys project. A similar event was held in Lanmadaw Township's Ward 3, Lanthit Street alley. — TWA/ZS



The regional chief minister and officials visiting the 33rd Street alley in Kyauktada Township.

Mandalay Bars Sale of Unlicensed Motorcycles

DURING a session of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw, U Kyaw Moe Thet, Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry, and Transport, stated that licensed motorcycle showrooms within the region are not permitted to sell motorcycles fitted with their own temporary store plates while awaiting official vehicle documentation from the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).

The statement was made in response to a query by MP U Aung Zaw Myo (Thabeikkyin 2) on 6



People are seen commuting by motorcycle in Mandalay.

October. The MP pointed out illegal sales without proper wheel tax receipts, owner books, or embossed license plates.

The minister explained that a ground inspection team comprising seven departments, led by the Department of

Consumer Affairs, inspects and permits sales centres and showrooms in Mandalay Region. He stated that there are currently 69 sales centres in total, including electric vehicle showrooms.

He also clarified that officially licensed showrooms are not allowed to sell motorcycles without the aforesaid valid items. He added that to prevent this, joint inspection teams have been conducting weekly field inspections starting in 2025. — TWA/ZN

Interview with Asian Games Gold ...

FROM PAGE 11

Myo Myint Ko Ko Kyaw (Asian Games Gold Medallist)

Before reaching the Grand Final, we played against the Malaysian representative team. In Game 2, our team was falling behind, and it was an extremely tense moment.

We managed to turn the game around and win.

That victory guaranteed us at least a silver medal and secured our place in the Final, which made me incredibly happy.

Before the Final began, rather than simply feeling nervous, I kept thinking about how we could defeat our opponents.

Because we were competing as representatives of our country, I knew we

might not get another opportunity like this. I made a firm decision that we had to win gold for our country and the Federation, so I approached the competition with complete focus.

We competed with unity, balance and the spirit of representing our country, determined to raise the State Flag to the top of the pole.

I am extremely happy and proud that we were able to turn our goal into reality. We will continue working hard.

Han Htoo Swe (Asian Games Gold Medallist)

Seeing Esports athletes being treated equally alongside athletes from other countries, and seeing the same level of care given to things such as uniforms

and footwear, made me even prouder of our sport.

Because we were competing as representatives of Myanmar, we were also happy and proud to have the opportunity to show the world what Myanmar is.

The most emotional moment was seeing the Myanmar State Flag raised above those of other countries and hearing our National Anthem being played. I felt overwhelmed, got goosebumps and even had tears in my eyes.

Looking at the other countries, I felt deeply in my heart, "This is Myanmar."

The greatest feeling of all was having the opportunity to hear and sing our National Anthem among athletes from other countries. It was an indescribable moment of happiness, and even now, when I think back on it, I feel deeply satisfied and proud that we were able to achieve this for our country and people. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

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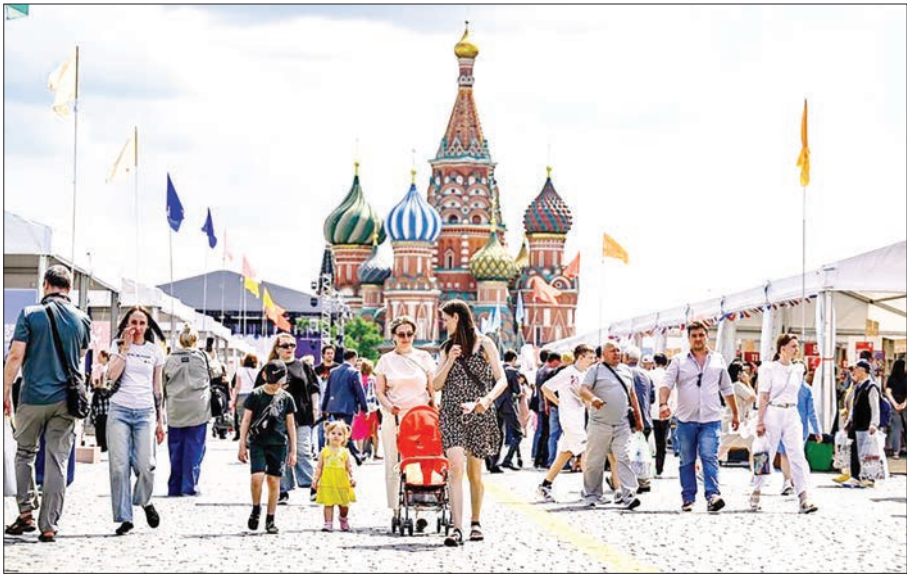
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Russian tourism industry eyes attracting more Chinese visitors

