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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Carrying banned items into Korea risks fines of up to 10M Won

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul has issued a warning that travellers entering the Republic of Korea with prohibited items may face fines ranging from 1 million to 10 million won.

The announcement was made for Myanmar nationals travelling to South Korea for work under the Employment Permit System (EPS) via the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA). SEE PAGE 4



The Embassy's list of quarantine-controlled items banned from entry into South Korea. Violators may face fines of up to 10 million won.

Myanmar, Thailand Deepen Border Peace, Stability Cooperation

The Myanmar Government is treating the crackdown on online scams and illegal gambling as a national duty, carrying it out in close cooperation with neighbouring countries.



Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow pays a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw.

A delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The President of Myanmar and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs cordially discussed the ongoing progress in friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand as good neighbouring countries; and the current situation in which an elected government is serving State duties in Myanmar, will continue to maintain constructive and beneficial cooperation with ASEAN, and will further engage and cooperate with individual ASEAN member states based on existing friendly relations; and the role of Myanmar as an important member state of ASEAN, and ASEAN as also importance to Myanmar.

They also focused on the endeavours of the Myanmar government in tackling the fight against online scams and gambling, which have been adversely affecting the socioeconomic lives of people in Myanmar, Thailand and other countries around the world, as a national responsibility, in cooperation with neighbouring countries, it has been intensifying efforts to crack down on these activities effectively and decisively; and enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in conducting environmental conservation, prevention of flooding and water pollution along rivers and creeks; and the efforts to promote cooperation in border region peace and stability along with border trade.

They also exchanged views on the ways to further enhance cooperation in the energy sector; Thailand's assistance and cooperation in Myanmar's domestic peace process; and bilateral cooperation on matters concerning Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, particularly ensuring their safety and security, safeguarding their full labour rights; and providing them with protection in accordance with the laws of both countries.

SEE PAGE 3

DIPLOMACY

Bago CM, Indian Ambassador Advance Trade, Cultural Ties

THE chief minister of Bago Region and the ambassador of India to Myanmar held discussions on bilateral trade, economic cooperation and cultural ties between the two countries at the Bago Region government office, according to the regional government office.



This photo features India and Myanmar holding talks on bilateral trade, economy and cultural cooperation.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur met on 11 November at the Bago Region government office in Bago.

During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral trade and economic cooperation in key sectors, including agriculture, seeds, pharmaceuticals, electricity, solar energy, education and tourism. The Indian Ambassador also noted that the presence of the Indian diaspora in Bago Region, particularly in Zeyawady, Kyauktaga and Pyu townships, serves as an important cultural link between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI), the Overseas Agro Traders Association, the Myanmar-India Business Council and India Samaj. — ASH/TH

JFYG Stages Cultural Feast for Japan Sushi Day

PAGE 3



This photo features an educational exhibition commemorating Japan Sushi Day.

NATIONAL

Strongly condemning video posted on social media by German Embassy's Chargé d' Affaires

1. The statements made by Mathias Licharz, Chargé d' Affaires of the German Embassy in Myanmar, in a video released on 8 November 2026, are not only a disrespect to our democratically elected government and Head of State in Myanmar, but also a direct insult to all Myanmar citizens who actively voted in the elections.
2. "The actions and statements of the Chargé d' Affaires of the German Embassy, including the choice of location for the video, appear to encourage opposition to the host country and the national government, and are intended to incite internal unrest and undermine the national government."
3. Therefore, the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) strongly objects to and condemns the above actions and statements of the Chargé d'Affaires of the German Embassy, Mathias Licharz.

Central Executive Committee
Young Men's Buddhist Association

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday, 12 November 2026

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 13 November 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions and southern Shan State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Region, and Kachin State. As the cumulonimbus clouds move, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning, and hails may occur; therefore, it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of an increase in daytime temperature in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 88/2026

3rd Waxing of Tazaungmone 1388 ME
12 November 2026

Replacement of Security and Border Affairs Ministers

PURSUANT to Clause (ii) of Subsection (a), Subsections (b), (e) and (f) of Section 262, and Subsection (c) of Section 264 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Subsection (c) of Section 19 and Subsection (c) of Section 82 of the Union Government Law, and Clause (ii) of Subsection (a), and Subsections (b), (f) and (g) of Section 8 and Subsection (a) of Section 56 of the Region or State Government Law, the following individuals have been appointed and assigned as Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Region or State Government shown against each of their names.

1. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Kayah State Government**
   Colonel Than Soe Aung is replaced by Colonel Naung Latt
2. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Sagaing Region Government**
   Colonel Win Tin Soe is replaced by Colonel Min Thein
3. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Magway Region Government**
   Colonel Moe Min Thein is replaced by Colonel Naing Zin Tun
4. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Mon State Government**
   Colonel Kyaw Swa Myint is replaced by Colonel Ye Htut
5. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government**
   Colonel Kyaw Thura is replaced by Colonel Zaw Lin Tun
6. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Yangon Region Government**
   Colonel Win Tint is replaced by Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Oo
7. **Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Shan State Government**
   Colonel Sein Win is replaced by Colonel Kyaw Myo Min Latt

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Thai Deputy PM & FM arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

THE delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, who paid an official visit to Myanmar, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft on the morning of 12 November 2026. The Thai delegation was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Naing Min Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA



A reception takes place at Nay Pyi Taw Airport upon the arrival of the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

MRCS aids US$50,000 for Nepal flood victims



A group documentary photo session during the donation ceremony in Yangon yesterday.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) held a donation ceremony at its Yangon branch office yesterday to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by flooding in Nepal.

At the ceremony, MRCS President Dr Myo Nyunt explained the purpose of the donation. Mr Sanjeev Kumar Kafley, Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Delegation in Myanmar, and Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar, delivered words of thanks.

Dr Myo Nyunt then presented a donation of US$50,000 from the MRCS to support the flood victims in Nepal. The donation was received by the Nepali ambassador to Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Thailand Deepen Border Peace, Stability Cooperation

FROM PAGE 1

After the meeting, the President and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs had documentary photos taken together with the attendees.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, U Tin Maung Swe and U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Lt-Gen Than Htaik from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and officials. The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Tor Saralamba, Advisor to the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Kallayana Vipattipumiprates; and delegation members. — MNA/TTA

JFYG Stages Cultural Feast for Japan Sushi Day

THE Japan Foundation, Yangon (JFYG), is hosting an educational exhibition commemorating Japan Sushi Day as part of this month's instalment of its monthly Japanese cultural exhibition series.

Since 1961, the All-Japan Sushi Business Environmental Health Trade Association Federation has officially designated 1 November as National Sushi Day, an annual observance in Japan.

The date was chosen because November marks the harvest season for new crops, including rice, while seafood is at its richest in fat content, making it the ideal time of year to enjoy sushi at its finest. Additionally, the date commemorates a historical event depicted in Japanese Kabuki theatre, in which the commander Taira no Koremori changed his name to Sushi Chef Yasuke.

Alongside educational displays detailing the history and culture of Sushi Day, the exhibition also features hands-on sushi origami activities, allowing visitors to create their own souvenirs through the Japanese art of paper folding.

The Japan Foundation, Yangon Culture Centre, is located at 70, Natmauk Lane 1 (near Byaing Yaeohzin bus stop), Bahan Township, Yangon. It is open to the public, between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm from Tuesday to Saturday. — TWA/TH



An educational exhibition at the Japan Sushi Day event.

Vice-President discusses promoting women's all-round development

VICE-President Nan Ni Ni Aye delivered an opening address at the Steering Committee Meeting of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) (2023-2032), held at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In her address, the Vice-President, who is also chairperson of the Steering Committee, described the meeting as an important step towards strengthening the coordinated implementation of the national strategic plan. She emphasized the need to promote equal opportunities for women, eliminate discrimination, ensure safety and security, improve access to quality services and enhance women's participation in decision-making processes.

She highlighted five key priorities: strengthening coordination among responsible departments and partner organizations across the 12 areas of work, identifying priorities based on the practical needs of women in urban and rural areas, effectively mobilizing human, technological and financial resources, encouraging women and girls to actively participate in their own development, and regularly monitoring and evaluating progress to ensure timely improvements.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye chairs the Steering Committee Meeting of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women.

She urged relevant officials to work together with commitment and accountability to transform the strategic plan's objectives into tangible results, expand opportunities for women and girls, and enable them to fully develop and utilize their knowledge, skills and capabilities. Union Minister for Women's Affairs and Vice-Chairperson of the Steering Committee Dr Thet Thet Zin reported on the progress made in implementing the decisions of the NSPAW review meeting held on 21 February 2026. The participants discussed challenges, strengths, weaknesses and recommendations concerning the implementation of the 12 areas of work, and future measures to enhance women's participation in socio-economic development. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar and Thai Foreign Ministers Hold Bilateral Meeting

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Tin Maung Swe received a delegation led by Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, currently on an official visit to Nay Pyi Taw, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.



Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe holds talks with the Thai delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the progress made in bilateral relations and discussed matters of mutually beneficial cooperation, including developments in Myanmar, the peace process, stability in the border areas, trade and investment, natural gas and energy sectors, connectivity between the two countries, and matters relating to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. They also discussed ways to further strengthen close cooperation between the two countries within ASEAN.

