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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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This photo depicts the ASEAN AGMF and MGMAC alongside the participants.

## Myanmar attends ASEAN AGMF, MGMAC in Manila

ACCORDING to a statement from the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, a Myanmar delegation led by its Chairman and Mayor U Kan Myint Than attended the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC), held in Manila, the Philippines, on 18 and 19 November. Joining the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman and Yangon Mayor U Myo Myint Aung, along with other responsible officials.

During the forum, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor participated in a roundtable discussion under the theme "Digital Economy and Inclusive Growth". He discussed the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee's ongoing efforts to transition public services to digital platforms, initiatives underway to develop digital infrastructure, and measures to narrow the digital development gap among ASEAN capitals.— Htun Htun/ZN

# Reviving Myanmar's Timeless Puppetry Tradition



This photo depicts performances of Myanmar's puppetry art.

The Myanmar Puppetry Committee is working to develop traditional Myanmar puppetry art, preserve its traditional puppetry heritage, and foster cooperation with international organizations and domestic partner organizations, according to the committee.

In this regard, the programmes aimed at further strengthening Myanmar's puppetry-related activities and ensuring their sustainable implementation include plans for cooperation with the Japan Foundation, submission of a puppetry project proposal to the Goethe-Institut, joint implementation of programmes with CAN ARTT Film School, and the Myanmar Puppetry Committee's future activities and long-term development plans.

The Committee will continue to pursue important collaborative initiatives to preserve the traditions and cultural heritage of Myanmar's traditional puppetry art, promote its development in line with contemporary times, encourage the participation of younger generations, and further introduce and promote Myanmar's puppetry art on the international stage.

In implementing the programmes, the Myanmar Puppetry Committee will continue to cooperate with relevant organizations, artists and all interested parties to ensure the sustainable development of Myanmar's puppetry art, document and preserve its artistic heritage, and pass it on to future generations. — ASH/TTA

## Yangon opens 2026 Tazaungdine MSME Fair

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The opening ceremony of the 2026 Tazaungdine MSME Fair in Yangon Region.

## Taunggyi Brews Up for Myanmar Coffee Festival 2026

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This image displays a poster for the Myanmar Coffee Festival 2026.

## SUNDAY EDITION

ARTICLE PAGE 7



Overcoming the Challenges Arising from the ICJ Judgement through National Unity



# NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General U Zaw Zaw Htaik of the Meeting and Committee Department of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office as Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## Motto of 106th National Victory Day

### Strive together for national prosperity

10th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1388 ME
4 December 2026

### Objectives for 106th National Victory Day

10th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1388ME
4 December 2026

- To establish a peaceful, prosperous and modern nation through the unity of all ethnic people
- To preserve and protect the national dignity, integrity, cultural heritage and characteristics
- To put special emphasis on the development of human resources and modern technology sectors of the State
- To nurture young people's capabilities, creativity and leadership qualities, enabling them to serve as a key driving force in the nation's future development.

## MSME Development and Protection Law enacted

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development and Protection Law as the 2026 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 8 on 20 November.

This law states provisions under Titles and Definitions in Chapter I, Objectives in Chapter II, Basic Principles in Chapter III, Formation of the Central Committee and Its Duties in Chapter IV, Formation of the Working Committee and Its Duties in Chapter V, Formation of the Agency and Regional Agencies and Their Duties in Chapter VI, Formation of the Fund Management Body and Its Duties in Chapter VII, Formation of the Business Review and Reporting Body and Its Duties in Chapter VIII, Formation of the One-Stop Service Body and Its Duties in Chapter IX, Collection, Maintenance and Publication of Information in Chapter X, Provision of Support for Human Resource Development in Chapter in XI, Conducting Research Activities and Transferring Technology in Chapter XII, Identifying and Establishing Links with Domestic and International Markets in Chapter XIII, Coordination of Taxation Matters in Chapter XIV, Support for the Development of Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Education and Skills in Chapter XV, Support for Start-up Businesses to Commence Operations in Chapter XVI, Role of Business Associations in Chapter XVII, Duties and Rights of Business Operators in Chapter XVIII, Registration in Chapter XIX and Miscellaneous in Chapter XX.

The law was signed by President U Min Aung Hlaing in accord with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. — GNLM/TTA

## Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision

21 November 2026

MYANMAR takes note of the issuance of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Statement at the 49th ASEAN Summit, held in Manila, the Philippines, on 15 November 2026. While Myanmar acknowledges some references in the said statement welcoming and recognizing positive developments in the country, it observes that the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision, as well as the suggestions and recommendations contained therein, do not adequately reflect the positive measures undertaken by the ASEAN Member State concerned; therefore, Myanmar considers the statement and recommendations to be unfair and imbalanced.

Although ASEAN has yet to reach a consensus, Myanmar continues to engage bilaterally with individual ASEAN Member States. Myanmar expresses its appreciation to those ASEAN Member States that have extended their support and assistance in recognition of the positive developments in the country.

Concerning the suggestions and recommendations put forward by ASEAN Member States, Myanmar has continued to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in the spirit of the ASEAN family, while safeguarding its national interests and sovereignty, as well as taking into account the prevailing circumstances on the ground, as the Five-Point Roadmap adopted under the former State Administration Council was closely aligned with ASEAN's Five-Point Statement.

Furthermore, with a view to enhancing relations with ASEAN, the ASEAN Affairs Committee has been established by the Office of the President on 29 September 2026. Subsequently, on 14 October 2026, Myanmar circulated information to ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat on its continued efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Five-Point Statement, in accordance with its own roadmaps and national objectives.

Internal conflicts have persisted in Myanmar for over 70 years, dating back to the country's independence in 1948. Successive governments have pursued various approaches to bringing an end to the armed conflicts throughout the country. Similarly, the current Government has intensified its efforts to achieve

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## Announcement of Measures Against Forcible Conscription and Unauthorized Collection of Funds During Conscription Process

TO enhance national defence capabilities and ensure national security and stability, the Public Military Service Law and Rules have been enacted, and eligible male citizens are being summoned for military service.

The conscription process is being systematically supervised by the Central Committee on Public Military Service Conscription and the relevant Region, State, District, and Township-level conscription committees under existing laws and rules. However, some individuals scheduled to serve as public military service personnel have attempted to evade their national duty by fleeing to other communities, departing abroad, or hiring paid substitutes to serve in their place.

Exploiting the fact that conscription committees are monitoring and summoning those who evade service under various pretexts, unscrupulous individuals in certain towns and villages have impersonated officials to forcibly detain individuals, extort money, and unlawfully enlist them as public military service personnel. At the same time, certain ward and village administrators have been collecting monthly payments under the pretext of supporting public military service personnel from their respective wards and villages, as well as illegally collecting funds to pay for substitutes on behalf of those evading service.

These forcible detentions and unauthorized collections of funds constitute unlawful acts committed by unscrupulous individuals in violation of the Public Military Service Law and Rules. Accordingly, the Central Committee on Public Military Service Conscription and the Ministry of Home Affairs are treating the matter with utmost priority, conducting thorough investigations, and taking legal action.

Through ongoing investigations and enforcement actions by the Ministry of Home Affairs against these perpetrators, action had been taken in a total of 71 cases involving 199 offenders as of 31 October 2026. These comprise 49 financial extortion cases involving 102 offenders and 22 forcible conscription cases involving 97 offenders. In addition, regarding complaints submitted to the Central Committee for Public Military Service Conscription, out of 182 financial extortion complaints, action has been completed in 91 cases, 56 remain under investigation, and 35 were found to be false allegations; out of 43 forcible conscription complaints, action has been completed in 17 cases, 14 remain under investigation, and 12 were found to be false allegations, with effective legal action taken in accordance with the law.

The Central Committee on Public Military Service Conscription is working diligently to ensure that the conscription process is implemented systematically by the multi-tiered conscription committees in compliance with the law and rules. In coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Central Committee will continue to effectively identify and prosecute offenders to reduce and eradicate the forcible conscription of travellers, nighttime arrests, paid substitution in conscription, and the unauthorized collection of funds in wards and villages.

Members of the public are hereby informed that they may report any such incidents by calling the hotline numbers listed in daily newspapers for their respective Regions and States.

**Central Committee on Public Military Service Conscription**
**Ministry of Defence**

# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw families hold communal Kathina offering ceremony 2026



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo views Kathina Trees at yesterday's event.

THE 2026 communal Kathina ceremony of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) took place at Anawrahta Hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday morning, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife Daw Nilar, who donated Kathina robes and offertories.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and his wife, together with dignitaries, viewed round Kathina robes, offertories and donation structures displayed for monasteries. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services paid homage to the Buddha Image in Anawrahta Hall with alms in the alms-bowl, flowers, water, oil lights and fruits.

The congregation took the Nine Precepts from Presiding Patron of Thiri Mingala Wegyi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre in Pobbathiri Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Sayadaw Bhaddanta Adiccavamsa of Pobbathiri Township.

The congregation listened to the Metta Sutta recited by the venerable Sayadaws. The General and his wife offered Kathina robes and offertories to Thiri Mingala Wegyi Sayadaw, as well as Kathina robes and alms to the Zeyathiri Township's Yezin KanU Monastery Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Vilasa.

Afterwards, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), together with his wife, offered Kathina robes and offertories to Aungsitha Monastery Sayadaw of Pobbathiri Township Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vicakkhana of Pobbathiri Township.

Subsequently, Union Ministers and their wives, as well as senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, individually offered Kathina robes and donations to members of the Sangha.

The General and his wife, together with the congregation, listened to the Kathina question-and-answer session staged by Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka Committee Pyinmana Pali Tekkatho Mingala Zeyon Monastery Sayadaw Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kittasara and member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Pyinmana Maha Dhammikayama Ohntaw Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Tissa.

The congregation listened to the sermon delivered by Aungsitha Sayadaw and shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence and his wife and congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha led by Thiri Mingala Wegyi Sayadaw. Also present at the ceremony were 16 members of the Sangha, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, Union ministers and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, officers and other ranks.

On 19 November, the donation structures of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) were conveyed to Upatasanti Pagoda from Anawrahta Hall in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) by car.

At the ceremony, a total of 88 donation structures, including one sent by President U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, were offered. The donations comprised goods valued at K219,972,370 and cash amounting to K118,617,185, bringing the total value to K338,589,555. The donations were subsequently transported by vehicles arranged by the respective offices and departments and presented to the respective monasteries. — MNA/TTA

## Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union ...

FROM PAGE 2

lasting peace within the framework of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and has consistently extended invitations to all relevant stakeholders to engage in peace dialogue.

