Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. XIII, No. 193, 3rd Waning of Thadingyut 1388 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Thursday, 29 October 2026

President Receives Russia-based Areal Group Delegation

A delegation led by Mr Vladislav V Sviblov, Head of the Russia-based Areal Group of Companies, paid a courtesy call on U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall yesterday morning.

Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe and U Aung Kyaw Hoe, along with other officials, attended the meeting. Mr Iskander K Azizov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, accompanied the Russian delegation.

During the meeting, both sides cordially discussed the growing mutual trust and friendly relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, as well as ways to strengthen cooperation in various sectors, including education, science and technology. They also exchanged views on prospects for cooperation in mineral exploration and mining, which could contribute towards economic development of both countries and the socioeconomic well-being of their peoples. They additionally discussed the importance of balancing mining operations with environmental conservation.

Following the meeting, the President and the Head of the Russia-based Areal Group of Companies exchanged commemorative gifts, according to reports. — MNA/TH



The delegation led by Mr Vladislav V Sviblov, Head of the Russia-based Areal Group of Companies, pays a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing yesterday.

175th Shwegyin Thadingyut Floating Lantern Festival held

THE annual Thadingyut Floating Lantern Festival in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region, commenced its 175th edition on 27 October.

The opening ceremony of the festival was held on the morning of 27 October. The image of Shin Upagutta was enshrined on a Karaweik royal barge and carried along the Shwegyin Creek for public veneration.

"As per the tradition of the Shwegyin Floating Lantern Festival, teams from local wards and villages will participate. The event features rowing races and group dance competitions. In addition, dance troupes performing traditional paddle dances, traditional Kayin Don dances, and Shan ethnic dances will perform in organized groups," said an official from the festival organizing committee.

Furthermore, festival attendees and committee members floated over 100,000 lotus flower-shaped oil lamps along the Shwegyin Creek as an offering, accompanied by fireworks displays.

During the festival days, around 500 vendor stalls have been set up alongside traditional Myanmar theatrical performance shows, music concerts, and children's playgrounds. — TWA/ZN



The 175th Shwegyin Thadingyut Floating Lantern Festival in progress in Shwegyin Township.

RBF+ Drives Sustainable Growth of Myanmar's MSMEs

THE Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar has expressed hope that the introductory event of the Responsible Business Fund Plus (RBF+) will support the sustainable growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Myanmar.

This announcement followed a networking dinner, attended by MSME entrepreneurs involved in the agricultural, livestock, and fisheries value chains, as well as representatives from donor organizations, and partner entities.

SEE PAGE 6



Group photo of attendees at the RBF+ introductory event.



This photo shows US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Mr Doug Sonnek speaking on the occasion of the Myanmar Thadingyut festival.

US Envoy Spotlights People-to-People Bonds Ahead of Diplomatic Milestone

MR DOUG SONNEK, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the US Embassy to Myanmar, said that as the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, he also looks forward to marking the 80th anniversary of US-Myanmar diplomatic relations next year. He added that the two countries honour and celebrate the resilience, connections and shared vision that continue to sustain the bonds between their peoples.

According to a US Embassy statement, Sonnek made the remarks in his Thadingyut greeting message to the people of Myanmar on 25 October.

Beginning his message in Myanmar, Sonnek said, "Mingalaba ... May all the people of Myanmar be happy and peaceful during this Thadingyut season." He expressed deep sympathy for those working to recover and rebuild their communities following severe flooding across the country, as they celebrated the festival with their families. He also noted that the United States continues to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance, including support for drinking water, health and sanitation.

SEE PAGE 6

NATIONAL

Public Notice of Objection

1. Under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the New Democracy Party (Kachin) [NDP (Kachin)], whose headquarters is located at 17, Chanmaw Housing, Ward 3, Panwa, Chipwi Township, Kachin State, and which has been permitted to register as a political party, has submitted an application to the Union Election Commission seeking permission to change its name to the Kachin State New Democracy Party and to use a revised party flag and emblem as shown.
2. Pursuant to Rule 14(d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, any person wishing to object to the proposed name, Kachin State New Democracy Party, or the party flag and emblem to be used by the organization may submit an objection, together with valid supporting evidence, to the Union Election Commission within seven days from the date of this announcement. This notice is hereby issued for public information.

Union Election Commission


Flag.



Emblem.

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "ARNAB" News, No 9, 2026

Issued at 7 pm MST on 28 October 2026

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "ARNAB" Condition

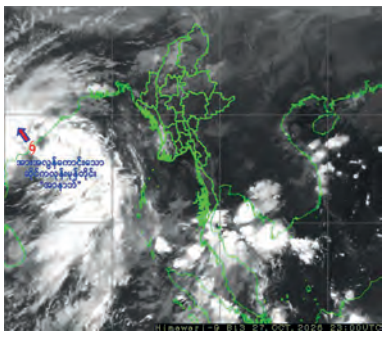
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "ARNAB" over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved west-northwestwards and still persists. It is crossing Andhra Pradesh and the Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam (the India), close to south of Yanam.

Next 24 hours forecast

It is likely to move northwestwards and gradually weaken into cyclonic storm during next 12 hours and into land depression during next 24 hours. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

Due to the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm "ARNAB", near off and along fishing vessels and other ships along the Myanmar coast and in offshore waters are advised to take necessary preparations and avoid. — DMH



Mohnyin Thanbuddhe Buddha Pujaniya Festival set for Tazaungmone Full Moon

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Mohnyin Thanbuddhe Pagoda in Monywa, Sagaing Region, will be held on a grand scale on the full moon of Tazaungmone, according to U Thet Oo, a member of the pagoda board of trustees.


The Mohnyin Thanbuddhe Pagoda.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Mohnyin Thanbuddhe Pagoda is held every year in the waxing of the Tazaungmone. The festival is not accompanied by musical entertainment, but it is celebrated on a grand scale, featuring alms-offering ceremonies, sermons, and offerings of rice.

"Previously, during the Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Mohnyin Thanbuddhe Pagoda, around 150 monks from major cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, Pakokku, and Monywa, as well as from surrounding areas, were invited to receive alms. Last year, 75 monks from Monywa and the surrounding areas were offered alms, and this year, 80 monks are planned to be offered," said U Thet Oo.

For those who plan to sell goods during the pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival, stalls will be allocated on the ninth waxing of Tazaungmone.

The Mohnyin Thanbuddhe Pagoda is located within the Mohnyin Monastery in Myaynae Village, more than seven miles southeast of Monywa Township. Construction of the pagoda began on the fifth waxing of Waso in 1301 ME and was completed on the third waning of Tabaung in 1314 ME. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar theatrical artistes to perform at China festival

TRADITIONAL Myanmar performing arts will be showcased at the 14th Lancang-Mekong River Basin National Cultural Art Festival, scheduled to take place in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China, from 28 October to 6 November.


Traditional Myanmar performing artistes set to participate in the 14th Lancang-Mekong River Basin National Cultural Art Festival.

According to Padamya Kay Khaing, Information officer of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), a Myanmar Thabin (theatrical performance) delegation will participate in the festival, which brings together artists from six Lancang-Mekong countries: China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The delegation comprises U Win Maung of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), puppetry artiste U Myint Thein, and Thabin performers Ye Min Thwe, Tun Naung Naung, Hanthar Moe and Hanthar Phyo, along with actresses Yay Kyi Chan Mya, Soe Soe, Aye Thandar Bo and Thet Mon Htet.

Padamya Kay Khaing said the delegation would present Myanmar's traditional performing arts through cultural exchange programmes during the festival.

The event will also feature the Lancang-Mekong Quality Goods Carnival, showcasing distinctive traditional cultural performances from participating countries, along with regional products and well-known souvenirs. — ASH/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

The Country Must Tap Regular Trade Routes for Exports

As there are numerous individuals employed in CMP businesses, ministries and regional governments need to fulfil their requirements to ensure these operations run smoothly.



President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Union government meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is necessary to analyze past economic difficulties and lessons learned, review them, and work towards finding solutions regarding national economic development, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the President underlined that everyone must strive by combining and utilizing our utmost abilities along with the country's favourable natural conditions and resources in a proper manner to become a government that stands the test of time in the nation's history.

In undertaking agriculture and livestock farming, he noted that if we break away from conventional practices, conduct research, evaluate, adapt, and operate using constantly evolving modern technologies, it will bring greater benefits to national economic development and the improvement of the public's socioeconomic livelihood. Furthermore, in carrying out these tasks, it is necessary to perform genuine work and create opportunities to enable working at full capacity.

The President outlined that those solutions must also be sought and implemented to address the nation's prevailing high commodity prices, the substantial annual imports of fuel and edible oil, and currency instability.

He emphasized that as there are numerous individuals employed in CMP (Cutting, Making, and Packing) businesses, relevant ministries and regional governments need to review and fulfil requirements to ensure these operations run smoothly.

Regarding national economic development, the President underscored that it is necessary to identify and analyze past economic difficulties and lessons learned, review them, and work towards finding solutions.

To increase value-added products from manufacturing based on agriculture and livestock, as well as to boost exports and secure markets for the country's goods, the government, agricultural and livestock producers, and business entrepreneurs must all work together in harmony, the President added.

