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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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A thriving Pawsan rice field in Shan State.

Shan's First Pawsan Harvest Tops 100 Baskets

MYANMAR'S Pawsan rice, internationally recognized as one of the world's finest rice varieties, has achieved promising yields in Shan State, with more than 100 baskets per acre recorded in Monghsat Township during its first cultivation in the 2026-2027 financial year, according to the Shan State Agriculture Department.

"Pawsan rice cultivation was introduced in Shan State this year in line with the President's guidance, and the results have been promising. Demonstration plots in Mongyawng Township have recorded yields of more than 100 baskets per acre. As the yield is encouraging, we will also assess the quality of the rice for consumption. Trial cultivation has been carried out in townships across the state. Since Shan State is a mountainous region, we plan to expand cultivation to create market opportunities for farmers and make

SEE PAGE 3

Vice-President meets departmental officials, town elders and social organizations, inspects regional development in Cocokyun

Vice-President U Nyo Saw, accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Tin Min Latt, deputy ministers and departmental officials, met departmental personnel, town elders and social organization members in Cocokyun, Yangon Region yesterday morning and inspected the progress of regional development projects.



Vice- President U Nyo Saw speaks at the meeting with departmental personnel, town elders and social organizations' members in Cocokyun.

While in Cocokyun, the Vice-President paid homage to Sasana Mandaing Monastery Abbot Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsa and members of the Sangha and donated robes and alms.

At the town hall in Cocokyun, the Vice-President met departmental officials, social organization members and town elders. The chairman of the Township Management and Administration Committee reported on data of the township and accomplishments in implementing the instructions, while departmental officials, town elders and social organization members presented information about regional development.

The Vice-President, the regional chief minister, deputy ministers and officials presented foodstuffs, seeds of crops, school notebooks, stationery, equipment, ECG machine and medicines, and MRTV DTH set-top boxes to officials.

The Vice-President explained the points to be followed and implemented in connection with the President's speech and guidance delivered at the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He also explained the needs to expand cultivation of perennial crops including cocoa plants suitable for the township; efforts to boost per-acre yield of crops meeting the target production; expansion of livestock farms to ensure local food security more than now; needs to produce coconut products and cocoa products on a commercial scale; making concerted efforts to ensure that all students must complete learning at relevant grades in the education sector; better healthcare services for residents and environmental conservation measures; construction of Cocokyun Reservior-2 for residents to have drinking water and agricultural water; emphasis to be placed on prevention of natural disasters to be triggered by El Nino; and plans to fulfil the needs for regional development, smooth transport and healthcare services of Cocokyun region.

SEE PAGE 3

Soybean Oil Mills Set for Myitkyina, Mohnyin

DISCUSSIONS are underway on plans to implement soybean oil mill construction projects in Myitkyina and Mohnyin townships in Kachin State, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Kachin State Directorate).



This photo features a soybean oil mill in full operation.

The mills to be constructed and operated in Myitkyina and Mohnyin will each have a daily soybean-crushing capacity of 50 tonnes, with the aim of producing value-added products domestically from soybeans cultivated in Kachin State. In addition to soybean oil, the plants will also produce soybean meal for use in animal feed manufacturing. Once operational, the projects are expected to provide expanded market opportunities for local soybean farmers in Kachin State while promoting integrated development of the edible oil production and animal feed sectors.

Furthermore, a local value chain will be established in Kachin State, encompassing soybean cultivation, oil milling, soybean meal production and market distribution, thereby creating new opportunities for the state's agro-based manufacturing industries.

Oilseed crops, including groundnut, sesame, sunflower, soybean, canola and Niger seed, are cultivated across Kachin State, covering a total of more than 104,000 acres, of which 25,208 acres are devoted to soybean cultivation. — ASH/TH

YR govt inspects rice reserves at designated warehouses

YANGON Region Rice Reserves Storage and Supervision Committee Chairman and Yangon Region Minister for Planning, Economic and Finance Dr May Than Nwe inspected the arrival and storage of rice reserves at the designated warehouse in Mingaladon Township on 18 November.

With climate change driven by El Niño affecting weather patterns, the government is stockpiling rice reserves for use in emergencies when food supplies are urgently needed.



Workers are seen stockpiling bags of rice reserves in the local warehouse in Yangon Region.

During the inspection, committee members briefed the regional minister in detail on the arrival of rice reserves at the designated warehouse and on systematic storage arrangements.

Dr May Than Nwe elaborated on receiving protocols and instructed officials to ensure rice reserves reach the relevant warehouses in full within the designated period, meet the specified quality standards and are managed to prevent losses and damage. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

5 Civil General Applications (Writs) heard

A panel for the final hearing and adjudication of writs – comprising Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tha Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Thein Ko Ko and Daw Soe Khet Khet— was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw, and heard a total of five general civil applications (writs): Case Nos 267/2019 (Mandalay), 310/2019 (Ayeyawady), 21/2020 (Mon), 40/2020 (Bago), and 51/2020 (Kachin). — MNA

Deep Depression News, No 12, 2026

Issued at 5 pm MST on 20 November 2026

Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, Cyclonic Storm AKVAN has crossed North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha Coasts close to Gopalpur (India), moved north-northeastwards and weakened into a Deep Depression over the South Odisha Coasts.

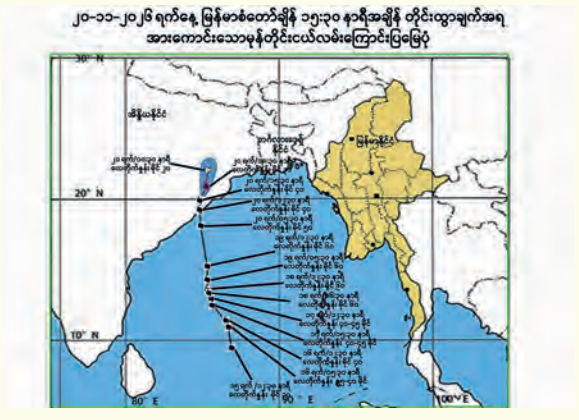
Next 24 hours forecast

The Deep Depression is likely to continue moving north-northeastward and cross Odisha and weaken into a Depression during the next six hours and into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area during the next 12 hours, and rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin States and isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway Regions and Rakhine and Shan States from today evening to 21 November 2026.

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

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, and should make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights, and fishing vessels and ships operating off and along Myanmar's coasts. — DMH



Bago Shwemawdaw to host Tazaungdine Festival

LED by the Bago Region government, the Tazaungdine hot-air balloon release ceremony and Satuditha (charity food) donation will take place from 23 to 24 November on the campus of Shwemawdaw Pagoda.

Apart from the release of Seinnapan hot-air balloons, colourful light decorations in public areas and entertainment by locally famous artistes will be included.

On Tazaungmone Full Moon Day, 24 November, Satuditha donation will be served to pilgrims at Buddha Athan Dhamma Beikmandaw, starting from 8 am. — TWA/ZS


The Buddha Athan Dhamma Beikmandaw.

Lawkanat Arts School opens to nurture young talents

LAWKANAT Arts School, established by Wisdom Prime Group Co Ltd to nurture young talents, held its opening ceremony on the morning of 18 November at Room S-2-11 of the Ministers' Office on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon.


Artistes from various fields attend the opening ceremony of Lawkanat Arts School.

The ceremony was attended by prominent figures from the arts community, including traditional theatrical artiste Shwemann U Chantha, Zat Pwe performer Ye Moe, veteran singer Daw Tin Tin Mya, music director U Soe from the Myanmar Music Association and Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun, among other invitees.

Speaking at the ceremony, veteran singer Daw Tin Tin Mya said the school would offer a range of courses to train and develop young people interested in the arts. She noted that traditional theatre, film and music continued to attract strong interest among young people and that the new training opportunities would benefit aspiring artistes.

Wisdom Prime Group Co Ltd, a business group established by young entrepreneurs, has been providing legal and educational services since 2023. The group launched the Lawkanat Arts School project early this year as its second major initiative.

The school is currently developing curricula for its regular courses and will soon begin accepting enrolments. Classes are scheduled to start in January 2027. — TWA/KZL

Fuel Tankers on Standby in Major Cities for Tazaungdine

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, regular fuel supplies are being maintained along highways and at fuel stations nationwide, with fuel tankers and reserve fuel arranged in advance in major cities to prevent shortages during the long Tazaungdine festival holidays.

Arrangements have been made to ensure timely replenishment and sales at fuel stations, particularly along routes expected to have heavy traffic: the Yangon-Bago-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway, the Yangon-Pathein-Chaungtha-Ngwehsaung route, the Thazi-Kalaw-Inlay-Taunggyi route, the Mandalay-Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung-Popa-Bagan route, the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin route, and the Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine highway.

Furthermore, while fuel stations nationwide are being regularly supplied by fuel tankers, reserve fuel has also been pre-arranged for rapid replenishment as needed.

Therefore, the ministry has notified the travelling public that they can purchase fuel as usual at fuel stations in major cities and along travel routes in accordance with prescribed regulations. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

Press Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Judgement of the International Court of Justice delivered on 19 November 2026

On 19 November 2026, the International Court of Justice delivered its judgement on the case filed by The Gambia alleging that Myanmar violated the Genocide Convention.

Such allegations are particularly grave, and have been taken most seriously by the Government of Myanmar. Throughout the seven years since the case was instituted in November 2019, Myanmar has participated in good faith in the proceedings, including by complying with the Court's order to file 13 Provisional Measures Reports.

The Judgement of the Court, reached by a majority of 9 to 6 Judges, decided whether genocide has been committed, which is the merit of the case. This finding comes as a great disappointment to Myanmar. A joint dissenting opinion of the Vice-President and five other members of the Court, including the most senior judges, considered that the Court has departed from its long-standing case law concerning the standard of proof that must be met in order to establish that genocide has been committed. Several of the Judges also expressed concerns over the treatment and weight to be accorded to evidence before the Court.

The 186-page Judgement is complex, and the 17 separate and dissenting opinions, comprising a further 269 pages, demonstrate the diversity of views among the Judges.

Allegations of violations of obligations under the Genocide Convention are a grave crime. It should be noted that the Judgement of the Court was delivered with dissenting opinions and was therefore not decided unanimously. The consensus among the judges and the requirement to establish the facts beyond reasonable doubt, as the applicable standard of proof under international law, are matters that must be accorded the utmost importance when adjudicating a case involving allegations of genocide. The Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and NGOs in question did not have expertise, resources and mandates to produce reasonable evidence to consider in judicial proceedings, and certainly not in judicial proceedings in which such a high standard of proof applies. The reports of the FFM and NGOs are merely second-hand descriptions of other information that the Court has not seen.