The Union Minister briefed the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the developments in Myanmar, including preparations for holding by-elections, ongoing efforts to promote the development of the education and health sectors, the implementation of a market-oriented economic system, and efforts to advance the peace process along the path of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The two sides also discussed ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including maintaining peace and stability along the border areas of the two countries and ensuring the protection of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

The Union Minister also expressed his appreciation to Thailand for its support and assistance not only in Myanmar's peace process but also in facilitating the restoration of Myanmar's original role in ASEAN.

The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister acknowledged the positive developments in Myanmar, including the expansion of the delivery of humanitarian assistance in cooperation with ASEAN and ongoing efforts in the peace process.

He reaffirmed Thailand's continued support for Myanmar's peace efforts and emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation in various areas, including border security and stability, environmental conservation, particularly river pollution, investment in the energy sector, reopening of border checkpoints, promotion of border trade, import-related matters, and connectivity between the two countries.

Following the meeting, the Union Minister presented a Letter of Appreciation to the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, expressing his gratitude to the Government of Thailand and Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) for providing the conference facilities for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. Afterwards, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe hosted a luncheon for the delegation led by Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, at the MGallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand departed Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2026. The Thai delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw establishes Joint Committee for Assessment and Legislative Drafting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued its 10th-day meeting at its building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn in attendance, along with Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, deputy ministers and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.



The third regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes its 10th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung explained the formation of a Joint Committee for Assessment and Legislative Drafting on the 43 Provisions of the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Proposed for Amendment and Supplementation, and the Provisions Contained in Parts (1), (2) and (3) of the Union Accord.

He explained that the Joint Committee will be formed with 38 each representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw along with 14 Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representatives, totalling 90. The committee will be chaired by MP U Hla Thein from Bago Region Constituency 10 together with Vice-Chair MP Daw Nwe Nwe Oo from Ayeyawady Region Constituency 2, Secretary MP U Zin Min Htet from Bago Region Constituency 7 and Joint-Secretary MP U Thein Tun Oo from Amarapura Constituency.

The Deputy Speaker revealed that the committee aims to ensure that the Constitution is further developed in line with the changing times and systems, thereby strengthening the sustainability, stability, peace and development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; to achieve everlasting peace by building strong national unity based on mutual trust among the various ethnic nationalities; and to ensure the continued and uninterrupted implementation of the process of democratic reform for the State and its citizens, and to serve 11 responsibilities.

After seeking the Hluttaw's views on the formation and assignment of duties to the Joint Committee for Assessment and Legislative Drafting, as explained by the Deputy Speaker, the Hluttaw announced that the proposal had been approved, as no objections were raised.

Moreover, lawmakers discussed the revenue and expenditure estimates, legal matters and other related issues, including the principles and fundamental concepts of the Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the 2026-2027 financial year.

In response to the discussions, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw stated that according to the revised estimates for State-owned Economic Enterprises for the FY 2026-2027, the total cash deficit amounted to K213 billion. The total expenditure also includes commercial tax, special goods tax, income tax and contributions paid by State-owned Economic Enterprises to the State.

He added that although Myanma Railways, Inland Water Transport and Myanmar National Airlines, which operate under the Ministry of Transport, are incurring financial losses, they serve as essential public service providers by ensuring transport connectivity for the people and the smooth flow of essential goods. Therefore, the relevant ministries are focusing on reducing their losses and improving operational efficiency.

Similarly, the Union minister noted that efforts are being made to broaden the tax base, levy taxes on basic commodities and ensure the standardization of tax rates, in accordance with the discussions and guidance of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

He underlined that not every ministry is an income-generating agency, and ministries are allowed to make budget allocations only for projects included in their respective plans. In reviewing financial operations, a Medium-Term Fiscal Framework, which takes into account the preceding three years and the coming three years, has also been issued, and ministries are required to operate within the limits set by this framework.

Regarding the recommendation in the report, Deputy Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Han Win Aung explained that efforts should be made to achieve the specified targets by the end of the financial year; coordination and cooperation will be undertaken with the relevant ministries and Region and State Governments to ensure that the estimated amounts are achieved by the end of the financial year.

The Union minister submitted the proposal to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approving the whole Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the FY 2026-2027. After conducting the voting process, the Hluttaw approved the bill.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its 11th-day meeting on 18 November. — News Team/TTA

Myanmar-EEC Joint Working Group Holds Third Session in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Third Session of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation (3rd JWG) between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) was held yesterday at the Parkroyal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe and Mr Daniiar Imanaliev, Member of the Board – Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission.

Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe addressed the welcoming remarks relating to the progress of trade, economic and investment cooperation between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC), identifying priority areas for further strengthening cooperation, exploring mutually beneficial opportunities, and discussing the ways to address challenges encountered in the practical implementation of cooperation activities.

SEE PAGE 5



The 3rd Session of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

Carrying banned items ...

FROM PAGE 1

According to a directive from South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, prohibited items include fruits; plants with soil and live animals; fresh and frozen aquatic and seafood products; raw and dried meats, including sausages. For those with a declaration, officials will inspect and determine permission. However, without a declaration, it will result in the above-mentioned heavy fines.

Additionally, it is stated that travellers are only permitted to bring goods up to a total duty-free value of US$800. Exceeding this will result in a penalty surcharge of 40 to 60 per cent on top of the applicable taxes. Currently, the POEA is primarily dispatching re-entry manufacturing workers, skilled welders, new manufacturing workers, CBT workers, new agriculture/livestock workers, and new construction workers to South Korea. — TWA/ZN

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar-EEC Joint Working Group Holds ...

FROM PAGE 4

Mr Daniiar Imanaliev delivered the opening remarks regarding the progress in bilateral relations and trade following the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission in 2023, the increase in trade turnover between Myanmar and the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the sectors of industry, agriculture, e-commerce, energy, digital transformation and transport. He also emphasized the importance of enhancing engagement between ASEAN and EAEU, as well as further strengthening economic cooperation in the private sector. Afterwards, Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (concurrently), delivered opening remarks.

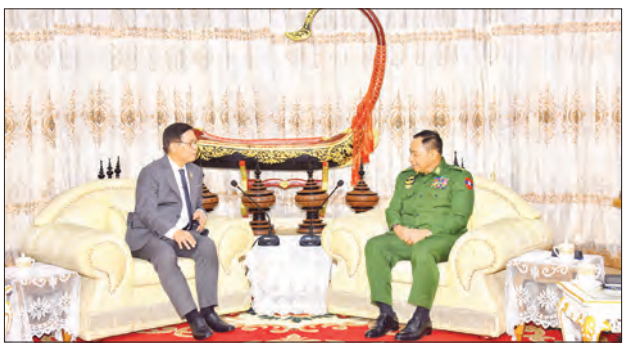
Following this, the Co-Chairs cordially exchanged views and discussed the progress of implementing the agreements following the 1st and 2nd sessions of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation and representatives from related ministries and organizations and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) further discussed the potential cooperation opportunities between EEC and Myanmar in five key areas: in the sphere of trade and economy, industry, transport and logistics, customs and business circles.

More than 60 participants, including Deputy Ministers, heads of departments from relevant ministries and organizations, businesspersons from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation and the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Myanmar, and representatives from the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Eurasian Economic Union were present at the meeting. — MNPIFER

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Thailand Step Up Joint Crackdown on Online Scams

UNION Minister for Defence and Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received a Thai delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Union Defence Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae receives the Thai delegation.

Speaking at the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae expressed appreciation for the visit aimed at strengthening bilateral friendship and border trade cooperation. He highlighted the ongoing peace process, stating that all parties were being invited to dialogue without preconditions to promote State development and stability. He stressed the importance of conducting border trade through official channels and called for joint efforts to combat illegal trade and online scams. He also urged Thailand to cooperate in addressing illegal cross-border activities related to online scam operations.

Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow said his visit aimed to enhance bilateral cooperation, promote peace and stability along the border, and support peace dialogue in Myanmar. He reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to conducting border trade through official channels and expressed hope for a peaceful and more prosperous Myanmar. He also emphasized the need for closer cooperation to address online scams, a global challenge.

They also exchanged views and discussed matters of mutual interest in a cordial atmosphere. — MNA/KTZH

DIPLOMACY

MSWRR Union Minister receives UNHCR Representative to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Ko Ko Lwin received Mr Barnaby Jones, UNHCR Resident Representative in Yangon, at the Ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), visa arrangements and extensions for UNHCR's foreign staff, priority assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the availability of UNHCR funding and the continuation of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar in 2027.



The UNHCR Representative to Myanmar calls on Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Lwin.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the director-general, the deputy permanent secretary, relevant officials and representatives of the UNHCR office in Myanmar. – MNA/MKKS

DIPLOMACY

MoH Dy Minister receives ICRC Resident Representative

DEPUTY Minister for Health Dr Tin Tun received Mr Arnaud de Baecque, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Myanmar, and his team at the Ministry yesterday afternoon.



Deputy Minister Dr Tin Tun meets Mr Arnaud de Baecque, ICRC Resident Representative during the meeting.