He emphasized that since a modern, developed nation can only be built with educated human resources, everyone must systematically take action with a focus on long-term interests when considering and shaping the nation's future.

The President outlined that a strong national education system will cultivate a high-quality workforce and skilled human resources, which in turn will enhance productivity, ultimately driving growth in the export sector and the country's GDP.

SEE PAGE 5

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets USDP observers from East Hlinethaya

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi met with observers from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) in Hlinethaya Township (East) at the meeting hall on the second floor of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building (C) yesterday afternoon. The observers visited the Hluttaw to observe the 21st day of the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with observers from the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

During the meeting, U Khin Yi explained in detail the establishment of the legislative, executive and judicial branches following elections under a democratic system, as well as how these branches operate through coordination and checks and balances. He outlined the three main responsibilities of the Hluttaws: legislating, coordinating and representing the public, and highlighted key legislative achievements since the beginning of the Third Hluttaw term. These included the enactment of the new Anti-Online Scam Law and amendments to the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region and State Hluttaw Election Laws.

He also explained how voters can communicate local difficulties and needs through their respective representatives. Emphasizing that the legislative branch comprises public representatives who address the needs of the people, he urged the observers to share the practical knowledge gained during their visit with residents in their local areas. Following the briefing, the attendees raised questions, which the Speaker answered in detail. Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, Pyithu Hluttaw MP from Hlinethaya (East) Constituency U Aye Chan, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA/TH

Delegation led by Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair on Myanmar pays humanitarian visit to Myanmar

A delegation led by Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro, Special Envoy of the 2026 ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, is undertaking a humanitarian mission to Myanmar from 28 to 30 October 2026.



ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro being welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Upon the arrival of the delegation at the Yangon International Airport on the morning of 28 October 2026, the delegation was welcomed by the director-general of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials at the Yangon International Airport.

On the same day, the Special Envoy and the delegation, together with the ASEAN Monitoring Team (AMT), including representatives from the AHA Centre and diplomats from the Embassies of the ASEAN Member States in Yangon, observed the distribution of humanitarian assistance provided through the AHA Centre with the assistance of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, including rice, family kits and personal hygiene kits, to those in need at the Saint Faustina Novitiate Church in Phayaphyu Ward and Nyomee Bayagon Village in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State. Later on the evening of that day, the delegation led by the Special Envoy departed Taunggyi for Nay Pyi Taw. Upon their arrival at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses infrastructure, healthcare, and cultural heritage preservation on 21st Day

THE 21st day of the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw convened yesterday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and Members of Parliament. During the sitting, representatives raised 15 starred questions regarding regional infrastructure, transportation, public health, and irrigation, debated a motion on cultural heritage protection, and received a bill committee report.

In response to infrastructure and transport queries, Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint outlined phased budget allocations for upgrading roads across Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Kachin State, and Shan State, including a five-year plan for the Htamanthi-Leshi-Pansat-Somra corridor and gradual improvements to the Kengtung-Hsaihkaw earthen route. He noted, however, that an immediate bypass project for Pindaya remains unviable pending feasibility and land compensation assessments.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing clarified that direct rail links between Mawlamyine and Nay Pyi Taw will not resume due to low ridership, pointing to existing connections via Bago, and reiterated that vehicles lapsed in registration for over five years cannot be re-registered under current statute, except under specific security-related exemptions.



The Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session convenes its 21st-day meeting, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Addressing healthcare and agriculture, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Tin Tun confirmed the installation of a 25-KVA backup generator at Monyo Township Hospital, scheduled FY 2027–2028 repair funds for staff housing at Dauntgyi Station Hospital, and stated that Waw Township Hospital's 25-bed ceiling precludes sanctioned posts for medical specialists.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw reported on state budget submissions to rebuild a diversion weir in Mongyawng, restore flood-damaged canal banks in Mongkhat, and continue ongoing desilting and concrete lining operations across the Mobye Dam irrigation network in Loikaw.

The Hluttaw then debated a motion submitted by Hluttaw representative Dr Shwe Pyi Soe calling for dedicated legislation and national policies to protect national literature, language, and cultural heritage. Representatives U Win Myint Maung and U Sai Kyaw Hla backed the call for strong legal safeguards to curb digital language degradation and foreign cultural drift, while representative Dr Hla Tint advocated prioritizing funding and reviews of existing statutes over drafting new laws. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maung Thein explained that active frameworks already cover cultural preservation, recommending the proposal be held on record. The Hluttaw subsequently resolved to record and monitor the motion.

Before adjournment, the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee submitted its findings on the Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Protection Bill as amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw, with the Speaker inviting amendment registrations ahead of the 22nd day session scheduled for 2 November. — News Team/ST

MoEE Union Minister Showcases Myanmar's Energy Promise at Belarus Forum

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, accompanied by the Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus, attended the dialogue held under the 30th Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday.



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin participates in the 30th Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum in Minsk, Belarus.

Speaking on "Formula of Energy Independence: Economy, Integration, Development," the Union minister said energy independence, from Myanmar's perspective, involves maximizing domestic energy production, maintaining reliable energy trade with friendly countries, reducing vulnerability to external disruptions and ensuring a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supply.

He highlighted the importance of cooperation with ASEAN member states in strengthening regional electricity grid connectivity, enhancing oil and natural gas security, and developing renewable energy. He also noted Myanmar's potential in natural gas, hydropower, solar power and other energy resources, stressing the need for investment, advanced technology, infrastructure and technical expertise to develop them.

He continued that Myanmar-Belarus cooperation could support energy security through practical collaboration in electricity infrastructure, equipment maintenance, energy efficiency and capacity-building for technical professionals. He also expressed hope for exchanging experiences with participating countries and identifying mutually beneficial cooperation opportunities.

Energy ministers and deputy ministers from Eastern Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East attended the forum. During the visit, the Union minister also held separate meetings with Iran's Energy Minister, Iraq's Deputy Minister of Energy, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry of Tatarstan to discuss cooperation in the electric power and energy sectors. — MNA/KTZH

Aunglan's preventive measures against El Niño-related drinking water shortages inspected

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development in Aunglan Township, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Aunglan District, Magway Region, conducted field inspections on 27 October to assess the operational status of existing water sources and measures taken to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water and prevent shortages caused by El Niño. SEE PAGE 5



Officials oversee the precautionary measures to prevent drinking water shortages in Aunglan Township.

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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

NATIONAL

The Country Must Tap Regular Trade Routes ...

FROM PAGE 3

The President urged that although animal feed required for livestock farming can be produced using agricultural produce and by-products, development in the livestock sector remains sluggish, highlighting the need for concerted efforts to drive progress.

Regarding export and import operations, he highlighted that illegal trade is occurring in border trade across certain border areas; therefore, strict supervisory measures are being implemented to prevent trade through illegal channels.

The President clearly stated that border trade cannot be relied upon entirely; illegal trade deprives the state of its rightful tax revenues and can lead citizens to consume substandard, uncertified goods.

He added that just as it is necessary to explore new markets to export domestic products through regular trade channels, border trade must also be conducted strictly through official routes.

Furthermore, he pointed out that there is a need to nurture and promote patriotic spirit and love for the country among the youth, who will shape and build the nation's future.

Union ministers presented information about their relevant sectors.

The President continued his speech, saying that education is interconnected with an individual's health, social well-being, and economic standing; it holds the transformative power to shape not only an individual's life, but also the future of a family, a community, and an entire nation. To build a developed nation in the future and reduce the gap in living standards, education must be prioritized, reformed, and strengthened.

He stressed that with the winter season arriving soon, sports competitions should be systematically organized and carried out through widespread activities across regions and states, ministries, schools, and rural areas.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief together with regional and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

MIC approves 16 new projects creating over 2,100 jobs

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved 16 new investment projects expected to create 2,130 jobs at its 6/2026 meeting, held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of Office 5 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by MIC Chairman and Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo and commission members.



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo chairs the sixth meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

The commission approved two new foreign investment projects in the industrial sector, eight new Myanmar citizen investment projects in the industrial sector, and six new Myanmar citizen investment projects in the electricity, agriculture, housing and construction development, livestock and fisheries, and mining sectors. It also considered capital increases for existing investment projects.

The approved projects involve investments of US$20.829 million and K564,391.39 million and are expected to generate 2,130 employment opportunities.

The projects cover the assembly, manufacturing, distribution and sale of electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and motor vehicles under the semi-knocked-down (SKD) system; the production and distribution of construction materials; large-scale gold mining; modern beef cattle farming and breeding; dairy cattle farming; the production and distribution of condensed milk, fresh milk and other dairy products; milk processing; animal feed production; and the manufacture and distribution of organic and chemical fertilizers.

Other approved activities include greenhouse farming; storage and sale of agricultural and livestock products; construction, leasing and management of office buildings; construction and operation of solar power plants; soap manufacturing and distribution; seed cultivation, processing and sales, along with seed research; soy milk production and distribution; and the recycling and processing of used lead-acid batteries and related materials.

As of the end of September 2026, the electricity sector accounted for the largest share of investment among Myanmar's 12 economic sectors, at 28.05 per cent of total investment, followed by oil and gas at 20.40 per cent and transport and communications at 15.38 per cent.

