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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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President U Min Aung Hlaing Addresses Nation's Overall Situation and State Policies at Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address on the policies of the State and the overall situation of the nation under Section 210 of the Constitution and Section 65 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law at the 11th-day meeting of the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at 10 am yesterday



President U Min Aung Hlaing delivers an address on the State policies and the overall situation of the nation at the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The Hluttaw session was also attended by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Lin Dwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the chairman of the Union Election Commission, Union-level organization members, deputy speakers of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, Hluttaw representatives and observers, totalling 300. Chief ministers of regions and states and speakers of the region and state Hluttaws who are members of the Myanmar Parliamentary Union also attended the ceremony via videoconferencing.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invited President U Min Aung Hlaing to deliver an address to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

On the occasion, the President delivered a speech. He said: As 222 days had now elapsed since the new government assumed office, he had attended the session to brief the esteemed Hluttaw representatives on the measures undertaken by the government and the current situation of the nation.

The government has adopted two sets of policies. Under its national policies, it has set two national objectives: ensuring the prosperity of the country and ensuring food security. Under its political policies, it is committed to firmly establishing a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democracy and federalism. Governments and people in every country aspire to see their nations develop and prosper. To achieve this, a sound economy is essential. A country's economy is measured by its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

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Creating a safe and sound learning environment

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Defence Services Dy C-in-C attends closing of 34th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet

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Union Defence Minister discusses peace processes in Myitkyina

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes third regular session after 11 days

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address on State policies and overall situation of the nation at the 11th-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, as the session concluded after 11 days of legislative proceedings.

The meeting began at 10 am under the chairmanship of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, with Vice-Presidents, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Justice of the Union, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, heads of Union-level organizations, Union ministers, Hluttaw representatives and 300 observers in attendance. Regional and state chief ministers and Hluttaw representatives joined via video conferencing.

With 540 of 560 representatives present (96.43 per cent), the Speaker announced a quorum and recorded the appointments of Security and Border Affairs Ministers in regional and state governments. He also announced the approval of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development and Protection Bill, agreed upon by both Hluttaws, for submission to the President's signature and promulgation.

Regarding the 2025 Annual Report of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), the commission reported measures to improve staff entitlements, expand branch offices to all regions and states, extend human rights awareness programmes, strengthen prison staff training and complaint procedures,

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Shan's 6 tourist destinations await travellers

SHAN State, renowned for its scenic landscapes, cool climate and rich cultural heritage, has opened six major tourist destinations to attract domestic and international visitors, according to the Shan State Department of Hotels and Tourism Development Implementation and Training.

The six destinations include Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Inlay Lake, Pindaya, Kalaw and Ywangan, offering a variety of attractions ranging from ancient pagodas, caves and scenic lakes to traditional villages, cultural sites and local businesses.



This photo captures the Hyper Fall – a destination in Shan State.

Popular tourist attractions open to visitors include Inlay Lake, Nyaungshwe Cultural Museum, Red Mountain Vineyards and Winery and Shweyanpyay Atumashi Monastery in Nyaungshwe; PhaungdawU Pagoda, Shwe Indein Pagoda, Alodawpyae

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China-Myanmar 2026 Q4 media tea party highlights four global initiatives

THE Fourth Quarter 2026 China-Myanmar Media Tea Party and Briefing on the Four Global Initiatives and the Spirit of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee was held on 17 November at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

At the media salon and briefing, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia delivered the opening remarks, while scholars and media representatives held extensive discussions on the four major global initiatives and the fifth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

In her remarks, Ambassador Ms Ma Jia said that China stands ready to work with Myanmar to use the practical implementation of the four global initiatives as an opportunity to promote closer engagement across all sectors, strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two countries' governments, political parties, legislatures and local regions, and deepen the sharing of governance experience.

She added that China would continue to expand mutually beneficial areas of development, enhance the alignment of development strategies, steadily advance major projects under the China–Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), and deepen cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, investment, energy resources, people's livelihoods and social affairs, enabling the peoples of both countries to share the fruits of development.

More than 160 people attended the event, including officials from the Ministry of Information, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative, representatives of more than 40 Chinese and Myanmar media outlets, think tank members and scholars. Minister-Counsellor Mr Shen Dan moderated the event. — ASH/TH



This photo features the Fourth Quarter 2026 China-Myanmar Media Tea Party in progress.

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Shan's 6 tourist destinations await travellers

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Pagoda, Ngaphe Chaung Monastery, Mongthauk Bridge, Inlay Cottage Boutique and Ywama Floating Market in the Inlay Lake region; Shwe Umin Pagoda, Ponetaloke Lake and Konlon Religious Zone in Pindaya; the Myoma Market, Clock Tower, Mawmyayoo Park, Kalaw Railway Station, Hnee Pagoda, City Point, Byaing Hill and Bawathanthara Bridge in Kalaw; and Myathabeik Blue Lake, Meinmaye Mountain and Kannankya Waterfall in Ywangan.



An aerial view highlights the natural beauty and tourist attractions of Shan State.

"Six major tourist destinations have been developed in Shan State. Currently, Kalaw and the Inlay Lake region are particularly popular among international visitors. The Inlay Lake area attracts the largest number of foreign tourists due to its diverse ethnic communities. Visitors are especially interested in local traditional culture and handicrafts, including lotus-fibre weaving, silversmithing, Shan paper production, traditional garment making and local food products. With its pleasant climate, peaceful surroundings, rich cultural heritage and diverse local products, Shan State warmly welcomes domestic and international visitors to explore its many attractions and enjoy a relaxing holiday," said Dr Than Zaw from the department.

According to the department, Shan State welcomed 937,144 visitors, including 888,662 domestic and 48,482 international tourists, from January to October 2025. During the same period in 2026, visitor arrivals increased to 1,057,417, comprising 1,010,496 domestic and 46,921 international tourists.

In addition to the six major tourist destinations, the department has also promoted Community-Based Tourism (CBT) programmes in various townships, enabling visitors to experience local lifestyles, ethnic traditions, cultural practices and community-based businesses.

Between the 2016 and 2025-2026 financial years, the CBT initiatives were implemented in 18 villages of Kyaiktalone, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pekon, Nawnghkio, Kengtung, Tachilek, Kalaw, Yaksawk and Hopong townships. The department is also planning to introduce CBT activities in Wansa Village in Kengtung Township during the 2026-2027 financial year. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Weather Report

Severe Cyclonic Storm News, No 7, 2026

Issued at 2 pm MST on 18 November 2026

Severe Cyclonic Storm Condition

According to observations at 12:30 pm MST today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm AKVAN over the West Central Bay of Bengal has moved Northwards. It is centred at about 470 nautical miles west-southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 310 nautical miles south-southeast of Visakhapatnam and 305 nautical miles east of Chennai (India).

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

Position of Severe Cyclonic Storm, centre pressure and wind

The Severe Cyclonic Storm is located at Latitude 12.9 degrees North and Longitude 85.4 degrees East; the centre pressure of the Severe Cyclonic Storm is 998 hPa, and the maximum wind speed near the centre is 60 miles per hour at 12:30 pm MST today.

Next 60 hours forecast

It is likely to continue to move north-northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh and the Yanam Coast between Nellore and Visakhapatnam, India on 20 November 2026.

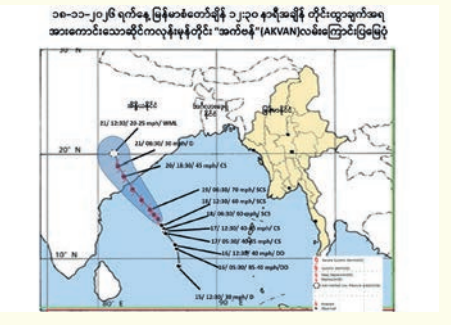
General caution

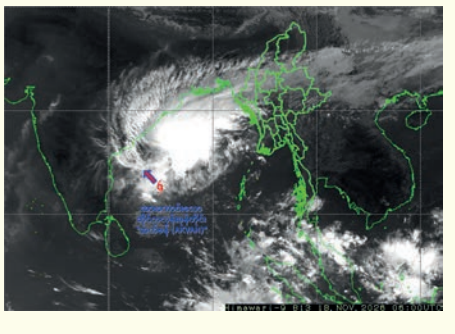
Due to the Severe Cyclonic Storm, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Kayah, Kayin, Mon, (southern and eastern) and Shan States and isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and northern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

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

Advisory

People should be aware of natural disasters such as heavy rainfall with strong winds, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and streams, Necessary preparations should also be made for inland water transport, domestic flights, and fishing vessels and ships operating in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. — DMH





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Regarding Myanmar's economy, the country's GDP stood at approximately US$83.17 billion in 2025, ranking seventh among the 11 ASEAN member states. The government is working towards increasing the country's GDP to US$98 billion in the current year. In the 2025-2026 financial year, the GDP of several ASEAN countries stood at US$494.05 billion for Vietnam, US$471.19 billion for Malaysia and US$49.29 billion for Cambodia. These countries, like Myanmar, are engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding.



Vice-Presidents, Hluttaw Speakers, the Union Chief Justice, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, members of Union-level organizations, Union ministers, deputy ministers, Hluttaw representatives, and observers attend a session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the President delivers his address.