They exchanged views on the ICRC's humanitarian activities in Myanmar, joint healthcare initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Health and the ICRC, ongoing work by the ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and areas for future cooperation. — MNA/MKKS

Myitkyina's MSY interest-funded gravel road construction inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection in Kawaka Village, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, yesterday to monitor the construction of an intra-village gravel road and a culvert funded by interest earnings from the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) project. Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nay Thurein Sein Hla and engineering staff inspected the ongoing construction of the 430-foot-long, 16-foot-wide and six-inch-thick gravel road along with the culvert. He met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Project Committee and local communities, urging them to adhere to set technical standards for quality and long-term durability, while examining monthly financial records to ensure required accounting forms are properly maintained.

Infrastructure work is being carried out by villagers with technical assistance and close supervision from township DRD staff at a total cost of K13.8 million, comprising K13 million from 50 per cent of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) project interest earnings and K800,000 in community contributions, ensuring convenient year-round access for rural residents. – Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials inspect the ongoing intra-village gravel road project in Myitkyina Township.

NATIONAL

Falam School Resumes Traditional Backstrap Weaving Training

THE Weaving and Vocational Training School under the Department of Small-Scale Industries in Falam, which had suspended operations due to a terrorist attack, has resumed normal office operations and has been providing traditional ethnic backstrap weaving training to locals since 30 October 2026.



A pratical session at the Falam Weaving and Vocational Training School.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han and relevant officials inspected the ongoing training, the renovated Falam District Meteorology and Hydrology Office and staff housing, and the installation of weather monitoring equipment yesterday morning.

They also inspected the Falam Township Education Office, where solar panels have been installed and office operations have resumed, renovated staff housing, and the repair of a partially damaged classroom building at the No 2 Basic Education High School.

During the visit, the deputy minister encouraged students to study diligently, broaden their knowledge and strive for well-rounded development from an early age. He also presented cash awards to teachers.

He later inspected the Falam Township Development Committee, staff housing and the executive officer's residence. — IPRD/KTZH

Ywangan holds El Niño awareness session



Officials oversee precautionary measures against possible water shortages in Ywangan Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted awareness activities and field inspections in Tettaung Village, Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), yesterday to inform the public about the El Niño phenomenon and prevent potential drinking water shortages.

Ywangan Township Department of Rural Development Head U Thein Myat Htaik and staff met local communities of Tettaung Village to highlight the risks of extreme heat, dry conditions, water scarcity and severe shortages stemming from El Niño.

The township DRD head and responsible personnel utilized educational posters to detail heat-precaution guidelines, proper methods of storing drinking water in advance, and measures to conserve and use water systematically without wastage. Officials also conducted on-site inspections of drinking water storage conditions in the village to assess local preparedness. — Karan (Rural)

YCDC sets maximum fine of K500K for water theft



The picture depicts YCDC management overseeing water meter payments.

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has announced that unauthorized uses of piped water in areas it manages will incur a fine of up to K500,000, according to the YCDC Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation).

YCDC has explicitly prohibited all forms of unauthorized water tapping. This includes branching off water from approved supply lines, pumping water using electricity, alternative energy, or hand pumps, and modifying or extending approved devices, capacity and quantities without prior permission.

Violations of these prohibitions can result in fines ranging from K100,000 to K500,000, as outlined in Section 136, Subsection (c) of the YCDC Law.

For those wishing to legally use municipal water, applications for household water connections can be submitted at www.ycdc.gov.mm or at local YCDC township offices. — TWA/ZS

Global poverty reduction partnership symposium held in Beijing



Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe speaks at the 2026 International Symposiun on Global Poverty Reduction Partnership Cooperation in China.

THE 2026 International Symposium on Global Poverty Reduction Partnership Cooperation was held in Beijing, China, on 11 November under the auspices of the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC), with a Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe in attendance.

Held under the theme "Deepening Partnerships and Innovating Pathways for Poverty Reduction", the symposium aimed to strengthen international partnerships, exchange poverty reduction experiences, promote knowledge sharing and explore resilient development models in support of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The symposium brought together representatives of the IPRCC, the ASEAN Secretariat, invitees and experts. Opening remarks were delivered by senior officials from China, ASEAN, Laos, Myanmar and the United Nations.

Speaking on behalf of Myanmar, Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe said the government was accelerating people-centred rural development through two strategic approaches: community-participatory infrastructure development and community-managed economic empowerment, supported by six action programmes for comprehensive rural development.

He also highlighted efforts to narrow the urban-rural development gap through rural infrastructure development, livelihood skills training and the Rural Economic Development Project to increase household incomes. He stressed the importance of strengthening strategic cooperation with international partners to address challenges related to digital technology, renewable energy and financial resources.

Representatives of international non-governmental organizations also discussed ways to strengthen partnerships and introduce innovative approaches to poverty reduction.

Afternoon sessions focused on poverty reduction experiences, innovative models and long-term governance beyond 2030, with government and INGO representatives sharing their experiences.

The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon from Beijing by air yesterday evening. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Crackdown intensifies on border-based online scams targeting Chinese citizens

RECOGNIZING that online scams and gambling are global challenges involving technology, information, the economy, security and international relations, the Government has made combating these activities a national duty. It is intensifying crackdowns in cooperation with domestic forces and neighbouring countries.

During these operations, numerous foreign nationals who entered Myanmar legally or illegally to engage in online scams and gambling were arrested in various border areas of Shan State, along with equipment used in their operations. Chinese nationals accounted for the majority of those apprehended.

Between 1 August and 31 October 2026, a total of 759 foreign nationals were arrested in Shan State for involvement in online scams and gambling, including 502 Chinese citizens. Investigations and examinations of confiscated computers and mobile phones revealed that their primary targets were fellow Chinese nationals. They exploited victims' trust, emotions and desire for financial gain through the internet, social media and digital communication



The image shows icons of online applications used by frausters to deceive and scam their targeted victims.

applications, including Safe W, QQ, Yuanbao, Dou Yu, Feishu, Safe X, WeChat, Litmatch and Telegram.

Investigations found that the scammers mainly targeted individuals with limited general awareness, poor technological literacy or a strong desire for quick profits. They classified potential victims according to age, occupation and interests before selecting suitable approaches. They created fake identities, posing as military or police Authorities, government officials, wealthy businesspeople, professionals, technology experts or attractive individuals. They also prepared fabricated photographs, documents and lifestyles to make their identities appear genuine.

To establish trust, they shared fabricated personal and workplace experiences while learning about their targets' interests and backgrounds. Their approaches varied according to victims' ages, social status and emotional conditions. They often posed as attractive members of the opposite sex to approach younger people, while impersonating civil servants or businesspeople to gain the respect of older targets.

After establishing romantic relationships with younger victims through daily communication and affectionate messages, they requested money under the pretext of family emergencies, health problems or business difficulties. Some even promised marriage to obtain further payments. They subsequently cut off contact, deleted their accounts or demanded additional money using new excuses.

In investment-related scams, they lured people motivated by greed with supposedly successful businesses and investment opportunities promising guaranteed high returns. Using forged records, fake online platforms and fabricated evidence, they created the illusion that other investors were earning profits. They encouraged victims to invest through fraudulent financial applications and stock trading platforms, while sending group photographs to suggest widespread participation.

They also staged photographs of relief donations purportedly funded by business profits to enhance their credibility and portray their operations as socially responsible enterprises. Investigations revealed that they initially paid small returns to build investors' confidence but eventually shut down the applications, blocked withdrawals and concealed the trail of the stolen funds. — 100/ST

Pinlaung's MSY village project briefed; committee formed


An MSY village project orientation and committee formation ceremony in progress in southern Shan State.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) project and formed a village project committee in Htitali Village, Pinlaung Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Pinlaung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Swa introduced the MSY project and explained its objectives, applicable interest rates and loan repayment terms. Project officials and staff detailed the rules and regulations to be followed in forming the village project committee and implementation procedures.

Afterwards, villagers and village elders elected and formed a seven-member Mya Sein Yaung Project Committee through a voting process and consensus to carry out project activities in Htitali Village for the 2026-2027 financial year. The project will be implemented with K30 million in revolving funds to create employment opportunities for rural residents, increase household incomes, expand systematic small-scale agricultural and livestock businesses and provide capital for village-based economic activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

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Fuel bowsers await to refill them before redistributing fuel to retail stations.

214 Yangon Region fuel stations to provide additional quotas for essential users

A total of 214 fuel stations, including one rural fuel station, are operating in Yangon Region, with measures in place to ensure an uninterrupted fuel supply.

At these stations, petrol and diesel are sold to cars and motorcycles in accordance with the designated odd- and even-numbered day system. Staff scan the QR codes or barcodes on vehicles' wheel tax documents and sell fuel according to the quota allocated to each vehicle. Unregistered vehicles are not permitted to purchase fuel.

Fuel Purchase Orders (POs) are allocated to individual fuel stations every Thursday for the following seven days under the supervision and guidance of the Petroleum Products Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee. Each station's allocation is calculated based on the volume of fuel sold through QR code or barcode scanning over the previous seven days. The fuel allocated on Thursday is available for sale from Friday until the following Thursday.

If a station experiences an increase in sales and its allocated quota proves insufficient, its sales figures are reviewed through the QR application, and additional fuel is supplied through supplementary POs.