Since February 2021, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) has held a total of 180 meetings and discussions, comprising 109 meetings with Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) that are signatories to the NCA, 33 meetings with non-signatory EAOs, 22 meetings with political parties, 13 meetings with peace facilitation organisations, one Peace Dialogue and two Peace Forums. Similarly, the Government has repeatedly extended invitations to members of terrorist organisations to return to the legal fold. From February 2021 to October 2026, a total of 5,871 members of EAOs and the so-called People's Defence Force (PDF) and other illegal and terrorist organizations returned to the legal fold, while others have continued to make contact with a view to doing so.

Under the present elected Government, NSPNC has also been reconstituted with a view to achieving eternal peace. The Government continues to extend invitations to relevant stakeholders to engage in dialogue without preconditions under the framework of NCA. In this regard, a total of 38 meetings and discussions have been held with NCA-signatory EAOs, non-signatory EAOs, and peace-related partner organizations.

In Myanmar, individuals are serving sentences in accordance with existing laws, but there are no political prisoners. In the interests of nation-building and on humanitarian grounds, pardons and amnesties have been granted since February 2021 to a total of 5,444 individuals charged under Sections 50(j) and 52(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Law, 7,894 individuals charged under Sections 505(a) and 505(b) of the Penal Code, and 126,964 local and foreign prisoners.

The Government of Myanmar has the responsibility to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State, as well as to protect the lives and property of its people. Accordingly, the Government has undertaken only those responsive measures deemed necessary to fulfil these responsibilities. In doing so, the Government has exercised utmost restraint and employed the minimum force necessary, in accordance with domestic laws and the applicable Rules of Engagement (ROE).

With regard to the provision of humanitarian assistance, Myanmar has been cooperating closely with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). Over the past five years, humanitarian assistance amounting to more than US$30.125 million has been provided to Myanmar through the AHA Centre.

In addition to the humanitarian assistance provided by ASEAN, the Government of Myanmar has allocated approximately US$37.382 million for Cyclone Mocha, US$50.720 million for Typhoon Yagi, US$1,639.463 million for the Mandalay earthquake, US$2.476 million for those affected by incidents of terrorism and US$68.742 million from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund to support temporarily displaced persons during the period from January to December 2025, amounting to a total of US$1.8 billion for the benefit of the people of Myanmar. Myanmar will continue to cooperate with the AHA Centre in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to areas where access can be permitted, subject to the prevailing security conditions.

However, it is regrettable that the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter – particularly those of respect for sovereignty, equality, non-interference and decision-making by consensus – have not been consistently upheld in a rules-based ASEAN's engagement with Myanmar. In addition, Myanmar's views, suggestions and position have, on numerous occasions, been disregarded, while its equal rights and full representation as an ASEAN Member State have been denied. Such practices run counter to the principles of inclusivity, equality, mutual respect and consensus-based decision-making that underpin the ASEAN Community and raise serious concerns regarding the consistent application of the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN's established norms and practices.

With regard to the participation of ASEAN Member States in ASEAN Summits, such participation is determined by the respective Member State in accordance with Article 7 of Chapter IV of the ASEAN Charter. Myanmar views that such discriminatory treatment is inconsistent with the provisions of the ASEAN Charter and constitutes a departure from ASEAN's established practices and precedents.

Myanmar sincerely hopes that the fundamental principles of respect for sovereignty, equality, inclusivity and consensus-based decision-making enshrined in the ASEAN Charter will be consistently upheld. However, should these fundamental principles not be consistently upheld by ASEAN, Myanmar would likewise find it difficult to respect and abide by them, in order to safeguard the dignity of the State and uphold the collective will of its people.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs,**
**21 November 2026**

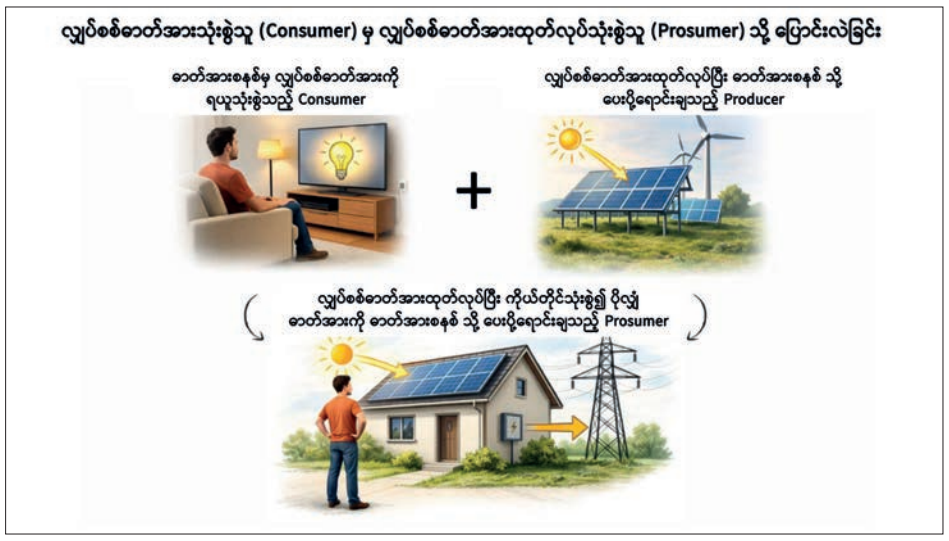
# NATIONAL

## Invitation to Join Rooftop Solar Power Generation and Sales Programme

21 November 2026

1. As the government is actively promoting the expansion of solar power generation in the electricity sector through various measures, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is implementing a programme to install solar panels on building rooftops to generate and sell electricity ahead of the coming summer.
2. To ensure the safe installation and operation of solar power systems and related equipment with a capacity of 100 kilowatts or more, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy issued the **Standard Specifications for the Installation and Use of Solar Panels and Related Equipment** on 11 November 2026.
3. At a meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 November 2026, between officials from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and local entrepreneurs, the ministry also invited local businesses to invest in rooftop solar projects.
4. To ensure that rooftop solar projects are implemented systematically in compliance with technical specifications, prevent building hazards caused by overheating of installed solar panels, and relieve building owners of the financial burden of capital investment, the following measures are being undertaken:
   (a) Private companies with technical expertise and sufficient investment capacity are required to take full responsibility for installing and maintaining solar systems, as well as generating and selling electricity using their own capital. Companies wishing to undertake these activities are being registered with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, with eligible enterprises receiving approval within a short timeframe.
   (b) The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is entering into long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with these companies to purchase the electricity they generate.
   (c) Reductions in electricity tariffs are also being offered to building owners who have rooftop solar systems installed.
5. **In the first phase,** rooftop solar installations are being initiated on state-owned buildings, including offices, schools, hospitals and markets, as well as commercial and industrial buildings in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.
6. **In the second phase,** arrangements will continue to be made to extend rooftop solar installations to residential buildings.
7. Through these initiatives, members of the public will undergo a transition from being mere electricity consumers to becoming prosumers who both produce and consume electricity.
8. Therefore, to accelerate the nationwide expansion of rooftop solar projects, local entrepreneurs are invited to increase their investments in such initiatives, while members of the public are encouraged to cooperate.

**Ministry of Electricity and Energy**




# 40 judicial trainees despatched to National Judicial Academy, India



A delegation of judges and judicial officers from the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar seen at Yangon International Airport yesterday before departing for India.

THE Myanmar delegation consists of 40 trainees, including the Head of the State Judicial Office, deputy directors, assistant directors and staff officers from the Supreme Court of the Union and judges and judicial officers from District Courts and Township Courts departed the Yangon International Airport yesterday to attend the "The 10th Training Programme for Judges of ITEC Partner Countries (Myanmar)". The programme will be conducted from 23 to 27 November 2026 at the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

During the training programme, the participants will have the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects, including the Constitution of India, the Indian judicial system, judicial ethics, judgement writing, court management, the law of evidence, forensic science in civil and criminal trials, the role of the judiciary in environmental and wildlife protection, alternative dispute resolution, criminal justice administration, cybercrime, and artificial intelligence and judicial governance. In addition to the training sessions, the participants will have the opportunity to undertake study visits to courts in Bhopal and visit cultural and historical sites, including the Cultural Museum, the Tribal Museum and the Boat Club in Bhopal, as well as the Great Stupa at Sanchi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Sanchi, India.

This training programme has been conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (2018) between Office of the Union Chief Justice and India National Judicial Academy for capacity development of Myanmar judges and judicial officers. Total 400 judges and judicial officers including trainees of this training programme have been sent to attend the training at National Judicial Academy in India. — Supreme Court of the Union

# Falam Schools Hold Cleanup Drive

DEPUTY Minister for Border Affairs 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 and encouraged collective cleaning activities at Basic Education High School No 1 in Falam yesterday morning.

During the visit to the school in Phahtauk Ward, Falam, the deputy minister instructed officials to ensure the systematic preservation of unused classrooms, school supplies and salvaged materials. The delegation then inspected shops opened by residents who had returned to their homes and enquired about the availability of goods, livelihoods and economic conditions, while offering words of encouragement.

Six months after departmental staff and local communities returned to Falam, noticeable improvements have been made in their social and economic conditions, and agricultural activities have resumed. In view of this progress, the deputy minister coordinated with relevant departments to draw up plans to increase local incomes through agricultural production and ensure the availability of high-quality seeds and crop varieties.

In the afternoon, the delegation inspected the completed renovation of the office building of the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction and its three-storey staff housing building. They also coordinated with officials and gave instructions to ensure proper accommodation arrangements for staff families.

The delegation also inspected the completed renovation of the office building of the Assistant Director (Civil) of the Department of Rural Road Development. — IPRD/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Press Council strongly condemns ICJ ruling

THE International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered its final judgement on 19 November 2026 in the case brought by The Gambia against Myanmar, alleging that genocide had occurred in northern Rakhine State. In its ruling, the ICJ determined that acts of genocide had taken place.

Concerning this case, Myanmar maintains that it did not commit genocide. The actions taken by Myanmar were military operations in response to terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), whose members violated Myanmar's sovereignty and threatened local communities and ethnic communities in Myanmar during the conflict. It has already been clearly argued and substantiated with facts, evidence and records that towns and villages were destroyed and local communities and Bengalis were forced to flee their homes as a result of threats, attacks, destruction, killings and acts of terrorism committed by ARSA terrorists.