DURING China’s week-long National Day holiday this year, Chinese tourists are frequently seen on the streets of Moscow. “Russia is a unique country and a must-visit,” said Wang Xinzuo, who visited several Russian cities and described his trip as smooth and enjoyable.

In the first half of 2026, Chinese tourists accounted for over 50 per cent of all inbound tourist trips to Russia.

“We are witnessing a substantial rise in travel volumes. In 2025, the number of mutual tourist visits exceeded 3 million. According to our data, 154,200 Chinese tourists visited Russia in the first



People visit the 12th Red Square Book Festival in Moscow, Russia, on 4 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

quarter alone this year, marking a 44 per cent increase year on year,” Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui

said before the holiday. Russia is preparing for further growth. In early September, Russian Deputy Prime Minister

Dmitry Chernyshenko said the country aims to accommodate more than 5.5 million Chinese tourists by 2030. — Xinhua

Indonesia to boost biofuel production from sugarcane

INDONESIA will “open new plantations” for sugarcane used in bioethanol production, the government said, even as it announced a halt to deforestation for rice paddy expansion.

The government said last month it would increase the ethanol component of biofuel used for transport from five to 20 per cent (E20) in a bid to reduce reliance on imports of increasingly expensive petroleum products.



The initiative aims to reduce the country reliance on imported petroleum. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

To achieve this goal, the country would need about four million kilolitres of ethanol per year, according to the energy

ministry — many times what it produces today. New sugarcane plantations were therefore needed, said Food

Minister Zulkifli Hasan on Tuesday.

“E20 can be (sourced) from sugarcane, cassava, and others... If we want sugarcane, we have to open new plantations,” Zulkifli was quoted as saying by state news agency Antara.

Last month, Agriculture Minister Andi Aman Sulaiman said the government wanted to develop about a million hectares for sugarcane production. — AFP

S Korea’s household surplus funds shrink in Q2

SOUTH Korea’s household surplus funds shrank in the second quarter of 2026 amid falling income and rising home purchases, central bank data showed Wednesday.

The net surplus funds held by households and

non-profit organizations, which are calculated as total financial assets acquired minus total debts incurred, reached 60.7 trillion won (about US\$45.3 billion) in the second quarter, down 18.5 trillion won from the previous quarter,

according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

Household disposable income dipped 3.8 per cent in the April-June quarter compared to the previous quarter, while net property acquisitions by individuals rose to 7,000 units nation-

wide in the second quarter from 6,500 in the prior quarter. Total financial asset investment, or fund management, declined to 88.5 trillion won in the second quarter from 96.3 trillion won in the first quarter. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

London gold body faces key trial over Tanzania miners deaths

A far-reaching civil suit opens Wednesday at London’s High Court with families of two miners killed at a Tanzanian mine in 2019 suing a body at the heart of the gold industry.

The families argue that if The London Bullion Market Association (LBMA), which certifies responsibly sourced gold, had acted properly, the men would not have died at the North Mara gold mine in northwestern Tanzania.

The men, both aged 23 and married, have not been named to protect their families, according to Leigh Day, the legal firm representing the plaintiffs. The “certifying body ... accredited gold from the mine as being responsibly sourced despite a mass of public evidence of years of alleged systemic human rights abuses”, Leigh Day said in a summary of the complaint released to AFP.