In addition, extra allocations of five or 10 per cent, depending on the type of fuel, have been set aside for users who face difficulties purchasing fuel through the QR system. These include ambulances, essential and emergency vehicles, household generators, agricultural vehicles, and motorized sampans and boats. Arrangements have also been made to sell fuel to these users through a non-QR system using manual records. — ASH/KNN

OPINION

Extending tax exemptions for 500-ppm HSD and LNG

The government is implementing policies aimed at ensuring economic stability, improving the socioeconomic well-being of the people, and achieving the long-term sustainable development of all sectors. At present, with regard to imported goods, the government is prioritizing the interests of the public and, depending on prevailing circumstances, continues to extend the periods of tax exemption.

The Ministry of Finance and Revenue has further extended the tax exemption periods. In this regard, the exemptions from customs duty, specific goods tax, commercial tax and advance income tax (two per cent) on imports of High-Speed Diesel (HSD) (500 ppm), which were previously granted from 1 April to 30 September this year, have been extended until 30 November, up from 1 October. Similarly, the exemptions from customs duty, commercial tax and advance income tax on imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which were previously granted from 1 May to 30 September, have also been extended until 30 November, up from 1 October. In addition, the exemption from advance income tax (two per cent) on imports of fertilizers, which was previously granted from 1 April to 30 September, has likewise been extended until 30 November, up from 1 October.

As such, the further extension of the tax exemption period for imports of fuel diesel, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fertilizers will bring greater benefits to the public. At a time when global fuel prices are rising, this measure will facilitate the movement of vehicles powered by diesel, encourage increased electricity generation and help lower electricity tariffs. It will also ensure the sustainable development of the agricultural sector and reduce production costs for farmers, thereby contributing to the greater advancement of public interests.

By further extending the tax exemption periods, the government aims to help stabilize the prices of basic food items and commodities transported by vehicles running on diesel, particularly at a time when global fuel prices are rising due to conflicts in the Middle East. Similarly, granting tax exemptions on imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will help mitigate rising LNG prices, while supporting increased electricity generation and reducing electricity production costs.

Furthermore, the public has warmly welcomed the extension of the tax exemption period on the advance income tax levied on imported fertilizers. This measure will help ensure the sustainable development of the agricultural sector, which is a key pillar of the State's economic development, while reducing production costs for farmers.

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ARTICLE

The Therapist's Role in the Myanmar Cultural Context

By U Khin Maung Myint

Understanding the relationship between culture, psychology, Buddhist philosophy, family expectations and modern psychotherapy.

Psychotherapy is not simply a conversation between a therapist and a client. It is an encounter between two human beings, each carrying personal experiences, cultural beliefs, social expectations and moral values.

In Myanmar society, the therapist's role requires particular sensitivity because emotional suffering is often expressed, understood and managed differently from Western psychological models.

A culturally competent therapist must understand not only what the client is saying, but also what the client feels unable to say.

1. Understanding the Myanmar cultural background

Myanmar society has traditionally been shaped by several interconnected influences:

- Theravada Buddhism: Teachings about suffering (Dukkha), impermanence (Anicca), compassion (Karuna) and Karma (Kamma)
- Family collectivism: The needs, reputation and harmony of the family may take precedence over individual wishes.
- Respect for authority and seniority: Elders, teachers, religious leaders and professionals often occupy respected positions.
- Emotional restraint: Open expressions of anger, disagreement, sadness or personal dissatisfaction may be discouraged.
- Social reputation: Maintaining dignity, avoiding shame and preserving ဂျက်နှာ (face) can influence behaviour.

These characteristics are neither universal nor necessarily harmful. Their psychological significance depends on the individual, family and circumstances.

For example, respect for parents can provide emotional security. However, excessive expectations of obedience may inhibit autonomy.

The therapist's responsibility is to recognise both the protective and potentially restrictive aspects of cultural traditions.

2. The therapist as a culturally sensitive listener

In Western psychotherapy, clients are frequently encouraged to express feelings directly.

In Myanmar culture, particularly among older generations, emotional difficulties may be communicated indirectly.

A client experiencing depression might complain of headaches, tiredness, insomnia, loss of appetite or bodily discomfort rather than explicitly describing sadness or hopelessness.

A therapist should therefore explore the emotional significance of physical complaints without prematurely assuming that they are psychological.

Consider a Myanmar woman who says:

"I am not unhappy. I simply cannot sleep because I think too much about my family."

The therapist should explore whether this represents ordinary worry, anxiety, depression, family conflict or another difficulty.

The objective is not to impose a Western diagnostic label but to understand the client's experience within their own explanatory framework.



3. Buddhism and psychotherapy: Complementary but different

Buddhist perspective

Recognizes suffering as part of human existence and emphasizes ethical conduct, mindfulness, compassion and wisdom.

Psychotherapeutic perspective

Explores psychological distress, relationships, behaviour, cognition, emotional regulation and personal development through evidence-informed methods.

Buddhist philosophy can provide a valuable cultural bridge for therapy.

The familiar Buddhist progression:

သီလ → သမာဓိ → ပညာ

Ethical Conduct → Concentration → Wisdom

has parallels with psychological development.

Buddhist concept	Possible therapeutic parallel
Sila — ethical conduct	Values, boundaries and responsible behaviour
Samadhi — concentration	Attention regulation and mindfulness
Panna — wisdom	Insight, cognitive flexibility and self-understanding
Mettā — loving-kindness	Compassion and self-compassion
Anicca — impermanence	Acceptance of change and uncertainty
Upekkhā — equanimity	Emotional balance without indifference

However, important distinctions remain.

Psychotherapy should not become religious instruction. Buddhist teachings should be incorporated only when meaningful and acceptable to the client.

Similarly, therapists must avoid interpreting psychological suffering as punishment for previous Kamma. Such interpretations can reinforce guilt, helplessness or self-blame.

Acceptance of suffering does not mean passive acceptance of abuse, injustice or treatable illness.

4. The therapist's role in family relationships

Family is central to the lives of many Myanmar people.

The traditional expectation of respecting parents and elders may sometimes create psychological conflicts.

Consider a 28-year-old Myanmar woman whose parents expect her to marry someone they have selected.

She respects her parents but wishes to make her own decision.

Her dilemma is not simply whether to marry. It involves competing values:

SEE PAGE 11

Our Worth Is Never Measured by Others' Approval

By Laura Htet (UDE)

One of the greatest challenges in life is learning how to remain true to ourselves while living in a world full of expectations. We meet different people, build relationships, and become part of many situations where our words, actions, and decisions are judged by others. Naturally, we want to be accepted, understood, and appreciated. However, when the desire to please people becomes stronger than our respect for ourselves, we may slowly lose the ability to live according to our own values. We become so busy keeping everyone else comfortable that we forget our own feelings deserve attention too.

There are many people who appear confident on the outside but quietly struggle with feelings of insecurity within themselves. They question their decisions, hesitate to express their opinions, and constantly worry about how others might judge them. Sometimes, they even underestimate their own abilities, not because they are incapable, but because they have spent too much time comparing themselves with others and seeking approval. Their minds are filled with unnecessary questions: Will they be disappointed? Will they misunderstand me? Will they stop treating me the same way? Such thoughts can make even simple decisions feel difficult.

The truth is that fear often influences our behaviour more than we realize. We may be afraid of making someone angry, losing a friendship, disappointing our families, or becoming the subject of criticism. We may choose silence instead of honesty because we do not want to create tension. We may accept something unfair because saying no seems more difficult than putting up with it. Little by little, we begin to believe that maintaining peace means agreeing with everyone, even when doing so makes us uncomfortable.

But is that really peace? If we always hide our feelings to avoid disagreements, are we truly protecting our relationships, or are we simply avoiding necessary conversations? A relationship that depends on one person constantly giving in cannot remain healthy forever. Genuine relationships should have room for different opinions, honest communication, and mutual understanding. We should not have to pretend to agree with everything just to prove that we care about someone.



Being kind is a beautiful quality, but kindness should not become a reason for others to take advantage of us. Being patient is valuable, but patience does not mean accepting every form of unfair treatment. Being understanding is important, but understanding other people's feelings should not require us to ignore our own. There is a point where excessive compromise stops being kindness and begins to become a loss of self-respect.

One thing we need to understand is that not everyone will appreciate us, regardless of how much effort we make. Some people may misunderstand our intentions, disagree with our choices, or form opinions without knowing the whole story. Even when we do our best, we cannot control what others think or how they respond. If we continue to measure our worth through their reactions, we will spend much of our lives trying to meet expectations that constantly change. The more we depend on outside approval, the more easily our confidence can be affected by other people's words.

We should also recognize that saying no does not automatically make us unkind. Sometimes, saying no is necessary to protect our time, energy, responsibilities, and personal values. We cannot be available for everyone at every moment, and we do not have to accept every request simply because someone expects us to. A polite refusal is not an act of disrespect. In fact, it can be a sign that we understand our responsibilities and know what we can reasonably offer.

Another important part of self-respect is having the courage to stand by our decisions. This does not mean refusing to listen to advice or believing that we are always right. We should remain willing to learn, admit mistakes, and consider different perspectives. However, there is a difference between accepting helpful advice and allowing other people's opinions to control every aspect of our lives. We can listen without losing our judgement, accept criticism without losing confidence, and change our minds without feeling that we have failed.