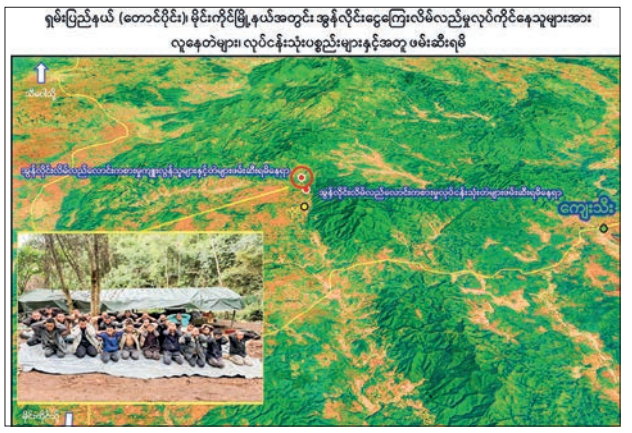
Myanmar has merely been subjected to unjust accusations in this case. Even before the final judgement was delivered, Myanmar had strictly complied with the provisional measures ordered by the Court, in accordance with international norms. However, the 15 ICJ judges did not reach a unanimous decision when delivering the final judgment. Only nine judges voted in favour of the ruling, while six disagreed and voted against it. This demonstrates that the ruling lacks fairness and justice, as it was not unanimous.

Therefore, as a sovereign nation, Myanmar will resolve its internal affairs through the unity and resilience of its people, in the interests of the country and to uphold its dignity. As the final judgement delivered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Myanmar in this case is considered entirely unjust, the Myanmar Press Council hereby issues this statement to object to and condemn the ruling strongly.

**Myanmar Press Council**

## 25 online scammers arrested alongside related equipment in Mongkai

THE Government is taking vigorous measures to eliminate online scams and online gambling activities, which pose threats to the global socioeconomic environment and national security. In particular, effective efforts are being made to detect and combat such activities operating from remote border areas, while those committing such offences within the country are also being arrested and prosecuted severely. In doing so, Tatmadaw columns have successfully arrested 25 online scammers based in hiding in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South), along with their operational equipment.



This map, including an inset, shows the crackdown location and detained telecom frausters along with seized scam-related materials.

Acting on information provided by responsible residents that online scammers had constructed temporary residential huts and were operating from concealed locations in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South), Tatmadaw columns taking area security measures systematically gathered and verified intelligence, identified the locations, and carried out intensive area security operations.

Yesterday morning, upon reaching a location approximately 2,700 metres north of Lonsam Village in Mongkai Township, temporary huts used for online financial fraud were discovered. A subsequent search of the surrounding area led to the arrest of 25 Chinese nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar and were engaged in online scam activities at a location approximately 1,300 metres northwest of the site. They were arrested along with one temporary residential hut with 40 feet in length and 30 feet in width, one more residential hut with 30 feet in length and 15 feet in width, another residential hut with 50 feet in length and 30 feet in width, one temporary kitchen with 40 feet in length and 20 feet in width, two all-in-one computers, 39 assorted mobile phones, two Starlink devices, two power stations, two gas stoves, two Internet signal boosters and one router.

Those online scammers reportedly illegally entered Myanmar from China's Yunnan Province through the Myanmar-China border and arrived in Pangsang, Myanmar. From there, they travelled along the Wamhai-Kehsi-Panpo-Hamngai route to an area near Lonsam Village in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South). They reportedly began conducting online financial fraud operations around the first week of November 2026. They stated that they were promised a monthly salary of approximately 6,500 Chinese yuan but had not yet received any salary, as they had been working for only about 15 days. Using computers and mobile phones, they primarily targeted wealthy Chinese nationals through social media applications such as WeChat, Momo and QQ. They reportedly built relationships with their targets and deceived and persuaded them to participate in joint business ventures. Once the targets agreed to cooperate and transferred investment funds, the perpetrators cut off all contact with them. They also reportedly committed financial fraud by creating fake online websites for online shopping businesses and setting up counterfeit accounts impersonating successful and famous individuals.

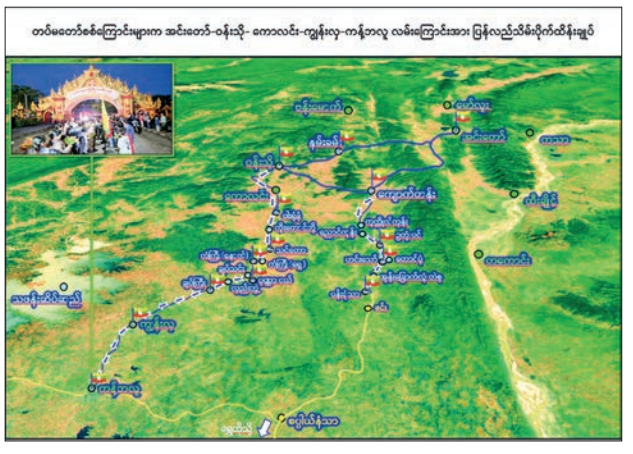
Upon completion of the investigations into the individuals arrested for online scams and online gambling activities, effective and severe legal action will be taken against them in accordance with the existing laws. The equipment seized will also be dealt with in accordance with established procedures. Furthermore, the illegally constructed residential huts and operational huts will be systematically dismantled and destroyed. Efforts to eliminate online scams and online gambling-related fraud are continuing actively and without interruption, with particular emphasis on eradicating these activities at their roots. – 100/TTA

## Tatmadaw reopens Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin-Kyunhla-Kanbalu route

TATMADAW columns have been courageously pursuing and driving out armed terrorists who have been taking temporary control of key communication routes in Sagaing Region and carrying out acts of sabotage. The terrorists have been hiding and operating in areas surrounding two major routes: the Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin-Kyunhla-Kanbalu route and the Indaw-Kyauktan-Sabei Natha route. As such, Tatmadaw columns have successfully regained control of and reopened the Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin-Kyunhla-Kanbalu route.

The CRPH, NUG and their affiliated PDF terrorist groups have temporarily taken control of some towns, villages and transport routes and are committing acts of terrorism in various ways. In response, Tatmadaw columns are vigorously conducting Counter-Terrorism Operations to swiftly retake and regain control of the towns, villages and communication routes temporarily occupied by the terrorist insurgents, restore regional stability and peace, promote local development, and rapidly improve the socioeconomic livelihoods of local communities.

In this regard, efforts are being made to regain control of and reopen the major communication routes in Sagaing Region that have been temporarily occupied by terrorist groups and used for carrying out acts of sabotage. These include the Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin-Kyunhla-Kanbalu route and the Indaw-Kyauktan-Sabei Natha route. As of 15 November, the areas along these routes had been gradually retaken and brought back under control, extending up to Thintaw and Utonbin villages.



Map reveals Tatmadaw columns reopening the Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin-Kyunhla-Kanbalu route in Sagaing Region.

In conducting the security operations in the areas, Tatmadaw columns reoccupied east Kangyi Village and west Kangyi Village on 16 November, Chatthin and Ponnange villages, Taungpon and Hinthaw villages on 17 November, Hlebwe and Ohnchauklon Tesu villages on 18 November, and Chatgyi and Pankhontha villages on 19 November. On 20 November, the Tatmadaw columns reached Kanbalu via Kyunhla and took control of the Indaw-Wuntho-Kawlin-Kyunhla-Kanbalu route. Now, those columns are making concerted efforts to totally occupy the Indaw-Kyauktan-Sabei Natha route.

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# NATIONAL

## Mayangon Scam Crackdown Nets 105 Suspects

THE Government is treating the prevention, detection and suppression of online scams and online gambling, which pose a serious threat to the socioeconomic well-being of the people, as a national responsibility and is taking effective measures to combat these offences.



Yesterday, a further 105 people suspected of involvement in online financial scams were arrested, together with equipment used in their operations, in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

Acting on a tip-off that online financial scams were being operated in Mayangon Township, joint security forces raided a house at 19-A, Masoeyein Monastery Road, Ward 5, at around 11 pm on 20 November. They arrested 105 people, comprising 25 Chinese men and eight Chinese women, including a Chinese national named Zhang Yutong, two Thai women, and 46 Myanmar men and 24 Myanmar women. They also seized 69 computers, 23 mobile phones of various types and five Wi-Fi devices.

The joint security teams continued their investigations and searches in the same ward. At 43/1, Masoeyein Monastery Road, Ward 5, they

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Images top and above show arrested scam suspects and seized scam-related items.

## Demolition of scam hubs continues in Shwe Kokko Phase II

TO prevent the recurrence of online scam and gambling operations in illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area, where such activities were most heavily concentrated, the government has been systematically demolishing these structures. Among the remaining illegal buildings slated for demolition in Phase II, one five-storey building was completely demolished using heavy machinery yesterday, bringing the total number of demolished buildings to 13. Another five-storey building has so far been 30 per cent demolished, according to reports.



This image reveals the systematic dismantling of a scam-related building.

In Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, the 63 remaining buildings previously used for online scam and gambling operations have been divided into three categories for systematic demolition: structures to be demolished using heavy machinery, those to be brought down

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## Tatmadaw reopens Indaw ...

FROM PAGE 5

The victorious Tatmadaw columns, which had courageously fought against and defeated the terrorists and performed their duties with outstanding dedication, were warmly and enthusiastically welcomed back by monks and local ethnic residents in Kyunhla and Kanbalu. The welcoming crowds expressed their joy and appreciation by presenting victory sprigs of auspicious eugenia and congratulatory floral garlands, as well as performing traditional music and dances.

In making utmost efforts to reopen the communication routes, Tatmadaw columns seized 25 bodies of terrorists, 25 assorted arms, ammunition and related accessories, trenches, bunkers, residential huts, explosive devices, other utensils, and 236 assorted landmines made of empty barrels planted on main communication routes and roads between rural roads and buildings. During the period, Tatmadaw columns combatted combined terrorist groups in 50 minor and major clashes from 5 October to date.

The terrorist insurgents had planted various types and sizes of landmines along major communication roads used by the public and roads connecting villages, as well as around residents' homes and along village roads, with the intention of causing harm to the public, spreading fear and undermining local socioeconomic conditions. Despite various constraints, mine-clearance operations were carefully and systematically carried out over an extended period to detect and remove the mines, ensuring the safety and security of local communities and travellers.

Furthermore, repairs to residential buildings and houses, roads and bridges, and departmental buildings damaged and destroyed by acts of terrorism, together with necessary rehabilitation and area security operations, will continue to be accelerated with the active cooperation and assistance of local communities.

