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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Travellers explore the ancient cultural heritage zone of Bagan. **PHOTO:KANU**

Bagan Awaits Large Crowds in Thadingyut Festival

The Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone is expected to be particularly crowded with travellers during the Thadingyut Festival on 25 to 27 October, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch).

Of the 93 hotels and guesthouses currently operating in NyaungU and Bagan, more than 70 hotels and around 20 guesthouses have already been fully booked by visitors planning to enjoy the festival. A total of 93 of more than 150 hotels and guesthouses are open in the area.

During the Thadingyut full moon day, the eve of the full moon and the first waning day, 3,000 small hot-air balloons will be released over three days, with 1,000 balloons launched daily from the Alodawpyae Pagoda grounds, the hill near Phothudaw Lake close to Sulamuni Pagoda, and the hilltop viewpoint at Nyaung Let Phet Lake. A night market will also open in New Bagan, similar to the night market in NyaungU, featuring traditional foods, clothing, handicrafts, food products and agricultural supplies. Candlelight offerings will also be held at pagodas and stupas and along the Ayeyawady River.

SEE PAGE 5

Government and people urged to work hand in hand to serve State's interests



Vice-President U Nyo Saw presides over the meeting of the Central Committee on Organizing the 79th Anniversary of Independence Day 2027.

ALL officials from the subcommittees must coordinate closely to ensure the successful holding of the Independence Day ceremonies, said Vice-President U Nyo Saw, who chairs the Central Committee on Organizing the 79th Anniversary of Independence Day 2027, at the meeting hall of the Union government office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Furthermore, he underlined that subcommittee officials have to review the strengths and weaknesses experienced in previous years and to contribute constructive, open suggestions and discussions so that the events may be conducted without any shortcomings.

He revealed that the President has adopted four national objectives for the Independence Day celebration. These objectives are: to constantly strive for the interests of the State and its citizens based on the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty to ensure the sustainability of independence and sovereignty; to cooperate collectively and unitedly among all ethnic nationalities to achieve everlasting peace nationwide; to work hand in hand between the people and the government with unwavering perseverance in accordance with the motto, "The strength of the nation lies only within"; and to make continuous efforts towards the development of the interests and socioeconomic life of the State and its citizens, aiming to become a nation that stands proudly before the world.

Chairs and officials from relevant subcommittees reported on preparations and plans to successfully hold the Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting came to an end with remarks by the Vice-President. — MNA/TTA

Traditional Chinlone Enchants Pakokku

A traditional Chinlone (cane ball) performance was held at the compound of the historic Thihoshin Pagoda in Pakokku at 8 am yesterday to mark the Thadingyut Festival, with the aim of preventing Myanmar's traditional Chinlone culture from fading away and enabling younger generations to preserve and pass it on.

Chairman U Hla Phone of the Pagoda Board of Trustees explained that the event was organized to ensure that younger generations continue to preserve and pass on the traditional Myanmar group Chinlone, or artistic Chinlone playing. Chairman U Bo Myint of the Pakokku Township Chinlone Sports Development Subcommittee clarified competition rules and schedules.

Participants representing different teams drew lots to determine their order of participation. They performed various traditional Chinlone techniques, including striking the ball with the knee, toes, instep, sole, heel, inner and outer sides of the foot, shoulder, head, back and elbow, and different knee techniques, cross-body kicks, circular kicks and sliding kicks.



Players kick a cane ball in a circular formation during a traditional Myanma Chinlone artistic performance event.

The event features performances by Nanda Win, a renowned Myanmar solo Chinlone performer known as Butterfly Nanda Win, male and female Chinlone performers, and Chinlone teams from Pakokku Township. The event will run from the 12th to the 14th waxing days of Thadingyut.

SEE PAGE 4

Myanmar startups join ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2026 in Seoul, Daegu

SEE PAGE 3



Myanmar's Chargé d'Affaires/Ambassador in Seoul and the commercial counsellor pose for a commemorative photo with Myanmar startup representatives.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 67/2026

12th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1388 ME
23 October 2026

Cancellation of Permission to Register as a Political Party and Dissolution of the Party

1. The Union Election Commission granted permission to the Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD) to register as a political party under Announcement 7/2023 dated 24 April 2023, with Registration No 2.
2. With regard to the submission by the Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD), under Letter No 2, Ma Pa Ta (Pa Pha), Hta Na Kha, Ma Pa Da, dated 16 October 2026, requesting the cancellation of its registration as a political party, together with the resolution of the party's Central Executive Committee meeting, the Union Election Commission, in accordance with the decision of its Plenary Meeting 28/2026 held on 22 October 2026, approved the cancellation of the party's registration as a political party and the dissolution of the party under Section 20 (a) of the Political Parties Registration Law.
3. Therefore, the registration of the Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD), which was registered as a political party with the Union Election Commission, is hereby cancelled and the party is dissolved with effect from 23 October 2026.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 23 October 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. It is likely to intensify into a Depression on 24 October 2026 and move west-northwestwards and intensify into a Deep Depression on 25 October 2026 and may reach over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm on 26 October 2026. It is likely to continue to move North Andhra Pradesh and adjoining South Odisha coasts on 27 October 2026. — DMH

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed; Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred and appointed the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

	Name	Appointment
(a)	Professor Dr Myo Thet Tin Rector University of Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health	Director-General Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health
(b)	Daw Lae Lae Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Naing Naing Latt, Rector of Mohnyin University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

7th Myanmar-China High-Level Think Tank Forum held

THE 7th Myanmar-China High-Level Think Tank Forum was held on 21 October in Mangshi, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China.

The forum was held under the theme "Promoting Myanmar-China Agricultural Cooperation to Build a Shared Future Community".

Myanmar Consul-General in Kunming U Zeyar Myo Myint attended the forum and participated in a panel discussion on "China-Myanmar Agricultural Cooperation". During the discussion, he highlighted the vital role of the agricultural sector, noted that Myanmar's Pawsan rice had won the 2026 World's Best Rice Award, and discussed the market potential of Myanmar's rice and coffee. He also emphasized the strong prospects for bilateral cooperation in expanding agricultural exports to the Chinese market, promoting trade and investment, developing value-added production, and facilitating technical exchanges.



This photo features a panel discussion on "China-Myanmar Agricultural Cooperation".

The forum brought together officials from relevant departments, representatives of research institutions, scholars, and business leaders from Myanmar and China. Participants exchanged views on agricultural cooperation, trade and investment opportunities, and ecological and environmental conservation. — ASH/TH

Iconic Myanmar Opera Graces Wazira Stage

THE Myanmar opera 'Min Nanda and Shin Mwe Lon', featuring movie and Thabin artistes, will run for three days at Wazira Cinema in Yangon Region's Kyauktada Township.

Based on true events and directed by Maung Thi, the opera will be staged from 25 to 27 October.

The 'Min Nandar and Shin Mwe Lon' opera by many famous artistes will perform for audiences at Wazira Cinema as a special programme for Thadingyut. I want to invite all to join us at the theatre and spend this special occasion joyfully," said director Maung Thi.

Actors of the opera are Kaung Myat San, Yamone Myint Myat, Zaw Win Naing (Mann), Paw Oo, Kan Pwint, Wyne Wyne Lal, Myitta Myint Myat Hein, Kyin Whet, Myauk Shone, Aung Maw, Ei Zin Moe, May Thae Htike, Myat Hmue, Eaindray, Treasure Oo, Hein Yatu, Shwe Kinenayi and others. — ASH/ZS


Kaung Myat San and Yamone Myint Myat are in rehearsal for the 'Min Nanda and Shwe Mwe Lon' opera.

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Myanmar Embassy staff, families and trainees in Belarus



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe speaks at the meeting with embassy staff, family members and trainees.

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe met staff and family members of the Myanmar Embassy in Belarus and Myanmar trainees studying there during his official visit to Minsk, Belarus, on yesterday encouraging embassy personnel to promote national interests and trainees to pursue their studies diligently for the country's development.

During the meeting, U Aung Lin Dwe highlighted the important role of embassy personnel in strengthening bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus. He emphasized that diplomatic tact and skills were essential to advancing the country's interests and urged embassy staff to devote their abilities and efforts to serving the nation.

He also encouraged family members of embassy personnel to remain united and support one another whenever necessary.

Noting that Belarus has a world-class education system that attracts international students, including those from Myanmar, The Speaker urged Myanmar trainees to pursue their studies systematically and thoroughly and apply the knowledge and skills gained in their respective fields to contribute to national development upon their return home.

