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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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President U Min Aung Hlaing to Address Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on State Policies and Future Work Programmes

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing will deliver a speech regarding state policies and future work programmes during the third regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. This session is scheduled for 18 November 2026.

The address will be broadcast live starting at 10 am on that day across various channels, including MRTV HD, MRTV News, MRTV Parliament, MRTV Farmers, MWD HD, and MWD Variety. It will also be available on Myanma Radio and Thazin FM. – MNA/TH

Education Remains Cornerstone of National Development

Education and human resource development are shared national responsibilities that require the collective efforts of the government, educators, parents, relevant departments, and all sectors of society.



President U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets young graduates from the Yangon University of Educations and Sagaing University of Education at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

Universities of Education must also emphasize improving the quality of teacher education, expanding research activities, promoting digital transformation, and producing teachers who are well-prepared for the era of artificial intelligence (AI), said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to give guidance to the youths who graduated from the Yangon University of Education and

SEE PAGE 3

Ayeyawady Boosts Fuel Quotas for Vehicles Bound for Beach Resorts

THE Ayeyawady Region Government is making arrangements to provide additional fuel allocations, on top of the regular quotas, for vehicles travelling to beach destinations in the region, according to the regional government.

During this year's tourist season, large numbers of visitors are travelling to coastal destinations in Ayeyawady Region, including Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha, Shwethaungyan and Goyangyi Island.

SEE PAGE 5

Myanmar attends 2026 Yellow River-Mekong River Exchange Week in China

A Myanmar delegation attended the 2026 Yellow River-Mekong River Exchange Week, held on 12-15 November in Dezhou, Shandong province in China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SEE PAGE 5



Myanmar's ambassador to China, U Zaw Win Myint, delivering opening remarks for the 2026 Yellow River-Mekong River Exchange Week.

ARTICLE

Welcome to Our EDCs

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Defence Services Deputy C-in-C attends 27th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting

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2026 Traditional Kachin Harvest Feast Festival (Inlong Innan Sha) held on grand scale

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Bhone Myat Thu from the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of the Union Government Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar's Consul-General attends 12th Asian World Film Festival



Myanmar's Consul-General Daw Win Lei Phyu joins at the opening ceremony of the 12th Asian World Film Festival.

MYANMAR'S Consul-General Daw Win Lei Phyu, attended the 12th Asian World Film Festival opening held at Culver Theatre in Los Angeles County, California, on 12 November.

During the event, the festival's co-founders and executive directors Asel Sherniyazova and Georges N Chamchoum, gave opening speeches; 'Kassandra', a Kazakhstani film, was then shown as an opening film of the festival, which was attended by about 150 guests.

The event is set from 12 to 19 November, and the Myanmar movie 'I Wanna Be Your Lobster' is among 13 selected films for screening in 2026.

It is the first time that a Myanmar film was selected for the festival, and the Myanmar Consul-General Office and the Myanmar community in Los Angeles attended the screening of the film on 14 November to express their support. — TWA/ZS

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Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Pyay Shwesandaw begins

THE 2,615th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the historic Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay, Bago Region, officially commenced on 17 November, incorporating the 127th ceremony of opening the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic for public veneration.

On the opening day of the festival, rice and alms were offered to invited members of the Sangha and Buddhist nuns.

Subsequently, the 127th opening ceremony of the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic will be held on 20 November, followed by a grand procession of the relic through Pyay on 22 November.



The Buddha Pujaniya Festival ceremony is underway at the Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay.

The Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic will be enshrined at the Kyapyan Ma Kauk Dhammayon hall on the pagoda platform from 23 to 26 November for the public to pay homage. On the evening of 26 November, the final day of the festival, a closing ceremony for the 2,615th Buddha Pujaniya Festival and a water-libation merit-sharing ceremony will be held to mark the return of the Sacred Tooth Relic to its treasury chamber. — TWA/ZN

Weather

Cyclonic Storm News, No 5, 2026

Issued at 2 pm MST on 17 November 2026

Cyclonic Storm Condition

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, a Cyclonic Storm AKVAN over the South Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved slowly northwestward. It is centred at about 470 nautical miles west-southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 350 nautical miles south-southeast of Visakhapatnam and 320 nautical miles east-southeast of Chennai, India.

It does not intend to move towards the Myanmar coast at the present stage, and therefore the Cyclonic Storm is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Cyclonic Storm, centre pressure and wind

The Cyclonic Storm is located at Latitude 12.3 degrees North and Longitude 85.6 degrees East; the centre pressure of the Cyclonic Storm is 1,000 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 40-45 miles per hour at 12:30 pm MST today.

Next 72 hours forecast

It is likely to continue to move north-northwestwards, intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over the West Central Bay of Bengal during the next 18 hours and intensify into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm on 19 November 2026. It is likely to move northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh and the Yanam Coast between Nellore and Tuni on 20 November 2026.

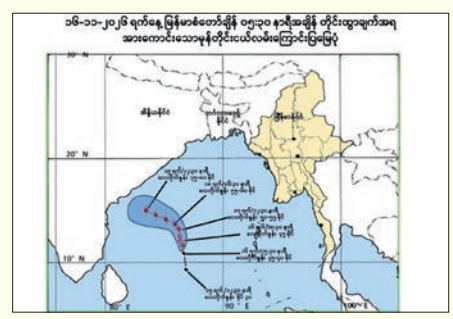
General caution

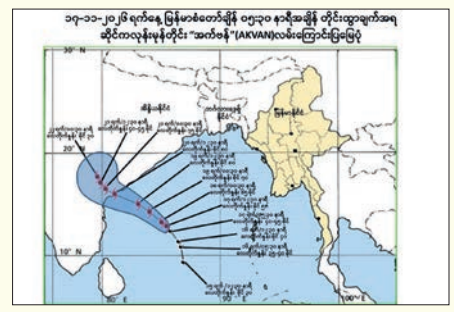
Due to the Cyclonic Storm, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan States and isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, and Chin and Rakhine States from today noon to 20 November 2026.

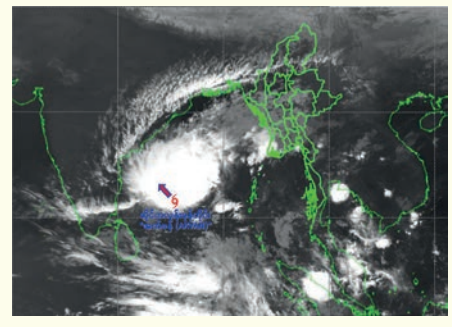
Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coast.

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

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives UNODC Regional Representative, Director for South-East Asia and the Pacific

U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Delphine Schantz, UNODC Regional Representative and Director for South-East Asia and the Pacific, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.



The UNODC Regional Representative and Director for South-East Asia and the Pacific calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe.

Both sides exchanged views on matters relating to the UNODC's ongoing activities in Myanmar concerning drug-related issues and transnational organized crimes. The Union minister also highlighted Myanmar's efforts to combat transnational organized crimes, including drugs and online scams, which are regarded as a national responsibility and addressed under a zero-tolerance policy. Both sides further discussed possible cooperation with UNODC in these areas.

The meeting was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA

Restoration efforts underway in Falam and Tiddim

RESTORATION work is underway at the partially damaged power distribution facility near Var Bridge in Falam Township, as well as at the Ngasitva Hydropower Plant and its staff housing.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, accompanied by the Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the work this morning.

He also inspected security arrangements along Var Bridge, gave instructions to local Tatmadaw members and police personnel on security matters, and presented them with food supplies.

Yesterday, the deputy minister and his team inspected the newly completed extension building at the 100-bed people's hospital in Tiddim and coordinated arrangements to address outstanding needs. He also encouraged patients receiving treatment and presented cash awards to hospital staff.

The team later inspected the fully renovated KG classroom building and student dining hall at the monastic education school in Tiddim, as well as staff housing facilities under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, all of which have also been fully renovated. — IPRD/KZL



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han and officials inspect recovery efforts in Chin State.

Education Remains Cornerstone of National Development

FROM PAGE 1

Sagaing University of Education at Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting with the youths, the President provided guidance, underscoring that these universities need to continue their efforts to serve communities and strengthen international cooperation.

He noted that education extends far beyond teaching and awarding academic qualifications; it plays a vital role in improving individual lives and shaping the nation's future development.

The President stated that students learn not only the academic knowledge contained in textbooks but also emulate their teachers' behaviour and speech, and learn from their discipline, sense of responsibility and moral values.

He underlined that the Government has been treating the education sector as a fundamental investment in national development and has been placing special emphasis on its advancement. It has been making concerted efforts to expand educational opportunities from basic to higher education, improve the quality of education, expand technical and vocational education and training, ensure that teaching and learning are aligned with workplace requirements, enhance the qualifications and capabilities of educators, and promote the all-round development of young people.

As part of efforts to increase investment in the education sector, the President said the government plans to allocate 6.92 per cent of the State budget to the Ministry of Education in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Including education-related expenditures by other ministries, total spending on the education sector is planned to reach 9.22 per cent.

Furthermore, he explained that the Government aims to increase the budget allocation for the Ministry of Education to at least 10 per cent in the 2027-2028 FY, raise total expenditure on the entire education sector to 15 per cent in the 2028-2029 FY, and increase it to 20 per cent during the Government's five-year term.

