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President and Spouse Appreciate 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, attended and watched the competitions at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition held at the Hsinbyushin Hall and the Pobbathiri's Station Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.





President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watch the "Vidhura" Drama at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 yesterday.

They were accompanied by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Soe, who is Chairman of the Leading Organizing Committee for the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, other Union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, judges, supervisors, contestants from regions and states, ethnic brethren, civil servants and their families, and members of the public interested in the performing arts.

The President, his wife and accompanying officials watched the amateur second-grade men's dance competition at Hsinbyushin Hall. Contestants representing various regions and states performed individually, demonstrating mastery of head, body, arm and leg movements in time with the music and rhythm, as well as their costumes, facial expressions and graceful stage presence.

SEE PAGE 3



An information leaflet on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology throughout the coffee value chain, from cultivation and production to marketing and export.

Myanmar, Vietnam discuss boosting coffee trade and market development

THE Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) held discussions with coffee associations and coffee businesses in Vietnam on 21 and 22 October on increasing bilateral trade, developing markets and exploring opportunities for economic cooperation.

The discussions covered the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology throughout the coffee value chain, from cultivation and production to marketing and export, to support the sustainable development of Myanmar's coffee sector and expand its access to international markets. They also focused on sharing digital traceability systems to track the origin of products and each stage of production, as well as agricultural techniques that can withstand the effects of climate change.

SEE PAGE 2

Agritourism Kawt Ma Yan Resort in Hpa-an 95% complete

CONSTRUCTION on the Kawt Ma Yan Resort in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, is approximately 95 per cent complete and is expected to open soon.

On 23 October, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo and officials visited and inspected the resort's construction site.

The resort is being developed by Kawt Ma Yan Resort Co Ltd on 3.30 acres of land at the foot of Kawt Ma Yan Mountain, with an investment of K5,900 million, including US$0.02975 million in Myanmar citizen investment. Inside the resort, 12 bungalows and three two-storey buildings with three units each (30 bedrooms in toto) have been built over paddy fields. Most of the land area has been transformed into farmlands capable of being cultivated and harvested across all three seasons: summer, rainy, and winter.

Once open, tourists will be able to relax comfortably among natural paddy fields and actively participate in agritourism experiences such as ploughing, planting, harvesting, and trekking.

The project will significantly contribute to infrastructure development, create job opportunities, and aid in poverty reduction. The chief minister also instructed officials to accelerate efforts so that it can be opened on Kayin State Day on 7 November. — TWA/ZN

India Education Fair 2026 showcases study opportunities for Myanmar students



This photo depicts scenes from the opening ceremony of the Study in India Education Fair 2026, titled "India: New Horizons for Education and Learning".

THE Study in India Education Fair 2026, titled "India: New Horizons for Education and Learning", was held at the Ballroom of the Pan Pacific Hotel on 23 and 24 October.

At the fair, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Abhay Thakur said that Myanmar students could obtain a high-quality education in India at an affordable cost.

The fair featured 26 Indian universities accredited by the relevant Indian authorities. These included five leading public universities, among them the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and 21 leading private universities from various Indian states. India has more than 1,100 universities and approximately 45,000 colleges.

Nearly 500 Myanmar students gained admission to Indian universities for the 2026-2027 academic year. It is reported that the number of Myanmar students accepted by Indian universities will be increased further in the coming years to help meet Myanmar's needs. — ASH/KNN

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, Vietnam discuss boosting coffee trade and...

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In addition, the discussions addressed establishing direct business-to-business (B2B) links between Myanmar coffee growers, traders and international businesses, conducting joint research, providing vocational and advanced training courses, and creating scholarship opportunities.

The MCA will continue to work with international organisations to help high-quality specialty coffee from Myanmar gain greater access to global markets and improve the socioeconomic well-being of local coffee growers. — ASH/KZL

Talk on El Niño and Heat-Related Risks Held in Thazi

AN awareness talk regarding El Niño and the risks posed by extreme heat was held yesterday in Maungmahse Village, Thazi Township. The event was organized by the Thazi Township Department of Rural Development.

During the session, an official explained that the El Niño weather phenomenon could lead to issues such as excessive rainfall, droughts, and water shortages. She advised villagers to store water in advance to prevent shortages and to use water systematically. Furthermore, she emphasized that in the event of a natural disaster, residents can promptly contact the relevant government departments for assistance.

Furthermore, educational pamphlets were distributed to the villagers who attended the awareness talk on the risks associated with El Niño and extreme heat in Maungmahse Village. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaing)



An official distributes pamphlets on awareness of El Niño to residents.

Historic Toungoo Shwesandaw to organize 9,000-oil-lamp offering

A ceremony to offer 9,000 oil lamps in reverence to the Buddha will take place on 27 October, the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, at the historic Shwesandaw Pagoda, the pride of Toungoo, Bago Region.

Along with this ceremony, the 65th Sangha Pavarana Ceremony and rice offering ceremony will also be included.

According to the schedule, the collective good deeds will be performed starting from the morning of the Full Moon Day, including listening to sermons delivered by venerable members of the Sangha and observing Sabbath precepts. Subsequently, more than 400 venerable members of the Sangha and over 100 nuns will join the Pavarana ceremony at the Ordination Hall on the pagoda platform, where rice and alms donations will be offered collectively by devotees.



This photo depicts the scene from the previous Toungoo Shwesandaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival.

Afterwards, the offering ceremony of 9,000 oil lamps will commence at around 7 pm. An official from the Pagoda Board of Trustees stated that to make it easier, more convenient, and organized for the pilgrims to light the lamps, better-quality oil lamp cups and oil will be arranged.

The official further mentioned that unlike previous years, entertainment and fun activities will not be included; instead, the entire pagoda platform will be illuminated with multi-coloured oil lamps. — TWA/ZN

Weather

Deep Depression News, No 3, 2026

Issued at 7 pm MST on 25 October 2026

Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Depression over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal has intensified into a Deep Depression. It is centred at about 150 Nautical miles West-Northwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 470 Nautical miles East- Southeast of Visakhapatnam and 520 Nautical miles East-Southeast of Kakinada, India.

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

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

The Depression is located at Latitude 15.0 degree North and Longitude 91.0 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 1000 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 30-40 miles per hour at 5:30 pm MST today.

Next seven hours forecast

It is likely to move nearly Southwestwards and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm over the Eastcentral Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal on 26 October 2026 and then move to West-Northwestwards may reach over the Central Bay of Bengal and very likely to intensify into a severe Cyclonic Storm over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal on 27 October 2026. Thereafter, it is very likely to move Northwestwards, intensify in to very severe Cyclonic Storm and reach Westcentral Bay of Bengal near Andhra Pradesh Coasts around 28 October 2026 morning. It is very likely to cross Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam (India) around 28 October 2026 afternoon.

General caution

Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in some regions and states during tonight to 29 October 2026.

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

Advisory

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

NATIONAL

President and Spouse Appreciate 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition

FROM PAGE 1

They then proceeded to the Pobbathiri's Station Gymansium to watch the amateur second-grade men's piano competition. Contestants representing the regions and states performed the song "Chit Thahmya Ko" (Pat Pyo), demonstrating their musical skills in melodious and enjoyable performances.

After the competitions, the President and his wife warmly greeted the expert judges responsible for evaluating the respective events, the contestants and the spectators who had come to support them.

In the evening, the President and his wife, accompanied by Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and his wife, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, and other officials, attended the performance of the "Widhura" epic drama, one of the Ten Great Birth Stories of the Buddha, at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee City Hall. The performance was part of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition.

The President and spouse first warmly greeted the maestros serving on the judge panel for the epic drama competition.

They later joined the audience to watch the epic drama "Vidhura", performed by the Thabin Marn Hohn Shwe Yangon troupe representing Yangon Region.

The contestants presented original dramatic texts, poetic verses, Yatu poems and moral teachings, together with traditional dances and performances. In line with the story's different moods and developments, they incorporated traditional Pat Pyo, Kyo and instrumental-accompanied songs. They demonstrated the art of singing through Yatu, Yakan and Layhsit verse forms, the art of crying to portray sorrow and grief, and the art of speaking in ways that captivate listeners.

The performers followed the script with proper phrasing and pauses, preserving the conventions of traditional Myanmar theatre while combining them with creative elements.

The Vidhura epic is the ninth of the Ten Great Birth Stories of the Buddha. The performance aims to help audiences understand the benefits of wisdom founded on pure and upright moral conduct; learn about the four principles of Sadhunara and put them into practice; recognize the dangers and adverse consequences of gambling and avoid such activities; and cultivate the virtues and the seven noble treasures by watching and appreciating the Vidhura epic.

The 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition is currently being held grandly at designated venues for the various competition categories. Contestants from regions and states are showcasing their artistic talents, while enthusiasts of the performing arts are attending to watch and support the performances.

More than 2,400 contestants from regions and states are taking part in the competitions, which will continue until 29 October. — MNA/ST

Kachin Chief Minister inspects key checkpoints to boost trade flow and security

KACHIN State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Htwe inspected the Bala Min Htin combined checkpoint in Myitkyina to review security operations and ensure smoother cargo flow.

During the visit, the chief minister instructed personnel to prioritize public safety, streamline clearances for authorized goods, and strictly avoid extortion or unauthorized fees. The inspection team also toured the border cargo inspection station in Mongna Village, Waingmaw Township, reviewing driver rest facilities and discussing plans to deploy additional staff to expedite clearance times.