When security forces arrived to disperse artisanal miners, one of the men “was allegedly violently assaulted by Tanzanian police officers, suffering a gunshot wound” in July 2019, before dying from a loss of blood. — AFP

Africa launches own credit agency in bid for cheaper borrowing

AFRICA will launch its own credit rating agency on Wednesday, aimed at countering what many see as unfair assessments by global institutions that make it more expensive for African nations to borrow money.

The Africa Credit Ratings Agency (AfCRA), backed by the African Union after nearly a decade of talks, will judge the creditworthiness of countries, businesses and institutions.

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius was chosen as the agency’s home, partly due to its established financial services industry.

It aims to offer an alternative viewpoint to the “big three” global credit ratings — Fitch, Moody’s and S&P — which have been accused in the past of unfairly playing down African economies.

The African Peer Review Mechanism, the institution behind AfCRA, says 23 countries on the continent are not rated at all by the traditional agencies. — AFP

SoftBank subsidiary’s cloud service disrupted in cyberattack

IDC Frontier Inc, a SoftBank Corp subsidiary, said Wednesday that a cyberattack involving ransomware had disrupted part of its cloud service for corporate customers.

The Tokyo-based company said the disruption had affected 495 corporate and municipal customers, including by making their websites inaccessible.

The disruption occurred at around 3:40 am Wednesday on its IDC Frontier Cloud service. The firm said it has shut down the system to prevent secondary damage and data leaks, while checking the safety of both affected and unaffected services.

Images purporting to show a statement by the perpetrator have circulated on social media. An IDC Frontier official said, “We are aware that such a statement has been issued, but we are investigating its authenticity.” — Kyodo

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Henri Kagan, Kenso Soai win 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai discovered non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.

HENRI Kagan and Kenso Soai have been awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced on Wednesday.

According to the Academy, some molecules, such as amino acids, exist in two variants that are mirror images of each other. However, living organisms only contain one of these mirror-image forms. How such chemical asymmetry, known as homochirality, could emerge had long remained a mystery to chemists.

"This year's prize recognizes discoveries that have enabled chemists to drive chemical reactions that



The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is announced in Stockholm, Sweden, 7 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

lead to homochirality," the Academy said in a statement, noting that the two laureates "made chemistry choose a mirror image".

"Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai have provided a solution to a

chemical mystery that is over a century old: how homochirality can emerge spontaneously. The chemical reactions they have developed are spectacular," says Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee

for Chemistry.

Kagan, born in France on 15 December 1930, is affiliated with Universite Paris-Sud in Orsay, France. Soai, born in Japan in 1950, is a professor at Tokyo University of Science. — Xinhua

Houthi group claims missile strike on Saudi military supplies near Aden airport

YEMEN'S Houthi group said Wednesday that it launched ballistic missiles targeting Saudi military supplies at a camp near Aden International Airport, hours after the Yemeni government accused the group of attacking the civilian airport and forcing a passenger flight to divert.

The missiles struck newly-arrived Saudi military supplies at Badr Camp, located next to the airport in the southern port city of Aden, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said

in a statement on the social platform X.

Sarea said the strike caused casualties among Saudi officers without providing specific figures, while warning Saudi Arabia against using Aden International Airport for military purposes.

There was no immediate confirmation from Saudi Arabia.

The Houthi group said earlier in the day that it had launched a new wave of ballistic missile and drone attacks targeting airports and military installations



A military vehicle is stationed on the tarmac of the Aden airport. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

across Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi-led coalition said its air defenses intercepted and

destroyed a Houthi ballistic missile north of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. — Xinhua

Takaichi vows proper budget distribution amid farm minister controversy

PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi said Wednesday her government will ensure budget sums are "allocated appropriately" regardless of political support, following harsh backlash over the farm minister's past controversial remarks about budget cuts.

Takaichi made her first remarks to parliament on recent reports that Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kazuo Yana told ruling party supporters in May

that road budgets were drastically cut in two municipalities. Mayors of both areas supported his opponent in February's general election.

