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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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# 4th Kathina robe-offering ceremony held at Maravijaya Monastery

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the fourth Kathina robe-offering ceremony at Maravijaya Monastery in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday morning.

The President offered alms in the emerald almsbowl, fruits, oil lights and water to the Buddha Image in the monastery.

The President and his wife, together with State dignitaries, viewed the display of donation structures to be donated to Maravijaya Monastery.

President U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife donated Kathina robes and alms to Maravijaya Monastery Abbot Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Neminda.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife offered Kathina robes and alms to Aungsitha Monastery Abbot Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vicakkhana, and Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye presented Kathina robes and offerings to Pali Sayadaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and his wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Union ministers offered Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Aungsitha Sayadaw delivered a sermon while the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the President, his wife and party offered a midday meal to members of the Sangha.

Also present at the ceremony were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials.

At the ceremony, they donated 12 donation structures worth more than K26.7 million and over K29.7 million for nine prerequisites, totalling more than K56.5 million. — MNA/TTA



President U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer Kathina robes and alms to a venerable Sayadaw at Maravijaya Monastery.

## Myanmar avocado exports poised to generate over US$100M annually

MYANMAR has six major avocado-producing regions, and the country could generate at least US$100 million annually from avocado exports if export markets are opened up, according to the Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association (MAVO).

Local avocado varieties from Shan State were first exported to Hong Kong in the 2013-2014 financial year. To produce




PHOTO: ZWE MARN

commercially viable, export-quality fruit, five varieties—Hass, Zutano, Reed, Lamb Hass and Bacon—were officially imported from California, the United States, in October 2018. As Hass adapts well to local conditions and meets international market standards, it has become widely popular both domestically and internationally.

In Shan State, commercial growers primarily cultivate the market-preferred Hass and Booth-7 varieties, along with smaller quantities of the other four imported varieties, which mature before the main harvest season. Previously, inconsistent harvesting periods and uneven fruit sizes hindered marketability. However, the grafting and propagation of the uniform and flavourful Hass variety have created significant

SEE PAGE 7



This photo features an aerial view of the ongoing construction of the new Myitnge (Dokhtawady) Bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

## New Myitnge (Dokhtawady) Bridge 78% complete, set for March 2027 completion

CONSTRUCTION of the new Myitnge (Dokhtawady) Bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway has reached 78 per cent completion, with the project scheduled to be fully completed in March 2027, according to the Ministry of Construction. Located at Milepost 358/1-3 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, the new four-lane bridge is being built to replace the old Dokhtawady Bridge, which collapsed during the powerful Mandalay earthquake.

SEE PAGE 3

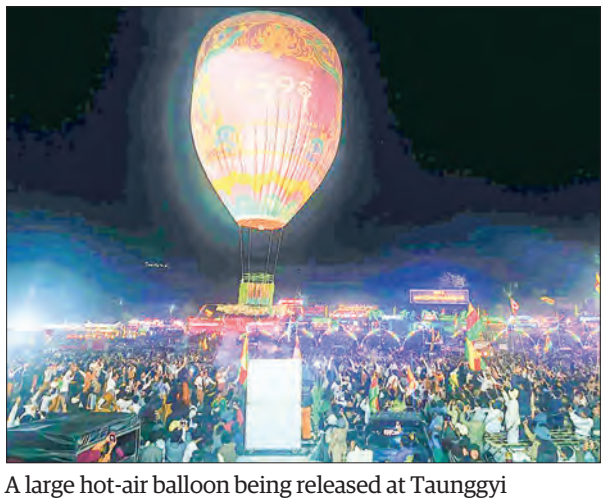
## Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Festival Sees Record 561 Balloons Compete

THE traditional Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival continued in a lively atmosphere at Ayethaya Balloon Field in Taunggyi, Shan State, yesterday, amid the town's persistently cool weather.

This year's competition has attracted a record number of hot-air balloons, making it one of the most competitive editions in the festival's history. The strong competition has drawn considerable interest from both local and international tourists, with the festival grounds packed with spectators.

"This year's Taunggyi balloon competition has seen the largest number of balloons and the strongest competition throughout the history of the festival. In my lifetime, I have never seen a competition with so many balloons and spectators. The judges have to remain constantly alert while assessing the entries," said 78-year-old U Tin Win (Painting), patron of the Balloon Experts Association. He added that the participating balloons had demonstrated improvements in innovation, painting techniques and the variety of figures and designs. This year's rooster-shaped balloons, in particular, featured distinctive colours and

SEE PAGE 3



A large hot-air balloon being released at Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon festival.

# NATIONAL

## Statement of the People's Pioneer Party on the Final Judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Dated 19 November 2026

Date: 22 November 2026

1. The People's Pioneer Party is carefully reviewing the final judgement handed down by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 19 November 2026, in the case concerning The Gambia vs Myanmar, in accordance with the long-term interests of the State and its citizens as well as international legal standards.
2. It is noted that the core finding in the judgement holding Myanmar responsible for committing genocide was not reached unanimously by the full Court, but was decided by a split vote of 9 to 6. The fact that six judges, including the ICJ Vice-President, cast dissenting votes on that key finding underscores deep legal disagreements even among international judges regarding specific intent to commit genocide (Dolus Specialis), evidentiary standards, and legal interpretations of direct State responsibility. Accordingly, taking into account the state's sovereignty and the complex on-the-ground security conditions in Rakhine State, the party respectfully states that it cannot fully accept certain core legal conclusions and evidentiary assessments contained in the judgement.
3. Furthermore, within the judgement itself, the finding that the allegation of deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction under Article II (c) of the Convention was not proven, the rejection of the direct and public incitement allegation by a vote of 14-1, and the dismissal of other claims by a vote of 15-0 reflect the factual and legal complexity of this case.
4. Although the party disagrees with the core legal conclusion in the International Court of Justice's judgement, it consistently upholds international legal standards and the principle of the rule of law. It firmly opposes violence and human rights violations against any ethnic group or religious community, and strongly concurs on conducting transparent investigations and taking action through the domestic judicial system—as well as enacting or amending necessary domestic laws—where legal violations occurred during conflicts.
5. The party believes that ensuring the safety and security of all local residents in Rakhine State, facilitating access to humanitarian assistance, and finding durable, dignified solutions for displaced persons in accordance with existing laws and international standards are key to national stability, peace, and peaceful coexistence.
6. The party solemnly announces that it will consistently support and stand with the positions of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in addressing follow-up processes over the next two years under the judgement and navigating international diplomatic challenges, and that it categorically rejects any unjust rulings in the International Court of Justice's judgement that could harm the sovereignty and national interests of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

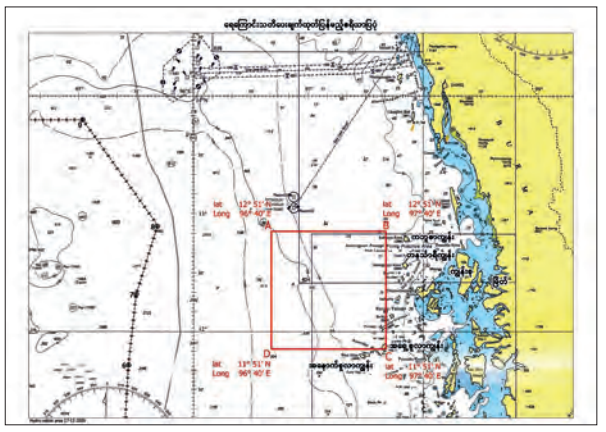
**People's Pioneer Party**

## Social pensions provided to elderly residents in Nay Pyi Taw home

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided social pensions to eligible elderly residents at Karuna Kaba Home for the Aged in Dekkhinathiri Township, according to the Department of Social Welfare.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Ko Ko Lwin visited the home on 21 November and provided social pension assistance to eligible elderly residents. For the 2026-2027 financial year, a total of K25.578 million was allocated for rice, food and clothing expenses. In addition, 15 residents aged 85 and above who were eligible for social pensions each received K60,000, bringing the total to K900,000. Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, directors-general and other officials also donated K500,000 to provide lunch for the elderly residents. Those wishing to make donations to Karuna Kaba Elderly Home may contact 09-259896359 or 09-787050835. — TWA/KZL

## Maritime & Aerial Warnings Issued for Maritime Security Exercise



THE Maritime Security Exercise will be launched from 25 to 29 November 2026 in the northern waters of the Andaman Sea, and it will include sea, aerial and underwater exercises and live firing missions. The exercise area where the coordinates are drawn is 12° 51' of north latitude and 96° 40' of east longitude for Point A, 12° 51' of north latitude and 97° 40' of east longitude for Point B, 11° 51' of north latitude and 97° 40' of east longitude for Point C and 11° 51' of north latitude and 96° 40' of east longitude for Point D and the maritime warning and aerial warning have been released.

Therefore, during the period of exercise, to ensure safety, the large and small ships, cargo ships, motorboats, fishing boats, and mechanized rafts are strictly prohibited from entering, anchoring, fishing, or deploying fishing equipment within a five-mile radius of the designated area. Moreover, the aircraft and helicopters are also prohibited from flying below an altitude of 15,000 feet over the area during this period. — MNA/KZL

# Weather Report

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 22 November 2026)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 23 November 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Chin State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Shan State and isolated in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. The weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. The wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 November 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 November 2026:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 November 2026:** Partly cloudy. — DMH

### El Niño Conditions News

Issued on 21 November 2026

(a) Based on evaluations from the World Meteorological Organization and international climate centres, sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean near the equator are 2.4°C to 2.7°C above normal and atmospheric conditions continue to persist a very strong El Niño event. It is forecast to reach its peak intensity during November and December 2026.