As we grow older, we begin to realize that not every disagreement needs to become an argument, and not every misunderstanding needs an immediate explanation. Sometimes, a calm conversation is enough. Sometimes, walking away from an unnecessary conflict is wiser than trying to prove a point. Maturity is not about winning every discussion or receiving approval from everyone. It is about knowing when to speak, when to listen, when to compromise, and when to stand firm.

For those of us who have developed the habit of pleasing others, building self-confidence may take time. We may feel uncomfortable when we begin expressing our true opinions or setting boundaries. We may even worry that people will notice the change in our behaviour. Nevertheless, personal growth often begins when we stop following old habits that no longer serve us. We can start with small steps: expressing an honest opinion, making decisions with confidence, refusing unreasonable demands politely, and reminding ourselves that our feelings matter too.

Most importantly, we should never confuse being loved with being useful to everyone. We do not have to solve every problem, fulfil every expectation, or sacrifice our comfort to prove that we are good people. Our presence should be valued for who we are, not simply for how much we can do for others. Healthy relationships are not built on fear or endless sacrifice. They grow through honesty, trust, respect, and the willingness of both sides to understand one another.

Life becomes much more meaningful when we stop treating other people's approval as the measurement of our personal worth. We can continue to be gentle, generous, and considerate while learning to protect our dignity. We can care deeply without becoming dependent, forgive without forgetting our boundaries, and maintain relationships without abandoning our identity. After all, the purpose of living is not to become the person everyone expects us to be. It is to become someone we can respect when we look at ourselves honestly. We should never have to lose ourselves just to make room for everyone else in our lives.

NATIONAL

MRF: Research underway on rice export zones

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) announced that research is being conducted to study rice export zones.

The research survey focuses on farmers' participation in rice export zones, cultivation conditions and expectations, technology use and its impact on paddy production, and second-crop and multiple-cropping conditions, including sequential, intercropped and rotational cropping. The study is being carried out jointly by Yezin Agricultural University, the Department of Agriculture and the Myanmar Rice Federation starting in August 2026.



The research survey is underway on rice export zones, cultivation, technology, and cropping conditions.

The research plans to cover 200 farmers each in four areas, including Nay Pyi Taw. Surveys of 673 farmers have been completed so far.

In the 2026 monsoon paddy season, 62 companies are operating 497 rice export zones in 55 townships across Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region. Research teams are going on field visits at the grassroots level and interviewing farmers and companies, and the research will continue until the end of April 2027.

The public and private sectors are working together to make REZ project operations effective. In addition to systematically supervising and reviewing operations, satellite assessment and ground-level research are being undertaken, and research findings will be released to the public from time to time, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. — NN/KK

200 apartment units on sale under low-interest loan programme

TWO hundred apartments in two housing projects will be sold under a low-interest housing loan programme, according to the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

The units are available to 2,496 people who had saved at least three million kyats in housing savings at the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID Bank), as of June 2026. They are 120 apartments in three five-storey buildings with eight units each at Yuzana Housing Project Phase III; and 80 apartments in two five-storey buildings with 12 units each at Kyansittha Housing Project Phase I, totalling 200 apartments, according to an announcement released on 12 October.



Aung Myint Mo housing units between Yoma Yeiktha and Aung Myint Mo street, Ward 144, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.

Those who meet the criteria can register for their desired unit through the DUHD Sale Housing Facebook page's Messenger, mentioning the applicant's name, citizenship scrutiny card, housing project name, CHID Bank down payment serial number and phone number.

Registration must be submitted by 3:30 pm on 20 November, according to the announcement. — NN/KK

Online Shopping Complaints Hard to Resolve Without Physical Stores

IN its statement on the status of complaints received in 2026, the Department of Consumer Affairs (CAD) announced that it is difficult to mediate and resolve consumer complaints when buyers are defrauded while purchasing goods online from sellers that have no physical store address.

Regarding consumer grievances and losses, the CAD received 462 complaints over the 10 months from January to October 2026, of which 426 have already been resolved.

The complaints include 44 related to goods and 418 related to services, while the remaining 36 unresolved cases are still being processed. Yangon Region recorded the highest number of complaints with 302 cases, followed by Mandalay with 64 cases. By complaint category, e-commerce services ranked as the third most complained-about sector, with 77 cases.

Because it is difficult to mediate and resolve fraud cases involving online purchases when the seller does not have a physical store, the department has issued a warning prohibiting online sellers from operating without registration.

Furthermore, the public is urged to exercise caution and shop carefully when buying products online, while regional, state, and district offices continue to carry out consumer protection awareness activities on an ongoing basis. — TWA/ZN

MFSPEA invites bids under distribution price competition system

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) has invited member companies to import urea fertilizer under a distribution price competition system, according to the association. The association will use the distribution price competition system for December to import quality urea fertilizer at fair prices, under the guidance of the Urea Fertilizer Purchase and Distribution Steering Committee.

Member companies wishing to import urea fertilizer under that system must inform the Committee at ureacommittee@gmail.com and the association at info@mfspea.com, vicepresident-1@mfspea.com, vicepresident-2@mfspea.com and generalsecretary@mfspea.com, and apply no later than 2 pm on 15 November.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the MFSPEA at 09 988539360.

The association has issued the reference prices set for Yangon Region until 30 November at K124,600 per 50-kilogramme bag for urea fertilizer (large granular) and K150,000 per bag of di-ammonium phosphate (15-15-15 compound).

Under the supervision of the Urea Fertilizer Purchase, Distribution and Sales Steering Committee, MFSPEA has already asked the member companies to stick to the reference prices.

The MFSPEA has not confirmed the reference price for Complex 15 fertilizer. The prices will vary a bit depending on transport charges in other regions and states, as the aforementioned prices are set for the Yangon Region. Consumers can complain about overcharging to the committee through contact numbers 067 410035 and 09 988539360, MFSPEA stated. — NN/KK

Taxis without YCTA registration stickers to be barred from buying CNG



A taxi with a YCTA registration sticker and CNG sticker.

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee said taxis running on compressed natural gas (CNG) will have to finish registering with the Yangon City Taxi Association (YCTA) and fasten CNG stickers before 31 December 2026.

It has warned that all CNG taxis will need to finish the process by the deadline, under the directive of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Yangon Region government. All vehicles that fail to complete YCTA registration and CNG sticker fastening by the deadline will face a temporary ban from purchasing CNG that takes effect from 1 January 2027. Only after completing the process in compliance with the requirements will the ban be removed. Taxi owners are urged to finish the process within the deadline so that they won't be banned from purchasing CNG. — TWA/ZS

ARTICLE/LIFE&SOCIAL
WORLD

Patna's 'State First Clean City' award a proud achievement for Bihar and India

BIHAR Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Wednesday congratulated the residents of Patna after the city received the 'State First Clean City' award in the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, describing the recognition as a proud achievement for the state.

According to an official statement, he said receiving the award from President Droupadi Murmu was a matter of special pride for Patna and credited the achievement to collective efforts, public participation and the dedication of sanitation workers. — ANI

The Therapist's Role in the Myanmar Cultural Context

FROM PAGE 9

- Filial duty versus personal autonomy
- Family harmony versus individual happiness
- Cultural expectations versus personal identity

A culturally sensitive therapist should not automatically encourage rebellion against parental authority or insist upon obedience.

Instead, therapy should help the client understand her values, examine the consequences of available choices and develop appropriate communication and boundaries.

The therapist facilitates informed choice rather than choosing the client.

5. The therapist and emotional suppression

A familiar Myanmar expression is:

အားနာတယ် — Ah Nar Tal

This concept can encompass reluctance to inconvenience others, concern for their feelings, deference and a sense of social obligation.

It is often a positive social quality, encouraging consideration and interpersonal harmony.

However, excessive အားနာခြင်း can create psychological difficulties.

A person may find it difficult to refuse unreasonable requests, communicate dissatisfaction, establish personal boundaries or seek assistance.

Over time, this can contribute to resentment, anxiety, exhaustion and interpersonal difficulties.

A therapist might ask:

"When you say yes to others, are you agreeing because you genuinely wish to help, or because you feel unable to say no?"

Such questions encourage reflection without dismissing the client's cultural values.

The therapeutic goal is not to eliminate အားနာခြင်း, but to help the client distinguish healthy consideration from self-neglect.

6. Authority, hierarchy and the therapeutic relationship

Burmese clients may perceive therapists, particularly medically qualified or older therapists, as authority figures.

This can create an important therapeutic challenge.

A client may agree with the therapist out of politeness rather than genuine conviction. Silence may be mistaken for agreement, and reluctance to ask questions may be interpreted as understanding.

The therapist should actively reduce this power imbalance.

For example:

"You do not have to agree with me. My role is to help you explore your own understanding and decisions."

The therapist must also maintain professional boundaries. Respect for seniority should never become a justification for paternalism, coercion or excessive dependency.

7. Mental health stigma and confidentiality

In some Myanmar communities, psychological distress is still associated with weakness, family shame or severe mental illness.

Seeking psychiatric or psychological help may therefore be delayed.

