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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Myanmar-Themed Concert Bridges Cultures in Belarus

THE "Myanmar is a Sweetheart Country" musical concert was held on 11 November at the Palace of Veterans in Minsk, Republic of Belarus, with U Maung Maung Soe, Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus, attending as a special guest, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The concert was organized to commemorate Myanmar's recent traditional Thadingyut Lighting Festival and further strengthen bilateral friendship and promote cultural exchange between Myanmar and Belarus.

During the concert, Belarusian musician Mr Vladimir Sukolinsky and the "Heart Melodies" musical group, accompanied by performing troupes, performed original songs celebrating Myanmar's scenic natural beauty and rich cultural heritage through music and dance.

In addition to the Myanmar Ambassador, embassy staff and their family members, invitees and members of the Belarusian public attended the concert and enjoyed the musical performances. — ASH/TH



This photo features the 'Myanmar is a Sweetheart Country' musical concert in progress in Minsk, Republic of Belarus.

NATIONAL PAGE 7



Free energy-efficient stoves distributed to residents; environmental awareness raised

BUSINESS PAGE 11



Palm oil reference price dips this week

HLUTTAW

Third Pyithu Hluttaw Enters 28th Day of Third Regular Session

The 28th day of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw convened at 10 am yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, deputy ministers, a Nay Pyi Taw Council member, and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives attended the meeting, which featured a question-and-answer segment on five public issues and the approval of a parliamentary committee report.



The Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session convenes its 28th-day sitting in Nay Pyi Taw.

Responding to employment for persons with disabilities, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myo Aung stated that the 2024 census recorded 2.29 million persons with disabilities, accounting for 7.6 per cent of the population aged five and above. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law (2015) and its Rules (2017), the ministry coordinates with government departments and private factories to place qualified applicants in suitable jobs. He noted that 10 vocational training centres operate nationwide for persons with physical disabilities aged 18 to 45, offering courses three times per financial year in electronics, barbering, computing, printing, and tailoring, which helped 254 out of 575 trainees secure employment between the 2021-2022 and 2025-2026 financial years. Additionally, the Department of Social Welfare has appointed 112 staff members with disabilities – 28 gazetted officers and 84 staff – and facilitated private-sector jobs for 66 visually impaired trainees through therapeutic massage courses under its five-year strategic plan (2022-2027).

Addressing rural infrastructure, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo said the 40-mile road connecting the Nambaw village junction on the Mongpyin-Monghsat road to Painhsan village serves 3,416 residents across 24 villages. Phased earthwork widening will be proposed under Union or State border development funds starting in the 2028-2029 financial year.

SEE PAGE 3



A Wind Power Project.

MOEE Eyes Large-Scale Wind Power Projects with Private Investors

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is conducting feasibility studies for large-scale wind power projects in cooperation with private investors, covering 30 wind projects with a combined capacity of 5,108 megawatts.

SEE PAGE 4

Yangon-Bagan Sleeper Train to begin operating on 20 Nov

ACCORDING to the Online Railway Ticket Platform (ORTP), the Yangon - Bagan Sleeper Train will begin operating on 20 November.

It will depart from Yangon at 4:15 pm, allowing passengers to enjoy a comfortable overnight sleep before arriving refreshed in Bagan at 12:00 pm the next day.

The train features two-berth and four-berth sleeper compartments. Train No 61 Up (Yangon-Bagan) will depart every Friday, while Train No 62 Down (Bagan-Yangon) will depart every Tuesday.



The Yangon-Bagan sleeper train prepares to depart.

Tickets for the upcoming 20 November Bagan train will be sold through the ORTP, starting at midnight on 13 November.

Passengers can visit the ORTP website to check prices and details for their travel dates, and purchase tickets easily via mobile phone at ortp.railways.gov.mm.

"We no longer have to queue early in the morning at the ticket counter; we can now book tickets from home with just a phone. We don't have to worry about tickets for our Tazaungdine trip. It is so convenient," said a passenger planning to travel on the Yangon-Bagan route.

As before, the Yangon-Bagan train will make stops at 24 stations along the route. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

Union Supplementary Appropriation Law for 2026-2027 Financial Year 2026 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 7

4th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1388 ME
13 November 2026

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this law.

Chapter I

Title and Effective Period

1. (a) This Law shall be called the Union Supplementary Appropriation Law for the 2026-2027 Financial Year.
(b) This Law shall have effect for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Chapter II

Authorization and Management of Supplementary Expenditures

2. (a) The persons authorized to incur expenditures in respect of the President's Office, the Union Government's Office, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw's Office, the Amyotha Hluttaw's Office, the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, the Union Civil Service Board, the Union Ministries and Departments, the Union Ministries and Departments operating outside the Union Fund, State-owned economic enterprises, State-owned Economic Enterprises operating outside the Union Fund, cantonment municipalities, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and the Central Bank of Myanmar may incur the respective expenditures specified alongside their names in Schedules (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9).
(b) The allocation and appropriation of funds authorized under subsection (a) shall be deemed to constitute supplementary expenditures in addition to the allocations and appropriations authorized under the Union Budget Law for the 2026-2027 FY.
3. (a) Each person authorized under Section 2 may delegate the authority to manage the expenditures assigned to him or her to the respective officials serving under his or her supervision.
(b) In managing the expenditures, the provisions of this Law, the Union Budget Law for the 2026-2027 Financial Year, relevant laws, rules, regulations, bylaws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall be complied with.

Chapter III

Borrowing of Funds

4. An additional amount of K1 trillion is hereby allocated, over and above the actual amount of funds borrowed after the execution of loan agreements as stipulated in Section 12 of the Union Budget Law for the 2026-2027 Financial Year.

I hereby sign this Law under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

Announcement

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sells foreign currencies for the import of essential goods such as fuel, cooking oil, fertilizer and other goods to importers through Authorized Dealer (AD) banks via the FX Online Trading Platform.

From April to 13 November 2026, US$2,326.4 million, 1,944.3 million Chinese yuan, 7,114.4 million Thai baht and 87.8 million Indian rupees have been sold to importers through the FX Market Online Trading Platform and AD banks. The CBM also sold about US$1,764.8 million for the import of fuel, cooking oil, fertilizers and other essential goods.

To ensure that importers receive the foreign currencies they need in a timely manner, reduce delays in payments to overseas suppliers, prioritize the allocation of foreign currencies for real trade-related transactions and stabilize the foreign exchange market without creating pressure on exchange rate fluctuations, advance payments for imported goods will be permitted.

Moreover, to provide exporters with sufficient time to apply for import licences and make payments to overseas suppliers, facilitate foreign currency transactions for export and import activities, and promote the development of the trade sector, the retention period of their export earnings available for their own use in foreign currency bank accounts has been extended from 30 days to 45 days.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Yangon Water Facilities Deliver 244M Gallons Daily

YANGON'S water supply sources – Gyobyu Reservoir, Phugyi Reservoir, Hlawga Reservoir, Ngamoeyeik Water Treatment Plant and Lagunpyin Water Treatment Plant – supply a total of 244 million gallons of water per day, according to a statement released by the Yangon Region Government.

The water supply system from Yangon's water resources.

The Regional Chief Minister and his team paid a visit to the Yangon's urban water supply sources on 13 November morning.

At the Hlawga reservoir's meeting hall located in Mingaladon Township, officials from the Yangon City Development Committee gave a presentation about the city water supply system in the presence of Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and the regional cabinet members. The chief minister gave instructions necessary for the operation of water supply sources. — Htun Htun/ZN

Low-Pressure Area Conditions

Issued at Noon MST on 13 November 2026

Low-Pressure Area Conditions

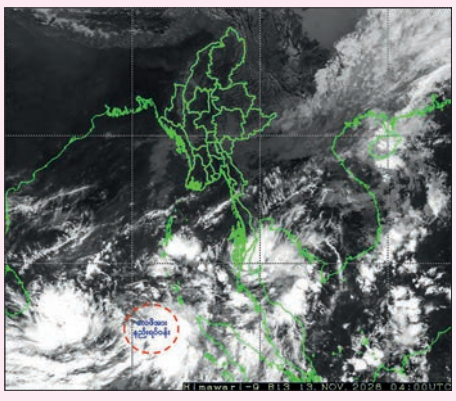
ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 am MST today, a Low-Pressure Area may form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal.

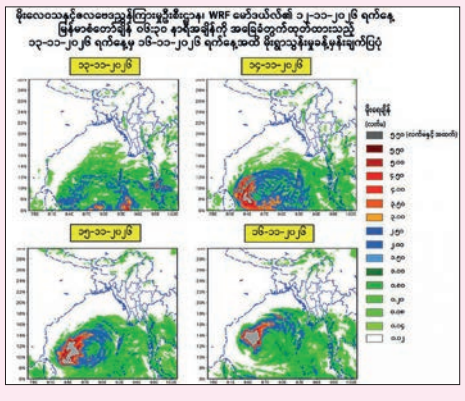
Next 48-hour forecast

It is likely to move northwestward and intensify gradually into a well-marked low-pressure area on 14 November 2026 and into a Depression on 15 November 2026.