"Political support or opposition should not factor into the allocation of the budget. I will once again ensure that it is distributed appropriately," the prime minister told the House of Representatives, in a session to respond to questions on her policy speech delivered Monday. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore proposes ASEAN initiatives to strengthen fight against scams

SINGAPORE has proposed two initiatives to strengthen ASEAN's response to online scams as it assumes ASEAN's chairmanship next year, Singapore's Senior Minister K Shanmugam said on Tuesday.

As the ASEAN Voluntary Lead Shepherd for Cybercrime and Online Scams, Singapore proposed an ASEAN Code of Practice to Combat Scams on Online Platforms, which would establish voluntary baseline safeguards that member states can adapt and apply to online platforms to detect, prevent and disrupt scams, he said in a written reply to a parliamentary question.

The proposed safeguards include timely escalation of detected scam activity to relevant authorities and reasonable verification measures to prevent inauthentic accounts from being used for scams. — Xinhua

Ex-Thai PM Thaksin cites personal safety in tax challenge

EX-THAI premier Thaksin Shinawatra told a court on Wednesday that his life could be in danger if authorities seize assets including bullet-proof vehicles as part of a \$500 million, decades-old tax dispute.

The Supreme Court's Tax Division last November upheld a tax claim by the Revenue Department against the former prime minister — one of Thailand's richest people — over the 2006 sale of his telecoms firm.

Thaksin has sought a temporary injunction against the Revenue Department to stop it from seizing his assets to pay the bill, which his lawyer Winyat Chatmontree told AFP was worth more than 17 billion baht (\$504 million).

Appearing at the Central Tax Court in Bangkok on Wednesday, Thaksin said those assets included five cars, two of them bullet-proof, which he linked to his personal safety. — AFP

SPORTS

Emotion, tears as Messi retires from Argentina national team

LIONEL Messi brought the curtain down on his 21-year international career on Tuesday, bidding farewell to adoring Argentina fans in an emotional final appearance for the former world champions in Buenos Aires.

In a perfectly scripted finale, the 39-year-old widely regarded as the greatest football player in history signed off with his 126th international goal in front of 85,000 supporters as Argentina cruised to a 3-0 victory over Benin.

Messi, playing in his record-extending 208th international, also provided the assist for the opening goal scored by veteran Nicolas Otamendi, with

Nico Paz also scoring. But the match was a footnote to the occasion itself, which saw Messi savouring the adulation of the Monumental Stadium crowd one last time for an event which had been billed as ‘The Last Tango’.

“It was a huge source of pride for me to defend this jersey for more than 20 years,” Messi told fans in a post-match address.

“Not coming anymore is going to be deeply painful. I swear I’d like to play for the rest of my life, because playing for the Argentina national team is the most beautiful thing that can happen to you.” — AFP



Argentina’s forward (10) Lionel Messi cries in a tribute after the international friendly football match between Argentina and Benin at the Mas Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires on 6 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Mertens Beats Gauff to Set Up Swiatek Clash at China Open

ELISE Mertens beat a listless Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-3 on Wednesday to seal her spot in the China Open quarter-finals, where she will face Iga Swiatek.

Gauff, the highest-ranked player left in the women’s draw, failed to recover from a series of misjudged shots and double-faulted eight times.

It was an uncharacteristically poor showing by the American world number four, who won the Beijing title in 2024 and made the semifinals last year.

The 22-year-old was playing a day after she said she had received an “insane” amount of online racist abuse following her win over Chinese teenager Sun Xinran in the last round.

A group of supporters in the largely empty stadium tried to encourage her into a comeback, but Mertens was undeterred.

The Belgian world number 19 slammed down an ace on her second match point to wrap up the win in 78 minutes. — AFP

Myanmar U19 women’s futsal team begins training camp



Myanmar’s preliminary U19 women’s futsal team during preparations at the national team players’ hostel at Thuwunna Stadium.