The President highlighted that increasing investment in education goes beyond constructing schools and buildings; it also involves investing in improving teachers' qualifications and capabilities, providing teaching and learning materials, creating a conducive learning environment for students, and developing human resources for the future.

He underscored that emphasis is being placed on creating learning opportunities for all school-age children and enabling those who have discontinued their education to resume their studies and rejoin the learning community while the KG+9 education system is being implemented in the basic education sector.

On the other hand, the President detailed that arrangements are being made for students to learn basic industrial, agricultural and livestock techniques starting from the middle school level. Meanwhile, more high schools where students can learn the aforesaid subjects are being established.

The President stated that efforts are being made to establish three Polytechnic Universities this year in addition to plans to open polytechnic schools in regions and states in the 2027-28 academic year.

He clarified that the Government plans to conduct basic vocational training courses for those who have duly fulfilled their military service obligations and those who had to discontinue their education at the primary, middle or high school levels for various reasons.

The President outlined five key points for the graduates to strictly observe in their work. These are: they should continuously improve their professional knowledge and teaching experience; they should put student-centred teaching and learning into practice; they should uphold professional teaching ethics and set good examples; they should demonstrate cooperation and a strong sense of responsibility in the workplace; and they should respect and abide by laws, bylaws, rules and regulations.

On behalf of the graduates, a female graduate spoke words of thanks.

Two students respectfully presented the commemorative gift of their graduation from two universities to the President.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers and Union-level dignitaries, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, rectors and faculty members. — MNA/TTA

Key points from the speech delivered by the President in giving guidance to education graduates

1. The Government aims to increase the budget allocation for the Ministry of Education to at least 10 per cent in the 2027-2028 FY.
2. Efforts are being made to establish three Polytechnic Universities this year in addition to more plans to open polytechnic schools in regions and states in 2027-28 academic year.
3. The Government is making arrangements to open and provide basic vocational training courses for those who have duly fulfilled their military service obligations.

NATIONAL

Defence Services Deputy C-in-C attends 27th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief General Kyaw Swa Lin joins the group commemorative photo session at the 27th ACAMM in Malaysia.

THE opening of the 27th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (27th ACAMM) and the 14th ASEAN Sergeant Majors Annual Meeting were held at the Double Tree Hotel in Malacca, Malaysia, yesterday morning.

The 27th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (27th ACAMM) was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Army Chiefs from ASEAN member states and delegates.

Chief of Army of the Malaysian Armed Forces General Tan Sri Azhan Bin Hj Md Othman delivered an opening speech and formally opened the 27th ACAMM. Army Chiefs from ASEAN member states and delegation leaders, in alphabetical order of countries, expressed their views on this year's topic titled "Fostering Collective Preparedness among ASEAN Land Forces for a Stable and Secure Region".

The master of ceremonies announced the joint declaration of the 27th ACAMM.

The responsibility of serving as the alternate Chair of the 28th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (28th ACAMM), to be held in 2027, was formally handed over to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army.

In the afternoon, the delegation led by General Kyaw Swa Lin held talks with Chief of Army of the Malaysian Armed Forces General Tan Sri Azhan Bin Hj Md Othman, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF) Brigadier General Aldi bin Haji Hassan, Deputy Chief of the General Staff Department Brigadier General Thongsamay Soukpasirth of Laos, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army Lieutenant General Nguyen Ba Luc of Vietnam, and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army General Mao Sophan separately and exchanged their views on further promotion of friendship between the two armed forces of both countries.

In the evening, the Chief of Army of the Malaysian Armed Forces and his wife hosted a dinner attended by the Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) of Myanmar and his wife together with Army Chiefs of ASEAN member states and their wives, and delegation members. — MNA/TTA

Hotels, guesthouses almost 100% full during Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival

THE Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Festival, one of the most prominent annual events in Shan State, are being held from 13 to 25 November. Hotels and guesthouses in the area are almost fully booked during the festival, according to the Department of Hotels and Tourism Development Implementation and Training.

The festival opened on 13 November with daytime hot-air balloon competitions. Favourable weather and the absence of rain allowed the competitions to proceed smoothly, enabling local and foreign visitors to enjoy the events.

Last year's Tazaungdine Festival attracted fewer visitors because of rain. This year's celebrations, however, have drawn large crowds, with visitor numbers comparable to those at the Thadingyut Festival in Bagan.

"This year's Tazaungdine Festival has been particularly encouraging for the tourism sector. Hotels and guesthouses were booked well in advance, and occupancy rates were almost 100 per cent on the opening day of the Tazaungdine and Hot-Air Balloon Festivals. Other tourist sites and monasteries have also been crowded with visitors. We warmly invite everyone to visit during next year's festival," said Dr Than Zaw, Director of the Department of Hotels and Tourism Development Implementation and Training.

The Tazaungdine Festival is one of Shan State's most popular attractions for both domestic and international tourists. The region's rich cultural heritage, traditional customs, handicrafts and local products attract visitors every year. Popular destinations include Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Inlay Lake, Pindaya, Kalaw and Ywangan. The cool climate, traditional cuisine, distinctive local culture and welcoming atmosphere are also among the features that appeal to visitors. — Thitsa (MNA)/ MKKS



Festival-goers throng at the Taunggyi Tazaungdine & Hot-Air Balloon Festival.

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 17 November 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,658.00~3,671.00	555.30~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	19,720,268.16	12,530,651.28	14,245,252.20	

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NATIONAL

2026 Traditional Kachin Harvest Feast Festival (Inlong Innan Sha) held on grand scale



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae attends the 2026 Traditional Kachin Harvest Feast Festival in Myitkyina.

THE 2026 Traditional Kachin Harvest Feast Festival (Inlong Innan Sha), jointly organized by the Kachin State government and the Kachin ethnic traditional culture association, took place at Sitapu Manaw Ground in Myitkyina yesterday.

Union Minister for Defence and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Than Maung, along with Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, and other relevant officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the archway of the festival.

At the thanksgiving ceremony, Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan welcomed the attendees and expressed his gratitude to the Union Ministers and officials for joining the celebration. He highlighted the festival as one of the significant traditional events handed down through generations of Kachin people.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the festival represents unity, solidarity, respect for ancestral traditions and gratitude for a bountiful harvest. He added that such cultural celebrations help strengthen ethnic unity and contribute to peace, stability and development in Kachin State.

The ceremony featured prayers, Bible readings, hymns, traditional harvest songs and special prayers for peace and regional development, led by religious leaders from various Christian organizations. The Kachin traditional shat lit were also presented to distinguished guests.

Following the ceremony, attendees shared a meal prepared with the first rice harvest of the year and enjoyed performances of traditional dances. They also took part in the traditional "Htaung Ka" dance in front of the Manaw poles, accompanied by traditional Kachin music, celebrating the unity and cultural heritage of the Kachin people.

The Union Ministers and officials visited a jade and gemstone finishing and trading centre operated by the Myitkyina Gem and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association in Sitapu Ward. They observed the production and marketing of finished jade, gemstones and amber products and encouraged entrepreneurs to improve product quality and develop modern designs to expand market opportunities.

They also visited the "Jinghpaw Thu" traditional weaving business in Shwe Nyaung Pin Ward, where they observed the production of traditional Kachin textile patterns using both hand-operated and mechanical looms. — IPRD/KTZH

Ice Sculpture of Myanmar's Iconic Shwedagon to Debut at China's 28th Harbin Ice & Snow World



A Harbin tourism promotional event in progress at Yangon's China Cultural Centre.

A massive ice sculpture replicating Yangon's iconic Shwedagon Pagoda will be showcased at the upcoming 28th Harbin Ice and Snow World in China, in a bid to further strengthen bilateral friendship and tourism cooperation between China and Myanmar.

The announcement was made yesterday during a Harbin tourism promotional event held at the China Cultural Centre in Yangon.

Myanmar is participating in the 28th Harbin Ice and Snow World as a "Special Guest Country", with teams currently working together on the design and construction of the Shwedagon Pagoda ice replica.

Located in northeastern China, Harbin is renowned for its cool, pleasant summers and snow-covered winters. Bordering Russia, the city offers a rich blend of unique regional culture and winter festivities. Thanks to strong regional openness and complementary tourism appeal, visitors travelling from Myanmar will be able to fully immerse themselves in Harbin's winter wonderland and intricate ice artistry.

Officials noted that expanding bilateral cooperation in culture and tourism serves as a vital and practical component of China-Myanmar people-to-people exchanges, marking a significant milestone in deepening ties between the two nations.

Held annually in Harbin – widely known as China's "Ice City" – the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival has grown into the world's largest winter art exhibition. — Myo Min Thura/ST

Myanmar attends 2026 Yellow River ...