(b) Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events in the upcoming summer season.

(c) Due to the El Niño phenomenon, the upcoming winter and summer seasons may bring high temperatures and water scarcity potentially leading to low water levels in rivers, lakes, wells and ponds shortages of drinking and irrigation water, heatstroke and dehydration, diarrheal diseases, due to water scarcity and reduce hydroelectric power generation alongside increase electricity demand. Therefore, all relevant sectors are advised to prepare in advance and take necessary measures to reduce the possible impacts. — DMH

# NATIONAL

## President Opens Tazaungdine Lighting Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Competition at Maravijaya Buddha Park

The opening ceremony for the 2026 Tazaungdine Lighting Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Launching and Offering Competition at Maravijaya Buddha Park was held yesterday evening in a grand and festive atmosphere at the park's Fountain Square.

The ceremony was attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife Daw San San Aye, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and his wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and their wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, participating balloon teams and officials. Numbers of monks, nuns and members of the public visiting the Buddha Park also attended the event.

Upon the arrival of the President and his wife at the ceremony venue, ethnic performers and cultural troupes from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, together with artistes from Myanma Radio and Television, warmly welcomed them while holding traditional Myanmar lanterns.

The President and his wife then formally opened the Tazaungdine Lighting Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Launching and Offering Competition by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Immediately after the opening, attendees released small hot-air balloons, while fireworks illuminated the sky. Performers also presented traditional dances to lively Tazaungdine festival songs. The President, his wife and other guests watched the performances.

Afterwards, the President, his wife and accompanying officials visited the competition teams representing Union-level organizations and ministries participating in the 2026 Maravijaya Buddha Park Tazaungdine Lighting Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Launching and Offering Competition, greeting participants along the way. Traditional dance performances were also presented in their honour.

They then watched the participating teams launch and offer their large night balloons and diamond-shaped (Seinnapan) balloons in the competition and warmly greeted monks, nuns and members of the public who had gathered to enjoy the festival. During preparations for the balloon launches, ethnic cultural troupes also presented traditional dances.

The President and his wife subsequently paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and offered flowers, drinking water and oil lamps. Together with other ceremony attendees, they lit and offered oil lamps as part of the Tazaungdine Lighting Festival.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets attendees at the opening ceremony for the 2026 Tazaungdine Lighting Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Launching in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They later circumambulated the Maravijaya Buddha Image clockwise, paying homage to the Buddha, and cordially greeted visitors and members of the public attending the festival.

The Tazaungdine Lighting Festival, together with the Hot-Air Balloon Launching and Offering Competition, is held annually in a vibrant and festive atmosphere at Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, as part of the Tazaungdine celebrations.

This year's festival will run from 22 to 24 November. During the three-day celebration, various religious and cultural activities will be organized, including recitations by religious chanting groups at the Buddha Image's platform, the lighting and offering of 9,000 oil lamps, a fireworks display, and the launching and offering of decorative large night balloons and diamond-shaped (Sein Na Pan) balloons.

Other activities include the weaving and offering of Matho Thingan robes, decorative LED light displays across the Buddha Park precincts, and exhibitions and sales of traditional Myanmar delicacies produced in the region. Well-known Myanmar artistes will also entertain visitors with musical performances and traditional theatrical shows, adding to the festive atmosphere. — MNA/ST

## New Myitnge (Dokhtawady) ...

FROM PAGE 1

The former 700-foot-long Dokhtawady Bridge, built in 1999 and more than 26 years old, collapsed completely during the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025, disrupting transport connectivity along the expressway. Currently, vehicles travelling along the Expressway must detour via the Saga-Inn Roundabout at Milepost 352/6 and proceed along the six-lane Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay Highway towards Paleik to reach Mandalay.

To ensure uninterrupted and faster travel to Mandalay along the expressway, the Ministry of Construction selected a new alignment 90 feet upstream of the collapsed bridge and is constructing a new four-lane bridge with a total length of 1,000 feet.

Bored pile foundations, bridge piers, precast prestressed concrete girders for the approach spans, reinforced concrete deck slabs and railings, as well as approach road embankments, have been completed. Workers are now proceeding with the installation of steel box girders and concrete paving on the approach roads.

All major structural works on the bridge connecting the Yangon and Mandalay banks are scheduled for completion by the end of February 2027. Asphalt concrete paving on the bridge and approach roads, the installation of streetlights and final finishing works will be completed in March, ahead of the bridge's opening to public traffic. — ASH/TH

## Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Festival Sees ...

FROM PAGE 1

attractive designs, while other animal-shaped balloons also showed improvements in decoration. The diamond-shaped (Seinnapan) balloons had also improved, while the large night balloons featured better painting techniques and more advanced pyrotechnic displays.

He noted that this year had set a record for the number of both daytime figurative balloons and nighttime balloons entered in the competition.

Since the opening day of the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Festival on 16 November, Ayethaya Balloon Field has been crowded with spectators every day, to the extent that people have had difficulty moving freely around the venue. The closing ceremony will be held on 25 November, the first day after the full moon of Tazaungmone.

A total of 561 balloons are competing in the 2026 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Competition. These comprise 112 nighttime balloons, including 71 large night balloons and 41 diamond-shaped (Seinnapan) balloons, as well as 449 daytime figurative balloons, consisting of 236 two-legged figures, 138 four-legged figures and 75 other figurative designs.

Taunggyi is the birthplace of the hot-air balloon festival tradition. During this year's Thadingyut and Tazaungdine festivals, balloon experts from Taunggyi have also been invited to Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, PyinOoLwin, Hopong and Aungban to construct and launch hot-air balloons. Following the conclusion of the Taunggyi festival, Tazaungdine balloon competitions will also be held in Hopong and Aungban.

In today's daytime competition, 45 animal-shaped balloons participated, featuring two-legged figures such as mythical birds, parrots, giant owls, owls, seagulls, hornbills, white doves, roosters and ducks, as well as four-legged figures including sheep, horses, deer, bears, gorillas, elephants, pigs, seals and pandas.

In the nighttime diamond-shaped (Seinnapan) balloon competition, entries included ABC Men Wear, Shan United, Lucky, Montawa Taungyoe and KBZ Bank.

Meanwhile, the large night balloon competition featured Shan United, Loilem Mee, Yadana Taungyoe, Sakka, Pwe Zarr Oh, Lu Chaw, Ozone, 81 Naga Pyan, Pe Tue, KBZ Bank and Ah Thit. — Ko Htwe+Thitsa/ST

# NATIONAL

## Maravijaya Buddha Image Festival to feature lighting celebrations, hot-air balloons and 600 MSME stalls

THE Tazaungdine Lighting Festival, Hot-air Balloon Festival and Grand Trade Fair will be held at the Maravijaya Buddha Image in a grand and festive manner from 22 to 24 November 2026. More than 600 stalls featuring local products, a wide range of food and consumer goods, and products manufactured by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) will take part in the event, showcasing and selling their products.



Maravijaya Buddha Image.

During the festival, religious ceremonies will include the weaving and offering of Matho Thingan (robes) to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the offering of Kathina robes at the Golden Monastery and continuous recitations of the Maha Pathana.

Hot-air balloon launching competitions, stage shows and traditionally theatrical performances will also be held.

As part of the entertainment programme, the Thura Win Htut theatrical troupe will give a free performance on 22 November, while the Aung Zambu theatrical troupe will perform free of charge on 23 and 24 November 2026.

Free bus services will be provided to transport pilgrims to and from the festival venue for their convenience. — Htun Htun/KNN

## Demolition of illegal buildings continues in Shwe Kokko

THE systematic demolition of illegal buildings used for online scam and gambling activities in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area is continuing to prevent such activities from resuming at the sites where they were previously carried out on a large scale.

Of the remaining illegal buildings in Phase II, one five-storey building being demolished using machinery had been 40 per cent complete as of today, while the demolition of another five-storey building using machinery had reached 10 per cent completion.

A total of 63 remaining buildings in Phase II, which were used for online scam and gambling activities, have been classified according to their demolition methods: buildings to be demolished using machinery, buildings to be demolished through controlled explosions, and buildings located close to residential homes that must be dismantled floor by floor using manual labour.




This map shows demolition of scam hub buildings in Shwe Kokko area.

Of these, 13 buildings have already been systematically demolished, comprising four buildings demolished through explosions and nine using machinery. The remaining 50 illegal buildings will also be systematically demolished.

The government is cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries to completely eradicate online scams and online gambling, which pose threats to global socioeconomic affairs and national security, according to reports. — 100/KZL

**The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.**

## Magway Chief Minister inspects factories and edible oil production

MAGWAY Region Chief Minister U Tin Ko Ko inspected the operations of Good Brothers' Co, Ltd near Kanhla Village in Magway Township yesterday morning to promote the development of the agricultural sector, ensure domestic edible oil sufficiency and increase export earnings.

First, the Chief Minister and his delegation visited the company's bean and sesame quality sorting and cleaning factory. Company officials explained the installation of bean and sesame cleaning machines, each capable of processing five tonnes per hour, contract farming arrangements, support for the development of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and the marketing of products in domestic and international markets. In response, the Chief Minister instructed the company to prioritize the export of more quality products that meet international market standards and provide farmers with necessary agricultural inputs and technical assistance.



Magway Region Chief Minister U Tin Ko Ko visits bean and sesame sorting factory.