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and Commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Htwe view round the Bala Min Htin combined checkpoint.

Following temporary closures due to regional instability, the local border trade was resumed in March 2026 before relocating to the current Mongna station in late August. Between April and October 2026, the station handled 3,707 commercial trucks with trade totalling $36.015 million—a $10.048 million increase over the 2025-2026 financial year. — State IPRD/ST

Digital train tickets do not need to be exchanged with paper tickets

FOR the convenience of train passengers during Thadingyut, digital train tickets purchased at the Online Railway Ticketing and Payment (ORTP) system can be used without exchanging with paper tickets, said the Myanma Railways.

Passengers don't need to queue for exchanging with paper tickets at the station but they can ride just showing their e-ticket and original Citizenship Scrutiny Card.

For those who want paper tickets, exchange service is available at stations as usual. MR announced it on its social media page on 9 September, and station staff and ticket officers have provided necessary help for passengers to enjoy their train journeys with ease. — TWA/ZS



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Chinese Cultural Sharing and Language Proficiency Programme launched

THE opening ceremony of the "Language Leads to Culture" Chinese Cultural Sharing and Chinese Language Proficiency Enhancement Programme was held at the China Cultural Centre in Yangon on 24 October, jointly organized by the China Cultural Centre in Yangon, the Myanmar Eastern Language and Business Centre (ELBC) and partner organizations.



The opening ceremony of the "Language Leads to Culture" Chinese Cultural Sharing and Chinese Language Proficiency Enhancement Programme in progress in Yangon on 24 October.

At the ceremony, Chinese Embassy Counsellor Mr Li Qianguo, CITIC Myanmar Deputy General Manager Ms Liu Qing, Yangon's China Cultural Centre in charge Mr Han Jiajun and ELBC Vice-Chairman U Han Sein delivered remarks.

The three-month course will cover Chinese Pinyin pronunciation, Chinese characters and everyday conversation, along with practical sessions on Chinese calligraphy and dyeing arts.

The China Cultural Centre in Yangon regularly offers free courses in Chinese language, music, dance, calligraphy and Weiqi (Go) to promote mutual cultural learning and strengthen Myanmar-China friendship. — Kyaw Gyi/KTZH

NATIONAL

Art Bridges Hearts Beyond Linguistic and Regional Differences

SUCCESS in the arts should not be measured solely by the winning of awards, but also by a profound understanding and mastery of the art form and the ability to make meaningful contributions to society, said Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye at the ceremony to award winners in the basic education and higher education level contests of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye presents first award to Maung Myo Khant Maung Maung at the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice-President, who serves as a patron of the Leading Committee on Organizing the Competition, said so at the awarding ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Vice-President expressed her belief that the awards received today are not only a recognition of contestants' innate talents, hard work and perseverance, but will also serve as their motivation to continue studying and learning the arts and strive for further improvement.

She stated that Myanmar is a country rich in the diverse cultural heritage of its ethnic nationalities, and that studying, exploring, sharing and appreciating the traditional singing, dancing, song composing and musical arts of the various ethnic nationalities would help strengthen the Union Spirit.

She noted that art serves as a bridge connecting people's hearts and minds beyond differences in language and region, and that everyone was urged to build on the valuable experiences gained from the competition and work together to ensure the long-term preservation and development of Myanmar's traditional arts.

The Vice-President presented prizes to the winners in the higher education level men's and women's classic song contests.

Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein gave awards to winners in the basic education level (aged 10-15 and 15-20) boys' and girls' classic song contests; Union Minister Dr Soe Win, winners in the higher education men's and women's old/modern song contests; Union Minister U Htein Linn, winners in the basic education (aged 15-20) boys' and girls' old/modern song contests; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than, winners in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' and girls' old/modern song contests; and deputy ministers, winners in the basic education level (aged 10-15 and 15-20) and higher education level singing, dancing, song composing and playing music contests, respectively.

The Vice-President and attendees enjoyed the song and dance performances of artistes from the Department of Fine Arts.

At the ceremony, winners at the different levels of the Performing Arts Competition were awarded 96 first prizes, 83 second prizes and 81 third prizes, totalling 250. — MNA/TTA

Yangon Region Thadingyut Market Fair and Music Concert in progress

THE Yangon Region Thadingyut Market Fair and Music Concert, currently being held at People's Park in Yangon, is attracting large crowds. Families and groups of friends are visiting the event to shop, sample a variety of foods, and enjoy live music in a joyful and vibrant atmosphere.



This photo shows people visiting Thadingyut Market Fair are seen enjoying entertainment at the music concert.

The festival features more than 628 stalls showcasing products from industrial zones across the Yangon Region, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives, and various states and regions. Bookstores and food stalls are also available. In addition, well-wishers are providing free meals to visitors daily throughout the festival.

The event not only offers the public convenient shopping and dining opportunities but also serves as a platform for promoting local products. In the evenings, the illuminated park hosts performances by well-known artistes from the film, theatre and music industries.

The Thadingyut Market Fair and Music Concert is being held over four days, from 24 to 27 October, with live performances scheduled throughout the event. Shuttle services using YBS buses have also been arranged to provide convenient transport for visitors. The festival offers families opportunities to relax together during the Thadingyut season, support local-made products, and celebrate the country's traditional festival culture. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/TH



The image depicts competitors displaying their artistic talents while helping preserve traditional Myanmar performing arts and cultural heritage.

Performing Arts Competition 2026 enters Day 5

THE fifth 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 classical and modern song singing, dancing, songwriting and playing traditional musical instruments, including the Hsaing Waing (traditional Myanma orchestra), flute, oboe, violin, and piano, were held across different education levels and age groups. Traditional thea-trical competitions, including marionette and theatrical drama contests, also showcased Myanmar's cultural heritage and artistic traditions.

Contestants captivated the Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers, senior officials, departmental staff and families, and enthusiasts. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker returns to Yangon from Belarus

A delegation led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, who visited Belarus at the invitation of Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Ms Natallia Kochanova, departed Minsk for Yangon by air at 9.30 am local time on 24 October.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe is seen on his arrival back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

At Minsk International Airport, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and his delegation were seen off by Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Mr Igor Brylevich, Chairman of the Standing Commission on International Affairs and National Security of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly Mr Sergei Aleink, Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus U Maung Maung Soe and officials.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and his delegation arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening and were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung, Deputy Speaker U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, regional ministers and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. — MNA/KZL

Shwe Kokko Phase II scam compounds flattened

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

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to dismantle key structures. The demolition of one five-storey building is 90 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building is 60 per cent complete.



This photo shows systematic demolition of a scam-related five-storey building.

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

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

Repair and reinforcement work continues at Ma Mya Reservoir in Ayeyawady Region

REPAIR and reinforcement work on the subsided slope of Ma Mya Reservoir in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, is continuing through joint efforts by local military personnel from the South-West Command, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, departmental officials and local residents.

Yesterday, teams continued working intensively with machinery to protect the affected section of the embankment, starting from the area adjoining the upstream water surface and extending along the subsided slope. Tarpaulins are being systematically laid over the affected areas to protect them from rainwater, intense sunlight and wave action. Earth is also being used to reinforce the embankment and strengthen its base from the outer side of the lower slope to prevent further subsidence and improve structural stability.

Meanwhile, water is being released through the reservoir's emergency spillway to reduce the stored water level from its reference elevation of 315 feet. As of the evening of 25 October, the water level had fallen to 298.50 feet, representing a reduction of approximately 16.50 feet.

In addition, local Tatmadaw members and residents are jointly providing necessary healthcare services to people in villages near the affected embankment. They are also clearing bushes and weeds at monasteries and schools in the area.

Officials from the South-West Command and departmental officials inspected the ongoing activities and coordinated the provision of necessary assistance. — 100/ST



Heavy machinery are being operated in repairs and reinforcement at Ma Mya Reservoir.

Pre-Deepavali Festival ceremony organized in Mawlamyine

A pre-Deepavali festival ceremony jointly organized by the Myanmar Hindu Youth Association and the Myanmar Hindu Tamil Youth Organization was held yesterday afternoon at the Sun Shine Hotel in Mawlamyine.

Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Win Than, the State Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, state ministers, officials, and representatives of religious and cultural organizations inaugurated the ceremony by lighting ceremonial lamps. Dr Hla Tun, a missionary leader from the Santana Dhamma Palaka Hindu Federation, subsequently delivered the opening remarks.

On the occasion, the chief minister delivered a speech.

Shri Pankaj Kumawat, First Secretary of the Embassy of India in Myanmar and Director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, explained the significance of Deepavali. The chief minister and other attendees enjoyed musical performances and traditional dances presented by artistes from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre of the Embassy of India, as well as Hindu traditional dance troupes.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Shri Raju, a representative of the Myanmar Hindu Tamil Youth Organization. — Sithu (IPRD)/TH



A pre-Deepavali festival ceremony jointly organized by the Myanmar Hindu Youth Association and the Myanmar Hindu Tamil Youth Organization in progress at the Sun Shine Hotel in Mawlamyine yesterday.

NATIONAL

Pedestrian access to Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge walkways remains prohibited

PEDESTRIANS will not be allowed to use the walkways of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge due to reckless public behaviour and security concerns, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport Dr Myo Thaw said. He made the statement in response to a question raised by Yangon Region Hluttaw MP U Than Oo, who represents Dala Township, during a Yangon Region Hluttaw session on 23 October. The MP asked whether there were plans to allow members of the public to use the pedestrian walkways on the bridge.

