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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla Attend Maravijaya Balloon Gala and Mathoe Thingan Awards



President U Min Aung Hlaing presents a championship trophy to the Ministry of Legal Affairs tearm for winning the Seinnapan balloon competition.

The 2026 hot-air balloon release contest at the Tazaungdine Lighting Festival of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, and the awards ceremony for the Mathoe golden lotus robe-weaving contest took place on a grand scale at the fountain square in the compound of Maravijaya Buddha Park yesterday evening, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

Also present at the ceremony were 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 and their wives; ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar; the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander and officials; and contestants from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and various regions and states who participated in the hot-air balloon launching competition and the Mathoe robe-weaving competition.

The President and his wife offered flowers, water and oil lights to the Buddha Image.

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Practising thrift, reaping rewards

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Maravijaya Tazaungdine Festival Ends in Splendour

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Pilgrims Throng Shwedagon, Other Pagodas on Tazaungmone Full Moon Day

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Shan State Turns 18 Villages into Tourism Gems



The picturesque mountain landscape of Shan State, home to six key tourist destinations.

A total of 18 villages in Shan State, a mountainous region of Myanmar, have been developed as community-based tourism (CBT) destinations, with plans to extend the initiative to Wamsa village in Kengtung Township in the 2026-2027 financial year, according to the Shan State Department of Implementation of Hotels and Tourism Development and Training.

Shan State, which attracts large numbers of domestic and international visitors, recorded 937,144 tourist arrivals in 2025 and 1,057,417 arrivals from January to October 2026 across its southern, northern and eastern regions, representing a 12.8 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2025.

From January to October 2026, a total of 970 foreign tourists visited destinations through package tours from border areas. Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe and Kalaw received 699,851

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Myanmar Takes Centre Stage at Coffee Expo Seoul 2027



The images feature visual graphics announcing the selection of Myanmar as the Official Guest Country for Coffee Expo Seoul 2027.

MYANMAR has been selected as the Official Guest Country for the Coffee Expo Seoul 2027, which will be held in Seoul, South Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Coffee Expo Seoul 2027 will take place at the COEX Exhibition Centre in Seoul from 28 April to 1 May 2027. The exhibition organizers officially notified the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul of the selection on 17 November.

In their official notification letter, the organizers commended Myanmar's strong commitment and outstanding efforts to promote its coffee culture and establish new business partnerships in South Korea. They also expressed their pride and delight in selecting Myanmar as the Official

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Mon Youths Keep Tazaungmone Flame Alive at Shwedagon

THE ethnic Mon community continues to uphold the tradition of lighting oil lamps on the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, one of the twelve seasonal festivals. On the evening of 24 November, Mon youths offered oil lamps at the Shwedagon Pagoda in the event of lighting jointly organized by the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture and the Mon Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon), with the support of the Yangon Region government.

About 250 Mon community elders and youths from various townships across the Yangon Region circumambulated the Shwedagon Pagoda clockwise once, paid homage at the northeastern corner of the pagoda, and lit oil lamps in devotion on the occasion. — Myo Min Thura/YHT (NLM)



The ethnic Mon community offers oil lamps at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Myanmar Takes Centre Stage at Coffee Expo Seoul 2027

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Guest Country and looked forward to welcoming its participation in the exhibition in April 2027.

Being selected as the Official Guest Country also provides Myanmar with an opportunity to further showcase the quality and production potential of its coffee to South Korean and international markets.

The Coffee Expo Seoul is an international trade exhibition that brings together coffee producers, importers, distributors and other industry professionals. The Korea International Bakery Fair (KIBA) 2027 will also be held concurrently at the COEX Exhibition Centre in Seoul from 28 April to 1 May 2027. — ASH/TH

Shan State Turns 18 Villages into ...

FROM PAGE 1

domestic visitors and 16,563 foreign visitors, bringing the total to 716,414. Overall, more than one million domestic and international tourists visited destinations across Shan State during the ten months of 2026.

"Shan State received 937,144 domestic and international tourists from January to October 2025, while the figure rose to 1,057,417 during the same period in 2026. Regarding community-based tourism, the initiative has been implemented in 18 villages, and Wamsa village is planned to be developed as a CBT destination in the 2026-2027 financial year," said Dr Than Zaw, Director of the Shan State Department of Implementation of Hotels and Tourism Development and Training.

Shan State, which is known for its beautiful mountainous landscapes and diverse ethnic traditions and cultures, has six prominent tourist destinations. In addition, CBT initiatives have been developed in villages across Kyauktalone, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pekhon, Nawnghkio, Kengtung, Tachilek, Kalaw, Yaksawk and Hopong townships. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL



CBT initiatives have been developed in villages across Kyauktalone, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pekhon, Nawnghkio, Kengtung, Tachilek, Kalaw, Yaksawk and Hopong townships.

MMPO holds 22nd communal Kathina ceremony

THE 22nd communal Kathina robe-offering ceremony organized by the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) was held on 23 November at the organization's office in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, according to MMPO Central Executive Committee Member Academy Khant Si Thu.

A Padethabin (a traditional offering of requisites), Kathina robes and other offerings were donated to the monks from the Aungmyay Thukha Monastery. Film stars also offered a midday meal to monks.

"This is the 22nd year that the MMPO has organized the communal Kathina robe-offering ceremony with contributions from the film industry. This annual donation brings together members of the film industry," said Khant Si Thu.



MMPO's 22nd communal Kathina ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by MMPO Chairman and film director Academy Sithu U Kyi Soe Tun, Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay, MMPO patrons Academy Yan Aung, Academy Khant Si Thu and Academy May Than Nu, and other film artistes. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 24 November 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather conditions feature a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea and the East and Central Bay of Bengal, while the South Andaman Sea and the remaining areas of the Bay of Bengal are partly cloudy to cloudy.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 November 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in (northern and eastern) Shan State and isolated in Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Rakhine and southern Shan States. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Mandalay, Magway, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine and (northern and southern) Shan States. In areas along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur; therefore, it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance.

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along the Myanmar Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 November 2026: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 40 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing offers Mathoe golden lotus robes to Maravijaya Buddha Image

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing graced the gala ceremony to offer Mathoe golden lotus robes to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in celebration of the 2026 Tazaungdine festival yesterday morning.

The gala ceremony was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the President; 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 Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials along with religious associations.



President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer the Mathoe golden lotus robes to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

Officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and regions and states conveyed 15 sets of Mathoe golden lotus robes woven by looms representing Nay Pyi Taw Council and regions and states to the platform of the Maravijaya Buddha Image. Meanwhile, members of religious associations recited nine attributes of the Lord Buddha.

They folded the robes into four layers, arranged together and ceremonally carried them onto the golden lotus pedestal. The President and his wife paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and offered 15 sets of Mathoe golden lotus robes to the image, dedicating them to the Lord Buddha. Disciple kept the robes onto the hands of the Maravijaya Buddha Image.



This image captures a serene and graceful evening scene featuring the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

Disciples led by the President and his wife recited nine attributes of the Lord Buddha, Patthana Pali, Paritta and verses of dispersing Metta.

The President and his wife offered alms in the emerald alms-bowl, flowers and fruits, water and oil lights to the Buddha image and shared merits gained.

Mathoe robe weaving is carried out in the month of Tazaungmone as part of Myanmar's traditions. Weaving of robes started in the evening of the eve of Tazaungmone full moon. Offering robes are dedicated to the Lord Buddha at dawn on the full moon day. Among other Mathoe robe offering ceremonies across the nation, the Mathoe golden lotus robes were offered by the President and his wife to the Maravijaya Buddha Image. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar attends International Municipal Forum 2026 in Russia

A Myanmar delegation led by U Kan Myint Than, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee (Mayor), attended the International Municipal Forum 2026, held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, from 23 to 24 November.

The forum was organized with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Roscongress Foundation, and regional authorities, and this year's forum is being held under the theme "Sustainable Urban Transformation and Responding to Global Challenges".



The International Municipal Forum 2026 in progress in Moscow, attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than-led Myanmar delegation.

Over 1,000 delegates from more than 40 countries attended the forum, including representatives from international, regional, and municipal organizations, as well as business leaders and experts. Discussions were held across five sectors: international relations, sustainable development of municipalities, economy and innovation, human resources, and young entrepreneurs. Moreover, an exhibition showcasing urban management operations and innovative projects was held concurrently. The Myanmar delegation, led by Chairman U Kan Myint Than of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee (Mayor), also included the Minister for development affairs of the Yangon Region government and the chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee (Mayor), the minister for development affairs of the Mandalay Region government and the chairman of the Mandalay City Development Committee (Mayor), and the minister for development affairs of the Taninthayi Region government. — MNA/YHT(NLM)

YUE to hold Empowering Sustainable Business Leaders Workshop for MSMEs

THE Yangon University of Economics will hold a free workshop entitled "Empowering Sustainable Business Leaders" for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from 7 am to 9 am daily from 30 November to 3 December at its Kamayut Campus.