Geographically, Myanmar is situated between several populous countries, including China, with a population of more than 1.4 billion, India, with a population of more than 1.4 billion, and Bangladesh, with a population of over 160 million. Given this geographical position, Myanmar has considerable opportunities to export its products to foreign markets. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on promoting domestic production. It is necessary to understand the market requirements of the countries to which Myanmar's products are exported and to establish a strong market presence. At present, Myanmar mainly exports rice and pulses to foreign countries. However, the country should not rely on only one or two export markets and must continue seeking other overseas markets for its products.

A country's GDP is measured based on three major sectors: agriculture, industry and services. As Myanmar is an agriculture- and livestock-based country, promoting these sectors will create opportunities to develop agro-based and livestock-based industries. This, in turn, will boost manufacturing and contribute to the growth of service industries, including banking, transportation and trade. Industrial activities include rice mills, edible oil mills, pulse-processing mills, sugar mills and rubber-processing factories. Electricity generation required to support these industries is also included in the industrial sector.

Myanmar's economy is primarily based on agriculture and livestock breeding. Approximately 70 per cent of the country's population lives in rural areas. Of this population, around 50 per cent earn their livelihoods from agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and fisheries. This demonstrates that the country's economy is largely driven by agriculture and livestock-related activities. Looking back at Myanmar's economy throughout successive periods, in addition to agricultural and livestock activities, the country also extracted, produced and exported above-ground and underground natural resources. As extensive logging activities were also carried out, forest coverage in Myanmar has now declined to only around 41 per cent. The government is making efforts to restore and conserve forests through tree planting, with the aim of increasing the country's total forest coverage to 50 per cent. Similarly, measures are being taken to ensure the sustainable management of mineral resources and prevent excessive extraction of non-renewable minerals.

In successive periods, the shortage of domestic products resulted in imbalances between exports and imports. Trade deficits were covered through non-trade sources of income, including foreign loans, grants, foreign investment and tax revenues. As a result of these practices, the country's external debt increased over the past decade. During the first democratically elected government from 2011 to 2016, the external deficit amounted to approximately US$12.1 billion. During the second democratically elected government from 2016 to 2021, the external deficit stood at approximately US$12.6 billion, bringing the total external deficit for the two periods to around US$24.7 billion. During its tenure, the current government repaid as much of the country's external debt as possible, reducing it to US$8.69 billion in the 2025-2026 FY. In repaying these external debts, the government did not receive any grants or loans from foreign sources. As of 30 September 2026, the country's external debt had further declined to US$8.5 billion.

To earn foreign exchange, it is essential to make every effort to increase domestic production. According to a World Bank report, approximately 16.4 million people, or 29.9 per cent of Myanmar's population, were living in poverty in 2025. Although the figures may contain some inaccuracies depending on the underlying data used, they are likely to be reasonably accurate to a certain extent.

To promote the development of rural areas, it is essential to establish and promote a rural-based economy. Myanmar has sufficient agricultural land as well as abundant water resources. Major rivers, including the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin, can provide adequate water for agricultural purposes. However, due to the country's inability to fully and effectively utilize these water resources, approximately 80 per cent of the water flows into the sea. Therefore, if the country's existing land and water resources are systematically utilized for agriculture and livestock breeding, agricultural and livestock production can be increased considerably beyond its current level. The key requirements are for everyone to make genuine efforts to work and for the State Government to create the necessary conditions and employment opportunities for people to engage in productive activities.

Since assuming State responsibilities, I have continuously made efforts to promote the country's economic development. I have paid State-level goodwill visits to nine foreign countries and held economic forums in seven of them. During these economic forums, invitations were extended to encourage foreign investment in Myanmar, and some major countries have since held discussions with Myanmar and are taking steps towards cooperation. So far in 2026, 68 investment projects have been approved, creating 23,113 job opportunities. The government is responsible for establishing policies, laws, rules and regulations, while entrepreneurs are required to invest capital and generate employment opportunities and production. Hluttaw representatives should also study the relevant rules, regulations and laws and work towards enacting and implementing the necessary provisions to address existing requirements.

At present, one of the major challenges facing the country is the high cost of commodities. Historical experience shows that in any country, an imbalance between production and consumption leads to shortages of goods and rising commodity prices. High production costs can also contribute to higher commodity prices. Goods can only be made available through production, and without sufficient production, there will be no commodities to sell. Myanmar has an urban population of approximately 15 million, requiring around 15 million eggs for daily consumption. To meet this demand, approximately 20 million laying hens would be needed if the egg-laying rate were 80 per cent, around 22 million hens at a 70 per cent rate, and approximately 25 million hens at a 60 per cent rate. Taking this as an example, livestock breeding activities should be carried out effectively in each region to help reduce high commodity prices.

It can be observed that other countries have also successfully developed livestock breeding industries to support domestic food supplies. Myanmar must likewise ensure a balance between production and consumption. Animal feed should be produced using locally available agricultural by-products, such as broken rice, rice bran, maize and oilcake, to support livestock breeding activities in different regions. If the production of livestock products that contribute to food supplies can be increased while production costs are reduced, commodity prices will also decline.

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To support efforts to lower commodity prices, the government is also arranging freight train services to transport goods by rail at lower costs.

In view of the current global situation and the rising prices of fuel, tax exemptions have been granted on imported fuel to prevent domestic fuel prices from increasing excessively. Similarly, tax rates have been reduced on imported fertilizers to meet domestic demand. To bring down domestic commodity prices, it is essential to increase domestic production. In this regard, domestic entrepreneurs are encouraged to invest in and engage in agricultural and livestock production businesses to promote growth in domestic manufacturing and production.

At present, a Super El Niño phenomenon is occurring, resulting in abnormal weather conditions. As Myanmar is an agriculture-based country, climate abnormalities could adversely affect agricultural activities. The Super El Niño phenomenon is causing higher temperatures, and paddy fields ready for harvesting need to be harvested in a timely manner. Taking into account the possibility that climate abnormalities could affect agricultural activities and reduce crop yields, necessary measures should be taken to supply the domestic market with surplus agricultural products available within the country.

The government is providing agricultural loans based on the types of crops cultivated to promote the development of the agricultural sector. Myanmar is primarily a rice-exporting country, and it exported 2.8 million tonnes of rice in the 2025-2026 FY. The exported volume also included broken rice. To secure a larger share of foreign markets, Myanmar must export premium-quality rice. Therefore, farmers need to cultivate premium-quality rice varieties.

The key factors in improving agricultural yields are access to premium-quality and pure seeds, maintaining soil fertility, ensuring an adequate supply of irrigation and supplementary water, and adopting proper cultivation methods. In addition to using quality seeds, it is necessary to apply appropriate chemical and organic fertilizers, improve farmland conditions and systematically utilize water resources. In rice cultivation, yields can vary depending on the number of plants and panicles per unit of land, as well as the uniformity of plant growth throughout the field. Therefore, greater emphasis should be placed on systematic planting methods rather than broadcasting seeds.

During my visits to various regions and states and meetings with officials and members of the public, I learned that farmers were facing difficulties related to labour shortages and cultivation costs. In response, arrangements were made to enable farmers to use seed feeders. Some farms in certain areas, including Mon State, Bago Region and Ayeyawady Region, have achieved successful results through mechanized cultivation. Therefore, it is necessary to continue raising farmers' awareness and providing practical support to ensure the effective application of agricultural technologies and machinery.

In summer paddy cultivation, not all available agricultural land has yet been effectively utilized, and some areas remain uncultivated. According to survey findings, some of these lands are being used to grow oil crops and pulses. Therefore, priority should be given to ensuring the availability of water resources to expand agricultural activities. In addition to the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers, agricultural activities could be expanded by systematically identifying, developing and utilizing water resources from streams, creeks, canals and underground sources. Therefore, Hluttaw representatives are urged to assess and identify the difficulties encountered in agricultural and livestock activities, as well as the availability and requirements of water resources in their respective regions and states, when they return to their constituencies. They should give priority to reporting actual local conditions to the government and proposing necessary measures so that appropriate solutions can be implemented based on the needs of each area.

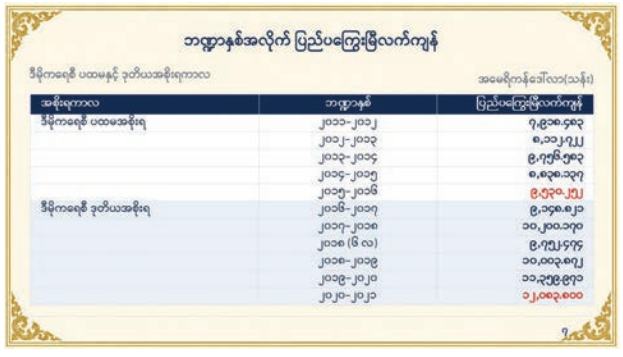
Myanmar's Pawsan rice is a premium-quality rice variety that has been cultivated and produced in the country since ancient times. There are several well-known regional varieties, including Pathein Pawsan, Bago Pawsan and Shwebo Pawsan. Myanmar Pawsan rice has an outstanding record of winning first prize at the World Rice Competition in 2011. However, its reputation and quality subsequently declined for various reasons. Since assuming State responsibilities, I have made concerted efforts to restore the international reputation of Myanmar Pawsan rice and promote a new era for this premium rice variety. As a result of these efforts, Myanmar Pawsan rice won the World's Best Rice Award for the second time at the World Rice Expo held in Manila, the Philippines, in October 2026. To sustain these achievements over the long term, it is essential to continue maintaining and improving rice quality. Although Pawsan rice commands a higher market value than other rice varieties, it cannot be cultivated with uniform quality in every region, as its quality varies depending on soil types, climatic conditions and the natural environment. Therefore, farmers should select and cultivate only those varieties suitable for the designated growing regions. If rice that does not meet the required quality standards is marketed and exported under the name of Pawsan, it could damage the international reputation and credibility of Myanmar Pawsan rice. Accordingly, strict attention must be paid to quality control.

