

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

Myanmar, Malaysia boost cooperation in defence and security sectors

Myanmar and Malaysian Heads of State discussed combatting online scams and gambling, trafficking in persons, eradication of narcotic drugs, and fighting transnational crime.



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the Guard of Honour during the official welcome ceremony hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is on an official visit to Malaysia, was accorded a ceremonial welcome by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim at the Prime Minister's Office in Kuala Lumpur yesterday morning, followed by a meeting.

On arrival at the Office of the Malaysian Prime

Minister, the President was warmly welcomed by the Malaysian Prime Minister. The Guard of Honour saluted the two Heads of State while playing the national anthems of the two countries. The President inspected the Guard of Honour.

The two Heads of State introduced the senior officials from their respective countries.

The two Heads of

State then posed for a commemorative photograph at the Prime Minister's Office, with Malaysia's iconic Putra Mosque in the background.

The President signed the guest book at the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office.

At the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on the world's political landscape, Myanmar's political progress, bilater-

al cooperation in defence and security sectors, cooperation in the interests of the State and its citizens, and measures to combatting online scams and gambling, trafficking in persons, eradication of narcotic drugs, and fighting transnational crime.

After the meeting, the President and the Malaysian Prime Minister cordially greeted each other.

— MNA/TTA

Golden Land Food Fest Lights Up BKK 24-25 Nov

EXPERIENCING the Taste of Golden Land will be held on 24-25 November at Paradise Park Shopping Centre in Bangkok.

The event is a great platform for Myanmar MSMEs considering overseas market expansion. Neighbouring Thailand offers the largest Myanmar diaspora market and the easiest export destination, making the event an ideal opportunity to test international market potential.

This will be the first Myanmar product exclusive exhibition held in Thailand, allowing Myanmar MSMEs to trial their products for the international market.

The event is jointly organized by UMBEAA and Silver Sea International Ltd. Interested individuals can enquire for further details at 09 43125185 or 09 409400066.

— NN/KK

MALI plans special export zones for black gram amid strong market prices

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is planning to establish special export zones for cultivation of highly-demanded black gram.

Myanmar cultivates over 11 million acres of pulses annually, with black gram and pigeon pea

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Female farm workers are pictured harvesting black gram in a plantation.

ARTICLE

Cultivating a Smart Generation: Nourishing Young Minds for Modern Development of Myanmar

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El Niño Prompts Multi-Hazard Readiness Plan

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Applying digital technology to document and preserve performing arts competitions

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Kyaw Hsan Win, Director-General of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation under the Ministry of Education, after the one-year probationary period.

Public Notice on Issuance of Receipts Bearing Tax Stamps

- Under Rule 40(a)(3) of the existing Commercial Tax Rules, restaurant operators are required to collect the applicable commercial tax from consumers together with the sale amount by issuing receipts bearing tax stamps. They are also responsible for paying the collected commercial tax to the relevant Township Internal Revenue Office.
- Although compliance by consumers and restaurants who fulfil their tax obligations in accordance with the law and act as responsible citizens has improved, it has been found that some business operators in certain regions and states have not fully complied with the requirement to issue receipts bearing tax stamps.
- Consumers are urged to request a receipt bearing a tax stamp when making payment at restaurants. Restaurant operators are required to issue receipts bearing tax stamps in all cases, whether or not consumers request them.
- Restaurant operators who fail to issue receipts bearing tax stamps are being fined according to the nature of their violations under Section 40(a) of the Union Taxation Law. Thirty per cent of the fines collected is being awarded as a reward to those who report such violations. The identity of the informants will not be disclosed, except when required for government matters.
- Therefore, restaurant operators are strongly urged to avoid being fined by collecting the applicable commercial tax from consumers together with the sale amount, issuing receipts bearing tax stamps, and paying the collected commercial taxes to the relevant tax offices every month.

Internal Revenue Department

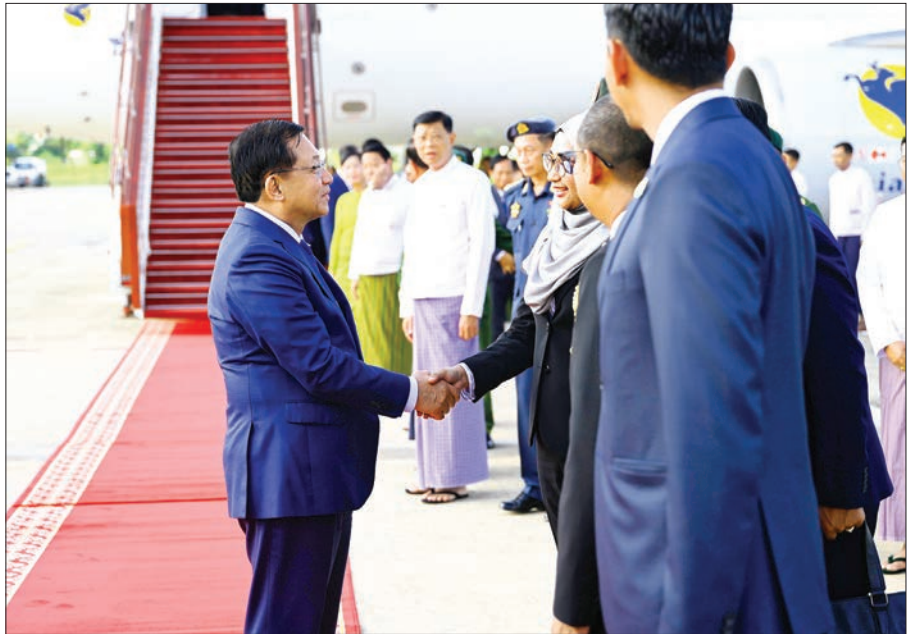
President U Min Aung Hlaing-led delegation returns from Malaysia

LED by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, the high-level Myanmar delegation departed for Myanmar yesterday evening from Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia after concluding an Official Visit to Malaysia at the invitation of His Excellency Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Officials from the Malaysian Government, led by Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Mr Dato' Sri Johari Abdul Ghani, together with Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Aung Kyaw Moe, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Nyi Nyi Oo, and other officials, warmly saw off the high-level Myanmar delegation led by the President at the airport.

During the departure ceremony, the Guard of Honour took positions on both sides of the red carpet and saluted the Myanmar delegation.

Accompanying the President on the return journey were Union Min-



President U Min Aung Hlaing is pictured being welcomed home on his arrival back from Malaysia.

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

During the visit, the President met the Prime Minister of Malaysia and held bilateral

talks, a press conference and discussions on co-operation. The two sides openly exchanged views and discussed ways to strengthen friendship and engagement between the two countries, increase investment and economic cooperation, and promote cooperation in various fields and sectors.

On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw airport in the evening, the high-level Myanmar delegation led by President U Min Aung

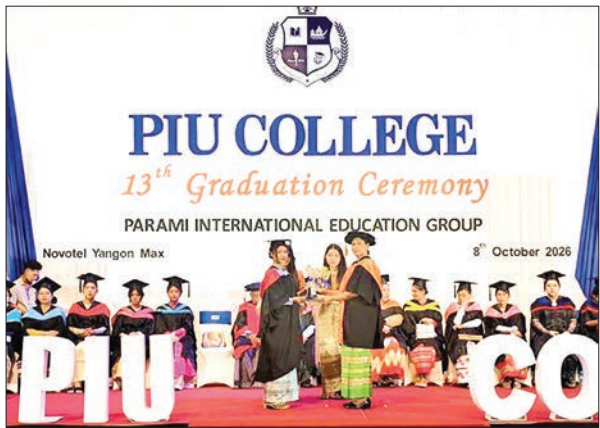
Hlaing was warmly welcomed back at the airport by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials from the Malaysian Embassy and Defence Attaché Office in Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH

PIU College awards degrees to 1,098 graduates

THE 13th graduation ceremony of PIU College was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday, with degrees conferred on students in their respective fields of study.

At the ceremony, the Dean of the Academic Department of PIU College delivered the opening remarks, followed by the presentation of awards by professors and teachers to 409 outstanding students.

Degrees were then conferred on 1,098 students from 11 programmes: DHRM, DFA, DSM, ICPHR, DBA,



The 13th graduation ceremony of PIU College in progress at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO: KO LWIN

DBMA, DFM, DLSCM, DPE, ICBE and DICT.

Located on Parami Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon, PIU College

was established in 2016 and has provided training in various fields each year, producing knowledgeable and skilled

professionals. The graduates receiving degrees this year are university graduates who completed three-, six- or nine-month vocational courses in their chosen fields to enhance their employment prospects.

The 1,098 graduates, including those who excelled in their courses, have opportunities to pursue further studies abroad and seek employment. PIU College also facilitates connections with employment opportunities in Myanmar, according to the college. — Oktha/KZL

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing calls for Myanmar-Malaysia relations to reach next level

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing has called for Myanmar-Malaysia relations to be elevated to the next level of bilateral engagement through stronger cooperation across government, business, academia, think tanks and people-to-people sectors, stressing that bilateral ties can no longer rely solely on formal government-to-government interactions.

He made the remarks at the Malaysia-Myanmar Cooperation Dialogue held yesterday at the Prime Minister's Official Residence in Malaysia, attended by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim, officials from the two governments, representatives of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS Malaysia) and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), as well as representatives from the private sector, media and business communities of both coun-



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim meet at the Malaysia-Myanmar Cooperation Dialogue, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

tries.