The workshop is being organised as part of the Sustainable Success for MSMEs Project to help business owners understand and apply practical and effective approaches to achieving long-term business success.

The workshop will cover strategies for creating shared value by generating benefits for society while securing profits for businesses; the Buddhist economic system; the four pillars of sustainability, which focus

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This image illustrates an announcement poster for the "Empowering Sustainable Business Leaders" workshop.

NATIONAL

Meritorious deeds performed; Tazaungdine Light Festival joyfully celebrated

THE month of Tazaungmone is a delightful time when the world is bright and clear, and the weather is pleasant and temperate. It is also an auspicious and sacred month when Buddhist people across the country observe their noble cultural traditions by performing meritorious deeds, such as collectively offering Kathina robes and lighting oil lamps in homage to the Buddha.



The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and his wife light oil lamps at yesterday's event.

The full moon day of Tazaungmone is a special and sacred occasion on which the Buddha delivered the Samañaphala Sutta, also known as the Discourse on the Fruits of the Ascetic Life, to an audience led by King Ajatasattu. On this auspicious day, Buddhists strive to perform meritorious deeds, including observing the Sabbath precepts in homage to the Buddha, reciting and paying homage to the Patthana and Paritta discourses, offering Kathina robes to monasteries and holding Kathina donation ceremonies, practising and cultivating generosity, morality and mental development, and lighting oil lamps and colourful decorative lights at pagodas, stupas, temples and homes in homage to the Buddha.

As part of the efforts to preserve and celebrate Myanmar's cultural traditions, the Tazaungmone Full Moon Day and Tazaungdine Festival of Lights were joyfully celebrated yesterday evening at the Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The celebrations were attended

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Kayan holds El Niño awareness sessions

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Yangon Region, conducted awareness activities and field inspections in Palu and Kyonkan villages, Kayan Township, yesterday to inform the public about the El Niño phenomenon, prevent potential drinking water shortages and promote the systematic use of drinking water.

Kayan Township Department of Rural Development Staff Officer Daw Zin Mar Kyi and officials met local communities across the two villages to highlight the risks of hot, dry weather conditions and possible water shortages stemming from El Niño.

The township DRD staff officer and officials utilized awareness posters to detail precautionary measures and practices to prevent water shortages, proper methods of storing drinking water, and measures to conserve and use water systematically without wastage.

Officials also conducted on-site inspections of existing drinking water storage conditions in the villages, continuing township-wide awareness campaigns and field inspections in at-risk areas to ensure rural residents have an adequate supply of clean drinking water through timely preparations. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla Attend Maravijaya Balloon Gala and Mathoe Thingan Awards

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The President, his wife and the attendees together with diplomats lit oil lights and went round the Buddha Image round the clock. The President and his wife beat the Saddha Dhipati bell and cordially greeted the people.

The President and his wife, together with the attendees, watched the release of Seinnapan hot-air balloons and night balloons in competition.

While preparing to release hot-air balloons, cultural troupes of ethnic people performed traditional dances and songs, including choral dances. The President and his wife, along with Union-level dignitaries and foreign diplomats, released small hot-air balloons.

During the subsequent prize presentation ceremony, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, and Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay presented trophies, cash awards, and certificates of honour to the winning teams across the Nyameekyi, Seinnapan hot-air balloon, and Mathoe Shwekya (overnight lotus robe weaving) competitions. These accolades recognized Best Discipline and Best Team Discipline; Best Visual Appeal and Most Reverent Robe Creation; Best Innovation and Best Team Attire; Best Balloon Ascent and Best Team Coordination; and Best Ascent Record and Best Team Stitching.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe presented trophies, cash prizes, and certificates of honour to the winners of the Most Beautiful Balloon Shape awards in the Nyameekyi and Seinnapan competitions, as well as the Best Woven Robe Fabric Structure award in the Mathoe Shwekya weaving contest. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi presented awards for Best Smoke-Fumigation Record and Best Team Loom Operation, while Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye awarded the third-place prizes across all three categories: the Nyameekyi balloon, Seinnapan balloon, and Mathoe Shwekya robe-weaving competitions.

Following this, Vice-President U Nyo Saw presented trophies, cash awards, and certificates of honour to the second-place winners: the Ministry of Immigration and Population team in the Nyameekyi balloon competition, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement team in the Seinnapan balloon competition, and the Tawwin Dagon loom team representing Yangon Region in the Mathoe Shwekya robe-weaving competition.

Finally, the President presented trophies, cash awards, and certificates of honour to the first-place champions: the Ministry of Border Affairs team in the Nyameekyi balloon competition, the Ministry of Legal Affairs team in the Seinnapan balloon competition, and the Taung Zalat loom team representing Chin State in the Mathoe Shwekya robe-weaving competition. — MNA/TTA+ST

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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

Maravijaya Tazaungdine Festival Ends in Splendour

THE three-day Tazaungdine Festival at the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, concluded yesterday – the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone (Samañaphala Day) – drawing massive crowds of monks, departmental families, and pilgrims from across Myanmar.



Festivalgoers gather at the Maravijaya Buddha Image precinct on the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone. **PHOTO: AYE PYAE AUNG**

From early morning, pilgrims flocked to the Buddha Park, illuminated with colourful LED lights, to offer flowers, water, and 9,000 oil lamps, while reciting the Pathana and religious verses. To ensure smooth access and safety, traffic police managed congestion, while volunteers and the Myanmar Red Cross Society provided security checks, medical clinics, and complimentary wheelchairs and shuttle carts for the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee also operated free Royal bus lines and electric vehicles (EVs) to and from the venue.

The evening's highlight was the ministerial hot-air balloon competition, accompanied by traditional Shan dances, Ozi and Dobat music, and Thangyat chants. In the Seinnapan category, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, and the Ministry of Labour successfully launched their entries. In the Nyameekyi (fireworks balloon) category, entries from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, and the Ministry of Commerce lit up the night sky.

Later in the evening, the President, Vice-Presidents, and senior officials presented awards at the Buddha Park Fountain Square to winning ministerial and regional teams for both the hot-air balloon and the Mathoe Shwekya (overnight-woven golden lotus robe) competitions.

Alongside religious activities, a 520-stall market fair on the northern grounds featured local MSME products, "One Region One Product" (OROP) items, handicrafts, and traditional foods at affordable prices. Visitors also enjoyed children's amusement rides and free nightly entertainment. The Aung Zabu theatrical troupe staged traditional dances, puppetry, operas, and comedies, while a modern music concert featuring the Daily Gita Band, DJs, and popular vocalists, including May Thet Htar Swe, Way La Ri, May La Thanzin, D Phyo, Thar Dee Lu, Pone Yeik, Snare, Zaw Paing, Jenny, Lain Maw Thee, Yoon Myat Thu, Phoe Kar, Htet Yan, Aung Htet, Htet Inzali, and Adam Oo, drew enthusiastic crowds to cap off the 22-24 November celebration. — Hein Min Soe+Kyaw Swa Win/ST

Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Festival Soars to Finale on Full Moon Day

THE 2026 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival, which kicked off with an opening ceremony on 16 November, concluded its final competitions last night, on the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone.



As last night marked both the final night of the Tazaungdine balloon festival and the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, the Awaiya Ground was packed with a record number of festivalgoers.



Shwezon balloon release team leader U Min Thaw.

"Since today is the final day of the hot air balloon competition, the spectator turnout is extraordinarily high. Tomorrow morning, the competition scores will be tallied, and the awards will be presented in the evening. With the standard of both daytime and nighttime launches continuing to rise, the winners will be determined by the scores awarded by the six judging panels. Today, 44 daytime figure balloons are being launched this morning, followed by five Seinnapan balloons and nine Nyameekyi balloons tonight," said U Tin Win (Painting), Joint Secretary of the Hot Air Balloon Competition Organizing Subcommittee.

On the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, pagodas, stupas and monasteries across the city were crowded with devotees offering communal Kathina robes and participating in illuminated lantern processions. Meanwhile, the Awaiya Ground buzzed with activity and colourful lights under the full moon, featuring MSME exhibition booths, general merchandise stalls, restaurants, Ferris wheels and live music stages. — Ko Htwe+Thitsa/TH

Meritorious deeds performed; Tazaungdine ...

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by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife Daw Nilar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife Daw Nan Kue Ku, and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives. During the ceremony, they paid homage to the pagoda by lighting oil lamps and colourful decorative lights, offering flowers and purified water and 1,000 oil lamps.

Roads, buildings and trees in the compound of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) were illuminated with multicolour lights. Moreover, families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) enjoyed funfairs.

Members of the Sangha, nuns and people offered oil lights at the pagodas and stupas, including Maravijaya Buddha Image and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and Mahamuni Buddha Image in Mandalay. People also released hot-air balloons, held market fairs and organize charity fairs in regions and states.