FROM PAGE 1

The opening ceremony was held on 13 November at the Regal Kangbo Hotel in Dezhou, where Myanmar's ambassador to China, U Zaw Win Myint, delivered remarks. The Ambassador highlighted that Myanmar's strategic geographic position can unlock potential for a vast global market. He also elaborated on the ongoing initiatives to establish future sister-city relations, according to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After the opening ceremony, the ambassador attended a signing ceremony between Cambodia and China and the China (Shandong)-ASEAN Investment Promotion Conference for Economic and Trade Exchange alongside other ASEAN ambassadors and representatives. He also held discussions with a government delegation led by Mr Liu Jungang, vice chairman of the Shandong Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Ambassadors and representatives from ASEAN countries attended the 2026 Yellow River-Mekong River Exchange Week, with approximately 200 participants in total. — ASH/KK

Ayeyawady Boosts Fuel Quotas for Vehicles ...

FROM PAGE 1

Arrangements are being made to ensure an adequate supply of fuel for tourist vehicles under the regular quota system, while additional allocations are also being arranged to meet increased demand.

"Petrol stations along the main roads in Pathein and at Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches are being given additional allocations on top of their purchase order (PO) quotas. The PO quotas remain unchanged. The main aim is to make travel more convenient for visitors during the tourist season. As the entire country is facing fuel supply difficulties, we are doing our best to secure additional allocations beyond the regular quotas," said an official from the Ayeyawady Region Government.

Fuel is mainly distributed and sold through the QR-code system. However, when tourist vehicles have used up their QR-code quotas, they can purchase additional fuel based on the distance they intend to travel, according to the report. — ASH/KZL



A vehicle refuelling at a petrol station.

NATIONAL

2026 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival



PHOTO: ZWE MARN

The night sky over Taunggyi, Shan State, was illuminated by spectacular fireworks as the opening ceremony of the 2026 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival took place yesterday. The festival, eagerly anticipated by residents and visitors from across the country, attracted enormous crowds.

The competition, held at Awaiya Balloon Field in Taunggyi, began drawing visitors as early as the afternoon ahead of the opening ceremony. By the evening, the venue was packed with festivalgoers, with crowds filling every available space. Well-known artistes Sai Sai Kham Leng and other celebrities also joined the festivities.

The visitors secured their spots in advance to enjoy the fireworks displays and the competition of nighttime fireworks (Nyameekyi) and lantern-adorned (Seinnapan) balloons.

"I live in Nyaungphyu Camp, Taunggyi. Since today is the opening day of the festival, I came with my entire family to enjoy the event. We want our children to experience the fireworks and the nighttime fireworks (Nyameekyi) balloon competition while also learning about our traditional culture. There are so many people this year, and it was quite difficult to find a good spot. Among the festivals in Shan State, the Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon competition is my favourite. I have also heard that hot-air balloon activities will be included in next month's Shan New Year celebrations," said Khun Min Latt.

Ma Mee Mee, a Taunggyi resident who was waiting to watch the opening ceremony, said that although the experience of attending the festival was different from when she was young, she appreciated how the event had become more vibrant, with an increasing number of competition balloons.

"Several days ago, continuous rainfall caused flooding in Nyaungshwe, submerging some rice fields and vegetable plantations. However, the floodwaters have now receded, and the Shan State Government has also provided support and assistance. Our entire family came to enjoy the opening of the hot-air balloon competition, as we do every year. We are also here to support the Nyaungshwe team, which will compete in the nighttime fireworks (Nyameekyi) category under the name Taw Inn Balloon Team. I would like to encourage everyone to come and support the festival," said Ko Kyaw Kyaw, a visitor from Nyaungshwe.



Inn ethnic representative Ko Than Zaw Phyo.



Shan representative Sai Naw Sai.



Khun Thein Han from the Pa-O Literature & Culture Association.



Ma Mee Mee.



Ko Kyaw Kyaw.



Khun Min Latt.

At the opening ceremony, members of nine ethnic groups participated enthusiastically, presenting their traditional ethnic dances.

"It is truly heartwarming to see ethnic groups coming together in unity and celebrating happily at this year's opening ceremony. I hope our ethnic brothers and sisters will continue to reunite in the same spirit of solidarity and happiness in the years to come. We would like to invite everyone to visit the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival. Competitions will continue until 24 November. Visitors are also advised to bring warm clothing and enjoy the festival while staying comfortable and healthy," said Ko Than Zaw Phyo, the leader of the Intha ethnic dance troupe.

Khun Thein Han from the Pa-O Literature and Culture Association said this year's festival was more crowded than last year's, with nine ethnic groups taking part in the opening ceremony.

He explained that 50 Pa-O performers participated last year, while the number increased to 90 this year. They will present their own performances and join other ethnic groups in combined traditional dance performances throughout the festival.

He added that the participation of different ethnic groups from across Shan State demonstrates unity and solidarity. The festival also serves as an important occasion to showcase and preserve ethnic traditions. On behalf of all ethnic groups, he warmly invited people from across the country to visit the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival.

Sai Naw Sai, leader of the Shan ethnic representative group, said, "Last year, 96 people participated in the opening ceremony, while this year the number has increased to 115 Shan ethnic performers. The festival is even more vibrant than last year. The Tazaungdine Festival and hot-air balloon celebrations also demonstrate the strength of ethnic unity. All ethnic communities should preserve their respective traditions and pass them on to younger generations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the officials and organizers responsible for holding the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival."

At today's traditional hot-air balloon competition, eight teams out of the 15 participating teams competed with eight nighttime fireworks (Nyameekyi) and lantern-adorned (Seinnapan) balloons. — Ko Htwe, Thitsa/KTZH

Mongton's MSY income-generating activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday morning to monitor the implementation of project activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Project in Hwepahlaing Village, Mongton Township. Mongton District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Kyawt Kyawt Khine and officials visited the village to inspect the agricultural and livestock activities being carried out by members of the MSY project committee using the project's revolving fund. She met members of the village project committee to examine whether the monthly financial records and required accounting forms were properly and accurately maintained, while providing guidelines and coordination to address any requirements. The MSY project was initially implemented in Hwepahlaing Village with an initial revolving fund of K30 million. To date, loans totalling K40 million have been disbursed to 19 village project members, enabling them to continue implementing their respective income-generating activities, stated the department. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



Officials oversee an agricultural project in Mongton Township.

NATIONAL

Frontline troops welcomed home in Taninthayi

A ceremony to welcome back Tatmadaw members returning from frontline security duties was held at a local battalion unit in Khamaukkyi, Taninthayi Region, yesterday evening.

Officials from the Coastal Region Command, officers, servicemen and their family members, departmental personnel, members of the Myanmar Police Force and local communities attended the ceremony.



Triumphant Tatmadaw members receive a warm welcome home at the Coastal Region Command Headquarters.

The returning troops were warmly welcomed in recognition of their efforts in carrying out military operations to maintain regional stability and peace, protect the lives and property of the public, and ensure security across various regions and states.

Those attending presented the troops with sprigs of auspicious Eugenia leaves and welcomed them with music, singing and dancing. — MNA/KZL

Shwe Kokko Phase II continues systematic demolition of remaining buildings

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

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to dismantle key structures. The demolition of one five-storey building is 50 per cent complete, while work on another six-storey building is 90 per cent complete.

Of the 63 buildings designated for demolition in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, 11 have been demolished: four through controlled explosions and seven using heavy machinery. The remaining 52 buildings will also be systematically demolished.

The Government is working with neighbouring and regional countries to crack down on online fraud and gambling, which threaten global socioeconomic development and national security, and is striving to eliminate these activities. — 100/MKKS

MNHRC inspects Htone Bo Male I & II, Htone Bo Female I, 24-Mile Production Camp, Charitable Comprehensive School for the Blind, Cherry Myay Home for the Aged, Police Station Detention Centre, and Court Detention Centres

UNDER Sections 43 and 44 of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the Commission inspects prisons, labour camps, lock-ups, and care centres. On 16 November 2026, an inspection team led by Commission Members U Ohn Khine, Dr Swe Swe Aung, and U Nyi Nyi inspected Htone Bo Male 1 and 2 and Htone Bo Female production camps in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region and on 17 November 2026, inspected the 24-Mile Labour Camp, PyinOoLwin Myoma Police Station Detention Centre, PyinOoLwin Township Court Detention Centre, PyinOoLwin District Court Detention Centre, as well as the Charity Blind Comprehensive Education School and Cherry Myay Home for the Aged under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare in PyinOoLwin Township.

During the inspection of the labour camps in accordance with the provisions and procedures of the Commission Law, the team met with prisoners in their dormitories and enquired about their basic rights regarding living and dietary conditions, healthcare services, medical treatment for workplace injuries, access to clean drinking water and water for domestic use, recreational activities during off days, facilitation of easy borrowing and reading of books from the camp library, the right to practice religion in accordance with their faith, the receipt of items issued by the prison and those sent by family members, whether there were any discrimination in work assignments or torture by prison officials and fellow inmates, and workplace



MNHRC members are seen during their inspection tour in Mandalay Region.

safety, and working conditions during high-temperature periods. Furthermore, five prisoners who requested private, confidential interviews were conducted separately, and their statements were recorded.

Subsequently, the inspection team inspected the conditions of the dormitories, clinic, library, main kitchen, food warehouse, water storage tanks for domestic use, and the cleanliness of toilets, and the Commission donated knowledge books to the camp for the prisoners to read and study.