During both written pleadings and oral submissions, Myanmar has presented comprehensive and compelling evidence along with facts and records to the Court demonstrating that the allegations by The Gambia as well as the reports referenced were wrongful assertions far from the real situation, that the counter-terrorism actions conducted in northern Rakhine State during 2016-2018 were not carried out with genocidal intent but instead were limited in scope and duration, lasting only a matter of days, and were undertaken in direct response to widespread terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and that it was in fact ARSA's intimidations, attacks, destructions, killings and acts of terrorism that laid waste to villages and cities which led to the displacement of natives and Bengalis.

Myanmar presented that ARSA's plots to attack the Border police posts and create all the insurgencies in the Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung were to gain Myanmar's police and defence services' response and to draw the attention of the international community. Myanmar also proved that ARSA is still at large in the refugee Camps located in Bangladesh. Despite these reality on the ground, it is to regret to learn the Judgement delivered by the Court doesn't reflect the real situation.

Myanmar will continue the implementation of humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for displaced persons in northern Rakhine State in accordance with domestic laws, international practices, existing bilateral agreements and ongoing international cooperation programmes, as well as the verification and repatriation of those currently residing in Bangladesh as and when situations permit, while upholding the best interest of its people and sovereignty.

The situation of Northern Rakhine State has complex historical background and involves ethnic and religious dimensions, and it is essentially an internal affair of Myanmar. The international community should view the difficulties and challenges facing Myanmar objectively and play a constructive role in easing the situation while respecting Myanmar's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. The Government of Myanmar will take time to carefully and thoroughly study the Judgement.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
20 November 2026

Vice-President meets departmental officials,...

FROM PAGE 1

The Vice-President urged departmental officials, residents and officials from local battalions to strive for regional development and food security in harmony and unity. After the meeting, the Vice-President observed the expanded cultivation of cocoa trees and their successful growth at Cocoa Farm No 1 in Cocokyun Station, in accordance with the guidance given by the President. He also inspected the implementation of the Cocokyun Reservior-2 construction project, which is being undertaken to ensure the availability of drinking water and irrigation water for residents, as well as the progress of construction works aimed at regional development. The Vice-President gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA/TTA

Shan's First Pawsan Harvest Tops 100 Baskets

FROM PAGE 1

the rice more accessible to local consumers. We are pleased with the successful cultivation of this internationally recognized premium rice variety in the highland region," said U Nyein Tun, deputy director of the department.

Six Pawsan rice varieties – Yezin Pawsan-1, Yezin Pawsan-2, Pawsan Taungpyan, Shwebo Pawsan, Shwenantha Pawsan and Pawsan Yin – were cultivated for the first time in eastern and southern Shan State, with encouraging results.

The eastern Shan State has a high level of rice self-sufficiency through local rice production. However, government employees and local communities still rely on rice imported from other regions of the country. The trial cultivation of Pawsan rice was therefore initiated in line with the President's guidance to provide consumers with more affordable rice while generating income for farmers through the production of this marketable variety.

A total of 170 acres of Pawsan rice have been cultivated across Shan State, including 131 acres in 10 townships in eastern Shan State - Kengtung, Mongkhat, Mongping, Mongyang, Mongla, Monghsat, Mongton, Mongphyat, Mongyawng and Tachilek – and 39 acres in 10 townships in southern Shan State – Kalaw, Hopong, Pindaya, Loilem, Laihka, Mawkmai, Namsang, Kunhing, Mongnai and Mongpan. Harvesting has already been completed on 50 per cent of the cultivated acreage.

According to the 2024-2025 census, Shan State has a population of 6.4 million. The agricultural sector continues to work towards ensuring adequate rice supplies in line with population growth, with Pawsan rice cultivation expected to make a further contribution to local food security. With successful Pawsan rice cultivation in addition to traditional highland rice production across the state's 55 townships and 87 towns in 21 districts, the initiative is expected to help meet local rice demand and create opportunities for farmers to improve their livelihoods through potential export markets. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador



Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe and Sri Lankan Ambassador Mrs Ponnamperuma Arachchige Prabashini shake hands during their meeting.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received Ms Ponnamperuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnamperuma, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further strengthening of bilateral relations, including the development of tourism and the promotion of cooperation in trade and investment sectors between the two countries. — MoFA

NATIONAL

DIPLOMACY

UEC Chair meets Belarusian Chargé d'Affaires ai

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe received Mr Aleh Holubeu, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim and Senior Counsellor of the Embassy of Belarus in Myanmar, at the UEC Office in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.



UEC Chair U Than Soe and Belarusian Charged' Affaires ad interim Mr Aleh Holubeu exchange handshakes during the latter's call.

At the meeting, the UEC chairman extended greetings, while Mr Aleh Holubeu raised questions concerning electoral matters.

They held frank and cordial discussions on past and future bilateral cooperation in electoral affairs, the UEC's preparations for successfully holding the 2027 by-election in accordance with democratic standards, arrangements to enable voters to cast their ballots conveniently using Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs), preparations for election observation, and cooperation between the election commissions of the two countries under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

UEC members and officials from the commission's office also attended the meeting. — MNA/KZL

MoBA Dy Minister inspects fully renovated buildings in Falam

DEPUTY Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, who is in Chin State to oversee rehabilitation work, inspected the renovation of the Township Religious Affairs Department and the Internal Revenue Department offices, the installation of solar lights, the operation of the offices, the completion of staff housing renovations and the accommodation arrangements for staff families.

Yesterday morning, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, accompanied by Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Khin Maung Htwe and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the renovation of the Highways Department office and the old hostel, the installation of solar lights and the operation of the temporary office set up in the old hostel. He also met and encouraged the staff.

Additionally, the deputy minister and his party inspected the three-storey building of the Assistant Director of the District Highways Department, where the district and township courts had temporarily opened, as well as the new Highways Department building.



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han is pictured during his inspection tour in Falam.

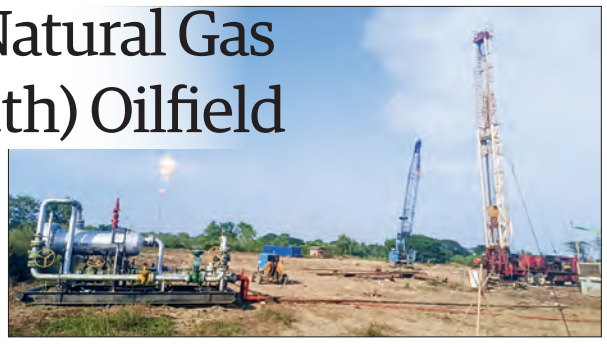
The chairperson of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee briefed them on the work completed and the plans for future implementation. — District IPRD/MKKS

Sand Analysis Boosts Natural Gas Output at Maubin (South) Oilfield

THE natural gas was tested and recovered from 5,900 feet of sand at oil field 15 in Maubin (South), resulting in a daily increase of two million cubic feet.

Similarly, work is underway to find more sand layers in oil fields 17 and 19 to increase gas production.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is exploring, measuring and inspecting the amount of oil that can be extracted, drilling and producing in approved areas, and renovating old wells in order to increase the production of natural gas needed for power generation, industrial enterprises, and transportation. In addition, it is conducting research and using technology to expand sand seams as well as extraction operations from thin sand layers are ongoing.



A Maubin (South) Oilfield.

New well drilling operations are also underway in oil fields in Ayeyawady and Yangon regions, and the natural gas produced will be distributed to factories that have increased demand. — MNA/MKKS

Chaungzon's road upgrading work inspected

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 19 November of the ongoing village road upgrading work in Kyangin Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State. The project is being implemented by the Chaungzon Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, with the aim of improving the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities and narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas.

Head U Myint Naing Oo of the Mawlamyine District Department of Rural Development, Daw San San Maw, Head of Chaungzon Township Department of Rural Development, and departmental staff, together with village officials, community elders and representatives of the contracted company, inspected the ongoing road upgrading work.

The project includes widening and upgrading a 1,385-foot-long section of road with a width of three feet and an asphalt thickness of nine inches, as well as laying a three-inch-thick asphalt overlay along a 1,816-foot-long section with a width of nine feet.

The township head instructed the project supervisor to ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated period and in accordance with the prescribed quality standards and specifications. Necessary coordination and arrangements were also made to address implementation requirements.

The road upgrading project is being implemented with a budget of K77 million from the Mon State Government Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year. Chan Myae Mudra Company was awarded the contract and commenced the project in the first week of September. The project has now reached 80 per cent completion.

Upon completion, the upgraded road is expected to improve transport and accessibility for local communities, while contributing to the socioeconomic development of the rural community, according to the Chaungzon Township Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)



Officials oversee the road upgrading project in Chaungzon Township.

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NATIONAL

Ayethaya: A Scenic Vineyard Offering Wine and a Relaxing Retreat

Ko Htwe+Thitsa

The area visited by our news team is not Penedès, one of Spain's largest wine-producing regions, renowned for its extensive vineyards and sparkling wine production. Yet, with vineyards neatly arranged along a valley against a backdrop of mountains, the landscape is reminiscent of the famous Spanish wine region.

The destination is none other than Ayethaya Sunset Wine Garden, a vineyard belonging to Ayethaya Winery, located beside the road leading to Taunggyi in Ayethaya, Shan State. In addition to producing wine, the vineyard operates a restaurant, making it a popular destination for both local and international visitors.





Images showcase Ayethaya Sunset Wine Garden, Ayethaya Winery's vineyard, and its wine production process.

Ayethaya Winery signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Agriculture in 1998 and began trial cultivation of 14 grape varieties imported from abroad on 100 acres of land. Red wine was first produced on a trial basis in 2003-2004. In 2006, the winery entered the commercial market, initially producing and distributing 3,000 bottles across three wine varieties.

In 2007, six additional grape varieties were cultivated in Yamethin District with the assistance of German wine experts, while wine production continued at the winery in Ayethaya, Taunggyi. More grape varieties suitable for Myanmar's soil and climate were subsequently introduced from France, Spain and Germany. Through continued cultivation and production, Ayethaya Wine gradually established itself as a recognized Myanmar wine brand.

Ayethaya Wine is primarily distributed within the domestic market and has also represented Myanmar at international wine competitions, winning several awards and introducing Myanmar-produced wine to the global stage. The winery is wholly foreign-invested by Myanmar Vineyard Estate Co Ltd and currently produces and distributes six varieties of wine.

Ayethaya Wine has gained recognition among guests at special events and international visitors to Myanmar, who appreciate its distinctive taste. Having also received awards at international wine exhibitions and competitions, the company aims to expand beyond the domestic market and export its products overseas. China, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia are among the Asian countries that cultivate grapes and export commercially produced wine to international markets.

Speaking about grape cultivation and wine production, U Min Zaw Than, head of grape cultivation and production, said Myanmar had favourable soil and climatic conditions for the industry and could produce wine for export markets by combining these natural advantages with the necessary technical expertise and resources.