U Than Oo noted that although the Dala Bridge had been constructed at considerable cost, residents of Dala Township had yet to fully benefit from it. He argued that allowing the public to use the pedestrian walkways would promote physical fitness while reducing transport costs and vehicle waiting times. He also proposed installing CCTV cameras along the walkways to enhance security and taking legal action against violators. He emphasized that the rights of law-abiding citizens should not be restricted because of the reckless actions of a few individuals. In response, Dr Myo Thaw explained that the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge is 6,127 feet long and 57 feet wide, has four traffic lanes and features 6.5-foot-wide pedestrian walkways on both sides. The bridge was opened on 6 February this year.



This photo captures workers doing cleaning works at the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

He noted that following the bridge's opening, some members of the public had been criticized on social media for undisciplined behaviour, including walking in vehicle lanes, crossing back and forth through moving traffic, littering with rubbish and drink cans, spitting betel juice, deliberately blocking drainage outlets, and stopping vehicles on the bridge to take photographs and videos.

He said such reckless behaviour not only damages the country's image and dignity but also creates potential security risks and opportunities for sabotage. Consequently, gates were installed at pedestrian entry and exit points on 9 February 2026, and security personnel were deployed to restrict pedestrian access. "Therefore, I would like to inform the Hluttaw through its Speaker that there are currently no plans to introduce arrangements allowing pedestrians to use the walkways of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge," Dr Myo Thaw said. — TWA/TH

Pakokku inspects online services and consumer goods

OFFICIALS inspected food and consumer goods shops in Pakokku, Magway Region, on the morning of 23 October to ensure that complete and accurate information was provided for online communication services and that consumer protection requirement were met.



Officials from Pakokku inspect food and consumer goods shops in Pakokku, Magway Region, on 23 October. **PHOTO: BAMITHA (PAKOKKU)**

The inspection team, comprising staff from the Pakokku District Department of Consumer Affairs, the Department of Food and Drug Administration, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Pakokku, and the Township Development Committee, checked whether shops had obtained online registration licences, what types of online communication services they offered, and whether customers received complete and accurate information before purchasing goods online.

The team also assessed the availability of quality internet services for consumers, the sale and distribution of unsafe food and consumer products, compliance with product labelling requirements, and the distribution of expired goods. Officials conducted on-site inspections and gave awareness-raising talks to business owners and sales staff. — Bamitha (Pakokku)/KZL

Awareness Talk on Preventing Water Shortages During Super El Niño Period

AN awareness talk to help rural residents prepare for potential water shortages during the summer season due to impacts of the El Niño climate phenomenon was held in Kyanpin Village, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

The event was organized by the Department of Rural Development in Kyauktan Township.

During the awareness session, U Tun Win Latt, Head of the Department of Rural Development in Kyauktan Township explained the potential impacts of El Niño during the summer season, including extreme temperatures, reduced rainfall, and declining surface water resources and groundwater yields. He also elaborated on how these conditions could lead to shortages of drinking water and domestic water supplies in rural communities.

An official further emphasized the importance of taking preventive measures before water shortages occur. He advised residents to store drinking water and domestic water properly in covered storage tanks to prevent contamination by dust and other impurities, and to use water economically in their daily activities to avoid unnecessary waste.



An awareness talk on the El Niño climate phenomenon in progress in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

The Department of Rural Development will continue providing necessary technical assistance and support to promote the sustainable use of drinking water resources and strengthen disaster preparedness, according to the head of the Township Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

Knowledge-Sharing Talks Held in Shwedaung

THE Shwedaung Township Department of Rural Development in collaboration with the General Administration Department, the Information and Public Relations Department, and the Department of Agriculture, yesterday conducted the knowledge-sharing talks in Mintekyun Village, where the model village project is currently being implemented.



Knowledge-Sharing Talks on the model village project in progress in Shwedaung yesterday.

At the talk, U Yan Naing Zaw, Staff Officer of the Shwedaung Township Department of Rural Development, gave an explanation regarding village waste management and activities to reduce smoke, haze, and air pollution.

Next, an official from the Department of Agriculture delivered an awareness talk on achieving target crop yields per acre, followed by explanations on respective topics from departmental officials. It is reported that educational pamphlets were distributed to the attendees at the talk. — Set Lu

NATIONAL

Myanma Insurance, MIFFA sign insurance agreement for logistics operators

A signing ceremony for the Limited Liability Insurance agreement between Myanma Insurance and the Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association (MIFFA) was held on 23 October at the Myanma Insurance Head Office in Yangon. Managing Director of Myanma Insurance Dr Myo Min Kyi Win and MIFFA Chairman U Kyaw Lwin Oo signed the agreement for limited liability insurance designed for logistics operators.



This photo features Myanma Insurance and MIFFA signing the limited liability insurance agreement.

The newly introduced insurance coverage aims to mitigate business risks for logistics service providers handling export and import cargo within Myanmar and establish an accountable insurance framework. It is also the first limited liability insurance service in Myanmar to be launched in collaboration with MIFFA following official state authorization.

In his opening remarks, Dr Myo Min Kyi Win emphasized the need for close cooperation between the two organizations to ensure the official public launch of the insurance service and maximize the programme's effectiveness and success.

In response, U Kyaw Lwin Oo expressed his gratitude, noting that the introduction of the insurance service, following years of dedicated efforts by successive MIFFA executive committees, marked a significant day and a major milestone for the association. He added that MIFFA would continue to work closely with Myanma Insurance. The signing ceremony concluded at noon. MIFFA announced that it would work with Myanma Insurance to ensure the successful implementation of this essential insurance service for logistics operators. — TWA/TH

Myanmar Red Cross Society opens two child-friendly spaces in Sagaing Township

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has opened two child-friendly spaces in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, according to the society.

The MRCS provides child-friendly spaces in temporary shelters and communities across various areas to offer psychosocial support to children affected by natural disasters and conflicts, as well as to provide them with safe places to play and enjoy themselves.

The child-friendly spaces in Shwe Min Wun and Ayemyawady wards were opened on 19 October, in addition to the opening of similar spaces in Nandawun and Myothit wards on 13 September.

The MRCS is operating the child-friendly spaces with support from the Danish Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of the Faroe Islands. — ASH/KZL



Red Cross volunteers and staff playing a variety of games with children at the child-friendly spaces in Sagaing Township.

Traffic congestion hits Yangon gates during Thadingyut

TRAFFIC congestion occurred at several checkpoints at the entrances to and exits from Yangon and other cities from the morning of 24 October during the Thadingyut holiday period, according to passenger bus drivers.

Traffic increased significantly as employees working away from their hometowns and members of the public returned home for the holidays. Many others travelled with their families or friends to visit prominent pagodas in various regions and states or enjoy holidays at coastal destinations.



Vehicles pass through several gates at the entrances to and exits from Yangon.

As passenger buses, tour vehicles and private cars departed at the same time, vehicles had to queue at toll gates and checkpoints at city entrances and exits.

Long queues and traffic congestion were reported particularly along Yangon's No 3 Highway, at the entrances to and exits from the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, and at checkpoints where vehicles had to wait for extended periods, a passenger bus driver said.

Traffic remained heavier than usual at city entrances and exits as large numbers of people travelled during the holiday period. — TWA/KZL

Myanmar's Pawsan Hmwe Rice Cultivated on 347,226 Acres in Sagaing Region



This photo catches thriving paddy plantations. **PHOTO: SAGAING REGION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

MYANMAR'S Pawsan Hmwe rice, recognized as the world's best rice in 2026, has been cultivated on 347,226 acres as monsoon paddy in Sagaing Region, according to the Sagaing Region Department of Agriculture.

Across seven districts in the region, Shwebo Pawsan rice has been cultivated on 347,135 acres, while Yezin Pawsan (1) has been grown on 91 acres, bringing the total to 347,226 acres. The region set a target of 1,729,146 acres for monsoon paddy cultivation, but 1,743,345 acres had been planted as of 15 October.

In the 2025-2026 financial year, a total of 1,813,767 acres were cultivated with paddy, comprising 1,716,224 acres of monsoon paddy and 97,543 acres of summer paddy. In five districts, Shwebo Pawsan was grown on 336,092 acres, while Yezin Pawsan (1) was cultivated on 50 acres.

The average yield of Shwebo Pawsan was 81.58 baskets per acre, while Yezin Pawsan (1) produced 113.10 baskets per acre. During the summer paddy season, Yezin Pawsan (1) was cultivated on 10 acres in KhinU Township, yielding 100.50 baskets per acre.

After the current monsoon paddy harvest, the region plans to cultivate summer paddy on 187,644 acres, including 1,794 acres of Yezin Pawsan (1), according to the department.

"Two varieties of rice, Shwebo Pawsan and Yezin Pawsan (1), have been cultivated on 347,226 acres during the monsoon season in the Shwebo area. Harvesting has also begun in some fields.

"Winning the international award of excellence for Myanmar's Pawsan rice is a proud and joyful milestone for the country and its people. This achievement reflects the efforts of farmers who have demonstrated the quality of Myanmar's rice to the world. Thanks to the dedication of farmers who have worked hard to cultivate and produce this rice, as well as the agricultural knowledge and expertise passed down through generations, we have been able to bring aromatic and flavourful Pawsan Hmwe rice to dining tables around the world. We are deeply delighted and proud of this accomplishment," said Daw San San Myint, Assistant Director of the Sagaing Region Department of Agriculture.