MIC continues to assess and approve investment proposals submitted by domestic and foreign investors and provide investment-related services to existing investors in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KZL

Aunglan's preventive measures against El Niño-related drinking water shortages inspected

FROM PAGE 4

Daw Htar Htar Yi, Township Head of the Department of Rural Development in Aunglan Township, and departmental staff visited Kanhnyinsink Village and Taungbwe Village to examine water storage conditions in reservoirs and the operation of department-developed water sources.

The inspections aimed to ensure residents would have sufficient drinking water in the event of El Niño-related water shortages.

Following the inspections, the township officer met village officials and discussed the importance of properly maintaining and efficiently using water storage ponds and existing water sources to help local communities prepare for potential water scarcity.

The township head also coordinated necessary measures in response to issues raised by local communities, according to the Department of Rural Development in Aunglan Township. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

Falam's ongoing rehabilitation, departmental offices inspected



Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing and officials are pictured during their inspection tour of recovery efforts in Falam Township.

DEPUTY Minister for Construction Dr Thaung Naing, who is in Chin State to carry out reconstruction works, inspected the completion of the renovation works in Chin State, along with Chin State Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Road Transport U Nay Lin Aung and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee. Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing inspected the completion of the renovation of the Falam police station, the completion of the renovation and operation of the district/township police headquarters, township general administration department office, agriculture department office, the planning department, district and township project management office, as well as the completion of the renovation and operation of the Myanmar Economic Bank in Chin State yesterday morning.

The deputy minister and his team then visited the Falam Primary Preschool of the Social Welfare Department provided food to the children, and watched the reciting of poems.

The deputy minister also visited the newly installed Mobile Digital X-ray for the Falam Temporary General Hospital and inspected the X-ray examination of patients.

Similarly, yesterday evening, Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing along with Chin State Minister U Nay Lin Aung for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Road Transport and his team inspected the completion of the renovation of the Myanmar Telecommunications Corporation, Auto Exchange/Microwave Station and the distribution of water to the city through the 100,000 gallon main water supply reservoir at the Telecommunications hill and the 25,000 gallon and 11,000 gallon city water distribution reservoirs near Hluh Hmone Housing, No. 8 ward of Falam are being supplied with drinking water through four 100,000 gallon main water reservoirs and 39 city distribution reservoirs. — District IPRD/MKKS

NATIONAL

AA, PLF, PDF Members Return to Civilian Life

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

Yesterday, 15 AA members, one PLF member and 12 PDFs, totalling 28 individuals, entered the legal fold with arms and ammunition.



A handover and awards ceremony for returnees underway in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.

The returnees from different townships of Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, Bago Region and Magway Region were handed over to their parents and guardians at a ceremony held at the North-West Command Headquarters.

The returnees handed over 10 rifles, 11 magazines and 191 rounds of assorted ammunition. Officials provided K50 million for the 10 rifles and K8.4 million in assistance for the 28 returnees, totalling K58.4 million, along with other support items.

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

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

RBF+ Drives Sustainable Growth of Myanmar's MSMEs

FROM PAGE 1

The embassy expressed its delight in participating in the event and voiced hope that the relationships established through this gathering will evolve into long-term sustainable partnerships and new opportunities.

The statement highlighted that meaningful business connections were forged through sharing entrepreneurs' experiences and successes, discussing lessons learned, and exploring future collaboration opportunities.

Additionally, products from businesses that completed their projects with support from RBF+ and RBF Myanmar were displayed for attendees to observe.

The ceremony was attended by heads of embassies and representatives from donor countries supporting RBF+, including the European Union, Switzerland, and Denmark. MSME entrepreneurs from Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady Regions and Nay Pyi Taw, who had previously received RBF+ support, application service providers, and relevant development partners. — Htun Htun/ZN

Pindaya disburses MSY revolving funds

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Development Project in Thayetpya Village, Pindaya Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), yesterday, aiming to create employment opportunities, boost household incomes and support agriculture, livestock, trading and production activities.



A village representative receives an MSY fund in Pindaya Township in southern Shan State.

Pindaya Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw explained the objectives of the revolving fund project, which enables rural communities to generate sustainable household income and execute local development activities using accumulated project funds. Project staff subsequently detailed loan terms, interest rates, repayment schedules and operating rules before handing over K62.8 million in revolving funds to the Thayetpya Village MSY Project Working Group.

Under the supervision of the Pindaya Township Department of Rural Development, working group members disbursed the funds at low interest rates to 112 project participants, including 82 farmers, 10 livestock breeders, nine traders and 11 small-scale producers. The revolving fund disbursement aims to strengthen micro-enterprises and improve the socioeconomic livelihoods of local communities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Shwe Kokko Phase II scam compounds flattened



Map shows the crackdown location in Shwe Kokko Phase II.

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 six-storey building is 20 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building is 90 per cent complete.

Of the 63 structures targeted for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, the authorities have determined the demolition methods according to building type and surrounding conditions. Of these, 25 buildings are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four through controlled implosion and 34 by manual, floor-by-floor dismantling because of their proximity to residential properties. So far, all four buildings are designated for controlled implosion and three buildings designated for mechanical demolition have been completely demolished. Work on the remaining 56 buildings will continue.

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

US Envoy Spotlights People-to-People Bonds Ahead of Diplomatic Milestone

FROM PAGE 1

He further stated that the strong and enduring ties between the peoples of the two countries remain at the heart of bilateral relations, from the American Centre in Yangon to the reopened Jefferson Centre in Mandalay. On behalf of the US Embassy, he extended warm wishes to the people of Myanmar and their loved ones for a joyful, peaceful and pleasant Thadingyut festival.

The US Embassy and its consular services were closed on Monday, 26 October, in observance of the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut and resumed normal operations on Tuesday, 27 October. — Htun Htun/TH

NATIONAL

TOP MYANMAR BRANDS 2026 to Unveil Full Product Spectrum in Dec

TOP MYANMAR BRANDS 2026, which will showcase a full range of products and services, will be held on 4-6 December from 9 am to 5 pm at the Yangon Convention Centre.

The event will bring together many of Myanmar's top brands and high-quality products, providing a platform where brands, manufacturers and businesspeople from various economic sectors can exhibit fully.

The event will feature these product categories: Delicious Food and Beverages; Myanmar Coffee and Tea; Beauty and Wellness Products; Fashion and Lifestyle; Gems and Jewellery; Myanmar Travel and Tours; Education and Training Services; Traditional Handicrafts and Souvenirs; Household and Consumer Products; and Innovative Myanmar Products. The event offers a good opportunity to connect with new customers and new business partners. Therefore, brands can reserve booths in advance to raise brand awareness, boost sales and pursue market expansion through 09 80521428, 09 254277355, 09 790614713, 09 450045003, 09 777773929, 09 777737923. – NN/KK

YCDC Opens Prime Bahan Property for Lease

THE Yangon City Development Committee is inviting tenders from domestic companies registered with the Yangon Region government's tender scrutiny and supervision committee to lease the land and buildings at 75, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, according to the committee's tender committee.

Tender forms and regulations will be sold by 10 November at the Engineering Department (Buildings), 399, Merchant Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon City Development Committee. The final submission deadline is 13 November, and the tender opening date will be announced in advance.

Those wishing to inspect the site can contact the Engineering Department (Buildings) at 09 880015811 and visit during office hours. Interested individuals can enquire for further details through the Engineering Department (Buildings) or dial 09 880015811 during office hours. — NN/KK

Ayeyawady Leads Nation in Pawsan Cultivation

MORE than 1.3 million acres of Pawsan rice, the World's Best Rice, has been planted as monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Region, according to the Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department.



A local thriving paddy field in Ayeyawady Region.

Pawsan rice is planted as monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Region with 1.3 million acres, whereas 347,226 acres in Sagaing Region, 27,144 acres in Yangon Region and 20,669 acres in Bago Region.

In Ayeyawady Region, six varieties of Pawsan rice, including Pawsan Hmway, Pawsan Baykya, Baykya Taungpyan and Pawsan Yin, and Letpan Pawsan and Thawkya Pawsan, are grown across 20 townships in eight districts. In Sagaing Region, Shwebo Pawsan and Yezin Pawsan-1 are cultivated across seven districts. Yangon Region grows Pawsan Hmway, Pawsan Yin, Shwenantha Pawsan, Yezin-1 and Yezin-2 in 15 townships across eight districts, while Bago Region cultivates Yezin Pawsan-1 and Yezin Pawsan-2.

"As Ayeyawady Region boasts a wide range of local Pawsan varieties, the department has established separate seed production plots to maintain rice quality. The department also supports farmers in improving yields, while millers and processors need to prevent the mixing of different varieties to ensure quality. As Myanmar's rice bowl, Ayeyawady Region will continue to preserve the quality and yield of Pawsan rice while expanding cultivation," said U Thein Aung Than, deputy director of the department.

Pawsan rice fields planted during the early monsoon season are turning golden across several regions and states, with harvesting already underway in some areas. Regional agriculture departments estimate yields of 65 to 75 baskets per acre for Pawsan Yin in Ayeyawady Region, 81.58 baskets for Shwebo Pawsan and 113.10 baskets for Yezin Pawsan in Sagaing Region, and 72.25 baskets for Pawsan rice in Yangon Region. In Bago Region, Yezin Pawsan-1 is expected to yield 89.27 baskets per acre, while Yezin Pawsan-2 is projected to produce 90.42 baskets.