In his address, President U Min Aung Hlaing said the dialogue provided an opportunity to bring together representatives from government agencies, the private sector, experts, research organizations and think tanks to discuss the future of bilateral cooperation from

diverse perspectives. He said the meeting aimed not only to review existing relations but also to strengthen mutual understanding and trust while exchanging views on how to take bilateral engagement to the next level.

He noted that state-to-state relations could no longer be built solely on

formal government-to-government interactions, as relationships among experts, business owners, research institutions and think tanks had also become vital components. Such dialogues, operating through Track II diplomacy, could provide policymakers with valuable insights and recommen-

dations, he said.

As fellow ASEAN members, Myanmar and Malaysia have maintained relations for many years based on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation, the President said, noting that there was promising potential for cooperation in value-added manufacturing based

on agricultural and fishery products, rubber and other raw materials, as well as cold storage and logistics infrastructure, energy, renewable energy, finance, digital payments and remittances.

He also highlighted changes in the global system driven not only by major-power competition but also by geoeconomic rivalry, saying geopolitics and geoeconomics were becoming increasingly intertwined. In this context, Myanmar and Malaysia could serve as strategic partners linking the Indian Ocean with the ASEAN economic hub, he said.

The President stressed that geographical advantages should be leveraged to build connectivity, improve infrastructure, promote trade and investment and enhance human resources, adding that turning geographical advantages into economic and development advantages required the participation of wider community.

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El Niño Prompts Multi-Hazard Readiness Plan

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw presided over a coordination meeting on preparedness for natural disasters that may occur as a result of the El Niño in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, he highlighted the directives of the President to place emphasis on necessary preparations for adverse weather conditions that could arise from the El Niño phenomenon. He noted that El Niño could lead to extreme heat and drought, while sudden storms and unusually heavy rainfall could also occur.

He stressed that



Vice-President U Nyo Saw presides over the coordination meeting on preparedness for natural disasters linked to El Niño..

preparations for El Niño should not focus solely on drought, but should adopt a multi-hazard preparedness approach to address a range of potential disasters. According to meteorological and climate

information, the El Niño phenomenon could continue to strengthen in Myanmar during 2026 and remain influential until early 2027. He also emphasized the need to select and grow heat-tol-

erant and short-duration crop varieties to minimize crop losses caused by reduced water availability for agriculture. Measures should also be taken to establish heat shelters and prevent heat-related illnesses among people and animals, dehydration and diseases associated with water shortages.

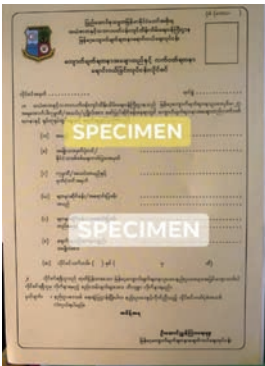
He then discussed the possible reduction in electricity generation resulting from lower water inflows into reservoirs and dams, and the potential use of solar power systems as an alternative.

SEE PAGE 5

Registration for Online Gold Trading Prohibited

THE Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that gold and any items made of gold online trades haven't been granted a registration certificate.

The ministry said online business registration has been allowed as of October 2023; however, online sales of gold, gold jewelry and artistic works and accessories made of gold are not allowed on the grounds of the possibility of speculation and in an attempt to prevent market instability. However, a registration certificate for online sales has been allowed for gem traders only, and they can prove they have a



gemstone trading license approved by the Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and an acknowledgement letter for not doing activities of selling gold and items made of gold online. — TWA/ZS

NATIONAL

Heads of State of Myanmar and Malaysia hold bilateral talks, meet media personnel

THE bilateral talks between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Malaysia took place at the Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur yesterday morning.

At the talks, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim said that Myanmar and Malaysia are important friends, like neighboring countries, and Myanmar is also an important country for ASEAN. Malaysia always places great importance on maintaining good diplomatic relations with Myanmar.

He stated that they have met previously in Thailand and the People's Republic of China, and he hopes that the interactions will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between them. He would also like to express **gratitude for accepting his invitation, with a view to further strengthening the existing bonds of friendship, enhancing interactions, and promoting cooperation for the mutual interests of the two countries.**

He expressed his gratitude for the assistance and cooperation extended to Myanmar nationals in Malaysia who have been facing difficulties for various reasons, including efforts to provide them with assistance and rescue and facilitate their repatriation to Myanmar.

The President of Myanmar also expressed his pleasure and pride that Malaysia has been



The bilateral talks between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Federation of Malaysia is underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, attended by Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim.

participating as a BRICS partner country since January 2025. He expressed his belief that **the meeting and discussions would further strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries and enhance bilateral cooperation.** He noted that Myanmar and Malaysia had established diplomatic relations in 1958 and that more than 68 years had passed since then, with 2028 marking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. In this regard, he proposed making preparations in advance to organize special and meaningful commemorative events to mark the occasion. He also highlighted that the two countries had maintained close and friendly relations throughout the history of their bilateral ties. Although they are not neighbouring coun-

tries, he noted that they had once been under the same colonial rule and had maintained close relations as countries in the South-East Asian peninsula. Myanmar and Malaysia are also partner countries that have cooperated closely for many years as members of ASEAN.

He said that the Myanmar government wished to further strengthen the bonds of friendship with Malaysia and enhance bilateral cooperation. He noted that Myanmar had an embassy in Kuala Lumpur, which was providing assistance to Myanmar nationals in Malaysia, and that the government was also placing special emphasis on further promoting bilateral relations.

He stated that Myanmar had successfully held a free and fair general election for its citizens be-

tween December 2025 and February 2026. He noted that elected parliamentary representatives had been regularly convening parliamentary sessions, with the third session currently underway, and that legislative matters and discussions aimed at promoting public interests were being actively carried out in accordance with democratic principles. He also said that Myanmar was firmly committed to strengthening the multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democracy and federalism.

He recounted that the two countries had already signed agreements and memoranda of understanding in areas such as air transport, trade, economic cooperation, science and technology, culture, investment protection, avoidance of dou-

ble taxation, and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. He added that, building on these existing agreements, they wished to continue exploring areas where practical cooperation between the two countries could be further expanded.

Regarding economic cooperation, he said that the total trade volume between the two countries exceeded US\$1.6 billion last year. He noted that Malaysia ranked fourth among Myanmar's trading partners and ninth among the 48 countries and regions investing in Myanmar. He said that the two countries wished to cooperate in organizing economic forums, B2B networking events, and knowledge-sharing programmes on business and trade, as well as conducting joint research and sharing experiences on

helping micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) access international markets. He added that Myanmar also wished to participate in trade fairs held in Malaysia. He further expressed a desire to enhance cooperation in e-commerce and digital promotion platforms between the two countries. He said that Myanmar was prioritizing investment opportunities and inviting foreign investment to meet the requirements of national development and nation-building efforts, and invited Malaysian businesses to make greater investments in Myanmar.

At the economic discussion held yesterday, the President continued that the two sides discussed promoting trade and investment, cooperation in agriculture and value-added production, and investment opportunities in special economic zones (SEZs), micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and the financial sector. He said that, given Malaysia's extensive experience in research, Myanmar wished to enhance cooperation in agricultural and livestock research.

He noted that Myanmar's West Yangon Technological University and University of Information Technology had each signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Malaysia's Multimedia University and were carrying out cooperation in education and research.

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NATIONAL

Applying digital technology to document and preserve performing arts competitions

MEMBERS of the Panel of Judges and experts must systematically carry out the evaluation process with transparency and fairness, basing their assessments on the discipline’s established artistic standards, traditional essence, artistic ability, presentation style, and rules and regulations, said Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye at the second coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition.

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, the Vice-President, who is Patron of the Leading Committee, said that contestants must be encouraged to preserve



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye chairs the second coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition.

and adhere to the original essence and traditions of traditional arts, while also promoting the development of the creativity and artistic skills of younger generations.

Especially, the Vice-President stressed that special attention must also be paid to ensuring that the evaluation system is accurate and

fair. She underlined that it is necessary to document, preserve and distribute traditional Myanmar performing arts to new generations by applying digital technology. Leading Committee Chairman Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Soe and Secretary Deputy Minis-

ter U Aye Tun reported on the progress of the work process to hold the competition and plans. Meeting participants discussed the preparations being undertaken by relevant sub-committees to successfully hold the competition, conducting camp training for the contestants and lists of subjects for competitions. — MNA/TTA

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets law students

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met teachers and students from the Department of Law of Yangon University of Distance Education, led by Professor and Head of Department Dr Thi Thi Lwin, at the Thabin Hall of the Hluttaw Building yesterday afternoon.

In his remarks, U Khin Yi explained the roles and responsibilities of the Pyithu Hluttaw and its 22 committees, including legislation, representation of the people and coordination with the executive



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi receives teachers and students from the Department of Law of Yangon University of Distance Education.

and judicial branches. He said existing laws were being reviewed to keep them relevant to current circumstances and noted that the Anti-Online Scam

Law had been approved to enable effective action against online scams. He encouraged the visiting law students to communicate with the

Hluttaw on legal matters and issues requiring parliamentary action, stressing efforts to make the Hluttaw more accessible to the public and a reliable institution for the State and the people.