A therapist has an important educational role in distinguishing everyday emotional difficulties from diagnosable mental disorders.

Confidentiality is particularly important in close-knit communities where relatives, neighbours and acquaintances may know one another.

Clients need clear explanations of professional confidentiality, its limits and the circumstances in which information may need to be shared for safety or legal reasons.

Therapy should be presented as a legitimate form of healthcare, not evidence of personal or moral failure.

8. Trauma, political conflict and displacement

For Burmese clients affected by political violence, armed conflict, displacement or migration, psychotherapy must extend beyond individual symptoms.

Distress may involve bereavement, survivor guilt, separation from family, loss of livelihood, uncertainty about the future and fear for relatives remaining in Myanmar.

Therapists should avoid treating all such reactions as psychiatric disorders. Some represent understandable responses to extraordinary adversity.

A trauma-informed approach emphasizes safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment.

Where necessary, therapy should also connect clients with practical, social and legal support.

The therapist should recognise that psychological recovery may be difficult when the external source of danger or insecurity continues.

9. Different generations, different therapeutic needs

The expectations of an elderly Myanmar client may differ considerably from those of a young Myanmar professional.

Older generations
Younger generations

May place greater emphasis on family duty
May place greater emphasis on individual choice

May prefer indirect emotional communication
May be more comfortable discussing emotions

May regard therapy as unfamiliar
May be more familiar with psychological terminology

May draw heavily on traditional religious or community support
May combine traditional beliefs with contemporary psychological approaches

These are possible patterns, not fixed characteristics. Education, urban or rural upbringing, migration, religion and personal experience can be as influential as age.

The therapist must avoid stereotyping.

10. The therapist's ethical responsibilities

A culturally competent therapist working with Myanmar clients should maintain several fundamental principles.

Respect: Understand the client's cultural and religious values without imposing personal beliefs.

Autonomy: Support the client's right to make informed decisions.

Non-maleficence: Avoid reinforcing guilt, stigma, coercion or harmful family dynamics.

Professional competence: Recognize when specialized assessment, psychiatric treatment or safeguarding intervention is necessary.

Confidentiality: Establish trust through clear professional boundaries.

Cultural humility: Remain open to learning from the client rather than assuming that shared ethnicity or language guarantees understanding.

An especially important distinction is between cultural sensitivity and cultural conformity.

The therapist should understand cultural expectations without automatically endorsing every traditional practice.

11. A philosophical reflection: The therapist is neither a monk nor a judge

In Myanmar society, people traditionally seek guidance from parents, teachers, monks, elders and respected professionals.

Each may provide advice from a particular moral, religious or social perspective.

The therapist occupies a different position.

The therapist is not there to determine who is right or wrong in a family dispute, to preach moral virtue or to prescribe a particular way of life.

Rather, the therapist helps individuals understand their thoughts, emotions, behaviour and relationships.

A Buddhist monk may offer teachings on how suffering can be understood and transcended.

A therapist explores how a particular individual experiences suffering and what psychological, relational or practical changes may alleviate it.

Both may contribute to well-being, but their responsibilities and methods are distinct.

Conclusion: From obedience to understanding, without abandoning respect

The challenge of psychotherapy in Burmese culture is not to replace traditional values with Western individualism.

Nor is it to preserve every cultural tradition regardless of its psychological consequences.

The task is to find a thoughtful balance between respect and autonomy, compassion and boundaries, acceptance and change, family belonging and individual identity.

A therapist should help the client recognize that respecting one's parents does not require surrendering one's judgement; that compassion for others need not mean neglecting oneself; and that Buddhist acceptance of impermanence need not mean resignation to avoidable suffering.

Ultimately, the therapist's greatest contribution may be to create a space in which a Myanmar client can speak freely, question respectfully and make decisions without unnecessary fear, guilt or shame.

A good therapist does not teach the client what to think. A good therapist helps the client discover how to think, feel and choose with greater clarity.

For a professional discussion, I would particularly recommend exploring one further issue: whether the traditional Myanmar culture of advice-giving, respect for elders and moral instruction can sometimes unintentionally turn counselling into paternalism. This is especially relevant when the therapist is also a senior doctor, teacher or respected community elder.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Russia harvests about 140 mln tonnes of grain so far in 2026

Nearly 97 per cent of the country's grain and legume crops have been harvested.

RUSSIA has harvested about 140 million tonnes of grain in bunker weight so far in 2026, including more than 95 million tonnes of wheat, the Russian Agriculture Ministry announced Wednesday.

Nearly 97 per cent of the country's grain and legume crops have been harvested, the ministry said in a statement following remarks by Agriculture Minister Oksana Lut at a meeting of the State Duma Committee on Agrarian Issues.



An agricultural worker operates a combine as he loads harvested grain into a truck in the fields of Progress-Agro company in Krasnodar region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/ FILE**

Russia expects its total grain harvest to reach about 140 million tonnes in net weight by the end of the year, the ministry said. The country's oilseed harvest has risen by 13 per cent since the beginning of the year to 34.8 million tonnes, with full-year production expected to exceed 35 million tonnes in net weight. Sugar beet production is forecast to reach 52 million tonnes, significantly higher than last year's level.

In 2025, Russia harvested more than 144 million tonnes of grain, marking the third-largest harvest in the country's history. The country's record grain harvest was 157.676 million tonnes in 2022. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea tax revenue rises sharply

SOUTH Korea's national tax revenue rose in the first nine months of 2026 due to stronger corporate earnings and increased stock market activity, government data showed Thursday.

The cumulative national tax revenue through September ran to 385.0 trillion won (US$ 288.1 billion), up 95.4 trillion won compared to the same period last year, according to the monthly financial trend report by the Ministry of Planning and Budget.

The sharp growth in national tax collections was spearheaded by corporate tax revenue, which expanded 51.9 trillion won on the back of improved corporate performance. – Xinhua

Bangladesh garment factories close over wages

SCORES of Bangladeshi garment factories were shut on Thursday as protesting workers demanded higher wages, prompting owners to consider withholding pay from those on strike. The unrest, which began in October, threatens to disrupt an industry that earns around $38 billion annually, accounting for four-fifths of the country's export earnings and employing more than four million workers.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has called for calm as wage negotiations continue.

The South Asian nation of 170 million people is the world's second-biggest garment exporter behind China, supplying major international fashion brands. – AFP

Italy raises 2026 growth forecast, lowers 2027 outlook



Customers shop at a market in Rome, Italy. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

ITALY'S National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) on Wednesday raised its economic growth forecast for 2026 but lowered its outlook for 2027, as rising prices and fading public stimulus are expected to slow consumption and investment.

The institute now expects gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 0.9 per cent this year and 0.6 per cent next year, revising its June forecasts up by 0.2 percentage points and down by 0.1 percentage points, respectively.

Stronger-than-expected investment helped lift this year's outlook. Domestic demand is expected to remain the main driver of growth across both years, although its contribution will weaken.

Household consumption, including spending by non-profit institutions serving households, is projected to grow by one per cent in 2026 and 0.6 per cent in 2027. ISTAT said rising prices were weighing on purchasing power, with households drawing on savings to support spending.

Investment growth is forecast to slow from 2.9 per cent this year to one per cent next year as public stimulus measures are scaled back. Geopolitical uncertainty and higher energy costs could also prompt companies to postpone or reduce investment plans, the institute said. — Xinhua

New Zealanders spend more on fuel as overall card spending falls

SPENDING on fuel in New Zealand rose 4.8 per cent in October from the previous month, even as overall electronic card spending declined, official data showed on Thursday.

Among retail categories, fuel was the only one to record an increase, rising 25 million NZ dollars (about US$13.89 million), according to the national statistics agency Stats NZ.

Spending on durables fell 34 million NZ dollars, followed by hospitality, down 23 million NZ dollars, and consumables, down 7.5 million NZ dollars, Stats NZ said.

Spending on motor vehicles excluding fuel declined 3.8 million NZ dollars, while apparel spending fell 2.2 million NZ dollars, statistics showed.

Electronic card spending in the retail industries fell 0.7 per cent, or 47 million NZ dollars, while spending in core retail industries dropped 1.2 per cent, or 73 million NZ dollars, Stats NZ said.

From September, the total value of electronic card transactions across all industries decreased 120 million NZ dollars, or 1.2 per cent, according to the agency. — Xinhua



Motorists refuelling vehicles at a petrol station in Wellington amid rising fuel expenditure. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Tata International appoints TV Narendran as Chairman, Noel Tata named Chairman Emeritus

THE Board of Directors of Tata International has approved the appointment of TV Narendran as Chairman of the company and Noel N Tata as Chairman Emeritus, as per a statement by the company.

"Board of Tata International Limited has approved the appointment of Mr T V Narendran as Chairman and Mr Noel N Tata as Chairman Emeritus of Tata International Limited, effective 12th November 2026," the company said in the release.

"Over the years, Tata International has built a strong legacy of enterprise, resilience and partnerships. I thank all our colleagues for their commitment and contribution to this journey and wish them my very best for the years ahead," said Noel Tata.