Shwebo Pawsan and Yezin Pawsan (1) are cultivated in 11 townships across seven districts in Sagaing Region: Kalay, Shwebo, YeU, Kanbalu, Monywa, Kawlin and Sagaing. Some fields of YeU early-monsoon Pawsan paddy have also begun to be harvested. — Thitsa (MNA)/ST

OPINION

Preserving the prestige of the State and national identity

The Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competitions comprising singing, dancing, composing, and music events were first held in 1993, and they have played a vital role in systematically preserving and promoting traditional Myanmar arts, discovering artistes, and passing down cultural artistic heritage to younger generations.

Although the singing, dancing, song composing, and music competitions were held up to 22 times until 2016, the competitions were suspended for a five-year period from 2017 to 2021 due to various reasons. The 23rd competition was finally resumed in 2022, and with their continued staging, they have now reached their 27th edition in 2026.

> Traditional Myanmar performing arts represent a valuable heritage that reflects the nation's culture. Preserving this heritage is the duty of today's generation, and passing it down to future generations in its fullest quality is a shared responsibility to be realized through collective effort. Therefore, artistes, enthusiasts, youth, and all relevant organizations are urged to cherish and safeguard traditional Myanmar arts, continually study artistic disciplines, collaborate in nurturing new generations of artistes, and consistently elevate the quality and standards of Myanmar arts.

The State has specifically highlighted this as a vital tradition to ensure the survival and sustainability of Myanmar's traditional performing arts, nurture talented artistes, and inspire younger generations to cherish and safeguard their cultural heritage. The primary objective of organizing these national-level singing, dancing, composing, and music competitions is not merely to decide winners and losers among artists. Rather, it is to create opportunities for the systematic study of artistic disciplines, discover and promote talent, exchange artistic experiences, and elevate artistic standards. Moving forward, it is also essential to continue training the talented individuals who emerge from these competitions, provide them with suitable opportunities, and pass down the experiences of masters artistes.

Traditional Myanmar performing arts represent a valuable heritage that reflects the nation's culture. Preserving this heritage is the duty of today's generation, and passing it down to future generations in its fullest quality is a shared responsibility to be realized through collective effort. Therefore, artistes, enthusiasts, youth, and all relevant organizations are urged to cherish and safeguard traditional Myanmar arts, continually study artistic disciplines, collaborate in nurturing new generations of artistes, and consistently elevate the quality and standards of Myanmar arts.

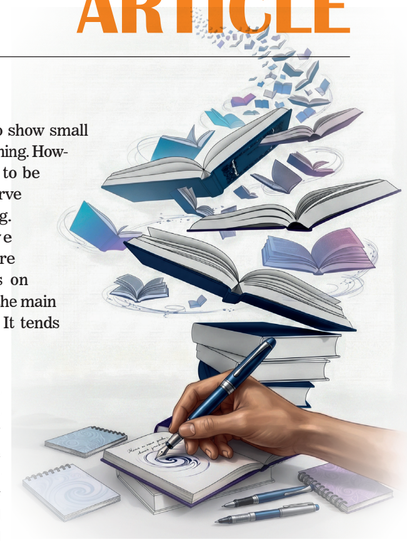
A country's history, literature, language, traditional customs, and arts and culture play a crucial role in reflecting its dignity and national identity. Actually, art not only expresses human emotions, thoughts, social life, and values, but also serves as an essential medium for passing down historical heritage from one generation to the next.

Such artistic heritages do not merely unearth the past; they are also valuable legacies for today's younger generation to study and learn from, and to pass on to future generations. Therefore, ensuring that our nation's dignity and national identity endure as long as the world exists is the responsibility of all national brethren.

ARTICLE

Translation Methods, including Semantic and Communicative Translation

By Maung Maung Aye



Translation is the process of changing a text from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). Different translation methods focus on words, meaning, style, culture, and readers. The main methods include word-for-word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative translation.

Word-for-word translation is often demonstrated as interlinear translation, with the TL immediately below the SL words. The SL word order is preserved, and the words are translated singly by their common meanings, out of context. Cultural words are translated literally. The main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or to construe a difficult text as a pretranslation process.

In literal translation, the grammar of the source language (SL) is changed into the closest grammar of the target language (TL). The words are translated one by one and without considering the full context. It is often used as a pre-translation step. It helps the translator identify the problems that need to be solved.

Faithful translation tries to give the exact meaning of the original text. It follows the grammar of the target language. Cultural words are kept as close to the original as possible. It tries to preserve the original writer's intentions and style. The translator tries to be completely faithful to the original text.

Semantic translation is similar to faithful translation. However, it gives more attention to the beauty and natural sound of the original text. The translator may change some words or expressions to make the translation sound natural. It tries to avoid awkward word-play, repetition, or unnatural expressions. Important cultural words may sometimes be translated using neutral or functional terms instead of direct cultural equivalents. Semantic translation is more flexible than faithful translation. It allows the translator to make small creative changes. It also allows the translator to use their understanding of the original text.

Adaptation is the freest form of translation. It is mainly used for plays and poetry. The main themes, characters, and plots are usually kept. The culture of the source language is changed to fit the target culture. The text may be completely rewritten. Adaptation can make old plays and poems suitable for modern readers.

Free translation gives the main content or meaning without keeping the original style. It focuses on the idea, rather than the exact words and form. It is often written as a paraphrase. A free translation can be much longer than the original. Sometimes it becomes so different that it may be considered "intralingual translation" rather than translation.

Idiomatic translation reproduces the message of the original text. It uses common expressions, colloquial language, and idioms. These expressions may not exist in the original text. Therefore, some small differences in meaning may occur. The main aim is to make the translation lively and natural.

Communicative translation tries to give the exact meaning of the original text. It makes the translation clear and easy to understand. Both the content and language should be acceptable to the readers. The translation should be natural and comprehensible for the target readership.

As regards the comments on these methods, only semantic translation and communicative translation fully achieve the two main aims of translation: accuracy and economy. A semantic translation is usually more economical than a communicative translation, unless the original text is badly written. In general, semantic translation stays close to the author's language and style. Communicative translation focuses more on the language and needs of the readers. Semantic translation is mainly used for expressive texts. Communicative translation is mainly used for informative and vocative texts. Both methods deal with the following in a similar way: common or ordinary language, normal word combinations, technical terms, slang and colloquial expressions, standard notices, and phatic expressions.

In expressive texts, unusual language, metaphors, special words, and new words are translated closely whenever possible. In informative and vocative texts, these unusual features are often made more natural or simpler. Cultural elements are treated differently according to the type of text. In expressive texts, they are usually kept and explained using neutral terms. In informative texts, they may be transferred and explained. In vocative texts, they are often replaced by equivalent cultural terms. If the original text contains inaccurate information, these mistakes may be kept in an expressive text. However, the translator can comment on factual or moral mistakes when necessary. In a communicative translation, badly written or inaccurate passages should usually be corrected. Expressive texts are called "sacred texts", but informative and vocative texts are "anonymous" texts. This is because the identity of the author is less important in informative and vocative texts.

Main difference between semantic and communicative translation. Semantic translation is more personal and individual. It follows the author's way of thinking. It may over-translate because it tries to show small differences in meaning. However, it also tries to be concise and preserve the main meaning. Communicative translation is more social. It focuses on the message and the main effect of the text. It tends to under-translate. It tries to be simple, clear, short, natural, and effective for the readers. A semantic translation is normally less successful than the original because some cognitive and practical meaning may be lost. A communicative translation can sometimes be better than the original because it is easier for readers to understand. Sometimes a semantic translation has to interpret the meaning, while a communicative translation has to explain it. Theoretically, communicative translation does not give the translator more freedom than semantic translation. In practice, however, it gives the translator more freedom because the translator is writing for a large and less clearly defined group of readers. In semantic translation, the translator mainly follows one clearly defined authority: the author of the source-language text.

To conclude, different translation methods have different purposes. Semantic translation focuses on the author's meaning and style. Meanwhile, communicative translation focuses on clear communication for readers. Translators should choose the most suitable method according to the type and purpose of the text.

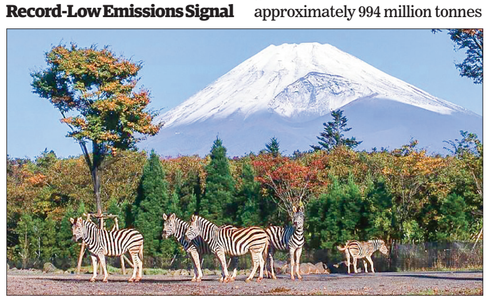
Protecting the Green Archipelago: Japan's Evolving Path Towards Environmental Sustainability

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

From the snow-covered landscapes of Hokkaido to the coral-rich waters of Okinawa, Japan's natural environment represents far more than scenic beauty. It is an essential part of the nation's cultural identity, economic prosperity and national heritage. For centuries, traditional Japanese philosophies, including the spiritual reverence for nature associated with Shinto beliefs, have encouraged respect for forests, mountains, rivers and the changing seasons. Today, this cultural legacy is increasingly complemented by modern technology, forward-looking environmental policies and growing public awareness.

As climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource pressures intensify worldwide, Japan is pursuing a more comprehensive approach to environmental protection. Its experience shows how an advanced industrial economy can reconcile economic development with ecological responsibility. Although significant challenges remain, Japan's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting nature-positive business practices and encouraging community participation offers valuable lessons for other countries pursuing a greener future.