Due to the Low-Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon States and isolated to scattered in Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions from this noon to 16 November 2026.

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.





Advisory

People should be aware of natural disasters such as heavy rainfall with strong winds, thunder, lightning strikes, hail, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers, and make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Mongnai residents



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets residents from Mongnai Township.

YESTERDAY, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met residents from Mongnai Township who visited the Hluttaw to observe the 28th-day sitting of the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Speaker highlighted the Hluttaw's role in legislation, coordination among the three Pillars of government and representation of the people. He encouraged residents to convey their regional needs through their respective representatives and share their experiences from the visit with others. He also invited the public to visit the Hluttaw to gain firsthand knowledge of its activities. He then answered questions raised by the attendees. – MNA/KTZH

HLUTTAW

Third Pyithu Hluttaw ...

FROM PAGE 1

On banking infrastructure, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin responded that the Myanma Economic Bank branch in Kawkareik currently occupies land owned by the General Administration Department. Once the land is officially transferred, capital budget allocations will be requested to construct a new bank building in the nearest possible financial year.

Answering two separate queries on water supply, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Win Moe Khine informed that the procurement and installation of equipment for a solar-powered river water pumping system to provide clean drinking water in Kalewa Township has been included in the 2027-2028 financial year budget proposal. U Win Moe Khine also outlined a five-year municipal plan to supply water from Maha Nanda Lake to Ward 10, noting that intermediate booster stations, reservoirs, and pipelines are necessary because Ward 10 sits at 358 feet above sea level compared to the lake's 337-foot elevation. The plan includes replacing Paw Oo pump control panels in 2028-2029 and constructing new 10,000-gallon concrete water tanks and pumping facilities in 2029-2030.

Following the question-and-answer segment, three Hluttaw representatives debated the report submitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee on Government Guarantee, Pledges, and Undertakings Vetting. Lawmakers urged ministries to prioritize parliamentary commitments in annual budgets, strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, and ensure transparent reporting, with MP Dr Shwe Pyi Soe noting that out of 508 starred and unstarred questions and motions reviewed, 330 received formal assurances. The Hluttaw subsequently approved the committee's report before adjourning the session, which will resume for its 29th day on 16 November. — News Team/ST

HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw's debates cover transport, healthcare, electricity, sports, and construction sectors

THE debates between lawmakers and Union-level body members continued at the Amyotha Hluttaw's 17th-day meeting at its building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.



The 17th-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

In replying to the questions, Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing stated that, except for buses, only the remaining private passenger vehicles in areas where owners are genuinely unable to come in person to renew their vehicle registration due to local conditions and road security difficulties will be granted facilitation for registration renewal without vehicle inspection, subject to the recommendation of the respective District Administration and Management Committee.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Tin Tun replied that arrangements are being made to appoint one dental surgeon required at Thangwa Village Station Hospital in Kyaukse Township. The hospital will also be provided with dental chairs once those ordered with the approved budget for the 2026-2027 financial year have been received.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw responded that as plans are underway to supply electricity to Bawlake in Kayah State through the national power grid, there is currently no immediate plan to distribute 100-volt solar-powered lights with batteries to the 767 households, comprising a total population of 1,089, in Bawlake, at the rate of one light per household.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Myo Kyaw Thu explained that although there is currently no plan to construct a multipurpose indoor stadium at the People's Sports Ground in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, the local conditions, the feasibility of conducting sports activities, and the capacity to carry out renovation and maintenance of sports grounds and stadiums will be assessed and evaluated.

The deputy minister also stated that there is no vacant contiguous plot of land within the Mongping Township People's Sports Ground. However, to upgrade the People's Sports Ground in Mongping Township, eastern Shan State, into a township-level sports ground, proposals will be submitted for allocation from the Shan State Government's approved budget in the nearest possible financial year. An estimated K40 million for initially planting local grass and carrying out subsequent maintenance work will be demanded from the Shan State government budget.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint explained the ongoing repaving section and plans to construct the laterite road shoulder on both sides of Minbu-Pwintbyu-Salin-Tanyaung-Seikpyu-Chauk inter-district road in Magway Region. He also revealed that the construction of a culvert along the Loikaw-Pinlaung-Aungban road will be included in the proposed supplementary budget for the 2027-2028 FY.

The deputy minister stated that to achieve the original target of upgrading the entire 365 miles and three furlongs of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway to a 50-foot-wide, two-lane (one lane in each direction) asphalt concrete road, 78 miles and four furlongs section of the expressway will be repaved with asphalt in 2028-2029 FY, 96 miles and seven furlongs in 2029-30 FY, 75 miles and five furlongs in 2030-31 FY, 54 miles and four furlongs in 2031-32 FY, and 72 miles and two furlongs in 2032-33 FY.

The deputy minister detailed that a new 12-foot-wide asphalt road is being constructed over a stretch of one furlong from the existing Pinphyit-Phayagon-Hsatthay inter-village macadam road in Yaksawk Township, while another one-furlong section is being upgraded through road levelling and the application of an asphalt seal coat. Road repair and maintenance works are also being carried out. The remaining sections that have yet to be upgraded to asphalt roads will be allocated funding on an annual basis, starting with funds from the Shan State government's supplementary budget for the 2027-2028 FY.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the MSME Development and Protection Bill with the amendments sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The lawmakers continued discussions over the proposal urging the Union Government to urgently draft and enact a modern, comprehensive and unified Personal Data Protection Law in Myanmar submitted by MP U Kyaw Kyaw Latt from the Yangon Region Constituency 10.

Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Min Zeyar Hlaing explained that if a separate law is to be enacted, the process would require further coordination with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and obtaining comments and recommendations from relevant ministries and organizations. It was further explained that enacting a law would take considerably longer than issuing the corresponding rules and regulations.

The Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw approved the proposal.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 18th-day meeting on 16 November. — News Team/TTA

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw wall magazine launched

THE opening ceremony for the Amyotha Hluttaw wall magazine was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. The wall magazine features poetry, cartoons, articles, fiction, editorials, photographs documenting Amyotha Hluttaw activities, and laws and rules to be observed by Hluttaw representatives during meetings.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe views the wall magazine at yesterday's event.

At the ceremony, U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Wall Magazine Compilation Committee, explained the work undertaken to produce the publication. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then formally opened the wall magazine by cutting the ribbon together with the Deputy Speaker and the committee chairman.

The committee chairman subsequently presented commemorative copies of the magazine to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker and other representatives then viewed the wall magazine.

The publication aims to highlight the work undertaken by Hluttaw leaders and representatives, promote mutual understanding and closer relations among Hluttaw leaders, representatives and staff, and provide a platform for representatives and staff to freely express ideas and perspectives that contribute to the interests of the State and the Hluttaw.

It also seeks to promote Myanmar-language writing and literary works within the Hluttaw, encourage reading, provide a refreshing recreational activity for representatives and staff, and ensure that representatives observe parliamentary procedures in accordance with the laws and rules of the Pyidaungu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. — MNA/KZL

MSA prepares for low Earth orbit satellite launch

THE Myanmar Space Agency (MSA) is preparing to launch a satellite into low Earth orbit in the near future, Dr Myo Thant, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the agency, announced at the opening ceremony of the Space-themed Painting, Cartoon and Poster Competition held in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

"The primary objective of the MSA is to collaborate with international space agencies to advance the country's space technology. We plan to launch a satellite into low earth orbit soon. Additionally, we are working to select astronauts and send them to the International Space Station (ISS). Through its continuous efforts, the MSA is striving to advance space science and technology for future generations of young people," Dr Myo Thant said.

In collaboration with international space agencies, the MSA is working to develop the country's space technology, making use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve precision across all aspects of satellite operations, from microchips to complete systems. Efforts are also underway to apply AI to various satellite-related fields, including chip design, system architecture, interfacing, programming and hardware development, while simultaneously developing human resources.



This photo features a satellite deployed in low Earth orbit.

Myanmar's first microsatellite, Lawkanat-1, was developed in collaboration with Hokkaido University in Japan and deployed into orbit from the International Space Station in 2021. Meanwhile, the Myanmar Sat-2 (Intelsat 39) communications satellite was successfully launched in August 2019 from the Guiana Space Centre in South America. — ASH/TH

MOEE Eyes Large-Scale Wind Power Projects with Private Investors

FROM PAGE 1

Beyond these large wind projects, the ministry is pursuing a generation mix that combines renewable energy, natural gas and other energy sources to avoid dependence on any single source for electricity generation.

In the first phase, two small nuclear power plants of 55 megawatts each, totalling 110 megawatts, have been selected for construction, and a pre-feasibility study has been completed with assistance from the Russian Federation. — ASH/KK

Papun's MSY project activities inspected



Officials inspect the implementation of the MSY project in Papun Township, Kayin State.

OFFICIALS from Papun Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Project – a community-managed village development initiative aimed at creating job opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents – in Pazunmyaung Village.