Furthermore, just as India's Basmati rice and Thailand's Jasmine rice are internationally renowned varieties, efforts should also be made to establish Myanmar's Pawsan rice as a strong and recognized brand in the international market. Farmers and responsible officials from the regions and states should not shift en masse to cultivating the same types of crops simply because of their market prospects or the availability of buyers. Instead, priority should be given to crops that are suitable for local conditions and meet market demand. All activities throughout the agricultural production chain should be carried out with a focus on achieving long-term benefits.

Myanmar has considerable potential to utilize vacant, fallow and virgin lands for national development purposes, including annual and perennial agricultural activities, industrial zones and housing projects. However, there have also been cases in which land allocated for specific purposes, after obtaining the necessary approval, was not actually utilized within the prescribed period and was instead converted for other purposes. Therefore, effective inspections and supervision must be carried out in accordance with the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law. During reviews of land utilization, it was found that some previously allocated vacant, fallow and virgin lands had to be reclaimed because they had not been utilized in accordance with the prescribed conditions.

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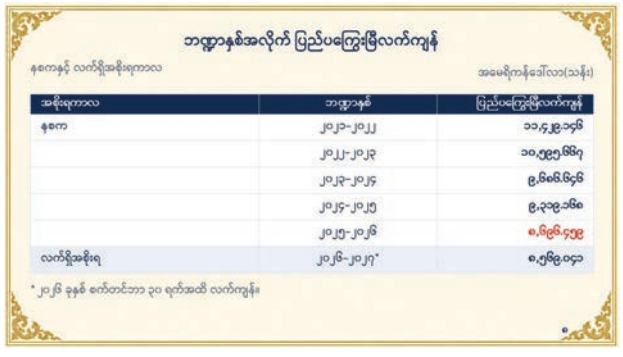

ဘဏ္ဍာနှစ်အလိုက် ပြည်ပကြွေးမြီလက်ကျန်

ဒီမိုကရေစီ ပထမနှင့် ဒုတိယအစိုးရကာလ

အမေရိကန်ဒေါ်လာ(သန်း)

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Therefore, responsible officials at the state and regional, as well as township levels, need to systematically manage land allocation, inspect land utilization and verify whether the approved projects have actually been implemented within the stipulated period.

Myanmar remains dependent on imports for fuel and edible oil. As large quantities of these products have to be imported annually, it is necessary to increase the domestic cultivation and production of oil crops in order to reduce foreign exchange expenditure. In this regard, the cultivation and production of oil crops, including sesame, groundnut, sunflower and soybean, should be expanded based on the suitability of local soil and climatic conditions in each region. Representatives should also review the measures being undertaken to achieve edible oil self-sufficiency in their respective regions and highlight any issues requiring attention.

To boost export earnings, the President emphasized expanding the cultivation of rubber, cotton, and high-value crops such as highland Arabica coffee grown above 3,000 feet and cocoa, which serves as a primary raw material for chocolate manufacturing. He noted that suitable regions, including Taninthayi Region, hold strong potential for coffee expansion, while cocoa can be effectively intercropped within existing rubber, oil palm, durian, and other perennial plantations. However, he pointed out that inspections of agricultural lands previously allocated for coffee cultivation in PyinOoLwin and Nawnghkio revealed that many plots were being misused for private residences, livestock farms, and resorts instead of their intended purpose. Consequently, he stressed the necessity of strict oversight to ensure allocated lands are genuinely utilized for agriculture.

Turning to domestic manufacturing, the President highlighted the vital role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and strengthening local economies. Having conducted 45 regional visits to support MSME development, the government is encouraging industries based on local raw materials, such as cotton textile mills in cotton-growing regions and rubber-based manufacturing in rubber-producing areas, to meet rising domestic demand for motorcycle and motor vehicle tyres and inner tubes. He welcomed ongoing initiatives, including a footwear factory operating in Kayin State and plans to manufacture tyres and inner tubes in Taninthayi Region, urging parliamentarians and officials to actively promote similar local resource-based enterprises.



To bolster state revenue for national development, the President underlined the importance of full tax collection, aiming to raise the tax-to-GDP ratio from 8.55 per cent in the 2025-2026 financial year to 9.5 per cent in 2026-2027. Rather than increasing tax rates, the government will focus on widening the tax base to boost state income and fund civil servant salaries and public necessities. Alongside boosting domestic production and promoting orderly border and regular trade, he stressed the urgency of combatting illegal border trade, which not only deprives the state of tax revenue but also provides financial support to armed groups through unauthorized border crossings.

Highlighting transport infrastructure as a backbone of economic progress, the President noted that poor road and rail conditions restrict vehicle speeds regardless of fleet quality. Ongoing efforts to upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Pyay, Yangon-Mawlamyine, and Mawlamyine-Ye railway lines include ballasting, systematic installation of sleepers, improved drainage, and reinforcing railway bridges to withstand the pressure and vibration of trains travelling at 70 to 80 kilometres per hour. Plans are also underway to build double-track railways to reduce collision risks and to construct a new coastal railway from Ye to Dawei to connect with the Dawei Deep-Sea Port, thereby enhancing regional freight flow and commerce.

Addressing the nearly 150-year-old Myanma Railways, the President called for leveraging local engineering capabilities and existing factory infrastructure to manufacture train carriages domestically, which will build technical self-reliance and conserve foreign exchange. Furthermore, the Central Transport and Communications Training School in Meiktila is being upgraded into a three-year Government Railway Institute to train specialists in railway technology, mechanical and electrical engineering, and administration, complemented by the establishment of a dedicated railway research department to modernize locomotives, carriages, and rail systems.

In the energy sector, the government is prioritizing renewable energy alongside conventional sources to meet national electricity demands, implementing solar, hydropower, wind, coal, and natural gas power projects tailored to regional conditions. The administration aims to generate over 5,000 megawatts within its five-year term, inviting domestic entrepreneurs to invest while continuing efforts to extract natural gas from Myanmar's offshore blocks. In telecommunications, following successful 5G trials in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay, the government will work toward rolling out 5G connectivity nationwide.

Regarding healthcare, the President reaffirmed the policy that every hospital must be staffed with a doctor. Following severe disruptions caused by staff walkouts during the 2021 political transition and the COVID-19 pandemic, the government deployed Tatmadaw doctors and nurses alongside retired medical personnel to maintain services across the country. Ongoing measures include appointing newly graduated doctors, deploying general practitioners to areas lacking specialists, upgrading nursing training schools to expand the nursing workforce, and providing staff housing to ensure long-term retention, alongside improving housing facilities for Tatmadaw personnel and Myanmar Police Force members safeguarding national security and the rule of law.

In education, the government is focused on keeping all basic education schools open, ensuring every school-aged child has access to schooling, and addressing teacher shortages and infrastructure needs resulting from over 120,000 educators – from primary teachers to university professors—joining the DCS. Efforts are also underway to upgrade education colleges and improve teacher training quality. Beyond academics, the President stressed instilling discipline, moral character, punctuality, respect for teachers, and reverence for the national flag and anthem among youth from an early age.

Linked closely to education, the President highlighted ongoing construction of stadiums, gymnasiums, football pitches, and swimming pools across states and regions to advance the sports sector. He emphasized maintaining existing facilities, supplying sport-specific training equipment, deploying skilled technical and fitness coaches, and encouraging orderly spectator support at sporting events. In the arts and culture sector, the government is renovating theatres and cultural buildings in Yangon and Mandalay to provide proper venues for performing traditional arts.

SEE PAGE 6





NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing Addresses Nation's Overall Situation ...

FROM PAGE 5

On political governance, the President reiterated the commitment to building a Union based on democracy and federalism through a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system. He noted that the Proportional Representation (PR) system was introduced during the administration's tenure to ensure smaller parties and ethnic parties gain representation in the Hluttaw, urging lawmakers to accurately voice their constituents' needs and resolve differing views through constructive dialogue that respects both majority rule and minority perspectives. Regarding federalism, he explained that while global federations such as India, Malaysia, the United States, Australia, Germany, and Switzerland operate under constitutional power-sharing, Myanmar will prioritize a region-based federal model over an ethnicity-based one, pointing out that states such as Kachin, Shan, Kayin, and Mon are home to diverse, coexisting ethnic populations.