Record-Low Emissions Signal



Progress Towards a Low-Carbon Future

Japan achieved an important environmental milestone in the financial year 2024, when its net greenhouse gas emissions fell to approximately 994 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. According to Japan's Ministry of the Environment, this represented a 1.9 per cent decline from the previous financial year and a 28.7 per cent reduction compared with the financial year 2013. It was also the first time the country's annual net emissions had fallen below one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The figures, released in April 2026, reflect continued progress in Japan's climate policy, although further reductions will be necessary to achieve its long-term targets.

Several factors contributed to this achievement, including reduced energy consumption in parts of the manufacturing sector and the increasing contribution of renewable and nuclear power to electricity generation. Together, these developments illustrate the importance of improving energy efficiency while diversifying electricity supplies.

Japan has set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 46 per cent from the financial year 2013 levels by fiscal year 2030, with a longer-term ambition of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Meeting these goals will require sustained investment, technological innovation and further transformation across industry, transport, buildings and energy production.

Renewable energy, including solar and wind power, is an important component of this transition. Japan is also exploring new energy technologies, more efficient industrial processes and digital systems that can help businesses manage electricity consumption more effectively.

The transport sector offers additional opportunities. Japan's experience in hybrid-vehicle manufacturing, combined with continuing efforts to develop electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure, provides a foundation for reducing transport-related emissions. Meanwhile, energy-efficient appliances, improved building performance and more informed household energy consumption can contribute to national climate objectives.

Japan's progress demonstrates that emissions reduction is not solely an environmental obligation. It can also encourage industrial modernisation, strengthen energy security and create opportunities for innovation in emerging green industries.

Building a Nature-Positive Economy

Japan's environmental vision extends beyond reducing carbon emissions. It increasingly recognises that economic prosperity depends on healthy ecosystems, biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

In October 2025, the World Economic Forum highlighted Japan's efforts to develop a nature-positive economy through coordinated action by government, businesses and communities. The approach seeks not merely to minimise environmental damage, but also to protect and restore nature while creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

A key element is Japan's commitment to the global 30-by-30 conservation goal, which seeks to conserve at least 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030. Japan's national roadmap supports the expansion and improved management of protected areas, alongside the recognition of other areas that contribute effectively to biodiversity conservation.

The country's traditional Satoyama landscapes offer a particularly meaningful example of how cultural heritage and environmental stewardship can complement one another. These landscapes encompass a mosaic of rural settlements, agricultural land, forests, ponds and other natural habitats shaped through generations of interaction between people and nature.

Revitalising Satoyama can help preserve local biodiversity, maintain traditional knowledge and support rural livelihoods. With appropriate management, these landscapes can also contribute to sustainable agriculture, environmental education and nature-based tourism.

SEE PAGE 11

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Bein Mont
(Traditional Myanmar Pancake)

BEIN Mont is a traditional Myanmar snack that holds a special place at morning tea gatherings and roadside snack stalls in the late afternoon. With its inviting aroma, thick and fluffy texture, and delightful flavour, it remains one of Myanmar's most beloved traditional treats.

What makes Bein Mont unique is its contrasting textures: the outer edges are crisp and golden, while the centre is soft, airy, and sponge-like. The subtle sweetness and fragrance of jaggery or palm sugar blend harmoniously with the richness of shredded coconut sprinkled on top. Roasted peanuts and poppy seeds (or sesame seeds) add a fragrant crunch with every bite, creating a perfect balance of sweetness, nuttiness, and aroma. For those who would like to make this delicious snack at home, the recipe and proportions are provided below.

Ingeredients

1. Rice flour – 2 cups
2. Glutinous rice flour – ½ cup (for a softer, chewier texture)
3. Palm sugar syrup or jaggery syrup – about 1 cup (adjust according to your preferred sweetness)
4. Yeast – 1½ teaspoons (a small amount of baking powder may also be added)
   Yeast is a leavening agent used in baking.
5. Salt – ¼ teaspoon (to enhance the sweetness)
6. Warm water – as needed to mix the batter
7. Toppings:
   - Shredded coconut (thinly sliced)
   - Roasted peanuts, crushed or split
   - Poppy seeds or black/white sesame seeds
8. A small amount of butter or oil (for greasing the pan)

Method

1. Prepare the Batter

In a mixing bowl, combine the rice flour, glutinous rice flour, yeast, and salt. Gradually add the cooled palm sugar or jaggery syrup while stirring. Add warm water little by little until the batter reaches a consistency similar to yoghurt.

2. Allow the Batter to Ferment

Cover the bowl with a clean cloth or lid and leave it in a warm place for about 1 to 2 hours. Once bubbles form and the batter has risen, it is ready to cook.

3. Cook the Pancake

Heat a heavy-bottomed frying pan over low heat. A non-stick pan works particularly well. Lightly grease the pan with oil or butter. Once warm, pour in a ladleful of batter, adjusting the thickness to your preference.

4. Add the Toppings and Cover

As soon as small bubbles begin to appear on the surface, generously sprinkle the shredded coconut, peanuts, and poppy or sesame seeds over the top. Cover the pan tightly and cook over very low heat for 5 to 8 minutes, or until fully cooked. The pancake is done when the edges turn golden brown, and a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.



Health Benefits and Considerations

Because Bein Mont is made largely from natural ingredients, it offers both nutritional benefits and a few points to keep in mind.

The snack is rich in carbohydrates, making it an excellent source of quick energy for breakfast or an afternoon snack. Using natural sweeteners such as palm sugar or jaggery instead of refined white sugar provides small amounts of iron and other minerals.

The peanuts, poppy seeds, and coconut topping contribute healthy fats, protein, and dietary fibre, all of which are beneficial to the body.

However, because Bein Mont is relatively high in both carbohydrates and sugar, people with diabetes and those watching their weight should consume it in moderation.

When purchasing Bein Mont from roadside vendors, there is a possibility that reused cooking oil may be used, and the food may not always be protected from dust and environmental contaminants. For this reason, preparing it at home can be a healthier, more hygienic option.

Homemade Bein Mont, a traditional Myanmar pancake, also allows you to adjust the sweetness of the palm sugar syrup and control the amount of oil used, making it a more health-conscious snack. Enjoyed with a cup of strong coffee or hot green tea, it offers an authentic taste of Myanmar's rich culinary tradition. — MOON

Traditional *Myanmar Delicacy*







Weekly News Quiz
(for 26 October 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Saturday's newspaper (24 October 2026).

National News Quiz

1. During the three-day Thadingyut Festival in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, how many small hot-air balloons in total will be released at a rate of 1,000 per day?
   A. 1,500 balloons
   B. 2,000 balloons
   C. 3,000 balloons
   D. 4,500 balloons
2. After being suspended for more than a year due to repairs on the Yanpei Bridge, regular passenger train services resumed on 23 October along which western rail route?
   A. Yangon-Pyay-Bagan
   B. Yangon-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi-Bagan
   C. Yangon-Pyinmana-Bagan
   D. Mandalay-Pyinmana-Bagan
3. During the 41st regular meeting of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board, how many new types of insurance were discussed for market expansion?
   A. 4 types
   B. 6 types
   C. 8 types
   D. 10 types

Global News Quiz

4. US tech giant Meta Platforms Inc launched its personal artificial intelligence agent named what in Japan, its first market outside North America?
   A. Llama
   B. Muse
   C. Orion
   D. Nova
5. The surviving head of a wooden Virgin Mary statue destroyed in the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki is set to be displayed in which US state, home to the site of the world's first nuclear test?
   A. Nevada
   B. New Mexico
   C. Arizona
   D. California

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

ARTICLE

Protecting the Green Archipelago: Japan's Evolving ...

FROM PAGE 9

Japan's approach offers a broader lesson: conservation need not be separated from community development. When local people participate in managing natural resources, environmental protection can also strengthen regional economies and preserve cultural traditions.

Protecting Marine Ecosystems and Blue Carbon

Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and several marginal seas, Japan has a particularly strong interest in protecting marine ecosystems. Its coastal environments support fisheries, tourism, biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities throughout the archipelago.

Okinawa's coral reefs are among the country's most valuable natural assets, providing habitats for marine life while supporting local tourism and coastal economies. However, rising sea temperatures, coastal development and other pressures threaten these fragile ecosystems.

Japan is also placing greater emphasis on seagrass meadows and seaweed beds, which support marine biodiversity and can store carbon in coastal ecosystems. These resources are increasingly important to the development of blue-carbon initiatives.

In February 2026, the World Economic Forum reported on Japan's Satoumi approach, which promotes a balance between healthy marine ecosystems and human livelihoods. The approach combines coastal conservation, community participation and sustainable resource management.

Japan has also been developing its J Blue Credit system, which certifies carbon absorption associated with eligible blue-carbon projects. By creating a mechanism through which verified carbon-removal benefits can be recognized financially, the system offers an additional incentive for businesses and communities to invest in coastal restoration.

Such initiatives demonstrate how environmental protection can create practical economic opportunities. Restored marine habitats can support fisheries, improve ecosystem resilience and contribute to climate mitigation, while community-based projects can strengthen local participation in conservation.

Nevertheless, blue-carbon initiatives must be supported by credible measurement, long-term monitoring and effective ecological management to ensure that reported benefits are genuine and lasting.

Corporate Leadership and Green Innovation

Japan's business community is becoming an increasingly important partner in the country's environmental transition. Rather than treating sustainability solely as a regulatory requirement, many businesses are incorporating environmental considerations into their investment decisions, supply chains and long-term strategies.