As the trainees were studying far from their families, he encouraged them to care for one another and live together in unity like a family. He also reminded them to strictly abide by Belarusian laws and regulations throughout their stay.

Following the meeting, U Aung Lin Dwe presented food supplies and monetary honorariums to embassy families and trainees. He then exchanged greetings with embassy staff, family members and trainees. In the afternoon, U Aung Lin Dwe and his delegation attended a luncheon hosted jointly with Belarusian parliamentarians. — MNA/TH

Vice-President enjoys competitions of contestants at 27th Performing Arts Competition

VICE-PRESIDENT Nan Ni Ni Aye, who serves as Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026, watched competitions of contestants at relevant events in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye and dignitaries watch the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 yesterday.

Accompanied by Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives, deputy ministers and regional and state ministers, the Vice-President visited the venues where singing, dancing, composing songs and playing music events were held at the central level in Nay Pyi Taw.

She enjoyed the competition of contestants at the higher education level men's harp contest and men's song contest at the halls of the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in the morning.

In the afternoon, the Vice-President watched the basic education level aged 10-15) boys' dancing contest at Hsinbyushin Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar startups join ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2026 in Seoul, Daegu

MYANMAR startups from Nipa Related Co Ltd and TharawonShwe Co Ltd participated in ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2026, held in Seoul and Daegu in South Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Myanmar participants were startup representatives from Nipa Related Co Ltd, which produces products based on nipa palm, and TharawonShwe Co Ltd, which produces Myanmar herbal medicines and agricultural products. The event aims to boost startup competitiveness.



A group commemorative photo session of the ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2026.

ASEAN-Korea Startup Week 2026 was organized by the ASEAN-Korea Centre in cooperation with embassies in Seoul to enhance the international competitiveness of startups from ASEAN countries and to expand business development and partnership opportunities through participation in the Future Innovation Tech Expo (FIX 2026). Myanmar's chargé d'affaires/ Ambassador in Seoul, U Myo Myint Maung, attended with the commercial counsellor. The opening ceremony was held on 20 October at the On-Dream Society hall in Seoul, and the event continues 21-23 October in Daegu. ASEAN startup representatives will hold business networking discussions with Korean investors, business accelerator groups and relevant businesses; present at a Demo Day; showcase their products and services at FIX 2026; and build networks and exchange experience.

ASEAN-Korea Startup Week has been held annually since 2018 by the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC), to promote cooperation among startups in South Korea and ASEAN countries, exchange technology and innovation, and expand investment opportunities. — ASH/KK

YGN-BGN Rail Service Resumes After Yearlong Hiatus

AFTER being paused for more than a year, the railway service from Yangon to Aunglan, Taungdwingyi and Bagan (western railroad) has now resumed as of 23 October, according to the Myanma Railways.

The railway section was halted in September 2025 as the Yanpel bridge along the Pyay-Bagan railroad was in need of repairs, and direct train journeys on the rail route were suspended on a temporary basis for safety concerns.

For the comfort of travel for the public, MR switched the railway service of the former route to the alternative route Yangon-Pyinmana-Bagan (eastern railroad) on 21 October 2025.

Now, repairs have been completed, so the former western railroad —Yangon-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi-Bagan—has been operational as usual, starting from 23 October after a long pause.



A passenger train arrives at Bagan station.

The Ministry of Transport has provided passenger trains on major railways, the Yangon-Mandalay railway, Yangon-Pyay railway, Yangon-Mawlamyine railway, and Yangon circular railway, as well as the Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin railway, Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi railway, Myitkyina-Moekaung railway, and Lapadan-Tharawaw railway, to offer efficient passenger train service. — TWA/ZS

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses riverbank erosion, road upgrades, commercial tax policies

THE 20th day of the third regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and members of Parliament.

The session covered seven questions concerning riverbank protection, commercial tax collection, regional road and bridge upgrades, and budget allocations, alongside a motion to stimulate national tourism.

Responding to a question regarding flood prevention in Nyaungdon, Deputy Minister for Transport U Tun Lu stated that a 3,795-foot pile-based retaining wall was erected between the financial year 2009-2010 and the financial year 2025-26, with an additional 250 feet slated for construction in FY 2026-27 to safeguard against riverbank erosion along the Pan Hlaing River. Emergency protections, including a 1,000-foot geotextile revetment and steel wire groynes, have also been put in place, while channel stabilization and water diversion works will continue during upcoming low-water periods.

Addressing tax administration, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Kyaw Htin reaffirmed that the government maintains its policy of expanding the tax base across taxpayer and business categories rather than increasing commercial tax rates on the public and businesses.



The 20th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway, chaired by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat detailed border infrastructure developments, noting that a steep 1.5-mile stretch of the Ahkhe-Wankaung road in Mongkhat Township will be upgraded to concrete under the FY 2027-28 budget. Regarding proposed road upgrades in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, he explained that field assessments and implementations are temporarily on hold due to security conditions, but proposals will be submitted once regional stability returns.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint answered multiple queries on regional road and bridge works. In Myothit Township, a one-mile stretch of the Htanaungkwin road will be gravelled in FY 2027-28 before undergoing future concrete upgrades. Along the Kyaukse-Taso-Kyauksauk corridor, four furlongs of asphalt overlay, resurfacing of the 250-foot Samon Bridge and approach roads, and three box culverts are underway in FY 2026-27, with further resurfacing planned for FY 2027-28. In Ngaputaw Township, a combined budget of K4,852 million, comprising K2,306 million from Union funds and K2,546 million from regional funds, has been allocated in FY 2026-27 for township road and bridge maintenance.

Later in the meeting, U Than Tun from the Pathein constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to develop the tourism sector to revitalize the national economy, supported by Dr Nanda Hla Myint from the Kalaw constituency. The Hluttaw agreed to deliberate on the proposal in coming sessions.

The meeting adjourned in the afternoon, with the 21st day of the session scheduled to reconvene on 28 October. — News Team/ST

Traditional Chinlone Enchants Pakokku

FROM PAGE 1

The annual event aims to preserve Myanmar's traditional Chinlone culture and enable pilgrims to pay homage and deepen their devotion on the full moon day of Thadingyut. Other religious ceremonies will also be held, including the offering of Soon Lonetawgyi and the lighting of 1,000 oil lamps and the offering of 1,000 flowers. — Bar Mi Thar (Pakokku)/KTZH



The launch of an annual event of the traditional Myanma Chinlone artistic performance.

Meiktila promotes agriculture, livestock and regional development

UNION Minister U Tin Aung San at the Ministry of the President's Office, accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and other officials, inspected agriculture, livestock breeding and regional development projects in Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, as part of plans to develop Meiktila, Yamethin and Toungoo districts as special development areas centred on Nay Pyi Taw.

A coordination meeting held in Meiktila discussed agriculture-based industries, food security, market stability, the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and livestock breeding zones. Green city development, forest conservation, carbon emission reduction and wastewater treatment were also highlighted.



Union Minister U Tin Aung San (C) is pictured during his inspection tour of development projects in Mandalay Region.

Inspections covered a broiler farm raising 69,000 chickens in Yathincha Village-Tract, Wundwin Township; a 20-acre model groundnut farm in Shwetaung Village; and a solar-powered irrigation project intended to benefit 450 acres in Bayaphyu Village.

The delegation also visited a garment factory, an edible oil mill in Meiktila Industrial Zone, a dairy farm, a 200-acre livestock zone and two goat farms to review production, distribution and development plans.

Officials stressed the need to improve agricultural yields, distribute quality seeds and promote modern farming techniques, maintain hygiene at livestock farms, expand irrigation and develop infrastructure to support agriculture and livestock breeding. — MNA/KZL

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL



The Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Bagan Awaits Large Crowds in Thadingyut Festival

FROM PAGE 1

"The Bagan cultural heritage area covers 45 square kilometres and contains 3,837 pagodas, stupas and temples recognized by UNESCO, including those in Bagan, Tantkyi Hill and Myinkaba areas. As it is a vast cultural heritage site, every Myanmar citizen should visit Bagan at least once. Now, the hotels and guesthouses are fully booked for the three-day Thadingyut festival. I really appreciate that they value Myanmar culture. I want to invite the students and youths to visit Bagan during holidays as they come to know that Myanmar stands on its own with grand palaces and culture. They can see a very special Thadingyut festival," said Daw San San Myint from the department.