During the inspection of the Charitable Comprehensive School for the Blind and the Cherry Myay Home for the Aged, the team inspected healthcare services provision, food and nutritional supplements, access to clean drinking water and water for domestic use, freedom of religion, the health and hygiene conditions of the dormitories, bathrooms, toilets, and kitchens, training and nurturing provided to disabled children for physical, mental, and moral development, and facilitation of continuing education. The team also enquired about the arrangements for recreation and relaxation, the accessibility of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card for the elderly, the accessibility of pension payments for eligible residents and the availability of social pension support for those aged 85 and above.

The team inspected the PyinOoLwin Township Myoma Police Station detention centre and court detention centres, where they interviewed detainees regarding their remand periods, whether personal belongings confiscated from detainees are systematically kept in safe custody, whether there were instances of human rights violations or torture during detention and whether there were opportunities to meet with family members, as well as the provision of food and healthcare, sanitation conditions in lock-ups and the status of meeting with family members and access to legal assistance during the court appearance periods. The team also inspected the cleanliness, lighting, and ventilation in the lock-ups.

The findings and recommendations from the inspection team's visits will be sent to the relevant departments for necessary action under the Commission's Law. — MNHRC

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OPINION

Reduce, reuse and recycle plastic waste

Cooperation is underway to address plastic pollution not only as a national concern for Myanmar but also as a regional and global issue. Myanmar is working together with relevant government departments, the private sector, civil society organizations and the public to promote the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and a Circular Economy, to reduce the amount of plastic waste entering the oceans and strengthen waste management systems.

In 2025, the State issued the National Plastic Management Action Plan (2026-2035), which sets out objectives for reducing plastic production, consumption and disposal, including reducing the generation of plastic waste, minimizing the amount of waste entering the environment and promoting recycling.

To implement the action plan, specific timeframes have been established, comprising the short-term period (2026-2028), medium-term period (2026-2030) and long-term period (2026-2035). A system of shared responsibility involving all producers, sellers and consumers will also be developed. Accordingly, three working groups will be formed: the Working Group on Restricting Single-use Plastic Products, the Working Group on Implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System, and the Working Group on Importation of Plastic Raw Materials and Finished Products.

The government is implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outlining the successive steps to be followed in industrial and urban waste management systems in coastal areas. In accordance with the provisions of international conventions, relevant laws and policies, and the National Plastic Management Action Plan (2026-2035), systematic measures are being undertaken to reduce the use of single-use plastic products and plastic bags. Public awareness activities are also being conducted, while the use of alternative materials to replace plastic products is being encouraged and promoted.

Regarding the monitoring and regulation of production and imports, the relevant departments are scrutinizing and approving the import and export of recyclable plastic scrap, ensuring that the materials are processed into clean raw materials suitable for reuse in factories and contain no hazardous waste. In addition, systematic on-site inspections are being conducted to verify whether factories have undertaken the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in accordance with the scale of their operations.

Public awareness campaigns, community activities and local initiatives are being carried out to raise awareness of plastic production and consumption, particularly the use of plastic bags. As exemplary initiatives, the Sunday Stop and Monday Stop programmes have been implemented in Bago, Magway and Mandalay regions and Mon State as practical measures to reduce plastic consumption, with one day each week designated as a day when plastic products and plastic bags are not used.

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ARTICLE

Protecting the Environment for the Long-Term Survival of All Living Things

By Junior Thin

Have you ever imagined what our world would be like without a clean and healthy environment? The natural environment is essential for the survival of all living things, including human beings, animals, and plants. We depend on nature for almost everything in our daily lives, such as food, water, air, shelter, and other basic needs. In fact, the environment is like a generous provider that supports life on Earth. However, although human beings receive countless benefits from nature, they are also responsible for damaging it in many ways. Environmental pollution, deforestation, improper waste disposal, and the excessive use of plastic products have become serious problems around the world. These activities threaten not only the natural environment but also the long-term survival of all living things. Therefore, protecting the environment must become one of our most important responsibilities.

The Importance of a Healthy Environment

A healthy environment plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of nature. Human beings need clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and fertile soil to grow crops. Similarly, animals need suitable habitats, clean water, and sufficient food to survive. Plants also depend on sunlight, water, air, and healthy soil to grow properly. All living things are connected to one another through natural systems and food chains. If one part of the environment is seriously damaged, other parts may also be affected.

Unfortunately, many human activities have disturbed this natural balance. Some people cut down trees without planting new ones, while others throw rubbish into rivers, lakes, and public places. Factories release harmful substances into the air and water, and large amounts of plastic waste are produced every day. As a result, environmental pollution is increasing, natural resources are becoming limited, and the habitats of many animals are being destroyed. If these problems continue, future generations may face serious difficulties in maintaining healthy and comfortable lives.

The Growing Problem of Plastic Pollution

Among the many environmental problems, plastic pollution has become one of the most serious concerns. Plastic products are widely used because they are cheap, lightweight, convenient, and easy to carry. Plastic bottles, shopping bags, food containers, and packaging materials are commonly found in our daily lives. In particular, plastic shopping bags and foam food containers are frequently used in markets, shops, restaurants, and food stalls.

Although these products make our daily activities easier, they create serious environmental problems after being thrown away. Unlike many natural materials, most ordinary plastics do not break down easily. Some plastic waste can remain in the environment for hundreds of years. During this long period, it may break into smaller pieces and form microplastics, which can spread through soil, rivers, lakes, and oceans.

The problem becomes even more serious when plastic waste is not properly collected or disposed of. Many people carelessly throw plastic bags and food containers onto roadsides, into drains, and along riverbanks. During heavy rainfall, these materials can block drainage systems and prevent water from flowing freely. Consequently, urban areas may experience flooding and other sanitation problems. Therefore, the careless use and disposal of plastic products can affect both the environment and human communities.

The Harmful Effects of Plastic Bags and Foam Containers

The excessive use of plastic shopping bags and foam food containers causes several harmful effects on nature. First, plastic waste can pollute the soil and reduce its quality. When plastic materials accumulate in the ground, they may interfere with the natural condition of the soil and affect plant growth.

Second, plastic waste causes serious water pollution. Plastic bags and containers can be carried by rainwater into streams, rivers, and eventually the sea. Marine animals such as fish, turtles, and seabirds may mistake small pieces of plastic for food. They may also become trapped in discarded plastic materials. As a result, their health and survival are threatened.

Third, burning plastic waste can release harmful substances into the air. This contributes to air pollution and may cause health problems for people living nearby. In addition, the production and disposal of plastic products are associated with greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change.

Another serious concern is the formation of microplastics. These tiny plastic particles can enter the bodies of aquatic organisms and move through food chains. Eventually, they may reach other animals and human beings through food and water. Scientists are continuing to study the possible long-term effects of microplastic exposure on human health. Therefore, reducing plastic pollution is important not only for protecting nature but also for safeguarding public health.

Government Policies and Public Awareness

Recognizing the seriousness of environmental pollution, governments and responsible organisations have introduced various policies and programmes to manage waste and reduce plastic consumption. In Myanmar, the National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030) was developed to promote better waste management practices and encourage public participation in environmental protection.

However, government policies alone cannot solve the problem. Although relevant authorities have provided guidelines and encouraged people to reduce plastic consumption, the use of plastic products remains widespread. This is partly because plastic bags and foam containers are inexpensive, easily available, and convenient for everyday activities. In addition, some businesses continue to depend heavily on these products because they are commercially practical.

Therefore, greater public awareness is necessary. People need to understand that the convenience of using plastic products for a few minutes may create environmental problems that last for many years. Schools, universities, community organiszations, and the media should work together to educate the public about the harmful effects of plastic pollution. Environmental education should also encourage young people to develop responsible habits and become active participants in protecting nature.

Practical Ways to Reduce Plastic Waste

Reducing plastic pollution requires cooperation among governments, manufacturers, shop owners, and ordinary citizens. First of all, the production, distribution, sale, and use of unnecessary plastic products should be gradually reduced. Governments should establish appropriate regulations and encourage businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

Secondly, people should choose safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives whenever possible. Instead of using plastic shopping bags, they can carry reusable cloth bags, baskets, or other suitable containers. Reusable water bottles and food containers can also help reduce the amount of plastic waste produced every day. Shops and restaurants should encourage customers to bring their own bags and containers.

Thirdly, proper waste management is essential. Plastic waste should not be thrown into streets, drains, rivers, or other public places. Instead, it should be separated from other rubbish and collected for recycling whenever suitable facilities are available. Recycling allows certain plastic materials to be processed and used again, reducing the demand for new plastic products. However, recycling alone is not enough. Reducing unnecessary consumption and reusing suitable materials should also be important parts of our daily habits.

Furthermore, community clean-up activities, tree-planting programmes, and environmental campaigns can encourage people to work together. Every individual can make a difference through small but meaningful actions.

Our Shared Responsibility for Future Generations

Protecting the environment is not the responsibility of governments or environmental organisations alone. It is a shared duty of every person. Manufacturers should produce environmentally responsible products, business owners should reduce unnecessary packaging, and consumers should make thoughtful purchasing decisions. Parents and teachers should also teach children to respect nature and avoid wasting natural resources.