The Chief Minister and officials then met local farmers who had brought beans and sesame to be sold at the factory. They exchanged greetings and words of encouragement, inquired about the farmers' agricultural difficulties and requirements, and coordinated with relevant departments to address their needs. The delegation subsequently inspected the company's edible oil mill and oil refining facility. Owner U Hla Oo and officials explained that the facility had obtained FDA Approval for operation of the mill and was equipped with oil mills capable of processing 15 tonnes per day, an oil refinery, sunflower oil extraction machines and machines for producing fragrant sesame oil.

The company plans to process a total of 2,880 tonnes of raw materials, including groundnuts, sesame, sunflower seeds and roasted sesame for fragrant oil, annually and produce 1,123 tonnes of edible oil, equivalent to 687,843 viss. They also explained the company's efforts to export fragrant sesame oil. The Chief Minister then inspected the various stages of bean and sesame cleaning operations inside the factory. He urged the company to ensure a continuous supply of raw agricultural produce to support domestic edible oil sufficiency and to produce and distribute clean, hygienic and quality edible oil. He also coordinated efforts to address the operational requirements of the factories. — Maung Khaing Min (IPRD)/KZL

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**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**
( +95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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# NATIONAL

## Tazaungdine Lighting and Hot Air Balloon Festival Kicks Off at Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Tazaungdine Lighting and Hot Air Balloon Festival began yesterday evening at the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw—home to the world's tallest sitting marble Buddha image—drawing large crowds of local residents, civil servants, and pilgrims from across Myanmar.

To ensure a safe and smooth experience on the opening day, traffic police managed congestion along entry and exit routes, while officials conducted security checks and provided wheelchairs and shuttle carts for monks, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Emergency medical clinics, staffed alongside the Myanmar Red Cross Society, were also set up across the grounds, and the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee arranged free round-trip EV buses and Royal Bus services from designated pickup points.

Inside the LED-lit park, devotees offered flowers, water, and 3,600 oil lamps, recited religious scriptures, and toured landmarks including the stone inscription pagodas, Mucalinda Lake, and the Fountain Square.



Tazaungdine Lighting festival crowded with visitors at Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: AYE AUNG**

The evening's highlights featured fireworks, traditional Shan and elephant dances, ozi and dobat music, and ministerial hot air balloon competitions. Ministries competed in two categories—launching Seinnapan balloons alongside Nyameegyi balloons named—while attendees released smaller lanterns into the night sky.

Running for three days from 22 to 24 November, the festival also includes market fair, musical and theatrical performances, and the 4th Non-stop Lotus Robe Weaving Competition, which opens on the evening of 23 with 15 November looms representing Nay Pyi Taw and various regions and states. — Hein Min Soe+ Kyaw Swa Win/ST

## Yangon Tazaungdine Market Fair and Music Festival Draws Crowds at People's Square




People visit booths at Yangon Tazaungdine Market Fair at People's Square.

THE Yangon Region Tazaungdine Market Fair and Music Festival is underway at People's Square in Yangon, attracting large crowds of families and friends coming together to shop, sample local foods, and enjoy live entertainment.

Aimed at promoting domestic goods and regional specialties, the festival features more than 400 stalls showcasing products from Yangon's industrial zones, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives, and various regions and states, alongside numerous food vendors. Donors are also offering daily free charity meals to visitors throughout the event.

After dark, the park comes alive with colourful decorative lights, illuminated floral displays, and fireworks, accompanied by performances from well-known artistes across film, traditional theatre, and music.

Running for four days from 21 to 24 November 2026, the open-to-all festival also provides dedicated YBS shuttle bus services to ensure convenient transportation for attendees celebrating the Tazaungdine season. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/ST

## Mandalay Region to host Space-themed Art, Cartoon and Poster Competition on 5 Dec

THE Mandalay Region-level Space-themed Art, Cartoon and Poster Competition for basic education students will be held at Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay on 5 December, according to reports.

The competition is being organized under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Government, the Myanmar Space Agency and the Mandalay Region Education Office to promote young people's interest in space science and technology and encourage them to express their ideas and imagination through artistic creations.

The competition will be held in three sessions on 5 December. In the morning, primary-level students will compete under the theme "Space Dreams", while middle-school students will take part under the theme "Humans and the Future of Space". In the afternoon, high-school students will compete under the theme "Exploring and Applying Space Technology".

Prizes will be presented to the winners on 6 December. At the primary level, the first, second and third prizes will be K500,000, K400,000 and K300,000 respectively, while 10 special prizes of K200,000 each will also be awarded. At the middle-school level, the first, second and third prizes will be K700,000, K600,000 and K500,000 respectively, with 10 special prizes of K300,000 each. At the high-school level, the first, second and third prizes will be K1 million, K900,000 and K800,000 respectively, while 10 special prizes of K500,000 each will be presented.

In addition, presentations and exhibitions on space science and technology will be held at Yadanabon Hall from 5 to 7 December. — ASH/KZL

## Myanmar boosts value-added elephant foot yam processing as export demand rises

ELEPHANT foot yam (konjac), one of Myanmar's major agricultural export crops, is increasingly being processed domestically into value-added products, with demand growing in both domestic and international markets, according to reports.

Raw elephant foot yam harvested locally is currently being processed into a range of products, including konjac powder, konjac noodles, plant-based meat substitutes, konjac jelly and weight-management supplements.

In addition to serving the domestic market, elephant foot yam powder—a higher-value product than dried chips—is seeing strong export demand from China, Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

With raw konjac sourced from Kayin, Mon, and Shan states and Sagaing Region, the crop has strong potential to stabilize raw material prices, create domestic employment opportunities and improve the socioeconomic well-being of local communities, provided that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) further expand their operations in konjac powder milling and the production of konjac noodles and plant-based meat alternatives. — ASH/TH

# NATIONAL

## Quadruplet Mother Receives Welfare Aid

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided financial support to a mother who gave birth to quadruplets at Nay Pyi Taw Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Ko Ko Lwin visited the hospital, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin and officials, on 19 November, and provided financial assistance of K1 million to the mother who had given birth to four girls in a quadruplet pregnancy. The quadruplets were born on 20 October, and their parents are Daw Wyne and U Nay Lin Aung from Yedashe Township.



Officials visit the medical ward where quadruplets are being cared for.

Quadruplet births are rare, occurring roughly one in about 500,000 pregnancies and rarely one in 1.5 million mothers to give birth to all-girl quadruplets.

The ministry has provided financial assistance for mothers who gave birth to triplets and more on an annual basis as support for their nutritional supplements. Until the November 2026-2027 financial year, 10 mothers received assistance. – TWA/ZS

## Traditional Myanmar bullock cart and ox beauty contest continues in Tatkon

THE second day of the third Myanmar Traditional Bullock Cart and Ox Beauty Contest was held at the Township People's Sports Ground in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, at 8:30 am on 22 November, under the leadership of the Chairman of the Township Management and Administration Committee.



Decorated bullock carts seen at the competition.

A participant said that the competition aimed to preserve and promote Myanmar's cultural customs, strengthen unity and friendship among local residents, and highlight the value of oxen and carts, which play an important role in the agricultural sector. He added that the competition provided an opportunity to showcase oxen and carts as valuable assets worthy of appreciation.

A village-tract administrator said that this was the third year the township had organized the traditional bullock cart and ox beauty contest. He pledged to participate every year regardless of whether he won a prize and expressed his gratitude to the organizers and donors who provided prize money. He also expressed his wish for the competition to be held annually.

A total of 20 bullock carts from Tatkon Township are competing in the contest, divided into Groups A and B. Following the first and second days of competition, 10 bullock carts with the highest scores were selected from both groups under the scoring system to advance to the final on 23 November.

The first, second and third prizes are K5 million, K3 million and K2 million, respectively. Special prizes and cash awards will also be presented to all participants in the traditional bullock cart and ox beauty contest, according to the Township Competition Organizing Committee. — Tin Soe Lwin/KZL

## MTE sets log, timber sale in motion

THE Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE), operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for tender to sell 300 tonnes of teak logs, some 1,250 tonnes of hardwood logs and 156 tonnes of teak sawn timber of Export Marketing and Milling Department and 150 tonnes of teak sawn timber, eight tonnes of teak veneer and 19 tonnes of headwood veneer of Wood-based Industry Department.

Open tendering will be held at 9 am on 3 December 2026 at Tawwin Hall, Myanma Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon. An announcement will be made if the date changes.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises can compete in bidding to buy necessary raw materials. They can observe details of the open tender through the official website of the Myanma Timber Enterprise www.mte.gov.mm or by dialling 01 287430, 01 528771, and 01 528764. – NN/KZL

## UMTA receives Certificate of Appreciation for participation in Sri Lanka Exhibition 2026

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association received a certificate of appreciation for its participation in the Sri Lanka Promotional Exhibition 2026 and the Flavours of Sri Lanka Food Festival on 14 November at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon, hosted by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Yangon, according to the association.

The event aimed to boost cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka in the fields of tourism, trade, culture and economy, and to strengthen friendship and international relations between the two countries.

The embassy was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation to UMTA for its support and participation in the event and for helping promote Myanmar's tourism and service sectors and business opportunities. The recognition marks a proud milestone for UMTA's international relations and tourism development cooperation and encourages further tourism cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

UMTA will continue working to promote the sustainable development of Myanmar's tourism sector, cooperate with international partners and introduce Myanmar's tourism opportunities more widely to the international community. – NN/KK

## 100 students visit National Museum in Yangon



Students from Thanlyin BEHS No 1 visit National Museum (Yangon).

A total of 100 students from Basic Education High School No 1 in Thanlyin Township, accompanied by four teachers, visited the National Museum (Yangon) on a study tour on 21 November 2026 to broaden their knowledge and deepen their interest in Myanmar's history, culture and national heritage.

