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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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President of Republic of Union of Myanmar HE U Min Aung Hlaing to make working visit to Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to attend 11th ACMECS Summit and 12th CLMV Summit

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing will pay a working visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to chair the 11th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit and to attend the 12th Cambodia-Lao PDR- Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit.

Held under the theme, "Strengthening Socio-Economic Development Towards Smart and Sustainable ACMECS", the 11th ACMECS Summit, chaired by Myanmar, will adopt two outcome documents: Nay Pyi Taw Declaration and Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Ad-Hoc Task Force on the review of the ACMECS-prioritized projects.

The 12th CLMV Summit will be chaired by Viet Nam under the theme "Connecting CLMV – Harnessing Potential-Building a Prosperous Future", and the Summit will adopt a Joint Statement of the 12th Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam Cooperation Summit, CLMV Heritage Journey Initiative and CLMV Smart Dry Port Corridor Initiative. — MoFA



President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Union Government meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar Sets Stage for April By-Elections

The government will focus on expanding domestic production and broadening the tax base to boost national revenue, while preparations continue for the by-elections set for April next year.

The Union Government meeting, held at the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon and attended by President U Min Aung Hlaing, discussed efforts to expand domestic production, broaden the tax base to boost national revenue and prepare for by-elections scheduled for April next year.

Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Union ministers and officials attended the meeting, while chief ministers of regions and states participated via videoconferencing.

In his address, the President said traditional Tazaungdine Festival celebrations had been held across the country, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, in accordance with Myanmar's cultural traditions and customs. The celebrations included lighting ceremonies, hot-air balloon launching competitions, Mathoe golden lotus robe weaving competitions and various entertainment programmes.

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Myanmar attends high-level financial dialogue in Kuwait

MYANMAR'S Ambassador to Kuwait, U Min Thein, attended a high-level financial forum titled "Executive Financial Dialogue: Kuwait's Financial Outlook," co-organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait) and CFA Society Kuwait, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Kachin Products to Shine at Myanmar-China Trade Summit

LOCAL products from Kachin State will be showcased at the upcoming Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the state government.

The summit will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15

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This image illustrates a poster for the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Summit.

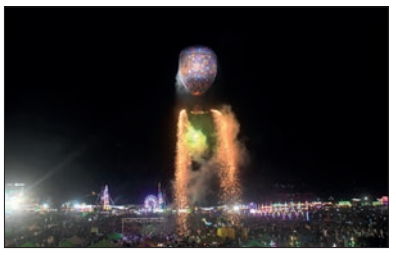
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Awards ceremony held for 76th Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Competition

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Toungoo-Thayagon Line Repairs Add 200 MW to Power Supply

NATIONAL

Russian naval ships arrive in Yangon for joint exercise

THREE Russian Pacific Fleet naval vessels – the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov, the corvette Admiral Tributs and the support ship Pechenga – arrived at Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday afternoon to take part in the fourth Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise and pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar.



This image captures a Russian naval vessel upon their fleet arrival in Yangon.

Senior officers, officers and personnel from the Myanmar Navy, Russian Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy Vice-Admiral Aleksei Anatolievich Kiiashko, who is on a goodwill visit to Myanmar, the Russian Defence Attaché to Myanmar and other officials welcomed the Russian naval vessels upon their arrival.

During the visit, the Russian naval squadron commander and head of the delegation, Rear-Admiral Evgenii Nikolaevich Niasoedov, along with officers and personnel, will visit prominent sites in Yangon, take part in friendly sports competitions between the two countries and conduct harbour-phase exercises. — MNA/KZL