The PDF terrorist groups, having been misled and incited by the NUG and CRPH, are engaging in acts of terrorism such as these, which are significantly hindering the socioeconomic development and progress of local communities. Therefore, those who genuinely wish to contribute to the interests of the State and their respective regions should contact the nearest security outposts and return to the legal fold as soon as possible. The Government and Tatmadaw are providing necessary assistance and support to those who return to the legal fold and systematically handing them over to their parents or guardians. — 100/TTA

## Low-Pressure Area News, No 13, 2026

Issued at 7 am MST on 21 November 2026

**Low-Pressure Area Condition**

According to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, the Deep Depression has crossed Odisha, India, moved northwards and weakened into a Low-Pressure Area over Odisha. This is the last news for Severe Cyclonic Storm "AKVAN". — DMH

### EARTHQUAKE

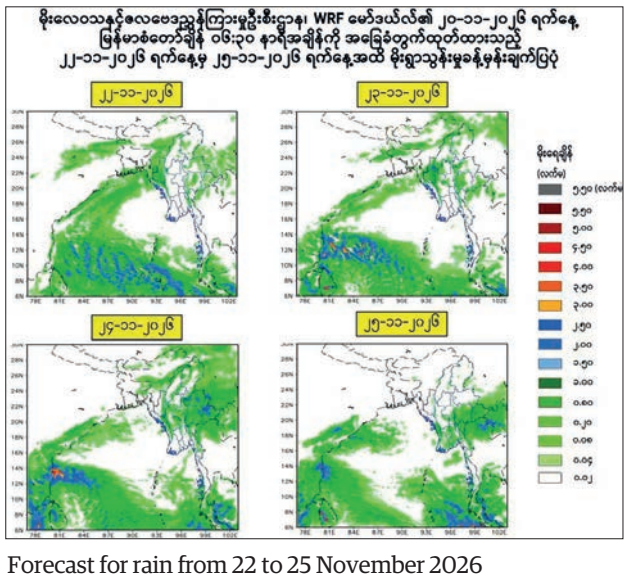
A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.2 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 26 miles west-northwest of Nawnghkio), latitude 22.45°N, longitude 96.41°E, depth 10 kilometres, about 57 miles west-southwest of the Hsipaw Seismological Observatory was recorded at 6 hours, 53 minutes, and 29 seconds MST on 21 November 2026. — DMH

## Rainy days ahead for several regions and states

BETWEEN 22 and 25 November, rain is possible in some regions and states due to the collision of cold air and warm air, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The atmospheric instability in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, and the meeting of warm air from the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal with cold air from mainland China, will lead to rain ranging from scattered to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan states, over the period from 22 to 25 November.

Squalls will be widespread in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states, as well as heavy rain isolated in Shan State, it said. Along the coastal area, it will be thunderstorms with high waves from seven to nine feet and wind speed is 25-30 miles per hour. — TWA/ZS




Forecast for rain from 22 to 25 November 2026

# ARTICLE

# Overcoming the Challenges Arising from the ICJ Judgement through National Unity

By Min Khant

A superficial look at the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the genocide case, which has been a matter of intense public interest in Myanmar, might lead many to believe that The Gambia secured an outright victory and Myanmar suffered a defeat.

However, an in-depth analysis of the case revealed that it may be true that while Myanmar did face setbacks on several points, the outcome is nowhere near an insurmountable defeat. In fact, some aspects of the ruling work in Myanmar's favour.




By appearing before the court, Myanmar's counter-arguments and substantial evidence have now been officially entered into the international legal database. Without this defence, the international community would have accepted The Gambia's allegations as true facts. In this respect, Myanmar secured a gain amid unfavourable findings.

**Believing in the integrity of the ICJ, Myanmar chose to engage with the court in good faith to contest The Gambia's lawsuit. Throughout the seven-year legal proceeding, Myanmar responsibly complied with the court's orders and directives. The Myanmar legal team presented solid legal arguments and evidence proving that there was no genocidal intent, explaining instead that security operations were conducted strictly as counter-terrorism measures against the atrocities committed by the ARSA terrorist group. Had Myanmar chosen not to appear before the ICJ, the court would have undoubtedly issued a far harsher, unilateral ruling with a unanimous 15-0 vote.**

By appearing before the court, Myanmar's counter-arguments and substantial evidence have now been officially entered into the international legal database. Without this defence, the international community would have accepted The Gambia's allegations as true facts. In this respect, Myanmar secured a gain amid unfavourable findings.

The ICJ made 13 operative determinations, on which the 15-judge panel voted individually. Regarding the court's Determinations 1 and 2, the court ruled against Myanmar by a narrow margin of 9-6, finding that genocide was committed and that Myanmar failed to prevent it.

**It is observed that the Court accepted unverified eyewitness testimonies, inflated casualty figures and exaggerated accounts, despite the lack of strong evidence from the Gambia side. The narrow 9-6 vote indicates that Myanmar's legal defence was effective. However, it is found that a majority of judges lowered the high standard of proof traditionally required in such grave cases for various reasons. Notably, the six judges who voted against issued a joint declaration strongly criticizing the Court for departing from established legal standards.**

Regarding the court's Determination 3 (Incitement to Genocide), Myanmar secured a decisive 14-1 victory, since the court found that Myanmar did not incite genocide against the Bengalis through hate speech.

The court voted 11-4 on Determination 4 (Punishment of Perpetrators) that Myanmar failed to punish civilian perpetrators. Crucially, however, the ruling stipulates that Myanmar itself must establish an independent tribunal to investigate and prosecute these individuals. Unlike previous international cases where suspects were referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or similar international tribunals, the ICJ did not refer this matter to the ICC, which should be seen as a major positive outcome for Myanmar.

Regarding Determination 5 (Domestic Legislation), the court ruled 14-1 that Myanmar lacked adequate domestic laws to prevent genocide. While Myanmar had previously amended its Penal Code regarding homicide, the court deemed it insufficient. This issue can be readily resolved by enacting specific domestic legislation aimed at preventing genocide.

Regarding Determination 6 (Cessation of Violations), the court voted 14-1 ordering the cessation of any genocidal acts. Myanmar is already in full compliance with this directive, as Provisional Measure Order (PMO) reports were submitted regularly confirming no ongoing violations since the institution of the proceedings of the case before the Court.

> After carefully and thoroughly studying the Judgement, the Government of Myanmar, like any other sovereign nation, will take action based on its own determination, national interests and realities on the ground, while also seeking support from major friendly nations on the international stage.

Determination 7, which was decided by a 13-2 vote, mirrors Determination 4, directing Myanmar to investigate and prosecute suspects under its own domestic mechanisms. Determination 8 reiterates the obligation to prevent future violations, aligning with Determinations 1 and 2.

Determination 9, passed 10-5, calls for rehabilitation programmes. Because the Myanmar government is already actively implementing such initiatives in cooperation with ASEAN, certain UN agencies, and neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, China, and India, this poses no significant hurdle.

Regarding Determinations 10 and 11, the court ruled 10-5 that Myanmar is obligated to provide reparations to victims. However, in a major setback to The Gambia's expectations, no funds are to be paid to The Gambia. Instead, Myanmar is tasked with assessing the victims, determining the amount, and managing the distribution process over two years, subject to final ICJ approval.

Determination 12, which was passed 11-4, concerns the destruction of evidence, and this finding requires no further specific action from Myanmar. Meanwhile, Myanmar achieved a unanimous 15-0 victory on Point 13, rejecting all of The Gambia's remaining demands, including calls to grant citizenship to the Bengalis and to officially recognize them as an ethnic group of Myanmar under their proposed name.

Overall, the ruling cannot be characterized as a defeat for Myanmar. The Gambia failed to achieve its primary objectives, such as securing citizenship for the Bengalis, transferring suspects to the ICC, and extracting exorbitant financial reparations. Instead, Myanmar retained its sovereign authority to handle these matters internally.

Had the government failed to appear before the Court, a unilateral 15-0 ruling could have concluded the case before the 2025 elections, potentially threatening the country's territorial integrity. Successfully averting that outcome represents a clear gain for the nation.

**After carefully and thoroughly studying the Judgement, the Government of Myanmar, like any other sovereign nation, will take action based on its own determination, national interests and realities on the ground, while also seeking support from major friendly nations on the international stage.**

The international community should also respect Myanmar's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and view the difficulties and challenges Myanmar is facing objectively and fairly, and constructively cooperate and participate in improving the situation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already highlighted in a statement that, given the differences of opinion among the judges who made the decision and the complex and lengthy court ruling, the Myanmar government will take time to carefully study it.

**In conclusion, the people of Myanmar have no reason to be overly alarmed by the ICJ judgement. Only when the government, the Tatmadaw (armed forces), and the public work hand in hand to safeguard national interests and sovereignty can the country overcome any obstacle and achieve lasting success.**

■

# OPINION

## Building strong foundations for the youth

PEOPLE develop different interests based on their various feelings and emotions. Those who enjoy peace and tranquillity tend to develop an interest in reading. Young people who enjoy reading visit libraries with extensive collections of books and bookstores to explore and read literary works.

Young people's lives are shaped and influenced by the different interests they pursue, whether positive or negative. For example, some young people are interested in sports. They choose their favourite sports, such as football, swimming or badminton, and make them part of their daily routines. Young people who love the Earth and value environmental conservation develop an interest in planting trees.

Young people who appreciate the natural beauty of mountains, forests, rivers, and landscapes are interested in painting. They observe the scenery around them and use their artistic talents to create paintings inspired by the landscapes they see. Similarly, young people who are passionate about music spend their daily lives composing melodies and creating musical works. When people engage in activities they truly enjoy, they always feel happy and fulfilled, no matter how tiring the work may be.

> Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure that young people have continuous access to education from an early age, while also encouraging them to develop a keen interest in reading. Such efforts will not only broaden their knowledge but also help cultivate their intellectual and moral qualities. By possessing acquired skills in various fields, including sports, arts and vocational disciplines as important foundations for shaping the future, young people will be better equipped to discover their own paths in life and pursue them with confidence.

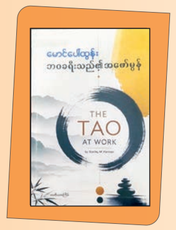
Furthermore, among the various interests, reading is particularly beneficial for students and young people, as it not only broadens their knowledge but also refines their minds and cultivates their character. It enhances their ability to think critically and reflectively, enabling them to distinguish between good and evil, as well as right and wrong. Those who read extensively are generally able to express themselves fluently and pleasantly in conversation. If students and young people develop a strong habit of reading during their school years, they will continue to read consistently throughout the three subsequent stages of life.

At present, with the Government providing support and encouragement to young people in various fields, they are demonstrating their ability to contribute to national development through their talents and capabilities. The growing strength and capabilities of young people are evident in both the education and sports sectors.

Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure that young people have continuous access to education from an early age, while also encouraging them to develop a keen interest in reading. Such efforts will not only broaden their knowledge but also help cultivate their intellectual and moral qualities. By possessing acquired skills in various fields, including sports, arts and vocational disciplines as important foundations for shaping the future, young people will be better equipped to discover their own paths in life and pursue them with confidence.