Travellers visiting the Bagan cultural heritage zone commonly explore 28 prominent pagodas and temples. Among the most frequently visited are Shwezigon Pagoda, Alodawpyae Pagoda, Ananda Temple, Shwesandaw Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, Sulamuni Temple, Dhammarazaka Pagoda, Kyaukgu Umin Temple, Bupaya, Kantawpalin, Manuha Temple, Htilominlo Temple, Pyathetgyi Temple, Myazedi, Hngetpyit Hill, Tuyin Hill Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda and Lawkananda Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ KTZH

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Defence Services C-in-C enjoys competitions at 27th Performing Arts Competition

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo watched the participation of contestants at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 yesterday afternoon.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo watches the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026.

The General and party enjoyed the competitions in the basic education (aged 10-15) boys' and girls' xylophone contest at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum, the basic education (aged 10-15 and 15-20) girls' harp contests at sapphire Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) and the higher education women's singing contest at the emerald hall of MICC I.

The General cordially greeted members of the panel of judges and contestants.

Also present at the events were Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, contestants, staff members and families along with people. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar delegation attends 16th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference in Brunei

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo attended the 16th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference and the related 1st ASEAN Prosecutors-General Meeting, held from 21 to 22 October in Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam, at the invitation of Bruneian Attorney-General Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah.



Union Minister Dr Thida Oo joins the group documentary photo session at the 11th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference.

The conference, themed "Harmonizing Legal Frameworks and International Cooperation to Protect Children in the Digital Era", brought together Chinese Prosecutor-General Mr Ying Yong and counterparts from across ASEAN. Speaking at the forum, Dr Thida Oo highlighted the China-ASEAN conference's two-decade legacy in strengthening regional legal cooperation and tackling transnational crime. She noted that while digital advancements offer significant educational and creative benefits to youths, they simultaneously heighten exposure to online exploitation, scams, human trafficking, and harmful content. Emphasizing that cross-border digital offences cannot be handled by any single nation in isolation, she stressed the imperative for close alignment among regional legal systems.

She elaborated that Myanmar enacted the Child Rights Law in 2019 and established the National Committee on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) to oversee policy coordination. To confront emerging threats in cyberspace, the country is also implementing cybersecurity, anti-online scam, and human trafficking prevention laws, alongside dedicated child-protection guidelines.

Reaffirming Myanmar's commitment to working alongside China and ASEAN partners to cultivate a safer digital ecosystem for younger generations, she noted that safeguarding children is vital to the stability of the entire region.

The conference concluded with the prosecutors-general signing the Joint Declaration of the 16th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference. — MNA/ST

Myanmar attends Intl SEZ Conference 2026

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Win Myint Khine, attended the International Special Economic Zones Conference 2026 in Moscow, Russia, on 22 October.

About 900 participants attended the conference, including government officials from 19 countries, investors and private businesspeople from 58 cities across the Russian Federation.

Representatives from Myanmar and Cambodia, both ASEAN member countries, attended the conference. During the discussions, Deputy Minister U Win Myint Khine presented investment opportunities in Myanmar's special economic zones and answered questions from conference participants. — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Minister U Win Myint Khine leads the Myanmar delegation at the International Special Economic Zones Conference 2026 in Moscow.

NATIONAL

27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 enters Day 3











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

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

Competitions in singing, dancing, songwriting, and traditional musical instruments, including the Saung (Myanmar harp), Hsaing Waing (traditional Myanma orchestra), Xylophone, Violin, Donmin, and Guitar, were held across different education levels and age groups. Traditional theatre competitions, including marionette and theatrical drama contests, also showcased Myanmar's cultural heritage and artistic traditions.Contests were enjoyed by the Union-level officials, Union ministers, senior military officers, and high-ranking officials, departmental staff and families, and enthusiasts. — MNA/KTZH

Greening activities inspected in Yamethin and Meiktila

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo inspected greening activities in Yamethin and Meiktila districts on 20 October.

During the inspections, the deputy minister examined the growth and survival rates of teak seed orchards, commercial teak plantations, and trees planted during national- and regional-level tree-planting ceremonies in Thazi and Meiktila townships. At a meeting with staff at the Meiktila District Environmental Conservation Department Office, he instructed officials to make advance preparations in line with El Niño guidelines, perform their duties with accountability and responsibility, and conduct extensive public awareness campaigns to mitigate forest fire risks and reduce fire hotspots during the hot, dry season.

Afterwards, he inspected roadside greening plantations and block plantations established by the Forest Department and the Dry Zone Greening Department along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. He observed that the plantations were growing well and provided the necessary instructions. — TWA/TH



This photo features Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo and officials inspecting greening activities in Yamethin and Meiktila districts.

Completed village entrance concrete road inspected in Kyauktaga

THE Kyauktaga Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in Bago Region, conducted an on-site inspection yesterday regarding the completed concrete road construction at the entrance of Alaekhin Village. The project was implemented using Village Development Plan (VDP) grant funding and community labour contributions.

U Yan Naing Nyunt, Head of the Nyaunglebin District Department of Rural Development, Daw Poe Ei Phu Ko, Head of the Kyauktaga Township Department of Rural Development, and project officers, together with members of the Village Development Committee, examined the completion of the village entrance concrete road. The district department head provided necessary guidance and instructions.



Officials and village people are seen alongside the completed concrete road in Kyauktaga Township.

The concrete road construction, measuring 282 feet in length, 10 feet in width, and six inches in thickness, was implemented with K15 million from the VDP grant fund alongside community labour. Under the close supervision of the Rural Development Department staff, the villagers began work in the second week of September, and the project is now 100 per cent complete. — Nilar (DRD)

Tanai's solar-powered irrigation system inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected a small-scale solar-powered irrigation system and water distribution to farmland in Swutngai Ward, Tanai Township, Kachin State, yesterday.



A small-scale solar-powered irrigation system utilized to distribute water to farmland in Tanai Township.

Tanai District Department of Rural Development Head U Tun Min Lwin, the Township Department of Rural Development head and engineering staff examined the completed 120-foot-deep tube-well and the installation of the small-scale solar-powered system on five acres of farmland owned by farmer U Thaung Win. They met with local farmers to discuss crop cultivation, irrigation water availability, and water distribution management by the village committee, while coordinating necessary support based on villagers' requirements.

The irrigation facility, featuring g a submersible pump, a 2,200-watt solar power system and related structures, was constructed with an allocated budget of K18 million. With the project 100 per cent completed, year-round irrigation water is now being supplied to local fields, ensuring healthy growth and improved yields for seasonal oilseed crops. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training 27 graduation ceremonies held



A graduation ceremony for the People's Military Service Training Course 27 is underway.

GRADUATION ceremonies for People's Military Service Training Course 27 were held yesterday at training depots under the respective commands.

The ceremonies included military parades during which the trainees pledged allegiance while holding the national flag. Officials from the training depots delivered graduation addresses and presented awards to outstanding trainees.

Following the ceremonies, the chief ministers of the respective regions and states, commanders of the respective commands and other officials met with the graduates at the training depots, delivered speeches and offered words of encouragement.

Trainees attending Training Course 27 received instruction in physical fitness, military drill, military tactics and other general subjects.

The graduates will now be assigned to various battalions and units to undertake national defence and security duties. Graduation dinners for the trainees were also held at the training schools in the evening. — MNA/MKKS

52 KNLA, PDF members rejoin society



A handover and awards ceremony for returnees in progress yesterday in Toungoo.

THE Government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal framework. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

Yesterday, a total of 52 KNLA members and PDFs-47 males and five females, entered the legal fold with 23 arms and ammunition.

The returnees from different townships of Bago Region were handed over to their parents and guardians at a ceremony held at the Southern Command Headquarters.

The returnees handed over 23 firearms, eight hand grenades, nine magazines, 207 bullets, one plastic mine, two 40mm grenades, one bulletproof hat and eight communication devices to the Commander and officials.

Then, the Commander and officials provided a total of K88.3 million in reward money and support, including K83.1 million for the weapons and equipment and K5.2 million for the 52 returnees.

Those who reentered the legal fold were required to sign pledges, after which they were systematically handed back to their parents and guardians.

There are still individuals who wish to re-enter the legal framework. Those who intend to do so are urged to promptly contact and report to the nearest district or township administrative bodies, military units, or police stations, where they will be welcomed back and provided with necessary assistance. Appropriate cash rewards will be granted for the arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

99 Chinese nationals apprehended in online scams and gambling crackdown in Monghsat

THE Government prioritizes combating online fraud and gambling operations, which pose a global menace, as a national duty. It is actively collaborating not only with domestic stakeholders but also with neighbouring governments to completely prevent such activities from taking root within the country.