We must remember that the Earth does not belong to the present generation alone. It is also the home of future generations. If we continue to destroy natural resources and pollute our surroundings, our children and grandchildren may inherit a world with serious environmental problems. On the other hand, if we take action today, we can help create a cleaner, healthier, and safer world for everyone.

In conclusion, the natural environment is essential for the long-term survival of all living things. Although plastic products, especially shopping bags and foam food containers, provide convenience in our daily lives, their excessive use creates serious environmental and health problems. Soil pollution, water pollution, air pollution, blocked drainage systems, climate change, and microplastic contamination are among the major consequences of plastic waste. Therefore, we must reduce unnecessary plastic consumption, choose environmentally friendly alternatives, dispose of waste properly, and recycle useful materials. Governments should introduce effective policies, while individuals and communities should actively participate in environmental protection. Most importantly, we must change our daily habits and develop a strong sense of responsibility towards nature. Protecting the environment today means protecting our lives and securing a better future for all living things.

Reference: The Mirror Daily, 9 November 2026

Welcome to Our EDCs

By Myint Ko Ko (MMAEDC)

December 2026 will soon arrive, and all universities and colleges will reopen. At that time, all of our EDCs will start running their respective semesters. There are 25 EDCs in our country, Myanmar, and we are glad that five EDCs have been upgraded to 5UTE **(University of Teacher Education).**

The graduates from our EDCs earn BA and BSc degrees in Education in Myanmar. There have been seven intakes so far, and three intakes have already become degree holders.

Outstanding students from EDCs will join UTEs for Master's degrees, especially MA (Education) and MSc (Education). Their career pathways are smooth, enabling them to become Senior Assistant Teachers in the Myanmar Basic Education Sector.

In our colleges, there are also other courses, such as the DipEP (pre-service) for university degree holders and the DipEP (in-service) course for teachers. Outstanding students from other EDCs can attend the Master's course at the UTE within their catchment area. For example, students from Pathein, Yankin, Thingangyun, Myaungmya, and Bogale can attend Pathein UTE. It is not easy to attend a Master's course. Students must have earned a first degree (Q) with all Grade 4s in their subjects, and then they must sit for the entrance exam at the Education Degree College again.

Newcomers from Grade 12 who are interested in the teaching field and pedagogy must attend the BA or BSc (Education) course. All EDCs give you a warm welcome. It is easy to get hostel accommodation (a safe shelter) and have meals for free.

Our curriculum is very up-to-date with content-based syllabus design, and we are taught by experts who hold Master's or PhD degrees from universities across different fields.

The subjects in the core curriculum are very well-structured. They are: Educational Studies, Myanmar, English, Maths, Social Studies, Sciences, Local Curriculum, Fine Arts, PE, Library and Law and ICT from the first year to the second year.

In the third and final year, Educational Studies, Myanmar, English, and Math are compulsory subjects. For Science students, the specialized subjects are Science Methodology, Chemistry, Physics and Biology, while for Arts students, they are Geography, History, and Economics. You can also choose subjects from co-curricular groups such as PE, MC, life skills, local curriculum, Fine Arts, etc. The most interesting subjects are Practicum, ICT (Information Technology), Library, and Law. It is a great curriculum and is essential for all 1st-year to final-year students. Practicum is such a wonderful subject for all student-teachers.

The assessment style is 70 per cent for the semester exam. The student-teachers must also complete projects, assignments and portfolios. For final-year students, they have to choose any subject that they like to write a "**Research Paper**" in the second semester.

For practicum days, they have to go to school, visit campus and go to partner schools. Mentor teachers and teacher educators can help them discuss how to teach and what to teach during their practicum.

DipEP students have to learn Educational Theory, Educational Psychology, Myanmar, English, Maths, Social Studies and Sciences. Co-curricular subjects include Home Economics, PE, Industrial, Fine Arts, Music, Agriculture, ICT, Life Skills, MC, and Library and Law.

Our courses taught us not only pedagogy but also engaged us in many activities, such as impromptu talks, debates, round table discussions, singing contests, plant presentations, art galleries, and competitions for PE, ICT and Industrial. We also held Mohinga competition, Htamane Pwe, Christmas and New Year events, as well as football and volleyball clubs for football lovers.

Our college needs more greenery, and beautiful seasonal flowers are blooming everywhere. Our campus is neat and tidy – a true paradise. Every citizen and ethnic group in Myanmar will never regret attending our institution. It is a wonderful place to pursue your education. Choose our college: it is a nice place to study. Welcome to our EDCs!

HEALTH/TECH
WORLD

AI outperforming conventional models for typhoon track forecasts

ARTIFICIAL intelligence-based typhoon track forecasts are outperforming conventional physics-based models, with AI accurately projecting early on the path that last month's Typhoon Champi would ultimately take.

Private weather service Weathernews Inc has been utilizing AI forecasts, while Japan's weather agency is pursuing research and development towards their use. But experts say challenges remain, including forecasting typhoon intensity.



Naoto Yamada, vice-president of agricultural corporation Tanemaki Joso in Ibaraki Prefecture, checks a typhoon track forecast on the Weathernews website on 11 November 2026. **Photo: Kyodo**

Conventional physics-based models input data such as temperature, air pressure and water vapour levels into supercomputers to calculate outcomes based on the laws of physics.

AI forecasts, meanwhile, learn from vast amounts of past weather data to identify tendencies and regularities, then search for patterns similar to current conditions to estimate atmospheric movements. — Kyodo

Researchers in Australia develop gene therapy platform for rare diseases

RESEARCHERS in Australia will develop a personalized gene therapy platform to treat hundreds of rare blood and immune disorders caused by genetic mutations.

The five-year project, led by Australia's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), will combine a "patient avatar" in the lab developed from patients' blood samples with prime editing technology to precisely repair disease-causing DNA changes, according to a WEHI statement released on Sunday.

More than 600 distinct blood and immune diseases are caused by tiny errors in the genetic code within blood stem cells. These conditions are rare but often severe and life-limiting, and collectively affect millions of people worldwide, the statement said.

The WEHI team has developed a "blood in a dish" system that uses stem cells collected from a patient's blood sample to recreate key parts of blood and immune development outside the body. — Xinhua

Chinese medical team offers free consultations, diabetes screening in Tanzania's Zanzibar

THE 36th Chinese medical team to Tanzania's Zanzibar on Saturday provided free medical consultations and diabetes screening to residents of Pemba Island as part of activities marking World Diabetes Day.

The team's Pemba branch conducted the outreach at Tironi Community Health Point in Mkoani District, South Pemba Region, as part of China's "100 Medical Teams in 1,000 Villages" programme. It combined diabetes awareness education with multidisciplinary medical services to improve healthcare access in underserved communities.



A doctor with the 36th Chinese medical team to Tanzania's Zanzibar gives a lecture on diabetes prevention and management to local residents on Pemba Island, Zanzibar, Tanzania, 14 November 2026. **Photo: The 36th Chinese medical team to Tanzania's Zanzibar/Handout via Xinhua**

During the event, Chinese internal medicine physician He Yanhong educated residents on diabetes risk factors, blood glucose monitoring, healthy diets, physical exercise, medication adherence, and the early identification of complications affecting the eyes, kidneys, and feet.

The medical team also provided free blood glucose and blood pressure checks, consultations and basic medicines. — Xinhua

Amazon loses 40 satellites in failed rocket launch

AMAZON lost 40 satellites from its internet constellation on Sunday after a rocket failed during the first of several dozen flights the tech giant has purchased, marking a setback in Jeff Bezos' race against Elon Musk's Starlink.

The Vulcan rocket operated by United Launch Alliance (ULA) lifted off at 12:40 pm local time (1740 GMT) from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and "suffered an anomaly 10 minutes into the flight and failed to deliver the Amazon mission to orbit", ULA said in a statement.

ULA is a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin, and the company said on X it "exists to provide assured access to space for our nation and for the customers who depend on us" by taking on "some of the hardest missions in spaceflight". Amazon has purchased 38 launches from ULA, and over the long term, Vulcan is supposed to launch nearly half of the first generation of Amazon Leo, which is to comprise 3,232 satellites. — AFP



The Amazon logo is displayed on models of United Launch Alliance (ULA) Vulcan Centaur and Atlas V 551 rockets are displayed at the Amazon Leo Satellite Connectivity booth during the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 6 January 2026. **Photo: AFP**

Africa CDC warns of immense challenges over fragile Ebola gains

MARKING six months since the onset of the ongoing Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned that "immense challenges" have fuelled the deadly disease's further spread, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as cumulative confirmed cases have surpassed 11,100, with over 5,400 deaths.

In a statement issued Sunday, which marked six months since the DRC declared the outbreak on 15 May, the Africa CDC said that insecurity "remains one of the greatest obstacles to the response", with over 80 attacks on health care during the past six months. It warned that ongoing conflict, displacement, and movement restrictions have continued to complicate containment efforts.

Despite the "significant progresses" made in bringing lifesaving services closer to affected communities, the agency said that an average of 400 to 500 new cases continue to be reported each week in the DRC.

As the outbreak further spreads, the agency noted that the virus has expanded from just three health zones in a single province to about 67 health zones across eight of the DRC's provinces. — Xinhua

1,000 tiles from A-bombed Hiroshima building to be given away

HIROSHIMA Prefecture will hand out about 1,000 tiles from a building that survived the 1945 US atomic bombing of the city and was designated as an important cultural property, its governor said Tuesday.