# BOOKRACK

## POEM




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Book Title | - | A Companion for Life's Traveller (The Tao at Work by Stanley M Herman) |
| Translator | - | Maung Paw Tun |
| Publishing House | - | Seikku Cho Cho |
| Publication Date | - | September 2026 (3rd Edition) |
| Price | - | K8,000 |

### A Companion for Life's Traveller
### The Tao at Work by Stanley M Herman

SEIKKU Cho Cho Publishing House has released a new edition of a book titled "A Companion for Life's Traveller" (Bawa Khayee Thei Ei Ahpaw Mon) by Saya Maung Paw Tun.

This book is an interpretation of the classic text Tao Te Ching by the great Chinese sage Lao Tzu, who lived around 600 BCE. Numerous authors from around the world have translated the Tao Te Ching into many different languages, and each translation possesses its own distinct style and character. This book likewise has its own unique approach. However, what sets this book apart is its focus on leadership and being led – in other words, applying Lao Tzu's philosophy to real life and practising it practically in the workplace.

The translator, Saya Maung Paw Tun, won the National Literary Award (Translation - Aesthetic) in 1997 for Gandara Sanyay Aing (Oasis) and won it a second time in 2006 for Kankyama Akyintha (Prisoner of Fate). He was also awarded the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014 and passed away in 2022. Nevertheless, Saya Maung Paw Tun's beloved and renowned literary works have never faded and continue to be reprinted time and again. In his preface, the translator wrote: "I firmly believe that reading this book will bring great benefit to everyone, regardless of age, social class, or occupation."

As for the original author, he wrote in his introduction:

"Human beings are almost constantly encountering a myriad of difficulties, complexities, and pressures, and are continually having to resolve them. Amidst resolving these issues, pausing from time to time to make an effort to view things simply and clearly is immensely beneficial. This book is about seeing simply and clearly.

In particular, this book can be deeply helpful for those who have reached a transitional crossroads in their life's journey. For those feeling trapped and distressed by their current life circumstances or workplace situations, this book will help bring balance to those conditions. It will point the way to peace both for those seeking solitude and tranquillity on a seashore at dusk, and for those whose minds are overwhelmed by tangled problems in the workplace."

Chapter 1 opens with the following passage:

"You can choose how you will think and what you will do. You can focus on what is true, accurate, and solid based on your own study and personal experience, or you can participate in the latest, trendiest fanciful project.

If you join the latest, trendiest fanciful project, you must abide by the rules and regulations set by the respective business, political, or social enterprise. If you work hard, you will advance and prosper. You must dutifully carry out the slogans of your organization and operate according to its administrative structure. If, however, you choose the life of a truth-seeker, you must not accept popular opinion at face value, but rather search for the realities that lie behind the slogans. Both of these paths have their advantages as well as their disadvantages."

This is a book meant to be read deeply and introspectively. Therefore, keep it always within arm's reach and flip through it from time to time. Reflect on how it relates to your current situation. If you wish to contemplate deeply, you can read just one passage – or three or four – at a time, digesting them thoroughly and expanding your thoughts. The reader's task is to grasp the concepts within the passages they read and apply them appropriately to their daily lives.



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Book Title | - | For My Daughter to Read: Serenity in Heart |
| Author | - | Maung Tha Cho |
| Publishing House | - | Seikku Cho Cho |
| Publication Date | - | October 2026 (2nd Edition) |
| Price | - | K18,000 |

### For My Daughter to Read: Serenity in Heart

INDEED, a new essay collection by writer Maung Tha Cho, titled "For My Daughter to Read: Serenity in Heart," combines two earlier book titles into one volume. The first heading is "For My Daughter to Read", and the second heading is "Serenity in Heart". Both were previously published as separate books. The new volume is a combined reissue of those books by the Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House.

The book's review first pointed out a father's lessons to his daughter.

Among life's most important tasks is raising a daughter to be gentle, refined, sharp, outstanding, kind-hearted and mindful of the common good. Good children become good adults, and good adults make a good country, so it is essential that young people think rightly and act rightly. "For My Daughter to Read: Serenity in Heart" is a must-read.

In the preface, the author writes that "among those who have criticized my articles in writing and in speech, I quite like a remark by a schoolteacher: 'Your articles are about wrongs that cannot be prosecuted under the law.' That is true. How would I take legal action against someone who picks out and eats only the dried shrimp in a dish of Laphet Thok (tea leaf salad)? How would I take legal action against someone who barges in oblivious to propriety while two people are discussing an urgent matter? It simply cannot be done in any way. Only through culture, through the cultural refinement of each individual's mind, can we protect our world from becoming ugly. That is the basis of my articles."

In the section "Mirrors to Look Back", the author, a teacher at a rural school, describes taking a hired car from the highway bus terminal on a return trip to Yangon. The driver asked permission to pick up extra passengers along the way and to reduce the fare accordingly. The author agreed, reasoning that whether the driver earned K2,000 or 1,500, taking K500 less would make things easier for everyone. The author would save, the next passenger would be accommodated, and the driver would earn more. Therefore, he gladly gave permission. Not long after, a passenger waved the car down. At first, he looked as if he would stop the car, but after glancing at the rearview mirror, he changed his mind, returned to his original lane, and kept driving on. When the author asked why, it turned out that an empty taxi was coming along behind, so he had gestured to the waving passenger that a car was behind, saying, "There are few passengers today, brother. Please let that taxi take you."

The author ends the essay by telling his daughter: "In the world of fathers who harden their hearts and take whatever they can get, without looking at anyone's face, without considering anyone's life, without pitying anyone's survival, I was endlessly astonished by the heart of a young driver who left a passenger waving for a ride for the little taxi behind him. Even I could not carry that kind of heart as lightly as he did. And I thought life is like a mirror. Driving along life's road, it would be good if we cultivated the habit of glancing at others through a rearview mirror to build empathy and perspective.

In the section "Hands That Take Only What They Need", he writes about how an elderly nun collecting offerings of small notes such as K50 and K100 would take only as much as she needed and return the excess.

In this book, one will read a full eighty-three (83) sections of "For My Daughter to Read."




By Min Min Zan

When autumn skies are clear and bright,
The weather feels so fresh and light.
Across our land, both near and far,
We celebrate beneath the stars.

Both young and old join hand in hand,
With joyful hearts throughout the land.
Kathina robes, the gifts most rare,
Are offered with devotion and care.

A sacred Buddhist festival,
A treasured custom loved by all.
Through generations, traditions shine,
A precious heritage, pure and divine.




By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

While walking in the late summer morning,
I chanced to arrive at the school side.

Just by accident, for great guns going,
I stepped out in a hurry.

At that instant, from the spinney,
When a flock of young cuckoos
Happened to sing in chorus,
My unbearable mind being desolated,
I saw of the past stage a glimmer
Full of sorrow and laughter _
Since images of feelings mixed
Flickered and enchanted me,
I gritted my teeth and conquered magic
Like a buffalo swimming in the lake.

## သံယောဇဉ်

နွေနှောင်းနံနက်၊ လမ်းလျှောက်ထွက်စဉ်
ကျောင်းဖက်ရောက်ခဲ့ပါသတည်း။

အမှတ်မဲ့ပင်၊ ခရီးတွင်အောင်
ငါလျှင်သုတ်သုတ် ခြေလှမ်းခဲ့။

ထိုခဏဝယ်၊ တောအုပ်ကွယ်မှ
သူငယ်ဥဩ၊ ငှက်ဥဩတို့
ဥဩသံပြိုင်၊ တွန်သံဖြိုင်သော်
မနိုင်ငံ့စိတ်၊ စီးယိုဖိတ်လျှက်
အတိတ်ဇာတ်စင်၊ ရေးရေးမြင်သည်
ရွှင်ဖွယ်ပျော်ဖွယ်၊ ဝမ်းနည်းဖွယ်နှင့်
ဖွယ်အထပ်ထပ်၊ ရုပ်လွှာချပ်တို့
ဖြတ်ဖြတ်ပေါ်ကာ၊ ဖမ်းစားပါ၍
ငါဟုအံခဲ၊ ဓနိုကိုခွဲသည်
ကန်ထဲကျွဲကူးပမာတည်း။

မင်းသုဝဏ်




## The Ghost of Time

By Maung Swan Yi (Translated by Myint Zan)

*on the wall*
*hangs the calendar*
*(where each day on it*
*has to be torn)*
*each morning dutifully*
*(I) tear the pages:*
*every day the ghost of time*
*continuously threatens me*

*Translator's note: This poem of Maung Swan Yi (born 17 February 1931) is in the collection of his poems first published in December 1960. Translated on 21 November 2026.*

## အချိန်တစ္ဆေ

နံရံအထက်
ချိတ်ဆွဲလျက်လျှင်
ပြက္ခဒိန်မှ
နံနက်ထတိုင်း
ဆုတ်ရတာရှက်
ဝတ်မပျက်သည့်
ရက်ဆက်ခြောက်လှန့်နေ
တော့သည်။ ။

# NATIONAL
## Entertainment



## Veteran artiste donates in marking her 80th birthday

A merit-making ceremony featuring a nutritious lunch donation was held on the morning of 17 November at the Children's Hospital on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road in Yangon to mark the 80th birthday of multiple Academy Award winner Cho Pyone.

During the event, lunch boxes containing steamed rice, chicken and potato curry, tomato fish-paste relish and red lentil soup were donated to 300 paediatric patients receiving medical treatment at the hospital and their caregivers.

Cash donations were received by the Medical Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, while Academy Cho Pyone and her family members personally distributed the nutritious meals to the patients. – TWA/TH

## 'Mone Ywae Mahu' to hit cinemas nationwide on 4 Dec



'MONE Ywae Mahu' (Not Out of Hate), a cinematic adaptation of a classic Myanmar novel by the late acclaimed author Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay, will be screened in cinemas nationwide starting 4 December, according to reports. The novel was first serialized in the 1955 issue of Shumawa Magazine and won the Sarpay Beikman Literary Award.

The romantic family drama explores marital conflicts arising from tensions between love and personal freedom, as well as differing perspectives, an inability to compromise, and clashes in culture, beliefs and values, despite the absence of hatred and the presence of genuine goodwill.

Produced by Brave Empire Film Production, the film features a screenplay by Academy Aye Thiri Ko. Directed by Pwint Theingi Zaw, with Thae Su Hlaing serving as assistant director, the feature stars Nine Nine, Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, Academy Kyaw Ye Aung, Aung Yay Chan, Su Htet Hlaing, Soe Moe Kyi, Goon Pone Gyi, Tar Tar, Aung Hein Khant, Zar Chi Lwin and many other artistes. – Htun Htun/TH

## Pop singer donates for 40 expectant mothers



VOCALIST May Khala joined a charitable donation programme jointly organized by the Shwe Myitta Foundation and local NGOs in Shwepyitha Township, donating essential supplies and cash to patients, expectant mothers and postpartum mothers receiving medical care at Shwepyitha Hospital.