Similarly, during the Tazaungdine public holiday period, recreational resorts, beaches and public parks across the regions and states were bustling with visitors. Members of the public joyfully celebrated the occasion of the Tazaungmone Full Moon Day. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Pilgrims Throng Shwedagon, Other Pagodas on Tazaungmone Full Moon Day

YESTERDAY, Tazaungmone Full Moon Day, also known as Samañaphala Day, one of the most significant religious occasions for Myanmar Buddhists, saw large crowds of devotees visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and other pagodas in Yangon to pay homage and perform meritorious deeds.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees organized a ceremony to mark Tazaungmone Full Moon Day (Samañaphala Day) on the pagoda platform yesterday morning.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers, members of the Board of Trustees, pagoda office staff, religious organizations, participants in the 38th Shwedagon Pagoda Mathoe Thingan-weaving (robe-weaving) competition and devotees carried golden lotus robes to be offered to the Buddha images at the Shwedagon Pagoda and circumambulated the pagoda in homage.

The chief minister also attended ceremonies to offer Mathoe golden lotus robes at Botahtaung Pagoda and Sule Pagoda, where he joined members of the respective boards of trustees and donors in making the offerings.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials are pictured during the Mathoe Thingan weaving ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Similarly, the 26th successful completion of ceremony marking the the weaving and offering of Mathoe golden lotus robes at the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda was held yesterday morning. Board of Trustees members and donors offered robes to the Buddha images.

On Tazaungmone Full Moon Day (Samañaphala Day), ceremonies to offer Mathoe golden lotus robes, religious observances marking Samañaphala Day, recitations of Buddhist teachings and communal offering ceremonies for grand illuminated pagoda festivals are held with great enthusiasm at pagodas throughout Myanmar, as well as in wards and along streets. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/MKKS

Mongyang's farm-to-market road project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Mongyang Township, Shan State (East), is implementing the construction of a rural agricultural road in Wangtaung Village to enable rural residents to transport agricultural produce from their farmlands to markets at lower costs. Responsible officials conducted a field inspection of the project site yesterday.



Officials oversee a farm-to-market road construction project in Mongyang Township.

Mongyang District Department of Rural Development Head U Yan Kyaw, Mongyang Township Head U Thet Lin Tun and engineering staff inspected the ongoing construction of the one-mile-long rural agricultural road, which is 12 feet wide with a two-foot-thick earth layer and a nine-inch-thick sand and gravel layer. They met members of the Village Agricultural Road Implementation Committee and representatives of the tender-winning company, urging them to ensure timely completion within the stipulated timeframe, while providing necessary coordination for matters raised by village representatives.

The rural agricultural road project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K70.29 million from the Union Budget. Tender-winning company Shwepankwel Company began construction during the fourth week of July this year with technical assistance and close supervision from the township department's engineering staff, and approximately 50 per cent of the overall construction work has now been completed. — Karan (Rural)

Lewe holds El Niño awareness sessions in 3 villages

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted field inspections and awareness talks in Wekkamu, Letpangon and Khitaye villages, Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday to assess drinking water conditions and prevent potential shortages during the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Lewe Township Department of Rural Development Head U San Yu Hlaing and officials inspected current water availability and consumption conditions across the three villages to coordinate necessary assistance for local communities.

The township DRD head and officials met members of the village water supply committees and local elders to highlight the potential impacts of El Niño, including irregular rainfall, drought and severe water shortages. Officials explained heat-precaution guidelines, proper methods of storing sufficient drinking water in advance, measures to conserve water systematically without wastage, and key practices to follow and avoid during periods of extreme heat.

Field inspections and public awareness activities are ongoing across vulnerable villages in Lewe Township under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development to ensure rural communities maintain adequate access to clean drinking water. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



An El Niño awareness campaign is underway in lewe Township.

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NATIONAL

Mandalay Mahamuni Image receives Mathoe robe offering



Mathoe robe offered to the Mahamuni Buddha image with a ritual ceremony. **PHOTO: THE MAHAMUNI TRUSTEE BOARD.**

THE 37th Mathoe robe offering ceremony for the Mandalay Mahamuni Buddha Image was held at dawn on Tazaungmone Full Moon Day, 24 November, according to the pagoda's trustee board.

The trustee board had urged pilgrims across the country to come to pay homage to the Buddha image with a Mathoe robe.

Weaving Mathoe robes (overnight-woven robes) is contributed by weaving experts and sewing professionals from Yekyipauk, Ohndaw, Inlay, Heiya and Ywama every year. — TWA/ZS

Toungoo holds El Niño awareness talk



An El Niño awareness campaign is underway in Toungoo Township.

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development under Toungoo District, Bago Region, conducted an El Niño preparedness awareness talk in Hinyaymya Village yesterday.

U Kyaw Thura, Head of the Taungoo Township Department of Rural Development, met village officials, respected village elders, and villagers of Hinyaymya Village. He then explained that El Niño weather conditions could cause irregular rainfall and drought, and therefore urged them to collect and store drinking water in advance so that there is no drinking-water shortage, to use water systematically without waste, and to follow the measures for protection against El Niño heat.

Daw Aye Aye Aung, Staff Officer of the Toungoo Township Department of Rural Development, also explained the measures for preventing El Niño impacts in advance, the actions to be taken during an El Niño event, and the do's and don'ts.

According to Township Head U Kyaw Thura, the Toungoo Township Department of Rural Development, in cooperation with civil society organizations and relevant departments, is conducting field inspections in villages within Toungoo Township that may face drinking-water scarcity due to El Niño weather conditions, and is making advance arrangements to ensure an adequate supply of clean drinking water. — Ko Nyo (Rural)

MSY Village Project loans disbursed, El Niño awareness talk held in Kungyangon

THE fourth-round disbursement of revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project, together with an awareness talk on the El Niño phenomenon, was held in Myatleyon Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning. The event was organized by the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development to support rural residents in undertaking small-scale income-generating activities.

Daw Su Thida Lin, Township Head of the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives and benefits of the MSY Village Project. The project officer then provided explanations regarding the interest payment period, principal repayment period and applicable interest rates.

Afterwards, the township head and departmental staff handed over K39 million in revolving funds under the MSY Village Project to the Myatleyon Village Project Implementation Group. Subsequently, K39 million was systematically disbursed at affordable interest rates directly to 110 villagers engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding and other livelihood activities.

Following the loan disbursement, Daw Su Thida Lin delivered an awareness talk on the Super El Niño phenomenon, highlighting necessary preparedness measures, the importance of conserving water for agricultural and domestic use, and the need to promptly inform the department if water shortages occur.

The activities aim to support rural livelihoods through access to affordable revolving funds while raising community awareness and preparedness for potential water shortages associated with the El Niño phenomenon, according to the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development. — Myo Myo (DRD)

Farm road construction inspected in Taungdwingyi

OFFICIALS conducted a field quality inspection of the farm road construction project in Wazhamaka Village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region, on 23 November, with the aim of ensuring the durability and quality of rural infrastructure development work.

District Head U Kyaw San Htay of the Magway District Department of Rural Development, Township Officer U Tun Kyaw Kyaw Myo of the Taungdwingyi Township Department of Rural Development, and responsible officials, together with engineering staff from the regional, district and township levels and members of the Farm Road Development Committee, conducted field tests to assess the road's stability and soil compaction using the Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) Test and Sand Cone Test.

Following the inspection and testing, the district head instructed the project supervisor to ensure that the farm road and all associated works are completed within the stipulated timeframe and in line with the prescribed quality standards and specifications. Necessary coordination and arrangements were also made to ensure the proper implementation of the project.

The farm road project in Wazhamaka Village includes the construction of a seven-furlong-long, 12-foot-wide and two-foot-nine-inch-thick earthen road with laterite and gravel surfacing, along with the construction of two pipe culverts. The project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with a Union Government fund of K134.25 million by the Taungdwingyi Township Department of Rural Development. Construction commenced on 23 June, and the project has now achieved more than 60 per cent completion.

Upon completion, the farm road is expected to facilitate the transport of various locally produced crops to markets throughout the year, according to the Magway District Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)



Officials inspect a farm road construction site in Taungdwingyi Township.

YUE to hold Empowering Sustainable Business Leaders ...

FROM PAGE 3

on protecting human well-being, maintaining ethical standards, and conserving the environment and natural resources; and design thinking, a human-centred, empathy-based approach to developing practical solutions with customers' needs at the centre.

The sessions will be led by Dr Myint Myint Kyi, Dr Thin Thin Myint and Dr Hla Hla Mon of the Yangon University of Economics. Participants will receive certificates upon completion of the workshop. — ASH/KNN

OPINION

Practising thrift, reaping rewards

IN human society, a person without education cannot earn respect or recognition, just as those without financial resources may also find themselves looked down upon. Therefore, it is important to be prudent in spending money and avoid spending it on unnecessary things. One should practise thrift and economy, particularly where necessary. In fact, the concept of thrift and frugality is nothing unfamiliar to the Myanmar people. Being thrifty does not mean refraining from spending money altogether; rather, it means avoiding wasteful and pointless expenditure.