"As Bago Region cultivates only two Pawsan varieties, we plan to preserve their seed quality through System of Rice Intensification (SRI) after the monsoon harvest, producing seeds for cultivation in the coming summer and monsoon seasons. We also plan to expand the cultivated areas," said U Than Aung San, deputy director of the Bago Region Agriculture Department.

Pawsan rice is grown with plans to continue planting summer paddy after completing the monsoon rice harvest, based on the designated cultivation areas. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 28 October 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,649~3671	558.7	125.3~125.7	43.6
Trading amount in the market	6,835, 017.42	-	10, 414,022.91	-

UMFCCI Tech Committee calls for monthly talks, wider seminar outreach

THE Technology and Innovation Development Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) discussed holding monthly discussions and roundtables and ensuring seminars reach the public during a hybrid meeting held on 12 October.

Committee Chairman U Thaung Tin and members reviewed and discussed the recent meeting deliberations and decisions. They discussed holding committee meetings every two months, organizing technology-related discussions and roundtables monthly, and ensuring seminars reach targeted audiences. They also discussed matters related to Enterprise Solutions and plans for a panel discussion on applying innovation technology in personal life.

Committee member Daw Nan Kalaya Win suggested that recordings of the committee's technology talks and lectures be shared so members who could not attend can watch them later.

Chairman U Thaung Tin said hands-on training will continue regularly and asked committee members to discuss and offer suggestions on the monthly technology talks to help apply AI literacy in the workplace, according to UMFCCI. — NN/KK



A facade view of the UMFCCI office in Yangon.

OPINION

Nurturing schoolchildren with moral and cultural values

Courtesy and good manners play an important role in determining the standing of both individuals and communities in society. Therefore, to foster the development of well-mannered and cultured human resources within Myanmar society, teachers at basic education schools teach students and young people the principles of moral conduct, ethics and civic responsibility from an early age.

To become a good and capable person, it is important to respect and follow the teachings of one's religion and to genuinely observe moral principles. Only then can one develop a kind and noble heart, become more empathetic and compassionate towards others, and cultivate honesty and integrity. Good character is also essential to becoming a good and capable person. Teachers at basic education schools introduce the values of moral principles to schoolchildren and guide them through practical exercises and lessons so that they can understand and follow them.

> Therefore, to promote patriotism among students, beginning with kindergarten children, foster their understanding of moral principles, and develop well-mannered and cultured human resources more sustainably and effectively, the government has established the National Early Childhood Care and Development Committee, which aims to nurture KG children by formulating short- and long-term plans and continuously implementing these plans.

To help young children become familiar with Myanmar's culture from an early age, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF Myanmar are working together to distribute storybooks to children attending school-based preschools and teach them to understand the benefits of good manners and proper conduct. Only when children learn about the distinctive, remarkable and cherished aspects of Myanmar's culture from an early age will they grow up to become guardians and preservers of that culture in the future.

For school-age children and young people who are out of school for various reasons, Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) and Non-Formal Middle School Education programmes are being implemented. To foster patriotism, promote understanding of moral principles, and develop well-mannered and cultured human resources among students enrolled in the NFPE programme, these values are taught through illustrated cards at the first and second levels of the NFPE curriculum.

Therefore, to promote patriotism among students, beginning with kindergarten children, foster their understanding of moral principles, and develop well-mannered and cultured human resources more sustainably and effectively, the government has established the National Early Childhood Care and Development Committee, which aims to nurture KG children by formulating short- and long-term plans and continuously implementing these plans.

Only when people possess good moral character will they develop awareness that committing wrongdoing is shameful and something to be feared. This will help them become valuable and exemplary citizens who contribute to their own well-being and Myanmar society, as well as outstanding, capable and loyal leaders of the nation. In this way, Myanmar society and the nation will achieve development and progress, while good moral values will continue to flourish for generations to come.

ARTICLE

Every Minute Matters: Recognizing, Preventing and Responding to Stroke

In commemoration of World Stroke Day - 29 October 2026

By Dr Aung Tun

A sudden emergency that demands action

A person talking normally at breakfast may suddenly struggle to speak, drop a cup or find that one side of the body will not move. Family members may hope that rest will help. Yet these changes can signal a stroke, and waiting can cost precious opportunities for treatment. Stroke is a medical emergency. Recognizing the signs and seeking help immediately can save lives and reduce disability.

World Stroke Day, observed on 29 October, provides an opportunity to bring this message into every home. The World Stroke Organization's 2026 campaign, "Every M1nute Counts", urges people to recognize symptoms and act FAST. For Myanmar, awareness should connect emergency action with everyday prevention and compassionate support for survivors.

Understanding what happens in the brain

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel supplying the brain becomes blocked or ruptures. An ischaemic stroke results from interrupted blood flow, usually because of a clot. A haemorrhagic stroke involves bleeding in or around the brain. Both require urgent medical assessment, but their treatments differ. Symptoms alone cannot reliably distinguish them; brain imaging is essential.

A transient ischaemic attack, or TIA, causes temporary stroke-like symptoms that resolve. Disappearance of symptoms does not mean that the danger has passed. A TIA can warn of a subsequent stroke and requires emergency assessment. Neither a mild episode nor a rapid recovery should encourage a family to postpone care until the following day.

A global challenge with lessons for Myanmar

WHO reports that there were approximately 11.9 million new strokes worldwide in 2021. These are estimates for that year, rather than a count for 2026. Behind the figures are people who lose mobility, communication skills, employment or independence, and families who take on prolonged caregiving responsibilities.

Myanmar's STEPS Survey 2024 helps explain the prevention challenge. Among adults aged



18-69,

24.4 per cent had raised blood pressure or were taking medication for it, and 7.9 per cent had raised fasting blood glucose or were receiving diabetes medication. These are risk-factor findings, not measurements of stroke incidence. They support a practical priority: identify and manage vascular risk before an emergency occurs.

Recognizing warning signs with BE FAST

Stroke symptoms usually begin suddenly. The reminder BE-FAST broadens the familiar FAST message to include problems with balance and vision:

B — Balance: sudden loss of balance, coordination or ability to walk.

E — Eyes: sudden loss of vision, blurred vision or double vision.

F — Face: one side of the face droops, especially when smiling.

A — Arms: an arm becomes weak or numb, or drifts downward when both are raised.

S — Speech: speech becomes slurred, unusual or difficult to understand; the person may struggle to find words.

T — Time: seek emergency medical help immediately.

Other warnings include sudden one-sided leg weakness or a severe unexplained headache. Not every stroke produces every sign. One sudden warning can be enough to act. A painless stroke is still an emergency, and a person who remains conscious may nevertheless have serious brain injury.

What families should do immediately

Contact the locally available ambulance or emergency medical service and explain that a stroke is suspected. Where an ambulance cannot be accessed promptly, arrange the fastest safe assisted transport to an emergency hospital, preferably one able to assess stroke and perform brain imaging. The affected person should not drive.

Record when symptoms began and when the person was last known to be normal. This is especially important if symptoms are discovered on waking. Bring a medication list if readily available, but do not delay departure to collect paperwork.

Do not offer food, drinks or tablets until swallowing safety has been assessed. Do not give aspirin on your own: it can worsen a bleeding stroke. Avoid massage or home remedies that delay assessment. Stay with the person and follow emergency instructions. If symptoms disappear during the journey, continue to seek urgent evaluation.

Emergency preparedness is particularly useful for people who live alone. Relatives and neighbours can agree on whom to contact and how to arrange assistance. A simple written list of medicines and emergency contacts can help, provided finding it does not delay transport.

Knowing who is at risk

High blood pressure is a major preventable contributor to stroke. It can damage blood vessels for years without causing noticeable symptoms. Diabetes, high cholesterol, tobacco use, physical inactivity, excess body weight and harmful alcohol use also contribute to risk. Exposure to second-hand smoke and air pollution matters as well.

Atrial fibrillation, an irregular heart rhythm, can allow clots to form in the heart and travel to the brain. Appropriate medical assessment and, when indicated, anticoagulant treatment can reduce this risk. Aspirin is not a substitute for prescribed anticoagulation.

Risk increases with age and previous stroke, but younger adults can also be affected. Prevention should therefore be discussed across adulthood, rather than reserved for older people.

Turning prevention into daily habits

Knowing blood pressure is a useful starting point. Repeated, correctly taken measurements and professional assessment help establish whether treatment is needed. People already prescribed medicines should take them consistently and attend follow-up, even when they feel well. Diabetes and cholesterol care should form part of the same prevention plan.

Choose more vegetables, fruit, pulses and whole grains, while reducing salty foods, excessive sauces and highly processed snacks. Avoid tobacco and keep

SEE PAGE 11

Birth and Death Registration Statistics for Ensuring Individual Rights and Services

By Than Zaw (Homalin)

Birth and death registration are fundamental components of a country's vital statistics system because they record births and causes of death. Birth registration provides legal proof of identity, which helps individuals access their rights and essential services. Likewise, death registration records the cause of death and supplies important information for public health and policy planning. Together, these records provide valuable demographic data that support national development policies and future planning. According to the World Bank, around one billion people worldwide do not have legal documentation, and most of them were never registered at birth. In addition, nearly two-thirds of all deaths globally are not officially registered.