During the donation event held on the morning of 19 November, each expectant mother received a tray of 12 eggs, along with a longyi, baby swaddles and other essential items.

"Today, I joined the Shwe Myitta Foundation in making these donations. I share the merit gained from this good deed with all the people living in Myanmar. May everyone in Myanmar enjoy joyful hearts, peaceful minds and everlasting happiness in every way through the merit of this good deed," said May Khala.

Meanwhile, postpartum mothers and hospitalized patients each received a cash donation of K20,000. – TWA/TH

## Premiere Show of feature film 'Khar' held

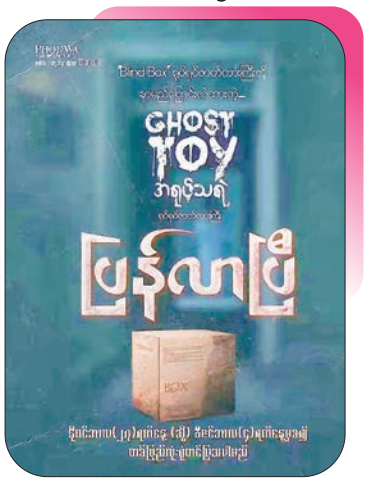



THE premiere screening of the feature film 'Khar' (Bitter), which is set to be released in cinemas nationwide, was held on 18 November at Thamada Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

Based on a story by La Yaung Phya and featuring a screenplay by Thet Oo Maung and 7 Day, the Myanmar feature film 'Khar' was directed by Academy Nyunt Myanmar Nyi Nyi Aung for Kyi Nu Say Film Production.

"In this film, I play a young woman named Thumudra who suffers from domestic violence. I poured my heart into portraying her inner struggles, emotional ups and downs, efforts to rebuild her inner strength, and journey towards overcoming her ordeal," said actress Poe Mahme Thar. The film, which began screening in cinemas nationwide on 20 November, features a cast including three Academy Award winners and several other well-known artistes. – ASH/TH

## Feature film 'Blind Box' changed to 'Ghost Toy'




THE feature film 'Blind Box', whose screening was previously suspended following objections, will now be released under a new title, 'Ghost Toy', according to reports.

Written and directed by D D Htet Aung, the film features a cast including Academy Nay Win, Poe Mahme Thar, Academy Min Oo, Academy Chaw Yadana, Banyar Phone Pyae, Su Htet, Cho Madi Thwin, Thar Chaw and many other artistes.

Produced by Phoe Wa Film Production, the drama-horror film is scheduled to hit cinemas nationwide on either 27 November or 4 December. – Htun Htun/TH

## Super singer to host solo concert on 2027 New Year's Eve




SINGER Wine Su Khine Thein will hold a solo concert on New Year's Eve 2026 to welcome 2027, according to reports. Organized by Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Production and sponsored by Royal-D, the concert will take place at Eastern Yangon Event Park on 31 December, starting at 6 pm.The popular singer will celebrate the arrival of the New Year together with her fans and music lovers. She has also informed her fans that further details of the concert programme, which promises to create unforgettable memories, will be announced soon. – TWA/TH

## Music video scenes clarified as not AI-generated



SINGER-SONGWRITER Mi Sandi has clarified that the scenes in the popular music video 'Sann Kyin Phet Ayat' (Opposite Direction), released on 17 November and featuring a duet by Mi Sandi and Wine Su Khine Thein, were not generated using AI.

"Since people have been saying that the visuals look AI-generated, I would like to clarify that, apart from the moon and one background element, everything was carefully prepared and filmed in real life. All the props and people are real. I suppose it's just because everyone looked so flawless," Mi Sandi explained in a post on her Facebook page.

Written by Mi Sandi herself, who is of Mon ethnicity, the song and its music video blend themes of love and everyday life with traditional and natural aesthetics. – TWA/TH

# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

15 November

### President and spouse attend merit-sharing for offering gold foils

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the ceremony to share merits in commemoration of the successful completion of offering gold foils to Sutaungpyae Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago.

16 November

### President and spouse pay homage to venerable Sayadaws

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and Union ministers, paid homage to Sitagu Sayadaw at Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon Region and Presiding Patron of Hinthada's Moekaung Buddhism Learning Centre in Ayeyawady Region State Ovadacariya Tipitaka Ovadacariya Chair Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sudhammacara Bhivamsa, at Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Mingaladon Township.

18 November

### President offers guidance to graduating students

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to the youths who graduated from the Yangon University of Education and Sagaing University of Education at Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw.

19 November

### President addresses nation's overall situation and State policies

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

20 November

### President receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General

BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Government offers Kathina robes to venerable Sayadaws

The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held a ceremony to offer Kathina robes for 2026 at Agga Dhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

### Vice-President receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

Vice-President U Nyo Saw received Ms Prabashini Ponnamperuma, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, at the Parlour of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw.

21 November

### Vice-President inspects regional development in Cocokyun

Vice-President U Nyo Saw met departmental personnel, town elders and social organization members in Cocokyun of Yangon Region and inspected the progress of regional development projects. — GNLM/TTA

# Yangon opens 2026 Tazaungdine MSME Fair



The opening ceremony of the 2026 Tazaungdine MSME Fair in Yangon Region.

FROM PAGE 1

THE opening ceremony of the Yangon Region 2026 Tazaungdine MSME Fair and Music Concert was held on 21 November at the People's Square in Yangon.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu delivered the opening remarks. Following this, officials watched and encouraged performances by a marching band and ethnic traditional dance troupes, before presenting cash awards to the performing groups.

The Chief Minister and team toured and encouraged the booths of MSME entrepreneurs, as well as exhibition booths featuring Myanmar traditional arts and crafts, solar energy technology, ornamental fish, pets, and reptiles.

The fair also features participation from the Department of Small-Scale Industries, the Cooperative Department, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (Yangon Region), UMFCCI, and private associations. With over 600 booths in total, the festival also includes bookstores, food stalls, exhibition booths from some regions and states, decorative flower beds, festive illuminations, hot-air balloon launches, and fireworks displays.

Visitors can enjoy daily Satuditha and performances by famous artists. Free shuttle buses have been arranged for the fair, which will open daily from morning until 10 pm, starting 21 to 24 November. — TWA/ZN

# Taunggyi Brews Up for Myanmar Coffee Festival 2026

FROM PAGE 1

THE Myanmar Coffee Festival 2026 will be held at the SSSCCI Event Hall in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, on 27 November, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA).

The festival, organised by the MCA with the support of Gusto, aims to improve the quality of speciality coffee produced in the Shan Highlands and connect local producers with domestic and international markets. It will run from 9 am to 5 pm under the theme "Shan Plateau Speciality Coffee: Connecting Farmers, Quality and Markets".

The festival will feature the award presentation ceremony for the Myanmar National Coffee Cupping Competition, demonstrations of high-quality coffee production and brewing techniques, as well as Coffee Cherry competitions open to farmers and producers.

Other activities will include a People's Coffee Tasting programme, allowing visitors to take part in coffee selection, and Coffee Talk sessions, where coffee experts, traders, buyers and growers can exchange views on market developments and technical matters.

Exhibition booths showcasing and selling speciality coffee beans and agricultural products from the Shan Highlands will also be set up at the festival.

Coffee growers, producers, businesspeople, experts and coffee enthusiasts will be able to attend the Myanmar Coffee Festival 2026 free of charge. — ASH/KZL

# Awards ceremony held for 1st Dhamma Cakka chanting competition

THE prize presentation ceremony for the first Dhamma Cakka chanting competition, organized by the Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization, was held at the Mingala Hall of the Yangon Region Government Office on 21 November, according to the Information Team of the Yangon Region Government Office.

The ceremony was attended by venerable monks, patron of the Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Hnin Hnin Aye and Chairperson Daw Hnin Zarchi Oo. Outstanding teams were then presented with awards and consolation prizes.

The first Dhamma Cakka chanting competition, organised by the Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization, was held at Maha Wizaya Pagoda over three days, from 18 to 20 November. — TWA/KNN

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation attends Trade Corridor Forums in China

A Myanmar delegation attended the Forum on Economic Development along the New Land and Sea Trade Corridor and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor Maritime Merchants Forum in China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The forums were held at HUALUXE Chongqing Science Hall in Chongqing, China. Consul-General U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chongqing delivered remarks at the Maritime Merchants Forum, according to the ministry.

The consul-general stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and infrastructure development between Myanmar and China. He also highlighted the potential to boost regional trade and maritime transport by leveraging Myanmar's geographic position and access to the Indian Ocean, and to expand practical cooperation with Chongqing in transport, port services, freight forwarding and logistics.



The Forum on Economic Development along the New Land and Sea Trade Corridor and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor Maritime Merchants Forum held in Chongqing, China.

Chen Xinwu, Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of China Chongqing Municipal Committee and mayor of Chongqing, and Zhang Baofeng, Vice Minister of China's General Administration of Customs in China, also spoke at the forums' opening ceremony.

U Win Zaw, Deputy Director-General of the Customs Department, and Daw Ohnmar Maw, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association, attended the forums alongside the consul-general. Representatives from the Chongqing municipal government's customs and transportation bureau, embassies and consulate-generals based in Beijing and Chongqing, central government-owned state enterprises, government agencies from provincial-level regions in western China, port, shipping, and logistics companies, experts and scholars, and industry associations and chambers of commerce also attended. — ASH/KK

## Mayangon Scam Crackdown Nets 105 Suspects

FROM PAGE 6

subsequently seized an all-in-one computer and 121 mobile phones of various types used in the online financial scam operations.

According to the investigation, the group began operating online financial scam activities from the house at 19-A, Masoeyein Monastery Road, Ward 5, around May 2026. They used Chinese applications to defraud people and reportedly paid their workers salaries of about 5,000 yuan each. They recruited Chinese-speaking workers through Telegram and required them to work from 8 am to 8 pm daily. Their operations were divided into four teams: a financial fraud team, a building security team, a food and supplies distribution team, and a cooking team.

The arrested individuals will face effective and severe legal action under existing laws once the necessary investigations have been completed. The seized equipment will also be dealt with in accordance with established procedures.

The Government is continuing to work actively with neighbouring and regional countries and international organisations to combat online financial scams and online gambling, to eradicate these crimes and prevent such operations from becoming established in Myanmar, according to the report. — MNA/KNN

## ASEAN-China Week 2026 to kick off in Chongqing on 23 Nov

THE Chongqing Municipal People's Government and the ASEAN-China Centre are jointly organizing ASEAN-China Week 2026 in Chongqing to mark the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the fifth anniversary of the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The opening ceremony is scheduled to take place on 23 November.