"Ayethaya Wine has a history of 25 years. Domestic interest in grape wine has been growing, partly from a health perspective. We currently produce more than 250,000 bottles annually and aim to increase production to one million bottles a year within the next five years," he said.

To ensure a consistent supply of grapes for commercial wine production, the company operates vineyards in Ayethaya, Taunggyi, and also works with around 40 farmers in Yamethin District. The farmers cultivate grapes on approximately 100 acres of land and receive advance financial assistance for cultivation costs twice a year.

Producing quality wine requires grape varieties suited to the local soil and water conditions, favourable weather and a reliable supply of necessary raw materials. Access to markets is also essential if Myanmar-produced wine is to compete with international products and reach overseas consumers.

Beyond wine production, Ayethaya Sunset Wine Garden also contributes to the development of tourism in Taunggyi. The Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Development and Training has included the vineyard among seven notable tourist destinations in the city.

By the time our news team concluded its visit to Ayethaya Sunset Wine Garden, evening was approaching. Visitors from Myanmar and abroad, many of whom had travelled to attend the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival, were still arriving to enjoy the vineyard's refreshing atmosphere and picturesque scenery.

The gentle fragrance of wine lingered in the air as the beautiful mountain-backed vineyards offered visitors a peaceful place to relax and unwind.

Translated by ST

Hlaingbwe's systematic livestock farming implemented under MSY Village Project

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the implementation status of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Ywathaaye Village (Livestock Zone). The project is being carried out by the Hlaingbwe Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Hpa-an District, Kayin State, with the aim of creating job opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents.

Daw Thida Win San, head of the Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development, along with departmental staff and members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee, inspected the progress of systematic livestock farming activities funded by the project and verified the completeness of monthly financial accounting records. The head of the district department also coordinated and facilitated necessary support measures.

According to Daw Thu Thu Aung, Assistant Director of the Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development, a total of K46.5 million in loans has been disbursed to 19 committee members conducting livestock farming under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project fund in the village. — Khin Maung Win (Chemistry)



Officials inspect a livestock farm in Hlaingbwe Township.

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NATIONAL

President's Office holds second press conference

The second press conference of the Office of the President was held at the Multi-purpose Hall of the President's Office yesterday afternoon, during which Dr Khine Khine Soe, spokesperson at the Office of the President and Deputy Minister, provided clarifications on the policies and priority tasks of the Government.

At the presentation, she stated that the two political objectives were reaffirmed, while the two national objectives of ensuring a prosperous nation and food security would also be incorporated into every speech and pursued as national goals. Regarding peace, every possible effort would be made to achieve lasting peace during the government's term. The Government would continue along the path of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and pursue national reconciliation as its peace policy.

She explained that upgrading railway infrastructure, modernizing railway carriages and renovating railway sections would be undertaken as priority tasks. As importing railway carriages from abroad involves high costs, efforts are being made to enhance domestic production capacity to manufacture railway carriages locally. Regarding the energy sector, a policy has been adopted to give priority to the development of renewable energy. In the telecommunications sector, the 5G system is being tested in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, and if the trials prove successful, it will be expanded nationwide.

Regarding the economic sector, under the theme of economy, agriculture, livestock breeding and food security, various measures are being implemented on the ground to increase domestic production, reduce the trade deficit and promote import substitution. To support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the President personally inspected MSME businesses in detail during all his domestic trips. As locally produced raw materials are currently being exported mainly in their unprocessed form, resulting in lower earnings, another policy objective is to manufacture value-added finished products domestically and export higher-value products.

Regarding foreign investment and employment opportunities, the President himself has been taking the lead in promoting these areas. During seven of his nine overseas visits, economic forums were held to invite foreign investors and secure investment commitments. Domestically, extensive efforts are being made to review, amend and discuss the necessary laws, policies, guidelines and procedures to create a favourable environment that facilitates and streamlines investment. With regard to domestic production and investment policies, guidelines have been issued to ensure that products are affordable and of good quality, while encouraging large-scale production at low profit margins.



The second press conference of the President's Office is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

More than 13 million acres of monsoon paddy and over two million acres of summer paddy are currently grown. Therefore, guidance has been given to expand summer paddy cultivation by implementing river-water pumping projects powered by solar energy to ensure an adequate water supply.

Myanmar needs to maintain the quality and brand reputation of its Pawsan rice. While other types of rice fetch only around US$350 per tonne, Pawsan rice commands approximately US$700 per tonne, nearly twice as much. As its premium price could lead to a decline in quality if proper quality control is not maintained, a policy has been adopted to strengthen quality control measures. Policies have also been adopted to expand the cultivation of rubber, bamboo, cotton and coffee.

The priority in agricultural development and crop expansion is to establish an industry sector based on Smart Agriculture. Regarding land utilization, if it is found that land allocated for agricultural and livestock farming is being used for purposes other than those originally intended or sold without implementing the designated activities, the land will be repossessed.

Workshops have been held in Magway Region and other areas to promote the expanded cultivation of oil crops, including sesame, sunflower, soybean and groundnut. These workshops have produced outcomes concerning appropriate cultivation methods and the use of high-quality, pure seed varieties. Although edible oil crops, wheat and cotton are produced domestically, they are not sufficiently processed into finished products, resulting in continued reliance on imports. This has led to an imbalance in the country's foreign exchange trade balance.

In the livestock and fisheries sector, 70 per cent of fish and shrimp products are obtained through natural capture, while only 30 per cent come from aquaculture. While Vietnam's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exceeds US$400 billion and is approaching US$500 billion, Myanmar's GDP currently stands at only a little over US$80 billion. Regarding taxation, the existing tax rates will not be increased; instead, the tax base will be expanded to broaden the scope of tax collection. Efforts to combat illegal trade in border areas will also continue.

Although it is difficult to immediately replace the large number of staff who underwent the DCS, medical universities have been training new professionals over a period of approximately six to seven years. As a result, more than 2,500 newly qualified doctors and over 2,600 nurses have been appointed.

In addition, arrangements are being made to open Polytechnic Schools to provide secondary-level education in industrial, agricultural and livestock-related subjects. Alongside the establishment of industrial and agricultural high schools, efforts are also being made to introduce these subjects at the middle-school level as general knowledge, without requiring students to sit examinations in them.

Regarding standard schools, only about 10 per cent of Myanmar's more than 50,000 basic education schools currently meet the standard-school criteria. Although it is not yet possible to upgrade all schools simultaneously, important levels and facilities will be improved gradually, step by step during the five-year term.

Regarding foreign policy, it was reaffirmed that Myanmar would continue to pursue an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar would also continue to maintain friendly relations with all ASEAN member states.

Regarding the sports and cultural sectors, two Art Centres are also being constructed in Yangon and Mandalay, with efforts being made to complete them and promote the development of the arts sector. At present, forest coverage in the country stands at just over 40 per cent, and efforts are being directed towards increasing it to 50 per cent. Furthermore, excessive emphasis on economic development could adversely affect the ecosystem. Therefore, efforts will be made to maintain a balance between ecology and the economy (Ecology and Economy Balance).

Furthermore, five guiding principles for rural development have been adopted and are being implemented, while the fight against narcotic drugs is being carried out as a national responsibility. Regarding online scams and online gambling activities, a Zero Tolerance policy will be strictly enforced, with no leniency, and effective action will be taken against those involved. With regard to natural disasters, a policy has been adopted to ensure that rehabilitation and reconstruction works are completed on time to the greatest extent possible.

The country's GDP currently stands at just over US$80 billion, and efforts are being made to increase it to US$98 billion within this year. Regarding external debt, the amount, which stood at US$12 billion before 2021, has been gradually reduced through repayments and now stands at US$8.5 billion. In the edible oil sector, efforts will be directed towards achieving domestic self-sufficiency within five years, with the ultimate goal of reaching a level at which imports are no longer necessary.

In terms of railway upgrades, efforts are being made to enable trains to operate at speeds of 70-80 kilometres per hour. Regarding the electricity sector, plans have been made to increase electricity generation capacity to more than 5,000 megawatts to address the power outages currently affecting the public, particularly the difficulties experienced during periods of extreme heat associated with El Niño weather conditions. Further details of these plans will also be explained in due course. Furthermore, concerning the peace process, arrangements have been made to convene the Union Peace Conference in 2028, as stated by the President. Detailed information will be announced at a later date.

Summarizing the President's individual overseas visits, during his visit to Laos, discussions focused on strengthening diplomatic and strategic partnership relations, maintaining stability in border areas, addressing cross-border issues, and promoting cooperation in trade, transport and energy sectors. Laos also expressed its full support for regional cooperation and Myanmar's full participation in ASEAN in the normal manner.

During the visit, agreements were reached on establishing a Sister City relationship between Nay Pyi Taw and Vientiane, jointly conducting a feasibility study on hydropower development in the Mekong River Basin, and enhancing labour cooperation for Myanmar workers in Laos. Discussions are also underway on expanding air services between Kengtung and Luang Prabang.

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President's Office holds second press conference

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Furthermore, during the visit to Thailand, an agreement was reached to exchange information to combat online gambling, narcotic drugs and human trafficking in border areas. In the environmental conservation sector, considerable progress has also been made in addressing transboundary haze pollution, with follow-up implementation measures continuing after the visit. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the conservation of water quality in the Namkhok River was also signed. Discussions were also held on increasing bilateral trade volume to US$12 billion.

Regarding the visit to Russia, a total of 12 intergovernmental (G2G) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and several business-to-business (B2B) agreements were successfully signed during the visit. Particular emphasis was placed on cooperation in the energy and higher education sectors. Myanmar is collaborating with Russia to enable a Myanmar astronaut to be sent into space in 2028, and four MoUs on space technology were successfully signed. Furthermore, discussions were held on the construction of an LNG plant in Dawei to supply the domestic market and export LNG to neighbouring countries.

Regarding the visit to Belarus, Belarusian investment in various industrial sectors is expected. In addition, the Myanmar-Belarus Cooperation Roadmap for the three years from 2026 to 2028 will be implemented in accordance with the established framework and schedule.

During his visit to Vietnam, agreements were reached on cooperation in various sectors, including energy, information technology (IT), agriculture and livestock breeding, and digital technology, and several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were successfully signed.

Regarding the visit to Cambodia, an agreement was reached to continue implementing the "Two Countries, One Destination" initiative in cooperation with Cambodia, a country with a well-developed tourism industry, by establishing a Sister City relationship between Bagan and Siem Reap to promote tourism between the two countries. Discussions were also held on the possibility of operating direct flights between the two cities.