Everyone should use their personal belongings responsibly and, in the case of employees, take proper care of office equipment and property to prevent them from being damaged or lost. For example, Myanmar, which is striving to achieve development and progress, needs to practise thrift and economy in its use of electricity. When sufficient natural light is available, electric bulbs and fluorescent lights should be switched off. Being thrifty means using resources wisely and judiciously to avoid unnecessary expenditure and prevent things from being wasted or damaged when they could otherwise be preserved.

> Therefore, everyone should cultivate the habit of thrift and frugality. By using food and other necessities systematically and judiciously, in quantities appropriate to actual needs, at all places and at all times, families can enjoy happy and peaceful lives. From developing good personal habits to fulfilling the responsibilities of nation-building, practising thrift and frugality can contribute to achieving sound and sustainable progress.

At all times, resources should be used and consumed judiciously, in quantities appropriate to actual needs, in order to prevent unnecessary expenditure and losses. The systematic and responsible use of everything will bring benefits and well-being, while unnecessary wastefulness will lead to adverse consequences. Therefore, before using or making use of anything, one should carefully consider and assess the possible consequences before proceeding.

Everyone should exercise moderation in their eating habits. Furthermore, wasting food and eating without discipline, particularly by taking more than one can consume and then throwing away the leftovers, benefits no one. Such practices result in losses not only for individuals but also for the entire nation. Therefore, everyone should avoid such wasteful behaviour.

Therefore, parents and teachers should teach children, from their school-going years, to use all resources and belongings systematically and responsibly, both at home and in schools. They should also explain the benefits of thrift and frugality to help young people understand their importance. From an early age, children should be taught, with practical examples, to distinguish between necessary expenditure and wasteful spending.

Therefore, everyone should cultivate the habit of thrift and frugality. By using food and other necessities systematically and judiciously, in quantities appropriate to actual needs, at all places and at all times, families can enjoy happy and peaceful lives. From developing good personal habits to fulfilling the responsibilities of nation-building, practising thrift and frugality can contribute to achieving sound and sustainable progress.

ARTICLE/POEM

‘Footnotes to Plato’ and World Philosophy Day Themes

By Myint Zan

Saya Zawgyi’s Translation of Plato’s Crito and Parts of Phaedo

SAYA (teacher/ revered teacher) Zawgyi (real name U Thein Han) (12 April 1907-29 September 1990) was a distinguished poet, scholar and librarian. When Saya Zawgyi passed away, his junior by 30 years, poet Maung Swan Yi (born 17 February 1937) wrote an obituary with the title, in translation, ‘If Saya Zawgyi had not produced literary works’. In late 1990, Maung Swan Yi (MSY) wrote that if Saya Zawgyi had not produced any literary work, there would have been a big gap in contemporary Burmese literature. MSY praised Saya Zawgyi’s philosophical contributions in aspects of his literary products. Generally, up to the 1920s, Burmese literary themes fell mainly into two genres: the (Buddhist) religious themes and romantic themes. MSY wrote that Burmese literature is generally not strong on philosophical issues, shorn of its cultural and Buddhist heritage. Zawgyi had written on philosophical issues, and he was also known as a ‘philosophical poet’. Zawgyi had made a notable philosophical contribution in his translation of the aspects of Plato’s *Dialogues* into Burmese. For about three years or so starting from about the year 1960 Zawgyi had published in monthly instalments in a magazine selected dialogues of Plato (circa 328-347 Before the Common Era, BCE) into Burmese. Zawgyi compiled his translations into a monograph and published it in 1969 with the title *Palay Toe Nidan* ‘Introduction to Plato’. In the foreword to the book, Zawgyi wrote that he relied on English translations (from the ancient Greek), mainly those by the classicist Benjamin Jowett (14 April 1817-1 October 1893). Saya Zawgyi mischievously and charmingly wrote that if he were to learn ancient Greek and attempted to translate from the original source, his translation could have been somewhat delayed!



Saya Zawgyi

Three of the *Dialogues of Plato* deal mainly with the last days of his teacher Socrates (circa 469 BCE-399 BCE). Zawgyi translated parts of *The Apology* (Socrates’ argument to the Athenian jury in his trial for impiety and corrupting the youth of Athens). *The Phaedo* was the longest of the four last *Dialogues* of the last days of Socrates as reported by Plato. I think it is at least about 18,000 words in English translation. Zawgyi translated the last 2000 words of *The Phaedo* from the English translation by Benjamin Jowett. In one of the editions of ‘Introduction to Plato’ published after Zawgyi’s passing, the publisher included the last 1,500 words of the English translation.

Phaedo having the time to narrate Socrates’ last discourse in Phaedo and Euthrypo having no time to resolve the issue in Euthrypo

Saya Zawgyi translated Plato’s The Crito in full. The longest of the four Dialogues was *The Phaedo*. On the day he was to drink the hemlock, Socrates had a day-long discussion about the afterlife with his disciples. Plato was apparently ill and did not attend the long discourse on the afterlife of Socrates. Plato reproduced from ‘hearsay’ the Dialogue *The Phaedo*, which narrates the last discourse of Socrates on the afterlife. The person Phaedo met was another person, Echecrates. Phaedo was with Socrates and a few other disciples to listen to Socrates’ last discourse. Plato was the third person to hear about Socrates’ last day and his discourse on the afterlife. Echecrates asked Phaedo to ‘give a really detailed account unless you are pressed for time’. The person Phaedo replied that ‘he had the time’ and narrated ‘word for word’ Socrates’ discourse. Plato reproduced it in the Chapter *Phaedo*. It is a long, at times almost phantasmagoric discourse. Socrates discoursed his sense of certainty that he would happily (endlessly?) discourse about philosophical matters in the underworld or afterlife with philosophers of old (and those to come after him perhaps). Mischievously, whimsically, I felt that the person Phaedo who said that ‘he had the time to narrate about Socrates’ last discourse did **not** have the time so we would be ‘spared’ the whims, so to speak, of the ‘know nothing’ (see below) philosopher.

Contrast this with *The Euthrypo*, where Socrates had a dialogue about the issue as to whether an action is considered virtuous because it is loved by the (ancient Greek) gods or the gods loved the action because it is virtuous. Socrates relentlessly, albeit with pretended modesty, questioned Euthrypo. Eventually Euthrypo stopped the discussion, saying: ‘Another time, Socrates; right now, I have an urgent engagement somewhere, and it is time for me to go’. In stark contrast and unlike Euthrypo, Phaedo had ‘the time’, and Plato also had lots of time to compose *The Phaedo*. I could not search for my copy of ‘Introduction to Plato’ by Zawgyi, but I think he did not translate *Euthrypo*, which, in my view, is the most philosophical of the four Dialogues.

Inconsistencies in The Crito

In the English translation by Benjamin Jowett of Plato’s *Crito*, Socrates stated to the person Crito, who had, shall we say, ‘bribed’ the prison authorities to let him escape from prison. Socrates categorically refused to do so. Crito said to Socrates that when others came to learn that he, Crito, in spite of his wealth and influence, had declined to help Socrates, the ‘many’ will blame him. To which Socrates replied:

‘But why, my dear Crito, should we care about the opinion of the many?’

Socrates told Crito that Crito should not care about what ‘the many’ say and should listen only to the ‘experts’ opinion’. Indirectly, in fact, almost directly, Socrates was stating to Crito that Crito should listen to Socrates and not the opinion of the many. Per chance or per adventure Socrates happened to be the expert.

Instructively, Socrates made this statement to Crito in response to Crito’s statement that people would blame Crito for not helping Socrates escape from prison.

If ‘the many’ criticized Crito for not helping his friend escape from prison, it would be Crito and **not** Socrates who would have been criticized. Socrates was stating that Crito should not care about these criticisms when, of course, the criticisms are made not of Socrates but of Crito. Socrates would have been dead by then, and the criticisms would not be directed to Socrates, so why should he care about these criticisms? Though Socrates asked Crito not to care about the critiques of the ‘many’, he did care very much what others (the many) would say of him if he were to heed Crito’s advice and escape from prison. He did not heed or listen to Crito’s suggestion not to escape from prison and willingly drank the hemlock. But he was much concerned about the opinions, the criticisms that would be made of him if he were to escape. To put it somewhat crudely, though not that unfairly, Socrates seems to be saying, ‘Crito, don’t care about the criticisms made against you by the many, but I do care and could not, would not take the criticisms made against me if I were to escape from prison as you suggested’.

The wisest man in Athens because he knows that he knows nothing?

Socrates, as narrated by Plato in his arguments before the Athenian jury, stated that he was considered to be the wisest man in Athens by the goddess Delphi because, unlike others, he (Socrates) knew that he did not know anything.