The World Economic Forum reported in October 2025 that 182 Japanese companies had announced commitments to nature-related disclosures under frameworks associated with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the highest number among countries at that time.

These disclosures help businesses identify how their operations depend on nature, how they affect ecosystems and what environmental risks may influence their long-term performance.

Companies can respond by improving resource efficiency, reducing waste, increasing the use of recycled materials and strengthening responsible sourcing practices. Manufacturers, retailers and energy companies can also assess environmental impacts throughout their supply chains rather than focusing exclusively on their direct operations.

Digital technology is opening further opportunities. Satellite imagery, biodiversity databases and advanced monitoring systems can help businesses and environmental authorities assess vegetation, track changes in habitats and improve conservation planning.

Such innovations can make environmental management more measurable and evidence-based. They can also help businesses identify emerging risks, strengthen supply-chain resilience and develop products and services that respond to growing demand for sustainable solutions.

The wider significance is clear: environmental responsibility and economic competitiveness do not necessarily conflict. With effective policies, credible standards and appropriate investment, they can reinforce one another.

Public Participation and the Cultural Foundations of Sustainability

Japan's environmental progress also reflects the importance of community participation. Local organisations, volunteers, schools and municipal authorities contribute to activities ranging from river clean-ups and forest management to biodiversity monitoring and urban greening.

These initiatives help translate national environmental objectives into practical action. They also create opportunities for younger generations to understand ecosystems, develop environmental awareness and participate directly in conservation.

Japan's traditions of seasonal appreciation, respect for natural landscapes and community responsibility can provide a valuable cultural foundation for these efforts. When combined with modern environmental education and scientific knowledge, such values can help make sustainability a shared social commitment rather than a responsibility confined to government institutions.

Community involvement is especially important in rural areas, where forests, agricultural landscapes and coastal ecosystems require continuing care. Partnerships among residents, local businesses, researchers and public authorities can help sustain conservation activities while creating economic opportunities.

For developing countries, this aspect of Japan's experience is particularly relevant. Effective environmental protection does not always depend on expensive technology alone. Public awareness, local knowledge, institutional cooperation and consistent participation can also produce meaningful results.

Overcoming Challenges Through Innovation and Cooperation

Despite its progress, Japan faces continuing environmental challenges. Its reliance on imported fossil fuels remains a significant concern, while expanding renewable energy requires careful planning, investment and improvements to electricity networks. Balancing energy security, affordability and decarbonisation will remain an important policy task.

Demographic change presents another challenge. An ageing population and declining numbers of working-age residents can make it more difficult to maintain forests, agricultural land and rural ecosystems. Meanwhile, climate change continues to increase the risks associated with extreme heat, heavy rainfall and coastal hazards.

Addressing these pressures requires a comprehensive strategy combining emissions reduction with climate adaptation. Resilient infrastructure, improved disaster preparedness, nature-based solutions and more efficient resource management can help protect communities and economic assets.

International cooperation will also be essential. Climate change and biodiversity loss cross national boundaries, making the exchange of scientific knowledge, clean technologies and effective policy approaches increasingly important.

Japan can contribute through its technological capabilities, environmental research, industrial expertise and cooperation with other Asian countries. Regional partnerships could support renewable energy development, sustainable urban planning, coastal conservation and climate-resilient infrastructure, while enabling developing economies to pursue growth without repeating the most environmentally damaging patterns of industrialization.

A Green Future Built on Shared Responsibility

Japan's evolving environmental strategy offers a compelling example of how a country can draw strength from both tradition and innovation. Its record-low net greenhouse gas emissions in the financial year 2024, growing interest in nature-positive business practices, and initiatives to restore coastal ecosystems demonstrate meaningful progress towards a more sustainable development model.

Yet the deeper lesson lies in the connection between environmental protection and the foundations of prosperity. Healthy ecosystems support food security, economic activity, public well-being and community resilience. Protecting nature is therefore not simply about preserving beautiful landscapes; it is also about safeguarding the resources and conditions that future generations will need to thrive.

For policymakers, business leaders and young people around the world, Japan's experience highlights the value of combining long-term vision with practical action. Governments can establish clear goals, businesses can invest in innovation, communities can protect local ecosystems, and international partners can share knowledge and resources.

The road towards sustainability remains demanding, but Japan's experience offers grounds for optimism. By bringing together cultural values, scientific innovation, responsible business practices and public participation, the country is working towards a future in which environmental stewardship and economic progress can advance together.

Ultimately, protecting Japan's green archipelago is about more than conserving forests, mountains and seas. It is about building a resilient society, preserving a rich cultural heritage and demonstrating that development can be measured not only by economic output, but also by the quality of the natural world passed on to future generations.

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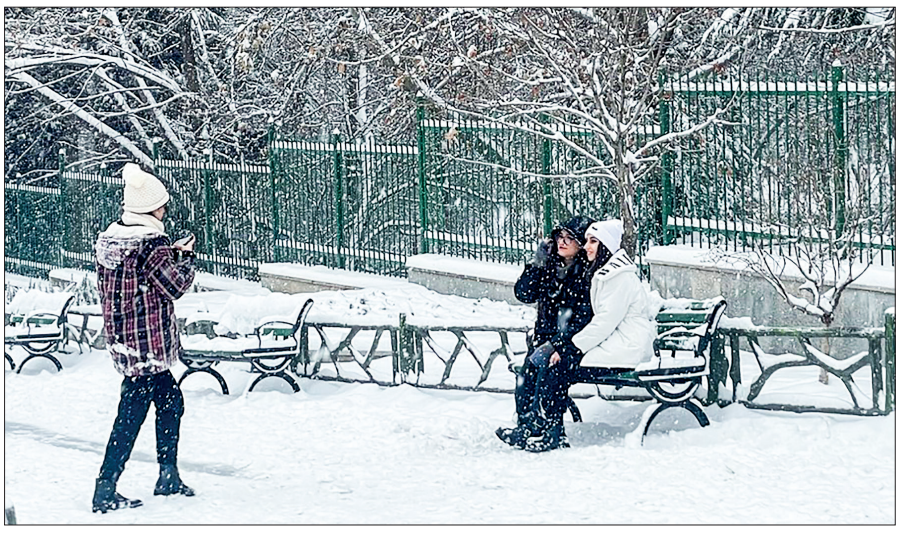
ECONOMY
WORLD

Iran parliament speaker calls for cutting gas consumption by 10% as winter nears

Winter in Iran often sees temperatures drop below freezing, especially in the country's north.

IRAN'S parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Sunday called for a campaign to cut gas consumption by at least 10 per cent, with officials anticipating shortages as winter approaches.

While a major producer, Iran has long suffered shortages of natural gas, essential for powering heating systems, which have been exacerbated by war with the United States and Israel that began in February.



People take photos in snow at a park in Tehran, Iran, 15 January 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

During the most intense phase of the fighting, which lasted nearly 40 days, the two countries struck key Iranian infrastructure including natural gas refineries, according to Tehran.

Winter in Iran often sees temperatures drop below freezing, especially in the country's north.

"To get through the approaching winter, a nationwide effort is essential ... to reduce gas consumption by at least 10 per cent," said Ghalibaf in a video carried by Iranian media. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel central bank issues rare rebuke comments

ISRAEL'S central bank has issued a rare rebuke of recent remarks from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggesting that the country use cryptocurrency to help establish an "alternative economy" to withstand possible sanctions.

The remarks had already drawn criticism from Netanyahu's rivals in this week's national elections, who said they amounted to a tacit admission that the premier's leadership was generating harmful consequences for Israel. — AFP

Russia ready to export 500,000 tonnes of diesel in October

RUSSIAN companies can export up to 500,000 tonnes of diesel to the US and global markets in October while fully supplying the domestic market, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said.

The first three tankers carrying Russian diesel are already heading toward the Atlantic, he added.

On 9 October, Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump reached an agreement on supplies of Russian diesel fuel to the global market. Following this, Trump once again expressed dissatisfaction with Zelensky's lack of readiness for a peace agreement and his unwillingness to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries. He stated that Ukraine needs a new leader capable of reaching an agreement with Russia. — SPUTNIK

Impact of Houthi attacks on Saudi economy 'limited' for now: IMF



An air traffic control tower is seen at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on 19 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

HOUTHI attacks on Saudi Arabia are having only a "limited" economic impact on the kingdom so far, owing to robust domestic demand, the IMF's regional director told AFP, though geopolitical uncertainty remains a threat.

The Iranian-backed Yemeni group has ramped up its attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks, hitting oil facilities and airports among other targets, as Yemen's dormant civil war has roared back into life.

The world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia has had its crude shipments squeezed by Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and the Houthis' declaration of a maritime blockade. But shipments continue to move despite the conflicts, Jihad Azour told AFP. The Gulf kingdom also has "strong internal demand and a robust public sector, so the impact is limited", he said of the Houthi attacks.

Nevertheless, the economy is expected to contract by 3.3 per cent this year, owing to the impacts of the US-Israeli war with Iran that began in February. — AFP

Japan, US, S Korea mull next-gen nuclear reactor export to Indonesia

JAPAN, the United States and South Korea are considering exporting next-generation nuclear reactors they are jointly developing to Indonesia, Japanese government sources said Sunday.

The move comes as the nuclear power industries in the three countries are cooperating, with government support, to develop and manufacture small modular reactors. They hope to deploy them in other nations as alternatives to Russian and Chinese nuclear technology.