Regarding the visit to Malaysia, extensive discussions were held on Malaysia's strong support for Myanmar's approach and the path it is pursuing within ASEAN, known as the "Myanmar Way", among ASEAN member states. In addition, discussions were held with Malaysia on logistics, port operations and the steel industry. Both sides also agreed to promote cooperation through government-to-government (G2G), business-to-business (B2B), people-to-people and think tank-to-think tank initiatives. Notably, a separate discussion between think tanks from the two countries was successfully held. It was also observed that Malaysia had expressed interest in making investments in Myanmar. One of the most significant achievements of the visit was the successful repatriation of more than 8,000 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia. In the final repatriation operation, a Myanmar Navy vessel was dispatched to bring back 1,476 Myanmar nationals.

There are major strategic projects that were discussed during the overseas visits. In cooperation with China, long-term strategic plans are being pursued in the fields of space and satellite technology, including satellite launches, while cooperation with Russia is underway to send a Myanmar astronaut into space. In the energy and electricity sectors, the Mekong hydropower project, the construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant and the establishment of a nuclear power plant are major strategic projects of great importance to the country's development.

Regarding the regional trade route, she continued that the East-West Economic Corridor, proposed by the President, aims to connect Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, providing access to the Indian Ocean. The proposed route has been discussed and presented at meetings with Russia, Belarus, ASEAN member states, China and India. India has also expressed interest in exporting its goods through this route. As Myanmar is strategically located at a central junction, the President has proposed ways to develop trade routes passing through Myanmar.

She also highlighted the electricity distribution, saying that in 2026, hydropower remains the main source of electricity, while the use of natural gas and solar energy is still limited. By 2030-2031, the government plans to increase solar power generation alongside hydropower significantly. The use of natural gas and coal will also be increased in a balanced manner.

Following the remarks, the President's Office Deputy Minister and Spokesperson Dr Khine Khine Soe, permanent secretaries, directors-general and officials from relevant ministries responded to questions raised by local and foreign journalists.

For the question raised by U Moe Hein from Thuriya Naywun Journal about the current state of Myanmar-US relations, the deputy minister confirmed that Myanmar had resumed engagement with the United States. So far, three meetings had been held with representatives of relevant organizations in Singapore, Myanmar and Japan. She also explained that a recently announced strategy for Myanmar issued by the US Department of State included four objectives. The first objective was to address transnational threats originating from Myanmar. She said this was in line with Myanmar's policy, as the country was applying a zero-tolerance approach and taking effective action against online scams and transnational crimes. The other objectives included reducing the trade deficit, supporting peace initiatives, and expanding engagement with Myanmar to increase regional influence.

She stated that just as the United States acts in accordance with its national interests, Myanmar, as a sovereign country, would also prioritize its national interests and cooperate on matters that could bring mutual benefits and create a win-win situation for both sides.

Regarding peace efforts, she said Myanmar would firmly pursue approaches that were appropriate to its own circumstances in any cooperation efforts. She added that lifting sanctions and promoting cooperation could greatly help improve people's living standards and national development. She confirmed that discussions between the two sides were taking place and that Myanmar was ready to cooperate for mutual benefit.

U Okka from Myanmar Hard Talk asked whether there were plans to change the names of states and whether a national convention might be held.

The Deputy Minister clarified that changing state names would not require an amendment to the 2008 Constitution, as Section 9(c) already provides for such changes. Therefore, there would be no need to convene a national convention for this purpose.

Daw Khine Sabai Oo from Hein Thitsa Journal asked about crime and efforts to uphold the rule of law in the country. A responsible official from the Ministry of Home Affairs replied that relevant departments were working together to address challenges that could affect national stability, the rule of law and the socioeconomic lives of the people.

U Nay Lin from Voice of Myanmar asked about the progress of peace efforts and measures to combat corruption. In response, the deputy minister said that peace could not be achieved within a short period. However, the President had pledged to work towards achieving lasting peace during the government's five-year term. All organizations, including the KIA, had been invited to participate in peace talks.A responsible official from the Anti-Corruption Commission added that the commission was carrying out preventive measures, investigations and public awareness activities in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. The commission was also implementing the four-digit Short Code system under the Public Feedback Programme (PFP), allowing the public to provide feedback on public services. In addition, it was conducting Corruption Risk Assessments (CRA) to identify and address possible corruption risks.

Then, Saw Chit Naing from Kin Htauk News Journal asked how the authorities would respond to activities by the KNU, KNLA and PDF groups, which were alleged to be aimed at damaging friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand. A responsible official from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare responded that Myanmar placed special importance on relations with neighbouring countries in accordance with its independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy and the principles of peaceful coexistence. The official stated that the KNU, KNLA and PDF groups linked to the NUG and CRPH, together with some media outlets supporting armed groups, had been carrying out activities intended to undermine Myanmar-Thailand friendship. An official statement on the matter had already been issued on 3 November.

The official concluded that Myanmar and Thailand were strategic partners and that neither country would take any action that could violate the sovereignty of the other. Relations between the two armed forces remained friendly and strong.

U Htoo Maung Maung from Union Politics News Agency asked whether the current government had any alternative policies or processes to be implemented alongside the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in pursuing the peace process. He also asked about cases in which certain groups were expanding their territorial control beyond the provisions of the Constitution. The response stated that there was no alternative peace process and that efforts would continue through the NCA framework. Although there were cases of territorial expansion beyond the Constitution, these issues would be addressed through negotiations under the NCA.

U Myat Khine from Popular News Agency asked what factors determined the ups and downs of Myanmar's political situation and sought the President's position on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling. In response to the first question, the deputy minister said Myanmar was a sovereign country, and its political situation did not depend on any foreign power. Rather, it depended on the unity and resilience of its own people.

Regarding the second question, the ICJ case, she said Myanmar had been addressing what it considered to be unjust accusations over the past seven years in line with international standards and had made every effort to comply with the provisional measures. She noted that the ruling issued the previous day had received the support of nine of the 15 judges, while six had disagreed. Therefore, she said, it was not a unanimous decision and was unfair. The 186-page court ruling and the 269-page opinions of the judges would require further legal examination. She also mentioned that three world leaders had held discussions the previous day. She also stated that the United States had issued a statement saying that the ICC and international organizations should not abuse their jurisdiction. The United States was also reviewing the ICJ ruling concerning Myanmar and had said that it should not be used for political purposes.

U Thura Aung from Top Phoenix Journal asked about the Hanthawady International Airport Project. An official from the Ministry of Transport replied that a 15-member Steering Committee, chaired by the Vice-President, had been formed on 23 September 2026 to lead the project. The committee's first meeting was scheduled to be held in December. Details regarding the project's commencement and implementation policies would become clear after the meeting.

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OPINION

Stepping up crackdowns on online scams and gambling activities

Online scams and online gambling are no longer criminal problems that can be addressed solely within the borders of a single country. They have now become transnational crimes posing serious threats to the international economic, social and security sectors.

The Government is undertaking vigorous efforts to identify and arrest those involved in online scams and gambling activities based in some parts of Myanmar. Although these activities are not primarily being carried out by Myanmar nationals, they constitute criminal offences occurring within Myanmar and have therefore become a concern for the entire nation. The perpetrators are posing a serious threat to the socioeconomic well-being of people not only in the region but also across the world, causing widespread harm and damage to communities worldwide.

Consequently, these crimes have become a major challenge, not only undermining the socioeconomic well-being of individuals but also potentially threatening the stability, peace and national security of countries. As such, the Government of Myanmar is emphasizing taking action against and prosecuting those involved in online scams, online gambling and other related criminal activities.

According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), losses caused by online scams across the Asia-Pacific region, including East Asia, South Asia, Australia and New Zealand, reached between US$88.3 billion and US$114.1 billion in 2025 alone. Globally, annual losses resulting from cybercrime and online scams amount to between US$1.2 trillion and more than US$1.5 trillion, with some estimates putting the figure as high as US$10.5 trillion. Reports of INTERPOL and the United Nations stated that approximately 300,000 people from over 80 countries have been trafficked and subjected to forced labour in connection with online scam operations.

In some border areas, certain foreign nationals have been engaging in online scams and online gambling activities with the involvement of individuals seeking personal gain from related entities, including Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). In response, the Tatmadaw members, the Myanmar Police Force and departmental officials have been working together to identify and arrest those involved. They have also consistently prioritized the procedures for repatriating foreign nationals who have committed such offences, with due consideration given to maintaining friendly relations and cooperation between countries.

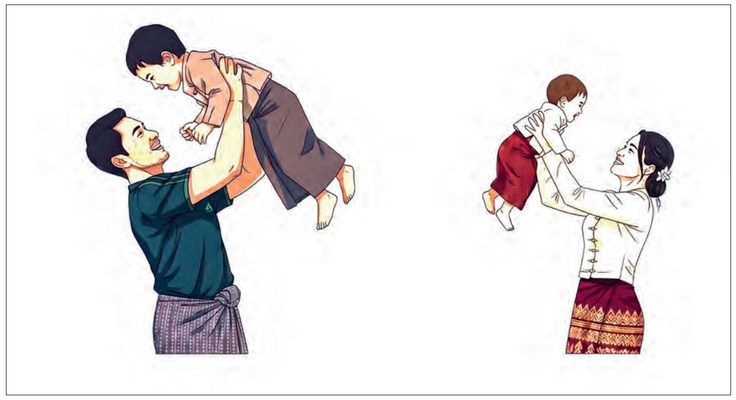
Consequently, these crimes have become a major challenge, not only undermining the socioeconomic well-being of individuals but also potentially threatening the stability, peace and national security of countries. As such, the Government of Myanmar is emphasizing taking action against and prosecuting those involved in online scams, online gambling and other related criminal activities.

As foreign nationals are illegally entering Myanmar and engaging in online scams and gambling activities, the public must also remain actively cooperative in cracking down on these activities. Eradicating online scam and gambling operations from Myanmar should be undertaken as a national responsibility through the active participation of the people.

ARTICLE

Mother, Father and the Earth

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



OF course, it does not matter what doctrine or philosophy we believe in as regards our existence in this human world. We have got full rights and freedoms of belief in our existential lives. But certainly, there must see our three main grounds for being able to come to the world. These grounds are nothing but mother, father and the earth. If we try to think it candidly, so that we can be born as human beings in this world, our mothers must first express a desire to be expecting a child. Only after that, when we are born of our mothers, we are brought up by our fathers together with them. In this way, we have become mere humans; still, we are not yet able to live well in the world. We need to find shelter for a good living. We get it from the earth, actually. Hence, only thanks to our mother, father and the earth, we have been human beings to the core.