But Socrates seems to be Mr Know-all in *The Crito* about the rightness of his view as an (unstated albeit strongly implied) ‘expert’. In *the Phaedo,* Socrates elicited, in fact announced, exhibited his certainty that he would enjoy philosophical discourses in the afterlife. Mr know-nothing became Mr know-all in that he knew he would reach the afterlife in the ‘underworld’ and would enjoy philosophical discourse (forever?).

Socrates as the ‘ventriloquist’ of Plato or vice versa?

Socrates did not write or record his discourses. Various sources said Socrates had an ‘aversion’ to writing or was at least sceptical of written records. He apparently felt that the written records did not allow one to question the writer. Reading did not allow for ‘live’ questions and answers. Perhaps that was why his pupil Plato published his *Dialogues* in question and answer format.

The Dialogues may not represent what Socrates really said or taught. Was Socrates in part a ventriloquist of Plato, or, to put it colloquially, did Plato put words of philosophy into Socrates’ mouth or was Plato a faithful (reproducer) of his Master? It may be a combination of both. Plato’s pupil Aristotle (384-322 BCE) did not



follow his Master Plato’s question-and-answer dialogue format in his numerous writings, only some of which have survived.

Philosophy as a series of footnotes to Plato?

Philosopher Alfred North Whitehead (15 February 1861-30 December 1937) stated in his 1929 book *Process and Reality: An Essay in Cosmology* :

“…the European philosophical tradition .. consists of a series of footnotes to Plato|”.

Whitehead was quite unassuming in his statement. He restricts his ‘footnotes’ to ‘the European philosophical tradition’. Apparently, Whitehead did not extend his comment to the arguably broader ‘Western’ philosophical tradition, not to say non-Western philosophical traditions, including Asian philosophical traditions.

Plato’s philosophy consists of ‘reportage’ of what his Master Socrates wrote and his own writings. Both have been criticized in a series of footnotes, so to speak, by later scholars, excluding Whitehead, of course.

Philosopher Karl Popper (28 July1902-17 September 1994) critiqued Plato’s political philosophy as a precursor to modern totalitarianisms.

The 1960 Nobel Medicine laureate and scientist Sir Peter Medawar (28 February 1915- 2 October 1987) also critiqued Plato’s essentialism, philosophical idealism and his political discourses,

Evolutionist and philosopher of biology Ernst Mayr (5 July 2004-3 February 2005) critiqued Plato’s essentialism. Essentialism essentially means (pun intended) that physical ‘things’ humans see and discern are not real and the idea of realms or forms where the perfect horse (so to speak) existed and perfect idea of justice separately existed and we humans (except for philosophers like Plato?) cannot discern. This is stated in his somewhat overrated ‘cave analogy’.Mayr was very critical of this ‘idea’ of Plato. He claimed that Plato’s essentialism retarded the development of Western science for centuries.

I am encapsulating (or) repeating, in summary, like a ventriloquist, what other eminent critics of Plato said to illustrate that (quite?) a few (negative) notes to Plato would be necessary. The footnotes are necessary to indicate that the father of Western philosophy was wrong in aspects of his work. One more mischievous aside: if Plato is the father of Western philosophy, is Socrates ‘the godfather ’?

World Philosophy Day Themes

World Philosophy Day 2026 is on November 19.

Web sources state that the theme is: ‘How can we coexist in a world in crisis?’ Specifically, issues related to migration, climate change, artificial intelligence, and health would be discussed. In Plato’s and Socrates’ times, physical and mental health and perhaps migration could have been issues, albeit in different modes from today. Climate change was not on the philosophical horizon from the times of ancient Greece up to about a century ago. The issues, dangers, opportunities and pitfalls of artificial intelligence arose only about a decade ago. Socrates and perhaps Plato, over 2,400 years ago, have been engaging in philosophical discourse in the underworld, in the afterlife, as hinted in the *Phaedo*. If they were to come back to tackle these issues of World Philosophy Day 2026, would they and especially Socrates, have said, ‘All I know is that I know nothing’?

My Wish

By Thihathayna

Like the Earth
May I have an unshaking mind
Survive all trials in joy and mirth
Regardless of good and bad, without a whine

Like the Water
May I flow in a harmonious way
Making myself flexible to each matter
Evil spirits washed and driven away

Like the Fire
May I have a strong attitude
Whatever life throws at me, harder and dire
Standing up to the whirlwind of life’s turbulence in fortitude

Like the Air
May I attribute my strength to one and all
Spreading fragments of mine everywhere
At my best, fulfilling the community call

NATIONAL

Shwe Kokko Phase II continues demolition of scam hubs

THE Government is systematically carrying out the complete demolition of illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area, where online scam and gambling activities were most prevalent, to prevent such activities from resuming at these sites.

Of the remaining illegal buildings in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, a five-storey building being demolished using heavy machinery had been 60 per cent demolished as of yesterday, while demolition work on another five-storey building had reached 30 per cent completion.


An ongoing demolition of scam hubs using machinery in the Shwe Kokko Phase II.

A total of 63 remaining buildings in Phase II, which had been used for online scam and gambling activities, have been classified into three categories according to their demolition methods: those to be demolished using heavy machinery, those to be brought down through controlled explosions, and those located too close to residential buildings to be demolished mechanically, which will instead be dismantled floor by floor by manual labour. Demolition work is continuing systematically. So far, 13 buildings – four through controlled explosions and nine using heavy machinery – have been demolished. 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 activities, which pose threats to global socioeconomic development and national security. — 100/MKKS

Nawnghkio holds El Niño awareness meeting

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted an awareness session in Naungaw Village, Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), yesterday to inform the public about the El Niño phenomenon and prevent potential drinking water shortages.


An El Niño awareness campaign in progress in Nawnghkio Township.

Shan State Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Aung Than, Nawnghkio Township Department of Rural Development Head U Myint Htwe Win and officials examined current water usage conditions in the village.

The representative and officials met members of the village water supply committee and village elders to highlight the risks of irregular rainfall, drought and water scarcity stemming from El Niño. They instructed villagers to store drinking water in advance, avoid wastage through systematic usage, and observe heat-precaution guidelines to mitigate health risks during the dry spell, while coordinating responses to requirements raised by the community.

Field inspections and public awareness activities are ongoing across vulnerable villages in Nawnghkio Township under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development to ensure rural residents maintain adequate access to clean drinking water. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Rural water supply project inspected in Thanbyuzayat

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of a rural water supply project in Kayinthaung Village, being implemented by the Thanbyuzayat Township Department of Rural Development, Mawlamyine District, Mon State, using the State budget for the 2026-2027 financial year.

District Head U Myint Naing Oo of the Mawlamyine District Department of Rural Development, together with Daw Su Thandar Lin, Township Head of the Thanbyuzayat Township Department of Rural Development, departmental staff, and members of the village water supply committee, observed the ongoing construction of a tube well, an elevated water tank, and perimeter fencing in Kayinthaung Village.

Afterwards, the district head met village officials and committee members to discuss measures to ensure timely completion in line with set quality standards.

According to Township Head Daw Su Thandar Lin, the project, comprising the drilling of a 4.5-inch-wide, 300-foot-deep tube well, the construction of a 2,400-gallon elevated water tank, and the installation of a 1,000-foot-long, 6.5-foot-high fence, is being executed by engineering staff of the Thanbyuzayat Township Department of Rural Development with K53.45 million from the State fund.

Commenced on 25 July, the project has now reached over 75 per cent completion. Once fully completed, it will provide an adequate supply of clean drinking water to 4,814 residents across 830 houses and 1,055 households in Kayinthaung Village, as well as to local livestock. — Ko Naing (Rural)


Officials oversee the progress of a rural water supply project in Thanbyuzayat Township.

YCDC to organize 79th Independence Day celebrations and sports competitions

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will organize celebrations and sports competitions to mark the 79th Anniversary of Independence Day in 2027, according to the committee.

On 18 November, YCDC Secretary U Cho Tun Aung, accompanied by committee members, department heads and officials, inspected preparations for the celebrations and sports competitions at the YCDC Sports Complex Centre, located at the corner of Kamakyi Road and Myawutyi Road in Thingangyun Township.

During the inspection, officials explained the planned activities for the various competitions. The secretary gave instructions on ensuring an adequate supply of drinking water, maintaining cleanliness, arranging parking facilities systematically and making the necessary preparations and coordination.

The secretary and the accompanying officials also inspected drainage and landscaping work along the entrance road and pavements of Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, as well as machinery-assisted silt removal to improve drainage. They also inspected the construction of a YBS bus parking area near Dagon University railway station, the arrival and departure points at the YBS bus terminal and the condition of the pedestrian walkway. — TWA/MKKS

Pope Francis revealed in personal diary having seen devil

THE late Pope Francis saw the devil three times and once saw the "gates of hell", he revealed in his personal diary, excerpts of which were published Tuesday in a new book.