Images reveal online scammers detained in Monghsat Shan State (East).

During area clearance, search and screening operations conducted by joint security teams to prevent online fraud and gambling syndicates from establishing footholds in local areas, authorities arrested 95 Chinese men and four women who were allegedly involved in online scams and gambling at around 4:30 pm on 21 October. The arrests took place approximately 3,600 metres northeast of Mongtwam in Monghsat Township, eastern Shan State.

The suspects were arrested inside a 100-foot by 50-foot building with a zinc roof and corrugated iron walls that was being used to conduct online fraud and gambling operations. Authorities also seized 13 all-in-one computers, 193 mobile phones of various models, two Starlink devices, 23 tables and 92 chairs.

Following the necessary investigations, stern and effective legal action will be taken against the arrested suspects under existing laws, while the seized equipment will be processed in accordance with established procedures.

Recognizing that online fraud and gambling severely damage the social lives of people worldwide, undermine human ethics and dignity, and threaten both the public interest and national security, the Government will continue conducting effective searches, inspections and crackdowns in cooperation with domestic forces and neighbouring governments until these syndicates are completely eradicated from the country.

The public is urged to cooperate in combating these operations by reporting any information concerning online fraud and gambling activities to the relevant authorities. Security forces will also intensify efforts to eradicate online fraud and gambling syndicates in partnership with local communities. — 100/ST

Shwe Kokko Phase II scam compounds flattened

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

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to dismantle key structures.

SEE PAGE 11

Disarmament efforts to ensure safety of society

Weapons have continued to contribute to improving human living standards from prehistoric times to the present day. However, these same weapons have also caused the destruction and loss of human lives, property and homes. As long as the weapons invented by humanity are not used peacefully for the benefit of society, they will remain a major threat to humankind.

Every year, "Disarmament Week" aims to raise public awareness and understanding of the importance of reducing armaments, controlling the arms race and building world peace and security. The excessive accumulation of weapons and the arms race can pose challenges to international security and affect the economic and social development of nations. In particular, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction can pose grave threats to humanity and the natural environment. Therefore, compliance with and implementation of international agreements on arms control and disarmament are of great importance.

> Armed conflicts can cause suffering and harm to children, women and other civilians. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on resolving conflicts through peaceful means and building mutual trust. Through the joint participation of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the public in implementing disarmament initiatives, greater awareness of the importance of disarmament can be raised more widely.

Throughout history, countries have pursued disarmament to build a safer, more secure world and to protect people from harm. Since the foundation of the United Nations, disarmament and arms control have played a critical role in preventing and ending crises and armed conflict. Heightened tensions and dangers are better resolved through serious political dialogue and negotiation – not by more arms.

Armed conflicts can cause suffering and harm to children, women and other civilians. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on resolving conflicts through peaceful means and building mutual trust. Through the joint participation of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the public in implementing disarmament initiatives, greater awareness of the importance of disarmament can be raised more widely.

The weapons being produced and stockpiled in an arms race around the world are increasingly serving purposes beyond the protection of individual countries and their communities, as they are being directed towards hostile intentions such as invading, coercing and threatening other countries. Therefore, everyone must recognize that even small countries are competing to acquire weapons to the extent permitted by their financial resources to survive and maintain their independence, and that this arms race is leading humanity down a path towards destruction.

Special care must be taken to ensure that weapons do not go beyond the limits of what their owners can control. Given the exceptionally rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technology today, the potential for AI to enhance weapons capabilities could pose serious dangers unless weapons are disarmed worldwide. Therefore, it is essential to place greater emphasis on disarmament efforts around the world.

Wherever There Is a Hospital, There Must Be a Doctor: **Myanmar's Commitment to Healthcare for All**

Strengthening and Equitably Distributing Myanmar's Health Workforce to Ensure Quality Care for Every Citizen

By Dr Aung Tun

A hospital building can be completed in months. Training a doctor, including postgraduate specialization, can take more than a decade. That simple contrast explains why countries everywhere, rich and poor, find that the hardest part of building a health system is not the bricks and equipment but the people. Doctors, dental surgeons, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, laboratory technicians and public health staff are the means by which medicines, vaccines and technology actually reach patients. Without them, a well-stocked clinic is simply a closed door.

For Myanmar, where the aim is that wherever there is a hospital there must be a doctor, the questions of who works where, and how long they stay, deserve careful attention from everyone who cares about public health.

People Are the Heart of a Health System

The World Health Organization (WHO) has long described the health workforce as the backbone of every health system. Its World Health Report 2006 identified 57 countries facing a critical shortage, defined as fewer than 2.3 doctors, nurses and midwives per 1,000 population. More recently, WHO's Workforce 2030 strategy estimated that an indicative threshold of about 4.45 doctors, nurses and midwives per 1,000 population is associated with the capacity to deliver essential services and move towards universal health coverage.

The gap will not close by itself. WHO projects a global shortfall of around 10 million health workers by 2030, concentrated mainly in low- and lower-middle-income countries. At the same time, populations are ageing, noncommunicable diseases are rising, and health emergencies are becoming more frequent, all of which increase the demand for skilled people.

The lesson is straightforward. Numbers matter, but so do skills, distribution, motivation and working conditions. A sound workforce plan has to address all four.



National Directives: A Doctor in Every Hospital

At the commissioning ceremony for newly graduated doctors and dental surgeons in Yangon on 12 October 2026, President U Min Aung Hlaing set out the national direction on human resources for health. The guiding principle is that nothing is more important than human life, and that wherever there is a hospital, there must be a doctor.

To achieve this, graduates are appointed directly to public hospital vacancies right after their internships, and five-, ten- and fifteen-year human resource roadmaps have been outlined for hospitals from regional to station level. The government continues to attend to accommodation, welfare and allowances for medical personnel. The health sector's share of state expenditure increased from about 1.5 per cent in 2000 to 2.8 per cent in 2026-2027. Training capacity has expanded to 17 medical and allied universities, with curricula aligned to international standards. The President also called for ethical, empathetic practice, lifelong learning, and a rise in life expectancy from 69 years to over 70 by 2030.

Closing the Rural-Urban Gap

Almost everywhere in the world, health workers gather in cities. WHO has noted that about half of the global population lives in rural areas, yet those areas are served by only around 38 per cent of nurses and less than a quarter of doctors. Remote villages and border communities, which often carry the heaviest burden of disease, end up with the fewest providers.

Prompt placement of fresh graduates is one of the most practical tools for narrowing this gap. In July 2025, for example, 1,276 doctors and 23 dental surgeons were appointed to public posts for service in different regions. Yet a doctor alone cannot run a rural health service. Township and station hospitals depend on a team: nurses, midwives, health assistants, laboratory staff and ambulance crews. Placement plans should therefore count the whole team, not only the physician.

Fair distribution is ultimately a matter of equity. A family in a remote township deserves the same standard of safe, respectful care as a family in a big city. Good planning begins by mapping where the people are, where the health workers are, and where the two do not match, and then closing the gaps in a deliberate, step-by-step way.

Keeping Health Workers Where They Are Needed

Getting a health worker to a remote post is only half the task. Keeping them there is the other half. WHO's global recommendations on rural retention group the evidence into four areas: education, regulation, financial incentives, and personal and professional support.

In practice, this means recruiting students from rural backgrounds and supporting pathways for them to serve their communities. It means training that reflects rural realities, fair allowances for hardship postings, and decent housing and safe working conditions. It also means a clear career path, so that a posting in a township hospital leads to specialist training and promotion rather than professional isolation. Supportive supervision, reliable internet for consultation and recognition for good service all matter. Small improvements in daily working life often decide whether a skilled worker stays for months or for years.

Training for Quality and Teamwork

Quantity without quality does not save lives. Myanmar's training capacity now covers six medical universities and 11 allied medical universities, a total of 17 institutions, with curricula reformed around outcomes and international standards. Competency-based education focuses on what graduates can actually do, such as diagnosing common conditions, managing emergencies and communicating clearly, rather than on how much they have memorized.

Inter-professional education is equally important. When medical, dental, nursing, midwifery and public health students learn side by side, they understand one another's roles and are better prepared to work as one team once they reach the ward or the village health centre. Modern health problems such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke and tobacco-related disease cannot be managed by any single profession alone. WHO's Workforce 2030 strategy calls for education that matches population needs and for training that continues throughout a career.