Papun District Department of Rural Development District Head U Khin Maung Win, Township Head U Pyae Oo Ko Ko, and project staff met the MSY Project committee members. They inspected the ongoing implementation of the project activities, verified whether financial accounting forms were properly filled out, and ensured compliance with the guidelines stipulated in the project manual, providing necessary supplementary instructions.

In Pazunmyaung Village, the Papun Township Department of Rural Development has disbursed a total of K56.2 million in revolving funds for the Mya Sein Yaung Project at an interest rate of 0.5 per cent (K 0.5) to 54 members, comprising 26 in agriculture, 17 in livestock breeding, and 11 in trading businesses. — Khin Maung Win (Chemistry)

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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

Kungyangon's officials inspect ongoing concrete road construction

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection of the ongoing concrete road construction in Myitta Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

The project is being implemented by the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development with funding from the Yangon Region government.

Head U Aung Thet Oo of the Twantay District Department of Rural Development, Daw Su Thida Lin, Head of the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development, and officials concerned, together with members of the Village Road Construction Committee, inspected the progress of the concrete road construction and the installation of three slab culverts.

The road project measures 5.071 furlongs in length, 10 feet in width and six inches in thickness. Following the inspection, the district department head instructed the project supervisor to ensure that the concrete road and associated work are carried out systematically, meet the required quality standards and are completed within the stipulated timeframe. The necessary coordination and arrangements were also made to address outstanding requirements.

The project, with an allocated budget of K322.98 million from the Yangon Region government for the 2026-2027 financial year, is being undertaken by Natural Yaungyi Company, the successful tenderer. Construction commenced on 2 August, and 35 per cent of the work has been completed so far.

Upon completion, the improved road infrastructure will provide local communities with convenient and all-weather access for economic activities, education, healthcare and other social needs, according to the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development. — Myo Myo (DRD)



Officials oversee the ongoing concrete road construction in Kungyangon Township.

Falam Offices Reopen After Power, Housing Upgrades

OFFICE operations are proceeding normally following the completion of the electricity supply system, the District Electrical Engineering Office building and a two-room, one-storey staff housing building in Falam Township.



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han inspects recovery efforts in Falam, Chin State.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han inspected the work progress yesterday, accompanied by Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Khin Maung Htwe and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee.

The deputy minister and his team also inspected the proper storage of salvaged materials in the renovated buildings and the cleanliness of the surrounding areas. He coordinated with relevant departments to address security and water supply issues to ensure that staff families could live in the renovated departmental housing.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and his team inspected the electricity supply system, the 66/11 kV, 5 MVA substation building and its equipment, as well as the completed Falam Township Election Subcommission Office building and District Election Sub-Commission Office building, which were ready for operations.

The deputy minister also inspected the construction of a three-room staff housing building for the Falam District Traditional Medicine Department. He instructed the relevant officials to ensure the quality of construction materials and workmanship, workplace safety, timely completion within the stipulated period and proper utilization of salvaged materials. He also coordinated with the relevant departments to ensure that staff families could move into the housing upon completion.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister and his team, together with Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Kawl Lian Thang and State Advocate-General U Kap Talwe, watched the final match of the 78th Traditional Chin New Year Festival football tournament at Hrang Thio Stadium in Falam Township. — District IPRD/MKKS

National Library (Yangon) presents weekly documentary film show

THE National Library (Yangon) will present a weekly documentary film show for the public at 12:30 pm on 14 November at the audio-video room located in Pabedan Township. The documentary film will be screened in the Audio-Video Room on the first floor of the National Library (Yangon), located at 604/608, Merchant Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, and the general public is invited to attend.



Teachers and children from the Lumbini Pre-School making a library field trip at the National Library (Yangon).

On 10 November a total of 53 visitors from Lumbini Pre-School, comprising 11 teachers and 42 students, visited the National Library (Yangon) for a study tour, where they participated in storytelling and reading activities. — TWA/ZN

Pobbathiri disburses MSY Village Project funds

THE Pobbathiri Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, held the tenth disbursement of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project revolving fund on 12 November at Pauktaw Village, to enable rural residents to gain job opportunities, increase household incomes, and reduce rural poverty rates.

Township Head U Ko Ko of the Pobbathiri Township Department of Rural Development met village elders and association members at Pauktaw Village, explained the objectives of disbursing the MSY Village Project funds, when disbursing loans, and handed over K56.55 million in funds to the village project implementation committee members.

Subsequently, the village project implementation committee members disbursed K56.55 million from the MSY Village Project revolving fund to a total of 169 association members in Pauktaw Village: K28.3 million to 64 members engaged in agriculture, K24.35 million to 94 members engaged in livestock breeding, K2.45 million to seven members engaged in trading, K0.55 million to two members engaged in vocational businesses, and K0.9 million to two members engaged in manufacturing. — Naw Lu (DRD)



A village representative receives the MSY project fund.

NATIONAL

106 online scammers, including 1 Chinese fugitive, arrested

THE Government is treating the prevention and suppression of online scams and online gambling, which threaten the socioeconomic well-being of people both regionally and worldwide, as a national responsibility. It is also working closely with neighbouring countries to effectively identify, investigate and take action against those involved in such activities.

In this regard, acting on information that Chinese national Su Fu Quan, whose name appears on a list of 43 wanted suspects for whom rewards have been announced by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of the People's Republic of China and the Longjing Public Security Bureau, was staying in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, and engaging in online scam and gambling operations, joint teams comprising security personnel conducted investigations and surveillance.

At about 10:45 pm on 12 November, the joint teams raided rooms Nos 110, 301, 302, 306, 307, 310, 505, 509 and 510 of Golden River Residence Condominium, located within Aung Kaung Kyaw Housing on Nawarat Street, Ward 8, Thakayta Township. The condominium is owned by Daw Myat Zin Oo from PyinOoLwin and a Chinese national, Mr Huo.

A total of 106 individuals involved in online scams and gambling were arrested, including 48 Chinese men and four Chinese women, eight Vietnamese men, and 31 Myanmar men and 15 Myanmar women. The Chinese national Su Fu Quan was among those arrested.

The authorities also seized 121 desktop computers, five laptops, one server, 190 mobile phones of various types, seven Wi-Fi devices, two routers, five Myanmar passports, two Chinese passports and four KBZ bankbooks used in the operations.

According to interrogations, the suspects had organized five groups, namely Han Tuo, Pai Rui, A Zhan, Ta Hai, and Su Jing, to conduct online financial scams. Each group was led by a leader and a deputy leader, who operated through Kaqpo and Telegram accounts.

The Kaqpo accounts were used to establish member groups targeting customers residing in China, Japan, Korea and India. Communications were conducted exclusively in Chinese, and the Kaqpo application was downloaded through Google Chrome before accounts were opened.

Regarding the investment-based scam, the operation followed several stages. First, female customer service operators approached targeted customers by sending stickers depicting women and asking about their preferred age groups and marital status. Once customers selected their preferences, they were asked to provide their residential townships and locations.

SEE PAGE 10



Detained online scam suspects are pictured in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region.

Gyobingauk inspects completed 400-volt power line



Lampposts illuminate the streets of Thaegongyi Village, Gyobingauk Township, Bago Region, after dusk.

THE Gyobingauk Township Department of Rural Development, located in Bago Region, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion status of a 400-volt power line installation project in Thaegongyi Village. The project was implemented using interest funds from the Emerald Green Village Project alongside labour contributions from residents.

Daw Thi Thi Aung, Head of the Gyobingauk Township Department of Rural Development, and project in-charge staff, accompanied by members of the village development committee, first examined the completed 400-volt power line installation and provided necessary instructions.

The project involved installing 900 feet of 400-volt power lines along the inner roads of Thaegongyi Village. Funded by K10.9 million from the Emerald Green Village Project's interest funds and supported by community labour, the work was carried out directly by the villagers under the close supervision of Department of Rural Development staff. Construction began in the second week of October and has now reached 100 per cent completion. — Than Lwin (Magway)

11 more illegal buildings demolished in Shwe Kokko

SYSTEMATIC demolition of illegal buildings used for online scams and gambling in the second phase of the Shwe Kokko area is ongoing.

The Government is working with neighbouring and regional countries to completely eradicate online scams and online gambling, which threaten global socioeconomic affairs and national security. As part of these efforts, illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area, where online scams and gambling were extensively conducted, are being systematically demolished to prevent such activities from resuming at the sites.

Of the remaining illegal buildings used for online scams and gambling in the second phase of the Shwe Kokko area, demolition work on one five-storey building using heavy machinery had reached 10 per cent as of yesterday. Meanwhile, demolition of another six-storey building using heavy machinery had reached 50 per cent.

A total of 63 buildings remaining in the second phase of the Shwe Kokko area, which were used for online scam and gambling activities, have been classified according to the demolition methods to be used. These include buildings to be demolished using heavy machinery, those to be brought down through controlled explosions, and those located too close to residential homes, which will be dismantled floor by floor using manual labour.



This image reveals systematic demolition of scam-related structures in the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown.