Commenting on his appointment, TV Narendran said, "It is a privilege to take on the role of Chairman. I look forward to building on the strong foundation and legacy of the organisation to pursue sustainable growth, strengthen our capabilities and create enduring value for all our stakeholders." — ANI

China, US maintain close communication on tariff cuts, trade, investment

CHINA and the United States are maintaining close communication on implementing reciprocal tariff cuts covering around US$30 billion worth of imports on each side, as well as on issues of mutual concern in trade and investment, China's Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.



This photo, taken on 1 May 2022, shows a container vessel docking at the Qianwan Container Terminal in Qingdao, East China's Shandong province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ FILE**

The reciprocal tariff-cut arrangement will help stabilize and expand bilateral trade, and business communities in both countries have high expectations for it, ministry spokesperson He Yadong told a regular press conference. — Xinhua

Japan sake brewer turns waste charcoal into odour-cutting cattle feed

A Japanese sake brewer has found an unlikely use for brewing waste, turning it into cattle feed that reduces manure odours and gives new value to a material once costly to dispose of.

Kobe-based Hakutsuru Sake Brewing Co drew inspiration from ancient Roman writings in its search for a new use for spent activated carbon.

The company says cattle readily consume the feed, which cuts odor-causing compounds in their manure by around 90 per cent.

The initiative has turned an industrial waste product into a source of revenue, with other breweries in Japan's major sake-producing regions, including Nada in Hyogo Prefecture and Fushimi in Kyoto, joining the effort.



The image shows a worker adding activated carbon to a tank of sake at Hakutsuru Sake Brewing Co in Kobe, western Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Activated carbon has been used in sake production since around the Taisho era (1912-1926) to help preserve the drink's colour and aroma. — Kyodo

Changing Trade Name of Pesticide

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade name of the following pesticide which is registered by Shandong Shanghai E-Tong Chemical Co.,Ltd.. And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade name within (14) days of the publication of this notice to the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	Yonta Fast Hunter	Armo Hit	Nitenpyram 20 % + Pymetrozine 60 % WG	P2023-5307

Aventine Limited (ph: 09-754264630)

TENDER INVITATION

1. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) is inviting tenders for a subcontract of Pile Fabrication Works for ASK Development Project.
2. Description and Scope of Work – Pile fabrication work at APF, ACP, AMS01, and ABV01 includes 758 Nos. (250 × 250 mm) and 3,411 Nos. (350 × 350 mm) precast square piles, totaling approximately 4,169 piles and 99,230 m in length. The Contractor will supply rebar, concrete, pile caps, pile tips, two 16-ton gantry cranes, a pre-casting yard, and staff accommodation and the Subcontractor shall provide all remaining labor, materials, machinery, tools, safety measures, and management required to complete the Works.
3. Bid Submission Deadline: November 20, 2026
4. Bid Submission Method: Please submit the documents via the following email address.
5. Contact information for more details:
   - Email: yuhuiguan53@gmail.com
   - Phone: +95 (9) 696810283

TENDER INVITATION

1. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) is inviting tenders for a subcontract of Plumbing and Electrical Piping Works of Panel Houses for ASK Development Project.
2. Description and Scope of Work – The Works involve laying temporary water and electricity pipelines for PTTEP, CNECC, and CCECC, and temporary water pipelines for CMEEC in the living and office areas. The Tender Price shall be all-inclusive, covering all labor, materials, machinery, tools, safety and operational measures, site management, profit, and any other costs whatsoever required for the full execution and completion of the Works.
3. Bid Submission Deadline: November 26, 2026
4. Bid Submission Method: Please submit the documents via the following email address.
5. Contact information for more details:
   - Email: yuhuiguan53@gmail.com
   - Phone: +95 (9) 696810283

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Putin thanks Trump for facilitating Russia-Ukraine contacts during Kremlin meeting

Putin stressed that Russia recognizes only the state border as the line of demarcation between Russia and Ukraine.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said he was pleased to welcome US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Moscow.

Putin asked them to convey his gratitude to US President Donald Trump for organizing contacts between Russia and Ukraine.

He also noted progress on the humanitarian track and said it was important for him to hear the US envoys' assessment of the recent talks in Abu Dhabi.

Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked US First Lady Melania Trump for her involvement in resolving the humanitarian issue surrounding Alyoshki, asking that his gratitude be conveyed to her. During the talks, Putin noted progress on humanitarian issues related to Ukraine.

Putin said Moscow was aware that Ukraine was raising the issue of so-called "gray zones" during discussions on a potential settlement. Putin stressed that Russia recognizes only the state border as the line of demarcation between Russia and Ukraine.

"We know that the Ukrainian side is raising the issue of the so-called 'grey zones", Putin said.

The Russian president proposed organizing a humanitarian mission in Konstantinovka based on the experience of cooperation with Ukraine in Alyoshki, and suggested instructing the Russian and Ukrainian ombudspersons to work together on its implementation.



Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was pleased to welcome US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Moscow. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

Putin said Russia would need five days to clear the territory near Konstantinovka of mines, adding that if Ukraine considers the area under its control, it should ensure security on its side. According to the Russian president, hundreds of civilians remain in Konstantinovka, and Russia is prepared to help evacuate them. He added that the humanitarian operation in Alyoshki would have been impossible without US President Donald Trump's support. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil and Venezuela fully restore ties

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and acting Venezuelan President Delcy Rodriguez agreed to fully restore bilateral relations, the Brazilian leader's office said.

"Both presidents expressed their willingness to fully resume bilateral relations at the highest level," the office said in a statement on Wednesday following the meeting, held on the sidelines of the COP31 climate conference in Antalya.

The parties discussed economic cooperation, including recent visits by Brazilian business missions to Venezuela, the revision of the Economic Complementary Agreement (ACE-69), and tariffs on Brazilian automobiles, the statement read, adding that Rodriguez proposed sending a Brazilian negotiating delegation to Caracas to discuss these issues. – SPUTNIK

Sri Lanka's 2027 budget raises public investment

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, in his capacity as minister of finance, planning and economic development, on Thursday unveiled the country's 2027 Budget, which will raise public investment and widen the financial deficit.

The budget, which was presented to the parliament, will raise public investment to two trillion Sri Lankan rupees (about US$ 5.96 billion), while widening the financial deficit to 4.5 per cent of GDP.

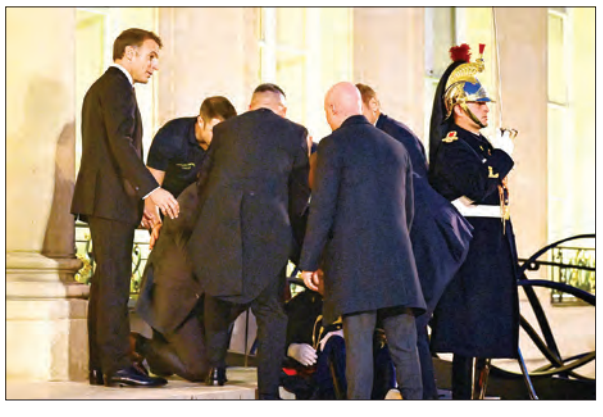
The budget is aimed at shifting the national economic focus from stabilization to aggressive expansion.

The budget also allocates 251 billion rupees to roads, expressways and railways, including 80 billion rupees to begin rail electrification. – Xinhua

2 French guards collapse as Macron welcomes Slovak president

TWO members of France's elite Republican Guard collapsed almost simultaneously outside the Elysee Palace as President Emmanuel Macron welcomed his Slovak counterpart, according to televised images and a presidential source.

As is customary for the arrival of foreign heads of state, the Republican Guards formed an honour guard in full ceremonial dress with sabres for the arrival of Slovak President Peter Pellegrini late Wednesday.



French President Emmanuel Macron rushing to assist a collapsed Republican Guard outside the Elysee Palace while hosting Slovak President Peter Pellegrini
PHOTO: AFP

One guard can be seen swaying before crashing to the ground, falling against a pillar at the Elysee Palace as his ceremonial sword clattered to the ground.

Aides and Macron immediately rushed towards the stricken guard, images from an AFP photographer showed. Le Parisien daily said that a second guard collapsed off camera, with Macron looking concerned and then hurriedly welcoming his Slovak counterpart.

A French presidential source, who asked not to be named, told AFP that both guards had suffered from "fainting attacks" and no other comment would be made.

"Both of them were swiftly taken care of and everything is fine," added the source. — AFP

Historic ocean liner SS United States reborn as artificial reef

A majestic and all-but-indestructible 20th-century ocean liner that once ferried royal leaders, movie stars and even the "Mona Lisa" to the United States was sunk Wednesday night to become the world's largest artificial reef.

Experts conducted a controlled flooded sink of the 990-foot (302-metre) SS United States, a veteran of more than 800 transatlantic crossings in the 1950s and 60s, sending it to its final resting place on the Gulf of Mexico's sandy floor, some 25 miles (40 kilometres) southwest of Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Florida's Okaloosa County, gambling that such a huge new reef would be a local tourism boom and attract dive and fishing enthusiasts, bought the long-decommissioned vessel from a conservancy group for $1 million in 2024.