Birth and death statistics form an important part of demography. Just as population data is collected through censuses, the registration of births and deaths is another key method of gathering demographic information.

Legal Identity

A birth certificate is a child's first legal right and serves as the most basic proof of identity. Without it, children may face difficulties in accessing essential services such as education, healthcare, and social protection. In addition, the absence of a birth certificate can limit their ability to exercise important rights, including voting, inheriting property, and travelling or entering other countries.

A death certificate is also important for heirs, as it is required to settle property matters, claim life insurance, and legally remarry. In addition, information on the cause of death provides essential support for health policymakers. Understanding the main causes of death helps identify common diseases, including infectious conditions, and enables timely and effective responses.

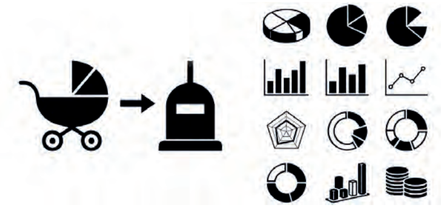
Reliable birth and death statistics are essential for effective governance. They provide important information about population growth and distribution, which helps determine where schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure should be built. In addition, they support better resource allocation, including social protection programmes and government budget planning.

High-Quality Birth and Death Statistics

High-quality birth and death statistics are essential for forecasting future population growth and for developing and implementing effective social, economic, and health policies and strategies. When these statistics are accurate and reliable, they help clearly identify population change patterns, allowing policymakers to design and implement better responses based on actual population needs and to allocate resources more efficiently. However, incomplete or delayed registration can reduce the quality of birth and death data, which ultimately affects the accuracy of population statistics.

In the field of birth and death statistics, complete and reliable data are crucial for understanding future trends of populations. Therefore, continuous efforts are needed to produce accurate and high-quality statistics, supported by modern technology. Since population censuses are conducted only once every ten years, high-quality birth and death registration data can help estimate future demographic changes more accurately and provide timely insights into population trends.

Modern technological advancements have made data collection faster, more accurate, and timely. They have also improved data management, enhanced data storage, and strengthened the quality of statistical reporting. As a result, the development of technology plays an important role in improving the quality of a country's vital statistics.



Mobile Birth and Death Registration (MBDR)

To make the registration of birth and death data in Myanmar's civil registration system faster and more efficient through an e-platform, the Mobile Birth and Death Registration (MBDR) system was introduced. Using mobile tablets, this system began collecting birth and death information in Mon State in 2019. Mobile registration not only provides real-time data but also reduces paperwork and minimizes the difficulties of long-term document storage and management.

Verbal Autopsy (VA) is a method used to determine the probable cause of death (CoD) in cases that occur outside hospitals or clinics. Trained health workers interview family members or caregivers of the deceased to collect information about the symptoms and circumstances before death. This method was implemented in Myanmar from 2016 to 2021 to identify the main causes of death in out-of-hospital cases across 42 townships. The collected data were recorded using tablets and the Open Data Kit (ODK) application, and then analyzed using the Tariff Method in the Smart VA Desktop Application. The cause of death was determined through an automated diagnostic system. Overall, the use of technology in Verbal Autopsy has improved the quality and accuracy of mortality statistics, especially for deaths occurring outside health facilities.

Meeting Human Resource Needs

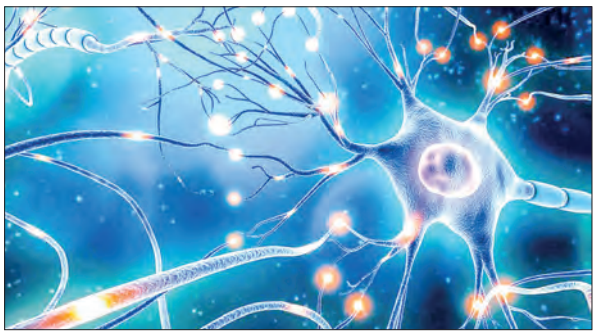
The effective use and management of technology require skilled human resources. Therefore, investing in people is just as important as investing in technology itself. Well-trained and competent staff help ensure the long-term sustainability of systems and the achievement of organizational goals.

SCI/TECH WORLD

Chinese team reveals how brain neurons support flexible decision-making

Higher cognitive functions such as flexible decision-making require the integration of massive contextual information and abstract rules, as well as dynamic adjustment of output.

A Chinese research team has revealed how brain neurons support flexible decision-making. According to a study recently published in Science, rule-related information and sensory information are compared within the same neuron, which itself takes part in cognitive computation.



The image shows a 3D rendering and illustration of a neuron (nerve cell) and a neuronal network with glowing electrical impulses traveling along its axons and dendrites. **PHOTO: LIVE SCIENCE**

Traditional theory holds that neurons are the basic structural and functional units of the nervous system. For a long time, most studies treated each neuron as a simple point-like unit that performs summation.

However, researches in brain science and artificial neural networks have found that higher cognitive functions such as flexible decision-making require the integration of massive contextual information and abstract rules, as well as dynamic adjustment of output. Such complexity is difficult to explain with the simple structure of point-like neurons. Xu Ninglong, a researcher at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his team designed a series of experiments in which mice heard different sounds and had to infer hidden rules. Once the mice had learned the current rules, the team changed the rules to see how quickly the mice adapted to the new logic. The team used two-photon microscopy to observe neurons in the mice's auditory cortex.

A neuron is like a tree with many branches. The cell body is the main part of the neuron, while dendrites are branch-like extensions. The distant branches are called apical dendrites. — Xinhua

Most firms struggle adopting artificial intelligence

NEARLY 60 per cent of organizations surveyed remain in the exploration or pilot stages of artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, with only around 40 per cent having moved to production or scaling, highlighting the challenge businesses face in deploying AI across their operations, according to a report by Citi Institute.

The report said the next phase of AI adoption would depend on companies moving beyond trials to wider implementation, where the technology can deliver measurable business value.

The survey found a clear regional gap in adoption. North America is ahead, with 77 per cent of surveyed organisations already using AI in production or scaling it across their businesses. In contrast, Asia Pacific remains more focused on exploring applications, running pilot programmes and building capabilities, while Europe occupies an intermediate position.

"Nearly 60 per cent of organizations surveyed by Citi remain in the exploration or pilot phase," the report said, identifying enterprise-wide deployment as the main challenge facing businesses. — ANI

Cyberattack-hit GMO says website with purported customer info taken down

CYBERATTACK-HIT Japanese internet service provider GMO Internet Group Inc said Wednesday that a website where a hacker posted what it claimed was customer information has become inaccessible.

"We have confirmed that the offender's website domain has been taken down," GMO said, after the hacker believed to be behind a recently confirmed unauthorized access to GMO's foreign exchange trading service disclosed some customer information on Tuesday as the company failed to respond to a ransom demand.

If the launch of another such website is confirmed, GMO will immediately take steps to make it inaccessible, it added. The customer whose information is believed to have been posted on the website is under the protection of the Metropolitan Police Department due to safety concerns, an investigative source revealed Wednesday.

The person told investigators that the personal information posted on the website is "partially correct and partially wrong", according to the source. The police have also asked GMO to assess the extent of the damage as they investigate the incident as a suspected violation of the law prohibiting unauthorized computer access.

The unauthorized access targeted the Onamae.com Desktop Cloud service. An investigation following a customer inquiry confirmed on 20 October that an unauthorized program had been installed by a third party in the server environments of some customers.

GMO said late Monday that the hacker threatened to disclose customer information and to conduct a ransomware attack at noon Tuesday. A statement from the hacker and information linked to what it claims to be one GMO customer were posted online on Tuesday. — Kyodo



If the launch of another such website is confirmed, GMO will immediately take steps to make it inaccessible. **PHOTO: Kyodo**

Anthropic's record IPO faces some big questions

IN just five years, Anthropic has grown into a $1 trillion AI giant and is now preparing for a record-breaking stock market debut, though it faces severe threats from tightening competition, collapsing prices, and soaring infrastructure bills.



Anthropic has locked in massive financial commitments. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Unlike tech giants such as Google, Meta, or Microsoft, Anthropic relies almost entirely on its AI tools for revenue and lacks a diversified advertising or cloud empire to fall back on if business slows.

The rapid rise of cheap and open-source AI models—trailing closed systems by only about four months—is narrowing differentiation and threatening the dominance of proprietary models like Claude and ChatGPT.

Driven by market competition, the cost of processing text with AI has collapsed by 97 per cent since late 2024, forcing companies across the industry to dramatically slash their prices.

Despite falling prices, total spending on AI continues to grow rapidly as overall usage surges, with Anthropic still capturing the lion's share of developer platform spending.

To maintain its competitive edge, Anthropic has locked in massive financial commitments — agreeing since late 2025 to pay at least $417 billion for chips and servers regardless of market conditions.

The International Monetary Fund has warned of a potential "triple whammy" if AI profitability falls short: tumbling stock prices, burdensome debts, and unrealized projected revenues.

With its historic initial public offering acting as an unprecedented test of investor appetite, Anthropic is rushing to raise capital on Wall Street before rivals like OpenAI eye their own market debuts. — AFP

Australia's ABC tells far-right party to stop using 'Bluey' character

AUSTRALIA'S national broadcaster ABC called on the far-right One Nation party on Wednesday to stop using children's TV character "Bluey" in its political cartoons.