So far, 11 buildings have been systematically demolished, including four through controlled explosions and seven using heavy machinery. The remaining 52 illegal buildings will also be demolished systematically, according to reports. The Government is continuing its efforts, in coordination with domestic forces and the governments of neighbouring countries, as a national responsibility to ensure that online scam and gambling activities cannot establish a foothold anywhere in Myanmar. — 100/ KZL

NATIONAL

947 Thai nationals arrested in online scam crackdown



Images reveal arrested online scammers, among them 83 Thai nationals, on the Myanmar-Thai border in Shan and Kayin States.

THE Government is prioritizing national stability, peace and the rule of law by taking decisive action against telecom fraud and online gambling syndicates, which have emerged as serious transnational crimes causing widespread harm worldwide.

In certain border areas, foreign nationals have been committing online scam and gambling networks with the involvement of self-interested individuals from affiliated areas, including ethnic armed organizations (EAOs). In response, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and relevant departmental officials have been conducting coordinated searches, inspections and arrests while facilitating the repatriation of foreign offenders in line with bilateral friendship and cooperation.

From 5 October 2023 to date, authorities have arrested 947 Thai nationals, comprising 529 men and 418 women, who illegally entered border areas in Shan and Kayin states to engage in online fraud and gambling activities.

Investigations found that many had initially been recruited through online advertisements promising high-paying jobs in online gambling operations. They subsequently targeted fellow Thai citizens, particularly those with limited technological knowledge or financial awareness, through fake business and investment opportunities, fraudulent lucky draws, prize promotions, online gambling advertisements and bogus employment offers.

On 31 October 2026, authorities arrested 83 Thai nationals, including 42 men and 41 women, at the Yuwarat Hotel on Sabai Street in Sanseng Ward (B), Tachilek, Shan State. They also seized 23 all-in-one computers, 40 laptops and 141 mobile phones used in the operations.

Further interrogation revealed that the group had specifically targeted Thai electricity consumers by impersonating employees of Thailand's Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA). They contacted victims through telephone calls and SMS messages, claiming that electricity meters needed replacement or that consumers were entitled to refunds of meter deposits. Victims were instructed to contact designated Line application accounts for assistance.



Images reveal ID cards used by scammers impersonating Thailand's Provincial Electricity Authority personnel to defraud victims.

To gain their trust, the scammers collected personal information, including names, addresses, meter numbers and electricity payment receipts, and sent forged notices bearing the PEA's name. They then directed interested victims to counterfeit PEA Line accounts, where they requested payment receipts, account numbers and bank details.

After assessing victims' financial capacity through their conversations, the scammers sent links and QR codes for a fraudulent PEA payment application. Once victims installed the application, scanned the QR codes and transferred money, the perpetrators blocked their accounts and cut off all communication. Investigators also discovered that the syndicates had obtained databases containing personal information of Thai residents registered with the PEA, enabling them to systematically identify and target potential victims.

The Government has established dedicated committees to ensure that detained foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally are screened, prosecuted in accordance with the law and deported to their respective countries without delay. Authorities are also cooperating with foreign governments to expedite the repatriation of distressed and trafficked foreign nationals.

As online fraud and gambling increasingly threaten international economic, social and security sectors, Myanmar authorities have pledged to continue taking strict legal action against the criminal networks. The public is urged to report suspicious activities to relevant authorities and cooperate with security forces and departmental officials in ongoing search and investigation operations. — 100/ST

Free energy-efficient stoves distributed to residents; environmental awareness raised

A ceremony to distribute energy-efficient stoves, organized by the Dry Zone Greening Department, was held at a monastery in Kontha Village, Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, on 12 November.



Residents receive free stoves in Kontha Village, Minbu(Sagu) Township, MagwayRegion.

At the ceremony, U Kyaw Win Myint, a representative of the Regional Hluttaw, delivered the opening speech. U Myint Soe, Director of the Magway Region Dry Zone Greening Department, spoke about the department's activities to promote rural development, green the Dry Zone and improve its environment. He also highlighted annual initiatives to maintain ecological balance, mitigate the effects of climate change, raise public awareness of environmental conservation and promote the use of alternative fuels instead of firewood.

Following the ceremony, officials distributed free energy-efficient stoves to 218 residents who attended an environmental conservation awareness workshop organized by the Magway Region Dry Zone Greening Department. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/ MKKS

Razathingaha Road to be temporarily closed due to city entrance construction



The city entrance construction layout.

DUE to Nay Pyi Taw's city entrance construction work, Nay Pyi Taw's main road – the eight-lane Razathingaha – will be closed temporarily starting at 6 am from 14 November, said the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The city entrance construction is still underway near Gangaw flower roundabout, and the road closure will be made for workplace safety.

During the road's closure, pedestrians and vehicles can use the two 2-lane detours provided on each side of the road. — TWA/ZS

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OPINION

Introducing space technology to youth

The Space Age began on 4 October 1957, when the Soviet Union (now Russia) successfully launched the Sputnik 1 satellite into Earth's orbit for the first time. Since then, technologically advanced countries have continued to expand their space exploration activities, eventually pursuing ambitions of achieving dominance in space. Today, space programmes are being implemented not only by government agencies but also by private companies.

As the world continues to advance and change day by day, and countries around the world are conducting research, exploration and innovation in space science, Myanmar citizens also need to acquire a sound understanding of essential space technologies and apply them effectively in relevant sectors for the benefit of the country. It is necessary to encourage and nurture the younger generation to develop a growing interest in space technologies, inspire them to pursue learning and practical applications, and foster their capacity for further advancement and innovation.

Myanmar has enacted the Law on the Commission for the Development of Space Science and Technology and is engaging in discussions and cooperation with international partners, including Russia, in the areas of space technology, satellite technology and human resource development. The Myanmar Space Agency (MSA) was established on 1 June 2025 and is carrying out satellite service-related tasks in such areas as agriculture, natural disaster management and environmental conservation. It is also cooperating with international space organizations, including Russia's Roscosmos, in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes.

It is necessary to continuously conduct research and make concerted efforts to apply and analyse space and AI technologies to promote the development of agriculture and livestock breeding, which are the main economic sectors of Myanmar, and to obtain information on soil, water and crop conditions for timely planning and management. It is also important to use space technology to collect data on the country's natural resources, including water resources, and ensure their effective and beneficial utilization.

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As part of its space science exploration initiatives, the Space Museum (Yangon) was inaugurated on 30 November 2025. Efforts are also being made to train and develop astronaut candidates who have been preliminarily selected to serve as Myanmar's first astronauts, create nationwide 3D mapping data and conduct space-related research activities.

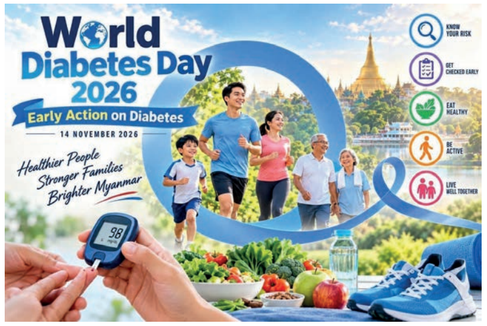
With the State taking the lead in promoting the development and advancement of space science and AI technologies in Myanmar, all citizens, including students and young people, should learn about and explore the benefits offered by these technologies to improve their living standards and contribute to the development of their society.

ARTICLE

WORLD DIABETES DAY 2026 | 14 NOVEMBER

Beyond Blood Sugar: Early Action for a Healthier Myanmar

By Dr Aung Tun



A day for action, not simply awareness

Every 14 November, World Diabetes Day reminds us that diabetes is not merely a laboratory result. It influences how people work, learn, care for their families and plan their futures. The official theme for 2026-2027, "Early action on diabetes", calls for earlier diagnosis, reduced risk, timely treatment and compassionate support. For Myanmar, this message is especially practical: an early conversation at a community clinic may protect years of healthy life. The challenge is to transform awareness into action before complications appear.

The invisible gap in diagnosis

The International Diabetes Federation estimates that 589 million adults aged 20-79 were living with diabetes worldwide in 2024, and about 252 million did not know they had it. The number affected could reach 853 million by 2050. These are estimates, not counts of patients registered at clinics. Many people with type 2 diabetes feel well for years while high glucose gradually damages blood vessels and nerves. Waiting for severe thirst, frequent urination, or blurred vision is therefore not a reliable screening strategy. Early detection offers an opportunity to intervene while people are still able to protect their health and livelihoods.

Diabetes in Myanmar: what the numbers show

Myanmar's own data show why early action matters. The 2024 national STEPS survey of the Ministry of Health, which examined 8,252 adults aged 18-69, found diabetes (a raised blood glucose value or current diabetes medication) in 7.9 per cent of adults: 9.6 per cent of women and 6.5 per cent of men. A further 12.3 per cent had impaired fasting glycaemia, a warning stage at which healthier habits can lower later risk. Among adults with diabetes, 56.5 per cent had been diagnosed previously, so more than four in ten did not know they had it, and only 50.4 per cent were receiving treatment. The International Diabetes Federation's modelled estimate for 2024, 6.7 per cent of adults aged 20-79 or about 2.4 million people, points in the same direction, although surveys and models use different age ranges and methods. These are survey estimates, not counts of registered patients, but they show that screening and continuous care remain unfinished work.