Pursuing lasting domestic peace, the President announced plans to convene a peace conference around Union Day in 2028 through the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC). Building on the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) – achieved after over 5,000 meetings – and 160 dialogues held between 2021 and 2025 with ethnic armed organizations and political parties that produced 43 preliminary constitutional amendment agreements now submitted to parliament, he underscored the necessity of political negotiations to end decades of internal armed conflict. He reported that clashes between 2021 and 2025 caused casualties and K1,398.251 billion in damage to public infrastructure, roads, bridges, communications, and railways, attributing widespread destruction of public property to violent acts by groups labelled as PDF terrorists and certain EAOs, and calling for collective efforts to rebuild affected areas while safeguarding citizens' lives and livelihoods.



The President and senior dignitaries are seen during a celebratory luncheon at the Hluttaw Banquet Hall.

Touching on disaster recovery, the President stated that the government spent US$1.8 billion of its own state funds to reconstruct areas devastated by severe flooding from Typhoon Yagi in 2024 and the major Mandalay earthquake in 2025, noting that assistance from ASEAN was minimal compared to actual needs and that no loans or aid were received from the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank.

On foreign relations, the President expressed disagreement with recent ASEAN summit outcomes and statements that failed to represent the full consensus of all member states, announcing that the government will review its future engagement with the bloc. While recalling that Laos noted during the April 23, 2021 Jakarta summit that restricting a member's representation ran counter to over 50 years of ASEAN precedent, he added that visits to neighbouring Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia showed their desire for Myanmar to resume normal relations within ASEAN, which Myanmar will continue discussing while upholding its sovereignty. Globally, Myanmar will maintain friendly ties with all nations—prioritizing neighbours—under its independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Concluding his address, the President emphasized that political stability, peace, economic development, education, and healthcare are deeply interconnected, and that developing skilled human resources is essential for national productivity. Affirming that his government, formed through parliamentary election and guided by decades of civil service and life experience, is working solely for the national interest rather than to cling to power, he urged lawmakers and the public to unite for all-round national progress.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw subsequently placed the President's address on record, after which the President attended a celebratory luncheon at the Hluttaw banquet hall featuring cultural performances before cordially greeting the attendees. — MNA/TTA+ST

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes third regular session after 11 days

FROM PAGE 1

protect complainants' personal information and review relevant laws and procedures. Of 25 pending complaints requiring government responses, 22 received replies in 2026, with three remaining outstanding. Continued inspections in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules were also highlighted. The Speaker subsequently recorded the annual report.

Union ministers then explained emergency fund expenditures under the 2026-2027 Union Taxation Law, including K1,827 million for 600 low-cost housing units in Demohso, Prusho and Bawlakhe townships of Kayah State, K1,303.380 million for feeding expenses for foreigners awaiting deportation in Myawady Township, K803.891 million for the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod ceremony, K1,493.644 million for major repairs to three government guesthouses, and K33,718 million for a 1,400-foot overpass bridge in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The Hluttaw recorded total emergency fund expenditures of K39,145.915 million for six projects.

Following the President's address, the Speaker sought and recorded the Hluttaw's approval of the address on state policies and general state conditions.

In his concluding remarks, the Speaker reviewed the session's legislative achievements from 29 September to 18 November 2026, including the enactment of the 7th Amendments to the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Regional or State Hluttaw Election Laws, and the 2026-2027 Union Supplementary Budget Appropriation Law. The session also approved the 4th Amendment to the Rules for Registration of Political Parties and recorded the MSME Development and Protection Bill for submission to the President.

Other matters included the renaming of two Union ministries, appointments of replacement Union ministers and two Supreme Court judges, reassignment of two Union ministers, continuation of ordinances, and appointments of regional and state Security and Border Affairs Ministers.

The Hluttaw also considered the 2025-2026 National Plan and Annual Budget Reports and the MNHRC's 2025 Annual Report, together with presidential submissions on tax exemptions, international agreements, export financing, Central Bank lending and special goods tax exemptions for five vehicles for the Paletwa-Zorinpui two-lane road project.

The Speaker also highlighted the formation of a joint committee to study and draft bills concerning 43 proposed amendments or supplements to the 2008 Constitution and relevant provisions of Parts I, II, and III of the Union Accord.

Looking ahead to the fourth regular session, scheduled for January 2027, he called for timely scrutiny and approval of the National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill, and Union Taxation Bill for the 2027-2028 financial year. He also noted that the Joint Public Accounts Committee had received the Union Auditor General's 2024-2025 Audit Report and the first six-month National Planning and Budget Reports for the 2026-2027 financial year, covering April to September, for advance consideration.

The Speaker thanked representatives for their cooperation and wished them safe journeys to their respective regions and states before formally declaring the third regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw successfully concluded. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Defence Services Dy C-in-C attends closing of 34th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet

THE closing of the 34th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (34th AARM) took place at Terendak training camp in Malacca, Malaysia, yesterday morning, attended by the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin.



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief General Kyaw Swa Lin joins the group photo session at the closing cermony of the 34th AARM in Malaysia.

The General, together with the ASEAN Army Chiefs and delegation members, participated in the novelty shoot.

ASEAN Army Chiefs presented prizes to winning teams from relevant countries. The Chief of the Malaysian Army delivered a speech and took down the AARM flag from the flagpole. The video clip on the competition of the AARM was screened.

Subsequently, the Chief of the Malaysian Army handed over the AARM commemorative flag to the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Army, who will host the 35th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM), after which the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Army delivered a speech.

General Kyaw Swa Lin cordially met the Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team. In the competition, the Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team secured one gold and two bronze medals in the teamwise event and two gold medals in the individual event, totalling three gold and two bronze medals, standing fourth among the contending countries.

In the evening, the General met families of the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Office in Kuala Lumpur and gave necessary instructions. He then presented foodstuffs and gifts for families of the Myanmar Military Attaché Office. — MNA/TTA

MoH UM, IOM Chief discuss capacity building for basic health staff


Union Minister Dr Soe Win receives the IOM Mission Chief in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Soe Win received Mr Daihei Mochizuki, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed strengthening cooperation to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; improving maternal and child healthcare services; enhancing the capacity of basic health staff; and continuing joint programmes between the ministry and IOM.

IOM representatives in Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Health also attended the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Lewe's concrete road project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection in Yonedaw Village, Lewe Township, yesterday to monitor the construction of an internal concrete road being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year to improve transport and connectivity for rural residents.


Officials inspect the concrete road project in Lewe Township.

Lewe District Department of Rural Development Head U Myo Tint and engineering staff inspected the ongoing construction of the concrete road, measuring 570 feet in length, 10 feet in width and seven inches in thickness. The district head also met village elders and residents, emphasizing the importance of completing the road construction on schedule and in compliance with prescribed standards and specifications for long-term durability, while providing necessary coordination and assistance to address matters raised.

The concrete road construction project, funded with K54.025 million from the Model Village Project, has been underway since the second week of November and is being implemented by local villagers themselves under the close supervision and technical assistance of district and township DRD staff, according to the department. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

U9 Rides 'Expensive Dream' Success with New Promotions

U9, a telecommunications operator in Myanmar, will continue to run exciting promotional campaigns like 'Expensive Dream', offering customers valuable prizes and opportunities, according to the company.



U9's 'Expensive Dream' promotional campaign.

The first 'Expensive Dream' lucky draw campaign ran from 8 April to 6 June 2026. The second edition was held nationwide over a three-month period, from 15 August to 12 November 2026.

"We are delighted that the second 'Expensive Dream' campaign has created opportunities for customers to turn their dreams into reality through their everyday usage. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our customers for their trust in U9 and for taking part in the campaign. We will continue to provide services that meet our customers' needs, valuable benefits and memorable experiences," said U9 Chief Marketing Officer Hendra Saputra.

The campaign offered a Leapmotor B10 electric vehicle (EV) as its grand prize, along with weekly prizes of an Apple iPhone 17 Pro Max (256GB), a Samsung S26 Ultra and a Xiaomi 17 5G smartphone for three winners each week. — ASH/MKKS

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

OPINION

Creating a safe and sound learning environment

Schools must also be places where all students can learn in a safe and secure environment. They should be free from bullying, discrimination and humiliation. Rather, schools should be places where students are encouraged to develop their strengths and receive support in overcoming their weaknesses.

Teachers serve as second parents to their students. They should understand the age and psychological development of their students and treat them as their own children, providing instruction and guidance with kindness, patience and respect. They should also nurture in their students a love for their country and people, a sense of Union spirit based on patriotism, and a strong desire to contribute to national development. Furthermore, they should teach and instil discipline and compliance with rules, which are essential for building a well-mannered and civilized society.

Teachers have to nurture and develop students into valuable young people equipped with knowledge, skills and the five essential strengths. Guided by the belief that "Good teachers produce good students; good students contribute to a good society; and a good society can build a bright future," all teachers should take pride in fulfilling their educational responsibilities with dedication and commitment.

Students do not learn only the academic subjects taught in textbooks; they also learn by observing and emulating their teachers' behaviour, speech, discipline, sense of responsibility and moral conduct. Teachers must therefore serve not only as providers of knowledge but also as positive role models whom students can look up to and emulate. Accordingly, teachers should put honesty and integrity, a sense of responsibility, discipline, fairness and mutual respect into practice in their daily activities.