"Bluey" is the popular star of an Australian cartoon series featuring canines navigating childhood and parenting in the suburbs.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation party has come under fire for a 2024 political cartoon depicting "Bluey" driving a car over an Australian politician.

That cartoon in particular has come into the spotlight since a man allegedly drove deliberately into Australian independent lawmaker Helen Haines on October 19.

Surgeons had to amputate both of her legs and she remains in hospital.

The ABC said it did not own the intellectual property for "Bluey", which it shows under licence, but was concerned by its unauthorised use for One Nation.

"The ABC is considering available options," a spokesperson for the broadcaster said in a statement provided to AFP.

"In the meantime, the ABC considers the relevant cartoons should be immediately removed from One Nation's platforms and no further use should occur." — AFP

Over 1,000 still in shelters 3 months after M7.1 quake hit Kumamoto

Evacuation centres remain open at 21 locations in seven cities and towns.

MORE than 1,000 people are still sheltering in evacuation centres, awaiting temporary housing three months after a magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck Kumamoto Prefecture, damaging their homes.

The quake occurred at around 4:27 pm. on 28 July. As of Monday, the official death toll stood at 38 -- 36 from confirmed disaster-related causes and two suspected to be disaster-related.

The figure could rise if more deaths are recognized as disaster-related. According to a Kyodo News survey of municipalities conducted last week, 45 applications for such recognition have been filed by bereaved families.



The image shows cardboard partition beds set up inside an evacuation shelter in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, following the magnitude-7.1 earthquake that struck the region. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Evacuation centers remain open at 21 locations in seven cities and towns. In Yatsushiro, 579 people, accounting for more than half of the evacuees, remain in shelters, followed by 263 in Uki, 155 in Hikawa and 65 in Uto.

The number of damaged homes stands at 82,223, including 2,585 that were completely destroyed.

Around 1,200 temporary housing units were in use as of Friday, but many people remain on waiting lists for such housing.

Yuka Miyazawa, 54, who is living in an evacuation centre in Yatsushiro, had her apartment partially destroyed. — Kyodo

Every Minute Matters: Recognizing, ...

FROM PAGE 9

homes free of tobacco smoke. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity weekly, adjusted to health and ability. Walking regularly can be a realistic starting point.

Small household changes can make healthy choices easier. Families can gradually use less salt in cooking, plan shared walks and help older relatives obtain prescribed medicines. Workplaces and community groups can link screening with counselling and continuing care. A screening result has little value if an abnormal finding never leads to treatment or follow-up.

People should ask their clinician about personal targets and the appropriate frequency of checks. Keeping a record of results can make follow-up more useful. Prevention is a continuing partnership: patients need understandable advice, while services need to make repeated visits and essential medicines accessible.

Treatment depends on speed and assessment

At hospital, clinicians assess symptoms, check vital signs and use CT or MRI to determine the stroke type. Eligible patients with ischaemic stroke may receive clot-dissolving medication, generally within

4.5 hours. Selected patients may qualify later after specialist assessment and appropriate imaging. Certain large-vessel blockages can be treated by mechanical thrombectomy, sometimes up to 24 hours in carefully selected patients.

These windows are not permission to wait. Eligibility depends on clinical findings, imaging, timing and available services; earlier treatment remains crucial. Bleeding strokes require different management, potentially including blood pressure control, specialist monitoring and surgery. Organized stroke care also helps prevent complications and establish a recovery plan.

Recovery deserves sustained support

Survival is the beginning of another important phase. Rehabilitation can help restore movement, communication, swallowing and daily living skills. It should begin when medically appropriate and continue according to individual needs. Progress differs between people, and support should be based on realistic goals rather than promises of complete recovery.

Families can help by learning safe assistance techniques, encouraging prescribed exercises and attending follow-up appointments. Difficulty speaking does not mean that a survivor has lost intelligence. Allow time for responses and include the person in decisions. Depression, anxiety and caregiver exhaustion also deserve attention. Rehabilitation should protect dignity and participation alongside physical function.

Before discharge, families should ask for a clear care plan covering medicines, follow-up, rehabilitation and warning signs. They should also understand whom to contact if new symptoms develop. Making the home safer and sharing caregiving responsibilities can support recovery while reducing avoidable strain on the household during the months that follow discharge.

Making awareness useful beyond one day

For World Stroke Day 2026, health workers, teachers, employers and community organizations can teach BE-FAST through short demonstrations. A useful session should answer two questions:

participants recognize a sudden warning, and do they know how to reach emergency care locally? Posters become more effective when accompanied by a practical transport and referral plan.

Every family can begin today by discussing stroke signs, identifying an emergency hospital and keeping essential health information accessible. Prevention requires continuing habits and medical care; an emergency requires immediate action. When stroke is suspected, do not wait for certainty. Recognize the change, seek help and give the person the best possible chance of recovery.

References

1. *World Health Organization. Stroke. Fact sheet. 19 December 2025. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/stroke*
2. *Ministry of Health, Myanmar. STEPS Survey Myanmar 2024. Final Report. Tables 3.13.4 and 3.14.3, pp. 98-99 and 108.*
3. *World Stroke Organization. World Stroke Day 2026: EVERY M1NUTE COUNTS #ActFAST. 4 September 2026.*
4. *American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. 2026 Guideline for the Early Management of Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke. 2026.*
5. *American Stroke Association. Public education resources: Stroke Symptoms and Warning Signs; Transient Ischemic Attack; Aspirin and Stroke, Stroke Rehab. Accessed 8 October 2026.*

ECONOMY
WORLD

China, Germany eye broader cooperation in intelligent connected vehicles

Signed in 2018, the memorandum of understanding on ICVs has served as an important platform for bilateral technical cooperation.

AS electrification, digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI) reshape the global auto industry, how China and Germany can build on their complementary strengths to expand cooperation has become a key question facing both countries' industries.



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz (C) communicates with Ola Kaellenius (L), CEO of Mercedes-Benz Group, and Cao Xudong, CEO of Chinese tech firm Momenta, after experiencing an urban and highway pilot driver-assist system, co-developed by Mercedes-Benz and Momenta, in Beijing, capital of China, 26 Februay 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

Last week, the 2026 World Intelligent Connected Vehicles Conference (WICV) was held in Beijing, where government and business representatives from both countries held talks on technology coordination, standards alignment and market access. Both sides agreed that there is a strong need for concrete progress.

China and Germany have long cooperated in the intelligent connected vehicle (ICV) sector. Signed in 2018, their memorandum of understanding on ICVs has served as an important platform for bilateral technical cooperation. Last month, the two sides held a plenary meeting in Berlin, where they exchanged views on practical issues such as vehicle type approval, data recording and vehicle-to-everything communications. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belarus, Russia sign agreement on common electricity market rules

THE energy ministries of Belarus and Russia signed an agreement on Tuesday approving the rules for operating the Union State's common electricity market.

The signing took place during the 30th Belarusian Energy and Environmental Forum.

All procedures have been completed, and the parties expect to begin operations next year, enabling the two countries to exchange electricity to meet each other's needs, said Russia's Deputy Energy Minister Evgeniy Grabchak. According to Grabchak, pricing will be shaped by competition, but no price hikes are expected as the market favours the most cost-effective solutions .— Xinhua

Australian inflation spikes to 4.3%

AUSTRALIA'S annual rate of inflation spiked to a six-month high of 4.3 per cent in September, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said that the consumer price index rose by 4.3 per cent in the 12 months to September, up from 4.0 per cent in August and the highest figure since March.

It said that the annual trimmed mean, a measure of underlying inflation preferred by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), rose from 3.5 per cent in August to 3.6 per cent in September.

Economists from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the nation's largest bank, had forecast that headline inflation would rise to 4.2 per cent in September. — Xinhua

Japan govt eyes buying back 100,000 more tonnes of rice for reserves



The image shows a combine harvester working through a golden rice paddy field during the harvest season in Sanjo, Niigata Prefecture, Japan.
PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

THE Japanese farm ministry is considering buying back an additional 100,000 tonnes of rice to replenish government reserves drawn down by releases in 2025, following a 210,000-tonne purchase in September, sources familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

Last month's buyback, the first such attempt since the current stockpiling system began in financial 2011, came after the government released a total of 590,000 tonnes of emergency rice reserves in 2025 in response to a shortage that began around the summer of 2024.

The release left the government's emergency rice stockpile at around 320,000 tonnes, far below the roughly 1 million tones considered appropriate.

The timing of the additional purchase will depend on supply and demand conditions, including harvest figures through late October that will be released next month, the sources said. — Kyodo

India's travel, hospitality hiring outlook strengthens

INDIA'S travel and hospitality sector is expected to see a Net Employment Change (NEC) of 12.3 per cent in the October-March period of FY2026-27, with 81 per cent of employers planning to expand their workforce, according to a report by TeamLease Services.

The hiring outlook points to continued demand for talent across frontline operations, sales and marketing, and business support functions as employers prepare for the coming half-year.