The teachers and students asked questions about Hluttaw procedures and other matters, which the Speaker answered in detail. Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, committee secretaries and members, and officials attended the meeting. — MNA/TH

El Niño Prompts Multi-Hazard Readiness Plan

FROM PAGE 3 He called for preparedness measures to be linked with potential impacts and to include disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response measures. He further pointed

out that El Niño could pose multi-sectoral risks affecting food and water security, agriculture, health, the economy and social life. Therefore, he urged relevant officials to undertake region-specific and sector-specific

preparations for natural disasters that may arise from the ongoing El Niño conditions and their subsequent impacts. The Union ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council, region and state chief ministers and deputy ministers

reported on the preparedness, ongoing work plans and cooperation for natural disasters as a result of El Niño. The Vice-President heard the reports and gave proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

President U Min Aung Hlaing calls for Myanmar-Malaysia ...

FROM PAGE 3

He identified stronger collaboration between think tanks as a key priority of the dialogue and encouraged closer cooperation between MISIS and ISIS Malaysia to facilitate open discussions on differing perspectives and help identify shared interests. Future Myanmar-Malaysia relations, he said, should be built simultaneously across government, private sector, business, academic, think tank and people-to-people levels, with practical cooperation focused on bilateral trade and investment, energy and food security, supply chain connectivity, the digital economy, human resource development and people-to-people exchanges.

The President expressed his wish for the dialogue to serve as a starting point for further talks, joint research and stronger government-to-government, business-to-business and think tank-to-think tank relations. He urged all participants to turn the exchanges and recommendations into practical cooperation that would bring long-term benefits to both countries.

Earlier, during the

opening session, the Executive Director of ISIS Malaysia and the Chairman of MISIS presented reports on geopolitical developments, security cooperation, investment opportunities, the outcomes of discussions held earlier that morning and plans. In his address, Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim said the successful convening of the Myanmar-Malaysia Cooperation Dialogue represented a practical opportunity to elevate multi-sectoral cooperation between the two countries. He said discussions between ISIS Malaysia and MISIS could help review, reaffirm and implement cooperation across multiple domains, while complementing official talks between the two leaders and creating further opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

He also emphasized the importance of greater people-to-people engagement and expressed gratitude to President U Min Aung Hlaing for accepting his invitation to visit Malaysia. Following the dialogue, the President and the Malaysian Prime Minister warmly greeted the attendees. —

MNA/TH

MAI plans special export zones for black gram amid ...

FROM PAGE 1

accounting for more than 35 per cent of the total. Black gram prices are currently strong, prompting the ministry to designate special export zones for the crop. “Strong market prices prompt the ministry to establish special export zones for black gram cultivation.

We are also discussing this with the relevant association,” an official

from the ministry said. India is the primary buyer of Myanmar black gram, accounting for up to 40 per cent of pulses purchases. Other buyers include China (15 per cent), Singapore (four per cent), Vietnam (three per cent), Pakistan (two per cent) and other countries (36 per cent). Myanmar also aims to earn approximately US\$2 billion from pulse exports in the coming years, according to the ministry. — KK

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Lawmakers' debate focuses on proposals sent by President

THE Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued the third-day meeting of the third regular session at its meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

General Ko Ko Oo, who has been appointed as a member of the Union-level organization, took reaffirmation in the presence of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

The Speaker announced that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is deemed to have approved the Seventh Amendment to the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bill and the Seventh Amendment to the Region or State Hluttaw Election Bill, and that the two bills would be sent for submission to the President for signing and promulgation.

Lawmakers discussed

the matter of ratifying the agreement to enable the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Petroleum Security, which was submitted by the President, to enter into force.

In response to the discussions, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Kyaw Naing Win said that the instrument to be sent to the ASEAN Secretariat is a letter of accession notifying the ASEAN Secretariat of Myanmar's ratification of the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement Framework, which was signed on 16 October 2025. The Union Government meeting had already approved the letter of accession. Accordingly, it was further explained that, to submit the letter of accession to the ASEAN Secretariat for the ASEAN



Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe presides over the third-day meeting of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's third regular Session.

Petroleum Security Agreement Framework to enter into force, approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being sought in accordance with Section 209 (a) of the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 25(a) of the Union Government Law. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the letter of accession. Lawmakers also

discussed obtaining export financing from the Republic of Belarus, DBRB and Belinvestbank JSC, as submitted by the President.

Moreover, lawmakers discussed the matter of obtaining a loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar to cover the deficit in the Union Government Deposit Account for the 2026-2027 financial year, as submitted

by the President.

The Speaker informed the Hluttaw about the plan for the members of the Union-level organization to explain the aforesaid two topics and to seek the decision of the Hluttaw in the coming session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung explained the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion, which was submitted by the President and sought the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the agreement.

The deputy minister also clarified that the matter of submitting the Instrument of Ratification for the Ninth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) to the ASEAN Secretariat, for it to enter into force, was presented as submitted by the President and sought the approval of the Hluttaw to send the instrument of ratification to the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Speaker announced that the lawmakers wishing to discuss the proposals may register with the director-general of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The fourth-day meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 13 October. — MNA/TTA

Heads of State of Myanmar and Malaysia hold bilateral ...

FROM PAGE 4

He said that Myanmar and Malaysia could enhance economic cooperation in areas such as hospital and clinic services, pharmaceutical manufacturing, medical equipment, healthcare technology and skills development.

He explained that Myanmar had enacted the Anti-Online Scam Law on 31 July, enabling more effective prosecution, punishment, prevention and suppression of online fraud. He added that Myanmar was cooperating with neighbouring countries to prevent the operation of online scam and gambling businesses in the country by conducting clearance operations, systematically destroying confiscated items and dismantling illegal buildings in an orderly manner.

He said that Myanmar was also cooperating in efforts to combat human trafficking in the ASEAN region. Regarding the drug issue, he noted that Myan-

mar's Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was exchanging information with Malaysia's National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) and the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP). He said that online scams, drug production and trafficking were mainly occurring in border areas where ethnic armed organizations were dominant and which were beyond the effective reach of the Myanmar government's administration. As these are transnational crimes that have adverse impacts not only within Myanmar but also on countries across the region, he stressed that they could not be addressed by any single country alone. He said that the problems could only be resolved through information sharing among regional countries and enhanced cooperation and coordination among their law enforcement agencies.

He stated that, according to their records, more than 160,000 Myanmar migrant workers and their

family members were living and working in Malaysia. He expressed a desire to work closely with the Malaysian government to ensure their workplace safety, access to their rights and protections, and improved social welfare and support. He added that they also wished to discuss measures to ensure that workers could enter Malaysia through legal and orderly channels, protect them from exploitation, facilitate visa and work permit procedures, and effectively implement the bilateral labour agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs). He emphasized that the contributions and efforts of Myanmar workers in Malaysia were important to the economies and friendship of both countries, and expressed appreciation for the assistance and care provided by the Malaysian government.

He underlined that the two countries are regional partner countries and are also members of regional and international

organizations, including ASEAN and the United Nations. Regarding the five ASEAN statements, he said that Myanmar was making every possible effort to achieve the best possible outcomes based on the country's domestic circumstances. In line with Myanmar's foreign policy, the country would continue to engage with ASEAN based on the realities on the ground, while placing priority on safeguarding its national interests and sovereignty and pursuing a Myanmar-led, Myanmar-owned approach to further strengthening relations with ASEAN.

The Malaysian Prime Minister expressed his pleasure at the extensive and candid discussions held with the President aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two countries across various sectors. He had arranged for senior government officials to attend the meeting in order to promote investment and practical economic co-

operation with Myanmar. He also expressed Malaysia's desire to import from Myanmar the goods and commodities required by Malaysia.

He vowed that Malaysia should continue working to strengthen the bonds of friendship, interactions and cooperation between the two countries and their peoples, and that cooperation in all areas should be further enhanced. He described the President's current visit as a successful one and expressed his appreciation to the President of Myanmar for taking the time to visit Malaysia. He added that Malaysia would continue to further strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries.

The two Heads of State exchanged views on the enhancement of bilateral friendship, relations and multi-sectoral cooperation.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, 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, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Aung Kyaw Moe, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Nyi Nyi Oo, and senior officers from the Malaysian government.

After the talks, President U Min Aung Hlaing and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim met media from both countries and explained the relations and friendship between the two countries, economic cooperation and matters related to the official visit.

The two Heads of State cordially greeted officials from both countries and media personnel.

The President of Myanmar and the Malaysian Prime Minister left for the Prime Minister's Residence by car. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

President's Office Spokeswoman responds to media queries

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing made an official visit to Malaysia at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar Ibrahim. The following is a summary of the explanations and responses given by Dr Khine Khine Soe, Deputy Minister and Spokesperson at the Office of the President.

Q: What were the notable achievements of President U Min Aung Hlaing's visit to Malaysia, the first maritime ASEAN country he has visited after visiting four mainland ASEAN countries?

A: This was the President's ninth foreign trip and his fifth visit to an ASEAN country. Malaysia was his first visit to a maritime ASEAN country. During the visit, he met with the Malaysian Prime Minister and attended a High-Level Business Forum and Business Dialogue. One notable event was the Business Cooperation Dialogue between think tanks from the two countries. The discussions focused mainly on cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia. They also discussed bringing back Myanmar citizens who had been detained in Malaysia or were facing various difficulties there. According to official statistics, there are more than 160,000 Myanmar workers in Malaysia, although there may also be undocumented workers. We discussed job opportunities, legal residence and labour rights for Myanmar citizens in Malaysia. Cooperation in various sectors and ASEAN matters were also discussed.