Teachers must have a thorough knowledge and mastery of the subjects they are responsible for teaching and continually study and improve their teaching methods. They should also employ appropriate teaching and learning approaches based on the age, learning abilities and needs of their students.

Teachers should not rely solely on their subject-specific knowledge but must also keep abreast of advancing technologies. They need to be proficient in the appropriate and effective use of information and communication technology (ICT), digital teaching aids, online learning resources and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

It is even more important for teachers to effectively integrate technology into their teaching to enhance students' knowledge, skills and practical abilities. In using technology, they must also ensure the accuracy of information, protect personal data and adhere to educational ethics.

Teachers have to nurture and develop students into valuable young people equipped with knowledge, skills and the five essential strengths. Guided by the belief that "Good teachers produce good students; good students contribute to a good society; and a good society can build a bright future," all teachers should take pride in fulfilling their educational responsibilities with dedication and commitment.

ARTICLE

The Global Race to Restore Climate Stability: A Shared Responsibility for the Future

By Maung Maung Myint Thein RIT)

Climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges of the twenty-first century, extending far beyond environmental protection to influence international relations, economic security, energy policy and sustainable development. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, melting glaciers, rising sea levels and biodiversity loss are increasingly threatening economies and communities worldwide. What was once considered an environmental issue has now become a central concern of global governance and international cooperation.

The Paris Agreement established an ambitious goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. However, the world is approaching a critical turning point. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), its 2026 Emissions Gap Report: The Point of Return warns that global temperatures are expected to exceed the 1.5°C threshold. Nevertheless, limiting the extent of this overshoot and returning to that level by the end of the century remains possible through substantial and sustained emissions reductions.

The Growing Gap Between Climate Commitments and Action

Despite international agreements and national climate pledges, a significant gap remains between political commitments and actual implementation. UNEP's 2026 assessment indicates that global greenhouse gas emissions would need to decline by 18 per cent by 2030, 45 per cent by 2035 and 69 per cent by 2040, compared with 2025 levels, to follow the lowest possible pathway for returning to 1.5°C.

Under current policies, global warming could reach approximately 2.8°C by the end of this century. This projection highlights the urgent need for governments to translate climate promises into measurable action across energy production, transportation, industrial manufacturing, agriculture and land use.

The consequences of delayed action are becoming increasingly visible. Heatwaves threaten public health and labour productivity, droughts undermine agricultural output, while floods and severe storms damage infrastructure and disrupt trade. For developing countries, limited financial resources and inadequate infrastructure make recovery from climate-related disasters particularly difficult.

Climate change is therefore not simply an environmental concern; it is also a challenge to economic resilience, food security and long-term development.

Renewable Energy: The Foundation of a Green Transition

Transforming the global energy system is essential to restoring climate stability. Fossil fuels remain a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, while renewable energy offers opportunities to reduce pollution, diversify energy supplies and strengthen energy security.

Solar and wind power have expanded rapidly, demonstrating the potential of technological innovation and supportive government policies. However, accelerating this transition requires greater investment in renewable electricity, modern power grids, energy storage and energy-efficient industrial processes.

The transition must also be socially inclusive. Workers and communities dependent on traditional energy industries need retraining and alternative employment opportunities. Developing countries must balance emissions reduction with affordable and reliable electricity, which remains essential for industrialization, healthcare, education and poverty reduction.

The green economy should therefore be viewed not merely as an environmental necessity but also as an opportunity to create



employment, encourage innovation and strengthen national competitiveness.

Climate Finance and International Responsibility

Climate action requires substantial financial resources, particularly in developing countries that are highly exposed to environmental risks but have limited capacity to respond.

Investment is urgently needed in climate-resilient infrastructure, early-warning systems, sustainable agriculture, forest conservation and clean energy. Developed countries, which have historically contributed a larger share of accumulated greenhouse gas emissions and generally possess greater financial and technological resources, have an important responsibility to support these efforts.

Multilateral development banks, international institutions and private investors must also help mobilise affordable and accessible climate finance. Technology transfer and capacity-building are equally important because financial assistance alone cannot ensure successful implementation without technical expertise and institutional capacity.

A fair international climate framework must recognise differences in historical emissions, financial capabilities and development priorities while encouraging every nation to contribute to the global response.

Climate Stability and Regional Security

Climate change is increasingly linked to international security. Competition over water resources, declining agricultural productivity, climate-related displacement and damage to critical infrastructure can intensify existing economic and social vulnerabilities.

In Southeast Asia, coastal communities, agricultural regions and major cities face growing risks from flooding, extreme heat, tropical storms and rising sea levels. These challenges cross national borders and require coordinated regional responses.

ASEAN can strengthen cooperation through climate information-sharing, disaster preparedness, environmental research and sustainable energy initiatives. For Myanmar, improving disaster preparedness, protecting forests, strengthening agricultural resilience and expanding access to reliable clean energy are important elements of long-term national development.

Integrating climate considerations into economic planning and infrastructure investment can help countries reduce vulnerabilities while supporting sustainable growth. Climate diplomacy should therefore be recognised as an investment in regional stability and shared economic prosperity.

Turning Climate Ambitions into Collective Action

Restoring global temperature stability will require deep emissions reductions and the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forest conservation, reforestation, mangrove restoration and carefully evaluated carbon-removal technologies can contribute to this effort. However, carbon removal cannot replace the urgent need to reduce emissions at their source.

Governments must strengthen climate policies, businesses must invest in cleaner production, financial institutions must support sustainable investment, and communities must participate in environmental protection.

The challenge ahead is substantial, but the transition towards a low-carbon economy also presents opportunities to modernise energy systems, develop new industries, create employment and strengthen economic resilience.

Ultimately, the global race to restore climate stability is not the responsibility of any single nation. Developed countries must provide meaningful financial and technological support, while developing countries need the resources and opportunities to pursue sustainable development.

The real measure of climate leadership will not be the number of international agreements signed or promises announced, but the results achieved through practical action. Every fraction of a degree matters, and every meaningful reduction in emissions can help protect future generations.

Climate stability is inseparable from economic prosperity, international security and humanity's shared future. The world must move beyond commitments towards measurable achievements, recognising that protecting the planet is not simply an environmental responsibility but a collective investment in the survival and well-being of generations to come.

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Learning English: Clear Words, Confident Voices

By U Khin Maung Myint

Recently, while following English lessons designed for speakers of other languages, I encountered several interesting words: "obdurate", "abstruse", "scrupulous" and "recalcitrant". They are rich in meaning and rather impressive. Discovering such words can feel like finding hidden treasures.

For learners in Myanmar, expanding English vocabulary is a worthwhile ambition. English can open doors to education, employment and communication across borders. Yet collecting impressive words is only one part of learning a language. The greater achievement is being able to understand others and make ourselves understood.

A learner may know the meaning of "recalcitrant" but struggle to explain a symptom to a doctor, ask for directions or describe a problem at work. These everyday tasks deserve as much attention as advanced vocabulary.

Choose Words That Serve the Reader

In Britain, the Plain English movement encourages clear, direct communication. Why say "utilize" when "use" will do? Why write "commence" when "begin" expresses the same meaning?

George Orwell offered a memorable rule: "Never use a long word where a short one will do."

This does not mean that advanced vocabulary should be avoided. "Scrupulous", for example, can suggest both care and a strong concern for doing what is right. A wider vocabulary gives us more choices. Good judgement helps us choose appropriately.

In a poem, an unusual word may delight. In an emergency, a familiar word may save precious time.

An Accent Is Not a Failure

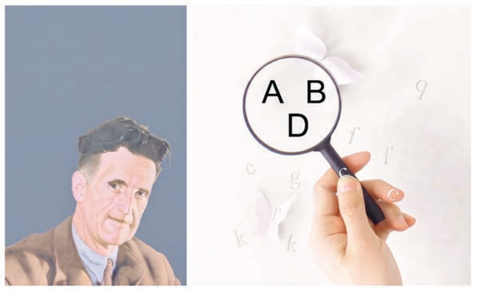
Many learners worry that their English sounds Burmese. But an accent is a natural feature of speech. English itself is spoken with many accents, even within the United Kingdom.

A Burmese learner does not need to imitate a British or American accent to become a capable English speaker. The practical goal is intelligibility: can the listener understand the message without unnecessary difficulty?

Accent and pronunciation are related, but they are not identical. A recognizable Burmese accent can coexist with clear, accurate pronunciation. Learners should feel comfortable with their identity while remaining willing to adjust sounds that cause misunderstanding.

Pronunciation Deserves Attention

Knowing a word on paper does not always mean being able to recognize it in conversation



or pronounce it clearly. English spelling can be an unreliable guide to sound.

Pronunciation involves more than individual letters. Word stress, sentence stress, rhythm and phrasing all help listeners follow meaning. The noun "record" and the verb "record", for example, usually place their main stress on different syllables.

Learners benefit from hearing a word before repeatedly practising it. Listening to a reliable recording, checking a dictionary's audio and recording one's own voice can make practice more useful. Teachers should offer patient correction, with particular attention to errors that change or obscure meaning.