SEE PAGE 11

The Power of Digital Marketing: **Key Benefits for Business Growth in the Modern Era**

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

In today's fast-paced digital ecosystem, traditional marketing methods alone are no longer enough to keep a brand competitive. Whether you are running a local business, managing an online venture, or scaling an enterprise, digital marketing has shifted from being a strategic option to an absolute necessity.

By leveraging channels such as search engines, social media, content, email, and digital advertising, businesses can reach their audience in ways that were previously impossible. Below are the primary benefits of adopting a robust digital marketing strategy.

1. Unmatched Global and Local Reach

Traditional advertising methods like print, billboards, and television are constrained by geography. Digital marketing breaks down these physical boundaries:

Global Reach: Small businesses can connect with international customers without establishing a physical presence abroad.

Hyper-Local Targeting: Local businesses can target audiences down to specific postal codes or radii, ensuring their message reaches nearby consumers actively looking for their services.

2. Cost-Effectiveness and High ROI

For small-to-medium businesses with limited budgets, digital marketing provides a level playing field:

Pay-for-Performance: Channels like Pay-Per-Click (PPC) advertising allow you to pay only when a user clicks on your ad, ensuring efficient use of your ad spend.

Lower Barrier to Entry: Creating content, setting up social media pages, and executing email campaigns require minimal upfront capital compared to traditional media buys.

Higher ROI: Digital strategies often yield a higher Return on Investment (ROI) because campaigns can be optimized continuously to maximize conversions.



3. Precise Audience Targeting

With traditional media, ads are broadcast to a broad audience in hopes of reaching a few interested consumers. Digital marketing lets you pinpoint your exact buyer persona through data segmentation:

Demographics: Age, gender, occupation, and income level.

Interests & Behaviours: Search habits, purchase history, and online engagement patterns.

Retargeting: Re-engage website visitors who left without completing a purchase.

4. Measurable Results and Real-Time Analytics

One of the greatest advantages of digital marketing is trackability. With tools like Google Analytics and platform-native dashboards, you no longer have to guess what works:

Real-Time Data: View metrics such as page views, click-through rates (CTR), conversion rates, and bounce rates instantly.

Agile Adjustments: If an ad or content piece isn't performing well, you can pause, edit, or redirect funds immediately rather than waiting for a campaign to finish.

5. Enhanced Customer Engagement and Relationship Building

Digital marketing turns communication from a one-way broadcast into a two-way conversation:

Direct Interaction: Social media platforms, live chats, and interactive content allow businesses to respond to questions, address feedback, and build community trust.

Personalization: Email automation and tailored content foster deeper brand loyalty by treating customers as individuals rather than generic leads.

6. Higher Conversion Rates

By aligning targeted traffic with optimized user pathways, digital marketing naturally drives higher conversion rates:

Frictionless Action: A well-placed Call-to-Action (CTA) allows users to buy, subscribe, or request a quote with just a few clicks or taps.

A/B Testing: Marketers can test different headlines, visuals, and page layouts to discover what combination delivers the highest conversion rate.

Digital marketing empowers organizations to build brand awareness, convert prospects into loyal customers, and track every dollar spent along the way. By integrating search engine optimization (SEO), social media, and email marketing into a cohesive strategy, businesses can stay resilient and achieve sustainable growth.

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Palm oil reference price shows uptick

THE palm oil wholesale reference price set for the Yangon market slightly increased to K7,500 per viss this week ending 29 October, up from K7,369 last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.


Workers organize palm oil jerrycans for distribution and sale.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demand. — NN/KK

Mines Dept urges renewal of petroleum and petroleum product storage licences

THE Department of Mines under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation notified businesspeople to renew petroleum and petroleum product storage licences.

The oil and petroleum product storage licences issued by the department are set to expire on 31 December 2026. The licence holders need to renew them within two months before the expiry date, according to Petroleum and Petroleum Products Rule 119. The renewal can be done from 1 November to 31 December 2026. The late fee is set at two per cent of the licence fee per day commencing from 1 January 2027.

According to the ministry's Notification 037/2023 released on 31 October 2023, a storage licence that is not renewed within one year after expiration will be automatically invalidated and removed from the register.

When renewing licences, renewal forms, storage licences, the most recent field inspection records of the department and photos of fuel sales outlets and storage tanks of petrol stations are required to be presented.

Individuals can enquire about details by dialling 067 3409376 of the Department of Mines. — NN/KK

DHPI seeks tenders for 45,000 gallons of diesel


A row of fuel storage tanks.

THE Department of Hydropower Implementation under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy will purchase 45,000 gallons of diesel for use at the Hui Tai small hydropower project, according to an open tender notice (Tender 2/2026-2027) issued by Construction Unit 2.

Construction Task Force 2 of the department is seeking domestic companies to supply and deliver 45,000 gallons of diesel, valued at more than K200 million, to the Hui Tai small hydropower project site (Lot 4). The project is located about two miles southwest of Lahe in Hkamti District, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region.

Interested suppliers can enquire about tender application forms and detailed information through the office of Assistant Director (Civil) 2, Construction Unit 2, Hydropower Implementation Department, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, in Mandalay. Only one representative per company is eligible to purchase forms, and visitors are asked to wear COVID-19 protective gear, including masks and face shields. Forms will be sold by 4 pm on 4 November. Tender proposals must be submitted by 4 pm on 5 November. Business entities can enquire through the office at 09 252221557 or 09 402627112, according to the tender committee in Monywa, Sagaing Region. — NN/KK

Myanmar's 27 insurers discuss expanding 6 new insurance types

TWENTY-SEVEN companies are operating in the Myanmar insurance market, and discussions have been held to allow the expansion of 6 new types of insurance.


The 41st regular meeting of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board in progress.

The discussions took place at the 41st regular meeting 2/2026 of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board, held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Nay Pyi Taw.

The current insurance market comprises nine domestic private life insurance companies, three joint-venture life insurance companies, five wholly foreign-owned life insurance companies, six domestic private general insurance companies, three joint-venture general insurance companies, and the state-owned Myanma Insurance.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Htin stressed the need to continue efforts towards the systematic development of the insurance sector, enhance insurance protection for the public, and expand the range of insurance products available.

The six new types discussed for expansion are Micro-insurance, PRU Metta Insurance, AIA Toe Pwa Insurance, Customized Dhana Toe Life Insurance, Outbound Parcel Insurance, and Daiichi Smart Protect Health Insurance.

Currently, the board has authorized 72 types of insurance and has also approved 24 foreign insurance representative offices, five insurance claim inspection and adjustment companies, 70 corporate insurance agents, and 25,819 individual insurance agents. — TWA/ZN

ARTICAL/NATIONAL

Hlaingbwe's MSY village project activities inspected

TO create job opportunities and increase family incomes for rural residents, the Hlaingbwe Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kayin State, conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the implementation of family income-generating activities funded by the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project – a village development project managed directly by the local people – in Phapun Village.



This image showcases an agricultural project in Hlaingbwe Township, Hpa-an District in Kayin State.

During the field inspection, Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development District Head Daw Thida Win San, Township Head U Saw Kyaw Naing Tun, and project staff met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Committee. They inspected the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung project activities in Phapun Village, the systematic maintenance of financial accounting forms, and compliance with the directives outlined in the project manual, subsequently providing necessary instructions.

According to Daw Thu Thu Aung, Assistant Director of the Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development, the Hlaingbwe Township Department of Rural Development has disbursed a total of K61 million at low interest rates to 61 project members in Phapun Village, comprising 26 engaged in agricultural businesses, 26 in livestock breeding businesses, four in fishery businesses, and five in trading businesses. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural)

Shwe Min Wun Meditation Centre to host Buddha Images procession on Thadingyut Full Moon

CEREMONIES honouring the Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images enshrined at the Shwe Min Wun Tawya Meditation Centre in Thitseikgon Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, and the offering of rice to 28 monks will be held on the Thadingyut Full Moon Day.

The ceremonies honouring the Buddha images enshrined at the Shwe Min Wun Tawya Meditation Centre in Thitseikgon Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, and the offering of rice to 28 monks will be held at 2:30 pm on 26 October, the Thadingyut Full Moon Day of ME1388, in keeping with the tradition of Shwe Min Wun Sayadaw Bhaddanta Zaneya.

The monastery's board of trustees invited Dhamma friends and devotees to attend the Maha Pavarana ceremony. Interested individuals can enquire for further details via 09 942635916. — NN/KK

Shwe Kokko Phase II scam compounds flattened



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

FROM PAGE 7

The demolition of one five-storey building is 80 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building is 30 per cent complete.