Regarding the most satisfactory results of the visit, if I say overall outcomes... during the meeting with the Malaysian Prime Minister, Malaysia recognized the efforts of the President and the government of Myanmar and appreciated their efforts for economic development.

The Malaysian Prime Minister also appreciated

Myanmar's efforts to bring its citizens back home. He said that other countries had not brought back such a large number of their citizens, while Myanmar had made strong efforts to bring its citizens home. These were encouraging points for Myanmar.

The next point is regarding ASEAN. Myanmar is essential to be in ASEAN. Myanmar is an important country for Malaysia. We need to have positive engagement, cooperation and build friendship later. We also issued that point in the press. Those points are very wonderful. The last point is that Malaysia and Myanmar agreed to continue a close bilateral relationship. This is another positive result for Myanmar.

Q: What concerns did you have while visiting Malaysia?

A: Before the visit, we were not really worried. We had a curious feeling, as if we were more curious about what we would experience and what we would discuss.

However, from the moment we arrived in Malaysia, we received a very warm and friendly welcome. We were welcomed warmly and formally, not only by government officials but also by children and the people. Their welcome made us feel very comfortable.

In other words, Myanmar and Malaysia have had friendly relations for a long time. However, over the past few years, our friendship and relations have become somewhat less warm. This visit helped make the relationship warmer again. It also helped rebuild trust and understanding between the two countries. Therefore, the visit can be described as a successful one diplomatically and politically. Our entire delegation returned home very pleased with the results.

Q: How does Malaysia view the current political developments in Myanmar?



Dr Khine Khine Soe, Deputy Minister and Spokeswoman at the President's Office.

How can other ASEAN countries that have not yet invited the President come to understand the situation more accurately?

A: What we learnt through the discussion between the President and the Malaysian Prime Minister is that...during the visit, the President openly explained Myanmar's efforts and discussed frankly. Malaysia learned about and recognized the President's efforts to promote economic development. They recognized us, and that is one effort for economic development.

Another thing is the refugees who left our country. The President also clearly explained the issue of people who had left their homes in Myanmar, including the historical background and detailed facts and figures. As a result, the Malaysian Prime Minister and his government gained a better understanding of the issue. This can be considered a benefit for Myanmar.

The next one is that, as for ASEAN countries that have not yet invited the President, the Malaysian Prime Minister mentioned in the press release that Malaysia had engaged with Myanmar and that the President had visited ASEAN countries and maintained contact with them. He also shared information that Indonesia and Brunei were planning to invite the

President.

The President had already explained Myanmar's position and plans during visits to four mainland ASEAN countries. During this visit to a maritime ASEAN country, he again explained Myanmar's position, plans and efforts. Therefore, the information shared during the Malaysia visit will also reach other ASEAN countries. We believe this will help countries that have not yet invited the President, or that may have a different view of Myanmar, to better understand the actual situation on the ground.

Q: A Business Forum was also held during the President's visit to Malaysia. What agreements were reached between Myanmar and Malaysia at the forum?

A: Rather than simply a Business Forum, it was a High-Level Business Dialogue. The main focus was not simply on buying and selling. We discussed increasing cooperation, expanding trade and investment, and working together to produce value-added products. In other word, both sides agreed to establish a mechanism to meet each other's needs and support each other's businesses.

During discussions with Malaysian businesspeople, they showed interest in several areas, especially logistics and

port-related businesses, and establishing downstream iron and steel industries.

Palm oil was another important area. Successful Malaysian businesspeople expressed interest in growing oil palms in Myanmar and building refineries, and they said they wanted to cooperate in these areas in the future.

The main purpose of the Business Forum was not simply to trade. We will not meet with the sellers, but we want to meet and directly discuss with actual producers what we could cooperate on. The discussions were aimed at long-term cooperation, and agreements were reached for this purpose.

Q: A Think Tank Cooperation Dialogue was also held during the visit. How can the discussions and ideas from the dialogue be turned into actual results?

A: One special feature of the Malaysia visit was the Cooperation Dialogue between Think Tanks from the two countries. The President himself attended the event, and the Malaysian Prime Minister also attended.

The main discussions focused on how the two countries could cooperate, especially in business, how each country could support the other's position, and how each country could help meet the other's needs.

These issues were discussed from an expert perspective (from the point of view of an expert). We also discussed what could be done at the government-to-government level, business-to-business level, people-to-people level and think-tank-to-think-tank level.

As a government, we will review and study the recommendations made by experts from both sides and continue to take the necessary steps to implement them. This is our governmental sector.

For the business sector, this was the beginning of a process. Further cooperation will continue, and more forums will be held step by step. This event was not something that ended with one discussion. It was the first step in a continuing process. Therefore, detailed discussions were held on how Myanmar and Malaysia can continue bilateral cooperation in the future.

Q: During the President's visit, discussions were also held concerning Myanmar workers in Malaysia. What were the main issues discussed?

A: There were discussions about Myanmar workers in Malaysia, mainly in two areas.

First, we discussed Myanmar citizens who are currently working in Malaysia, whether they are legally or illegally staying there. The President asked the Malaysian side to help ensure that these workers receive their labour rights and social protection, have decent working conditions and are able to live and work legally.

The second issue was bringing back Myanmar citizens who are being held in detention centres after receiving sentences for various reasons. We have been working on this issue continuously.

By the end of August 2026, more than 8,000 Myanmar citizens had been brought back. Recently, as reported in the news, three Myanmar Tatmadaw naval ships brought back 1,476 people.

After screening the Myanmar citizens, there are still more than 3,000 people who remain to be brought back. The President discussed the need to bring them back as soon as possible while weather conditions remain favourable. This can be seen as the President's care and concern for his citizens, much like the love and care of parents for their children. — News Team/KTZH

Driving growth in bamboo-based industries

As bamboo resources offer many economic benefits, it is necessary to promote the development and expansion of bamboo-based cottage and industrial enterprises. As part of environmental conservation efforts, emphasis should also be placed on raising public awareness so that bamboo can be systematically cultivated, managed, produced and utilized in a sustainable manner.

To comprehensively promote the bamboo sector, it is necessary to encourage entrepreneurs to establish, expand and diversify bamboo-related businesses. In addition to producing traditional household items made from bamboo, modern, high-quality bamboo products should also be developed. Myanmar entrepreneurs should engage in producing high-value bamboo products that can enter international markets; utilizing bamboo not only as a forest product but also in connection with the Green Economy, Circular Economy, Bioeconomy and efforts to combat climate change; and innovating

to identify new areas where bamboo can be utilized. Myanmar ranks third among the countries with the largest areas where bamboo grows naturally. Therefore, it is important not only to conserve existing bamboo resources but also to conserve and cultivate bamboo species for future generations. Although establishing bamboo plantations takes time at the initial stage, once a bamboo clump has become established, commercial bamboo production can continue while maintaining the clump sustainably. Therefore, to promote the development of the bamboo sector, bamboo harvesting should be carried out in accordance with the Forest Law and Rules, based on sustainable management systems that ensure the long-term conservation of bamboo resources

in natural forests. At the same time, high-quality bamboo species should be selected and cultivated when systematically establishing bamboo plantations. This will enable bamboo resources to be harvested without depleting those found in natural forests.

Bamboo production not only contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty eradication and food security, but bamboo is also a natural resource that helps adapt to climate change and supports forest restoration and watershed conservation efforts. According to research findings, bamboo releases 35 per cent more oxygen than other plants. Taking advantage of this benefit, bamboo plantations should be established in urban areas and densely populated regions as a means of supporting the health of the climate and local communities.

Emphasis should also be placed on ensuring the sustainable extraction and utilization of bamboo resources, developing bamboo-based industrial and handicraft products, boosting bamboo shoot-based products, and promoting domestic and international markets. Business people should promote bamboo-based MSMEs, integrate technology and innovation to produce value-added products, and make efforts to export these products to international markets.

Introduction

The future of a country depends greatly on the knowledge, skills and values of its young people. In today's rapidly changing world, young people are growing up with books, classrooms, digital devices and many sources of information. What they choose to read, learn and think about can shape their future. A simple idea is worth remembering: people grow through what they feed their minds. Good books, meaningful learning and useful experiences can help young people develop strong minds and positive values. Digital technology can also provide new opportunities for learning, communication and creativity when it is used wisely.

For Myanmar, developing a smart and capable generation is an important part of modern national development. This does not mean rejecting technology. Rather, it means helping young people use books, education, technology and real-life experiences in a balanced way. The experience of successful Asian countries also shows that strong human resources are an important foundation for national progress.

1. Strengthening Literacy and Improving Education

A strong education system is the foundation of a strong society. Countries such as Singapore, South Korea and Japan have invested greatly in education and human resource development. Their experiences show the importance of good schools, effective teachers and clear learning goals.

Myanmar can continue to strengthen its basic education sys-

Cultivating a Smart Generation: Nourishing Young Minds for Modern Development of Myanmar

Building a culture of reading, learning, critical thinking and responsible digital use can help Myanmar's young people prepare for a changing world.

tem by developing literacy, communication skills, critical thinking and problem-solving from an early age. Students should have regular opportunities to read, discuss ideas and apply their knowledge.