Fluency Is More Than Speed

Speaking quickly is not the same as speaking fluently. A person who rushes may be harder to understand than someone who speaks steadily and pauses thoughtfully.

Fluency develops as learners become more comfortable expressing connected ideas. It includes explaining, asking questions, listening and responding. It also includes managing uncertainty: "Could you repeat that, please?" and "Do you mean…?" are valuable communication skills.

SEE PAGE 13

NATIONAL

Union Defence Minister discusses peace processes in Myitkyina

UNION Minister for Defence and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae met religious leaders, ethnic representatives, peace facilitators and cultural association members at the Malikha Hall of the Kachin State Government Office in Myitkyina yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister briefed attendees on successive governments' efforts to achieve lasting peace, peace initiatives undertaken under the State Administration Council and democratic government, humanitarian assistance programmes, and strategies for promoting national solidarity and peace.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae meets religious leaders, ethnic representatives, peace facilitators and cultural association members in Kachin State.

He highlighted Kachin State's abundant natural resources and stressed that lasting peace was essential for improving people's livelihoods and promoting regional development. He also called for collective participation in strengthening national unity and achieving sustainable peace.

Union Minster for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Than Maung and Union Consultative Council Member Daw Dwe Bu presented regional and human resource development programmes in Kachin State, preservation of literature and culture and promotion of public participation in peace processes.

The attendees coordinated the discussion from different points of view, and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae concluded the meeting. —

Myanmar Delegation Joins ASEAN-Korea Cultural Exchange Festival in Incheon

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul announced on 18 November that its Chargé d'Affaires/ Ambassador and Minister Counsellor had attended the 2026 ROUND in Korea ASEAN-Korea Music and Culture Exchange Festival, held at the Namdong Gymnasium Centre in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, on 7 November.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, ambassadors and embassy officials from ASEAN missions based in Seoul, and 15 music groups from ASEAN countries attended the opening ceremony. Velocity, a rock band representing Myanmar, also took part in the festival.

The ROUND music festival was first held in 2020. It aims to promote cultural exchange and people-to-people friendship between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, foster cooperation and friendship among young artists, and contribute to regional peace and development. — Htun Htun/KNN



Myanmar's Chargé d'Affaires/Ambassador to the Republic of Korea presents a commemorative gift to Velocity, the rock band representing Myanmar.

Gyobingauk's completed concrete track road inspected

THE Department of Rural Development in Gyobingauk Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completed concrete track road paving project in Kyaytaw Village, which was implemented using funds from the Village Development Plan (VDP) and public contributions.

Township Head Daw Thi Thi Aung of the Gyobingauk Township Department of Rural Development, along with project staff and members of the Village Development Committee, inspected the completed concrete track road project in Kyaytaw Village. Following the inspection, the township officer provided necessary guidance and instructions.



Officials are seen alongside the completed concrete track road in Gyobingauk Township.

The two-lane concrete track road, measuring 528 feet in length, two feet and six inches in width (per track), and six inches in thickness, was funded by K15 million from the VDP grant and K3.63 million in community contributions, totalling K18.63 million. Villagers themselves began constructing the road in the fourth week of September under the close supervision of Department of Rural Development staff, and the project is now 100 per cent complete. — Than Lwin (Magway)

Renovation of staff housing fully completed in Falam



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han and officials inspect the completed staff housing in Falam, Chin State.

THE renovation of the two-unit, two-storey staff housing of the Township Cooperative Department has been completed in Falam Township, Chin State.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, along with the Chin State Minister of Security and Border Affairs and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the completion of the renovation works and the staff families' living conditions yesterday.

Similarly, the deputy minister inspected the renovation of the Township Cooperative Department office and office operations.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister and his party inspected the renovation of the Department of Agriculture, the District Agriculture Officer's office building, the resumption of work on the temporary office, the renovated district officer's house, the partial renovation of the Falam District Office, construction of the retaining wall, the situation of the office operations, the renovation of the District Forestry Department office building, the renovation of the district officer's house and staff houses, the staff living in the staff house, and the planting of 5,000 seedlings in the garden.

During the inspection, the deputy minister instructed the systematic salvaging of materials to prevent waste, cleaning works of the building environment and improving water flow. — District IPRD/MKKS

NATIONAL

MNHRC Chair attends 10th International Scientific & Practical Conference in Moscow

A delegation from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), led by the Chairman, U Thit Lin Ohn, attended the 10th International Scientific and Practical Conference, held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 17 November 2026, under the theme "National Human Rights Institutions in a Multipolar World".

Representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from more than 60 countries, including the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, as well as representatives of organizations working in the field of human rights, participated in the conference.

At the opening ceremony, the welcoming address delivered by Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, was read out by the Head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation. Subsequently, welcoming messages from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation were delivered by the respective senior officials.



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chair U Thit Lin Ohn participates in the discussion at the 10th International Scientific and Practical Conference in Moscow.

The conference discussions were conducted in four thematic sessions in the form of panel discussions, as follows: (1) "Rights of Citizens Abroad: Mechanisms and Practices of Cooperation Between Ombudsmen", (2) "The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Cultural Identity: Safeguarding Beliefs, Languages and Traditions", (3) "The Right to Sovereign Development: International Cooperation and Protection Against External Pressure" and (4) "The Right to Liberty and Personal Security: Guarantees of Protection Against Human Trafficking and Modern Forms of Slavery".

The delegation led by the Commission Chairman participated in Sessions 2 and 3, during which the Chairman delivered remarks and shared views on the respective thematic issues.

Subsequently, discussions were held under the theme "The Moscow Principles: Common Approaches to Human Rights Protection." With regard to the draft Moscow Principles, the participating delegates reached a consensus on the need to continue consultations and discussions to further strengthen and improve the principles as a sound and effective framework. — MNHRC

23 Chinese nationals arrested in Laikha over online scam and gambling operations

THE Government is conducting vigorous operations to combat online scams and gambling, with the aim of eradicating such offences and preventing perpetrators from establishing bases in Myanmar. Joint teams comprising regional security personnel and departmental officials are also working with local communities to prevent online scam and gambling operators from setting up operations in their respective areas.

During these operations, a joint team including security personnel conducted search and inspection operations in Laikha Township, Shan State (South), following intelligence reports that online scam and gambling activities were being carried out in the area.


Arrested scam suspects are seen alongside seized weapons, munitions, and scam-related items.

At approximately 9:15 am yesterday, authorities discovered a 70-foot-long and 20-foot-wide temporary residential tent attached to a workshop, along with a 20-foot-long and 15-foot-wide kitchen building, at a location about 3,400 metres northeast of Wanhsant Village in Laikha Township.

The authorities arrested 23 Chinese male nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar to operate online scams and gambling. Seized from the premises were three assault rifles, one magazine and 15 rounds of ammunition, as well as operational equipment comprising two Starlink Gen3 units, one All-in-One computer, 37 mobile phones of various types, two routers and one solar battery.

According to reports, investigations are currently underway into the arrested individuals involved in the online scam and gambling operations. Upon completion of the investigations, stern and effective legal action will be taken against them under existing laws. The seized operational equipment will be handled in line with established procedures, while authorities will continue investigating, exposing and taking action against those involved in the operations behind the scenes. — MNA/ST

Daily newspapers available online

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



12 illegal buildings demolished in Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown


This Image shows systematic demolition of scam-related building using machinery.

THE Government has prioritized efforts to combat online fraud and online gambling as a national duty, and demolished the illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area.

During ongoing demolition operations until yesterday, one six-storey building designated for demolition using heavy machinery underwent further dismantling. It was completely 100 per cent demolished, and a total of 12 illegal buildings were demolished as of yesterday, whereas another five-storey building reached 60 per cent completion.

Demolition work on the remaining 63 structures in Phase II of operations in the Shwe Kokko area resumed systematically, following the classification of the buildings according to the demolition methods. Of the 63 buildings designated for demolition in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, four were demolished through controlled explosions and another eight using heavy machinery. The remaining 51 buildings will also be systematically demolished.

The government is placing particular emphasis on cracking down on online fraud and online gambling operations, commonly referred to as online scams, which threaten global socioeconomic development and national security. It is working with neighbouring and regional countries to eliminate these activities. — 100/KTZH

NATIONAL

Revisions to draft avocado export agreement with China's GACC completed



This image displays Myanmar avocados.

REVISIONS to the second-stage draft export agreement with China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) to secure export permission for Myanmar avocados to China have been completed, according to the Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association (MAVO).

Currently, only the signing of a government-to-government (G2G) agreement remains before exports can begin. Once that stage is finalized, exporting companies will be able to sign commercial contracts with one another and commence shipments, an avocado trader stated.

Meanwhile, regarding export to Thailand, a working committee has been formed to expedite Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) in order to secure regular avocado trade rights. Plans are also underway to raise funds, arrange special border export permits, and dispatch a negotiation team to Thailand.

According to data released by MAVO, Myanmar produces nearly 30,000 tonnes of avocados annually, while domestic consumption stands at around 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes. — Htun Htun/ZN

TTI to conduct 28th export business startup course in Dec

THE Trade Training Institute (TTI) of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce will offer a five-day training on how to start an export business (Batch 28) from 9 am to 4 pm on 7-11 December 2026. The institute is located at 228/240, the corner of Strand Road and Shwebontha Street in Pabedan Township, Yangon.