Who should act early?

Adults with a family history of diabetes, excess abdominal weight, high blood pressure, previous gestational diabetes or limited physical activity should discuss screening with a healthcare professional. Age and other clinical factors also matter. People with symptoms need assessment promptly, even if they appear young or slim. Type 1 diabetes can occur at any age and may progress rapidly. Vomiting, abdominal pain, deep breathing, marked drowsiness or dehydration alongside possible diabetes symptoms require urgent medical attention. Screening methods may include fasting plasma glucose or HbA1c, with repeat confirmation when appropriate. Test selection and interpretation should consider pregnancy, anaemia and other conditions that can affect results.

Beyond one blood sugar number

Effective diabetes care is much more than obtaining a satisfactory glucose reading. HbA1c reflects average glycaemia over approximately three months, but individual targets depend on age, frailty, medicines and the risk of hypoglycaemia. Some patients benefit from home glucose monitoring or continuous glucose monitoring, while others may not need frequent testing. Blood pressure, cholesterol, kidney function, eyesight and foot health deserve regular attention. A person may feel healthy yet have silent kidney damage or early retinal disease. Detecting these problems promptly allows treatment before they become disabling. Patients should ask their clinician for a written follow-up plan rather than relying on occasional testing alone.

Protecting the heart, kidneys, eyes and feet

People with diabetes face an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, vision loss and foot complications. Prevention requires coordinated care: appropriate glucose management, blood pressure control, lipid management, tobacco avoidance and indicated medicines. Some glucose-lowering treatments also offer cardiovascular or kidney benefits in selected patients; the choice belongs to a qualified clinician. Kidney checks may include urine albumin and estimated glomerular filtration rate. Retinal examinations can detect changes before sight is affected. Daily foot inspection, well-fitting footwear and prompt attention to wounds help prevent infections. No patient should stop prescribed medication or replace it with unproven remedies because a single test looks normal.

Myanmar meals: practical changes, not deprivation

Healthy eating should respect local foods and family budgets. Rice, mohinga, noodles and traditional snacks need not automatically disappear from every meal; portion size, frequency and balance are important. A smaller serving of rice accompanied by vegetables and fish, beans, eggs or other protein can be more sustainable than an extreme diet. Water or unsweetened drinks are preferable to sugary beverages. Sweetened tea, coffee, packaged drinks and frequent cakes can quietly add substantial sugar. People using insulin or medicines that may cause low blood glucose should seek advice before skipping meals or sharply reducing carbohydrates. The aim is steady, affordable improvement rather than guilt or hunger.

Movement built into daily life

Physical activity need not begin in a gym. Walking, cycling, household tasks and active play all contribute. For many adults, a practical goal is at least 150 minutes of moderate activity each week, adapted to health status and ability. Breaking up prolonged sitting can help. Someone inactive should start gradually, especially if living with heart disease or significant complications. A brief walk after meals may be easier to maintain than an ambitious programme that ends after a week. Family members can make healthy habits easier by joining walks, choosing balanced meals and supporting regular medical appointments.

From diagnosis to continuous care

Diagnosis is only the first step. Medicines must be available, affordable and taken correctly; patients need clear explanations of their purpose and possible side effects. Interruptions in treatment can be dangerous, particularly for people with type 1 diabetes who require insulin. Primary healthcare teams can provide counselling, monitor progress, identify complications, and refer patients when necessary. Simple systems – appointment reminders, personal health records and dependable supplies – can prevent people from disappearing from follow-up. Education should also explain the warning signs of hypoglycaemia, such as sweating, trembling and confusion, particularly for those taking insulin or certain tablets.

Fair access for communities across Myanmar

The burden of diabetes is not experienced equally. Distance from clinics, transport costs, limited laboratory services and medicine expenses can delay care. Rural residents, older people and households with unstable incomes may face additional obstacles. Community-based screening linked to reliable referral is more useful than isolated testing events. Trained primary-care staff, accessible essential medicines and consistent patient education can help narrow the gap. SEE PAGE 12

Books Through Time

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Quite strange to say, some books all around the world are still alive among readers, which simply means that today's readers have been reading some past books from every corner of the globe. To think clearly, the fact that most old books which appeared on the stage of literature have been dead is fairly natural, although this is not right at all. The present readers are most likely to refuse to read books of advanced years mainly because they are out of date, as well as they can be under the impression that reading such old books will make them get underrated among their peers. Very old though they are, some books attract or interest the current readers to an apparent degree, however. Those books which are still alive through different ages can be called `books through time´. Nevertheless, it cannot be surely said that many writers can put pen to paper for a book through time as well as whether or not a book could have passed through ages cannot be decided by any single reader. In other words, books through time are being well accepted and warmly welcomed by many readers to this day.

Just being classics, some books are still enjoyed by many readers all over the world. Really, it is no easy task at all when a book gets listed as a classic in the field of literature. Even though some subject themes and writings are outdated in classics, it is found that the main writing purpose of these books is getting permanent like or as the universal truth, the subject matter of which is always all right for global citizens. Actually, every modern book is brought into being, only drawing on classics for the aspect of writing style in particular. From the point of view of language, authors must rely upon the lines of old-fashioned classics to a considerable extent. Naturally, something new comes into being after the old ones. Hence, classics are never rejected for study by scholars, including undergraduates, postgraduates and even seasoned writers. Hence, rather than whether readers themselves like them or not, classic books tend to become must-reads for those who wish to remarkably develop language skills, especially reading and writing, for the purpose of creating their own works of art. One convincing piece of evidence is the 2026 Nobel Prize winner in literature, Anne Carson, who united ancient classical traditions with modern forms of literature in her innovative and experimental works.

Some books are not classics, but their subject matter or written expressions are still up to date. A wide variety of events or incidents have occurred throughout history and time. These happenings may be the same or different from the existing ones in one way or another. But they may still be relevant for many readers today. Whatever is said, people like to be curious about others' personal cases, experienced environmental circumstances, beliefs, thoughts and lives. Clearly speaking, humans are human. Even though ages and systems have changed, the human nature, that is, their curiosity, does not significantly alter, as usual. Except for too many imaginary incidents and totally impossible situations, several acceptable events can be seen in books that are enjoyable to the majority of readers until now. Metaphorically, the themes of timeless books often taste fresh and good to a certain extent. Not only that, the expressions and usage of ageless books in terms of words and vocabulary still seem clear and easy to understand, not so complex that readers cannot absorb them any longer. To be said better, books through ages have a pretty close relationship with modern writings in accordance with writing matter and stylistics.

Some books are neither classic nor updated ones. In spite of this, some readers are still eagerly reading them just because they enjoy the books. As always, some writers have owned the golden age of their literary works. But that does not end there. The subject matter they had chosen and written together with their own style of writing is influential in today's youth's reading routine. In the main, some experienced writers are expert at selecting words and themes which mostly exert a strong influence on readers' preferences. Even a few of their selected lexical items are bound to run deep for readers very often. In the same way, their outspoken words or views on something, especially love affairs, are certain to go deep in the pit of readers' stomachs. On the other hand, it is possible for readers to jump on the bandwagon, which means that readers purposely follow others' so-called likes. While climbing on the bandwagon like this, different people have diverse likes. The fact that most people recognize a book as a good read is not pointless; there will be potential reasons why they highly recommend reading it. Personally, books on the best-seller list have not yet been free of enjoyment for future readers.

In actual fact, books through time may or may not be awarded literary prizes – no direct connection between them. Nonetheless, books through the ages or enduring books, are one in a million, and so are their creative writers. Not every author is able to write merely an undying book once in a lifetime. Some writers died with their books. Not long after that, their names or reputations faded away. Still, some writers' status has never gone away even after they have passed away, particularly thanks to their famous books. Even though not being classics, living books usually involve some everlasting truth about life or most well-accepted opinions, sometimes advanced ideas. Certainly, books through time are still popular among readers and enjoyed to an extent.

NATIONAL

Paukkhaung's gravel-red clay road paving project inspected

OFFICIALS paid a field visit yesterday to inspect the ongoing paving of an intra-village gravel-red clay road in Htantabin Village, Paukkhaung Township, Bago Region, funded by the Village Development Project (VDP) grant and local community contributions for the 2026-2027 financial year.


Officials inspect an intra-village road project in Paukkhaung Township.

Daw Khaing Khin Mya Win, Head of the Paukkhaung Township Department of Rural Development, along with staff members and the Village Implementation Committee, reviewed the project's progress. Following the inspection, the township head met village officials and committee members, instructing them to focus on completing the work on schedule and in line with prescribed quality standards.