As we may all be aware, human life is terribly difficult to exist, as if a needle on the ground had struck tip to tip from the sky. Unexpectedly, some too-busy mothers may suffer miscarriages due to their careless mistakes during pregnancy, some more than once. Unfortunately for future infants, some mothers may have a miscarriage despite planned pregnancies. Worst of all, unplanned or unwanted pregnancies and several socio-economic situations often lead to some mothers having an abortion, maybe not meaning to do it. Most unfortunately, some mothers may have a stillbirth even though they want babies too much. Not only that, but some babies may face premature or post-term birth and then lose their lives. Accordingly, it is also figuratively said that a mother tends to have one foot in the grave three times a day when she gets pregnant. This is because the mother may encounter a sudden death in childbirth, too. As a result, the fact that a living mother gives birth to a healthy baby can be regarded as one of the best gifts of nature.

Single mothers, who are separated or divorced or whose husbands are dead, usually struggle so hard for their children that they cannot even beautify themselves to the extent of looking like a slave. Herein almost always plays the key part of a father. In actual fact, the father seems like the head of a body or the roof of a house. A wife living without her husband is the devil, and fatherless children are given to standing out like fish in the dried-up water. Very often, such children appear less self-confident and self-conscious in front of others. If it were not for our fathers, we would be also-rans feeling completely out of place among all others. In other words, we have a full sense of physical, emotional and psychological well-being, which means our food, clothing, shelter, personal care, and own interests, because of our fathers only. Some fathers like to walk out on their wives and children for a certain reason or on purpose sometimes. The potential reasons why a husband has left a wife may be many. However, only if both mother and father are soulmates will we be born to them. Psychologically speaking, a child who has ever lived with both mother and father before kindergarten is mostly found to be an outstanding one in class. Consequently, a child being together with both his parents must be considered one of the luckiest chances of childhood.

The life of a man is not yet totally perfect with just his parents. He will also need to live outside after he has come out of his mother's womb. At such a time, the only place that warmly welcomes him without causing a public nuisance is this earth only. Simply enough, we settle down on the Earth; we breathe air from the Earth; we eat food and drink water from the Earth; we go here and there on the Earth; we grow crops and plantations on the Earth; we build industries and infrastructure on the Earth; and honestly speaking, we heap tons of our excreta and waste onto the Earth day by day. Merely owing to our efforts, the Earth is drastically experiencing climate change and global warming. In the face of human avarice, the Earth is still smiling at us all to date. How can it put up with us global citizens, taking the bad with the good? If there were no Earth in the solar system, what planets in the world could we live on? Is it possible that there would be a planet in other galaxies that offers accommodation, air, food, drink and beauty like our Earth? Not sure at all. Barely is this Earth the only paradise of all living things in the world.

Therefore, we ought to have a deep sense of gratitude to mother, father and the earth for certain. Even if we are left by our parents as a hard-luck story, we still owe a debt of their hidden gratitude for our completed appearance in the world. We should and must be grateful to our parents' and the earth's priceless care. Here, what I would like to suggest as a regular person is that we are beholden to our mothers, fathers and the earth. To say the least, by making ourselves good, we can pay back our parents and the earth in return. On the other hand, we should not blaspheme our mother, father and the earth under no circumstances. Above all, the earth had better not be destroyed by us before our death. We never have to bite the hand that feeds us. Whatever is said, we are in our mothers', fathers', and the earth's debt that should be fully paid back by us.

Descriptive Research

By Maung Maung Aye

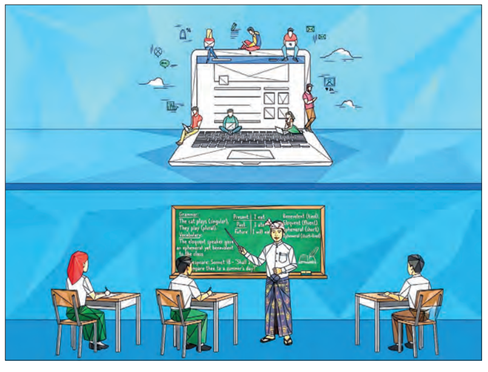
Descriptive research is a research method that aims to describe a particular phenomenon, situation, population, or event systematically and accurately. It focuses on answering questions such as what, where, when, and how. Unlike experimental research, descriptive research does not attempt to control variables or establish cause-and-effect relationships. Instead, it observes and describes situations as they naturally occur.

For example, a researcher may investigate students' attitudes towards online learning, teachers' classroom practices, or the reading habits of university students. The purpose is to collect information and describe the existing situation. The researcher does not try to change students' attitudes or influence teachers' behaviour. In this way, descriptive research helps researchers understand the nature of a problem or situation.

Descriptive research has some important characteristics. First, it focuses on existing conditions. Researchers study people, events, or situations as they naturally exist. They do not manipulate the research environment. Second, it follows a systematic process. Researchers identify a research problem, select participants, collect relevant information, and analyze the findings carefully. Third, it uses different types of data. Both quantitative and qualitative data can be collected. Quantitative data may include numbers, percentages, and statistical results. Meanwhile, qualitative data may include opinions, experiences, and descriptions. Fourth, it aims to provide an accurate picture of a particular phenomenon. Researchers must present information objectively and avoid personal opinions or unnecessary interpretations. Finally, descriptive research can involve a large number of participants. This allows researchers to collect information from different people and identify common patterns or differences.

Out of the methods used in descriptive research, the survey method is one of the most popular approaches. Researchers collect information from participants through questionnaires or interviews. It is especially useful for investigating people's opinions, attitudes, interests, and experiences. For example, a researcher may conduct a survey to examine university students' attitudes towards English language learning. The participants answer questions about their learning experiences, difficulties, and preferences.

Observation is another important method of descriptive research. It involves watching and recording people's behaviours, activities, or actions in their natural environments. Researchers may observe classroom activities, teacher-student interactions, or students' participation in group discussions. For example, a researcher may observe how English teachers use teaching materials and classroom activities during lessons.



A case study involves examining a particular individual, group, institution, or situation in detail. It provides an in-depth understanding of a specific research subject. Researchers may use interviews, observations, and documents to collect information. For instance, a researcher may study the English language learning experiences of students at a particular university.

Documentary analysis involves examining existing documents and records to obtain relevant information. These documents may include textbooks, academic reports, school records, research articles, and official documents. This method helps researchers understand a particular issue through available written materials.

Descriptive research is important because it provides useful information about existing situations and conditions. It helps researchers understand the characteristics of a particular phenomenon. Through this research, they can identify common problems, needs, interests, and behaviours.

In education, descriptive research helps teachers and educational institutions understand students' learning needs, classroom conditions, and teaching practices. For example, a study of students' reading habits may help teachers develop better reading programmes.

In applied linguistics, descriptive research is useful for examining language learning, language use, classroom communication, and teaching methods. Researchers can investigate students' difficulties in learning English grammar, teachers' use of classroom language, or learners' attitudes towards communicative language teaching.

Moreover, descriptive research can provide a foundation for future studies. The information collected may help researchers identify research problems and develop hypotheses for further investigation. It also supports decision-making in educational institutions and other organisations.

Descriptive research has some advantages. First, it provides a clear understanding of existing situations. Researchers can describe a problem or phenomenon without changing its natural conditions. Second, it is flexible because researchers can use different methods, such as questionnaires, interviews, observations, and document analysis. Third, it can collect information from a large number of participants, especially through surveys. This helps researchers identify general patterns and trends. Fourth, descriptive research is useful in many fields, including education, linguistics, psychology, and social sciences. Finally, it can serve as a starting point for further research. The findings may help researchers develop new questions and conduct more detailed investigations.

Although descriptive research has many advantages, it also has some limitations. One major limitation is that it cannot clearly establish cause-and-effect relationships. It describes what is happening but does not explain exactly why it happens. Another limitation is that the accuracy of the findings depends on the quality of the information collected. If participants provide incorrect answers or researchers record information inaccurately, the results may not represent the real situation. In addition, participants may give answers that they believe are socially acceptable rather than expressing their actual opinions. This may affect the reliability of the findings. Finally, descriptive research may provide only a general picture of a phenomenon. Further research may be necessary to understand the deeper reasons behind the findings.

In conclusion, descriptive research is an important research approach that aims to describe existing situations, characteristics, behaviours, and phenomena systematically. It uses different methods, including surveys, observations, case studies, and documentary analysis, to collect relevant information. It is particularly useful in education and applied linguistics because it helps researchers understand students' learning experiences, teachers' classroom practices, and language-related problems. Moreover, it provides valuable information about real-life situations. It also creates a foundation for further research and helps researchers make informed decisions. Therefore, descriptive research is an essential approach for understanding and describing different aspects of human life and educational practices.

NATIONAL

President's Office holds second press conference

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U Win Oo from New History for People (NHP) News Agency asked about assistance being provided to internally displaced persons (IDPs) facing difficulties and measures being taken to enable them to return to their places of origin. The deputy minister responded that, during the one year from January to December 2025, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had provided a total of K135.402 billion in assistance to displaced people identified through data collection, at a rate of K20,000 per person per month. She added that K1 billion had also been provided to support five basic food items for registered displaced people in Yangon Region. In addition, the Government was carrying out rehabilitation activities in the respective regions and states with funding exceeding K30 billion.

Daw Khet Hnin Su from Public Echo Online Media asked what measures the Government had taken to support the livelihoods and employment opportunities of women and children who had lost their family breadwinners due to armed conflicts. The deputy minister responded that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was taking the lead in ensuring that children from families who had lost members could continue their lives without disruption to their education and healthcare, while also ensuring their safety and well-being. She said the Department of Social Welfare was providing care for children who had lost their parents, orphans and children in need of protection at eight childcare centres. Children aged 10 and above were being provided with education until they completed primary school. For children aged 12 and above, training schools had been opened to provide both general education and vocational training. She added that, under the Social Protection Strategic Plan, efforts were being made to connect children with resources available in their communities so that they could receive assistance for education, healthcare and other essential expenses.

An official from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare also outlined the benefits provided to families of military personnel who had died while performing operational duties. These benefits included promotion in rank for eligible family members, free medical treatment, educational grants and special family pensions amounting to 70 per cent of the deceased service member's last drawn basic salary, payable to eligible dependents regardless of the service member's age. In addition, eligible legally recognized or officially registered children were entitled to child allowances calculated according to a prescribed percentage of the deceased service member's last drawn basic salary, and monthly education allowances from the date they started school. Other benefits included death compensation and condolence payments, free housing, honorary titles and assistance in finding employment. The official said the relevant benefits were being provided to eligible family members in accordance with established procedures.

U Tun Lin Htet from Branded Myanmar Agency asked whether the President planned to hold a national-level education forum to promote the education sector and whether the Government would publicly announce its roadmap and timeline for education reforms. The deputy minister replied that the Government planned to increase the share of the budget allocated to education to 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent in successive financial years during its term.