Indonesia has already agreed with Russia's state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom to deploy two floating nuclear plants in the Southeast Asian country.

The three countries also hope to eventually deploy the reactors in Malaysia and the Philippines, the sources said. — Kyodo



This image shows the No 3 reactor of the Kansai Electric Power Co (KEPCO) Mihama Nuclear Power Station located in Mihama, Fukui Prefecture, Japan. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ KYODO**

India showcases sustainable agriculture and regional food products at SIAL Paris 2026

INDIA'S participation as Partner Country highlighted climate-resilient farming, women-led agricultural initiatives and opportunities for Indian food producers in European markets.

India showcased its agricultural diversity, sustainable farming practices and food products at SIAL Paris 2026, held from 17 to 21 October at Paris Nord Villepinte, France. As Partner Country, India presented its pavilion under the theme "Feeding Our Tomorrow", highlighting the role of small farmers in strengthening agricultural resilience, sustainability and self-sufficiency.



The India pavilion highlighted packaged, ready-to-eat and premium food products, alongside geographical indication (GI)-tagged products.

Jawed Ashraf, Chairman of the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and former Indian Ambassador to France and Monaco, led India's presence at the exhibition.

He highlighted the shift towards climate-resilient agriculture, supported by reduced chemical use, improved traceability and technology-driven farming practices.

Drones, sensors, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things are helping farmers manage water, fertilisers and crop protection more efficiently. One example showcased was Priyanka Rhushikesh Mohite, a certified agricultural drone pilot from Nashik, Maharashtra. According to the report, drone-assisted spraying and seeding reduced the time required to treat an acre from a full day to seven or eight minutes, while water consumption fell from approximately 200 litres to 10 litres. — ANI

Western Sydney Intl Airport launches passenger services

WESTERN Sydney International Airport officially launched passenger operations on Sunday, with Jetstar flight JQ362 departing for the Gold Coast as the airport's first commercial passenger flight.

The fully booked inaugural flight opened for check-in at 8 am local time and took off around 11:20 am, Xinhua reporters learned at the airport.

Jetstar flight JQ363 from the Gold Coast landed at the new airport at around 3:10 pm. The day's schedule also included Jetstar flight JQ375 to Melbourne.

"I'm so excited to see this airport. I just want to be part of history," Francis, a passenger on the inaugural flight, told Xinhua.

Francis, who lives in Strathfield in Sydney's west, said he took a train to Saint Marys before transferring to a bus to reach the airport, with the journey taking about one hour and 20 minutes.



Passengers queue for security check at Western Sydney International Airport in Australia on 25 October 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

Although the airport is not yet directly connected to the rail network, Francis said its round-the-clock operations would be particularly convenient for frequent travellers and that he would consider using the airport again. — Xinhua

China's tourism to showcase innovation attraction at World Travel Market London

CHINA is to make a new record-breaking appearance at the upcoming 2026 World Travel Market (WTM) in London, attracting visitors with the strength in innovation, the China National Tourist Office (CNTO) London announced Friday.

More than 200 delegates, along with 116 cultural and tourism enterprises and organizations from China have confirmed participation in the event, which is scheduled for 3-5 November, according to CNTO London.

This represents the largest Chinese delegation to WTM London in recent years, covering the most comprehensive range of the tourism industrial chain, including conferences and exhibitions firms, tourism technology companies, resorts and hotels, scenic spots and theme parks, sports and leisure businesses, as well as cruise firms and airlines. — Xinhua

VW recalls over 72,000 electric cars worldwide

DUE to defective batteries, German carmaker VW is recalling more than 72,000 of the group's electric vehicles worldwide. Some battery cells reportedly fail to meet quality standards. However, the group is seeking to reassure the public, saying there is only a very low risk of the batteries overheating or catching fire.

Battery cells are at risk of overheating in thousands of Volkswagen Group vehicles. Two recalls mainly affect the ID3, ID4, ID7 and ID.Buzz models, specifically vehicles manufactured between 2022 and 2025. The recall of the Born model, made by VW's Spanish subsidiary Cupra, concerns vehicles from 2022 to 2024.

The German Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) announced this on its website a few days ago. "High-voltage batteries that do not meet specifications may overheat and cause a fire," it said. — AFP

Afghanistan signs 38.74 mln USD talc mining contract

AFGHANISTAN'S Ministry of Mines and Petroleum on Saturday signed a contract worth US$38.74 million with a domestic company for the development of a talc deposit in eastern Nangarhar province.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Mullah Hedayatullah Badri highlighted the project's socioeconomic value, noting that it is expected to generate more than 400 direct and indirect jobs during implementation. The 15-year agreement covers 3.93 square kilometres in the Woch Bandar area of Achin district, said Badri.

The agreement follows a larger US$65.8-million talc mining contract awarded in early September for the Shirzad district of the same province.

The Afghan government has in recent months concluded a series of contracts with both local and international firms as it seeks to convert the country's largely untapped natural resources into tangible economic gains. – Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC JUNE VOY.NO. (2622S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNE VOY.NO. (2622S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Xi exchanges congratulations with Belgium's King Philippe over 55th anniversary of ties

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Belgium's King Philippe on Sunday exchanged congratulations on the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Xi pointed out that over the past 55 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Belgium have upheld the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and bilateral relations have developed steadily.

Exchanges and cooperation between the two countries across various fields have yielded numerous highlights and fruitful results, while people-to-people ties have grown increasingly close, he said.



King Philippe (R) and Queen Mathilde of Belgium attend an event of Belgian National Day celebrations in Brussels, Belgium, 21 July 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Xi said he attaches great importance to the development of China-Belgium relations and stands ready to work with King Philippe to take the 55th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations as an opportunity to guide China-Belgium all-round friendly cooperative partnership to new heights, and to make new contributions to promoting the sound and steady development of China-EU relations.

In his message, Philippe said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Belgium and China have developed extensive and diversified cooperative relations. — Xinhua

AI could add $2.5 trillion to the global economy

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) could generate $2.52 trillion in annual economic value globally by automating and supporting existing work, but rising deployment costs could significantly reduce these potential gains, according to an October 2026 report by McKinsey.

As per the titled The AI Value Curve: The Economics of Applying AI to Existing Work, the data highlights a growing gap between AI adoption and measurable economic returns. The study revealed that many organisations are focusing on implementing the technology rather than assessing the value it generates.



The 2026 World AI Conference (WAIC) and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance opened here on 17 July. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

A 30 per cent increase in effective AI costs could wipe out $850 billion in potential economic value annually, reducing AI's projected global impact from $2.52 trillion to $1.67 trillion, according to McKinsey estimates.

In the United States, the estimated annual economic value could fall from $960 billion to $640 billion under the same scenario. The report clarified that these figures represent a modelled scenario rather than a forecast. — ANI

Trump says Audi to invest $4.2 bn in its first US auto plant

US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that German automaker Audi planned to invest $4.2 billion to build its first factory in the United States, 10 days before midterm elections.

Audi confirmed the investment in a release, saying the plant would create about 4,500 jobs.

"I'm thrilled to announce a massive auto manufacturing investment in the great state of Georgia by a fantastic company," Trump said at a campaign rally ahead of the 3 November vote that will determine control of the US Congress.

"Audi has just committed to invest $4.2 billion dollars in nearby Macon, Georgia, to begin the construction next month on a massive plant that will produce 200,000 cars a year," Trump continued.

Audi, which is a unit of Volkswagen, said in its release that construction was scheduled to begin next year and production in the early 2030s. "The planned investment intends to mark a long-term commitment to the United States and to establish North America as a third major pillar of Audi's global production network alongside Europe and China," it said. — AFP



Audi has just committed to invest $4.2 billion in nearby Macon, Georgia. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canadian PM stresses UN Charter principles on UN Day

CANADIAN Prime Minister Mark Carney issued a statement on Saturday marking United Nations Day, emphasizing that the founding principles of the UN Charter have never been more important and pledging Canada's continued efforts to uphold them.

Recalling the founding of the UN more than 80 years ago in the aftermath of the Second World War, Carney noted that the post-war order is eroding and that the underlying logic that justified multilateral cooperation is more compelling than ever.

Addressing growing global threats, including the climate emergency, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, and armed conflicts, Carney stressed that "cooperation is not an ideal, it is a necessity" in this fragmented world.

"No country, no matter how powerful, can manage these challenges alone," he added.

Carney highlighted that the UN remains the only global platform bringing together 193 member states to promote peace and security, uphold international law, and protect human rights. — Xinhua

Obama blasts Trump while campaigning for Democrats

FORMER US president Barack Obama delivered scathing criticisms of his successor, Donald Trump, at rallies Saturday in Ohio and Michigan to support Democratic candidates ahead of the 3 November midterm elections.

Democrats are attempting to wrest back control of one or both chambers of the US Congress, which are currently controlled by Trump's Republican party.

The former president retains considerable popularity among the Democratic base, which he is keen to leverage to support his Democratic Party's candidates.

In both states, the 65-year-old former president blamed the Trump administration for the rising cost of living, a top voter concern amid soaring fuel prices.

"The current president chose to make a series of bad decisions," Obama said in Ohio, where he rallied in support of former Democratic senator Sherrod Brown.

"Most importantly, he decided to start an unnecessary war that nobody asked for."