Reading should become more than a school requirement. It should become a daily habit. When students read different kinds of books and learning materials, they can improve their language skills, knowledge, and imagination. These skills can later support them in becoming teachers, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, researchers and other professionals.

2. Using Digital Technology for Learning

Digital technology is now an important part of modern education. It gives students access to information, online learning materials and new ways of communicating. It can also help teachers make lessons more interesting and interactive.

However, young people need guidance to use technology well. Not all online content supports learning. Students can benefit more when they use digital devices for research, educational videos, language learning, creative work and communication.



Schools and families can help students develop healthy digital habits. They can encourage suitable screen time, regular reading, outdoor activities and face-to-face communication. The goal should not be to keep young people away from technology. The goal should be to help them become responsible and effective users of technology.

3. Developing Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

Modern development needs people who can think, ask ques-

tions and find solutions. Memorizing information is useful, but students also need to understand how to use what they learn.

Schools can provide more opportunities for students to discuss ideas, compare information and solve practical problems. They can work on projects related to their schools, families and local communities. Such activities can help students connect classroom learning with real life.

Parents can also support this process at home. Simple questions such as “Why do you think so?”, “What could we do differently?”

and “How can we solve this problem?” can encourage children to think independently.

Critical thinking does not mean rejecting every idea. It means learning to listen, examine information and make careful decisions. These skills can help young people become confident and responsible citizens.

4. Building Strong Partnerships among Families, Schools and Communities

Education is not the responsibility of schools alone. Families and communities also have an

important role in helping young people develop good learning habits.

Parents and teachers can work together to understand students’ strengths, interests and learning needs. They can encourage children to read good books, complete their studies, develop useful skills and use digital technology responsibly.

Local communities can also create reading activities, youth clubs, libraries, learning centres and other educational programmes. Such activities can give young people safe and positive spaces to learn and share ideas.

When families, schools and communities work together, children receive a stronger support system. They can feel encouraged to learn, make mistakes, improve themselves and achieve their goals.

5. Promoting Lifelong Learning and Adaptability

Learning does not end when a student finishes school or university. The modern world is changing quickly, and peo-

ple need to continue learning throughout their lives.

New technologies, new jobs and new social needs require people to develop new knowledge and skills. Myanmar’s young people can therefore see graduation as a new beginning rather than the end of education.

Reading, professional training, online courses, practical experience and learning from others can all support lifelong learning. Young people who remain curious and open to new ideas will be better prepared for future opportunities.

A culture of lifelong learning can also help Myanmar develop a workforce that is flexible, skilled and ready to contribute to national development.

A Shared Vision for Myanmar's Smart Generation

Building a smart generation is not only about producing students with high marks. It is about developing young people who have knowledge, skills, values, creativity and a sense of responsibility.

Books can open the door to knowledge. Schools can provide direction. Families can encourage. Communities can create opportunities. Technology can connect young people with a wider world.

When these strengths work together, Myanmar’s young people can become active contributors to national development. They can learn from the world while also understanding and valuing their own society and culture.

Conclusion

Myanmar’s journey toward modern development begins with people. A well-educated, thoughtful and responsible young generation can become one of the country’s greatest strengths.

The aim is not to choose between books and technology. It is to create a healthy balance between reading, learning, digital tools, practical experience and human relationships. Young people should be encouraged to use technology for learning, read widely, think carefully and continue developing their skills.

Every family, school and community can play a part in this effort. A small reading habit today can become a lifelong love of learning tomorrow. A thoughtful question can lead to a useful idea. A young person with knowledge, confidence and good values can make a meaningful contribution to society.

If we nourish young minds today, we can help build a more capable, creative and hopeful Myanmar for tomorrow.

available water and place additional stress on crops, livestock and people, particularly children, older adults and those with existing health conditions.

Possible impacts on Myanmar

The DMH warning highlights several hazards that deserve immediate attention. Abnormal rainfall and storms could cause flash floods, river flooding, landslides, damage to roads and bridges, and disruption to electricity, telecommunications, schools and markets. Low-lying communities and settlements near rivers,

creeks and coastal areas may be especially vulnerable.

Reduced seasonal rainfall could create drought conditions. Farmers may face delayed planting, crop failure, declining yields and difficulty obtaining water for livestock. Dry conditions can also increase grassland, forest and household fire risks. When heat and drought occur together, vegetation dries out, water sources shrink, and fires spread more quickly.

Coastal and delta communities face an additional concern: saltwater intrusion.

By Junior Thin

with unusually warm sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. This warming affects the atmosphere and changes the movement of winds, clouds and rainfall far beyond the Pacific. It is part of a wider natural cycle

known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, or ENSO.

Although El Niño begins in the Pacific, its effects are felt globally. Some places receive heavier rain and flooding, while others face reduced rainfall, hotter conditions or

Super El Niño in Late 2026: Why Myanmar Must Prepare Now

prolonged dry spells. The exact consequences depend on the event’s strength and timing, local geography and other climate influences. “Super El Niño” is not a precise universal scientific category, but it is commonly used to describe an exceptionally strong El Niño episode. Such an event can increase the likelihood of severe or unusual weather, although it

does not determine the weather in every location on every day. For Myanmar, the central message is that risk may become less predictable. A season that begins dry may later bring intense downpours. A short period of heavy rain can cause flash flooding even when the overall season is drier than normal. High temperatures can increase evaporation, reduce

NATIONAL

22 DPLA, TNLA and PDF members rejoin society

THE Tatmadaw has consistently placed emphasis on ensuring stability and peace in the country. Amid the reported successes of counter-terrorism operations and the permanent re-control of areas temporarily held by armed groups, local ethnic people have welcomed and supported the developments, according to the report. It said that, encouraged by the support and trust of local people and their cooperation with the Tatmadaw, members of armed terrorist groups have also come to understand the peace process and have been returning to the legal fold by reporting to nearby local military camps and security forces.

As part of the process, 22 individuals who had returned to the legal fold with weapons and ammunition were formally handed over to their parents and guard-

ians at a ceremony held at the North-East Command Headquarters yesterday morning.

The 22 individuals comprised eight men and three women who were members of the group referred to as the DPLA, two men from the TNLA, and eight men and one woman from the PDF.

Commander of the North-East Command Headquarters Maj-Gen Aye Min Oo and officials, departmental officials, members of the Myanmar Police Force, invitees, the returnees and their parents and guardians attended the ceremony.

First, the commander delivered a speech of honour. Next, the Deputy State Police Force Commander discussed legal matters.

Afterwards, the returnees handed over three assault rifles, two pistols, one hand grenade, ammunition

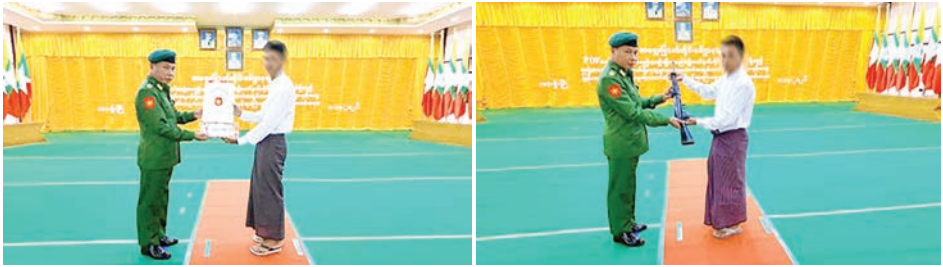
and related equipment that they had brought with them. The commander and officials received the weapons and related items.

The commander then presented cash rewards of K15 million for three assault rifles, K6 million for two pistols, K300,000 for one hand grenade, and K2.2 million to the 22 returnees at K100,000 each, totalling K23.5 million, together with gifts. The returnees accepted the cash rewards and gifts.

A returnee then delivered a speech of thanks.

The returnees subsequently signed undertakings before being systematically handed over to their parents and guardians.

At the ceremony, the 22 individuals who were handed over to their parents and guardians after returning to the legal fold, citing their acceptance of and trust in the peace process and their



Images show the reception and handover ceremony underway at the North-East Command Headquarters.

desire for genuine stability and peace in their respective areas, comprised two men from Madaya Township, one man from Pyigyitagun Township, two men from Singu Township, one man from Aungmyaythazan Township, one man from Kyaukme Township, 10 men and three women from Nawngkhio Township, one man from PyinOoLwin Township and one woman from Monywa Township.

According to the report, the members of the DPLA, TNLA and PDF groups who returned to the legal fold said they had decided to abandon the armed struggle and return to the legal fold for various reasons.

These included being forcibly recruited after their family members and relatives were threatened and coerced; no longer accepting alleged acts of terrorism

such as threatening, arresting and killing innocent civilians and government employees for the interests of armed groups; and the mining, bombing and destruction of infrastructure, roads and bridges that were not military targets.

They also cited alleged internal abuses within the groups, including discrimination based on rank and status, bullying, torture and killing of fellow members, sexual violence, hardship and poor living conditions, and declining morale due to an inability to withstand the Tatmadaw's offensive.

In addition, they reportedly said they had accepted and placed their trust in the peace process of the State and the Tatmadaw and wished to live peacefully within the legal fold and contribute to the State and the people who had suffered losses and damage because

of their actions.