The opening event will spotlight high-level thematic dialogues of ASEAN-China Week 2026 and the "Together Toward a Win-Win Future" Special Forum commemorating the fifth anniversary of the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the 15th anniversary of the Establishment of the ASEAN-China Centre.

Under the theme "Deepening Strategic Cooperation, Connecting for Shared Prosperity," this week will bring representatives from 11 ASEAN member states, with 30 events spanning six categories: official engagements, trade, logistics corridor and economy, science and technology innovation, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, press events and field visits, with a view to enhancing exchanges and cooperation between Chongqing and the Southeast Asian Countries and promoting connectivity and shared prosperity.

Furthermore, it will also feature the 2026 Chongqing-ASEAN Economic and Trade Cooperation Matchmaking Conference, the ASEAN-China (Chongqing) Conference on Science and Technology Cooperation and Exchange, the Lancang-Mekong Tourism Cities Roundtable, and the Chongqing Tour for ASEAN journalists and digital Influencers.

Chongqing serves as the operational hub of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a multimodal rail, highway and maritime logistics network linking western China with ASEAN countries and global shipping routes. — KK

## Demolition of scam hubs continues ...

FROM PAGE 6

through controlled explosion, and those located near residential houses, which will be dismantled floor by floor through manual labour. To date, 13 buildings, comprising four demolished through controlled explosion and nine using heavy machinery, have been brought down, while the remaining 50 illegal buildings will continue to be dismantled systematically.

The government is cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries to completely eradicate online scam and gambling operations, which pose threats to the global socioeconomic landscape and national security, according to news reports. — 100/TH

## MWEA, Yangon University of Economics Hold Joint Workshop

THE Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association (MWEA), in collaboration with Yangon University of Economics, held a workshop on 19 November at the Lotte Hotel in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The workshop was part of the 'Entrepreneurs Thrive Here (The World Needs What You Build)' event organised by the MWEA to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week 2026, which runs from 16 to 22 November, and Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2026, observed on 19 November.

The event focused on industry and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than delivered a congratulatory message via video, while UMFCCI President U Aye Win also addressed the event.

MWEA Chairperson Dr Myat Thida Myint and Vice-Chairperson 1 Daw Khin Thet Maw delivered the vote of thanks.

In the second session, Yangon University of Economics, in collaboration with the MWEA, organised a lecture and practical discussion for participants, led by the university's Vice-Chancellor and professors.

The workshop aimed to equip award recipients of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN) with valuable knowledge and strategies on Creating Shared Value (CSV), enabling them to apply these in their businesses and achieve greater success in international markets. — ASH/MKKS

# Saudi Arabia agrees to triple crude stored in Japan amid Mideast tensions

SAUDI Arabia has agreed to triple the amount of crude oil stored in Japan to a maximum of 24 million barrels under Japan's joint stockpiling system with oil-producing countries, the Japanese trade ministry said Friday.

The two countries have been discussing cooperation on oil stockpiling and energy supply chains under an agreement reached in May, after US-Israeli strikes on Iran led to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Japan relies heavily on crude oil imports that pass through the strait, a key artery for global energy shipments.



A file photo shows the Shibushi National Petroleum Stockpiling Base located in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, in August 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Under the joint stockpiling system, oil companies from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, all major crude oil exporters to Japan, lease storage tanks in the country for their crude oil.

The companies normally use the tanks as a commercial supply and storage base for Asia. In an emergency, however, Japanese oil companies have preferential rights to purchase the stored crude oil, according to the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry. — Kyodo

# Argentine govt backs mega liquified natural gas project




The Argentine government announces major investment incentives for a $50 billion liquefied natural gas export project in the Vaca Muerta field. **PHOTO: GLOBALENERGYPRIZE.ORG**

THE Argentine government on Friday announced incentives for a massive liquefied natural gas export project, with total investment of $50 billion planned by 2050.

The project, to be developed by state-owned Argentine company YPF, the Italian company Eni, and the Emirati company XRG, is the largest investment project in the nation's history.

It is to exploit gas from the Vaca Muerta field in Argentine Patagonia, which contains the country's largest reserves and will export 12 million tonnes of LNG annually.

Economy Minister Luis Caputo said the project would involve $25 billion of investment between 2027 and 2030, and a total of $50 billion by 2050. It will be part of the Large Investment Incentive Scheme, known by the acronym RIGI, which was created in 2024 by the government of libertarian President Javier Milei to attract large-scale domestic and foreign investments with tax incentives, exhange rates and other benefits. — AFP

# EU proposes tax on Big Tech to boost budget

THE EU put forward plans to tax the world's biggest digital companies to fund its next budget Saturday, as it seeks to bridge divisions among member states over the bloc's long-term funding.

European Council President Antonio Costa unveiled a new spending proposal that slashes by 204 billion euros ($224 billion) a plan initially put forward by the European Commission, which some countries had slammed as too onerous.

"I believe this proposal can bring us closer to a final agreement," Costa told a press conference in Brussels.

EU countries have been squabbling over the size of the next budget, with Germany leading calls for major cuts after the commission last year proposed a two-trillion-euro budget for the 2028-2034 period. — AFP

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides**

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Thaion Chemical Co., Ltd are transferring from Rise Trade International Co., Ltd. to Panthu Shwesin Company Limited So, any objection regarding to this transfer can notify to this address: Co-Secretary, Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein. for the following Pesticide within (14) days from this announcement.

| Sr. No. | Trade Name | A.I Name | Reg Type | Reg No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sin Cyper 10% EC | Cypermethrin 10% EC | Full Registration | F2017-1353 |

Address: Panthu Shwesin Company Limited

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V SAN LORENZO VOY.NO. (644W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SAN LORENZO VOY.NO. (644W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S MAERSK A/S**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOTO17)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOTO17)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (259N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (259N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

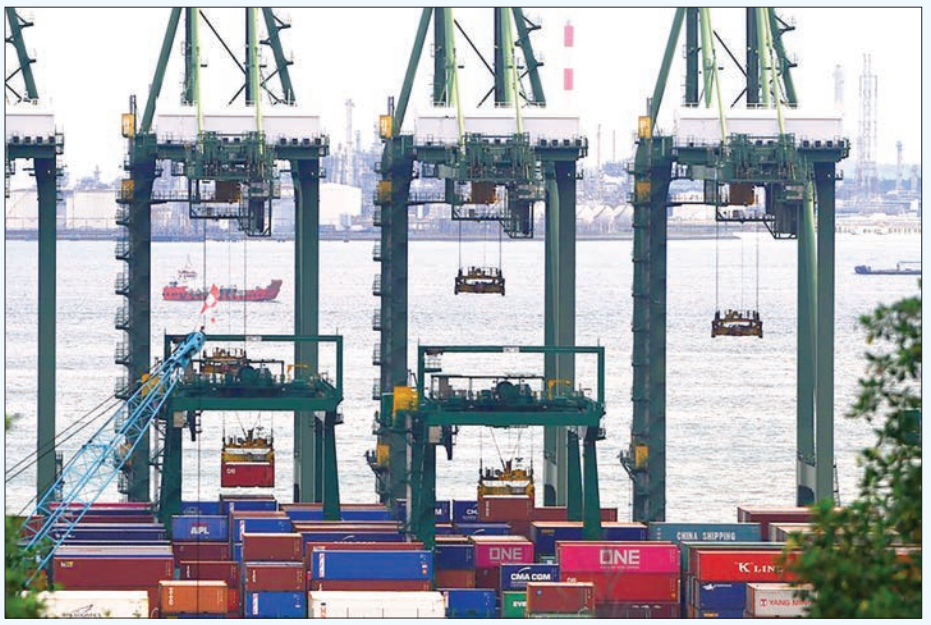
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SIPPING LINES**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Containers are seen at the Pasir Panjang container terminal in Singapore on 17 August 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

**21 NOVEMBER**

## China ready to accelerate FTA upgrade talks with Singapore

CHINA stands ready to work with Singapore to accelerate negotiations on the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) 4.0 and promote a higher level of two-way opening-up, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Saturday.

Li made the remarks during talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Beijing.

Li said China is willing to strengthen strategic communication with Singapore, consolidate political mutual trust, support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns, and expand practical cooperation.

Li called on the two sides to further strengthen industrial integration, upgrade major bilateral government-to-government cooperation projects, and deepen cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, clean energy, connectivity and finance.

Singapore stands ready to work with China to achieve more results in their all-round high-quality future-oriented partnership. — Xinhua

**20 NOVEMBER**

## US Department of Agriculture hit by cyberattack

**THE** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was hit by a cyberattack earlier this week, raising concerns that sensitive information held by the agency responsible for the country's food safety might have been compromised, NBC News reported Friday.

Hackers accessed the department's system that facilitates payments to farmers, the agency told employees on Thursday, according to the report, which cited two former USDA officials with knowledge of the matter.

The incident followed a series of technology outages that disrupted air travel, banking and national security systems.

In the past few days, a global outage affected hundreds of millions of Microsoft users, while communication failures triggered a national ground stop that disrupted nearly 20,000 flights across the United States. — Xinhua

**19 NOVEMBER**

## AI-cheat bounties as South Koreans sit exam

**SOUTH** Korea is cutting wifi around exam halls and offering $75,000 rewards to whistleblowers in an all-out battle against AI-assisted cheating as half a million students sit for their gruelling college entrance exams on Thursday.

Known as the Suneung, the once-a-year, nine-hour-long exam is widely seen as a ticket to prestigious universities, well-paid jobs and even better marriage prospects in the highly competitive country.

It is a day when much of the country comes to a standstill, with flights temporarily halted during the English listening section, many offices opening an hour later than usual to ease traffic, and stock trading also delayed by an hour.

Students are told to turn up with just pencils. Erasers will be provided by the test centres — AFP

**18 NOVEMBER**

## Delhi Police bans drones, lasers near IGI Airport

**DELHI** Police has imposed a 60-day ban on unmanned aircraft systems and laser beams around Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport's Palam sub-division from 18 November 2026, through 16 January 2027.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Pradeep Kumar Meena issued two separate orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to address aviation safety risks and potential terrorist threats.

Violations carry penalties under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The first order prohibits the public from flying drones, unmanned aerial vehicles, paragliders, hang-gliders, and aero-models due to intelligence regarding potential aerial attacks and aviation hazards.

The second order restricts the use of laser beams at farmhouses, banquet halls, hotels, restaurants, and public events. — ANI

**17 NOVEMBER**

## Bangladesh connects 1st nuclear power plant to national grid

**BANGLADESH** on Tuesday connected its first nuclear power plant to the national grid on a trial basis, becoming the 33rd nation in the world to generate nuclear electricity.