Of the 63 structures targeted for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, the authorities have determined the demolition methods according to building type and surrounding conditions. Of these, 25 buildings are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four through controlled implosion and 34 by manual, floor-by-floor dismantling because of their proximity to residential properties. So far, all four buildings designated for controlled implosion and two buildings designated for mechanical demolition have been completely demolished. Work on the remaining 57 buildings will continue.

Recognizing online fraud and online gambling as serious threats to global socioeconomic stability and national security, the Government remains committed to cracking down on these activities in close coordination with neighbouring and regional countries to eradicate them once and for all. — 100/MKKS

Wherever There Is a Hospital, There Must Be a Doctor: **Myanmar's Commitment to Healthcare for All**

FROM PAGE 9

A Team for Prevention, Not Only Treatment

Doctors in hospitals treat illness, but much of the gain in life expectancy comes from prevention. Immunization, safe motherhood, nutrition, tobacco control, hypertension screening and healthy ageing programmes are delivered largely by midwives, nurses, basic health staff and public health professionals working in communities.

Official figures put Myanmar's life expectancy at about 69 years, and the national aim is to raise it beyond 70 by 2030. Reaching that goal depends on a balanced workforce. A strong hospital service must be matched by a strong primary health care and public health service, because preventing avoidable illness and hospital admission is a central goal of public health. Investing in health promotion, including school health teams and community volunteers, can strengthen prevention at the local level.

Noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease now cause most deaths worldwide, and many are linked to tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. Health workers are among the most trusted voices on these risks. A doctor who asks every patient about smoking, or a midwife who advises a young mother on a smoke-free home, multiplies the impact of the health system far beyond the clinic.

Care with Compassion, Learning for Life

Skills and systems are not enough without the right attitude. Patient-centred care begins with simple things: listening, explaining a diagnosis and treatment plan in plain language to the patient and family, protecting confidentiality, and respecting dignity, whatever a person's income or background. Respectful communication can strengthen trust and support treatment adherence.

Learning must also continue long after graduation. Medical knowledge changes quickly, and doctors who keep reading, reviewing their practice and conducting research are the ones who keep their patients safe. Postgraduate study and specialization strengthen local services. Emerging tools such as artificial intelligence, digital health platforms and telemedicine can extend the reach of a single clinician to patients in distant places, but they support, and never replace, the human touch of a caring professional. A hospital without a doctor is a building, and a doctor without support is a lonely struggle. A health system that invests in its people, places them fairly, keeps them motivated and trains them well is one in which every citizen, in town and village alike, can expect to be cared for.

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ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan to overhaul tax-free shopping for foreign visitors to curb resale

Foreign visitors will scan their passports at dedicated terminals at airports and ports to receive refunds.

JAPAN will overhaul its tax-free shopping system for foreign visitors on 1 November, requiring them to pay consumption tax upfront and claim refunds upon departure in a bid to curb abuse by travellers who resell goods before leaving the country.

Foreign visitors can currently purchase goods tax-free at stores. Under the new refund system, they will scan their passports at dedicated terminals at airports and ports to receive refunds in cash or on their credit cards upon departure.

Travellers flagged for additional checks may be asked to present their purchases for inspection.



Terminals for consumption tax-free procedures by foreign visitors are shown at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 22 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Major airports will also offer smartphone-based procedures to help ease congestion.

Tokyo Customs on Thursday showed reporters preparations at Tokyo's Haneda airport, where 22 terminals have been installed to identify purchases requiring further checks. The airport has also set aside space for baggage inspections. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgaria hosts first auto show dedicated to Asian brands

BULGARIA'S first auto show dedicated to Asian brands opened here on Thursday, bringing together more than 150 vehicles from over 20 brands from China, Japan and South Korea.

The five-day Asia Motor Show Sofia covers about 3,000 square metres at the Inter Expo Centre. Vehicles on display range from compact city cars to luxury limousines, family SUVs and high-tech electric vehicles.

Chinese automakers, including BYD, Dongfeng, GWM, XPeng, and Leapmotor, are among the exhibitors.

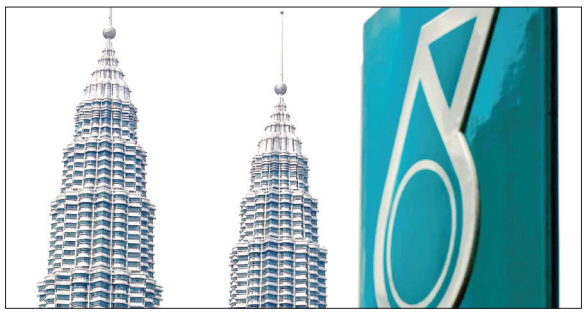
"I'm thinking to buy a new car, and I came to look at Chinese brands after browsing online," visitor Georgi Hristov said, adding that Chinese automakers had made significant technological advances. – Xinhua

Peru announces financial measures to tackle El Nino impacts

PERUVIAN President Keiko Fujimori on Thursday announced a package of financial measures that includes an additional 18 billion soles (about US$5.25 billion) in funding for 2027 to address the effects of the El Nino phenomenon, boost infrastructure investment and protect the most vulnerable families.

Explaining the scope of the plan at the Government Palace in Lima, Fujimori said 2.5 billion soles will be allocated for cash bonuses to vulnerable families, and another two billion soles will go to maintaining public infrastructure to create jobs. – Xinhua

Petronas, partners sign joint venture deal for Malaysia carbon storage hub



Malaysia's iconic Twin Towers are seen in the background of the Malaysian oil and gas company Petronas logo at a petrol station in Kuala Lumpur. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PETROLIAM Nasional Berhad (Petronas)'s wholly owned subsidiary PETRONAS CCS Ventures, TotalEnergies EP CCS Malaysia, and Mitsui & Co have signed a joint venture agreement to develop carbon dioxide (CO_2) storage areas offshore Peninsular Malaysia as part of the Southern Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Hub.

The agreement establishes a framework for a dedicated joint venture company to develop, commercialize and operate the storage areas, building on development studies and technical evaluations conducted since 2023, Petronas said in a statement on Friday.

The first phase targets a depleted offshore gas field with an expected injection capacity of up to five million tons of CO_2 annually. First injection is targeted as early as 2031, subject to industry readiness.

The project aims to support Malaysia's ambition to become a regional CCS hub by providing long-term CO_2 storage for hard-to-abate industries. The Southern CCS Hub is designed to receive CO_2 from domestic and regional sources, including potential cross-border shipments. — Xinhua

Canada opens free trade talks with Türkiye

CANADA, locked in a trade war with the United States, opened talks with Türkiye Thursday on a free trade agreement during a landmark visit by Prime Minister Mark Carney.

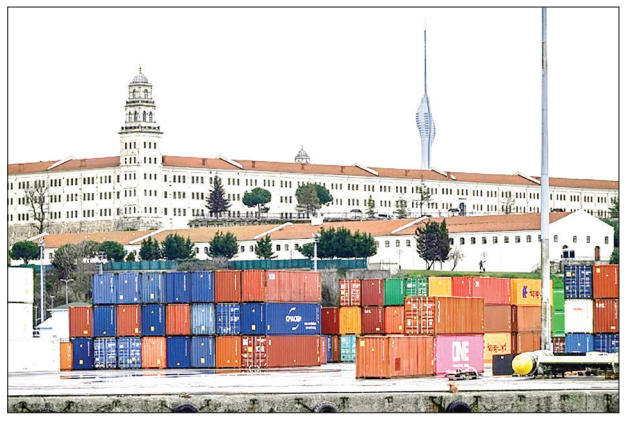
The two sides pledged to deepen cooperation on defence, energy and efforts to tackle climate change, as Carney became the first Canadian prime minister to pay an official visit to fellow NATO member Turkey.

Carney, a former central banker, has made reducing dependence on Washington and diversifying Canada's partnerships one of the cornerstones of his term, which began in March 2025.

"We decided to begin negotiations for a free trade agreement, which includes increasing trade and investment, before the end of the year," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a joint address to reporters.

"We hope to increase our trade volume, which is currently around $3 billion, to $5 billion and then $10 billion. We will approximately double direct flights between our countries."

Carney said Canadian negotiators would come to Ankara next month for the first round of free trade talks. — AFP



The image shows the historic Selimiye Barracks and shipping containers at Haydarpaşa Port in Üsküdar, Istanbul, Turkiye. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Meta launches personal AI agent Muse in Japan

US technology giant Meta Platforms Inc said Friday it has launched its personal artificial intelligence agent Muse in Japan, its first market outside North America.