During the visit, Assistant Director Daw Mi Mi Lay of the National Museum (Yangon) explained the historical artefacts, ancient household items, cultural heritage and objects used by Myanmar kings displayed at the museum.

The students also took a keen interest in viewing the ancient artefacts, artworks and historical heritage on display.

Such study tours provide students with opportunities to gain practical knowledge beyond classroom learning and help foster appreciation for the preservation of Myanmar's history, culture and national heritage.—Than Win (Thanlyin)/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Palm oil reference price slightly declines

THE palm oil wholesale reference price set for the Yangon market decreased to K7,375 per viss this week ending 26 November, which is down from K7,420 last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.



Bottles of edible palm oil displayed at a retail shop.

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

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

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

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

## Cargo insurance awareness training to be launched

WOMEN in Logistics and Transport, Navigating Asia, and Aim Forward Institute are jointly organizing an awareness training on Freight Forwarder's Liabilities and Cargo Insurance in Yangon on 27 November.




Poster for the cargo insurance awareness training.

Participants will be able to learn about the duties and accountabilities of freight forwarders, transport and cargo-related risks, marine cargo claims, fundamental concepts of cargo insurance, and risk management. Furthermore, the course will provide detailed discussions on practical workplace scenarios, including circumstances where insurers are not liable to pay compensation, excluded risks and situations where insurance coverage is unavailable, the limited liability, and policy exclusions.

The training will be led by Mr Dan Yeo Phuay Song, an Insurance Claims Specialist with over 30 years of experience in the Asia-Pacific region, alongside Marine Claim & Insurance Consultant Ms Mya Thida Lin. Participants will be presented a Certificate of Completion.

The training will take place on that day from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at No 47/A, Pyay Road, Yangon. The regular fee is set at K600,000 per person, with a special rate of K400,000 for association members. Interested individuals can inquire and register during office hours by contacting Ma Thuzar (09-43053601) and Ko Thit Naing Tun (09-8833 12131). — TWA/ZN

## Open tenders called for procurement of school uniform for primary students

AN open tender is called for the procurement of school uniforms (white/green) for primary school students, according to the Basic Education Department's announcement.

Eligible Myanmar citizen entrepreneurs and companies those are meeting the specified requirements are invited to submit open tenders for the procurement of school uniforms (white and green) for primary school students who will be attending basic education schools under the Department of Basic Education in the 2027-2028 academic year.

Tender forms will be available for purchase from 19 November to 7 December during office hours, with the final submission deadline set for 4:30 pm on 7 December. Tenders must be submitted to the Finance Department under the Department of Basic Education (Head Office), Office 13, Nay Pyi Taw.

Individuals can enquire about details in person or by dialling 067 3407694, according to the Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee of the department. — NN/KZL

## Myanmar avocado exports poised ...



Quality avocado fruits are displayed at a fruit shop.

FROM PAGE 1

opportunities for commercial cultivation and exports.

Hass avocados which grow at elevations of 3,000 feet mature in September, while those cultivated at 4,000 feet mature in November. At elevations of 5,000 feet, the fruit ripens in December and January. As Myanmar's avocado harvest coincides with the end of Thailand's avocado season, locally grown avocados typically command favorable market prices.

"Myanmar avocados fall into two main categories: foreign varieties and local varieties. Among local varieties, Amara is the favorite, while Hass is the preferred foreign variety. What we primarily need is market access. Chinese officials have already inspected farms and processing plants in Shan State, and the signing of the second-stage draft agreement has been completed, with only the final stage remaining. We are also working to secure official export access to Thailand. Since India also favours Myanmar avocados, obtaining export approval will generate significant foreign exchange earnings. Once export markets open up, avocado exports alone could earn more than US$100 million annually," said U Khun Tun Tun Win, Chairman of the MAVO.

As avocado supplies from Thailand and Vietnam taper off in October, Myanmar avocados enter the market from November through January. During this period, their lower moisture content and higher oil levels enhance fruit quality, making them highly sought after by buyers.

Growers have also pointed out that, alongside investments in cultivation, the sector urgently needs cold storage facilities, packinghouses and processing plants. Rather than focusing solely on short-term profits, entrepreneurs should make coordinated investments in post-harvest infrastructure that benefits both the national economy and farmers' livelihoods. Such investments will help ensure sustainable, long-term foreign exchange earnings from fruit exports.

Avocados are cultivated across Myanmar, particularly in PyinOoLwin, upper Sagaing Region, Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kachin states, with Shan State serving as the country's primary production hub.

Meanwhile, the 2026 Avocado Festival is being held for five days, from 21 to 25 November, at the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization in Taunggyi, alongside the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival. The promotional event features exhibition booths showcasing various culinary uses of avocados beyond smoothies, including household dishes such as avocado salad, avocado served with fermented fish dip, avocado paratha, spicy salads, savoury salads and other creative preparations. — Thitsa (MNA)/TH

# OPINION

## Communal Kathina offering in the month of Tazaungmone

THE Myanmar people celebrate and participate in donation ceremonies throughout the twelve months of the year. During the month of Waso, they offer Waso robes to monks, and when the Kathina season arrives, they also make Kathina robe offerings.

The robes donated for the Kathina ceremony are called Kathina robes or Kathina robes-to-be. The Kathina ceremony involves not only the robes to be offered for the Kathina ceremony but also other items for monks' use, such as umbrellas and footwear, as well as provisions for meals, including rice, oil and salt. In addition, cash donations for monastic requisites are offered. These items and donations are hung on donation structures.

Monks who have received Kathina robes are entitled to the five privileges of the Kathina season: they may go into towns and villages without informing nearby monks; travel without carrying all three robes; keep and use extra robes as they wish without making a formal determination or assignment; accept invitations and meals even when the invitations are made in ways that would otherwise be improper; and use robes that arise at the monastery where the Kathina ceremony is held.

Member of the Sangha who preserve and safeguard the Buddha's teachings is an indispensable institution for the perpetuation of Buddhism. As the venerable monks strive to promote and propagate the Three Baskets of the Buddhist teachings, laypeople should support them by offering the four requisites, thereby contributing to the continued flourishing and longevity of the Buddha's Sasana. Making donations with faith in the law of Kamma and its effects brings increasing benefits to the donors themselves. Those who respectfully revere, support and pay homage to the Sangha can attain benefits both in this world and in the cycle of existence.

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Ordinary robes may be offered to monks at any time. However, Kathina robes may be offered only during a designated one-month period each year. Kathina robes are offered solely out of goodwill and sincere faith. Donation structures originated in connection with the Kathina robe-offering ceremony and are offered with deep devotion so that monks may make use of the requisites attached to them.

In accordance with the Myanmar traditions, the Kathina festival is a donation ceremony held over a period of one month, from the first day after the full moon of Thadingyut to the full moon day of Tazaungmone. It is a grand festival celebrated annually with great enthusiasm and splendour in every town and village.

# The Night When Medicinal Dew Settles

By Junior Thin



ON THE full-moon night of Tazaungmone, the sky above Myanmar is often imagined as a vast, luminous garden. The moon shines brightly, the stars appear in their multitude, and the cool night air carries a sense of stillness and expectancy. In Myanmar tradition, this is more than a beautiful night to admire the heavens. It is believed to be a special time when medicinal power settles upon plants, renewing their healing qualities. The custom is especially associated with the **Mezali** tree, whose leaves, flowers, and other parts are gathered and eaten in the hope of warding off illness and bringing good health.

The name "Tazaungmone" belongs to the eighth month of the Myanmar lunar calendar, and its full moon is observed with religious and cultural activities. People may visit pagodas, offer lights, make donations, or take part in community celebrations. Yet alongside these public observances, many households mark the night in a quieter and more intimate way: they look to the plants around them. The belief that nature receives a special blessing under the full moon connects the celestial world with everyday wellbeing. The stars and moon are not simply a backdrop; in folk imagination, they are part of a living order that can influence the earth below.

According to the tradition, the clear sky and bright moonlight of Tazaungmone create especially favourable conditions for medicinal qualities to gather in plants. People describe this process with the evocative idea that "medicine settles" on the leaves, blossoms, or fruit. The phrase suggests that plants are touched by a temporary, beneficial power – something bestowed by the night itself. The belief is particularly linked to the **Mezali** tree, which is regarded as a fitting source of ingredients for a full-moon-night remedy.

As evening deepens, families may prepare to collect **Mezali** leaves or buds of the tree. In some places and households, people make a salad from the leaves, mixing them with ingredients such as onion, oil, salt, or other seasonings. Recipes and customs can vary from one family or community to another. What matters most is not a single fixed preparation, but the meaning attached to gathering and eating the plant at this particular time. The food becomes a way of welcoming the night's blessing and sharing it among family members.

The custom is also an expression of care. Elders may tell younger relatives about the belief, explain which plant to gather, and show how it is prepared. Children and adults can take part together, turning the practice into a small family ritual. A bowl of greens eaten under the influence of tradition is not merely a dish; it carries memories, stories, and hopes for the coming year. For some, the taste may recall childhood evenings, the smell of the night air, and the warmth of relatives gathered around a meal.

At the heart of the observance is the hope that consuming plants touched by medicinal power can protect people from sickness or help them recover from a range of ailments. Some believe that the leaves, flowers, or fruit gathered on this night can help prevent disease and preserve health. Such ideas belong to a long-standing relationship between communities and the natural world. Before modern healthcare was widely available, people often relied on local plants, inherited knowledge, and household remedies. Beliefs about a plant's strength could be intertwined with practical experience, spirituality, and the desire to keep loved ones safe.