Md Abdullah Al Mamun, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Science and Technology, confirmed to Anadolu the matter of connecting the nuclear-generated power to the national grid for the first time, with 350 megawatts of nuclear-generated electricity.

The trial supply of electricity connects from the first unit of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Located some 160 kilometres (99.4 miles) from Dhaka, the Rooppur project is being implemented with financial and technical assistance from Russia following a 2015 agreement. Electricity generated during this initial trial phase would be supplied to the national grid for about eight to 10 hours, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, the key regulatory body, said in a statement. - ANI

**16 NOVEMBER**

## Climate chief warns of AI 'double-edged sword'

**THE** UN's climate chief highlighted the "great potential and great peril" of artificial intelligence in the battle against global warming on Monday as COP31 host Turkiye launched an initiative aimed at tackling the issue. Named after the Turkish Mediterranean city hosting the UN talks, the voluntary "Antalya Artificial Intelligence Pledge" seeks to tap the technology's potential in finding climate solutions and assess its growing environmental risks.

The pledge has received 80 endorsements so far, but barely 10 nations are among them while the rest are companies or civil society groups.

AI is being deployed in a broad range of applications, from improving weather forecasts to monitoring industrial emissions and optimising renewable energy. — AFP

**15 NOVEMBER**

## China, Thailand advance tangible space projects

**FROM** radio telescopes to satellite launches and joint academic programmes, China and Thailand have steadily expanded their aerospace partnership in recent years, turning scientific exchanges into practical cooperation that benefits both countries and the wider South-East Asian region. China and Thailand have jointly developed key infrastructure for high-precision observation and radio astronomy in northern Thailand, fields with great potential to address shared regional challenges. In May 2025, the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) and Chinese partners inaugurated Thailand's first Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) Global Observing System (VGOS) radio telescope, a 13-metre facility in Chiang Mai. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Myanmar women to face HK in 2 friendlies in Dec

THE Myanmar women's national team will play two friendly matches against Hong Kong SAR during the December FIFA Women's International Match Window.

The two matches will be held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 1 and 4 December. Myanmar head coach Colin Bell of England has selected a provisional squad of 36 players for the friendlies. The squad has been in training since 11 November.



Myanmar and Hong Kong women's teams compete in a friendly match in October 2024.

The provisional squad includes several new faces alongside regular members of the national team.

Myanmar and Hong Kong SAR previously played two friendly matches in Yangon in October 2024, with Myanmar winning both encounters by identical 4-1 margins. — Nyi Myat Thawta/KZL

## Kim A-lim seizes lead with ace at LPGA Tour Championship

KIM A-lim aced the par-three 16th hole on her way to firing an eight-under-par 64 for a three-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the LPGA Tour Championship.

The 31-year-old South Korean stood on 15-under 129 after 36 holes in the $11 million season-ending showdown at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida.

"When I hit, after, I felt it was a little strong, but hit the pin and then went in," Kim said of her hole-in-one. "I think it was luck." A field of 60 players is chasing a $4 million top prize, the highest in women's golf.

"Money is money. It has not bothered me," Kim said. "I think winning is more important for me."

Kim opened with a 65 to share the 18-hole lead with Australian Karis Davidson and two-time defending champion Jeeno Thitikul, who stood second entering the weekend on 132 after shooting 67 on Friday.

Seeking her fourth LPGA title, Kim began Friday with back-to-back birdies, then birdied the par-five sixth and par-three eighth holes. After a bogey at 10, she birdied the par-three 12th and par-five 14th before a dramatic hole-in-one. — AFP

## Figure skating: GP Series debutant Shimada leads at Finlandia Trophy

JAPAN'S Grand Prix Series debutant Mao Shimada led the women's short programme at Finlandia Trophy on Friday as she bid for her second victory in the series.

The 18-year-old Shimada scored 79.06 points in Helsinki after landing a triple axel, though her triple-triple combination was ruled under-rotated.

Niina Petrokina of Estonia was second on 69.08, while South Korea's Kim Seo Young was third on 69.03.



Japan's Mao Shimada performs in the women's short program at the Finlandia Trophy figure skating competition in Helsinki, Finland. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"I wanted a better triple-triple combination, but I'm happy I was able to limit the mistakes," said Shimada, who won Skate Canada International, the second Grand Prix event of this season.

"I was nervous, but given my recent form, I think I handled it pretty well," she said.

Shimada will compete in Saturday's free skate, looking to secure her first berth in the Grand Prix Final in December in Chongqing, China, which will feature the top six skaters from the series. — Kyodo

## Sagaing, Yangon secure full points as M-League resumes

SAGAING United and Yangon United secured full points on 21 November as Matchweek 7 of the 2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League season resumed with its opening two matches.

Organised by the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League Committee, the competition is sponsored by Grand Royal, AYA Bank and AYA Pay.

At Thuwunna Stadium, Sagaing United came from behind to beat Myawady FC 2-1, extending their winning run. Despite putting up a determined fight, bottom-placed Myawady suffered another defeat and faces further challenges in their upcoming matches.




Sagaing United and Myawady FC players compete during their match. **Photo: M-League.**

Thiha Aung put Myawady ahead in the 23rd minute, but Nay Lin Soe equalized for Sagaing United in the 36th minute to make it 1-1 at half-time. Both teams pushed for a winner in the second half, with Yazar Aung scoring the decisive goal for Sagaing United in the 71st minute.

Sagaing United's Yazar Aung, who scored the winning goal, received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along with a commemorative prize and K1 million in prize money.

At YUSC Stadium, Yangon United edged Sports and Physical Education Institute FC 4-3 in an entertaining, high-scoring encounter. The well-known Yangon United side extended their winning run in a closely contested match, although they conceded three goals despite taking the lead several times.

Albert scored in 16 minutes, Than Paing in 19 minutes and Zaw Win Thein in 31 minutes for Yangon United. Their fourth goal came from an own goal by Kaung Khant Zaw of Sports and Physical Education Institute FC in 48 minutes.

Siran Poe scored in 25 minutes, Khine Ye Win in 35 minutes and Moe Swe Aung in 52 minutes for Sports and Physical Education Institute FC.

Yangon United midfielder Zaw Win Thein received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along with a commemorative prize and K1 million in prize money.

The second day of Matchweek 7 will take place on 22 November, with Dagon Star United facing Yadanabon FC at Thuwunna Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

# Mascot-mad fans flock to meetup of 200 characters in Japan



A man carries a mascot character on a cart during the annual World Mascot Summit in Hanyu in Saitama prefecture, north of Tokyo, on 21 November 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tens of thousands of mascot fans gathered in a city near Tokyo on Saturday to meet and greet more than 200 life-size cuddly characters that promote local towns and businesses. In the land of Hello Kitty and Pokemon, mascots are used to promote everything from prison to railways to private businesses, and popular ones gain full-on celebrity status.

> *The mascot meetup has been held in the city of Hanyu since 2010.*

"This is the first time I've ever come to an event like this, so I'm kind of excited," Yuriko Okamori, 51, told AFP at the annual meetup event.

The mascot meetup has been held in the city of Hanyu since 2010 and nearly 220 mascots were invited to join this year, according to organizers.

On a stage, a troupe of animal mascots danced to upbeat pop music as a large crowd filmed them on smartphones and clapped along.

Elsewhere, a popular pony mascot representing Gunma prefecture was surrounded by fans eager for selfies, while a cat mascot was pushed through the packed crowd on a cart to make its way across the venue.

City official Shogo Dei, who oversees the event, said 80,000 people attended the two-day meetup last year and that organisers expect a similar turnout this year. —AFP

# Latin America finds new rhythm in Cuban reparto music

> *Reparto draws inspiration from Cuba's timba style and Latin America's world-famous reggaeton.*

CUBA'S "reparto" genre has soared from humble beginnings to centre stage of the Latin American music scene, counting Spanish superstar Rosalia and Puerto Rican artise Daddy Yankee among its fans.

Emerging roughly two decades ago in so-called "repartos", working-class neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Havana, the genre did the rounds on cell phones and USB sticks before blowing up on social media. A slick blend of energetic rhythms, catchy hooks and a generous dose of slang about money, parties and sex, reparto draws inspiration from Cuba's timba style and Latin America's world-famous reggaeton. Bebeshito, Charly & Johayron, and Ja Rulay are some of its most popular artistes of the moment, with their success driven by better internet access on the island, the arrival of Tiktok, and Cuban migration to Miami. "After we Cuban artistes set up shop in Miami and started to understand this (the music industry), that's when everything happened," Carlos Eduardo Perez told AFP at Miami's Billboard Latin Music Awards gala last month.

Listeners might not recognize his real name.

In the music world he goes by "Helabusador" — one of many flashy nicknames that complement the extravagant clothing, thick chains, gold teeth and tattoos quintessential to "reparteros". Although no representatives of the genre featured among the nominees, several performers walked the event's red carpet, possibly due to the raging success of "Dichavate", a track by Helabusador, Rey Tony and Ya Ice Dilan that has racked up 170 million YouTube views .— AFP



Cuban music producer and studio owner Roberto Gomez checks a Reparto music project at his recording studio in Havana on 29 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Italy gives green light to Tesla's assisted driving system

ITALY gave provisional approval to the Tesla Assisted Driving system on Friday, ahead of a final decision on a rollout expected next year at the European level.

Tesla Assisted Driving is the name the company uses in Europe for its Full Self-Driving (Supervised) feature, after European regulators questioned whether using the self-driving moniker, as the company does in the United States, was misleading.



A Tesla Model 3 interior with its centre screen displaying driving visualization past the Colosseum in Rome. **PHOTO: TESLA**

Italy's transport minister, Matteo Salvini, announced the go-ahead on social media platform X — owned by Tesla boss Elon Musk — saying the decision was made "after an in-depth technical review of its feasibility". The Netherlands, Estonia, Belgium, Lithuania, Slovakia, Denmark and Finland have all authorized the system, according to their governments, but European holdouts include Germany and France.

> *Tesla's system is so-called Level 2 automated driving.*

Tesla's system is so-called Level 2 automated driving, which offers drivers support with steering, speed and other functions. — AFP

# Festive spirit builds ahead of Laos' That Luang festival

AS Laos prepares for the annual That Luang festival, excitement is growing among residents eager to take part in one of the country's most important religious and cultural celebrations.

The five-day festival, scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 November under the theme "Together Preserving Lao Culture", will feature a series of traditional religious ceremonies and cultural activities.

Adding to the festival's lively atmosphere are recreational activities that attract visitors of different ages. Among them is a balloon-dart game stall operated by vendor Neuk Bounsy, who said he was ready to welcome both domestic and international visitors throughout the celebrations.

The festival also attracts young attendees, especially students, who view it as a chance to spend time with friends and take part in festive celebrations away from their everyday routines. — Xinhua