MYANMAR’S preliminary U19 women’s futsal team began a training camp on the evening of 4 October at the national team players’ hostel at Thuwunna Sta-

dium in preparation for the ASEAN U19 Women’s Futsal Championship to be held in Thailand in December.

The preliminary squad comprises 31 players and is coached by head coach U Aung Aung, with a 10-member management and coaching team overseeing preparations.

The team will conduct up to nine intensive training sessions a week. The squad was selected from outstanding players in the Satkusein Women’s

Futsal League as well as promising young players from various regions and states.

On the opening day of the training camp, Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee Chairman U Win Thaw and committee members visited the players’ hostel at Thuwunna Stadium. They met the players, management and coaching staff, gave necessary instructions and encouraged the team. — TWA/KZL

UK tax body opened probe into Man City in 2018: FT

UK tax authorities launched an investigation into Manchester City in 2018 to determine whether the club — recently found guilty of breaching Premier League financial rules — used complex arrangements to reduce tax, the Financial Times reported Wednesday.

HM Revenue & Customs opened the probe following the publication of leaked club emails in the German weekly Der Spiegel in late 2018, the FT said, citing “people with knowledge of the situation”.

The investigation — which does not involve allegations of deliberate fraud — was never formally closed — and HMRC has taken no action against the club.

Contacted by AFP, the tax office declined to comment, citing taxpayer confidentiality.

Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City, which an independent commission found guilty of violating Premier League financial rules between

2009 and 2018, had yet to respond to an AFP request for comment on the FT report.

A takeover of City in 2008 by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the vice-president and deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates,

transformed the club and they have since won eight English Premier League titles and one Champions League trophy.

The scandal threatens to tarnish one of Abu Dhabi’s most dazzling showcases of “soft power” and confronts the UK with a delicate balancing act in preserving its long-standing ties with the Emirates.

Last week, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham, the former mayor of Manchester, praised the investments made by the club’s Emirati owners and said he would be “really concerned to lose them”.

Downing Street subsequently qualified his remarks, emphasizing that no one is “above the rules”. — AFP



An aerial view shows the Etihad Stadium, the home ground of Manchester City football club, in Manchester, northwest England on 30 September 2026.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Estonia holds Iceland to goalless draw in UEFA Nations League

ESTONIA and Iceland played out a 0-0 stalemate in their UEFA Nations League League C Group 4 match at A Le Coq Arena in Tallinn on Tuesday.

Neither side managed to break the deadlock in a closely contested encounter.

The result extended Estonia’s unbeaten run in the competition to four matches. Estonia opened its campaign with a 1-1 draw away to Iceland, followed by a 0-0 draw against Bulgaria and a 1-0 home victory over Luxembourg.

Iceland had record-

ed consecutive 3-0 victories over Luxembourg and Bulgaria before Tuesday’s match.

With two matches remaining, Iceland leads the group with eight points, with Estonia second on six. Bulgaria has four points after beating Luxembourg 2-0 on Tues-

day, while Luxembourg has three.

Estonia will travel to Luxembourg on 13 November before hosting Bulgaria on 16 November. Iceland will visit Bulgaria on 13 November and host Luxembourg three days later. — Xinhua



Global leaders laud PM Modi on historic 25-year leadership milestone

The milestone spans his tenure from Gujarat to New Delhi in India.

Global leaders have extended warm congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on marking 25 years of continuous leadership in government, spanning from his tenure in Gujarat to New Delhi.

Taking to X, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever wrote: "I warmly congratulate Prime Minister @narendramodi on 25 years of continuous leadership in government, from Gujarat to New Delhi. Following my productive visit to India last month, I look forward to further deepening the strong partnership between our two countries."

Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit also shared a congratulatory message on X: "My dear friend, Prime Minister @narendramodi, I warmly congratulate you on 25 years of continuous service as Head of Government, a journey that began in Gujarat and has continued through your



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever ahead of their bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 3 September 2026. PHOTO: ANI

leadership of India."

Additionally, the Presidency of Nigeria shared an official message from President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Head of Government.