"The Private Diary of Pope Francis," by Argentine Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, includes passages taken from a journal the former Jorge Bergoglio kept between 1992 and 2024, a document that reveals his worries, regrets and self-critiques — as well as his enormous humanity and faith.



A woman touches an image depicting late Pope Francis durign a pilgrimage in La Matanza, Buenos Aires province, Argentina, on 28 October 2026, ahead of Pope Leo XIV's visit to Argentina from 8 to 11 November. **Photo: AFP**

Fernandez, head of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, said he was asked by Francis to help make known to the world the musings inside the black plastic journal.

Upon Francis's death last year, Fernandez expressed concern to his successor, Leo XIV, that the book would be "left forgotten in some storage". He was allowed to publish passages, noting that "the spiritual concerns present in his (Francis's) heart are very clear and can do us good".

In one of the most intriguing revelations, Francis writes that while archbishop of Buenos Aires, he saw the devil three different times including "from the car while I was going home, and in the choir during the mass", and once in Rome following a visit to Chile.

"I discovered that the demon was prowling brazenly, hovering cunningly," wrote Francis in his journal on 24 January 2021, according to an advance copy of the French language version of the book published by Albin Michel and viewed by AFP.

Francis wrote that he recalled three episodes "where I'm sure he actually appeared physically". — AFP

Japan year-end lottery tickets go on sale with top prizes of 700 mln yen

TICKETS for Japan's year-end lottery went on sale Tuesday, with 23 top prizes of 700 million yen ($4 million) plus 46 prizes of 150 million yen each for the numbers immediately before and after the winning tickets.

Known as the Nenmatsu Jumbo, the annual lottery is a major tradition in Japan, attracting people hoping to celebrate the holiday season with a life-changing windfall.

Each ticket costs 300 yen, with sales continuing through 25 December at lottery outlets and on the official website. The winning numbers will be drawn in Tokyo on New Year's Eve.



A vending machine is setup next to a lottery ticket counter in Tokyo's Shinjuku on 13 April 2026. **Photo: AFP**

Total planned ticket sales amount to 138 billion yen, with part of the proceeds to be used to support areas affected by a major earthquake that struck Kumamoto Prefecture, southwestern Japan, in late July.

According to Mizuho Bank, which is handling sales and payments on behalf of local governments, the number of 1 million yen prizes has been increased 1.5-fold from last year to 1,380. Sales also began for the Nenmatsu Jumbo Mini, offering 150 first prizes of 30 million yen, 300 adjacent-number prizes of 10 million yen and 150 prizes of 1 million yen each, Mizuho Bank said. Long lines formed early Tuesday at the Nishiginza Chance Centre, famous for selling numerous jackpot-winning tickets. Kazuma Takashiro, 30, a company employee from Ibaraki Prefecture, had been waiting in Tokyo's upscale Ginza district since 11:30 pm Monday.

Takashiro said he hopes to take his parents on a trip if he wins, as a way of showing his gratitude.

A promotional event, meanwhile, was held at the Tokyo Lottery Dream Museum, featuring female actors Riho Yoshioka and Mio Imada, who appear in lottery commercials.

Yoshioka encouraged people to enjoy the excitement of the year's final lottery. — Kyodo

Over half of S Koreans in their 30s remain unmarried, census shows

OVER half of South Koreans in their 30s remained unmarried, marking a nearly fourfold surge over the past 25 years as marriage was increasingly seen as a choice rather than a necessity, statistical ministry data showed Tuesday.

Among the population aged 15 and older totalling 44.58 million, those with a spouse reached 24.36 million, or 54.7 per cent, as of 1 November 2025, according to the Population and Housing Census sample survey released by the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

It was down 1.3 percentage points from five years earlier, while the unmarried population stood unchanged at 31.3 per cent, or 13.88 million.

Of those in their 30s, 53.1 per cent were single in 2025, up from 42.5 per cent tallied in 2020 and almost quadrupling the 13.4 per cent in 2000.

By gender, 61.1 per cent of men in their 30s were unmarried in 2025, more than triple the 19.2 per cent recorded 25 years ago, while the unmarried rate for women in the same age group jumped from 7.5 per cent to 44.3 per cent in the same period.

The surge in the unmarried rate for those in their 30s was affected by a social shift towards viewing marriage as optional, not mandatory.

The survey, conducted every five years on a 20 per cent sample of households nationwide, gauged attitudes towards future marriage and childbirth.

Among 11.93 million unmarried adults aged 19 and older, 57.8 per cent said they planned or intended to get married, with men showing a higher willingness at 60.4 per cent, compared to 54.4 per cent for women. — Xinhua

Ex-prince Andrew took 'bribe' to help Turkish heiress, UK court told

BRITAIN'S former prince Andrew received £750,000 ($976,000) as an alleged "bribe" to help a Turkish heiress, the High Court in London was told on Monday, with the disgraced British royal due to testify in the civil trial.

The claim around the payment emerged at the start of the anticipated four-month trial, which pits Nebahat Isbilen, whose family founded the Evyap soap and cosmetics group, against her former adviser and businessman, Selman Turk.

Isbilen, the wife of a jailed Turkish former MP, is suing Turk, alleging he misappropriated tens of millions of pounds of her funds and did not explain where the money went, which he denies.

Andrew, now known as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and who is not accused of wrongdoing, returned the £750,000 after Isbilen wrote to him at the start of the legal proceedings several years ago, according to her legal submissions.

However, he is due to give evidence on 14 December after the judge hearing the case earlier this year permitted Turk to issue him with a witness summons, compelling him to appear at the trial. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Brazilian market raises inflation, dollar exchange rate forecasts for 2026, 2027

BRAZIL'S financial market raised its forecasts for inflation and the US dollar exchange rate for the end of both 2026 and 2027, according to the central bank's weekly Focus survey released Monday.

The inflation forecast rose from 5.11 per cent to 5.15 per cent for 2026 and from five per cent to 5.12 per cent for 2027. Brazil's inflation target is three per cent, with a tolerance band of 1.5 percentage points above or below that level.



A man prepares papayas to sell in a street fair at Vila Isabel neighbourhood, north zone of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 2 September 2026.photo: AFP

The year-end exchange rate forecast rose from 5.4 to 5.55 reais per US dollar for 2026 and from 5.45 to 5.5 for 2027. The Brazilian currency is currently trading at around 5.88 reais to the dollar.

The forecast for the benchmark Selic interest rate remained unchanged at 13.75 per cent for the end of 2026, matching its current level. The projection for the end of 2027 rose from 12.75 per cent to 13 per cent.

Meanwhile, the economic growth forecast was lowered from 1.72 per cent to 1.7 per cent for 2026 and from 1.02 per cent to one per cent for 2027.

The market projected trade surpluses of US$80 billion in 2026 and $79.8 billion in 2027. Foreign direct investment inflows were forecast at $85 billion in 2026 and $80 billion in 2027. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks surge on buying of AI, chip shares

TOKYO stocks rebounded sharply Tuesday, with the benchmark Nikkei index briefly surging five per cent, driven by heavy buying of semiconductor and artificial intelligence-related shares.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average closed up 2,207.98 points, or 3.91 per cent, from Friday at 58,644.63.

The broader Topix index, meanwhile, gained 90.66 points, or 2.47 per cent, to finish at 3,764.88.

Japanese markets were closed Monday for a national holiday.

Tokyo shares tracked sharp overnight gains on Wall Street, where investors welcomed the return of Jensen Huang as CEO of US chipmaker Nvidia Corp, easing concerns over the company's leadership and the outlook for the AI sector, analysts said. — Xinhua



People wait to cross a street in front of an electronic quotation board displaying the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 24 November 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

AirAsia posts US$42.48 mln Q3 net loss amid high fuel costs

MALAYSIA'S low-cost airline AirAsia Group reported a net loss of 175.12 million ringgit (about US$42.48 million) for the third quarter ended 30 September 2026, amid elevated jet fuel prices driven by geopolitical tensions, the company said on Monday.



AirAsia airplanes are pictured on the tarmac at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang on 8 January 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Revenue for the quarter stood at 4.66 billion ringgit, according to a bourse filing.

For the nine months ended 30 September 2026, the group recorded a net loss of 857.16 million ringgit on revenue of 15.7 billion ringgit. — Xinhua

African officials call for stronger economic resilience amid global shocks

STRENGTHENING the resilience of African economies amid multiple external shocks is central to achieving inclusive growth and long-term stability, senior officials said on Monday.

Speaking at the African Economic Research Consortium Annual Workshop in Nairobi, policymakers and experts highlighted the importance of homegrown policies and fiscal interventions to put the continent back on a sustainable growth trajectory.

Adelaide Retselisitsoe Matlanyane, Lesotho's minister of finance and development planning, said African governments remain committed to sustaining macroeconomic stability, creating jobs, and financing development despite mounting shocks from climate change and geopolitical tensions.