The report said that those who return to the legal fold are welcomed and accepted, provided with necessary assistance and support, and systematically handed over to their parents and guardians. It added that many people who wish to return to the legal fold are still remaining.

Those wishing to return to the legal fold may contact and report to the nearest district or township administrative bodies, military camps or police stations, where they will be welcomed and provided with necessary assistance and support. It was also reported that appropriate cash rewards would be provided for weapons and ammunition handed over.

The voices of those who have returned to the legal fold were also heard as follows: — 100/KZL

Illegal buildings utilized for online gambling in Shwe Kokko demolished

THE Government has prioritized efforts to combat online fraud and online gambling as a national duty, working not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries to conduct effective inspections and crackdowns to prevent such syndicates from gaining a foothold in the country.

As part of these operations, 635 illegal buildings used for online gambling in the KK Park area have been divided into three sections, while 77 of the 140 illegal buildings used for online



This map shows systematic demolition of illicit scam hubs in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko crackdown.

gambling in the Shwe Kokko area were systematically demolished during Phase I.

In Phase II, the remaining 63 buildings will be demolished as follows: 25 by machinery, four by blasting and 34 floor by floor by workers in residential areas. The demolition work has been carried out systematically since 6 October.

As the demolition continues, one five-storey building designated for demolition by machinery has been demolished, bringing the

overall demolition progress to 65 per cent. In addition, one six-storey building was systematically demolished yesterday.

The Government has taken the elimination of online gambling and fraud as a national responsibility and is working in coordination with local forces and relevant authorities in neighbouring countries to eradicate such activities in Myanmar. It will continue to demolish the remaining buildings as soon as possible. — 100/MKKS

Vehicle crashes into bridge pillar in North Okkalapa

A vehicle crashed into a bridge pillar in North Okkalapa Township on 8 October after its driver lost control.

The accident occurred when the vehicle, travelling along Thudhamma Road, lost control and crashed into a bridge pillar at the roadside.

Upon receiving the re-

port, firefighters from the North Okkalapa Township Fire Station promptly arrived at the scene with a search and rescue vehicle and provided the necessary assistance.

No one was injured in the accident, according to a statement issued by the Fire Services Department. — TWA/KZL



A vehicle that crashed into a bridge pillar after its driver lost control in North Okkalapa Township.

ARTICLE/SCI/TECH
WORLD

India affirms its satellite policies are fair and completely non-discriminatory

Three global mobile satellite services received licences ensuring complete security compliance.

THE Ministry of Communications has unequivocally stated its position on the regulatory framework for satellite communication services. The Ministry said that India's policies in this sphere are fair and non-discriminatory.

The statement from the Ministry follows a post by SpaceX CEO Elon Musk who had claimed that the

India plans of his satellite communication company Starlink were being blocked by 'certain oligarchs'.

In a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau the Ministry stated, "A post is being circulated in social media regarding the fairness of India's regulatory framework for satellite communication services and suggesting that it is

being applied in a discriminatory manner. The Government has put in place a fair and non-discriminatory authorization framework for all telecommunication services, including satellite communication services."

"Under this, telecom licences have been granted to three Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite services based



The image displays a generic 3D digital illustration of a communications satellite orbiting Earth against a starfield. PHOTO: ISTOCK

on non-geosynchronous satellite orbit based satellite communications, as part of its commit-

ment to enable provision of satellite communication services in India. — ANI

System tracks ancient wooden slips' condition

UNDER visual observation, virtually no writing is visible on Jiandu, bamboo or wooden slips that ancient Chinese people wrote on before the invention of paper, but in near-infrared images, the outlines of the ink marks faintly emerge.

When switched to the ultraviolet band, subtle cracks and salt efflorescence on the surface of the slips, invisible to the naked eye, become clearly visible. —Xinhua

Super El Niño in Late 2026: Why Myanmar...

FROM PAGE 9

In the Ayeyawady Region, the responsible personnel have instructed officials to protect freshwater resources and conserve rainwater, particularly in Pyapon and Labutta districts, which are vulnerable to saltwater flooding. Saltwater can contaminate ponds, wells, and agricultural land, making water unsafe for drinking and reducing the productivity of irrigated crops. Protecting freshwater sources before a crisis is far more effective than trying to replace them afterwards.

Extreme heat also requires serious planning. Heat stress, dehydration and heatstroke can occur when people work outdoors, travel long distances or live in poorly ventilated buildings. The risks are high for farmers, construction workers, street vendors, transport workers, infants, older people and those with chronic illnesses. Cooling centres, public drinking-water points and clear health advice could save lives during dangerous heat.

What authorities

should do?

Preparedness should begin with reliable information and coordinated action. The DMH should continue issuing timely, locally understandable forecasts, including heat alerts, storm warnings, flood guidance and drought updates. Messages should reach communities through television, radio, newspapers, social media, mobile networks, local administrators, schools, religious institutions and community organisations.

Townships and regions should review disaster-response plans, evacuation routes, shelters, emergency transport and communication systems. Drainage channels, culverts and pumps should be inspected and cleared before heavy rain arrives. Authorities should also identify and protect ponds, reservoirs, wells and other freshwater sources. Rainwater harvesting, water storage and conservation campaigns should be expanded in urban and rural areas.

Agricultural departments should advise farmers on planting dates, drought-tolerant

crops, efficient irrigation, soil-moisture conservation and livestock protection. Fire stations and local administrators should map high-risk areas, inspect equipment, maintain access roads and organize prevention campaigns. Cooling centres should be



prepared in places likely to experience dangerous heat, while health facilities should be ready to treat heat-related illness and injuries associated with storms and floods.

Plans must include vulnerable groups: people in informal settlements, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, children, older people, displaced families and low-income households. Disaster planning is strongest when communities participate rather than simply receive instructions.

What individuals and families can do?

Every household can take sensible, low-cost steps. Follow official DMH announcements and local instructions, and do not rely solely on rumours or unverified social-media posts. Families should

discuss where they will go during a flood, storm or fire, how they will contact one another and who will assist children, older relatives or neighbours with disabilities.

Prepare an emergency bag containing drinking water, basic food, medicines, first-aid supplies, flashlights, batteries or power banks, important documents in waterproof packaging, sanitation items, masks and a small amount of cash. People who take regular medication should keep an adequate supply and a written

record of prescriptions. Store safe water in clean, covered containers, and avoid wells or ponds that may have been contaminated by floodwater or saltwater.

Before heavy rain or a major storm, clean drains around the home, secure roofs and loose outdoor objects, trim dangerous branches and move valuables to higher places. Never walk or drive through moving floodwater: it may conceal open drains, broken roads, electric wires or strong currents. During lightning and storms, stay indoors, avoid isolated trees and limit contact with electrical equipment.

During extreme heat, drink water regularly, reduce strenuous activity during the hottest hours and wear light, loose clothing. Check on elderly neighbours, small children and people who live alone. Anyone showing confusion, fainting, severe weakness or unusually hot skin needs urgent medical attention.

Finally, conserve water and prevent fires. Do not burn rubbish during hot, dry and windy conditions. Keep matches, fuel and cooking equipment

away from children and flammable materials. Report fires quickly and obey evacuation instructions.

A shared responsibility

The reported warning should not create panic, but it should create urgency. A strong El Niño may bring different hazards at different times, and forecasts may be revised as new information becomes available. The best response is flexible preparedness: protect water, improve drainage, plan for heat, reduce fire risk, support farmers, strengthen emergency services and share accurate information.

For Myanmar, resilience will depend not only on national and regional authorities but also on the readiness of every township, village, workplace and household. Preparing before the first flood, heatwave, drought or fire is the most practical way to reduce loss of life and protect livelihoods. The imminent Super El Niño may be a natural climate event, but its consequences can be reduced when society acts early, cooperatively and intelligently.

ECONOMY

WORLD

S Korea’s rice output expected to fall for 5th year in 2026

Reduced cultivation area drives the continuous decline despite favourable weather conditions.

SOUTH Korea’s rice output was expected to fall for a fifth straight year, driven by a record-low rice cultivation area, the statistical ministry’s estimate showed Thursday.

Rice output was projected to reach 3.518 million tons in 2026, down 0.6 per cent from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics. If the projection holds true, it will represent a continuous five-year decline since 2022 and the lowest production volume in six years since 2020. The main driver behind the five-year downward trend was a reduction in



Gyeongju, South Korea is highly famous for its striking agricultural landscapes where historic tombs, traditional hanok villages, and vast rice paddy fields coexist. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

the cultivation area.	1.1 per cent from a year earlier to 670,000 hectares in 2026, marking the	smallest rice cultivation area since records began. — Xinhua
The total land used for rice farming shrank		

Iraq central bank devalues dinar after Middle East war hurts oil exports

IRAQ’S central bank devalued the dinar currency against the dollar on Wednesday, with the country facing a deepening crisis brought on	by the Middle East war. Crude oil sales account for nearly 90 per cent of Iraq’s revenue but its exports have been hurt by the out-	break in February of the conflict between Iran and the United States, which choked off the Strait of Hormuz shipping route.	Consumer prices have also risen, while Iraq’s foreign currency reserves have fallen by around \$20 billion. — AFP
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Mexico takes steps to tackle reduced natural gas supplies from US

MEXICO has taken steps to cope with a temporary reduction of about 20 per cent in natural gas supplies imported from the United States, a senior energy official said Wednesday.