The road work, measuring 2,400 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and six inches in thickness, is being carried out directly by the villagers with technical support from engineers of the Paukkhaung Township Department of Rural Development. The total budget of K23.86 million consists of a K15 million Village Development Project (VDP) grant and K8.86 million contributed by the community. Project implementation began in late September and is currently over 80 per cent complete.

Once fully completed, the road will benefit 688 residents across 201 households in Htantabin Village by improving local transport, according to Daw Khaing Khin Mya Win, Township Head of the Paukkhaung Township Department of Rural Development. — Cho Lay (DRD)

Bago conducts El Niño awareness talk

AN awareness talk on protection against extreme heat caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon and the systematic use of drinking water was held at Thoneinsu Village in Bago Township yesterday, organized by the Department of Rural Development of Bago Township, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Bago District, Bago Region.


An El Nino awareness talk is underway in Bago Township.

At the event, U San Min, Head of the Bago District Department of Rural Development, explained that water shortages and other adverse effects could occur during the El Niño weather phenomenon. He urged local communities to store sufficient drinking water in advance and use it systematically to prevent water shortages. He also explained that they could contact the Department of Rural Development promptly if drinking water shortages occurred due to natural disasters.

Bago Township Department of Rural Development Head U Min Min Thein then explained the dos and don'ts for protection against El Niño-related heat, precautionary measures to be taken in advance and appropriate responses in the event of extreme heat.

Afterwards, awareness pamphlets on the El Niño weather phenomenon and heatwave prevention were distributed to the residents attending the event, according to the Department of Rural Development. — Thanda (Rural)

106 online scammers, including 1 Chinese fugitive, arrested

FROM PAGE 6

They were then sent photographs and persuaded with offers of companionship with women.

In the second stage, customers were encouraged to become members. Those who agreed were sent Alipay and WeChat Pay QR codes and asked to transfer 10 yuan. After receiving the payment, the operators provided codes to activate VIP accounts and directed customers to contact the group leaders through Kaqpo.

The group leaders and deputy leaders then promised to connect customers with women for companionship and requested their personal information and occupations. Customers were subsequently added to group chats with the women and asked to pay a membership fee of 72 yuan. After confirming receipt of the payment, the operators transferred 80 yuan back to the customers, including an additional eight yuan as purported profit.

In the third stage, customers were offered increasingly attractive returns to encourage further deposits. They were promised 223 yuan for depositing 201 yuan, 425 yuan for depositing 401 yuan and 662 yuan for depositing 601 yuan. The original deposits and purported profits were transferred back to customers to gain their trust.

In the fourth stage, once customers had been persuaded to invest increasingly large amounts of money, the operators stopped returning the funds and defrauded them. The suspects managed to swindle up to 48,000 yuan from a single customer.


Images show arrested scammers and seized scam-related materials.

Regarding online shopping scams, the suspects had established three Telegram groups, each comprising seven members. They primarily targeted individuals in Brazil and Colombia through fraudulent shopping websites, including www.amazonexotic.com and www.falabella.com.

The scam began by offering an initial payment of 10,000 in the respective currencies of Brazil and Colombia to individuals who simply liked product advertisements posted on the websites. To receive the payment, targets were asked to provide their bank account details through Telegram. Once the account information was obtained, the operators transferred the initial payment.

The targets were then invited to join Telegram groups, where they were instructed to like three additional product advertisements on the same websites in exchange for another payment of 13,000 in the respective currencies. Those who completed the tasks: three 'Likes' were subsequently promoted to VIP Telegram groups. They were encouraged to become members and make purchases, with promises of an additional 20 per cent of their purchase costs as membership benefits. The operators further promised additional benefits of up to 60 per cent to persuade them to upgrade their memberships, ultimately defrauding them of their membership fees.

The arrested individuals will face effective legal action under the existing laws after the necessary investigations have been completed. The seized equipment will also be dealt with in accordance with established procedures. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Palm oil reference price dips this week

THE palm oil wholesale reference price set for the Yangon market decreased to K7,420 per viss this week ending 19 November, showing a small downward movement compared to K7,450 last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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

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

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

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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



Cooking oil bottles are seen being organized for sale.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar rice exports cross 1.1M tonnes in 7 months

MYANMAR'S rice and broken rice exports reached over 1.1 million tonnes in the past seven months of the current financial year 2026-2027, beginning 1 April, bagging US$388 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar's rice export volume in H1 is registered at 169,559 tonnes ($51 million) in April, 136,262 tonnes ($42 million) in May, 223,714 tonnes ($74 million) in June, 170,195 tonnes ($64 million) in July, 148,548 tonnes ($59 million) in August, 123,385 tonnes ($47 million) in September and 134,119 tonnes ($49 million) in October.

The Ministry of Commerce aims to earn approximately $1.179 billion from rice exports, with export targets of 1.8 million tonnes of rice and 1.2 million tonnes of broken rice through sea and land border trade routes this FY, totalling three million tonnes.

Myanmar's rice exports in FY 2025-2026 (April-March) exceeded 2.7 million tonnes, bagging $861 million, MRF's data showed. Myanmar generated income of over $1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Rebublic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. – NN/KK



Export rice bags being loaded onto an overseas-bound merchant vessel.

Kalaw's basic sewing vocational training course concludes

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a graduation ceremony for a Basic Sewing Vocational Training Course for the 2026-2027 financial year in Lamine Ywama Model Village, Kalaw Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.



The closing ceremony for the Basic Sewing Vocational Training Course in progress in Kalaw Township.

At the ceremony, Kalaw District Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Zaw Lin delivered remarks, encouraging the trainees to continuously improve their knowledge and practical skills in basic sewing techniques acquired during the training and apply them in their daily lives to expand income-generating activities and boost family incomes.

The district officer, township officer and township-level departmental officials then presented first, second and third prizes to outstanding trainees alongside course completion certificates, followed by a speech of gratitude delivered by a trainee on behalf of the class.

A total of 20 trainees from villages across the township attended the 45-day free training course, which was conducted by qualified female instructors covering both theoretical and practical lessons in basic sewing techniques to support rural women's livelihoods, create job opportunities and develop skilled workers. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 13 November 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,655.00~3671.00	557.00~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	8,618,294.48	5,377,488.90	14,294,812.00	

LIFE&SOCIAL/ARTICAL
WORLD

London mayor says cities key to climate fight

Khan linked climate action directly to the cost-of-living crisis.

SPEAKING on the sidelines of the COP31 climate talks, London Mayor and C40 Cities co-chair Sadiq Khan emphasized that urban areas are essential to solving the climate crisis. While cities house over half the world's population and consume more than 70 per cent of global energy, Khan noted that having a mayor address the world leaders' summit for the first time proves cities are increasingly recognized as key drivers of climate solutions.



People cool off in the Trafalgar Square fountain in central London. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Khan also linked climate action directly to the cost-of-living crisis, arguing that the financial toll of inaction far outweighs the cost of green transitions. Citing extreme weather in London—where heat waves alone caused £2.5 billion in lost productivity this year—and geopolitical fuel price spikes, he advocated for renewable and nuclear energy to achieve energy security.

Addressing controversy over London's data-centre expansion, Khan acknowledged their high energy and water demands. — AFP

Mongolia issues warnings for heavy snow, blizzards

MONGOLIA'S National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring on Thursday issued warnings of heavy snowfall and blizzards expected to reduce visibility and create hazardous road conditions in several parts of the country.

Heavy snow and blizzards began affecting the western provinces of Khovd and Bayan-Ulgii on Thursday, the agency said, adding that from Friday, similar conditions are expected in the western provinces of Zavkhan and Uvs.

Meanwhile, the northern provinces of Khuvsgul and Bulgan, as well as the central provinces of Arkhangai and Tuv, are also forecast to experience heavy snowfall and blizzards from Friday.

Unsettled weather conditions are expected to persist in these areas over the next 10 days.

The snowfall and blizzards are forecast to reach hazardous weather levels in the affected regions. — Xinhua

Singapore healthcare sector urged to step up cyber monitoring

SINGAPORE'S Ministry of Health (MOH) has urged healthcare providers to remain vigilant and step up monitoring following a series of incidents involving unauthorized access to the IT systems of healthcare and healthcare-related entities.

In a statement on Thursday, the ministry said the affected systems included the Advance Care Planning IT system of the Agency for Integrated Care, as well as those belonging to Alliance Medinet, Doctor Anywhere Group, Fullerton Health Group, Minmed Group and Dementia Singapore's CARA mobile application.

The incidents had not disrupted patient care operations, and there was so far no evidence that patient safety or care had been compromised. The MOH also said there was no indication that patient health records had been accessed without authorization. The ministry is following up with the affected entities to assess the full impact of the incidents. — Xinhua



In this photo taken on 27 December 2012, the general view shows Mount Elizabeth medical centre and hospital in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Beyond Blood Sugar: Early Action for a Healthier Myanmar

FROM PAGE 9

Schools, workplaces, civil society groups and local health volunteers can promote healthier food choices, physical activity and respectful attitudes. Health campaigns should avoid promising that one screening day alone will solve a lifelong care challenge.