Interested individuals can register at the institute personally, providing an application form, three licensed photos, a bachelor's degree certificate, a matriculation pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card and other related documents. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the Institute at 01 8250871, 09254075848. — NN/KK

Rock Dust-Based Fertilizer Production Under Scrutiny



This image shows rock dust-based fertilizer.

DR Ye Tint Tun, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, stated that the large-scale production of carbon-negative geo-fertilizer made from natural rock dust requires thorough scrutiny due to high initial investment costs.

The deputy minister made these remarks during the Amyotha Hluttaw session held on 16 November.

While producing rock-dust-based fertilizer is a strong strategic approach for soil restoration, it still faces limitations, such as the time required for farmers to adopt and use it.

To ensure smooth and successful production, the deputy minister added that systematic preparations must be made based on six key factors– raw material and geological requirements, technology and production infrastructure, carbon sequestration verification systems, standardization and certification, agricultural trials, and market and investment.

If commercial production is pursued using volcanic rocks such as basalt, the ministry will provide the necessary registration and technical assistance to state-owned economic enterprises and private companies.

If the project is to be implemented using the state budget, funds must be allocated in advance within the respective fiscal year's budget estimates so it can be incorporated into the 5-year development plan.

Domestic production of rock-dust-based fertilizers would help reduce the importation of chemical fertilizers from abroad, thereby saving foreign currency expenditure. — TWA/ZN

Tenders invited for Ayeyawady Bank Protection, Waterway Works

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport called for a second tender to carry out bank erosion protection and waterway improvement works in Ayeyawady Region during the financial year 2026-27 with the general reserve fund.

DWIR first advertised equipment purchase tenders and full-project tenders in state-run newspapers on 2 November. The second tender is now being called with an extended deadline, and Myanmar citizen entrepreneurs are invited to submit tenders.

Tender forms are available at the head office, 400, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, starting from 17 November, with the tender closing at 3:30 pm on 30 November. The tender opening will be held at 10 am on 3 December.

Individuals can enquire about tender forms, conditions and detailed information through the head office at 09 880004975 during office hours, according to the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee. — NN/KK

Myanmar Launches Soybean, Edible Oil Research with Mekong-Lancang Fund

A project titled "Research and Development Activities for Edible Oil and Soybean Meal Security in Myanmar" will be implemented with the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2025), according to the Department of Agricultural Research.

A coordination meeting for the project was held on 16 November at the Nawarat Hall of the Department of Agricultural Research head office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Director-General Dr Aung Moe Myo Tint of the Department of Agricultural Research said in opening remarks that the project aims to boost edible oil and soybean cultivation and production in Myanmar and improve farmers' socioeconomic conditions. Soybean is among the most important oilseed crops for both economic output and daily consumption, and the project aligns with national policies on agricultural and livestock development.

Farmers increasingly eye soybean cultivation, but it must be economically viable. As planting periods differ, village seed banks are being set up to store seeds systematically over the long term, and support equipment should be provided based on local needs and project funding allocations, he added.

The project aims to provide dryers needed to reduce moisture content at harvest, with modifications made to the types of machines currently used by the Department of Agricultural Mechanization so they are genuinely useful to farmers.

Soybean meal is a protein-rich basic animal feed, and relevant departments should select and report which sector (fish, shrimp, poultry or pig farming) should be prioritized. He urged relevant departments and project officials to cooperate in a balanced way on soybean cultivation and production, drying technology and animal feed sector development.

Project officials also briefed attendees on the project summary, progress to date, planned implementation, points for discussion and work plans for cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, and participants offered suggestions. The project will run for two years. — NN/KK

Thailand orders clean water for thousands facing arsenic pollution

Subsequent tests by authorities found arsenic concentrations in untreated water from the Sai River.



Thai authorities rush emergency clean water supplies to thousands of households affected by severe arsenic contamination. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SHUTTERSTOCK**

THAI authorities scrambled Wednesday to provide clean water for more than 20,000 households in the country's north affected by arsenic pollution linked to mining operations in neighbouring Myanmar.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul late Tuesday ordered government agencies to find alternative water sources and closely monitor tap water quality in Chiang Rai province, said deputy government spokeswoman Lalida Persvivatana.

Tap water supplies to 14 villages in Mae Sai district near the Myanmar border were suspended this month after officials found arsenic levels in the local waterworks to be 30 times higher than the safe limit.

The villages comprise more than 20,000 households, the government said. Subsequent tests by authorities also found arsenic concentrations in untreated water from the Sai River, a tributary of the Mekong River, at 25 times the limit for drinking water. — AFP



The United States, Mexico and Bolivia officially lose their protected measles elimination status following renewed local transmission. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US, Mexico and Bolivia lose measles elimination status

THE United States, Mexico and Bolivia have lost their measles elimination status after sustained transmission of the virus was re-established in the three countries, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) announced Tuesday.

The announcement followed a meeting of the Measles, Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination Regional Monitoring and Re-Verification Commission from 10 to 13 November, during which the commission reviewed the latest epidemiological situation across the Region of the Americas.

PAHO said in a statement that the commission concluded that the same measles virus genotype and lineage had circulated uninterrupted for 12 months or more in each of the three countries, meeting the criteria for the re-establishment of endemic transmission.

The commission recommended withdrawing the three countries' measles elimination status, and PAHO Director Jarbas Barbosa accepted the recommendation, PAHO said.

The Region of the Americas became the first WHO region to eliminate measles in 2016. It regained its regional measles elimination status in 2024 after endemic transmission was interrupted in Venezuela and Brazil. However, the region lost its verification as free from endemic measles transmission in November 2025, following the re-establishment of sustained transmission in Canada.

"The subsequent loss of elimination status by Bolivia, Mexico and the United States marks a further deterioration in the regional situation and makes the path towards restoring elimination more challenging," PAHO said. — Xinhua

Australian gender pay gap falls below 20%: gov't report

AUSTRALIA'S gender pay gap has fallen below 20 per cent for the first time, according to a government report. The annual report released on Wednesday by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) revealed that the national average gender pay gap fell to 19.7 per cent in 2025-26, down from 21.1 per cent in 2024-25 and 28.6 per cent when data was first reported in 2013-14.

It said the pay gap equated to men earning 27,467 Australian dollars (about US$ 18,465.8) more than women on average over the course of a year. Christine Castley, CEO of the WGEA, said that the pay gap falling below 20 per cent for the first time was an important milestone, but that progress was not complete. — Xinhua

Learning English:
Clear Words, Confident Voices

FROM PAGE 9

Mistakes are part of this process. A classroom in which pupils fear ridicule can discourage the very practice they need.

Bring English into Everyday Life

For learners in Myanmar, lessons can combine academic study with practical situations: visiting a doctor, attending a job interview, welcoming a customer or responding to a fire alarm.

Role-play and simple drama give vocabulary a purpose. Reading builds knowledge; listening develops recognition; speaking and writing turn knowledge into communication. Each supports the others.

Learning English need not become a competition to sound sophisticated or foreign. It can be a steady journey towards greater understanding, confidence and opportunity.

Knowing "obdurate" expands our vocabulary. Knowing when "stubborn" is clearer shows judgement. Being able to express either word clearly – and listen carefully to the reply – is the fuller achievement.

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD/AD

US, Saudi nuclear agreement 'satisfactory': IAEA

It's a very satisfactory outcome that we have with this agreement.

UN nuclear watchdog head Rafael Grossi on Wednesday welcomed a deal between the United States and Saudi Arabia on equipping the kingdom with a civilian nuclear programme.

The deal announced in July has provoked questions about the risks of nuclear proliferation.

"It's a very satisfactory outcome that we have with this agreement," Grossi told reporters after opening an International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors' meeting.

Once nuclear power development gets under way in Saudi Arabia, "we will be there," he added.



United Nations nuclear chief Rafael Grossi welcomes the civil nuclear agreement reached between the United States and Saudi Arabia. **PHOTO: AFP**

In his opening statement, Grossi told the board that the United States and Saudi Arabia in October requested the IAEA "to take the necessary steps to implement safeguards and verification measures" for their agreement.

According to the accord, the IAEA "will be provided with information about, and access to any sites for conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication and reprocessing" in Saudi Arabia, Grossi said.

"I welcome the open, transparent approach and engagement of both governments with member states and the secretariat on this matter," he added.

Grossi told reporters the agreement was "fully aligned with the legal framework that we have at the IAEA". — AFP

Iran pushes for new independent regional security framework

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has concluded a diplomatic visit to Oman, where he held high-level meetings to discuss regional de-escalation and proposed the establishment of a new, independent security framework.

During his visit, Araghchi met with his Omani counterpart and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. Beyond standard bilateral relations, the officials focused on regional developments, specifically addressing efforts to defuse renewed US aggression. According to Araghchi, Iran and Oman share closely aligned views on these pressing issues.

A central focus of the talks was the creation of a new regional security architecture. — SPUTNIK

Israel parliament elects Eisenkot ally as speaker in blow for Netanyahu

ISRAELI lawmakers on Tuesday elected a parliament speaker from the camp opposed to caretaker prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a first step towards rolling back the legacy of the country's divisive veteran leader.