Users can give instructions by text or voice through a dedicated smartphone app, with basic features available free of charge. Connecting Muse to Gmail and Google Calendar allows it to summarize unread emails and manage schedules. Meta also plans to connect Muse soon with online flea market service Mercari and personal finance app Money Forward ME. "We want to connect Muse with services people use regularly so it can help them in a wider range of situations," said Masahiro Ajisawa, head of Meta's Japanese unit.

Users control which apps and information Muse can access, and it can make suggestions based on past conversations. — Kyodo



American pointed to billions of dollars in added costs due to the jump in jet fuel prices from the US-Iran war. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

American Airlines reports loss on soaring jet fuel costs

AMERICAN Airlines reported a $269 million quarterly loss Thursday and signaled more red ink for the current quarter as soaring fuel costs hit the bottom line.

Like rival US carriers Delta Air Lines and United Airlines, American pointed to billions of dollars in added costs due to the jump in jet fuel prices from the US-Iran war.

But while both Delta and United still reported profits, American's loss was bigger than the $114 million loss in the year-ago period.

Like its rivals, American benefited from still-robust consumer demand, resulting in a 19.3 per cent jump in third-quarter revenues to $16.3 billion.

"American delivered record third-quarter revenue and the strongest year-over-year revenue growth in my career, with premium performance leading the way," said American CEO Robert Isom. Isom said investments in entertainment and better Internet service during flights and opening airport lounges were strengthening its ties with customers. — AFP

India, Poland agree to double bilateral trade by 2030

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk on Thursday agreed on a goal to double bilateral trade between the two nations by 2030, according to a joint statement issued following their meeting here.

The leaders pressed for the prompt signing and ratification of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), along with its timely implementation, to unlock new opportunities for commerce and investment, diversify and reinforce vital value chains, and open new markets, the statement noted.



Indian IT giants TCS, Infosys, HCL, Wipro operate in Poland. The image shows the Infosys headquarters in Bengaluru (Bangalore), Karnataka, India. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ WIKIPEDIA**

PM Modi invited Polish enterprises to expand their investments and operations in India, encouraging them to capitalise on India's expansive market, proficient workforce and growing manufacturing and innovation ecosystem.

Tusk expressed appreciation for Indian investments in Poland and underscored Poland's position as a gateway for Indian firms seeking to broaden their footprint across Central and Eastern Europe and the wider European market. — ANI

Solar drives Australian renewable generation to record high

SURGING solar output drove Australia's renewable energy generation to a third-quarter record high from July to September, the market operator said on Friday.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) said in its energy dynamics report that renewables supplied 44.3 per cent of national electricity market generation from 1 July through 30 September, surpassing the previous third-quarter record of 41.8 per cent set in 2025.

It said that generation output from large-scale solar stations increased by 30 per cent year-on-year to a new third quarter high of 2,211 megawatts (MW), while rooftop solar output grew 13 per cent to 3,203 MW and hydro generation increased by 15 per cent to 1,572 MW.

Electricity generation from black coal and gas-fired power plants fell by a combined 744 MW in the same period. Brown coal generation increased 8.9 per cent to 3,832 MW.

Large-scale batteries supplied 8.0 per cent of electricity demand during the evening peak across the quarter, exceeding the contribution from gas-fired generation for the first time in any quarter.

The report noted that underlying national electricity market demand grew 1.3 per cent to a new third-quarter high of 25,471 MW. — Xinhua

QatarEnergy signs deals to buy US LNG annually

QATAR'S state-owned energy company QatarEnergy has signed two long-term agreements with the largest US gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter Cheniere Energy to purchase up to four million tonnes of LNG annually, QatarEnergy announced Thursday. Under the sale and purchase agreements, QatarEnergy will source LNG from Cheniere's Sabine Pass facility in Louisiana and Corpus Christi facility in Texas, the company said in a statement. – Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT013)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT013)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CETUS FIN VOY.NO. (106832)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CETUS FIN VOY.NO. (106832)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Japan to launch team of white-hat hackers to counter waves of cyberattacks

There is a systematic weakness in the country's cyber defence against aggressors.

JAPANESE industry minister Ryosei Akazawa said Friday that his ministry will launch a team of cybersecurity experts, specialized in ethical hacking, to counter recent waves of unauthorized access and data leaks.

The team will be created inside the Innovation Platform Agency affiliated with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry next month.

Some Japanese ministry webpages and corporate services have been partially suspended as a preventive measure following the detection of vulnerabilities in the widely used PHP programming language.



Photo taken on 21 October 2026 shows a smartphone display showing a notice regarding the PHP vulnerability posted by Japan's National Cybersecurity Office on X. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Explaining the role of ethical hackers, Akazawa told a press conference that there is a systematic weakness in the country's cyber defence against aggressors. "(The team) will find security vulnerabilities of the systems" in the hope of further strengthening the security of the whole industry, he said.

The ministry has raised awareness of cybersecurity through some 1,000 industry organizations and associations in the face of the PHP problem, according to the minister. — Kyodo

S Korea proposes military talks with DPRK over border line issue

SOUTH Korea's defence ministry on Friday officially proposed military talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to mutually confirm the clear location of the ground military demarcation line (MDL), restore military communication lines and discuss measures to prevent accidental clashes in the border areas. In a statement, the Ministry of National Defence stated that a trilateral meeting including the United Nations Command would be possible if necessary, saying specific schedules and venues can be discussed through the border village of Panmunjom. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

India ascertaining details of incident involving 14 Indians on yacht

INDIA on Thursday said it was ascertaining details of an incident involving 14 Indian nationals on board a yacht off the coast of Yemen, assuring all possible assistance to ensure their safety and well-being.

The statement followed claims by Yemen's Houthis that their forces had launched a rescue operation after what they described as a Saudi attack on the vessel.

"We have seen reports regarding an incident involving 14 Indian nationals on board a yacht off the coast of Yemen today. We are ascertaining further details about the incident and will provide all possible help for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian nationals," the Embassy of India in Yemen posted on X.

Earlier in the day, Yemen's Houthis alleged that Saudi Arabia had targeted an Indian yacht carrying 14 Indian nationals near Zuqar Island in the southern Red Sea, following which their forces initiated a rescue operation. — ANI

Denmark drops the curtain on mink farming

LONG a world leader in mink farming, Denmark will shut it down for good, the country's agriculture ministry announced Friday. "Denmark is not applying for a special exemption to allow the Danish mink industry to continue when the EU ban on mink farming takes effect in August next year," the ministry said in a statement.

In November 2020, Denmark's government ordered a cull of the Scandinavian country's some 15 million mink after studies suggested a variant found in some of the animals could jeopardise the effectiveness of future COVID-19 vaccines.

However the cull quickly turned into a political nightmare for the government as it later emerged there was no legal basis to impose the measure on farmers.

All breeding was subsequently banned in 2021 and 2022. — AFP

Chinese-Russian medical team completes possible first-ever spinal cord transplantation

A Chinese-Russian surgical team has conducted a 12-hour operation in Moscow to replace a patient's damaged spinal cord segment with donor tissue.

Key facts:

- The surgery was performed on an adult with a complete spinal cord injury sustained from trauma three years earlier
- The team used microsurgery and polyethylene glycol (PEG) as a "biological glue" to fuse the donor segment to the recipient's spinal cord
- It was led by Ren Xiaoping of Guangxi University of Chinese Medicine and carried out at Moscow's Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine
- A joint Chinese-Russian team included neurosurgeons, microsurgeons and other specialists

If the claims hold up to scrutiny, the surgery could be a turning point for spinal cord injury research, marking one of world's first surgeries of such type. — SPUTNIK



A Chinese-Russian surgical team has conducted a 12-hour operation in Moscow to replace a patient's damaged spinal cord segment with donor tissue. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

SPORTS

AYA Bank women's futsal league starts on 9 Nov

THE AYA Bank Myanmar Women's Futsal League 2026-27 will kick off on 9 November, with nine teams competing in the league, according to organizers.

The participating teams this season are YRG FC, Royal Pantra FC, U19 Team, Pacific Sun Far, Yoma FC, Bushido FC, Dagon Seikkan FC, The Stars FC and Mingaladon City FC.

A meeting to organize the competition was held on the morning of 21 October in the meeting room at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Yangon. Officials from the relevant committees of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), team owners and team officials attended the meeting.