Five public-health priorities for 2026

First, communicate the signs of diabetes and encourage risk-based testing before symptoms develop. Second, connect every positive screening result to confirmation, treatment and follow-up. Third, integrate diabetes care with blood pressure, kidney, eye and cardiovascular risk assessment. Fourth, protect access to essential medicines, insulin and monitoring supplies. Fifth, listen to people living with diabetes and challenge stigma. Blame and frightening language can discourage testing; empathy and practical guidance encourage participation. The World Health Organization's 2030 global diabetes coverage targets provide a useful direction, including diagnosing at least 80 per cent of people living with diabetes and improving control and access to treatment.

A call to families and decision-makers

On World Diabetes Day 2026, the most meaningful celebration is a decision that continues after 14 November. A family can encourage a relative at risk to obtain appropriate screening. A person already diagnosed can review their medicines and arrange overdue eye, kidney or foot checks. Healthcare workers can make each visit an opportunity for education and shared decisions. Leaders can strengthen primary care and remove barriers to essential treatment. Early action is not simply finding diabetes sooner: it means ensuring that diagnosis leads to continuous, respectful and effective care. That is how Myanmar can move beyond blood sugar numbers toward healthier, longer and more productive lives.

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Fitch affirms Nepal at BB- for 3rd year running

NEPAL has retained its BB-sovereign credit rating from international credit rating agency Fitch Ratings, which cited the country's low public and external debt, strong foreign exchange reserves, and robust remittance inflows.

This is the third consecutive year that Nepal's sovereign credit rating has remained unchanged since the country received its first-ever rating in November 2024.

"The ratings reflect Nepal's low government and external debt, mostly on highly concessional terms, and strong external liquidity, with robust access to multilateral financing," the international credit rating agency said in a rating report released on Thursday. "Nepal also has solid medium-term growth prospects, underpinned by the hydropower sector."

However, Fitch said Nepal's underdeveloped economy, vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters, and weaker per capita income and governance indicators compared with countries in the BB rating category continued to constrain its credit profile. — Xinhua

Dubai's AV Group buys the miner behind Angola's biggest ever diamond and the 'Lulo Rose'

DUBAI-HEADQUARTERED AV Group has acquired Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company, owner of a 40 per cent stake in Angola's Lulo alluvial mine, one of the most prolific sources of giant diamonds in the world.

Lulo produced the 404.2-carat "4th February Stone", the largest diamond ever publicly recorded in Angola, and the 170-carat "Lulo Rose", reported as the largest pink diamond found anywhere in 300 years. Since commercial production began in 2015, the mine has recovered more than 49 diamonds of over 100 carats each, roughly one every three months.

The deal, made through the Group's AV Globale arm, also brings in Lucapa's wholly owned Merlin Diamond Project in Australia's Northern Territory. Merlin produced a 104.73-carat white diamond in 2002, still the largest ever recovered in Australia.

The acquisition comes days before Angola marks 51 years of independence on 11 November, and 78 years after AV Group was founded as a gemstone business in New Delhi.

Lulo sits more than 600 kilometres east of Luanda in Lunda Norte province, on a concession of 3,000 square kilometres. Beyond its giant white stones, it has yielded rare yellow diamonds and premium Type IIa stones, the chemically purest category of natural diamond. — ANI



The acquisition comes days before Angola marks 51 years of independence on 11 November. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PEXELS**

Paraguay suspends power cutoffs over unpaid bills amid Ueno Bank crisis



The Ueno Bank crisis refers to the November 2026 collapse and regulatory takeover of Paraguay's largest digital lender after its solvency fell below legal minimums. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARAGUAYAN President Pedro Alliana announced Thursday that electricity disconnections over unpaid bills would be suspended until 31 December to ease financial pressure on households affected by the Ueno Bank crisis.

In a post on social media, Alliana said customers would be allowed to repay outstanding electricity bills in up to 24 interest-free installments, without late-payment penalties. The first installment could be included in their next bill.

He also announced that the state-run National Electricity Administration (ANDE) would keep electricity tariffs unchanged for at least one year. "We will not leave Paraguayan families without electricity because of unpaid bills," Alliana said, adding that he had instructed ANDE President Felix Sosa to introduce measures to ease the financial burden on households, particularly those affected by the banking crisis. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XINGHE TIMES VOY.NO. (106914)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XINGHE TIMES VOY.NO. (106914)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO., LTD

Notice for change of distributor

We, Agrodan Chemical Co., Ltd., would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Amazing seasons Co., Ltd to First Start Company Limited. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient name	Reg. Type	Reg. Number	New Distributor
1	Amazing seasons Co., Ltd	Fungi Special	Epoxiconazole 5% + Kresoxim-methyl 25% SC	Provisional	P2026-7101	FIRST START COMPANY LIMITED

FIRST START COMPANY LIMITED (Address: Pyi Htaung Su Road, No. 1285, (50) Quarter, North Dagon Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.Tel:09428562250)

Changing the name of trading

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of Royal Super Star Company Limited for the following product manufactured by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co.,Ltd.

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Reg. Type	Reg. Number
1.	Gold-Aladdin	Poe Bilu	Flubendiamide 20% WDG	Provisional	P2021-5362

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Royal Super Star Co., Ltd. (Address: 67st, Bet 36x37 st, Mahar Myaing 1 Ward, Mahar Aung Myay Township, Mandalay, Myanmar. Tel:09428562250)

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
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India's record Russian oil purchases help keep EU fuelled: report

India bought 37 per cent of Russian crude exports in October at a total cost of $6.41 billion.

India's imports of Russian crude rose 10 per cent in October to record levels from the previous month, as the country's three largest refineries sharply raised their purchases, data from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) showed.

India bought 37 per cent of Russian crude exports in October at a total cost of $6.41 billion, making it the second largest buyer of Russian oil, the data showed. India's total fossil fuel imports from Russia came in at $7.07 billion, its highest monthly total in data going back to January 2022, the CREA said on Thursday. Ten shipments of fuel, refined from Russian crude, were sent to EU ports last month by the massive Jamnagar refinery in India, owned by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance. European nations also bought two such fuel shipments from Türkiye's STAR refinery. It had bought seven such shipments in September.

The Helsinki-based CREA describes itself as an independent research organization but explicitly supports Ukraine and says it uses its resources to "eliminate" Europe's reliance on Russian fossil fuel and help implement sanctions on Moscow.

The EU was also the third-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels, after China and India, accounting for 11 per cent of Russia's export revenues from its top five buyers. India has said ensuring energy security for the country's 1.4 billion population is its priority and has continued to purchase large quantities of Russian energy despite a Western price cap and US tariffs. US President Donald Trump last month waived the steep tariffs mandated by a new sanctions law on Russia's oil buyers, citing national security reasons, after India pushed back saying the tariffs could impact bilateral ties.



An oil tanker sails through the Arabian Sea. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PEXELS**

Global diesel and gas oil availability fell by 1.7 million barrels per day in the third quarter, from a year ago, figures from the International Energy Agency and the Energy Institute showed. Wholesale diesel prices surpassed $200 per barrel in September, and reached around $220 in Europe and the US.

India's refining boom finds an opportunity in the global diesel crunchREAD MORE: India's refining boom finds an opportunity in the global diesel crunch.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Jamnagar, in the western Indian state of Gujarat, last month in an attempt to push Reliance to pump more diesel into global markets to moderate elevated prices. — ANI



Norway has overtaken Russia as Europe's main oil supplier since the start of the war in Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

Norway top court rules oil licences invalid in landmark ruling

NORWAY'S Supreme Court on Friday ruled that three oil licences granted by the government in the North Sea were invalid since their emissions impact had not adequately been accounted for. The court agreed with climate campaigners, who challenged the validity of the licences, arguing that the environmental impact assessments had not considered the emissions from burning the oil after it had been extracted."This is a historic victory for the climate and for Norwegian democracy," Haldis Tjeldflaat Helle, head of the Norwegian wing of Greenpeace, told AFP shortly after the ruling was announced.

"The ruling is important because it clarifies the requirements for the decision-making process in cases like these. The Ministry will, of course, follow these requirements in its new assessment," Energy Minister Terje Aasland said in a statement to AFP.

For the highly anticipated decision, the court sat in plenary formation, meaning that 11 judges took part instead of the usual five — a format reserved for important cases. The campaigners had already won victories in two lower-court rulings.

The high court ruled that the plans for extraction and expansion were "invalid due to procedural errors".

It noted in a statement that while emissions assessments were carried out, they only covered so-called production emissions and not the subsequent "combustion emissions". — AFP

Japan to mull tax cut-linked benefits covering half of workers

THE government will consider introducing an income-based cash benefit programme covering half or more of Japan's workers in financial 2027 when the planned two-year consumption tax reduction on food is set to begin, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Friday. The scheme would broaden eligibility beyond the 30 per cent or more of workers previously envisaged by the government, but Takaichi did not elaborate on how it would fund the tax cut and cash payments intended to help households cope with inflation.