The vessel — longer than the Titanic and the transatlantic speed record holder — will become the centerpiece of Okaloosa's undersea garden of sunken ships, including World War II vessels, tugboats, and even a casino boat. — AFP

SPORTS

Son Heung-min says divisions at heart of South Korea team resolved

SON Heung-min and four other South Korean players said Thursday they had put their differences aside after reports of bitter internal divisions at the heart of the national team.

South Korean football has been mired in controversy since their hugely disappointing exit in the group stage of the World Cup, after which unpopular coach Hong Myung-bo quit.

In the fallout, reports emerged in local media of a split involving the 34-year-old skipper Son and some of the other players, including Bayern Munich defender Kim Min-jae.

Son and Kim, together with Lee Jae-sung, Hwang In-beom and Hwang Hee-chan, issued a joint statement to fans apologising and saying it was time to move on after they held talks.



South Korea captain Son Heung-min acknowledging fans during a national team training session. **PHOTO: AFP**

"First of all we would like to sincerely apologize to the Korean public and football fans for the concern caused by recent reports concerning the national team," the statement said.

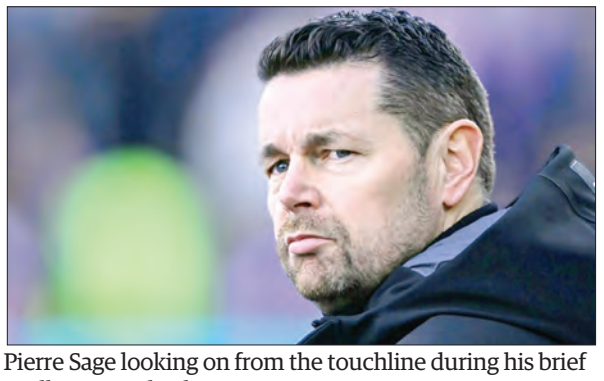
"At our recent meeting we gathered to share our thoughts on the national team openly and honestly.

"By listening directly to one another and discussing matters we had not had sufficient opportunities to address, we were able to gain a better understanding of each other's positions." — AFP

Crystal Palace sack manager Sage after just five months

CRYSTAL Palace have sacked French manager Pierre Sage after just five months in charge, with the club bottom of the Premier League.

Sunday's 3-1 defeat by Liverpool was Palace's fourth in succession in a league campaign in which they have just won two of their opening 10 matches. They also have the worst defensive record in the league, conceding 24 goals so far this season.



Pierre Sage looking on from the touchline during his brief spell as Crystal Palace manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

Palace are 21st in the 36-team Europa League table, with one win from their four matches.

"Crystal Palace Football Club can confirm that Pierre Sage has left his role as manager," said a club statement issued Thursday.

The statement added three members of Sage's coaching staff — Jamal Alioui, Damien Della Santa and Sandy Guichard — had also left Selhurst Park.

Palace added: "The club thanks Pierre and his staff for their efforts during their time in South London, and wish them well for the future. "An update on the process of appointing a new manager will be provided in due course." — AFP

US to withdraw from FIFA U17 World Cup in Qatar

THE United States will withdraw from the FIFA U17 World Cup in Qatar, local organizers told Xinhua on Thursday, with further details of the withdrawal yet to be confirmed.

Several media outlets reported that the US team had decided to pull out of the tournament due to security concerns in the Middle East.

The tournament, scheduled to run from 19 November to 13 December, will feature 48 teams divided into 12 groups of four. The top two teams from each group, along with the eight best third-placed teams, will advance to the knockout stage.

According to the tournament's competition regulations, any member association whose team withdraws within 30 days of the tournament's start will face a fine of at least 20,000 Swiss francs (US$ 24,000). FIFA also reserves the right to decide whether to invite a replacement team from another member association. — Xinhua

Junto Nakatani agrees to fight Cardenas

JAPAN'S former three-division world champion and pound-for-pound star Junto Nakatani has verbally agreed to fight American boxer Ramon Cardenas, The Ring reported Wednesday.

Sampson Lewkowicz, Cardenas' promoter, has confirmed that an agreement is in place for the fight, which will "likely take place in the first quarter of 2027" , the magazine said.

The 28-year-old Nakatani lost his first-ever career bout in May by a unanimous decision against his countryman and undisputed super bantamweight world champion Naoya Inoue in a classic at Tokyo Dome after the pair met boasting identical 32-0 records.

The 31-year-old Cardenas also fought Inoue a year earlier and knocked him down in the second round before losing by technical knockout in the eighth round in Las Vegas.

Inoue tops The Ring's pound-for-pound rankings, while Nakatani, who is 32-1 with 24 knockout wins, is seventh. Cardenas is 28-2 with 15 KOs. — Kyodo



Japanese boxer Junto Nakatani. **PHOTO: Kyodo/FILE**

China to face DPRK, S Korea and Philippines in LA28 women's football Asian qualifiers

CHINA has been drawn in Group B alongside the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), South Korea and the Philippines in the Asian qualifiers for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic women's football tournament, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced on Thursday.

Under the new format, the top eight teams from the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup will compete in the Olympic qualifiers from 19 April to 4 December 2027. The teams were seeded into four pots based on the FIFA rankings released in October.

The eight teams were drawn into two groups of four, with each group playing a home-and-away round-robin competition over six matchdays. The winner of each group will qualify directly for the 2028 Olympic Games. Group A features Japan, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan.

With the women's Olympic football tournament expanding from 12 to 16 teams, the two group runners-up will meet in a two-legged playoff on 28 February and 4 March 2028. The winner will advance to an intercontinental playoff against Argentina, which finished third at the 2025 Copa America Femenina. —Xinhua

Putin thanks Trump for facilitating Russia-Ukraine contacts during Kremlin meeting

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WORLD

China, Türkiye, Ethiopia launch carbon crediting initiative at COP31

CHINA, Türkiye and Ethiopia on Wednesday jointly launched an initiative to enhance international cooperation on carbon crediting markets at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in the Turkish coastal city of Antalya.

The initiative was unveiled at the COP31 China Pavilion in a ceremony attended by government officials and representatives of international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank.

At the event, Li Gao, China's vice minister of ecology and environment, said the initiative, guided by the principles of fairness, inclusiveness and voluntary participation, is a fully open global endeavour aimed at promoting the high-quality development and long-term stability of international carbon crediting markets. — Xinhua

Indonesian vice-president resigns over diploma

INDONESIA'S vice-president resigned Thursday, undone by a scandal over his high school diploma that has added to pressure on a government facing widespread dissatisfaction over the economy, graft and wildfires.

There had been repeated calls for Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 39, to step down following a Supreme Court ruling last month to annul his high school qualification, obtained abroad.

On Thursday, he submitted his resignation to President Prabowo Subianto and to parliament.

Prabowo told reporters he had accepted Gibran's resignation "with a heavy heart" and praised him for acting "for a greater cause, for the interests of the nation, the state, and the people of Indonesia".

"He certainly feels that he has pursued his education through an orderly process, but we all understand that the education system abroad is different from the education system in Indonesia," the president said. — AFP

Researchers develop blood test to detect early-stage breast cancer

AN international team of researchers has developed a blood test that can detect breast cancer at an early stage and help predict the risk of recurrence after treatment, Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science said in a statement on Wednesday.

The findings, published in the journal Nature, could pave the way for better cancer detection and follow-up care.

The test detects tiny traces of cancer cells in the blood by analyzing chemical markers that reflect their behavior. In tests involving women with breast cancer and healthy participants, the method identified early-stage breast cancer with 95 per cent accuracy. — Xinhua

Global leaders gather for COP31 summit, calling for urgent climate action, finance reform

Solar power alone met nearly three quarters of the growth in global electricity demand last year.

THE Antalya Leaders' Summit of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) opened on Wednesday, with a focus on turning climate commitments into concrete action.

Opening the high-level meeting, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged international cooperation on shared challenges. "We do not need countries to agree on everything, but we do need them to cooperate on the things no country can solve alone," he said.



This photo taken on 11 November 2026 shows the entrance to the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Türkiye. The 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) is being held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9 to 20 November. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Guterres noted that global emissions reached a record high in 2025 and that the past four years were the hottest in history. Pointing out that fossil fuels must be phased out, he stated that major oil companies should contribute to recovery efforts through taxes on their windfall profits.

Highlighting the transition in the energy sector, Guterres added that solar power alone met nearly three quarters of the growth in global electricity demand last year, proving that clean energy has become the cheapest source of new electricity across most of the world. — Xinhua

G7 countries call on Iran to resume cooperation with IAEA

THE G7 countries called on Iran to resume cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and committed to continuing to implement their obligations under the snapback mechanism for international sanctions against Iran, a joint statement read. Following the US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025, Iran limited cooperation with the IAEA and access to nuclear facilities, stating that all decisions regarding cooperation with the organization rest with Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

"We urged Iran to return to compliance with its international obligations, and in particular to resume full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to restore transparency regarding the nature of its nuclear programme," the statement read on Wednesday.



Picture shows general view of Isfahan (UCF) nuclear power plant (UCF) 295 kilometres from Tehran, March 2005. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The countries also reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement their obligations under all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and sanctions that were reinstated in September 2025 through the snapback mechanism, the statement added. In addition, the G7 countries called on Iran to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and supported the initiative of France and the United Kingdom to create a coalition to open the strait. — SPUTNIK