Cuitlahuac Garcia, director general of the National Center for Natural Gas Control (CENAGAS), said Mexico had been notified about a week earlier that roughly one-fifth of the imported natural gas that Mexico receives through its national pipelines would be cut off, which would be “a serious blow”.

He said Mexico had managed the disruption through coordination among CENAGAS, state oil company Pemex, the Federal Electricity Commission, the National Energy Control Centre and the Energy Ministry. — Xinhua



The Tioga gas plant in North Dakota is a major facility for processing natural gas from the Bakken oil field. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Canada’s trade surplus widens to US\$2.9B in Aug

CANADA’S trade surplus widened sharply to 4.2 billion Canadian dollars (about US\$2.9 billion) in August, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

Marking Canada’s sixth consecutive monthly positive trade balance, the surplus expanded significantly from a revised 787 million Canadian dollars (about US\$552 million) recorded in July.

The jump was mainly driven by an 8.1 per cent surge in exports to the United States, while imports fell 2.5 per cent, Statistics Canada reported.

Canada’s trade ties with China continued to grow. Canadian exports to China rose 30 per cent year on year in the first half of 2026, while overall trade in goods between Canada and China totalled 66.6 billion Canadian dollars (about US\$46.7 billion), up 3.6 per cent, according to Statistics Canada. The outbound trade was dominated by energy and mineral commodities, with crude oil and liquefied propane seeing particularly strong growth. Meanwhile, Canadian merchandise exports to France rose 53 per cent in the first seven months of 2026 from the same period last year, said Global Affairs Canada, the country’s foreign ministry. — Xinhua



Modern commercial port facility handling international trade and cargo shipping containers. **PHOTO: MONTREAL PORT**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia subsidizes nearly US\$500 mln to curb rising fuel

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Wednesday that the government has injected nearly US\$500 million in subsidies to cushion the domestic impact of soaring global fuel prices driven by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

“To date, we have subsidized almost \$500 million to curb rising fuel costs and stabilize electricity prices for our citizens,” he said during a ceremony celebrating the 80th anniversary of the University of Health Sciences in Phnom Penh.

The prime minister emphasized that these subsidy programmes will continue as long as global fuel markets remain elevated. — Xinhua

France to release 10 mln barrels of diesel from strategic reserves

FRENCH Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu announced Wednesday that France will release 10 million barrels of diesel from its strategic reserves to help ease pressure on the fuel market.

The diesel reserves will be made available to distributors in France, a measure that would “mechanically lower prices at the pump” by around “12 to 18 euro cents per litre of diesel”, Lecornu said, adding that he would soon sign a decree allowing the operation, which is expected to last three months.

Lecornu also called



Cars get refuelled at a petrol station in Villeneuve-d'Ascq, north France, 23 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

on France’s state-owned electricity utility company EDF to maximize its production capacity, with the aim of ensuring that electricity prices do not increase this winter.

The move came amid continued rises in fuel prices, with the conflict in the Middle East and disruptions to traffic through the Strait of Hormuz putting further pressure on the market. — Xinhua

Fast Retailing set to be world’s 2nd largest clothing firm on record profit

FAST Retailing Co, the operator of the Uniqlo clothing chain, appears on course to overtake Sweden’s H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB as the world’s second-largest apparel manufacturer and retailer after posting another stellar year of record earnings on strong global sales.

Fast Retailing’s sales during the just-ended business year through August came to 3.96 trillion yen (\$25 billion), up 16.6 per cent from the previous year,

while net profit surged 25.3 per cent to a record 542.52 billion yen.

H&M, the current No 2, has yet to release its full-year earnings results through November. But the Swedish apparel company, which reported sales of 228.29 billion krona (\$22.8 billion) in fiscal 2025, has reported sales below year-ago levels through the third quarter of the current year.

Inditex SA, the operator of the Zara clothing brand, ranks first. — Kyodo

Samsung Electronics smashes records with Q3 operating profit

SAMSUNG Electronics smashed records with its third-quarter operating profit, marking its fourth consecutive quarter of historic earnings, a regulatory filing showed Thursday.

The South Korean tech giant reported a preliminary operating profit of 107.4 trillion won (US\$80.2 billion) in the July-September quarter, up 782.5 per cent from a year

earlier.

The profit continued its record-breaking streak since the fourth quarter of last year, beating market expectations of about 105.7 trillion won.

Preliminary revenue surged 126.6 per cent year-on-year to 195 trillion won in the third quarter, rewriting its own record for four straight quarters. — Xinhua

Slovakia to continue 50% rail fare subsidy in Nov: PM

SLOVAKIA will continue to subsidize a 50-per-cent reduction in second-class fares on trains operating in the public interest in November, and the measure may also be extended through December, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said Wednesday.

According to the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR), after a meeting with Transport Ministry officials on discounted rail fares, Fico said the government was prepared to allocate 6 million euros (US\$6.72 million) for the subsidy in November and December. He added that the government could extend the programme into 2027 if necessary, depending on the availability of funding

under next year’s state budget.

Fico said the temporary 50-per-cent fare reduction, introduced on 1 October, had so far led to a significant increase in rail passenger numbers. On 5 October, the number of paying passengers rose nearly 25 per cent year-on-year. On 3 October and 4 October, passenger numbers increased by around 35 to 38 per cent year-on-year, he said.

The 50-per-cent fare discount will also apply to suburban bus services in the regions and public transport in regional capitals. The state is expected to spend nearly 13 million euros (\$14.55 million) on subsidies for the measure. —Xinhua



Slovakia will continue to subsidize a 50-per-cent reduction in second-class fares on trains operating in the public interest in November. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Notice for change of distributor

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

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number	New Distributor
1	MYANMAR FARMER'S LAND AGRISOLUTION CO., LTD	Profen	Lufenuron 5% + Profenofos 50% EC	Provisional	P2026 - 7012	Amazing seasons Co., Ltd

Amazing seasons Co., Ltd. (Address: NO.6B407 YADANAR HNINSI RESIDENCE DAGON SEIKKAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON REGION, MYANMAR. Ph no .09403723854)

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

The manufacture of **Moutain Peak Cropcare Pte.,Ltd**. have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**New Maykha Agrochemical Company Limited**", to new distributor name "**Amara Agrochemical Company Limited**". If any object or enjuiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Best More	Cyhalofop-butyl 20% + Penoxsulam 5% OD	P2025-6666
2	Hmoe Hero	Thiophanate-methyl 70% WP	P2025-6889
3	Spi Ro	Spirotetramat 22.4% SC	P2025-6804

Amara Agrochemical Company Limited
MARLARMYAING AVENUE STREET, PYAY ROAD, NO (531/B), 8 QUARTER, KAMAYUT TOWNSHIP, YANGON REGION, 11041, MYANMAR, 017501352

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia considers deployment of US troops in Baltic states as escalation: Foreign Ministry

Moscow warns that Western European aggression will receive an appropriate response.

RUSSIA considers potential deployment of additional NATO contingents as escalation, including the US troops in Baltic states, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

“We certainly consider potential deployment of additional NATO contingents, including US troops, and building of relevant military infrastructure in Baltic states as escalation,” Zakharova told a briefing.

The US’s plans to deploy troops in Baltic States run counter to its declared desire to reduce tensions in Europe, Zakharova added.



The opening ceremony of the new camp “Herkus”, where United States soldiers who arrived in Lithuania settled, which took place at the General Silvestras Žukauskas training ground in Pabradė on 30 August 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

If aggression starts from Western Europe, Russia will respond to this, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke clearly and unequivocally about this, Maria Zakharova said. — SPUTNIK

Trump to give Musk top US science medal

PRESIDENT Donald Trump will present close ally Elon Musk and other tech bosses with the top US scientific award at a ceremony on Thursday, the White House said.

Google co-founder Sergei Brin, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and AMD chief Lisa Su will also receive the National Medal of Science at the “Science: A New Golden Age” summit.

Computer mogul Michael Dell and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella will



US President Donald Trump will present top scientific awards to tech leaders. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

get the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the top award in its field.

“The Trump Administration is grateful for the contributions of these incredible leaders in science and technology. These recipients are

helping ensure America keeps leading the world in innovation,” White House spokeswoman Liz Huston said in a statement to AFP on Wednesday.

Space X and Tesla tycoon Musk has returned to Trump’s good graces after they fell out last year over his role heading the cost-cutting Department of Government Efficiency. He was also the biggest donor to Trump’s 2024 presidential campaign. — AFP

2026 Nobel Prize in Literature goes to Canadian writer Anne Carson

CANADIAN writer Anne Carson has been awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the second

Canadian author ever to receive the honour, the Swedish Academy announced on Thursday.

The prize was awarded to Carson “for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with

the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature”, the academy said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK consulate in Jerusalem remains open

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said Thursday that the Consulate-General in East Jerusalem will remain open, after his Israeli counterpart said the mission is ending its operations.

“We have been clear that we do not accept that the Government of Israel has the legal right to close the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem,” Miliband said in a statement on social media platform X, noting that “East Jerusalem is occupied territory”.

The consulate, located in occupied East Jerusalem, handles Britain’s relations with Palestinians in Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

“Following discussions with the Government of Israel, our Consulate-General building will not be closing,” Miliband said, adding that it would continue to provide services and be known as the “UK Mission”.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar said Thursday that the British consulate is ending its operations that day.