"After two years of chaos and cruelty and corruption and incompetence, the likes of which we have not seen in the modern era, you get a chance to say, 'Enough is enough,'" Obama declared in Cleveland. "We are voting for change right here in Ohio." — AFP

SPORTS

ISPE face Yangon United in women's league

THE 11th round of the 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League, sponsored by Max Energy and organised by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League, will take place from 26 to 28 October, featuring a key clash between table leaders ISPE FC and third-placed Yangon United.



ISPE women's squad poses for group photo before playing the match.

On 26 October, Yangon United will face ISPE at YUSC Stadium, while Ayeyawady will meet Zwekabin United at Star City Stadium. On 27 October, Yangon City will play Thitsar Arman at Padetha Stadium, and Myawady will take on Yadanabon at Padonma Stadium. Young Lionesses will face Shan United at Padonma Stadium on 28 October.

The match will be another major test for leaders ISPE. A victory would strengthen their bid to reclaim the championship title. Second-placed Ayeyawady, who trail the leaders by five points, must collect maximum points from their remaining matches to retain any hope of defending their title.

After 10 rounds, ISPE lead the standings with 28 points, followed by Ayeyawady with 23 and Yangon United with 22. Thitsar Arman have 19 points, Shan United 17, Yadanarbon 12, Myawady nine, and Zwekapin United and Young Lionesses seven each. Yangon City remain bottom without a point after losing all 10 matches. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Khin Hnin Wai competes in Teqball Tour Si Racha

MYANMAR national teqball player Khin Hnin Wai (Arnold) competed in the mixed doubles event at Teqball Tour Si Racha 2026, held at Pacific Hall, Pacific Park Si Racha, in Chonburi, Thailand, from 23 to 25 October. Myanmar participated in the men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles events.

On 25 October, Khin Hnin Wai partnered with Malaysian player Hameed in three mixed doubles matches against international opponents. They began their first match at 9.15 am against an Iraqi pair ranked seventh in the world. At 12.15 pm, they faced a Hungarian-Romanian pair ranked first in the world, followed by a match at 2.50 pm against Polish players ranked third in the world.



Athletes are competing in Teqball event of Teqball Tour Si Racha in Thailand.

The FITEQ Teqball Tour event brought together top athletes from countries including Hungary, Romania, Poland and Brazil, as well as Asian nations such as Thailand, Iraq, Kuwait, Japan, China, India and Malaysia.

Although Myanmar's representative faced strong opponents with high world rankings, Khin Hnin Wai gave her best in pursuit of positive results. — MNA/KZL

Pinheiro Braathen wins Soelden giant slalom



Brazil's Lucas Braathen en route to victory in the Soelden giant slalom. **PHOTO: AFP**

OLYMPIC champion Lucas Pinheiro Braathen won the giant slalom in Soelden on Sunday, the opening race of the men's World Cup season.

The Norway-born Brazilian clocked a combined winning time of 1min 44.72sec for his ninth World Cup victory.

"There was a lot of pressure on my shoulders today," the 26-year-old said in reference to the beginning of his title defence and the highly-anticipated resumption of his rivalry with former GS king Marco Odermatt.

"But pressure is privilege and I was able to capitalise on that. What a relief to be able to open the show in this way." — AFP

Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10

C. 3,000 balloons (From the Bagan Thadingyut festival story on Pages 1 & 5)
B. Yangon-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi-Bagan (From the western railway resumption story on Page 3)
B. 6 types (From the insurance sector expansion story on Page 10)
B. Muse (From the Meta personal AI agent launch story on Page 13)
B. New Mexico (From the Nagasaki A-bombed Virgin Mary statue story on Page 16)

Dagon Star maintain M-League lead with late winner



Dagon Star United face Thitsar Arman.

DAGON Star United continued their winning run to remain top of the 2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League standings after beating Thitsar Arman 1-0 on 25 October, while Chinland recorded their first victory of the season with a 5-1 win over Myawady in Matchweek 5.

At Thanlyin Thihadipa Stadium, Dagon Star United struggled against a determined Thitsar Arman side before captain Thiha Zaw scored the decisive goal in the 90+6 minutes. He also received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award and K1 million in prize money.

At Thanlyin Star City Stadium, Chinland defeated fellow promoted side Myawady 5-1 to secure their first win of the season. Philip scored in the fourth and 57 minutes, while Hla Phone Oo netted in the 61st and 88th minutes. Van Bawi Thawng added another goal in the 69th minute. Khin Kyaw Win scored Myawady's consolation goal in the 90+4th minute. Philip received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award and K1 million in prize money.

Two Matchweek 5 fixtures — Department of Sports and Physical Education versus Shan United and Hanthawady United versus Yangon United — were postponed because Shan United and Yangon United were playing in the AFC Challenge League group stage. Only four matches were played in Matchweek 5.

Following Matchweek 5, Dagon Star United lead the standings with 13 points, followed by Yangon City with 11 and Yadanarbon with 10. Shan United have seven points, Yangon United six and Thitsar Arman five. Sagaing United, ISPE and Hanthawady United have four points each, while Ayeyawady United have three. Chinland and Myawady have one point each.

Shan United and Yangon United have played three matches each, while Myawady, Ayeyawady United, Hanthawady United and the Sports and Physical Education Department have played four matches each. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Inter rally late to down Fiorentina and regain Serie A lead

INTER Milan struck twice in stoppage time to complete a remarkable 2-1 comeback win over Fiorentina at San Siro on Sunday and return to the summit of Serie A. Alex Jimenez's rocket strike had the struggling visitors heading for a shock win, but Marcus Thuram levelled in the 91st minute before winning a penalty that Piotr Zielinski converted in the 98th minute. The result meant the Nerazzurri returned to first place, level with surprise fellow pace-setters Lazio on 22 points, while the Florence club's winless run stretched to four games to keep them in 18th spot. —AFP

Xi exchanges congratulations with Belgium's King Philippe over 55th anniversary of ties

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WORLD

Russian Duma chairman pays tribute to Gandhi

RUSSIAN State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin and fellow Russian MPs have paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, leader of India's independence movement, by laying a wreath at his cremation site at the Raj Ghat memorial complex.

The Russian delegation observed a minute's silence in Gandhi's memory before scattering rose petals over the memorial in keeping with tradition. The site features a black marble platform beside an eternal flame, symbolizing the enduring legacy of the father of the Indian nation.

Foreign heads of state and other senior dignitaries visiting India regularly pay their respects at Raj Ghat.

Volodin is leading the Russian delegation on a working visit to India, his first overseas trip as State Duma Speaker in the new parliamentary term.

In New Delhi, Russian MPs will attend the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, hosted by India as the group's current chair. — SPUTNIK

Australia upgrades highway rest areas

TWO rest areas in remote South Australia have been newly built or upgraded under a 4.25-million-Australian-dollar (about US$2.77 million) project aimed at reducing driver fatigue and improving road safety, the federal government announced on Friday.

According to a joint statement by the federal and South Australian governments, major works have been completed on a new heavy vehicle rest area along Olympic Dam Highway at Pimba and an upgrade of an existing rest area along Stuart Highway at Arcoona.

The project, jointly funded by the two governments, is expected to improve safety for approximately 950 vehicles, including 330 heavy vehicles, that travel past the sites daily.

Both rest areas can accommodate four triple road trains at a time, with separate parking spaces available for smaller vehicles. — Xinhua

Saudi warns holy city of potential danger

SAUDI Arabia's civil defence agency broadcast warnings of "potential danger" for four of its western provinces, including that of Mecca, home to Islam's holiest city, on Friday, without saying why. The alerts, which also covered the major Red Sea city of Jeddah, nearby Taif and the coastal oil hub of Yanbu, were all rescinded minutes later.

Residents were instructed to "proceed to the nearest safe place" by the agency. The agency also repeated a legal warning against sharing images or information related to "countering missiles and drones". — AFP

China's top political advisor accompanies DPRK top leader on visit to border city

Kim viewed the historical artifacts showcasing the bravery of the martyrs.

CHINA'S top political advisor Wang Huning on Saturday accompanied Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on a visit to Dandong in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

Wang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, conveyed General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings and best wishes to Kim.



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, centre left, crosses the new Yalu River bridge as he leaves Dandong, northeast China's Liaoning Province, Saturday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

On Saturday morning, Wang greeted Kim at the square of the Memorial Hall of the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea and accompanied him to present a flower basket to the memorial tower.

The national anthems of China and the DPRK were played, and honor guards laid the flower basket. Kim approached the flower basket and arranged the ribbon, which read, "The martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) are always remembered." In a solemn atmosphere, all present paid silent tribute to the martyrs. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka seeks faster green energy shift after oil shocks

SRI Lanka is determined to accelerate its transition to renewable energy spurred by soaring oil prices, but faces major constraints, its energy minister told AFP.

The island nation, which imports all its oil and gas needs, has been hit hard since the US and Israel launched their war on Iran, which in turn choked off the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz.



Sri Lanka's rooftop solar landscape undergoes a major policy transition. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ADB**

By 2030, the country aims to generate 70 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources, up from around 60 per cent currently, including about 40 per cent from hydropower.

The island has enormous potential for wind power — estimated at 30 gigawatts — but anger is growing on the northwestern Mannar peninsula, where residents blame turbines operating since 2020 for causing floods, driving fish away and threatening migratory birds. Another major obstacle is technical, driven by constraints in transmission lines, grid control, and fluctuations in supply and demand. The success of solar power, particularly the installation of photovoltaic panels on homes and businesses, has created sharp fluctuations in electricity supply that often exceed demand during daylight hours. — AFP