Matlanyane also noted that African economies have already demonstrated significant resilience, with the IMF projecting sub-Saharan Africa's economy to grow about 4.5 per cent in both 2026 and 2027. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka plans unified remittance record system for migrant workers

SRI Lanka is developing a system to provide migrant workers with a consolidated record of the money they send home, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment Arun Hemachandra told the media on Tuesday.

Hemachandra said migrant workers had raised concerns that remittances sent through different channels were not always reflected in a single official record, making it difficult for some workers to prove their remittance history when applying for government benefits. — Xinhua

Sanofi says to buy US pharma group Insmed for $41 bln

FRENCH pharmaceutical giant Sanofi said Tuesday it had struck a deal to buy the US biopharma group Insmed, a specialist in respiratory treatments, for $41 billion in cash.

Insmed shareholders will receive $175 a share, and Sanofi expects the merger will begin boosting its own earnings per share by the end of 2028.

The move comes as Sanofi is racing to bulk up its development pipeline ahead of generic competition for its blockbuster Dupixent, used to treat illnesses including eczema and asthma.

Insmed's two main drugs are Brinsupri, to treat bronchiectasis, and Arikayce, a specialized treatment for the lung disease mycobacterium avium complex (MAC). — AFP

S Korea's wage-earning jobs rise in Q2 on healthcare, hospitality gains

SOUTH Korea's wage-earning jobs rose in the second quarter on the back of hiring gains in the healthcare and hospitality sectors, statistical ministry data showed Tuesday.

The number of wage-earning positions totalled 21,356,000 in the April-June quarter, up 406,000 from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics. The pace of year-on-year job growth continued to accelerate, expanding steadily from 111,000 in the second quarter of 2025, 139,000 in the third quarter, 221,000 in the fourth quarter, and 292,000 in the first quarter of 2026.

The health and social welfare industry led the overall increase by adding 161,000 jobs to 2,886,000, followed by the accommodation and food services sector with an expansion of 67,000 jobs to reach 1,032,000.

Traditional backbone industries showed mild contractions, with the number of lost positions in the construction and manufacturing sectors reaching 16,000 and 4,000 each.

Employees aged 60 and older drove the bulk of the net increase by adding 277,000 jobs, but those in their 20s and younger posted a decline of 56,000 jobs in the cited period. — Xinhua



An employee restocks trinkets in a shop in Myengdong in Seoul on 18 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

20% of firms to cut new graduate hires for clerical jobs as AI spreads

NEARLY one in five companies in Japan that recruit new graduates for clerical and administrative jobs plan to hire fewer of them for such work as the use of artificial intelligence grows, a recent survey showed.

The impact of AI use on recruitment plans varies across industries, however, as there are more companies looking to increase new hires for jobs in information technology and blue-collar work than those cutting such jobs, human resources service firm Mynavi Corp said.

Reasons cited by companies expecting a fall in new graduate hires include advances in AI and its suitability for entry-level jobs, according to the survey conducted between September and October.



People cross a street in Ginza area of Tokyo on 8 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mynavi said 1,667 companies across a range of industries responded to the survey, including 114 listed firms. Among those recruiting graduates for clerical and administrative jobs for the financial year starting next April, 19.6 per cent plan to hire a smaller number, 79.2 per cent expect no change and 1.2 per cent plan to hire more.

For business planning and marketing jobs, 11.7 per cent expect to cut hiring while 1.2 per cent plan an increase. Among companies recruiting new graduates for IT jobs, 10.3 per cent are considering hiring more, with demand notably stronger among manufacturers looking to embrace AI, Mynavi said. For blue-collar jobs, 8.5 per cent said they will hire more graduates, compared with 1.5 per cent planning to hire fewer. — Kyodo

Mauritania, EU agree on new fisheries deal

MAURITANIA and the EU have reached a deal allowing European vessels to access the African nation's waters following the expiration of a previous protocol this month, the country's fisheries ministry said.

The ministry said on Monday evening the deal marked "a new milestone in strengthening their partnership in the field of fisheries and the sustainable management of marine resources".

According to the ministry, the new protocol will foster job creation, boost the economic benefits of the sector and improve the supply of fisheries products to the domestic market.

Mauritania and the EU were previously bound by a fisheries agreement valued at approximately $62.7 million a year.

A European delegation is set to pay a working visit to Mauritania in the coming days.

Details of the new agreement are expected to be presented by both parties during this visit, the statement said. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2624E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2624E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (045)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (045)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V LINN LATT VOY.NO. (009)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LINN LATT VOY.NO. (009)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S KAN LINN THU TRADING & LOGISTIC COMPANY LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

India's Ayurveda retreats tap global wellness boom

INDIA'S traditional Ayurvedic treatments are drawing growing numbers of visitors to wellness retreats, where practitioners promise "holistic health", despite limited scientific evidence supporting their effectiveness.



This photograph taken on 15 October 2026 shows a chef preparing food for guests at Nattika Beach Ayurveda Resort restaurant in the Thrissur district of India's Kerala state. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ayurveda, meaning "science of life", combines herbal treatments, poultices, dietary regimes, massage and yoga in an effort to restore what practitioners describe as the body's natural "balance".

"People are increasingly aware of the importance of looking after their health, not only when illness strikes, but also as a preventive measure," said Deepa Padinjappurath, an Ayurveda practitioner. Padinjappurath, who completed a medical degree before undertaking a five-year course in Ayurveda, works with wellness group Rajah Ayurveda, which opened its first of four "holistic healing" retreats 30 years ago.

"We combine modern diagnostic methods with an Ayurvedic approach," said Padinjappurath.

"That involves examining the patient as a whole: listening to them, observing them, examining them physically and assessing their mental state." The Rajah Ayurveda group is based in India's southwestern state of Kerala — now a leading centre of the booming wellness tourism industry, which has emerged as a source of revenue and a means of projecting India's cultural influence abroad. India's government, led by Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, presents the ancient Ayurveda system as a form of traditional healthcare, and it is overseen by a dedicated ministry also in charge of yoga and homeopathy. — AFP

China to launch Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship on 25 Nov

CHINA'S Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 8:18 am (Beijing Time) on Wednesday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced on Tuesday.



This undated photo shows Shenzhou-24 crew members Tang Hongbo (C), Wu Yi (R), and Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali. Chinese astronauts Tang Hongbo, Wu Yi, and Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali will carry out the Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceflight mission, the China Manned Space Agency announced on Tuesday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A Long March-2F carrier rocket, which will be used for the launch, will soon be filled with propellant, said Zhang Jingbo, the CMSA spokesperson, at a press conference.

Shenzhou-24 is the eighth crewed mission during the application and development stage of China's space station, and the 41st flight mission of China's manned space programme.

After entering orbit, the Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship will preferentially adopt the 3.5-hour fast automated rendezvous and docking strategy to dock with the front port of the Tianhe core module, forming a three-spacecraft and three-module combination, Zhang said.

Currently, the quality of both spaceship and rocket is under control, the astronaut crew is in good health, the ground-system facilities and equipment are operating stably, and the space station combination is in normal condition, meeting all the necessary conditions for carrying out the upcoming launch mission, Zhang noted.

The Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceship will return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region after completing its mission, the spokesperson added. — Xinhua

Japan to skip nuclear ban treaty review conference as observer

JAPAN has decided not to attend the first review conference of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as an observer when it opens next week in New York, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Tuesday.

The nuclear ban treaty is "incompatible with Japan's nuclear deterrence policy and taking part in the review conference as an observer will send the wrong message," Motegi told a press conference. He added that attending the meeting could "undermine Japan's peace and security".

Motegi said that in the face of a severe security environment surrounding Japan, extended deterrence by the United States is "indispensable" in protecting the peace, property and lives of Japanese people.

Extended deterrence refers to the US commitment to use the full range of its nuclear and conventional capabilities to defend Japan. — Kyodo

Death toll from Indonesian candy factory fire rises to 26

THE death toll from a fire that engulfed a candy factory in Indonesia's Banten province has risen to 26, authorities said Tuesday, as search and rescue operations continued for several workers.

The fire broke out on Saturday evening at PT Fonusa Agung Mulia's factory in Cikande, Serang regency, and severely damaged the three-story facility. The Disaster Victim Identification team has recovered 26 body bags from the site, while forensic examinations are continuing to establish the identities of the victims.

Authorities have received varying reports of missing workers as the evacuation and verification process remains ongoing. The exact number of those still missing remains subject to change as authorities cross-check information with the company and local communities.

"We are continuing to verify the data, which may increase or decrease," Banten Deputy Police Chief Zain Dwi Nugroho said, adding that authorities were coordinating with the company, local governments and community officials to confirm the whereabouts of the workers. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 22 November 2026 shows the scene of a candy factory after a fire in Cikande of Banten province, Indonesia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Myanmar Storm into SSL Gold Cup Last 16

Myanmar's SSL Team have advanced to the Round of 16 of the SSL Gold Cup 2026 sailing world championship, which is being held in Brazil, according to reports.