The western Japanese prefecture is currently conducting safety work including earthquake resistance checks on three warehouses of the former Hiroshima Army Clothing Depot, one of the largest buildings to have survived the atomic bombing. Tiles that cannot be reused will be handed out to those who apply for them.



File photo shows the former Hiroshima Army Clothing Depot in January 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"We hope they are used in a way in which the suffering of war and the history of Hiroshima will be passed down to future generations," Hiroshima Governor Mika Yokota said during a press conference.

The building was constructed in 1914 and located around 2.7 kilometres from the hypocentre. It served as a temporary hospital after the city was bombed.

According to the prefecture, the tiles are of the "kikumagawara" variety manufactured mainly in the former town of Kikuma, now known as Imabari, in Ehime Prefecture in western Japan.

Some 40,000 tiles of the approximately 140,000 will be reused, while the remaining have been deemed too damaged. Those that are too damaged to be reused but are in good condition are set to be given away.

The prefectural government will set up an application system online from 24 November for those within the country, with a limit of five per person.

On 6 August 1945, a uranium bomb was dropped by the US bomber Enola Gay and detonated over the city, killing an estimated 140,000 people by the end of the year. — Kyodo

Kusama painting fetches record $15 mln at Sotheby's NY auction

A painting by the late Japanese avant-garde artist Yayoi Kusama sold for $15,055,000 at a Sotheby's auction in New York on Monday, setting a new auction record-high price for her work.



Photo shows "A way to Infinity: No 3P B" by the late Japanese avant-garde artist Yayoi Kusama. (Photo courtesy of Sotheby's) **PHOTO: KYODO**

The signed 1960 oil on canvas, titled "A way to Infinity: No 3PB", sold for a hammer price of $12.5 million, or $15.1 million including aggregate fees. The previous auction record was set in May 2022 at Phillips in New York for $10.5 million including aggregate fees, Sotheby's said.

Highlighting the importance of this painting, Sotheby's Senior Vice President of Marquee Sales Lucius Elliot told Kyodo News that the painting helped Kusama break into the mostly white male dominated New York art world of that time and "stake her claim as a meaningful part of the avant-garde artistic community."

The painting was her first ever to be exhibited at a New York City institution — the 1961 annual Whitney Museum of American Art exhibition on contemporary American paintings — prior to which she had "struggled to break into" the New York art world, Elliot said. — Kyodo

Red panda in Japan recognized as oldest in captivity by Guinness World Records

A 23-year-old red panda at a zoo near Tokyo has been recognized by the Guinness World Records as the oldest red panda in captivity in the world.

The male red panda, Futa, at the Chiba Zoological Park in Chiba Prefecture turned 23 years and 135 days Tuesday, equivalent to over 100 years old in human terms, according to the zoo.

The previous record was held by a red panda at a zoo in Montana in the United States, who lived for 21 years and 265 days.



Officials of the Chiba Zoological Park in Chiba Prefecture on 17 November 2026 hold a ceremony to celebrate the Guinness World Records recognizing the zoo's Futa as the oldest red panda in captivity. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Futa was born in 2003 at a zoo in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, and was moved to the Chiba zoo the following year for breeding purposes. The red panda first attracted attention for his habit of standing upright on his hind legs when he was young and remains popular. — Kyodo

Bond and Batman: Pattinson is a franchise phenomenon

BRITISH actor Robert Pattinson's role as James Bond will cement him as one of Hollywood's most versatile and bankable superstars, but he will have to juggle two of the industry's biggest franchises.

The London-born 40-year-old will now be in the incredibly rare position of fronting both the current Batman series — which he started in 2022 — and the new Bond movie.

He spent part of this year shooting as the Caped Crusader for "The Batman: Part II" with director Matt Reeves, which is being produced by Warner Bros and is slated to hit screens in February 2028.



British actor Robert Pattinson attends the red carpet event of "Primetime" presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on 5 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

That could even clash with the release of the Bond reboot by Denis Villeneuve, although no release date has been published by new studio owner Amazon MGM.

"I think that might lead to some intense negotiations between the studios down the line, although it's probably manageable given the production cycles for major films like that," Bruce Nash, founder of box office-tracking website The Numbers, told AFP. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

EU economy to maintain growth amid higher inflation: Commission

THE European Union (EU) economy is expected to maintain steady growth over the next two years despite rising inflation and tighter financing conditions, the European Commission said Tuesday.

In its Autumn 2026 Economic Forecast, the Commission projected EU economic growth of 1.4 per cent in both 2026 and 2027, followed by 1.5 per cent in 2028. The euro area economy is expected to grow by 1.2 per cent in 2026 and 2027 and 1.3 per cent in 2028.

Inflation in the EU is forecast to reach 3.3 per cent in 2026 and 3.2 per cent in 2027, significantly higher than previously expected, before easing to 2.3 per cent in 2028.



A digital billboard displays fuel prices at a petrol station in Berlin on 2 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Commission said stronger-than-expected economic performance in the first three quarters of 2026 was supported by steady consumption and a sharp rebound in goods exports, particularly amid growing global demand for inputs used in artificial intelligence and electrification infrastructure.

However, rising living costs, high interest rates and persistent geopolitical uncertainty continue to weigh on the economic outlook.

The Commission also warned that increasing defence spending, higher interest costs and energy-related support measures would put further pressure on public finances. The EU's debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to rise from 82.6 per cent in 2025 to 85.6 per cent in 2028.

European Commissioner for Economy and Productivity Valdis Dombrovskis said Europe's economy was performing better than expected, but stressed the need to safeguard public finances, strengthen competitiveness and lay the foundations for stronger long-term growth. — Xinhua

New Zealand petrol, diesel prices up for 3rd consecutive month

PETROL and diesel prices in New Zealand rose for a third consecutive month in October, up by 11.9 per cent and 11.1 per cent from September, respectively, official data showed on Tuesday.

Petrol prices have risen 40.8 per cent since February, while diesel prices have increased 73.6 per cent over the same period, Stats NZ prices and deflators spokesperson Jason Attewell said in a statement.

Domestic airfares also grew 13.6 per cent in October from the previous month, following a 9.6 per cent increase in September. On an annual basis, domestic airfares climbed 33.5 per cent year on year, the largest increase since the year ending in April 2023, Attewell said.

Meanwhile, food prices increased 2.3 per cent in the year ending in October, compared with a 2.4-per cent rise in the year ending in September. Restaurant meals and ready-to-eat foods made the largest contribution to the annual increase, with prices rising 3.4 per cent, followed by a 2.1-per-cent rise in grocery food prices, according to the national statistics agency.

On a monthly basis, however, food prices fell 0.4 per cent between September and October, mainly due to decreases in grocery food and fruit and vegetable prices, down 0.9 per cent and 1.6 per cent, respectively, the agency said. — Xinhua

Cambodia's trade with RCEP members grows 20.5% in 1st 10 months of 2026

CAMBODIA'S trade with Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member states rose 20.5 per cent year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2026, driven by preferential tariffs and trade facilitation.

According to a report from the Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday, the Southeast Asian country recorded US$39.68 billion in trade with fellow RCEP countries during the January-October period, up from $32.93 billion during the same timeframe last year.

The country's exports to RCEP members increased by eight per cent to $8.8 billion, while imports climbed 24.5 per cent to $30.88 billion.

The RCEP free trade pact remains Cambodia's largest market, accounting for 61 per cent of the country's $65-billion total global trade volume over the 10-month period.


An aerial drone photo taken on 22 May 2025 shows the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone (SSEZ) in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China, Vietnam, Singapore, Japan, and Thailand rank as Cambodia's top five trading partners within the bloc.

Entering into force in 2022, the RCEP unites 15 Asia-Pacific nations, combining 10 ASEAN member states with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. Penn Sovicheat, a secretary of state and spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, said the regional mega-trade pact has played a vital role in accelerating the kingdom's trade growth with the region and the world. — Xinhua

Thai banking sector stays sound as uneven recovery weighs on smaller borrowers in Q3

THAILAND'S banking sector remained sound, with capital, loan-loss provisions and liquidity at high levels in the third quarter of 2026, though an uneven economic recovery continued to weigh on debt-servicing ability, the central bank said on Tuesday.

According to the Bank of Thailand, overall commercial bank lending expanded four per cent year-on-year in the quarter, accelerating from two per cent growth in the previous quarter.

The growth was mainly driven by large corporate borrowers seeking working capital and coping with higher costs, as well as new investment in technology and artificial intelligence industries, the central bank said in a statement.

Lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and consumers continued to contract, reflecting what the central bank described as a K-shaped recovery.

On asset quality, non-performing loans (NPLs) stood at 535.2 billion baht (about US$15.83 billion) at the end of the third quarter. The NPL ratio was unchanged from the previous three months at 2.82 per cent of total loans.

The share of Stage 2 loans, those showing a significant increase in credit risk, fell to 6.68 per cent from 6.77 per cent. The central bank said this was because some borrowers were upgraded and others resumed repayment.