It is important, however, to understand the healing claims as traditional belief rather than established medical fact. A plant eaten as part of a custom should not be assumed to cure every illness, and a traditional food is not a substitute for professional medical care. Nor should unfamiliar plants be gathered or consumed without reliable identification and appropriate guidance. Recognizing these distinctions does not diminish the cultural significance of the practice. Instead, it allows the tradition to be appreciated with respect while keeping health decisions grounded in evidence and safety.

The **Mezali** custom reflects a wider human impulse to find meaning in the meeting of sky, season, and body. The full moon's brightness gives the night a special atmosphere, while the act of collecting leaves turns that atmosphere into something tangible. People cannot hold moonlight in their hands, but they can gather a plant beneath it, prepare it, and share it. Through this simple act, an invisible blessing becomes part of a meal and part of family life.

The Tazaungmone full moon day is also a time of generosity and communal spirit. Across Myanmar, people may share food, make offerings, and join in religious or social activities. The practice of eating **Mezali** greens fits naturally within this wider mood of wellbeing and goodwill. A family may prepare enough for everyone; neighbours may exchange greetings; elders may pass on the story to younger generations. The custom thus strengthens bonds as much as it expresses hopes for physical health.

For many people, the image of medicinal power settling on plants is most vivid beneath a clear, star-filled sky. It suggests that the earth is not separate from the heavens, and that even ordinary leaves may become extraordinary when surrounded by meaning. Whether understood as faith, inherited wisdom, or cultural symbolism, the belief gives Tazaungmone night a distinctive place in Myanmar's seasonal life.

When the full moon rises and the stars shine overhead, the **Mezali** tree becomes more than a source of greens. It stands as a symbol of nature's generosity and of the hope that each new season may bring protection and renewal. The tradition of gathering and eating its leaves preserves a connection between people, plants, and the night sky – a reminder that health is cherished not only through remedies, but also through shared rituals, remembered stories, and care for one another.

# Self-Worth Is Not Measured by Approval Alone – but Neither Is It Built Alone

By Thin Hlaing Hmwe

IN the 13 November 2026 edition of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, Laura Htet's article, **"Our Worth Is Never Measured by Others' Approval"**, argues that people should not surrender their identity, feelings, and decisions merely to win acceptance. Its warning against people-pleasing is valuable, especially for those who feel compelled to satisfy everyone. Yet the argument becomes incomplete if it treats other people's approval mainly as a threat to self-respect. A person's capacity to stand independently is rarely created in isolation. It is often developed through the patience, care, guidance, and sacrifices of others – and those relationships deserve serious consideration, not dismissal.

The article rightly observes that the fear of disappointing people can make ordinary choices feel difficult. It is also true that no one can control every opinion or reaction, and that a polite refusal does not automatically constitute disrespect. But the question is not simply whether we should live for other people's approval. It is also how we became capable of making choices in the first place. The confidence to speak honestly, the ability to distinguish fair advice from unfair pressure, and the strength to pursue a goal are often qualities nurtured by parents, teachers, relatives, mentors, friends, and communities. To present personal independence without acknowledging this foundation risks making self-worth sound like a private achievement, disconnected from the people who helped make it possible.

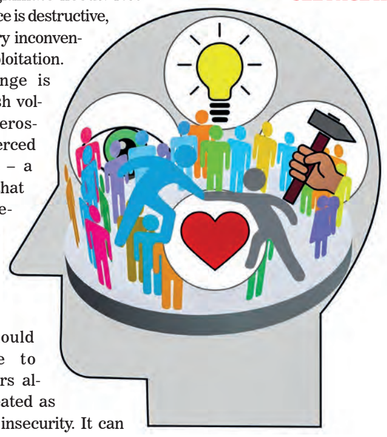
Most people do not construct their lives from nothing. A child learns language, discipline, trust, and responsibility through relationships. A young person's opportunities may depend on family members who provide education, emotional support, money, or a safe place to fail and try again. Teachers may identify an ability that the student has not yet recognized. Friends may offer encouragement at a moment when confidence is low. None of this means that a person owes unquestioning obedience forever. It does mean that the story of personal success is rarely the story of one person alone. If we claim the achievement but ignore those who helped cultivate the abilities behind it, our account of self-reliance is incomplete.

There is an important difference between unhealthy dependence and reasonable gratitude. Dependence can mean allowing another person to make every decision, or accepting mistreatment because one fears losing approval. Gratitude means recognizing that one's strengths and opportunities may have been supported by others. We can be grateful without surrendering our judgment; we can respect a parent without accepting every demand; and we can value a mentor's advice while deciding that it does not fit our circumstances. The article's call to protect boundaries would be stronger if it made this distinction clearer. Otherwise, readers may mistake the legitimate responsibility to consider those who care for them for a weakness to overcome.

Approval itself is not always shallow or controlling. Sometimes it is feedback from people who know us well and want us to avoid harm. A parent may warn a child about a risky decision, not because the parent wishes to dominate, but because experience has revealed consequences the child has not yet considered. A teacher's criticism may feel uncomfortable yet help a student improve. A friend may challenge our conduct because it is damaging someone else. In such cases, listening is not surrendering self-respect. It is part of becoming thoughtful and accountable. The real question should not be, "Does this person approve of me?" but "What is motivating this concern, and is there something true or useful in it?"

This matters because "being true to oneself" can also be misused. People sometimes describe stubbornness as authenticity and call any criticism an attempt to control them. But self-expression alone does not make a decision wise, fair, or harmless. Our choices affect other people, particularly those who depend on us or have invested in our well-being. A person who refuses every request, dismisses all advice, and treats every expectation as an intrusion may not be protecting healthy boundaries. They may simply be avoiding responsibility. Independence cannot mean that we are free from considering the consequences our actions have for others.

The article's emphasis on saying no is useful, but refusal is not automatically virtuous. A respectful "no" may be necessary when a request violates one's values, exceeds one's capacity, or exposes one to harm. Yet sometimes a refusal can be careless or self-serving. There are situations in which compromise is not self-erasure but a fair part of living together: sharing responsibilities, keeping a promise, helping family members, or making room for another person's legitimate needs. Not every sacrifice is destructive, and not every inconvenience is exploitation. The challenge is to distinguish voluntary generosity from coerced compliance – a distinction that requires reflection, context, and honest conversation.



Nor should the desire to please others always be treated as evidence of insecurity. It can also arise from compassion, loyalty, and an understanding that relationships require effort from everyone. In many families and communities, people's lives are closely connected. Decisions about work, marriage, caregiving, or finances may affect more than one individual. This does not give relatives an unlimited right to dictate someone's future.

SEE PAGE 11

# DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

## Pyayay Htoke:

### *A Traditional Myanmar Glutinous Rice Delicacy*

WRAPPED neatly in green bamboo leaves or banana leaves in a distinctive triangular, cone-like shape, Pyayay Htoke is a traditional Myanmar delicacy. Once the leaves are unfolded, the glossy, translucent amber-coloured treat inside immediately catches the eye.

Made by cooking glutinous rice with clear lye water traditionally extracted from plant ash, this delicacy has a distinctive texture and a cooling, earthy character that reflects Myanmar's culinary heritage.

Pyayay Htoke is best enjoyed with accompaniments rather than on its own. The glutinous rice is cooked until completely tender, giving the delicacy a firm, chewy, jelly-like texture. Eaten plain, it has little sweetness or saltiness, with only the mild, distinctive aroma of the lye water and a refreshing taste.

Its flavour comes alive when served with toppings. Drizzled with thick palm jaggery syrup, the sweetness seeps into the chewy rice. Add freshly grated coconut and roasted, ground sesame seeds, and the result is a wonderfully balanced combination of sweet, rich and nutty flavours without becoming overly cloying. Those who do not like palm jaggery may simply sprinkle sugar over it instead.



### Ingredients

(The following quantities are suitable for making a family-sized batch at home.)

**For the rice parcels:**

1. Glutinous rice – 2 cups
2. Food-grade lye water – about 1½–2 tablespoons, adjusted according to its strength [See the separate section below for how to prepare traditional lye water.]
3. Vegetable oil or pure peanut oil – 1 tablespoon, to prevent sticking and give the rice a glossy, smooth texture
4. Dried bamboo leaves or banana leaves – as needed for wrapping
5. Bamboo strips or kitchen twine – for tying the parcels

**For serving:**

6. Thick palm jaggery syrup or sugar
7. Freshly grated coconut
8. Roasted white or black sesame seeds, lightly ground

### Method

**1. Soak the glutinous rice and mix with lye water**

Wash the glutinous rice thoroughly and soak it in water for at least 3-4 hours. Drain it completely in a colander.

Add the clear lye water and oil to the drained rice and gently mix until evenly coated. The grains will gradually turn pale yellow when they come into contact with the lye water. Leave the rice to rest for about 30 minutes.

**2. Soften the wrapping leaves**

If using bamboo leaves, wash them thoroughly and soak them in hot water for about 10 minutes. If using banana leaves, lightly pass them over a flame to soften them. This makes the leaves flexible and prevents them from tearing when folded.

**3. Wrap the rice into triangular parcels**

Fold each leaf into a triangular, cone-like shape and spoon in the lye-water-treated glutinous rice.

Note: Do not fill the parcels, as the rice will expand during cooking. Fill them to about three-quarters full. Fold the top of the leaf securely over the opening and tie firmly with bamboo strips or kitchen twine.

**4. Boil the parcels**

Fill a large pot with plenty of water and bring it to a rolling boil. Add the wrapped parcels, making sure they are fully submerged. Cover the pot and cook over medium heat for about 1½–2 hours.