As per the report, blue-collar roles lead hiring intent in the sector, with 52 per cent of employers planning workforce expansion in these functions. Sales and marketing follows closely at 50 per cent, while finance stands at 40 per cent. Information technology accounts for 31 per cent and back-office and administration for 22 per cent. The report said Mumbai emerged as the leading location for planned workforce expansion in travel and hospitality, with 29 per cent hiring intent. — ANI



The image shows the historic Gateway of India and the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel on the waterfront of Mumbai, India. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Cambodia expands air links to Siem Reap

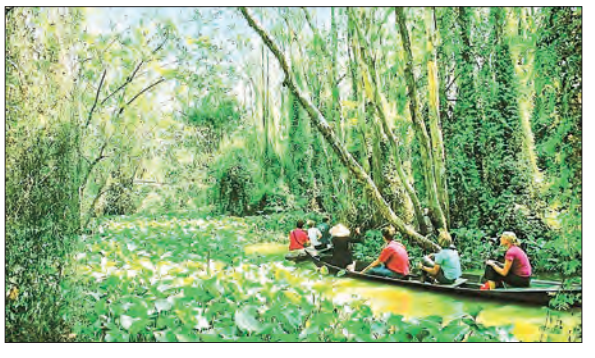
CAMBODIA has expanded its international air connectivity with South Korea through planned service to Siem Reap Angkor International Airport (SAI) in northwestern Siem Reap province, a civil aviation spokesperson said on Wednesday. Sinn Chanserey Vutha, a secretary of state and spokesperson for Cambodia's State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA), said that Trinity Airways will operate daily seasonal flights from 24 December 2026 to 3 March 2027 between Seoul-Incheon (ICN) and Siem Reap (SAI) using Boeing 737-800 aircraft during Cambodia's peak tourist season.

"The service supports Cambodia's tourism growth and its international connectivity," Vutha said in a news release, noting that the route is expected to drive more visitors to the UNESCO-listed Angkor Archaeological Park. The spokesperson added that the SSCA remains committed to facilitating airline operations, expanding market access, and collaborating with aviation and tourism partners to strengthen Cambodia's regional connectivity and economic development. — Xinhua

Vietnam proposes tax incentives for new tourism models

VIETNAM'S Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has proposed tax incentives for new business models in the tourism sector, local daily VnExpress reported Wednesday.

The proposal is included in a draft resolution on special mechanisms for tourism development, which the ministry presented for consultation from relevant sectors on 26 October before submitting it to the National Assembly for consideration.



Eco-travel Vietnam offers a sustainable and responsible way to explore the country's natural beauty. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/VINPEARL**

To diversify tourism products and increase visitor spending, the ministry proposed encouraging new business models, including the nighttime economy, sharing economy, digital tourism platforms, green tourism, wellness tourism, cruise tourism, and cultural, sports and entertainment complexes.

Eligible businesses adopting these models could be exempt from corporate income tax for five years.

Under the proposal, large tourism projects with investment capital of at least three trillion Vietnamese dong (about US$117 million) could qualify for corporate income tax incentives, the report said. — Xinhua

Toyota deploys AI-driven welding robot for racing kart production

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Wednesday it has introduced an AI-powered welding robot at a dedicated plant in central Japan that produces entry-level racing karts.

The technology has reduced the time needed to fabricate roll cages at the GR Kart plant in Gamagori, Aichi Prefecture, from up to three weeks to just three days, the automaker said.

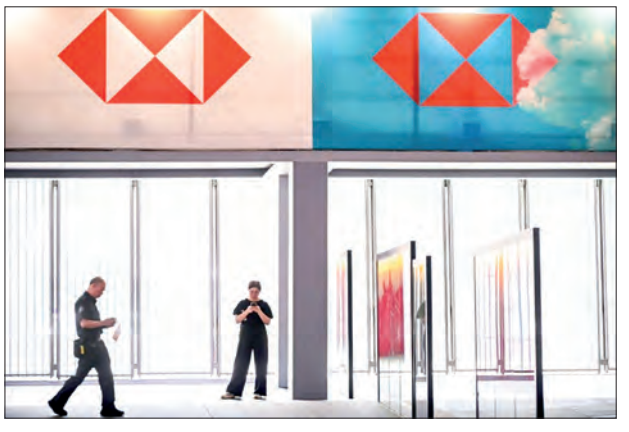
Jointly developed with Yaskawa Electric Corp, the AI-driven robot was trained on welding images and audio data to make kart frames. It checks parts using microphones and sensors before automatically carrying out the welding.

The technology has improved weld quality and strength while also reducing costs. Launched in September, the GR Kart has a suggested retail price of 385,000 yen ($2,400), well below typical market prices. Toyota said orders have been steady. – Kyodo

HSBC has been carrying out job cuts and a global restructuring

HSBC profits jumped in the third quarter thanks to higher interest rates and lower costs, the bank giant said Tuesday, but its share price slid as the results undershot investor expectations.

Net profit grew 45.5 per cent to US$7.1 billion in the three months to end-September compared with the same quarter a year earlier, the London-headquartered lender said in an earnings statement. HSBC is cutting jobs amid global restructuring at the Asia-focused bank under chief executive Georges Elhedery, who took over the helm two years ago.



HSBC has been carrying out job cuts and a global restructuring. **PHOTO: AFP**

"As we simplify HSBC, we are creating greater capacity to invest, grow and deliver strong returns for our shareholders," Elhedery said Tuesday.

Pre-tax profit in the third quarter climbed 32 per cent to $9.6 billion, with group revenue increasing by nearly five per cent to $18.6 billion. However, Tuesday's results left investors disappointed. Shares in London shed more than seven per cent to head losses on the top-tier FTSE 100 index, mirroring a fall in Hong Kong.

"Investors already know that higher interest rates are benefiting the banks so HSBC's big increase in third-quarter profits was not enough to win them over," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell. — AFP

Transferring Distributor for Registered Product

Distribution of following pesticide registered by **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte.,Ltd. (Singapore)** is transferring from **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte.,Ltd.(Myanmar Branch)** to **Farm Link Co.,Ltd.**. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township, within two weeks.

Sr.	Trade name	Active Ingredient	Reg.type	Reg. No.
1.	Superion 200 WP	Chlorimuron-ethyl 10%w/w + Metsulfuron-methyl 10%w/w WP	Prov.	P2025-6651

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte.,Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)
Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

Advertise with us/ Hotline: 09251022355, 09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V LIGNUM FIBER VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LIGNUM FIBER VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Russia's Arctic LNG technology could open the door to US cooperation, but sanctions must go

These facilities are designed to take advantage of the cold environment, meaning less energy is needed to cool natural gas to minus 162 degrees Celsius.

THE Americans are interested in applying proven Russian gas extraction technologies in the Arctic, Igor Yushkov, a leading expert at the Financial University and the National Energy Security Fund, tells Sputnik, commenting on President Vladimir Putin's remarks about potential Russo-American energy cooperation in the region.

"Building LNG plants in the Arctic is efficient because of the naturally low ambient temperatures," the pundit says. "These facilities are designed to take advantage of the cold environment, meaning less energy is needed to cool natural gas to minus 162 degrees Celsius."



The Grand Aniva gas tanker built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd in Nagasaki. The ship will transport Sakhalin liquefied gas from Russia's first liquefied natural gas plant, built by Sakhalin Investment Company Ltd in the village of Prigorodnoye, Sakhalin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

One such project is Novatek's Arctic LNG 2. Its key feature is that the LNG production units are assembled on floating reinforced-concrete platforms, which are then towed along the Northern Sea Route to the installation site.

Those platforms are built at a specialized facility in Russia's Murmansk region, the Centre for the Construction of Large Offshore Structures.

"This approach minimizes the amount of construction required onshore, where permafrost may be present," Yushkov explains. "Any construction in the Arctic is challenging. But here, you assemble the plant in advance, simply tow it to the shore, and install it on the seabed, and everything is ready. This is the kind of solution that interests the Americans." — SPUTNIK

At least 50 killed, 179 injured in high-speed train collision in Spain

AT least 50 people were killed and 179 others injured in a collision between two high-speed trains on the railway line linking Madrid with the southern region of Andalusia on Wednesday morning, Spanish media reported. The accident occurred at around 8:54 am local time (0754 GMT) near Urda station in the province of Toledo, about 120 kilometres south of Madrid.

The collision involved a train operated by state-owned railway company Renfe and another operated by private company Iryo.

Preliminary reports suggested that the Renfe train struck the rear of the Iryo train, which had reportedly been stationary on the tracks. Two carriages derailed and plunged down an embankment.

The Chinese Embassy in Spain has confirmed that four Chinese nationals were aboard the trains involved in the collision, with at least one sustaining minor injury.

Spanish railway infrastructure operator Adif confirmed that the accident prompted the suspension of rail services between Madrid and Andalusia.

Political parties across Spain cancelled scheduled activities on Wednesday, while officials expressed their condolences and support for those affected.



This photo taken on 28 October 2026 shows the site of high-speed train collision in Toledo province, Spain. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"Shocked by the serious train accident in Toledo," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez wrote on social media, adding that emergency services are on the ground to assist those impacted. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore tightens laws to tackle transboundary haze

SINGAPORE is looking to strengthen existing laws, including the Transboundary Haze Pollution Act, and introduce new legislation where necessary to hold companies accountable for transboundary haze, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu said Tuesday.