On performance, the net profit of the Southeast Asian country's 28 commercial banks dropped 16.9 per cent quarter-on-quarter to 69 billion baht (about $2.04 billion) in the third quarter but was up 4.2 per cent from the same period last year.

The quarterly decline was mainly due to lower operating income, including smaller dividend income and lower gains on financial assets measured at fair value as bond yields rose, the central bank's senior director Suchot Piamchol told a news conference. — Xinhua

Russia showcases high-tech export push at "Made in Russia" forum

THE International Export Forum "Made in Russia" took place in Moscow on Monday, bringing together over 5,000 guests from 86 countries. This year's event, themed "Growth amid a Global Storm", highlighted technological sovereignty and the transition from simple trade to localized joint production partnerships.

According to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, more than 2,500 companies have already received certificates under the "Made in Russia" umbrella brand, covering 30,000 products. One in seven certificates is issued for high-technology goods.

Addressing the plenary session, Mishustin said that Russia remains "open to constructive dialogue and mutually beneficial economic cooperation". — Xinhua

Nokia, four European tech firms form consortium to develop AI gigafactory

FINNISH telecommunications equipment maker Nokia and four other European technology companies announced Monday the formation of a consortium to develop a cross-border artificial intelligence (AI) gigafactory in the Nordic and Baltic region, as Europe seeks to expand its AI computing capacity and strengthen technological sovereignty.

The consortium, named AI Gigafactory Northern (AIGF Northern), brings together Finland's Nokia and Verda, Britain's Nscale, Estonia's Skeleton Technologies and Sweden's Telia.

According to a Nokia press release, it plans to establish interconnected AI computing facilities in Oulu in northern Finland, Iru in northern Estonia and Valmiera in northern Latvia, with the Swedish site's location yet to be determined. — Xinhua

Over 2,000 business, political representatives gather in Shenzhen for APEC CEO Summit 2026

MORE than 2,000 business and political representatives gathered in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on Tuesday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit 2026.

They come from 21 APEC economies and 13 non-APEC economies, including Britain, France, Germany and Switzerland.

As an important part of the 2026 APEC Economic Leaders' Week, the summit, themed "To Prosper and Win the Future Together", is scheduled for 17-18 November at the Qianhai International Convention Centre.



The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit 2026 is held in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 17 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In his welcome address, Ren Hongbin, chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and chair of the APEC CEO Summit 2026, expressed the hope that the dialogue will spark new ideas and forge broad consensus, injecting fresh momentum into the Asia-Pacific community and global growth.

Attendees are discussing the new landscape of the Asia-Pacific economy and opportunities for cooperation, with sessions covering seven sub-themes: crafting a new blueprint of connectivity, building an open and inclusive AI innovation ecosystem, setting a new paradigm for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific, advancing the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, exploring new paths for digital economy cooperation, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Asia-Pacific development opportunities, and promoting synergized digital and green transformation. — Xinhua

Indonesia's QRIS digital payment transactions surge 149% in Q3

TRANSACTIONS through Indonesia's Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) digital payment system surged 149.1 per cent year on year in the third quarter of 2026, with cumulative transaction volume exceeding 20.06 billion, Bank Indonesia (BI) said Monday.

BI Deputy Governor Filianingsih Hendarta said the number of QRIS users reached 70.59 million, up 8.17 per cent year on year, while the number of merchants rose 36.04 per cent to 49.39 million. — Xinhua



Visitors eat lunch at a street food stall that accepts payments via the QRIS digital payment system in Jakarta on 23 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3623S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3623S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (167W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (167W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MOE LINE 2 VOY.NO. (ML2003)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOE LINE 2 VOY.NO. (ML2003)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MOE NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Japan PM Takaichi vows to set up Asia cooperative framework on oil security

PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi said Tuesday that Japan will establish a cooperative framework on oil security with most Association of Southeast Asian Nations members and Australia, as concerns over energy supplies persist amid the prolonged Middle East conflict. In collaboration with the International Energy Agency and the Jakarta-based Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, the scheme is intended to set rules for "emergency release and transfer" of oil, she said at a summit in Manila of the Asia Zero Emission Community.



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi speaks during a summit of the Asia Zero Emission Community, a decarbonization framework launched by her nation, held in Manila on 17 November 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

During the AZEC summit, Takaichi also said that an office of the IEA will be set up in Tokyo to serve as the core of the "Asia Oil Security Task Force" initiative. She described it "an Asian version of the Paris-based IEA," which does not have any South-East Asian countries among its members. Takaichi, who co-chaired the leaders' meeting with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, also proposed a plan for joint oil stockpiling in Asia by using idle tanks in Japan.

"As concerns over energy supply become more acute, the importance of achieving energy security, economic growth and decarbonization in parallel has become even greater," Takaichi said. — Kyodo

Pope calls for 'less division' after US midterm elections

POPE Leo XIV on Tuesday voiced hope for "less war" and "less division" following the midterm elections in his native United States, as he returned from a tour of South America. The first American pope has clashed repeatedly with US President Donald Trump over the war with Iran and made history this month by announcing that he had cast a ballot in the midterms — the first time a pope has been known to have voted.


Pope Leo XIV speaks to journalists during a press conference aboard the flight from Lima to Rome on 16 November 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I would like to see a greater capacity for dialogue, for building bridges, for reconciliation. Less polemics, less war, less division," the US-born pontiff told reporters including AFP on the papal plane.

"I know this is also a dream, but I know it is possible so we shall see," he said. Trump's Republican party was handed a resounding defeat in the midterms in large part due to anger over soaring energy prices and the president's costly war with Iran.

'Seeds of hope'

Leo's comments echoed his repeated calls for an end to polarisation during his 12-day tour of Uruguay, Argentina and Peru.

The visit, which came less than a month after the 71-year-old underwent lung cancer surgery, also highlighted the social justice priorities shaping his papacy.

From the high Andes to the sweltering Amazon, Leo crisscrossed a continent where he spent nearly two decades as a missionary, picking up Peruvian citizenship along the way. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

ASEAN families form later, household sizes shrink: report

FAMILIES across ASEAN countries are forming later and living in smaller households, according to a report released in Singapore on Tuesday.

The inaugural State of ASEAN Families Report 2026, which drew on administrative data and surveys conducted in 10 ASEAN cities, also found that surveyed households generally reported moderate to high levels of family resilience and well-being, good quality of life and strong family ties. The report found that higher family resilience was associated with stronger family ties, higher family well-being, better quality of life and higher marital quality.

Findings also varied across household types. Nuclear and three-generation households generally reported higher levels of family resilience and well-being, as well as better quality of life. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka faces shortage of 7,000 medical officers

Sri Lanka faces a shortage of about 7,000 medical officers across government hospitals, Minister of Health and Mass Media Nalinda Jayatissa told Parliament on Tuesday.

Jayatissa said the government plans to recruit medical officers in phases between 2027 and 2029 to fill the 7,000 vacancies.

Sri Lanka is grappling with rising healthcare demand, including elderly care and chronic disease treatment, amid the medical staff shortage. — Xinhua

AI models tend to agree with users over climate facts: UNESCO



This file photo taken on 12 October 2017 shows the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, France. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) models can answer about 90 per cent of climate science questions correctly but tend to abandon established scientific facts when users challenge their responses, according to a report released Monday by UNESCO.

Researchers tested 15 large language models (LLMs) and found they generally provided accurate answers to neutral questions about climate science. However, when researchers challenged the answers or asserted plausible-sounding but false claims, the models quickly changed their positions, according to the report. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Yangon United and ISPE FC battle for U20 Title

The 2026 M-League U20 Youth League has only two matches remaining, with Yangon United and the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE FC) competing for the championship.

After 24 matches, Yangon United lead the standings with 58 points, followed by the ISPE with 56 points. The two teams will also meet in the final match of the season, making their Matchday 26 encounter a potential title decider if both sides win their respective Matchday 25 fixtures.


Yangon United lead the standings. **PHOTO: M LEAGUE**

Yangon United will face Hanthawady United in Matchday 25, while the ISPE will take on Yangon City. Although the title could be decided in Matchday 25 depending on the results, the final head-to-head encounter is more likely to determine the champions.

Yangon United are aiming to end their long wait for success in youth league competitions, while the ISPE must make a stronger push to reclaim the top position. The ISPE led the standings for much of the season but lost points midway through the second round, allowing Yangon United to take the lead.

The 2026 M-League U20 Youth League will conclude on 28 November, with the potentially decisive match between the ISPE and Yangon United scheduled as the final fixture. — Nyi Myat Thawta/KZL

Inter-Ministry Volleyball Tourney semifinals conclude

THE semifinals of the 2026 Inter-Ministry Volleyball Tournament (Men's and Women's) continued at Gymnasium B of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the women's semifinals, the Ministry of Defence defeated the Ministry of Education 3-0, while the Ministry of Home Affairs beat the Ministry of Sports 3-0.

In the men's semifinals, the Ministry of Defence overcame the Ministry of Home Affairs 3-2, while the Ministry of Sports defeated the Ministry of Immigration and Population 3-1.

The women's third-place match between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sports and the men's third-place match between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Immigration and Population will take place at 9 am on 18 November.