Relations between Britain and Israel have deteriorated as Israel has stepped up its military campaign against the Gaza Strip, which has left more than 74,200 people killed over the past three years according to Gaza-based health authorities, while settlement expansion has continued in the occupied West Bank. — Xinhua

Lightning strikes IndiGo flight midair

AN IndiGo domestic flight flying from the eastern Indian city of Patna to the northern city of Lucknow was struck by lightning midair on Wednesday, local media reported.

The aircraft landed safely at its destination, and all passengers and crew members on board were unharmed.

The incident occurred at an altitude of around 17,000 feet (5,182 metres) and damaged the aircraft’s nose. The plane was subsequently grounded for repairs and maintenance, according to an airline official.

Lucknow has experienced severe weather, including incessant rain, over the past two days. — Xinhua

Armed police units begin patrolling Sydney streets

HEAVILY armed police will be deployed across Sydney ahead of a rapid response unit established in the wake of the Bondi Beach terror attack becoming fully operational.

The government of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) on Thursday said that officers from the state police force’s new Armed Response Command (ARC) will begin patrolling Sydney over the coming weeks as the unit’s training moves into realistic environments.

The ARC was established as a permanent unit by the state government following the fatal mass shooting of 15 people at a Jewish holiday celebration at Bondi Beach in December last year.

NSW Premier Chris Minns, Police and Counter-terrorism Minister Yasmin Catley and Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon said in a statement on Thursday that ARC officers will patrol high-risk areas, including places of worship and major events, and rapidly respond to emerging threats. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Kovac's tough love has Dortmund dreaming of title charge

BORUSSIA Dortmund coach Niko Kovac is defying his critics so far this season, having guided the team to their best start to a Bundesliga campaign in over a decade.

Former Bayern Munich boss Kovac was viewed as an underwhelming choice when he joined Dortmund in January 2025, but the Croatian's no-nonsense, safety-first approach now has the club dreaming of a first league title since 2012.

Dortmund are two points clear of Bayern at the top of the Bundesliga table having won all of their opening four games.

Speaking ahead of his side's home game against Werder Bremen on Friday, Kovac said he was happy to be the frontrunner.

"There's still a very long way to go until we reach the goal that one or two people might have in their head, but we are enjoying this moment," he said Wednesday. — AFP



Niko Kovac's unspectacular tactics may not be to everybody's taste but are effective as Borussia Dortmund top the Bundesliga table with 12 points.
PHOTO: AFP

Figure skating: Kagiya looks to rekindle zeal towards 3rd Olympics

TWO-TIME Olympic figure skating singles silver medalist Yuma Kagiya is hopeful of making his third Winter Games in 2030 as he spends a season away from competition.

At an event at his old junior high school in Yokohama on Thursday, the 23-year-old answered questions from current students regarding dreams and challenges. "I want to discover a new self ahead of the Olympics in four years' time, making it a time I can feel skating is fun in itself," Kagiya said.

He won the men's singles silver on his Olympic debut in Beijing in 2022 when he also won the team silver. There was a chance for a singles gold at the Milan-Cortina Games this February, but Kagiya placed behind Kazakhstan's Mikhail Shaidorov and settled for the same two silver medals he won four years ago. — Kyodo

Poll finds 64% support for Budapest hosting 2036 Olympics

NEARLY two-thirds of Hungarians support a potential Budapest bid to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, according to a survey by Hungarian pollster Median.

Median Managing Director Endre Hann told Hungarian news agency MTI that 64 per cent of respondents were either "completely" or "somewhat in favour" of Budapest hosting the Games.

Commissioned by the Hungarian Olympic Committee, the survey included a nationwide sample of 1,000 respondents and an additional 500 respondents in Budapest.

"We did the first one in autumn 2024, and opinions on the prospective hosting rights have improved significantly since," Hann said. "This year there has been an even greater improvement."

The survey also found that 60 per cent of Hungarians believed the country was heading in the right direction.

"Hosting the Olympics is now much more



Sweden's Armand Duplantis gestures to the crowd during the men's pole vault final at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary, 11 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

a project for the country and the nation as a whole," Hann said.

The International Olympic Committee said Tuesday that Germany, Hungary, India, Qatar, South Korea, South Africa and Türkiye had expressed interest in hosting the 2036 Games. The host is expected to be selected in mid-2029. — Xinhua

Spain stays atop FIFA rankings as Portugal rises to fifth

SPAIN retained top spot in the latest FIFA men's world rankings released Wednesday, with Argentina, France and England completing an unchanged top four.

Portugal climbed two places to fifth, overtaking Brazil and Morocco, while Belgium, the Netherlands and Mexico also remained in the top 10.

A total of 338 international matches have been played since the 2026 FIFA World Cup concluded on 19 July, including UEFA and CONCACAF Nations League fixtures and qualifiers for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Spain, Portugal and Switzerland each opened their UEFA Nations League campaigns with four consecutive wins. Switzerland rose two places to 12th, overtaking Germany and Croatia. — Xinhua

Spain won the 2026 FIFA World Cup, defeating Argentina 1-0 on 19 July. Captain Rodri lifted the trophy in New Jersey. PHOTO: BRITANNICA



Former Barcelona, Chelsea forward Pedro Rodriguez retires from football

FORMER FC Barcelona and Spain forward Pedro Rodriguez announced his retirement from professional football on Wednesday. The 39-year-old from the Canary Islands, who played more than 900 club matches for Barcelona, Chelsea, Roma and Lazio and made 65 appearances for Spain, made the announcement in an online video filmed at Barcelona's Camp Nou, where he broke into the first team in the 2008-09 season. — Xinhua

Russia considers deployment of US troops in Baltic states as escalation: Foreign Ministry

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WORLD

PM Modi inaugurates 10th edition of India Mobile Congress

The telecom sector showcased affordable data capabilities and future technologies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the 10th edition of India Mobile Congress at Yashobhoomi in the National Capital. Upon his arrival, the PM was felicitated by Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Speaking at the session, Scindia highlighted PM Modi's vision of technology reaching every last village and every single citizen of the country. "Prime Minister has always insisted that technology must permeate not only the last village, but reach every single citizen.

And with that in mind, look at the journey that all of us together have completed. One GB of data would cost 268 rupees in 2014. Today, 12 years later, one GB of data costs only eight rupees, the cheapest data capability across the



PM Modi inaugurates the India Mobile Congress 2026. PHOTO: ANI

world. In 2014, the average data monthly usage per customer was only 0.26 MB. 12 years later, it has grown 140 times to 36 MB (this should be GB) per individual across the length and breadth of our country.

Every drop in cost, every increase in usage has expanded that canvas in which every single

Indian can connect, can create, and can innovate," he said.

Scindia said this edition of the India Mobile Congress would showcase the digital capabilities of the nation. "The 2026 edition will showcase the digital capabilities of our nation.

"The demonstrations

that we will shortly witness here will highlight the depth and strength of our technological ecosystem — from digital platforms to life-saving cell broadcasts; from AI leadership and free 6G networks to sovereign clouds; and from terahertz communication to integrated sensing and communication." — ANI

US proposes US\$ 70,000 fees for intl student work programme

THE US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Wednesday proposed a new rule that would impose new fees for F-1 non-immigrant students seeking to participate in Optional Practical Training (OPT), a temporary employment authorization connected to a student's field of study.

The proposed rule would establish a US\$70,000 fee per F-1 non-immigrant student for initial OPT and a \$30,000 fee per F-1 non-immigrant student for any subsequent OPT,

according to a statement on the department's website.

DHS is proposing the fees "to combat fraud and abuse, strengthen the integrity of the immigration system, and protect US workers", the statement said.

"Imposing this new fee structure on Optional Practical Training is the latest in a series of developments that creates deep uncertainty for international students," NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, said in a statement. — Xinhua



Students walk to class at Rice University on 29 August 2022 in Houston, Texas. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China's nomination of WHO chief demonstrates its firm support for multilateralism

CHINA'S nomination of Dr Song Li as a candidate for director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO) demonstrates its firm support for multilateralism and the organization, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Thursday.

Mao made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a relevant question.

The WHO is a specialized health agency of the United Nations and plays a leading and coordinating role in global

health governance, Mao said.

At a time when multilateralism is facing challenges and much still needs to be done in advancing global health, the role of the WHO director-general is particularly important in steering the organization through new changes and circumstances towards steady and sustained development, she said.

China's nomination of Dr Song reflects its willingness to work with all parties to jointly promote



China's nomination of Dr Song Li demonstrates strong multilateral support. PHOTO: PEXELS

the building of a global community of health for all, and demonstrates China's firm support for multilateralism and the WHO, Mao said.

"We believe that if

Dr Song is elected WHO director-general, she will help the organization play a more active role in improving the health and well-being of all humanity," Mao said. — Xinhua

Iran, Oman agree on safe passage through Strait of Hormuz

IRAN and Oman have agreed on safe passage routes through the Strait of Hormuz and will report this information to an international body, Press TV reported on Thursday, citing Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei.

On 28 February, the United States and Israel began attacking targets in Iran, to which Iran responded with its own strikes. In mid-June, Tehran and Washington

signed a memorandum to cease hostilities, but shortly thereafter exchanged strikes again. At present, the conflict remains unresolved.

The escalation of the conflict has virtually halted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key supply route for global oil, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas. As a result, fuel prices have risen in most countries. — SPUTNIK