Speaking at the SEC Sustainable Procurement Forum, Fu said the measures aim to close enforcement gaps, strengthen corporate accountability and improve Singapore's ability to investigate and take decisive action against those responsible for transboundary haze.

The government is also prepared to use a wider range of legal, regulatory and economic measures, including greater scrutiny from investors, financiers and the market, she said. Fu said the government had also announced a specialist panel comprising law, audit and investigative firms to support cross-border enquiries into identified companies' operations, corporate relationships and supply chains. — Xinhua

Climate change must be declared 'global health emergency'

CLIMATE change must be declared a "global health emergency" to shape governments' policies after heat caused three million deaths between 2016 and 2023, a report in The Lancet said Wednesday.

Published by the British medical journal ahead of the COP 31 climate summit in November, the 10th edition of the report brought together 146 researchers from 30 countries to assess the impact of climate change on the health of the world's population.

It said there were a record 710,000 heat-related deaths in 2023 with more than 70 per cent of that toll linked to human-caused climate change.

Marina Romanello, the executive director of the health and climate research project Lancet Countdown, said there were "three million heat-related deaths globally in an eight-year span since the Paris Agreement" of 2015.

"That's roughly equivalent to the entire population of Wales being wiped out in the space of eight years due to heat," she told a news conference. — AFP

Trump moves to roll back methane rules for US oil, gas producers

US President Donald Trump announced plans on Tuesday to roll back regulations aimed at curbing methane emissions from oil and gas operations, arguing that the move would reduce costs and boost domestic energy production.

"Tonight, I'm officially terminating Biden's expensive and unnecessary methane regulations to save consumers and energy producers $45 billion," Trump said at a campaign rally in Lubbock, Texas.

The move would "unlock vast quantities of Texas natural gas" and allow the production of an additional 210 million barrels of oil, Trump said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

No penalty practice for Fleetwood hero Haughey before he downs Arsenal

FLEETWOOD shootout star Conor Haughey did not even practise penalties before his decisive spot-kick saw the fourth-tier side knock Premier League champions Arsenal out of the League Cup in one of the all-time great upsets.

After Bruno Guimaraes was denied by Jay Lynch, the 19-year-old Haughey fired his shot into the top left corner, securing a 5-3 shootout win after a 1-1 draw in normal time on Tuesday.

Haughey's goal sparked a joyous invasion at Highbury, with Fleetwood's home ground sharing its name with Arsenal's former headquarters in north London.

Northern Ireland Under-21 defender Haughey attributed his upbringing for the confident manner in which he sent Arsenal crashing out in the fourth round.

"It's the way I've been brought up," he said. "Obviously I'm a Belfast boy. Where I grew up, if you're not confident you get eaten up, so you just take it in your stride whatever you do."

Aaron Loupalo-Bi's first-half goal had put Fleetwood ahead before Viktor Gyokeres equalized after the interval. — AFP



Conor Haughey scores the winning penalty as Fleetwood Town defeat Arsenal in a shootout following a 1-1 draw in an English League Cup fourth-round tie at Highbury Stadium, Fleetwood. **PHOTO: AFP**

7 Chinese golfers set for Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship

SEVEN Chinese golfers, including four debutants, will compete at the 2026 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (AAC), which begins Thursday at Te Arai Links in New Zealand.

The 17th edition of the championship runs from 29 October to 1 November on Te Arai Links' South Course, with 120 players from 39 countries and regions competing in the 72-hole stroke-play event. — Xinhua



Takeshi Okada coached Japan at the 1998 and 2010 World Cups. **PHOTO: AFP**

JFA VP Okada resigns over displeasure with FIFA, national body

THE Japan Football Association announced Wednesday that Vice-President Takeshi Okada, a former manager of the men's national team, has resigned before the end of his term.

Sources familiar with the matter said the 70-year-old, who stepped down on Saturday, departed due to dissatisfaction over several issues involving world ruling body FIFA at this summer's World Cup, as well as the JFA's response.

"There was a significant gap between the handling of issues surrounding this World Cup and my own personal principles," Okada said in a statement released by the JFA. "As a sportsman, I could not accept this, which led to my decision to resign."

The World Cup was overshadowed by concerns over the close relationship between FIFA President Gianni Infantino and US President Donald Trump, as well as FIFA's decision to suspend the enforcement of a match ban for a US player.

After the tournament, Infantino unveiled a plan to establish a subsidiary to oversee World Cup operations but later withdrew the proposal following strong opposition from bodies including UEFA.

Asian Football Confederation President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has backed Infantino's bid for re-election in next March's FIFA presidential election. — AFP

DPRK's Ri claims third straight weightlifting world title

DPR Korea's Ri Song Gum claimed her third consecutive world title at the 2026 IWF World Championships here, with host China also taking a gold medal.

In the women's 49-kilogramme on Tuesday's opening competition day, Ri posted a 92-kilogramme snatch and a 119-kilogramme clean and jerk for a 211-kilogramme total to finish ahead of China's Zhao Jinhong, whose career-best 91-116-207 earned her three silvers.

In the men's 60kg, China's Asian Games champion Yang Yang lifted 136kg in the snatch and 168kg in the clean and jerk for a 304kg total, securing both the snatch and overall titles.

DPRK's Pang Un Chol, the clean and jerk world record holder, took the silver with a 300kg total after failing his first two clean and jerk attempts, while debutant Pak In Song claimed bronze with the same total.

The championships will run through 8 November, marking the event's return to China after 31 years. The tournament also serves as the first qualifying event for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, featuring athletes from around 120 countries and regions. — Xinhua

Former Grand Slam winner Wawrinka ends tennis career

STAN Wawrinka bid farewell to tennis as he brought the curtain down on a decorated 24-year career following a first-round exit at the Basel Open on Tuesday.

The 41-year-old Swiss announced earlier in the season that his last tournament as a professional would be the ATP 500-level event in his home country and a 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) defeat by Czech Jiri Lehecka brought an end to the career of the three-time major champion.



Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former world number three Wawrinka, along with Andy Murray, was the only player to win multiple Grand Slams in a period dominated by Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. — AFP

Russia's Arctic LNG technology could open the door to US cooperation, but sanctions must go

PAGE 14



WORLD

19 germs cause 50,800 deaths annually in US

NINETEEN pathogens cause an estimated 9.7 million infections and 50,800 deaths in the United States each year, according to an updated report released by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday.

The 2026 Antimicrobial Resistance Threats Report is the CDC's most comprehensive estimate to date of the impact of drug-resistant bacteria and fungi, as well as Clostridioides difficile, the CDC said.

The report classifies 19 pathogens according to their threat to public health in the United States: four as urgent threats, 13 as serious threats and two as concerning threats.

The four urgent threats are Candida auris (C auris), carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter, carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, and drug-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoeae, the report said. — Xinhua

Two hundred 'Cruise for life' passengers stranded in Cambodia



An aerial view shows the Villa Vie Residences' cruise ship Odyssey docked at Sihanoukville port in Preah Sihanouk province on 28 October 2026 **PHOTO: AFP**

AROUND 200 passengers who paid to live on a cruise ship while travelling the world were abruptly left in a Cambodian port after the company ran out of money, an official said on Wednesday.

US-based operator Villa Vie Residences announced on Tuesday it had "suspended operations in Cambodia" as it worked to address "extraordinary increases" in fuel costs following the Iran war.

The 200-metre (656-foot) Odyssey left Northern Ireland in October 2024 for a continuous voyage for which residents could buy or rent rooms for a holiday or for life — some passengers selling everything they had to pay for it. However, passengers were given just seven hours to pack their bags and leave during a scheduled stop in the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville, according to Long Dimanche, deputy governor of Preah Sihanouk province. — AFP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave 2026

The inaugural day of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 brought together more than 5,000 global delegates.



Modi urged scientists to deliver scalable technological outcomes within three years. **PHOTO: ANI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugrated the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, urging the scientific community and deep-tech startups to deliver measurable, scalable technological outcomes within a three-year window.

According to a press release, the inaugural day of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 brought together more than 5,000 global delegates, including scientific leaders, policymakers and deep-tech startups, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 27 October.

The day's programme combined addresses by national science and technology leaders, two Nobel Laureate plenary talks, three parallel technical sessions, a startup exhibition and poster track, an evening panel discussion and the inaugural session. Across these proceedings, the focus was on connecting foundational research with industrial scale-up, public purpose and the development of technologies that can strengthen India's capabilities and contribute to global welfare.

In the inaugural address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on the scientific community, researchers and young innovators to deliver concrete, measurable and scalable technological outcomes within a three-year operational horizon. — ANI

Netanyahu bloc leads as Israeli votes counted, but no majority



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves to his supporters at the election night rally after the first exit polls were announced in Jerusalem on early 28 October 2026, during Israel's legislative elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE camp of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ahead of his rival's opposition bloc but still short of a majority on Wednesday after two-thirds of the votes were counted in Israel's pivotal general election.

Voters turned out in the highest numbers in decades to give their verdict on Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, who has pushed the country sharply to the right and unleashed a wave of wars in response to Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack.

Following the vote, both Netanyahu and his main rival Gadi Eisenkot vowed to form a government despite neither being projected to win a majority.

With 66 per cent of ballots counted, Netanyahu's bloc was shown to have 54 of the 120 seats in the parliament. — AFP