The messages highlight international recognition of PM Modi's leadership and the strengthening of bilateral ties across global partner

nations.

Adding to the global tributes, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay published a reflective tribute titled "Modi's leadership reflects wisdom, courage, empathy".

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi similarly extended her warmest congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in office as head of government, highlighting

his longstanding dedication to the development of Indian society and the nation through outstanding political leadership.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached this monumental milestone on 7 October, marking a quarter-century of continuous tenure as head of government, a political trajectory that kicked off with his swearing-in as Gujarat's Chief Minister in 2001. — ANI

Australian High Court mandates climate impact project checks

AUSTRALIA'S highest court on Wednesday upheld a landmark ruling that planning authorities must consider the climate impacts of proposed fossil fuel projects.

The High Court on Wednesday voted to dismiss an appeal brought by coal miner MACH Energy against an earlier decision by the Court of Appeal in the state of New South Wales (NSW).

The appeal court in 2025 ruled unanimously that the NSW Independent Planning Commission

(IPC) failed to properly consider local climate effects when it approved Mach Energy's bid to expand and extend the operating life of its Mount Pleasant coal mine north of Sydney in 2022.

The appeal against the IPC decision was brought by an environmental group led by local residents.

Anita O'Hart, a lead lawyer for the environmental group, said that the decision was historic. "The implications extend well beyond Mount Pleasant," she said. — Xinhua

Europe's war fever morphing EU into military-political bloc

EUROPE is in the grip of a militarization obsession and intends to turn the EU into a military-political bloc, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

French President Emmanuel Macron posted a video online on Tuesday showing a test launch of an M51.3 strategic ballistic missile to convey what he called a "loud and clear message."

"Europe is obsessed

with the ideas of militarization, Europe is obsessed with plans to militarize the European Union, that is, the economic bloc, to turn it into a military-political bloc," Peskov told reporters, commenting on the post.

The idea of militarization of Europe, based on confrontation with Russia, will not lead to anything good, the official said, adding that it is a dead end.

— SPUTNIK

AI may replace only 5% of human work over next decade

ARTIFICIAL intelligence may replace only about five per cent of the work currently done by humans over the next decade, Nobel laureate Daron Acemoglu has predicted, arguing that AI development should focus more on improving workers' capabilities than replacing them.

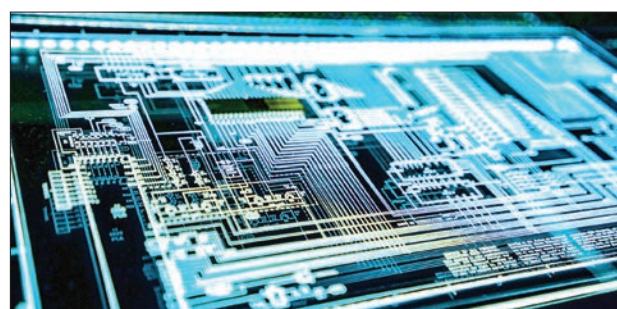
Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman shared

the assessment in a post on X while introducing the first issue of The Humanist Review published in July 2026, a magazine published by Microsoft AI exploring the future of artificial intelligence.

"We shouldn't expect much more than about five per cent of what humans do to be replaced by AI," he said, citing Acemoglu's prediction.

Acemoglu's broader argument is that AI should be developed to complement human workers rather than replicate or replace them. "We need to stop building AI to replace people, and start building it to make them better at their jobs," Suleyman said, outlining the economist's view.

The post said 52 per cent of Americans are



Development should focus on enhancing worker capabilities rather than full automation. PHOTO: ADI GOLDSTEIN ON UNSPLASH

worried about AI's impact on their jobs, but

argued that the concern is "overblown" and is in-

fluencing how AI is being developed.

It also suggested that the economic impact of AI could be more gradual than some expectations. "AI isn't in the productivity statistics yet. Most firms using it aren't seeing real gains. Expect roughly 1.5 per cent added to GDP over 10 years, not a revolution," the post said. — ANI