Daw Myo Pa Pa Phyo Wai Lwin from Queen for Peace News Agency asked about the provision of healthcare services to the public at public hospitals. The deputy minister responded that difficulties could arise when the number of patients was disproportionate to the number of doctors and nurses. However, efforts were being made to recruit and replenish healthcare personnel as quickly as possible.

An official from the Ministry of Health also said that the ministry currently oversees 1,180 people's hospitals, which provide treatment to about 30,000 inpatients and between 40,000 and 45,000 outpatients every day. The official explained that the healthcare sector had experienced a loss of tens of thousands of staff members. Although efforts had been made to recruit them again, only a few thousand had returned, resulting in a shortage of human resources.

U Zaw Min Naing from Myanmar Public Press News Agency asked about measures to ensure fair prices for farmers' crops and create employment opportunities for workers. An official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation responded that, for this year, the basic reference price has been announced through newspapers at K1,350,000 per 100 baskets of paddy. Arrangements are also being made to set basic reference prices for all other major crops.

Similarly, an official from the Ministry of Labour said that the Government was cooperating with relevant ministries to conduct pre-employment vocational and skills training courses to equip workers with skills suited to workplace requirements.

U Myo Min from White Balance News Agency asked how the Government would address the drug problem, as drug control efforts involving government departments and officials had not yet brought significant reductions in some areas. The deputy minister responded that drug-related arrests and legal action were being carried out continuously. An official from the Ministry of Home Affairs added that from January to October 2026, authorities uncovered and arrested suspects in 5,126 drug-related cases and took legal action against 7,458 individuals. The official also said that Operation 42 was being implemented to further identify and prevent drug production, storage, transportation and trafficking.

U Kaung Htet Kyaw from TV Asahi asked whether there were plans to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi soon, following arrangements in recent months that allowed her to meet the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and speak with her son by telephone. He also asked for the Government's views on international calls for her release. The deputy minister responded that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been convicted and taken legal action against her under criminal laws relating to election vote fraud, corruption and mismanagement. Regarding a possible release, she said that, as the President had stated, the future could not be predicted with certainty. Therefore, no definite announcement could be made at this stage. Any consideration would depend on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's actions and the relevant circumstances, she continued.

U Htay Aung from Orchid News Agency asked about action being taken against the falsification of household registration documents and national registration cards.The deputy minister responded that Myanmar was currently transitioning to the e-ID system, with more than 99 per cent of personal information already entered into the system. Around 15 million people had been issued e-ID numbers. She added that once the e-ID system was fully completed, document forgery would be significantly reduced.

Nan Pyae Zin Aung from Nikkei Shimbun asked whether policymakers had been informed about delays in factory operations, including those in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, caused by insufficient import licences for machinery and spare parts. She also asked what measures were being taken to address the issue.

An official from the Ministry of Commerce added that at present, applications for import permissions were being submitted to the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee after reviewing foreign currency earnings from exports and the country's foreign currency requirements.

U Htet Naing Zaw from BBC asked whether Myanmar accepted the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling. The deputy minister replied that, throughout the past seven years, Myanmar had fully complied with the Court's procedures and provisional measures without fail. She said the latest ruling was not unanimous among all 15 judges, as it had been adopted with nine votes in favour and six against. She described the decision as unfair. She added that the 186-page Court ruling and the 269-page opinions of the judges would first be examined and reviewed in detail. Only after that would Myanmar officially announce how it would proceed from the standpoint of a sovereign state.

An official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said that Myanmar had signed the Genocide Convention in good faith. Myanmar would study the differing opinions included in the ruling and determine its next steps based on the country's actual situation, national security, territorial integrity and the protection of its sovereignty.

Regarding ASEAN affairs, the deputy minister said Myanmar continued to maintain friendly relations with other member states as an ASEAN member. Bilateral relations with other countries were also progressing smoothly. However, she said questions remained as to whether the decisions of ASEAN Summits and the Five-Point Consensus genuinely represented the consensus of all member states. She added that Myanmar would review and make decisions on these matters on a case-by-case basis. — MNA/TTA/KTZH

DIPLOMACY

MALI Union Minister meets with BIMSTEC Secretary-General

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey at the Union Minister's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed cooperation activities under the BIMSTEC Cooperation Plan; the implementation of the Action Plan for Strengthening Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector and the Action Plan for Cooperation in the Fisheries and Livestock Sector; the possibility of holding a workshop for BIMSTEC member countries to share experiences in formulating and implementing national food security strategies and policies; Myanmar's plans to host the Fourth BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on Agriculture as the lead country; and ways to promote human resource development under BIMSTEC cooperation. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Min Naung receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey.

NATIONAL

Myanmar attends 8th China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo attended the 8th China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum held yesterday in Chongqing, China, at the invitation of the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre.



Deputy Minister Dr Htein Lin Oo speaks at the eighth China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum in Chongqing, China.

The forum saw officials from the Southwest University of Political Science and Law and the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre under the China Law Society, legal affairs ministers and deputy ministers from ASEAN member countries, Chinese legal experts and international students. The forum was held at HUALUXE Chongqing Science Hall, where Mr Wang Hongxiang, Secretary of the Leading Party Members Group of the China Law Society and its Executive Vice-President, delivered the opening remarks.

At the forum, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo said that a legal research unit had been established as part of legal cooperation between the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre and the Ministry of Legal Affairs to continue joint legal research activities.

He also stated that the two countries were working together to uphold the rule of law and that Myanmar was successfully combating transnational crimes, including online scams and online gambling.

He added that the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre and the Ministry of Legal Affairs would continue to strengthen their longstanding friendship through bilateral discussions and cooperation in legal analysis, review and practical implementation, as well as the dispatch of scholars and the provision of legal training courses.

In addition, the Myanmar delegation met cordially with a delegation led by China Law Society Executive Vice-President Mr Wang Hongxiang that afternoon. They exchanged views on legal cooperation between the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, as well as arrangements for sending scholars, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown continues demolition of scam hubs

AS the government has systematically carried out the demolition of illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko, where most online scams and gambling were operated, to prevent them from being used in online scams and gambling again, the dismantling of two five-storey buildings under mechanical demolition among those left for destruction in Shwe Kokko Phase II was completed, reaching 85 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, yesterday.

Based on their types, 63 buildings used in online scams and gambling in Shwe Kokko Phase II and left for destruction were scheduled for mechanical demolition, detonation and manual dismantling floor by floor due to proximity to residences, and demolition works were being carried out.

A total of 12 buildings, including four scheduled for detonation and eight for mechanical demolition, have been pulled down, and plans are underway to systematically demolish the remaining 51 illegal buildings.

In cooperation with neighbouring and regional countries, the government has taken measures to completely eradicate online scams and gambling, which have posed a threat to the global socioeconomic arena and national security. — 100/KZL

19 Members of 5 Armed Groups Return to Legal Fold with Arms and Ammunition

THE Government has been inviting individuals who are currently involved in armed opposition groups operating under various names, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. It has also been providing necessary assistance and support to those who respond to the invitation and return to the legal fold.

In this regard, a further 19 individuals, comprising seven men and one woman from the DPLA, four men from the KNDF, one man from the PNLO, one man from the DSNDA and five men from the PDF, have returned to the legal fold together with their weapons and ammunition.

A ceremony to formally hand over those who had returned to the legal fold with their weapons and ammunition to their parents and guardians was held at Thanlwin Hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters yesterday morning. Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe, Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Naing Oo, officials, members of the state government, officers and other ranks, departmental officials, the returnees and their parents and guardians, as well as invitees, attended the ceremony.

The Shan State chief minister and the commander delivered their respective opening remarks. The Shan State police chief then gave an explanation and awareness-raising remarks concerning legal matters.

The returnees who had re-entered the legal fold comprised one man from Taunggyi Township, three men and one woman from Yaksawk Township, two men from Pindaya Township, three men from Ywangan Township, two men from Loikaw Township and one man from Pekhon Township in southern Shan State; five men from Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region; and one man from Toungoo Township in Bago Region, making a total of 18 men and one woman.

They handed over the weapons and ammunition they had brought with them, comprising two pistols, one M-22 rifle, two hand grenades, eight improvised mines, two magazines and 21 rounds of assorted ammunition. The Commander received the weapons and ammunition.

Subsequently, the Shan State chief minister presented rewards and gifts to those who had returned to the legal fold together with their weapons and ammunition. The rewards included K4 million for the two pistols, K5 million for the one M-22 rifle, K600,000 for the two hand grenades, K2.4 million for the eight improvised mines and K1.9 million for the 19 individuals who had returned to the legal fold. The total amount of reward money presented was K13.9 million, along with gifts. On behalf of the returnees, one representative delivered a speech expressing gratitude.


A handover ceremony for returnees is underway in Taunggyi.

Afterwards, the returnees were required to sign pledges of commitment and were formally handed over to their parents and guardians. Following this, the region chief minister, the command commander and officials cordially greeted the returnees and their parents and guardians.

It has been learnt that the members of the DPLA, KNDF, PNLO, DSNDA and PDF groups who returned to the legal fold had been forcibly recruited under pressure and coercion, including through pressure exerted on their family members and relatives.

They could no longer accept the terrorist acts carried out by the terrorist groups for their own interests. Within those groups themselves, members were subjected to hierarchical discrimination, bullying, abuse and torture, and even killings by their fellow members. Rape and other acts of sexual violence were also committed. They had to endure harsh living conditions, including inadequate food and accommodation, and strenuous hardships. In addition, their morale had declined as they could no longer withstand the Tatmadaw's counter-terrorism operations.

Furthermore, they had come to believe in and accept the peace processes of the State and the Tatmadaw. They wished to abandon the armed struggle, live peacefully within the legal fold and once again contribute to the State and the public, who had suffered losses and damage as a result of their actions. For these reasons, they decided to give up the armed path and return to the legal fold, as they have done now, it has been learnt.

Those who return to the legal fold are being welcomed and accepted, provided with necessary assistance and support, and systematically handed over to their parents and guardians. It has also been learnt that there are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold.

Those wishing to return to the legal fold are urged to promptly contact and inform the nearest district or township administrative bodies, military outposts or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and appropriate rewards will be granted for the weapons and ammunition they hand over, it has been learnt. — 100/KZL

ECONOMY
WORLD

Lebanon's president says war losses in agriculture reach US$620 mln

The meeting focused on activating a four-party agricultural cooperation agreement signed in 2023 by Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, which has remained unimplemented.

LEBANESE President Joseph Aoun said Thursday that losses in Lebanon's agricultural sector due to the war had reached an estimated US$620 million, particularly in border areas.