Sixty six lawmakers out of 120 voted in favour of Matan Kahana, an ally of former military chief Gadi Eisenkot who has until next month to form a government to replace Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's Likud party had put forward Ofir Katz as its own candidate, who received 52 votes.

The parliament speaker is an important office given that it sets the timetable for parliamentary business and can therefore speed up or delay debates or votes on proposed legislation.


Israeli lawmakers attend the inaugural session of the 26th Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem, 10 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Kahana, a 54-year-old former special forces soldier, is expected as soon as Wednesday to start the process of undoing much of the agenda of Netanyahu, Israel's longest serving prime minister who has been in and out of office for three decades. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sheikh Hasina renews pledge to return home

BANGLADESH'S ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ruled out moving to a third country, after the Bangladeshi government rejected her request for a new passport earlier this month, reaffirming her resolve to return home after fleeing amid an uprising over two years ago.

"My destination is Bangladesh," said the 79-year-old former premier, who lives in India in self-imposed exile, in response to a question from Kyodo News about a possible relocation to another country if she cannot return home in December as she has intended. – Kyodo

Iran targets US military base in Kuwait

Iran's army said Wednesday that its combat drones targeted US air defence systems as well as drone and missile launch platforms at Ali Al-Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

In a statement, the army's public relations office said its attack drones targeted Patriot air defense systems and platforms used to launch drones and missiles at the US military base early Wednesday. The statement described the air base as a major US military base in the region, an air transport hub and a gateway for the entry of military forces into West Asia, as it plays a key role in the US military's regional military and logistical strategy. "We will not bow to any power in defending Iran," the statement said, adding that any threat or aggression against Iran would receive a "decisive and crushing" response without geographical limitations. – Xinhua

European migrant return hub in Rwanda causes concern

A migrant deportation centre planned by five European countries will be located in the Rwandan capital, despite the United Nations and Human Rights Watch (HRW) voicing concern, Rwandan government sources told AFP on Tuesday.

"Forcibly deporting people, including children, to a country where the evidence points to their rights being at risk, is a striking abdication of responsibility and humanity," said HRW's Judith Sunderland. – AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0063N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0063N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-11-2026** 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.

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SPORTS

Ministries volleyball teams secure third-place finishes

The third-place matches of the 2026 Inter-Ministerial Men's and Women's Volleyball Tournament were held at Sports Hall B of Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The tournament is organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Volleyball Federation.

Officials and staff from various ministries, Myanmar Volleyball Federation Chairman U Ye Naing and other officials attended the matches.



Players from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Immigration and Population compete in the third-place match.

In the women's third-place match, the Ministry of Sports Affairs team defeated the Ministry of Education team in straight sets (3-0). In the men's third-place match, the Ministry of Home Affairs team also beat the Ministry of Immigration and Population team 3-0.

The women's final between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs teams, and the men's final between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Sports teams, will be held on the afternoon of 19 November today.

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

Dagon Star continue winning run in M-League



Sagaing United and Dagon Star United compete during their match. **PHOTO: M LEAGUE**

DAGON Star United thrashed Sagaing United 7-0 in the opening-day match of Matchweek 25 of the 2026 M-League U20 Youth League at Thihadipa Stadium on 18 November.

Although Dagon Star United have fallen out of the title race, they continue to collect wins in their remaining matches. Having already secured third place, they are still fighting for a chance to finish second.

Nyi Naing scored a hat-trick in the 4th, 65th and 66th minutes, while Aung Khant Kyaw added a goal in the 44th minute. Sha Ko Ko scored twice in the 71st and 73rd minutes, while Sagaing United's Shine Lin Aung scored an own goal in the 79th minute.

Matchweek 25 will continue on 20 November, with Ayeyawady United taking on Falcon at Bahan Stadium and Myawady facing Thitsa Arman at Thihadipa Stadium. — Nyi Myat Thawta/KZL

Japan's Tashima enters race for FIFA presidency

JAPAN Football Association Honorary President Kozo Tashima has formally entered the race for the FIFA presidency, the JFA said Wednesday after submitting the required nomination documents to world football's governing body.



Japan Football Association Honorary President Kozo Tashima formally enters the race to become the next president of FIFA. **PHOTO: Kyodo**

Tashima's candidacy will be subject to FIFA eligibility and integrity checks before he is officially confirmed as a candidate for the election, scheduled to take place in March at the FIFA Congress in Rabat, Morocco.

The 68-year-old former Japan international is the first Japanese candidate to seek FIFA's top post. If approved, he will challenge incumbent FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who is seeking re-election.

FIFA rules require candidates to be nominated by at least five member associations. — Kyodo

Bayern coach Kompany on cusp of return after illness

AFTER being hospitalized last month with meningeal irritation, Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany has returned to work and will meet the press Thursday, the Bundesliga champions have indicated.

The Belgian was rushed to hospital after collapsing on the training pitch in Munich last month, before being diagnosed with the illness.

But after his return to the training ground this week Bayern's pre-Bundesliga press invitations stated the former Manchester City star, 40, will be back on media duty ahead of his side's league meeting with Cologne on Friday. — AFP



Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany prepares to return to media duties following his recent hospitalization and recovery. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pochettino arrives at Man Utd to start work

MAURICIO Pochettino arrived at Manchester United's Carrington training ground on Wednesday to begin work as the club's new manager, hours after leaving his role as USA coach.



Mauricio Pochettino arrives at the club's training ground to begin his new managerial role at Manchester United. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Argentine ended his reign in the United States with a 2-0 win over Haiti in Cincinnati before flying to Britain.

Pochettino was whisked to the club's training base to meet United staff and start preparations for Sunday's Premier League match against Liverpool.

His appointment was announced last Friday, 24 hours after United had confirmed the sacking of Michael Carrick following the Red Devils' worst start to a top-flight campaign since the 1986/87 season.

The former Tottenham and Chelsea boss is understood to have signed a deal at Old Trafford until the end of the 2028/29 season.

On Tuesday, Pochettino said he needed time to make United the city's dominant force again.

"The new challenge is a big challenge but at the same time it's adrenaline you want to feel," he told TNT Sports US. — AFP

US, Saudi nuclear agreement 'satisfactory': IAEA

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WORLD

Putin's key statements at the APEC Business Summit



This photo taken on 18 November 2026 shows an exterior view of the Qianhai International Convention Centre, the venue for the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit 2026 in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin addressed the APEC Business Summit in Shenzhen, speaking about the growing role of the Asia-Pacific region in the global economy, international economic competition, Russia's development and technological cooperation.

Key statements from Putin:

- The Asia-Pacific region has become a centre of the global economy and a global industrial and technological hub.
- Asian countries have made a giant leap forward, transforming from the "world's factory" into drivers of innovation.
- Instead of adapting to new opportunities, former hegemons are seeking to contain the development of countries that are making progress.
- Russia has successfully weathered the challenge of sanctions.
- Russia is at the forefront of digital transformation, with its language models among the best in the world.
- Living standards in EU countries are declining in a manner that is humiliating for the eurozone.
- Russia is ready to share technologies with its Asia-Pacific partners and help strengthen their technological sovereignty.
- Only by ensuring sovereignty can countries preserve their identity and independence on the international stage.

Putin also expressed confidence that the planned trilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump would bring significant benefits.

The 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting is taking place in Shenzhen, China, on 18–19 November under the theme "Building an Asia-Pacific Community, Promoting Shared Prosperity." — SPUTNIK

Xi says China-Russia relations bring stability, certainty to turbulent world

China-Russia ties set an example for a new model of major-country relations featuring equality, mutual respect, good faith, and win-win cooperation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that China-Russia relations have brought greater stability and certainty to a world of turbulence and transformation.

Xi made the remarks while meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is in Shenzhen to attend the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting on 18-19 November.

Xi noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Russian President Vladimir Putin during the APEC leaders' meeting in Shenzhen. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

He said that China-Russia ties set an example for a new model of major-country relations featuring equality, mutual respect, good faith, and win-win cooperation.

Xi called on both countries to deepen all-round cooperation and firmly uphold the due responsibilities and obligations of major countries to guide and promote a multipolar world and democratization of international relations. — Xinhua

India, South Korea drafting agreements with Russia on Northern Sea Route deliveries

INDIA and South Korea are drafting agreements with Russia on fixed volumes of their cargo transport along the Northern Sea Route, Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said on Wednesday.

China is actively increasing its cargo transport along the Northern Sea Route, Likhachev told reporters on the sidelines of the summit in Shenzhen. "And other regional players are starting to join China in this work. Both our Indian friends and partners from South Korea are already entering into similar intergovernmental working groups, similar agreements on a fixed volume of cargo transport along the Northern Sea Route," Likhachev added. — SPUTNIK



Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev discusses maritime cargo transport agreements along the Northern Sea Route in Shenzhen. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Trump arrives in China

US President Donald Trump arrived in China on Wednesday, a day ahead of a historic trilateral summit with the leaders of China and Russia.

Trump has said that the talks on Thursday with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen would cover the wars in Iran and Ukraine as well as nuclear disarmament. — AFP