If the water level drops during cooking, add hot water rather than cold water.

SEE PAGE 11

## Weekly News Quiz

(for 23 November 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Friday's newspaper (20 November 2026).

### National News Quiz

1. During a courtesy call by BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey on President U Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw, which two landlocked BIMSTEC member countries were highlighted for collective assistance in development and disaster preparedness?
   A. Laos and Mongolia
   B. Nepal and Bhutan
   C. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
   D. Afghanistan and Tajikistan

2. Organized by the Ayeyawady Region government, the Pathein Umbrella and Traditional Handicrafts Festival will be held from 24 to 31 December at which venue in Pathein Township?
   A. Shwemokhtaw Pagoda Precinct
   B. Pathein University Convocation Hall
   C. Kanthonsint
   D. Ngwehsaung Beachfront

3. How many gold medals did the Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team win to finish fourth overall at the 34th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (34th AARM) held in Malacca, Malaysia?
   A. Two gold medals
   B. Three gold medals
   C. Four gold medals
   D. Five gold medals

### Global News Quiz

4. Which Central American nation vowed to formally object to and block any consensus deal at the COP31 UN climate summit in Antalya unless its demands, including capping global oil production, are met?
   A. Costa Rica
   B. Guatemala
   C. Panama
   D. Honduras

5. In which southern Chinese city did Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump, and Chinese President Xi Jinping hold a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting?
   A. Guangzhou
   B. Shanghai
   C. Shenzhen
   D. Xi'an

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

# DELICACY/ARTICLE

## Pyayay Htoke: A Traditional Myanmar Glutinous Rice Delicacy

FROM PAGE 10

Continue cooking until the glutinous rice is completely tender and the parcels have developed a glossy, translucent amber colour and a firm, jelly-like consistency.

**5. Cool and serve**

Once cooked, remove the parcels from the pot and briefly place them in a bowl of cold water before draining.

Allow the parcels to cool completely, then unwrap the leaves and cut the delicacy into bite-sized pieces. Drizzle with thick palm jaggery syrup and sprinkle with grated coconut and roasted sesame seeds before serving.

**Health Perspective**

Pyayay Htoke has traditionally been enjoyed as a seasonal Myanmar snack, particularly for its cooling and refreshing qualities.

- A source of carbohydrates: Glutinous rice and palm jaggery provide carbohydrates and natural sugars, which can supply energy when the body is tired.
- Not deep-fried: Because the delicacy is boiled rather than fried in large amounts of oil, it does not contain the added fat associated with deep-fried foods.
- Traditional alkaline ingredient: Lye water is alkaline and contributes to the characteristic texture and colour of the delicacy.

However, lye water must be handled carefully. Only food-grade lye water intended for culinary use should be used, and the amount should be measured accurately. Excessive lye water can make the delicacy bitter and may irritate the digestive tract.

Because glutinous rice can take longer to digest, people with sensitive digestion should avoid eating large quantities late at night. Those with diabetes should also moderate their intake, particularly when the delicacy is served with palm jaggery syrup or sugar.





Dishes of Pyayay Htoke.

### Traditional Preparation of Lye Water

The key to achieving the characteristic glossy amber colour and chewy, jelly-like texture of Pyayay Htoke is the clear lye water traditionally made by extracting alkaline compounds from clean plant ash.

Plant ash contains naturally occurring alkaline compounds, including potassium carbonate, which interact with the starch in glutinous rice and help produce the delicacy's distinctive texture and appearance.

**1. Selecting the ash**

Because the lye water will be used for food preparation, not all types of ash are suitable. Use only clean plant ash from appropriate, untreated plant material.

**Suitable sources include:**

- Sesame stalk ash
- Dried banana leaves or dried banana stems
- Bean husk or bean-stem ash
- Clean ash from untreated hardwood

In some parts of Upper Myanmar, sesame stalk ash and dried banana-leaf ash are traditionally used.

Never use ash contaminated with plastic, household rubbish, painted or chemically treated wood, or manufactured charcoal briquettes.

**2. Extracting clear lye water**

**Sift the ash:**

Allow the ash to cool completely, then pass it through a fine sieve to remove charcoal pieces, debris and coarse particles.

**Mix the ash with water:**

For every 1 cup of clean ash, add 3-4 cups of clean water to a glazed ceramic pot, earthenware pot or large glass bowl. Stir for several minutes with a clean wooden spoon or bamboo stick until the ash is thoroughly mixed with the water.

Do not use aluminium cookware or containers.

**Allow the mixture to settle:**

Cover the container and leave it undisturbed for 12-24 hours, preferably overnight. The ash particles will settle at the bottom, leaving a pale amber, tea-coloured liquid above.

**Collect and filter the clear liquid:**

Carefully scoop the clear liquid from the surface without disturbing the sediment. Filter it again through about three layers of clean muslin cloth or through a coffee filter to remove any remaining ash particles.

Traditionally, another method involves placing straw and cloth in a clay pot with a small hole at the bottom, packing the ash inside and slowly pouring water over it. The clear lye water then drips through the bottom and is collected.

**3. Testing the strength of the lye water**

Because natural ash varies in composition, the strength of homemade lye water can vary.

**Check the colour:**

It should be clear and pale, resembling weak tea. If it is excessively dark, it may be too strong and should be diluted with a little clean water.

**Do not taste it:**

Lye water should never be tasted directly. Strong alkaline liquid can burn or irritate the tongue and mouth.

**Test with glutinous rice:**

Mix a small handful of soaked glutinous rice with a little lye water. If the grains begin turning pale yellow within about 15 minutes, the strength is considered suitable.

**4. Storage and safety**

Store filtered lye water in a glass bottle or food-grade plastic container with a tightly sealed lid. Avoid storing it in metal or tin containers.

Homemade natural lye water may be weaker than commercially prepared food-grade lye water. Therefore, the amount used should be adjusted according to its strength and the recipe.

For 2 cups of glutinous rice, approximately 2-3 tablespoons of homemade lye water may be used, depending on its concentration.

With its glossy amber colour, pleasantly chewy texture and combination of palm jaggery, coconut and roasted sesame, Pyayay Htoke offers a distinctive taste of Myanmar's traditional culinary heritage – one that can be enjoyed with family, especially during the cooler months. — MOON

## Self-Worth Is Not Measured by Approval Alone – but Neither Is It Built Alone

FROM PAGE 9

But it does mean that personal choices may carry relational consequences that deserve attention. A mature decision-maker does not simply obey or rebel; they listen, explain, weigh competing responsibilities, and, where possible, seek a path that preserves both dignity and care.

The most important omission in an argument centred on self-approval is the possibility that character is formed through a balance of inner conviction and outside guidance. We need enough self-respect not to be controlled by every opinion, but enough humility to recognize that we may be mistaken. We need boundaries, but also gratitude. We need courage to disagree, but also the willingness to repair relationships when we have caused hurt. People who helped us grow should not be given unquestionable authority over our lives; neither should they be treated as irrelevant once we have gained confidence.

A healthier conclusion, then, is not that our worth is measured by others' approval, nor that their approval should never matter. It is that approval should be considered – not worshipped. We should not trade our identity for acceptance, but we should ask who has supported us, whose advice comes from care and experience, and what responsibilities accompany our freedom. A life built with confidence is admirable. A life built with confidence, gratitude, and accountability is wiser. The goal is not to become someone who needs nobody's understanding. It is to become someone who can make independent choices without forgetting the people whose care helped make that independence possible.

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# India, Canada wrap up sixth round of CEPA talks, push for balanced trade pact

*The negotiations oncluded after covering several key areas, including trade in goods and services, rules of origin, trade remedies, intellectual property and investment promotion.*

INDIA and Canada have concluded the sixth round of negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with both sides reaffirming their commitment to an ambitious, balanced and mutually beneficial trade pact aimed at expanding market access, boosting investments and strengthening bilateral economic ties.



A container-handling vehicle operates at the Global Container Terminals facility at Roberts Bank in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, on 30 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

According to a release issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the negotiations, held from 11 to 20 November, concluded on Friday after covering several key areas, including trade in goods and services, rules of origin, trade remedies, intellectual property and investment promotion.

The Indian side was led by Chief Negotiator Brij Mohan Mishra, while the Canadian side was headed by Chief Negotiator Mary-Catherine Speirs.

The negotiating round began with a meeting between Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Canada's Minister of International Trade Maninder Sidhu in the national capital on 11 November.

Both ministers emphasised the need for a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement that would provide meaningful market access, build on the complementary strengths of the two economies and create fresh opportunities for trade and investment. — ANI

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### IIFT conclave examines risks to India's growth

FORMER Chief Economic Adviser Shankar Acharya discussed the risks that global economic uncertainty poses to India's growth and stability at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) Economics Conclave in New Delhi on 20 November, the institute said in a press release.

In his keynote address, Acharya spoke about "the broader implications of global economic uncertainties and the challenges they pose for India's growth trajectory and macroeconomic stability," IIFT said.

The conclave, held at IIFT's Delhi campus, brought together economists and policy experts to discuss how India and other developing economies can respond to uncertainty in global trade.

A session featuring Pulapre Balakrishnan of the Centre for Development Studies and Rathin Roy of the Kautilya School of Public Policy focused on "the impact of global macroeconomic headwinds on the Indian economy and the policy imperatives for strengthening domestic resilience amid an uncertain international economic environment", the release said. — ANI

# French protesters rally for sixth weekend over living costs, public services

TENS of thousands of people marched in cities in France on Saturday, on the sixth weekend in a row of protests to demand better public services and express anger over the rising cost of living and inequality.