The meeting covered the recruitment of local and foreign players, as well as the competition rules and regulations.

Eight teams competed in the AYA Bank Women's Futsal League 2025 last year, with the YRG women's team claiming the championship.—TWA/KZL



Moments from the AYA Bank Women's Futsal League 2025.

Regional and State boxing championships conclude

The final bouts in the men's and women's weight categories and the prize presentation ceremony of the 2026 Regional and State Boxing Championships were held yesterday afternoon at the Indoor Stadium in Sports Park, Bago, Bago Region. The championships were organised under the guidance of the Ministry of Sports, in collaboration with the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the Myanmar Boxing Federation and the Bago Region Government, with the aim of further developing boxing, raising its standard and producing a new generation of boxers.



A boxer lands a punch on his opponent during a men's bout at the 2026 Region & State Boxing Championships.

The final bouts of the championships featured the men's 48-kilogramme, 54-kilogramme, 60-kilogramme, 63.5-kilogramme and 80-kilogramme categories, as well as the women's 48-kilogramme, 50-kilogramme and 63-kilogramme categories.

In the men's finals, Khant Phyo Kyaw (blue) of the Yangon Region team defeated Lin Htet San (red) of the Taninthayi Region team in the 48-kg category. Tun Htet Khine (red) of the Bago Region team defeated Phyo Kyaw Kyaw (blue) of the Ayeyawady Region team in the 54-kg category. Thiha Aung (blue) of the Bago Region team defeated Kyaw Thura (red) of the Magway Region team in the 60-kg category. Aye Ko Zin (red) of the Kayin State team defeated Lun Jone Rein Kwal Naw (blue) of the Yangon Region team in the 63.5-kg category. Kaung Htet Zaw (red) of the Yangon Region team defeated Kaung Myat Thu (blue) of the Ayeyawady Region team in the 80-kg category.

In the women's finals, Eint Myat Thaw (blue) of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory team defeated Phu Pwint Myat (red) of the Taninthayi Region team in the 48-kg category. Thanda (blue) of the Yangon Region team defeated La Wun Nwe (red) of the Mandalay Region team in the 50-kg category. Zin Mar Wai (blue) of the Shan State team defeated Nan Khin Mar Oo (red) of the Kayin State team in the 63-kg category.

Following the bouts, officials and dignitaries presented medals and cash prizes to the first-, second- and third-placed boxers, including those who shared third place. They also presented the Best Male Boxer trophy to Htet Myat Lwin of the Mandalay Region team and the Best Female Boxer trophy to Zin Mar Wai of the Shan State team. The Bago Region team received the men's championship trophy, the Taninthayi Region team received the women's championship trophy, and the Bago Region team was awarded the overall championship trophy.

The 2026 Regional and State Boxing Championships were held over eight days, from 16 to 23 October 2026, at the Indoor Stadium in Sports Park, Bago, Bago Region. A total of 223 participants from across Myanmar's Regions and States took part, representing 14 men's teams and 14 women's teams. —MNA/KZL

Saudi Arabia may shift 2034 Asian Games to 2035 to align with Olympics

A senior Saudi Arabian sports official said Friday that the kingdom is open to shifting the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh to 2035 as the continental multi-sport event explores closer alignment with the Olympics.

Abdulaziz Baeshen, Secretary General of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee, told Kyodo News that such a change would also help avoid a potential scheduling clash with the 2034 FIFA World Cup, which Saudi Arabia is set to host.

The Olympic Council of Asia is discussing plans with international sports federations to move the Asian Games to the year preceding the Olympics, with the aim of increasing the number of Olympic qualifying events during the continental games.

Baeshen said he would welcome the switch, noting that it would prevent the Asian Games and the World Cup from overlapping. He added that Saudi Arabia was closely watching efforts to move the 2030 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, to 2031, a year ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. — Kyodo



International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach delivers a speech on video during the 39th Olympic Council of Asia meeting in Muscat, Oman on 16 December 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Hurzeler 'focused' on Brighton job despite Man Utd links

FABIAN Hurzeler said he is fully focused on maintaining Brighton's stunning start to the season and has too much respect for Michael Carrick to talk about speculation he could be the next Manchester United manager.

Carrick's position as United boss is under threat after a seven-game winless run which hit a new low in a 4-1 thrashing to Champions League debutants Como on Wednesday. Brighton's free-scoring start to the Premier League season has seen Hurzeler touted as a possible successor should United make a mid-season managerial change for the third consecutive campaign.—AFP



Fabian Hurzeler has distanced himself from links to the Manchester United manager's job. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan to launch team of white-hat hackers to counter waves of cyberattacks

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WORLD

Nagasaki's A-bombed Virgin Mary to be brought to New Mexico

The historic atomic-bombed statue fragment will be displayed in Santa Fe.

THE surviving head of a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary that was destroyed in the 1945 US atomic bombing of Nagasaki is expected to be brought to New Mexico, where the world's first nuclear weapon test took place, a source familiar with the matter said Friday.

Marking its first visit to the state, the statue fragment will be displayed in the state capital of Santa Fe, and may also be taken to Los Alamos, where the laboratory to research and develop nuclear weapons was based, the source said, amid growing concerns over a retreat from nuclear disarmament.

The statue head will be taken to the United States for the first time in 16 years, in time for a conference to review the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in New York in November.

Discussions are underway for it to be displayed at the UN headquarters.

It will be brought by a group formed by Catholic clergies from Hiroshima and Nagasaki and includes atomic bomb survivors, or hibakusha. — Kyodo



The surviving head of a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary enshrined in Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Trump invokes Cold War-era law to boost US oil and refining

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has declared petroleum production, refining and related activities essential to US national defence, invoking powers under the Cold War-era Defence Production Act.

CNBC reported that the move could allow the administration to provide financial incentives for oil projects, pipelines and fuel storage.

The presidential memo cites "constrained financing, long lead times, permitting and infrastructure bottlenecks, and supply chain limitations".

The decision comes as crude oil and diesel prices remain elevated following the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, while Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries have added pressure to fuel supplies.

The administration has also turned to Russian diesel. Earlier in October, Trump announced an agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin under which Russia would release fuel to the US and global markets.

Trump said the planned volumes included more than 300,000 metric tonnes initially, another 500,000 tonnes in November and 1 million tonnes thereafter, while the US temporarily eased sanctions restrictions to facilitate deliveries. — SPUTNIK

Chinese automaker BYD launches new electric bus model in Israel

CHINESE automaker BYD Auto has launched its new electric bus model in Israel, its local official importer said Thursday.

Dozens of buses of the B12e03 model, capable of carrying up to 105 passengers, are expected to be delivered to public transport operators across the country by the end of 2026, said a statement from Shlomo Motors.

The 12-metre-long bus is built on an entirely new electric platform and features BYD's Blade lithium iron phosphate battery, with a capacity of 491 kWh and a driving range of up to 600 kilometres on a single charge, the statement said.

Its charging capacity reaches 200 kW using a single connector and 336 kW with two connectors.

A key feature is its cell-to-chassis design, integrating the battery pack into the vehicle's chassis to improve thermal efficiency, reduce wiring and lower vehicle weight, according to the statement.

The design also strengthens the bus floor, lowers its centre of gravity, and improves dynamic performance. — Xinhua



Employees work at the BYD electric bus and truck plant in Komarom, Hungary, in June 2025. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE**

Divers explore oldest medieval warship found off Sweden

BUBBLES rise through the murky green water as divers tenderly explore a rare 15th-century shipwreck off Stockholm's coast, believed to be the oldest warship found off Sweden.

"It's a very big ship, it was around 40-45 metres when it sailed probably," project leader and marine archaeologist Hakan Altrock from Sweden's Museum of Wrecks said, overseeing the dives down to the skeletal remains of what is known as Vrak 5, or Shipwreck 5, on a cool October day.

Located off Haringe Castle south of Stockholm, the vessel is thought to be the oldest warship found off Sweden or Denmark, which were joined in a union with Norway in the 15th century. — AFP

Oil spill prompts closure of beaches in UAE

ALL beaches and coastal areas in Umm Al Quwain, one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have been temporarily closed following an oil spill from a tanker, the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment said Friday.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, the ministry said the spill affecting Umm Al Quwain's beaches was detected by the UAE's technical monitoring and environmental assessment system.

Response teams have launched containment, cordoning, cleanup and remediation operations in coordination with local and federal authorities to minimize environmental impacts. — Xinhua