"The recovery of this sector is not merely an economic matter but also an essential element in ensuring that the people of the South remain attached to their land and stay there," the Lebanese Presidency quoted Aoun as saying during a meeting with Arab agriculture chiefs and representatives of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



People shopping at Souk El Tayeb in Beirut, Lebanon, on 11 June 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ XINHUA/FILE**

The meeting focused on activating a four-party agricultural cooperation agreement signed in 2023 by Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, which has remained unimplemented. Lebanese Agriculture Minister Nizar Hani said the four countries would work on a clear action plan to strengthen agricultural research, exchange expertise, promote joint investments, and facilitate the movement of agricultural products across their borders.

Aoun called on the FAO to provide technical support, particularly in preparing an implementation plan for the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates to facilitate cross-border trade and reduce delays caused by paperwork. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan, Chile agree to deepen cooperation on critical mineral supply chains

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Friday she and Chilean President Jose Antonio Kast agreed during talks in Tokyo to deepen bilateral cooperation to strengthen critical mineral supply chains with the copper-rich country.

The agreement is part of Japan's diplomatic push to advance its relations with South American countries. In a separate meeting the same day, Takaichi and Peruvian President Keiko Fujimori confirmed that they will also seek to strengthen cooperation on supply chains. – Kyodo

Indian govt open to more funds for EV charging infrastructure

THE government is open to providing more funds for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure if the existing allocation is exhausted and further support is needed, Tarun Kapoor, adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said on Friday.

Kapoor was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' (SIAM) National EV Charging Day, where the industry body held its first Growth and Readiness for EV Infrastructure Dialogue (GRID). – ANI

Iran war bill reaches US$48.3 bln: Pentagon official

THE US war against Iran had cost US$48.3 billion as of 13 November, excluding the spending on repairing US military facilities damaged by Iranian strikes across the Middle East, a Pentagon official told lawmakers on Thursday.

Arthur Miller, a Pentagon budget official nominated to serve as the Navy's comptroller, disclosed the figure during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

The latest figure represents an increase of about 27 per cent from the $38 billion estimated by the Congressional Budget Office as of 1 August. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka tourist arrivals surpass 2 mln for 3rd straight year

SRI Lanka's foreign tourist arrivals surpassed two million on Friday, marking the third consecutive year the country has crossed the threshold, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism said.

Deputy Minister of Tourism Ruwan Ranasinghe told parliament that the continued growth of the tourism industry reflected international confidence in Sri Lanka despite global challenges, including the conflict in the Middle East, disruptions to international flight routes, higher aviation fuel prices and broader economic uncertainty.



Tourists gather along the breezy promenade of Colombo, Sri Lanka, to take in the sweeping coastal view of the Indian Ocean at sunset. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ XINHUA/FILE**

Average daily tourist arrivals between 10 November and 20 November reached 7,480, up from 7,130 during the corresponding period of 2025, representing an increase of about 4.9 per cent.

Ranasinghe said the launch of new international airline services, expansion of direct flight connections, entry into new tourism markets and stronger promotional activities had contributed to the growth. — Xinhua



A file picture shows shipping containers at the Israeli port of Haifa. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Israeli imports from China up 22.6% in Jan-Oct

ISRAEL'S imports of commodities from China rose 22.6 per cent year on year in the first ten months of 2026, reaching US$14.6 billion, according to figures published by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics on Thursday.

China remained Israel's largest source of imported goods in January-October, ahead of the United States and Germany.

In October alone, Israeli imports from China reached $1.39 billion, marking a 25.1 per cent increase compared with the same month last year. — Xinhua

US AI startup Anthropic floats shares on Nasdaq with record IPO



People watch a screen displaying the official Anthropic logo during the company's historic Nasdaq debut in New York, United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

US artificial intelligence (AI) startup Anthropic made its Nasdaq debut on Thursday, setting a new record of proceeds raised in an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO raised US$81.34 billion, with 980 million shares of Class A common stock priced at US$83 per share, above the marketed range of $70 to 78.

The size of Anthropic's IPO surpassed the previous record of $75 billion set by SpaceX in June.

The offering is expected to close on Friday and Anthropic has granted its underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 147 million shares, according to a company release on Wednesday.

Trading under the ticker symbol of "ANT", Anthropic shares opened at $111.5 per share around noon on Thursday before quickly retreating to around $100.

Founded in 2021, Anthropic is best known for its Claude series of AI models. The company reported revenue of 33.24 billion dollars in the first nine months of 2026, up approximately 1,200 per cent from the same period a year earlier.

However, Anthropic recorded a net loss of $104 billion in the first three quarters of 2026, compared with $25.1 billion in the same period of 2025. — Xinhua



A local jewellery shop. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PEXELS**

Vietnam's domestic gold prices fall to lowest level of year

VIETNAM'S domestic gold prices fell to their lowest level of the year on Friday morning, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

At 8:40 am local time, gold trading companies quoted buying and selling prices of 131.2 million Vietnamese dong (about US$5,046) and 134.2 million Vietnamese dong per tael, respectively. Both prices were down two million Vietnamese dong per tael from the previous day's close.

The selling price was down by about 57 million Vietnamese dong per tael from its 29 January peak of 191.3 million Vietnamese dong per tael, according to the report. — Xinhua

Turkish vessel begins oil and gas exploration off Pakistan

A Turkish seismic research vessel began surveys on Friday for oil and natural gas off Pakistan's coast under exploration deals between firms from the two countries signed last year.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar welcomed the arrival of the Oruc Reis, saying its survey would "deepen our understanding of the geological structures beneath the seabed and provide a stronger basis for Pakistan's future exploration".

Speaking at a ceremony welcoming the ship in the Pakistani port city of Karachi, Dar said that the economic activity would add "new strategic depth" between the two countries.

In a statement on social media Türkiye's Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said the countries "aim to begin drilling activities next year", if the mission proves successful. Just days before it was to host the COP31 UN Climate Change summit, Türkiye unveiled an ambitious energy roadmap to achieve self-sufficiency by 2040 by ramping up renewables while also pushing new oil and gas investments. — AFP

Singapore breaks ground on 2nd phase of Tuas Port, adding 21 berths

SINGAPORE broke ground on the second phase of Tuas Port on Friday, which will feature 21 berths with a water depth of 23 metres and 8.6 kilometres of wharf, port operator PSA Singapore said in a statement.

The expansion, the largest of the port's four development phases by wharf length, is designed to accommodate the world's largest container ships.

Operations are expected to begin progressively from 2028.

The expanded terminal will also feature automation and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, with nearly 1,000 autonomous, AI-enabled Intelligent Guided Vehicles expected to transport containers across the terminal once completed. — Xinhua

Malaysia's exports surge 61.1% in Oct to record high

MALAYSIA'S exports surged 61.1 per cent year on year to a record 239.20 billion ringgit (about US$58.14 billion) in October, registering the fastest growth since April 2021, official data showed on Friday.

Electrical and electronic products remained the main growth contributor, recording an all-time monthly high with an increase of 58.51 billion ringgit from October 2025, supported by sustained global semiconductor demand and the growing adoption of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry said in a statement.

Total trade also reached a historic high, expanding 58 per cent year on year to 436.61 billion ringgit. Imports rose 54.4 per cent to a record 197.41 billion ringgit, resulting in a trade surplus of 41.80 billion ringgit. — Xinhua

Apple faces French trial over alleged planned obsolescence of iPhones

APPLE will stand trial in Paris in June 2027 on suspicion of having organized the planned obsolescence of several iPhone models by preventing repairs outside official outlets, a source close to the case told AFP on Tuesday.

The case brought by French prosecutors against the US tech giant on charges of "obstructing repair and refurbishment" is a first, the campaign group Stop Planned Obsolescence said, welcoming the move after filing a complaint in December 2022. "We strongly contest these unfounded allegations," Apple said when contacted by AFP.

Planned obsolescence refers to techniques used by manufacturers to deliberately shorten the lifespan of their products, generally electronic devices, thereby encouraging consumers to replace them more frequently. — AFP

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Countries increasingly seek trade agreements with India, says Piyush Goyal

The country's existing trade agreements covered markets representing around US$70 trillion of global GDP.



A container terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva) in Mumbai, India. **PHOTO: ANI**

India is receiving growing requests from countries seeking free trade agreements (FTAs), with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal saying that international partners are increasingly looking to deepen trade ties with the country and expand their access to its market.

"Every place I go to, the first demand is, 'We want to do a free trade agreement with you'," Goyal said while addressing the valedictory session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention in New Delhi.

Referring to his recent visit to Egypt, Goyal said both countries had decided to ask their officials to examine the possibility of a preferential trade agreement (PTA) or an FTA and finalize the terms of reference.

"We've announced in Egypt also, our teams are going to sit and study the potential preferential trade agreement or free trade agreement and finalize terms of reference," he said.

Goyal said the interest was also evident in Italy, where businesses were looking forward to the signing and implementation of the India-European Union FTA. He said the growing network of trade agreements was creating opportunities for Indian businesses to access international markets.

Highlighting the expansion in India's preferential market access, the minister said the country's existing trade agreements covered markets representing around US$70 trillion of global GDP, compared with US$10 trillion before 2014.

"In the next year, year and a half, the engagements that we have with eight or nine other geographies, bilateral and multilateral, will add another 15 trillion of market for all of you to enjoy," he said.

Goyal added that India could eventually have preferential access to markets representing US$85 trillion, or 76 per cent of global GDP. — ANI



COP31 (the 2026 United Nations Climate Change Conference) is taking place from 9 to 20 November 2026 at the Antalya Expo Centre in Antalya, Türkiye. **PHOTO: AFP**

S Korea 'seriously' considering COP33 bid, minister says

SOUTH Korea is "seriously" considering a bid to host a high-stakes United Nations climate summit in 2028, the country's energy and environment minister Kim Sung-whan said Wednesday.

COP33 remains without a host but is expected to be a landmark gathering, with nearly 200 nations scheduled to review global progress towards cutting planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions.

Kim said South Korea, a manufacturing powerhouse heavily reliant on fossil fuels, was "deeply thinking" about bidding for the event after China and India dropped their interest.

"If there is a country that is willing to submit a bid, we will strongly support that country," Kim told a small group of reporters through a translator at the COP31 summit in Antalya, Turkey.

"But if not, Korea will seriously consider how we can fulfill our responsibility in tackling the climate crisis, and make a decision."