Protesters gather in central Paris during the sixth consecutive weekend of demonstrations against rising living costs and inadequate public services. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The protest movement, sparked in mid-September by high school students demanding better learning conditions, fuelled a nationwide campaign against soaring prices, inadequate public services and police brutality that spread across Europe, even as turnout in France has dwindled.

Across the country, organisers reported 150,000 protesters, compared to 200,000 last week and 800,000 on the first one held 17 October.

The interior ministry said numbers had "significantly declined", counting 82,500 people, compared to 106,000 last Saturday.

Thousands of people gathered in central Paris's Place de la Republique square in a festive atmosphere, with musicians playing, food trucks, costumes and homemade signs, before marching east through the city.

Flags and vests of trade unions and left-wing parties mingled with those of student organizations and the Yellow Vest movement, which is marking its anniversary eight years after it rattled President Emmanuel Macron's government. One group had set up mock headstones proclaiming the death of France's public services, including social security and education. — AFP

# AI boom fuels corporate investment as Japan consumers tighten purse strings



Pedestrians walk past corporate office buildings in Tokyo as Japanese firms boost artificial intelligence investments to drive economic growth. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

JAPANESE companies are investing heavily in artificial intelligence, but households remain reluctant to spend despite rising wages, leaving the economy increasingly dependent on corporate investment to support growth.

Behind the divide are persistently high food and energy prices and uncertainty about the future. The reluctance to spend may also reflect habits formed during decades of weak growth following the collapse of Japan's asset bubble in the early 1990s.

The contrast poses a challenge because household consumption accounts for more than half of Japan's economy. If consumers keep their wallets closed, growth could become increasingly vulnerable to any slowdown in the global AI investment boom. — Kyodo

# Most flights at Brussels Airport to be canceled Monday amid national strike




Brussels Airport is the main international airport of Belgium. **PHOTO: BRUSSELS AIRPORT**

MOST departing and arriving flights at Brussels Airport are expected to be cancelled on Monday as some air traffic controllers plan to join a national strike against the Belgian federal government's austerity measures, the airport announced on Saturday.

In a statement, Brussels Airport said it expected significant disruptions to its operations on 23 November after Belgian air navigation service provider skeyes announced the plan of its air traffic controllers.

Skeyes said in a statement that it would be unable to provide normal air traffic control services at Belgian airports and in the airspace under its responsibility between 7 am and 9 pm local time (0006-2000 GMT) on Monday.

The company said staffing levels would be insufficient to ensure the safe management of normal air traffic during that period, and only essential minimum services would be maintained for emergencies and other safety-critical flights. — Xinhua

# Over 11 mln customer records leaked from Tower Records

OVER 11 million customer records have been leaked from the online store of Tower Records Japan Inc due to unauthorized access, the music retailer said, making it the latest Japanese company to be hit by a cyberattack.

No further damage had been confirmed as of Saturday, and no credit card information was compromised, Tower Records Japan said in a press release.

The data breach included names, telephone numbers and mailing addresses.

The company said unauthorized access to the online store was confirmed Thursday, with the data breach discovered following an emergency system maintenance check. — Kyodo

# India Inc earnings outlook remains upbeat for H2 FY27



Workers assemble vehicles at an automobile manufacturing plant in India as strong retail and export demand lifts corporate earnings. **PHOTO: ASCM.ORG**

ACCORDING to a Motilal Oswal Financial Services report, India's corporate earnings outlook remains positive for the second half of FY27 due to broad-based demand, healthy business activity, and strong order pipelines.

During the second quarter, 28 sectors met or exceeded expectations, with banking, financial services, insurance, metals, oil and gas, and automobiles driving 77 per cent of incremental year-on-year growth.

Looking ahead, automakers anticipate single-digit industry growth backed by retail sales and exports, while capital goods benefit from strong domestic and overseas orders in power, infrastructure, and data centers.

Banks expect credit demand and net interest margins to gradually recover. Metals and consumer firms anticipate improved performance from better product mixes and cost-saving measures, though rising coking coal prices may pressure metal margins.

Meanwhile, the technology sector shows mixed trends, balancing AI-led transformation against weak discretionary spending. Overall, company managements remain optimistic about expansion and execution, while closely monitoring input costs and geopolitical risks. — ANI

# Standardized coal mines boost output, revenue, and safety in Afghanistan

MODERN equipment and standardized safety measures are transforming underground coal mining in northern Afghanistan, boosting output, national revenue, and worker protection. At the historic Karkar coal mine in Baghlan province—which employs roughly 250 workers—operations are now 100 per cent standardized, while other provincial mines have reached 70 to 80 per cent compliance.

Previously, miners worked in unreinforced tunnels without essential safety tools. Today, the state-owned North Coal Company has installed metal and wooden support structures to prevent collapses and provided modern gas detectors to monitor methane, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and sulfur oxides. Workers like miner Ahmad Saber and veteran safety officer Gula Jan report vastly improved conditions, noting daily supervisor inspections and comprehensive facility support. — Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (011W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (011W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

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

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB646A)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB646A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: **2301185**

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

Agent For:

**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

# ROLLING UPDATES
## WORLD

# Netanyahu's Likud demands keeping security zones in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria ahead of unity govt talks

*Eisenkot has until 6 December to form a government, with a possible extension of up to two weeks granted by the president.*

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party on Saturday issued a series of conditions for joining a potential national unity government, including a commitment to preserve Israeli security zones established during the war in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria.

The demands were outlined in an official Likud position paper as Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar party invited Likud on Saturday to begin a "marathon" of coalition talks aimed at forming a broad national unity government. Yashar said its negotiating team would "turn over every stone", pursue bold initiatives and seek a breakthrough that could lead to the formation of a new government. Likud's proposed guidelines also include recognizing Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state, and an agreement on the status of Jewish ultra-Orthodox students regarding military service. — Xinhua



An exterior view of the Knesset building in Jerusalem where Israeli lawmakers are negotiating to form a new coalition government. **PHOTO: CHEZKI MOZES/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS /FILE**

# Japan govt tests AI app to curb bureaucrats' long working hours

THE Japanese Digital Agency has recently begun testing a prototype artificial intelligence app to assist government workers in drafting responses for ministers to deliver in parliament, in a bid to reduce their notoriously long working hours.

Overtime among Japanese bureaucrats has been particularly notable among those involved in preparing for Diet sessions, partly because lawmakers are often late in submitting questions to be answered by the government in parliament and research is needed to craft highly accurate and consistent responses.



Pedestrians crossing a street in the Kasumigaseki government district of Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The AI-powered tool, which became available to some 180,000 government employees on 30 October, is intended to optimize the process of looking up previous statements made in parliament and reference materials to prepare draft answers. — Kyodo

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Movies at 30,000 feet: Hollywood's high-flying market

AIRLINES carried almost as many passengers last year as cinemas sold tickets worldwide, turning in-flight entertainment into a major market for Hollywood.

Some 4.98 billion movie tickets were sold in 2025, according to the European Audiovisual Observatory, while the International Air Transport Association (IATA) counted around 4.97 billion air passengers.

"The airlines take this very seriously, as do the film companies. It's a serious market for them," Terry Steiner, president of Terry Steiner International, the largest independent distributor of in-flight entertainment, told AFP.

When Steiner founded her company in 1993, airlines mostly screened a handful of films on a shared screen at the front of the cabin. — AFP

### Thailand seeks closer high-tech cooperation with China, says industry minister

THAILAND hopes to strengthen cooperation with China in high-tech sectors, including electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, energy storage and optoelectronics, and jointly explore third-country markets, Thai Industry Minister Varawut Silpa-archa said.

Chinese investment in Thailand's high-tech industries has continued to grow in recent years, Varawut told Xinhua in an interview. He called for closer technological exchanges and talent development to strengthen local supply chains and support industrial upgrading.

"Thailand needs not only foreign investment, but also technology transfer and capacity building for its workforce," he said. — Xinhua

### Iran destroys two US Patriot radars in Bahrain: reports

IRAN'S IRGC Aerospace Force carried out a combined missile-and-drone operation against US military positions at the Al-Riffa and Awali bases in Bahrain, destroying two radars belonging to US Patriot air-defense systems, Fars News reported. The operation, codenamed "Ya Umm al-Banin" ("O Mother of the Sons"), came in response to continued US aggression and a violation of Iranian airspace by MQ-1 and MQ-9 reconnaissance and combat drones. The IRGC warned that Iran's airspace is a "red line" and that any further violation would receive a "harsh and decisive response." — Sputnik

# Modi highlights Uttar Pradesh's growing semiconductor and BrahMos missile manufacturing

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted Uttar Pradesh's growing role in semiconductor and defence manufacturing, saying that a semiconductor chip manufacturing factory is being built in the state and BrahMos missiles, which were used during Operation Sindoor, are also being manufactured there.

Addressing an event in Lucknow, the Prime Minister said the state was making progress in manufacturing sectors, including semiconductors and defence equipment. — ANI

# Storms ravage California coast as "Super El Nino" fuels fears of further damage

RECORD rainfall, surging waves and vulnerable seawalls are only a foretaste of what's to come, scientists warn, as El Nino-driven sea level rise and "king tides" threaten California's shoreline this week. Early Thursday, the U.S. National Weather Service warned California coastal residents about new storms hitting their coastline. "The front is very dynamic and has been a very efficient rain producer with rainfall rates over an inch (about 25.4 mm) an hour," it warned, adding, "These rates have prompted the issuance of multiple flash flood warnings." — Xinhua

# SPORTS



MFF President U Zaw Zaw receives the AFC President's Recognition Award. **PHOTO-AFC**

## MFF wins AFC President's Recognition Award

THE Myanmar Football Federation was presented Broze Award in the category of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football at the AFC Awards Bangkok 2026 held in Thailand on 19 November, for its efforts to develop grassroots football in Myanmar.