The matches will be broadcast live on MRTV HD, MRTV Sports Channel and MRTV Entertainment. — MNA/KZL

Wirtz double helps Germany secure Nations League group top spot

FLORIAN Wirtz scored twice as Germany crushed the Netherlands 5-0 in Berlin on Monday to finish top of UEFA Nations League A Group 2 and advance to March's quarterfinals.

Jurgen Klopp's side delivered a commanding performance before 71,765 spectators at the Olympiastadion, overturning the Dutch advantage in the standings to claim first place on goal difference.

Klopp made two changes following Germany's 3-1 victory over Serbia, bringing in Nico Schlotterbeck and Nathaniel Brown for Malick Thiaw and Maximilian Mittelstadt.

Germany controlled possession from the opening stages but initially struggled to create clear opportunities against the visitors' compact defence.

The Netherlands threatened first when Donyell Malen headed over from Cody Gakpo's cross in the 26th minute. Derry Scherhant responded six minutes later, striking the post after connecting with Philipp Treu's delivery from the right. The Berlin-born winger eventually broke the deadlock in the 41st minute, cutting in from the left and firing into the top-right corner. — Xinhua


Maximilian Mittelstaedt (R) of Germany vies with Crysencio Summerville of the Netherlands during the UEFA Nations League 2026/27 League A Group A2 match between Germany and the Netherlands in Berlin, Germany, 16 November 2026. **Photo: Xinhua**

Rooney reveals he considered suicide at 'lowest point' with Man Utd

WAYNE Rooney has revealed that he contemplated suicide even as he flourished on the pitch for Manchester United when the Premier League club was at the height of its powers.

The former England forward, 41, said his mental health was suffering even though he was newly married and a father to his eldest child, Kai.

He married Coleen in 2008 and his first child was born the following year.

Rooney was part of a powerful squad assembled by Alex Ferguson that won multiple Premier League titles and the Champions League.

The striker, who would spend two days at a time drinking at home, told the "Life At The Midpoint with Gabby Logan" podcast that he considered taking his own life when he was at his lowest ebb.

"I can look back and say I was selfish, but I knew I was going through something which I was really struggling to deal with," he said.

"Then I didn't want Kai seeing me like that, so that's why I'd hide away as well.

"I got to a place where you're contemplating suicide. You just didn't want to be around anyone. I didn't want to see people in the streets. I didn't want to go into shops.

"I was always comfortable on a football pitch, but everything else (I) really struggled with it." — AFP

Ronaldo cloud still hangs over Portugal coach Jesus

PORTUGAL coach Jorge Jesus asked when he will stop being peppered with questions over Cristiano Ronaldo's international retirement after a 4-1 defeat to Denmark sparked criticism from the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's mother.

Dolores Aveiro said she was glad to see Jesus suffer his first defeat since taking charge after the World Cup as Ronaldo had been "deceived" by the former Benfica boss.

"Now I have to respond to Cristiano Ronaldo's mother?" Jesus asked ahead of Portugal's final Nations League group fixture away to Wales on Tuesday.

"I don't know when it is going to stop. If you guys ask the questions, I have to answer. If you ask about Ronaldo next year, I will answer." Ronaldo, 41, announced his international retirement earlier this month after a falling out with Jesus, who he also worked under at Saudi club Al-Nassr.

The ex-Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus star accused Jesus of broken promises after he was asked to warm up during a match against Norway in September without being introduced as a substitute. Ronaldo left the team camp and was handed a 30-day suspension and token fine.

He apologized and was expected to return to the Portugal squad, but instead brought down the curtain on a 23-year international career. — AFP

Japan PM Takaichi vows to set up Asia cooperative framework on oil security

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WORLD

South Korea tightens exam security after AI cheating scandal

SOUTH Korea will deploy thousands of extra personnel to prevent cheating on its college entrance exam sites this week and may introduce tougher penalties, Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said Tuesday.

The announcement comes after an individual confessed on Sunday to cheating on the national tax accountant exam using artificial intelligence tools, an admission that brought panic ahead of the college test.

Known as the Suneung, the intense once-a-year exam — widely seen as a ticket to well-paid jobs and even better marriage prospects — will bring much of South Korea to a standstill on Thursday to minimize distractions.

As a measure to detect phones that have not been handed over, an emergency alert will be sent before the exam begins, Han said at a press conference.

Students will also be ordered to place their glasses on their desks so supervisors can verify they are not smart devices.

"We also strongly urge students to avoid wearing clothing with buttons wherever possible," Han said. — AFP



Students wait for the start of the annual college entrance exam, known locally as Suneung, at an exam hall in Seoul on 13 November 2025. **PHOTO: KIM HONG-JI / POOL / AFP**

Afreximbank official urges intra-African settlement to cut trade costs

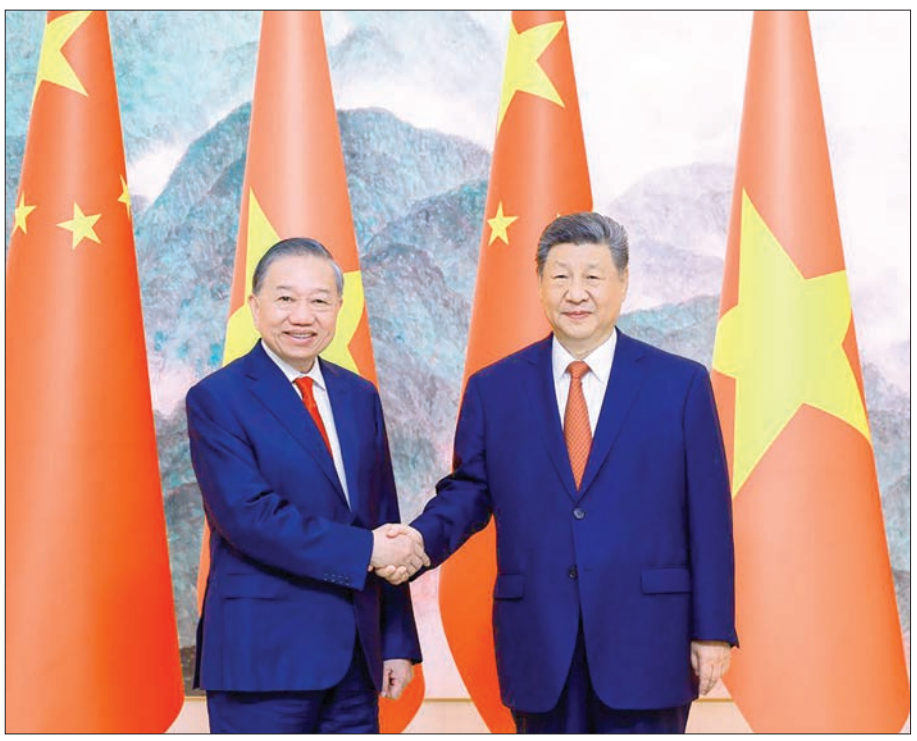
AFRICA loses more than US$5 billion a year in settling intra-African trade in foreign currencies, an executive of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) said Monday, calling for wider adoption of a regional payment system.

Haytham El Maayergi, executive vice-president of the Global Trade Bank at Afreximbank, made the remarks in a keynote address at the opening of the three-day Afreximbank Trade Finance Seminar and Compliance Forum 2026 held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre in the capital of Botswana.

El Maayergi urged countries yet to join the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), which settles payments in local currencies across more than 30 African countries, to onboard. — Xinhua

Xi says China-Vietnam top-level exchanges inject positive energy into regional peace, development

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday met General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vietnamese President To Lam in Shenzhen.



General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vietnamese President To Lam, who is in China to attend the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 17 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In recent years, the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries have maintained close exchanges and reached important consensus on building a higher-level China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, Xi said.

This has helped advance bilateral relations and injected positive energy into regional peace and development, Xi added.

The Vietnamese leader is in Shenzhen to attend the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, scheduled for 18-19 November.

During the meeting, Xi expressed willingness to deepen experience sharing with Vietnam, firmly support each other, and strengthen exchanges on self-supervision and self-governance of the parties, so as to ensure continuous progress in both countries' socialist causes and national development.

"As comrades and brothers, China and Vietnam must stand together and weather the storms," Xi said. — Xinhua

US, Thailand sign joint trade statement

US President Donald Trump and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul signed a joint statement on trade on Tuesday, with the American leader hailing a "victory for both countries" in ongoing negotiations.

A framework agreement was unveiled just over a year ago, on the same day Trump announced a short-lived ceasefire between Thailand and its neighbour Cambodia following deadly border clashes.



Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and US President Donald Trump take part in a signing of a US-Thailand trade agreement at the Solaire Resort on the sidelines of the 49th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Manila on 17 November 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

The United States is Thailand's largest export market, with the Southeast Asian nation recording a surplus of $71.7 billion last year, according to US data.

"We're going to do a lot of trade," Trump told a news conference on the sidelines of a summit of leaders from the Association of South-East Asian Nations in Manila.

"Thailand will eliminate all tariffs on US exports" and "remove substantial non-tariff barriers on American vehicles, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, ethanol, and poultry", Trump said.

Thailand will also buy "an estimated $2.6 billion in additional US agricultural products", he added.

"This is an incredible victory for both countries." — AFP