South Korea will already host the G20 and the UN Oceans Conference in 2028, meaning "internal discussions" were needed over whether it could take on a third major international event, he added. India withdrew its candidacy in April without providing a reason. China, which had been weighing a bid, also decided against, sources told AFP this week. — AFP

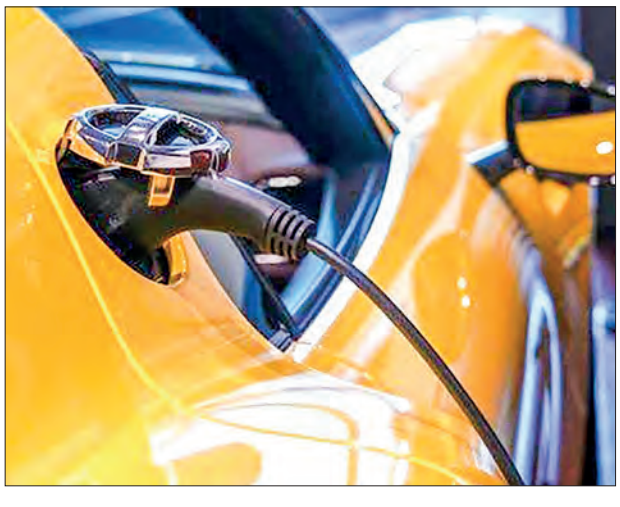
Malaysia eyes greater use of hydrogen technology for heavy vehicles

HYDROGEN technology could provide an alternative to diesel for heavy commercial vehicles, express buses and long-haul freight transport, supporting the government's efforts to decarbonize the country's transport sector, Malaysian Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang said on Thursday.

Hydrogen's high gravimetric energy density allows it to store a large amount of energy per kilogramme of fuel, making it particularly suitable for heavy-duty transport requiring longer operating ranges and optimal load capacity, he told the country's parliament.

"Hydrogen technology could complement electric vehicles (EVs) in efforts to decarbonize the country's transport sector, particularly in heavy-duty and long-distance transport, where longer operating ranges and shorter refueling times are crucial," he said, adding that feasibility studies are needed to assess domestic grey hydrogen supply, carbon intensity and environmental impact.

He noted that grey hydrogen represents a lower-cost alternative to green hydrogen and that hydrogen vehicles are meant to complement rather than replace battery-electric vehicles (BEVs). — Xinhua



Hydrogen's high gravimetric energy density allows it to store a large amount of energy per kilogramme of fuel. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PEXELS**

SPORTS

Yangon Chief Minister Cup 14-district cycling final held

THE Yangon Region Chief Minister Cup 14-district men's-women's cycling final and awarding ceremony was held on 19 November evening in Myanmar Cycling Federation's training track in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.

Altogether, 168 athletes participated in the event, which was organized from 17 to 19 November.



The cycling competition and awarding ceremony.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials attended the final match and awarding ceremony. Two athletes from the Mayangon District team, Moe Pyae Pyae Kyaw and Thwin Htoo Zaw, won the best athlete award in the men's and women's events. Officials presented medals, trophies and cash prizes to award winners in team or individual events.

The chief minister presented the trophy and cash prizes to the Mayangon District team, which is the biggest medal winner. — TWA/ZS

FIFA rejects Bilbao-San Sebastian joint-host proposal for 2030 World Cup

SPANISH Football Federation (RFEF) president Rafael Louzan said on Thursday that FIFA has rejected a proposal to combine Bilbao and San Sebastian into a single host city for the 2030 World Cup.

The Basque bid had sought to have Athletic Club's San Mames Stadium and Real Sociedad's Anoeta Stadium each host two matches during the tournament, which will be staged across Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with three opening matches in South America.

Following recent visits by FIFA inspectors to Spain, Louzan confirmed the joint-host proposal was not accepted. San Mames currently holds 53,331 spectators and is expected to expand to about 56,000 by 2030; Anoeta's capacity is projected to increase to around 42,247.

"A single host city with two stadiums was requested, and FIFA, at this moment, says no: there are two host cities in the Basque Country," said Louzan. — Xinhua

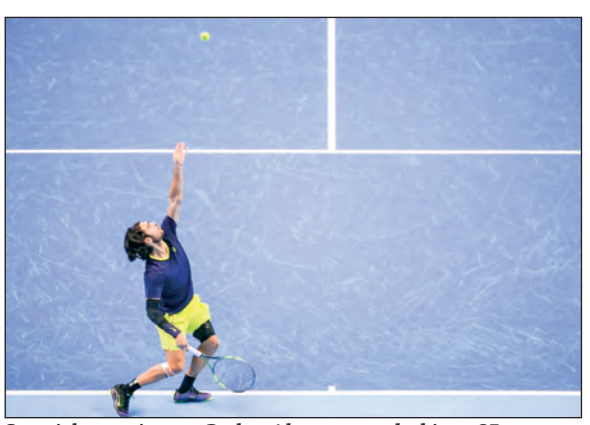
Alcaraz brushes off injury to down Cobolli at ATP Finals, sets up Shelton clash

CARLOS Alcaraz made light of any potential hamstring issues he may be facing as he eased to a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Flavio Cobolli in the ATP Finals on Friday, in the process booking a last-four meeting with Ben Shelton.

The third seed had an MRI scan on the thigh issue on Thursday but showed little sign that the heavy strapping on his left leg was hampering him as he needed just over an hour to dismiss the world number six in Turin.

With three victories from his three Ivan Lendl Group outings, Alcaraz has topped the pool and will face American Shelton on Saturday in a repeat of the Paris Masters final earlier in November.

Alcaraz beat Shelton 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 in the final in France to win the title for the first time, a measure of revenge on the American who had ended the Spaniard's US Open title defence earlier in the season.



Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz needed just 65 minutes to defeat Flavio Cobolli and reach the ATP Finals semifinals. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The challenge is not on the court now, it's outside the court," the 23-year-old Spaniard said.

"I will do everything to be in better shape, physically, to be ready tomorrow (Saturday). It's going to be a really important half of the day that I have ahead of me with my team, with my physio. — AFP

MBC unveils PBM 12 Championship Belt



The championship belt to be awarded at the Professional Boxing Matches 12 event.

THE Myanmar Boxing Commission (MBC) has officially unveiled the championship belt to be awarded at the upcoming Professional Boxing Matches 12 (PBM 12), which will be held under its supervision on Saturday, 12 December.

Designed with a green base, the championship belt will be presented to the boxers who fiercely compete for the title at the PBM 12 event.

The upcoming PBM 12 tournament represents a championship title bout for Myanmar's professional boxing scene. However, the MBC has not yet officially announced the participating boxers, weight classes, or specific match details. —TWA/ZN

Spurs boss De Zerbi urges 'good guy' Mudryk to make up for Arsenal claim

ROBERTO De Zerbi has challenged Mykhailo Mudryk to regain the support of angry Tottenham fans after the Ukraine winger's admission that joining Arsenal would have been his "dream" move.



Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mudryk angered Tottenham fans with his recent podcast comments claiming that joining rival Arsenal was his dream. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mudryk recently said he came close to joining Arsenal just prior to his transfer from Shakhtar Donetsk to Chelsea in 2023.

During an appearance on the 'Guest of Gordon' podcast, Mudryk described Premier League champions Arsenal as "the club I wanted to play for" and stated "moving to the Emirates Stadium was my dream".

The 25-year-old eventually made it to north London, but with Tottenham not Arsenal, when he left Stamford Bridge in a season-long loan deal in September.

Mudryk's desire to play for Tottenham's bitter rivals inevitably sparked a frustrated response from supporters. Tottenham boss De Zerbi admitted he could understand their anger and urged Mudryk to make amends on the pitch. — AFP

WORLD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
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Putin-Xi-Trump meeting pulls the world back from the brink of war

THE Putin-Xi-Trump meeting is of historic significance for international security because it brought together the three major powers, whose relations will determine whether the world faces war or peace, Dmitry Suslov, deputy director of research at the Russian Council on Foreign and Defence Policy, told Sputnik.

"The joint declaration indicates that the sides understand that their rivalries must not escalate into direct military confrontation, which would inevitably mean a new world war. That's why the trilateral meeting can rightly be called a peace summit because it has brought the world a step back from the brink of a global conflict."

The declaration's emphasis on preventing nuclear war, reducing nuclear risks and curbing proliferation is particularly important, as the policies and relations of the world's three leading nuclear powers will largely determine the future of the global non-proliferation regime, according to Suslov. — SPUTNIK

I-STEM launches REACH for industry access

THE Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM), an initiative supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, today officially launched REACH, an initiative designed to strengthen connections between industry and India's scientific, testing and research infrastructure.

Launched at an online stakeholder event, REACH aims to improve engagement between scientific facility providers and prospective users, including industry, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), startups, deep-tech enterprises and researchers.

The initiative seeks to help stakeholders access scientific facilities, specialized equipment and technical expertise while encouraging greater utilization of existing infrastructure. — ANI

Group of nations calls for fossil fuel exit in COP31 deal

EIGHT European and developing countries demanded Friday that a global call to "accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels" be restored to an agreement being negotiated at UN climate talks.

In an open letter published as the COP31 climate summit in Turkey headed for overtime, the group listed the transition away from oil, gas and coal among issues that should "be fully reflected" in the meeting's final decision. — AFP

Russia proposes a collective security organization for the Persian Gulf

If necessary, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council could be involved in ensuring security within the framework of this structure.



An aerial view shows the waters of the Persian Gulf. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Russia has updated its proposal on the creation of a collective security system in the Persian Gulf, which envisages the formation of an organization with the participation of Iran, the Arab Gulf states, and other countries of the region, Russian Ambassador to Türkiye Sergey Vershinin said.

"We have updated our proposal regarding our understanding of collective security in the Persian Gulf. Ultimately, this proposal envisages the creation of an organization with the participation of the Arab Gulf states, the countries of the region, and Iran," the diplomat said in an interview with the Hurriyet newspaper.

If necessary, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council could be involved in ensuring security within the framework of this structure, Vershinin added. Türkiye and Egypt could also participate in the process.

The ambassador called the creation of such a system an important step forward.

He identified the prevention of further attacks, especially on civilian infrastructure of both Iran and the Arab Gulf states, as a primary task. Vershinin emphasized Moscow's interest in restoring peace and stability in the region, which is of critical importance for the global economy, oil and gas production, and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

The diplomat also said that Russia has informed both the United States and Iran about its readiness to accept part of the spent nuclear fuel to remove concerns regarding its possible use for military purposes.

Moscow is convinced that Iran has the right to develop peaceful nuclear energy. — SPUTNIK

Mideast crisis 'largest threat' to energy security ever: IEA

THE crisis in the Middle East sparked in February by the US and Israeli bombing of Iran has created the "largest threat" to energy security in history, the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned Thursday.

The agency said in its flagship annual World Energy Outlook that consumers were increasingly footing the bill as the world runs out of ways to absorb the impact of the conflict on energy supplies.



The crisis over the Strait of Hormuz has created the biggest-ever threat to global energy security, the IEA warns. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The crisis, just like previous energy shocks, would certainly leave "lasting marks", the agency warned.

Gulf countries have been struggling to export oil since Iran began blockading the Strait of Hormuz and targeting tankers in the area, following US and Israeli strikes that sparked the crisis in February. — AFP