It is not only in Yangon but across the country where in 2026, MFF organized boy's and girls' football academies, regional training centres, free summer football courses attended by 1,700 students, youth talent selection programmes and youth football festivals in cooperation with region or state institutions.

It also carried out school-based Football for Schools activities, developed new football pitches under the FIFA Arena programme and launched talent development projects for players aged under 12 to under 15. Japan won the Gold Award, Bangladesh received Silver, while Myanmar took Bronze. — TWA/ZS

# Myanmar traditional Lethwei tournament holds semi-final bouts

THE semi-final matches of Match 37 of the Myanmar Fight Championship were held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, at 1 pm yesterday.

The championship is jointly organized by the Sports and Physical Education Department, Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG), with Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited as the main sponsor.

In the 48-kilogramme division, Nay Zaw Htet (Zar Mani Maung) defeated Jack Li (Ray), who received two counts following punches in the first and second rounds and was unable to continue fighting in the second round. In another bout, Sai Thit Min (Python Tawwin Ayeya) defeated Lar Lel Bwe (Yoya Kyar) with a knee strike.

In the 51-kilogramme division, Saw Htet Aung (Warriors) knocked out Kaung Khant Kyaw (Bago Club) with punches in the second round. Thar Htway (Kyar Ma Naing) defeated Zwe Mann Oo (Zati Myanmar) on points.


Than Zaw Oo and David James seen in action at Myanmar Fight Championship.

In the 54-kilogramme division, David Chen (MK-1) defeated Ye Khone (New White Blood) on points. Phyo Min Than (Bago Club) also defeated Htet Lin San (Top One) on points after their bout went the full distance.

In the 57-kilogramme division, Yuda (Python Tawwin Ayeya) knocked out Saw Tha Hmu (MK-1) with a knee strike in the third round. Saw Kee Do (Nine) defeated Sin Pauk (Kyar Ma Naing) on points.

In the 60-kilogramme division, Yan Myo Aung (YMA) defeated Pyae Phyo Oo (Strong Wrestler) with punches in the second round. In another bout, David James (Zeal) defeated Than Zaw Oo (Top One) on points following a closely contested three-round fight, with the decision going in his favour. The bouts were held under a points-based system, with each contest consisting of three rounds of three minutes each and a two-minute rest between rounds. The 10 winners from the semi-finals will advance to the final matches scheduled for 27 December, while the 10 defeated fighters will compete for third place.

Gold, silver and bronze medals, along with championship trophies, will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in each weight class.— Bala/KZL

## Messi furore after Columbus thrash Miami in MLS Cup


Lionel Messi pleads with referee Allen Chapman during Inter Miami's MLS Cup playoff defeat against Columbus Crew in Miami. **PHOTO: AFP**

COLUMBUS Crew coach Laurent Courtois said Lionel Messi should have been sent off after hurling a throw-in at an opponent as Inter Miami crashed to a 3-0 defeat in the MLS Cup playoffs on Saturday. Messi's frustration boiled over on the stroke of half-time when he aimed a forceful throw-in into the face of Columbus Crew forward Gonzalo Tapia with 10-man Miami trailing 1-0 at the time. Messi and Tapia both were shown yellow cards for the incident by referee Allen Chapman, but Courtois said afterwards the Argentina superstar should have been given a red card. — AFP

## PSG forward Doue out with ruptured knee ligament

PARIS Saint-Germain star Desire Doue has suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee, the reigning French and European champions confirmed on Sunday.

Doue, 21, went down after twisting awkwardly late in the first half of Saturday's 3-2 Ligue 1 win at Nice and was stretchered off in tears.

The French international will undergo surgery before the end of the month, PSG added in a brief statement, without specifying the expected length of his absence, which is likely to be a matter of months. Doue looked in agony as he clutched his right knee, and the match was stopped for five minutes to allow him to receive treatment before being carried off to a backdrop of applause from the crowd at the Allianz Riviera stadium.

PSG have also lost Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee playing against Barcelona last month. — AFP


Paris Saint-Germain forward Desire Doue lies on the pitch after suffering a knee injury during a Ligue 1 match against Nice. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Weekly News Quiz

### Answer Key

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10

1. (**B**). Nepal and Bhutan (From the BIMSTEC cooperation story on **Page 1**)
2. (**C**). Kanthonsint (From the Pathein traditional handicraft festival story on **Page 2**)
3. (**B**) Three gold medals (From the 34th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet story on **Page 5**)
4. (**C**). Panama (From the COP31 climate summit story on **Page 14**)
5. (**C**). Shenzhen (From the Russia-China-US trilateral meeting story on **Page 16**)

Netanyahu's Likud demands keeping security zones in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria ahead of unity govt talks

PAGE 14



23 NOVEMBER 2026
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

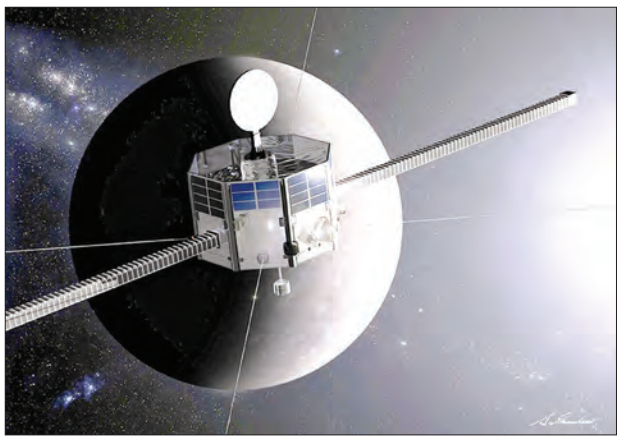
# WORLD

## Russia actively assists Africa in protecting public health: Putin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Saturday sent greetings to participants, organizers, and guests of the International Conference on Public Health in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, highlighting Russia's contribution to public health resilience in Africa.

"The Russian Federation has traditionally rendered active assistance to African partners in public health matters, while the results of the recent third Russia-Africa summit offer opportunities to ramp up efforts in this area. Particularly close cooperation has been built in fighting epidemic diseases within the framework of the relevant comprehensive cooperation programme, which has been extended until 2029," the message read. — SPUTNIK

## Japan-Europe joint probe enters Mercury's orbit



An artist's illustration shows the joint European-Japanese BepiColombo spacecraft orbiting Mercury after its eight-year journey through space. **PHOTO: KYODO**

AFTER an eight-year-long trek through outer space, the Japanese-European joint BepiColombo probe has entered Mercury's orbit, the European Space Agency (ESA) said on Sunday.

On X, the ESA said that BepiColombo "achieved orbital capture" around the smallest and least understood planet in the Solar System after turning on the thrusters for more than half an hour.

The probe was already analysing the data it had collected, the agency added. Launched in 2018, the four-tonne satellite had already crossed more than 10 billion kilometres and nine other planets en route to the closest planet to our Sun. Earlier this year, ESA mission chief Santa Martinez told AFP that the mission was set to "offer humanity never-before-seen views of Mercury and open a new chapter in our understanding of the Solar System".

The European and Japanese portions of the probe are set to split from each other and go along their respective orbits on 9 and 10 December, according to the mission plan. — AFP

# Fusion power within reach by the 2050s, says Russia's nuclear chief

*Scientists are currently developing a lithium barrier for the first wall of a tokamak with reactor technology.*

BY the mid-21st century, thermonuclear fusion could be used in industry as an energy source, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said.

Scientists are currently developing a lithium barrier for the first wall of a tokamak with reactor technology, he noted, adding that this barrier should keep the plasma inside the reactor.

The project draws on findings from work carried out within the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), Likhachev noted. It brings together 50 scientific organizations from Russia, China, the EU, India, Japan, South Korea, and the US. The scientists' main goal is to prove that thermonuclear fusion can become a powerful, practically inexhaustible source of clean energy. — SPUTNIK



A prototype of the modernized T-15MD hybrid thermonuclear reactor is displayed at the Kurchatov Institute's exhibition stand in Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## COP31 closing plenary concludes, outcome document expected over weekend

NEGOTIATORS at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) wrapped up a late-night closing plenary around midnight on Friday, with the final outcome document expected to be released over the weekend.

"Our responsibility now is to deliver results, and I believe we will achieve that result in this hall. Very little distance remains," COP31 President Murat Kurum said at the closing session in Antalya.

Kurum urged delegations to focus on consensus rather than individual priorities after days of intensive consultations, expressing hope that parties would leave with an "Antalya Consensus."

On Friday, COP31 President of Negotiations Chris Bowen said that negotiators would continue working "for as long as it takes to get the job done," and there was "a spirit of goodwill" among delegations. — Xinhua




We are close to the finish line, but we are not there yet,' COP31 President and Turkish environment minister Murat Kurum said. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Asia, Africa to drive expansion of India's export markets

INDIA'S merchandise exports are gaining a wider geographical footprint, with strong growth in Africa and Asia expected to remain important to the expansion of overseas shipments, supported by engineering goods, electronics and petroleum products, according to government data. Exports to Africa rose 44 per cent to US$31.42 billion during April-September 2026-27, the fastest growth among major regions, while shipments to Asia increased 21 per cent to US$103.84 billion, crossing the US$100 billion mark, according to a Press Information Bureau backgrounder released on Saturday. — ANI