Myanmar secured their place in the Round of 16, the second stage of the competition, following the races on 22 November. The team qualified alongside Uruguay. Despite earning fewer points in the earlier races, Myanmar secured eight points in the final race to advance to the next round.



SSL Team Myanmar competitors and team officials.

"Uruguay were leading, while SSL Team Oman were fighting hard to secure the remaining qualification spot. For SSL Team Myanmar, the only option was to give their all and win the race. The team demonstrated its true ability at the most crucial moment. During the final downwind leg, Myanmar's Inya boat accelerated along the right side of the course and made a strong charge. Just before the finish line, it managed to overtake the leading SSL Team Uruguay," said a member of SSL Team Myanmar, describing the race.

The SSL Gold Cup 2026, one of the world's most prestigious sailing competitions, is being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 19 November to 13 December. The Round of 16 is scheduled to take place from 26 to 29 November. — ASH/KZL

IOC confirms dates for 2028 Winter Youth Olympics in Italy

THE 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games in northern Italy will take place from 21 to 29 January, the International Olympic Committee and local organizers announced Monday.

The fifth edition of the Winter Youth Olympics will be held in the Dolomites and Valtellina, and will officially be known as Dolomiti Valtellina 2028. Some 1,600 athletes are expected to compete.

The Games will make extensive use of existing infrastructure, with around 70 per cent of the venues having been used during the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics. The remaining venues are also existing facilities, some of which are being renovated or expanded ahead of 2028.

"Dakar 2026 reminded us of the energy, emotion and possibilities that the Youth Olympic Games can create," said Martin Fourcade, chair of the IOC coordination commission for Dolomiti Valtellina 2028.

"On 21 January 2028, that same spirit will come to Dolomiti Valtellina, where a new generation of young winter sports athletes will have the chance to step onto the Youth Olympic Games stage and begin writing a story of their own." — Xinhua

Japan forward Shiogai sidelined with serious hamstring injury

JAPAN forward Kento Shiogai has been ruled out "until further notice" with a serious left hamstring injury, his German second-tier club Wolfsburg said Monday.

The 21-year-old, who played for Japan at this summer's World Cup in North America, came on as a second-half substitute during Wolfsburg's 3-0 home win over Holstein Kiel on Saturday but was hurt and replaced.

Shiogai joined Wolfsburg in January, then in the top tier of the Bundesliga, after spending a year and a half with Dutch side NEC Nijmegen.


Japan's Kento Shiogai (L) vies for the ball during an under-21 international friendly against Spain in Almendralejo, Spain, on 13 November 2026. **Photo: Kyodo**

The speedster had a goal in 12 league games but could not save Wolfsburg from relegation. He has one goal in 11 league outings this season in the second division. — Kyodo

India's Erigaisi takes early lead at Jerusalem Masters chess tournament

INDIAN grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi took the lead on the first day of the Jerusalem Masters rapid chess tournament on Monday.

The competition features 12 grandmasters playing in an 11-round round-robin format, with the top four advancing to the semifinals. The winner will receive US$101,000, with a total prize pool of $250,000.

Last year's champion Erigaisi, currently ranked fourth in the world in rapid chess, has 2.5 points after three rounds.

He defeated Russian grandmaster Ian Nepomniachtchi, ranked third in the world in rapid chess, and Vietnam's Le Quang Liem, after opening with a draw against reigning four-time US champion Wesley So. — Xinhua

FIFA announces co-hosts of 2031, 2035 Women's World Cups

FIFA announced the co-hosts of the 2031 and 2035 FIFA Women's World Cups following a virtual extraordinary congress of its member associations on Monday.

Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States will co-host the 2031 edition, which will feature 48 teams for the first time, while England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will host the competition in 2035. The inaugural Women's World Cup was held in China's Guangdong Province in November 1991, with 12 teams competing. "Our objective, of course, is making women's football truly global, and (to) build the future together with all member associations and with all stakeholders," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said. — Xinhua

Injuries risk dousing PSG Champions League dream, offering hope to rivals

THE sight of the unfortunate Desire Doue going down holding his knee in agony was distressing for anyone connected to Paris Saint-Germain, but encouraging for those hoping to stop the French club from winning a third consecutive Champions League this season.

PSG have been European champions in each of the last two years and their quest to retain the crown this season has started superbly, with four straight wins leaving them top of the 36-team standings halfway through the league phase.

However, they have now lost the outstanding Doue, exactly a month after Khvicha Kvaratskhelia succumbed to the same injury, casting serious doubt over the chances of Luis Enrique's team going all the way again.

Doue was stretchered off in tears after twisting his knee awkwardly during PSG's 3-2 win at Nice in Ligue 1 on Saturday, with the club later confirming the 21-year-old had ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and needed surgery. — AFP


Paris Saint-Germain's players take part in a training session at the Campus Paris Saint-Germain in Poissy, on 24 November 2026 on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match between Paris Saint Germain and AS Roma. **Photo: AFP**

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WORLD

Putin gave Kushner Papers on his granddad's partisan activities during Holocaust – Report

DURING one of US presidential envoy Jared Kushner's visits to Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin showed him archival documents detailing his grandfather's involvement in the partisan resistance during the Holocaust, the New York Magazine reported.

When Kushner and US special presidential envoy Steve Witkoff began working together on Russian affairs, they travelled to the Kremlin to meet with Putin. The Russian president showed them a dossier from state archives that recounted the participation of Kushner's grandfather in the partisan resistance during the Holocaust, the publication said.

Jared Kushner's paternal grandparents, Joseph and Rae Kushner, survived the Holocaust on the territory of modern Belarus.



Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner alongside US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum features a dedicated page for Rae Kushner on its website, noting that she had escaped the Nowogrodek (Navahrudak) ghetto via an underground tunnel and subsequently joined the Bielski partisans. It was there that she reunited with Joseph Kushner, whom she had known before the war.

On 12 November, Putin met with Witkoff and Kushner at the Kremlin. Following the meeting in Moscow, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said that while European nations were attempting to involve themselves in the negotiation process regarding Ukraine, they must first decide whether they seek war or peace. He added that, thus far, all of Europe's practical actions pointed towards a desire to see the conflict continue. — SPUTNIK

California braces for triple flooding threat of huge tides, El Nino, warm oceans

EXCEPTIONALLY high tides and El Nino-fuelled weather were threatening the California coast with possibly extreme flooding during the busiest US travel week of the year.

The San Francisco Bay Area is expected to get hit particularly hard with a one-two punch of inclement weather and monster tides, with forecasters warning that cascading seawater could deluge low-lying areas including the city's airport.

US authorities were meanwhile urging residents to reconsider travel plans for the Thanksgiving holiday.

San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie warned the situation was "extremely serious", and asked people to limit unnecessary travel.

The high tides were long-predicted: So-called king tides occur every year due to the gravitational pull and alignments of the Earth, Moon and Sun.

They will occur this week and again for periods in December and January. — AFP



A worker stands next to a warehouse surrounded by tidal floodwater during a king tide in Mill Valley, in the San Francisco area, California, 23 November 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN agency calls for stronger global partnerships to advance industrial development

THE head of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on Monday called for stronger international cooperation and solidarity to advance industrial development as the organization marked its 60th anniversary during a session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board in Vienna.

UNIDO Director General Gerd Mueller said the organization was established in 1966 to support developing countries in achieving sustainable industrialization. Six decades later, this mission is more important than ever, he said.



This photo shows a scene during the 54th session of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Industrial Development Board in Vienna, Austria, 23 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"The development gap between industrialized and developing countries must not widen further," Mueller said, calling on developed and developing countries to forge a new partnership based on cooperation and solidarity. "It's great to be back, and we return to UNIDO for the clear purpose: to work with partners on industrial development that creates jobs, raises productivity and supports cleaner, more resilient economies around the world," said Sonia Farrey, Britain's permanent representative to UNIDO. Britain has recently rejoined the organization, becoming its 174th member state.— Xinhua

Japanese startup to launch rocket in Jan after 3 failed attempts

A Japanese startup said Tuesday that it will launch a rocket in January from a space complex in western Japan after three failed attempts to become the first Japanese private entity to place a satellite into orbit.

Space One Co's Kairos No 4 is scheduled to lift off from the company's Spaceport Kii in Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture, on the Pacific coast on 22 January.

The company launched Kairos Nos 1 through 3 from March 2024 to March 2026. However, all three missions ended in failure due to problems including a miscalculation of the rocket's propulsion and a sensor malfunction that caused the vehicle to lose stability.

The startup was founded in 2018 by Canon Electronics Inc, IHI Aerospace Co and other companies that aim to commercialize space delivery services by reducing costs and providing regular rocket launches. — Kyodo