Motto of 106th National Victory Day 2026

Strive together for national prosperity

10th Waxing of Tazaungmone, 1388 ME
4 December 2026

Objectives for 106th National Victory Day

10th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1388ME
4 December 2026

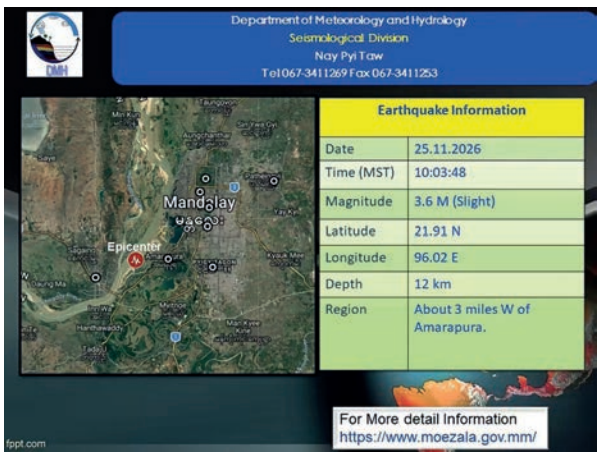
- To establish a peaceful, prosperous and modern nation through the unity of all ethnic people
- To preserve and protect the national dignity, integrity, cultural heritage and characteristics
- To put special emphasis on the development of human resources and modern technology sectors of the State
-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

Light tremor shakes near Amarapura

A 3.6 magnitude earthquake hit about three miles west of Mandalay Region's Amarapura Township at a depth of 12 kilometres on the morning of 25 November, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Mandalay residents said they felt it visibly.

"Oh, my goodness, it's an earthquake. I ran outside in panic. It took a long time and made my heartbeat so fast. Thank you all who were worried about me. I still feel dizzy because I'm terrified," said actress Htet Htet Moe Oo on her social media. — TWA/ZS



DMH shows information about the quake that struck on 25 November.

Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday
25 November 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea, North Bay and East Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 26 November 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in (southern and eastern) Shan State and isolated in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon 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 Taninthayi Region. 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.

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of a slight decrease in night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin, Shan States.

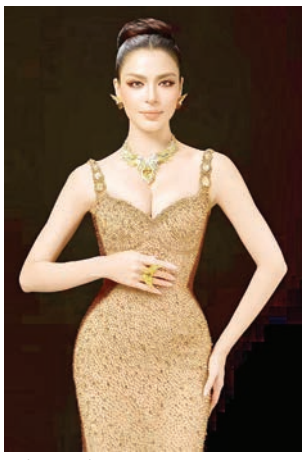
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 November 2026: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 November 2026: Partly cloudy. — DMH

Miss Universe Myanmar Stuns in Homecoming Gown

MAY Grace Parry, who contested Miss Universe 2026 representing Myanmar, said she is returning home in an evening gown.


Miss Universe Myanmar May Grace.

"I made commitments when I was crowned, and I will do all. So, please don't be sad and don't be angry. And don't attack others. This is fate. I'll never give up, and even in my homecoming, I'll wear the evening gown that my organizer properly prepared for me. So, come to cheer me at the airport when I come back like you did when I departed," May Grace told her fans via social media.

"We know you did your best. My sweetheart, May Grace Parry, jobs are waiting in Myanmar. Come back, and some people are ready to welcome you," said John Lwin, a model agency founder and LGBT activist.

Jennifer Barreto of Puerto Rico, a mother of a seven-year-old daughter, has won Miss Universe 2026 at 75th edition of the international beauty pageant on 24 November.

Melissa Núñez of the Dominican Republic finished as first runner-up, while the latest published results place Venezuela's Clara Vegas Goetz as second runner-up.

In this year, 116 contestants from around the world competed, and Miss Myanmar May Grace was included among Top 30. — Htun Htun/ZS

NATIONAL

Myanmar Sets Stage for April ....

FROM PAGE 1

He said such celebrations represented the government's efforts to preserve and pass on the traditional cultural heritage and national identity of the majority Buddhist population. The government had a responsibility to take the lead in preserving the country's culture and national identity while respecting the religious beliefs, traditions and customs of people of other faiths. Followers of all religions should uphold and practise the teachings of their respective faiths, he added.

Regarding the case brought against Myanmar by The Gambia, the President referred to the judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), describing the case as a one-sided accusation against the country. He said Myanmar had actively participated in the court proceedings over the seven years since the case was filed, submitting substantial factual information, records and evidence through written and oral arguments. He said the term "genocide" had seriously affected the country's reputation.