Takaichi said at the Senate's special committee on the issue that she "takes seriously" opposition lawmakers' calls to expand support for middle-income earners, including a suggestion that the programme should cover roughly 40 to 60 per cent. "We will work to ensure that the financial assistance reaches a greater number of middle-income working people," she said. — Kyodo



Under the newly proposed scheme, about 30 million people would be eligible, including more than 40 per cent of Japan's male workers. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE**

SPORTS

Myanmar referee attends KFA advanced referee course

MYANMAR referee U Khine Soe Lin, who serves on the Referee Committee and Referee Department of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), is attending the 2026 KFA Referee Academy S Course organized by the Korea Football Association (KFA), according to the MFF.



Myanmar referee U Khine Soe Lin from the MFF Referee Committee and Referee Department attending the 2026 KFA Referee Academy S Course.

The course is being conducted from 11 to 13 November at Korea Football Park in Cheonan, South Korea, with the aim of developing internationally qualified referees in Asia.

The S Course, one of the highest-level programmes of the KFA Referee Academy, is being conducted in English in accordance with Asian Football Confederation (AFC) standards. FIFA referee instructor Mr Rozali from Malaysia is leading the training.

During the three-day course, U Khine Soe Lin and four other observers, including two from Thailand and two from Mongolia, are joining 11 South Korean S Course participants to study on-field positioning, handball decisions, offside and fouls. — TWA/KZL

Pochettino appointed as Man Utd boss after Carrick sacking

MAURICIO Pochettino was appointed as Manchester United's new manager on Friday, tasked with reviving the struggling giants following the dismissal of Michael Carrick.


USA coach Mauricio Pochettino is reportedly on the verge of joining Manchester United. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The former Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea boss, currently in charge of the US men's team, will take up his position on 18 November following two CONCACAF Nations League matches against Haiti.

The 54-year-old is understood to have signed a two-and-a-half-year deal at Old Trafford, taking him through to the end of the 2028/29 season.

United have made their worst-ever start to a Premier League season, winning just one of their opening 10 matches, and dropped into the relegation zone before the current international break.

"The club has reached an agreement with the US soccer federation for Mauricio and his staff to be released after the conclusion of their responsibilities with the US men's national team," United said in a statement.

"The Argentinian is renowned for his high-intensity, attacking style of football, his dedication to building strong, cohesive teams and his outstanding record of developing individual players. — AFP

Spain coach De la Fuente confirms Yamal and Oyarzabal back to face England

SPAIN coach Luis de la Fuente has confirmed that striker Mikel Oyarzabal and winger Lamine Yamal will join the squad ahead of Sunday's decisive UEFA Nations League group-stage match at home to England.

Spain won 2-0 away to the Czech Republic on Thursday without the attacking duo. Yamal had withdrawn from the squad with a minor knee problem, while Oyarzabal was absent due to flu and the recent birth of his child.

Speaking after the victory, which was secured by an Alex Baena penalty and a late goal from Marc Pubill, De la Fuente confirmed that both players would join their teammates on Friday.

"We have very good news. Both of them are going to join the training camp — both Lamine and Oyarzabal," he told reporters.

"Mikel hasn't been with us because he has become a parent, but he is coming now and he will be grateful for it, because he will be able to sleep very well, and Lamine is looking forward to being with the squad," De la Fuente explained. — Xinhua

Football: Japan in another Brazil test as Moriyasu's reign nears end

JAPAN will be out to get back at Brazil in an international friendly in Singapore on Saturday after their World Cup dream came to an early end in the round of 32 in Houston this summer.


Brazil forward Raphinha speaks at a press conference in Singapore on 13 Novenber 2026. **PHOTO: Kyodo**

Manager Hajime Moriyasu is set for the final two games of his eight-plus years in charge of the Samurai Blue after the Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, originally scheduled for early next year, was pushed back to December 2027 amid security concerns in the country.

"This will be an opportunity to show the people in Singapore and Asia that Asian nations can compete at the world's top level," Moriyasu told a press conference.

"We'll be playing with the same objective (as Brazil) and go for the win. While we face a team who can teach us the quality required to be the best in the world, there'll definitely be a chance (to win)."

The Japan Football Association said Friday an international friendly planned on 30 December in Osaka was canceled following the Asian Cup postponement. — Kyodo

Kane hungry for more after England caps record

HARRY Kane pledged he would play for England "for as long as I can" after winning a record 126th cap against Croatia on Thursday.

The England captain scored from the penalty spot as Thomas Tuchel's team won 2-1 at Wembley to guarantee a spot in the Nations League quarter-finals in March.

The 33-year-old, who won the Ballon d'Or last month, moved clear of former goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who won 125 caps during his long career.

Shilton was part of a pre-match presentation to honour the Three Lions captain, along with Football Association patron Prince William.

A giant banner was raised before kick-off with a picture of Kane and the words "England's Finest".

The skipper, who showed off his Ballon d'Or trophy to the Wembley crowd before the match, described the occasion as "incredible". — AFP


Harry Kane has won 126 England caps. **PHOTO: AFP**

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S Korea's rice production hits 6-year low in 2026

SOUTH Korea's rice production hit a six-year low this year, driven by a continuous decline in cultivation area, statistical ministry data showed Friday.

The country's total rice output stood at 3.508 million tonnes in 2026, down 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

It marked the fifth consecutive year of reduction, bringing the output to its lowest volume since 2020.

The drop was attributed to a decrease in the total rice paddy area, which fell 1.1 per cent on-year to an all-time low of 670,000 hectares this year.

The rice acreage kept shrinking as the government pushed policies to curb overproduction, including direct payment programmes for strategic crops and initiatives encouraging farmers to switch to other crops in rice paddies.

Meanwhile, rice yield per 10 ares added 0.2 per cent to 524 kilogrammes this year on the back of favorable weather conditions throughout the growing season that helped minimize damage from pests, diseases and excess moisture. — Xinhua



This file image shows a lush green rice paddy field in Gyeongju, South Korea. **PHOTO: CC BY-SA 2.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Japan approves ¥650 bln winter energy subsidies

THE cabinet of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi decided Friday to tap 651.8 billion yen from emergency reserves to reduce utility bills during the winter as energy prices remain elevated due to heightened tensions in the Middle East.

The funds will be drawn from the 2.5 trillion yen set aside to deal with the impact of the Middle East situation in a supplementary budget for financial 2026 through March, leaving around 84 billion yen for future use.

Of the 651.8 billion yen, around 521.8 billion yen will be used for subsidies to lower electricity and city gas bills between December and February.

The programme is intended to help reduce the utility bills of an average household by around 7,000 yen over the three months. — Kyodo

Russia, Saudi Arabia concerned over spread of Yemen conflict

Both sides urged ending Yemen violence immediately and resuming peace talks.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alimov and Saudi Ambassador to Moscow Sami bin Mohammed Al-Sadhan expressed concerns over the growing risk of the spread of conflict in Yemen during talks on Friday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

"The sides discussed developments surrounding Yemen, emphasizing growing concerns over the spread of the conflict to neighbouring states and adjacent waters. They stressed the importance of ending the violence as soon as possible and resuming negotiations," the ministry said in a statement.



A picture taken during an organized tour by Yemen's Houthi rebels on 22 November 2023 shows the Galaxy Leader cargo ship at a port on the Red Sea. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The sides also welcomed collective efforts under the auspices of the United Nations to reach a settlement and establish a long-lasting peace on the south of the Arabian Peninsula, the ministry said. — SPUTNIK

Polar vortex faltering weeks earlier than ever recorded

METEOROLOGISTS said Friday they were observing an unprecedented early disruption of the polar vortex, raising the risk of cold snaps across the Northern Hemisphere, though there remains significant uncertainty.

The polar vortex is a vast region of cold, low-pressure air that normally circulates from west to east high above the Arctic.

It generally strengthens through autumn and peaks around January. It can weaken in the second half of winter, typically between January and March, sending bitterly cold air spilling south into Europe, North America and Asia.

But scientists say the vortex is already weakening in early November.

Scientists report an unprecedentedly early disruption of the polar stratospheric vortex, expected to break down fully by 20 November. Caused by upward-surging Rossby waves triggering sudden stratospheric warming (SSW), this rare event — occurring only three times in November since the 1950s—can split the vortex and push cold air toward populated regions in the US, Europe, and East Asia.

Experts suggest an exceptionally strong El Niño may be amplifying these atmospheric waves, though MIT climatologist Judah Cohen notes a record high-pressure system over Scandinavia and northwestern Russia — plus speculative climate-change-driven temperature contrasts — could also be driving it.



An unusually heavy spring snowstorm struck the Alps in mid-April 2025, dumping over a metre of snow in just a few hours across parts of France, Italy, and Switzerland and causing widespread travel chaos. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Despite the historic timing, the severity of potential winter cold snaps remains uncertain. Because Arctic and Siberian temperatures are not yet at their mid-winter lows, and because El Niño typically brings milder winters, the resulting cold outbreaks could be moderated rather than severe. — AFP