As the country's leader, he considered himself primarily responsible for all matters occurring in the country and would not accept any actions that undermined the nation. Regarding the ICJ's decisions, he said Myanmar would take the actions appropriate for a responsible country but would not comply with requirements it considered inappropriate.

On ASEAN relations, he said the ASEAN Charter and policies had been signed and agreed upon by the leaders of member states and should remain the basis for cooperation as long as they were valid and in force. Myanmar attached particular importance to maintaining friendly relations with all countries and would continue engaging with ASEAN member states in accordance with the Charter. He also stressed that member states should respect the ASEAN Charter, one another's sovereignty and existing laws.

On economic matters, he said some people were holding foreign currencies instead of investing in domestic production, exports and imports, attributing rising commodity prices and exchange rates partly to currency speculation. Exchange rates should remain at appropriate levels, while efforts should be made to ensure affordable food for low-income earners, uninterrupted operations for manufacturers, increased incomes for farmers and livestock breeders, and improved living conditions for civil servants.

He instructed relevant organizations to facilitate production activities and called on regional and state governments to closely supervise efforts to expand domestic industries. Approximately 70 per cent of Myanmar's population lived in rural areas, while around half of the population was engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries, he said.

He urged officials to promote livestock farming by producing animal feed from locally available agricultural by-products, including rice bran, broken rice and maize. Relevant ministries and chief ministers should ensure the effective implementation of agricultural, livestock and manufacturing activities. He also called for systematic plans to expand the breeding of layer and broiler chickens, pigs, goats, cattle and fish to improve food supplies.

He said increased production was essential for generating marketable goods and export earnings, which would contribute to national economic growth. Rather than relying on exports of above-ground and underground natural resources, Myanmar should focus on developing domestic industries and exporting products manufactured locally, which would bring greater long-term benefits to the country.

The government has continuously supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and the economy would develop if people across the country engaged in productive work. He urged regional and state chief ministers to give priority to expanding domestic production.

Regarding rice production, one of Myanmar's major export sectors, he said efforts under the initiative "A New Era for Myanmar Pawsan Rice" had resulted in the country winning the World's Best Rice Award for the second time. He stressed the need to select and cultivate high-quality rice varieties suited to local conditions to maintain the quality of Myanmar's rice exports.

Regarding government revenue, he said efforts to finance national development projects should focus on expanding the tax space rather than increasing tax rates. Broadening the tax space would increase state revenue and help meet requirements such as civil servants' salaries and other expenditures.

He added that the government was considering salary increases for civil servants and systematically assessing various possible scenarios. Any decision to raise salaries would require comprehensive calculations taking into account employees in MSMEs, workers in factories and industrial establishments, and pensioners. Relevant committees should continue conducting systematic assessments to support national economic growth, he said.

The President also said the Union Election Commission was making preparations to hold by-elections in April next year. He instructed responsible officials to make comprehensive preparations to ensure accurate voter lists and security in the townships where the by-elections would be held.

He stressed the need for collective efforts to ensure the successful conduct of the by-elections, including ensuring the accuracy of voter lists and the proper and systematic use of Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs).

Following the address, Union ministers presented reports and discussed matters relating to their respective sectors. The President then gave necessary guidance on the matters raised before concluding the meeting. — MNA/ST

Myanmar attends 5th Russia-East International Festival of National Cultures

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Aye Tun attended the 5th "Russia-East" International Festival of National Cultures, held in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation, on 21 November.

Organized by the Rashit Vagapov Public Foundation of Tatar Culture with the support of the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Ministry of Culture, the festival aims to strengthen interethnic and international ties among Eastern cultures. Delegations from more than 50 countries and regions, including those from Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa, as well as federal subjects of the Russian Federation, participated in the event.



Deputy Minister U Aye Tun and artistes from the Myanmar delegation are pictured at the fifth Russia-East International Festival of National Cultures .

On 21 November, the deputy minister attended the gala concert at the Pyramid Cultural and Entertainment Complex (KRK Piramida) in Kazan, where artistes from the Myanmar delegation performed a traditional group dance from the Bagan era, drawing warm applause and appreciation from the audience.

On 22 November, the deputy minister met Ms Dina Garaeva, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan, at the Ministry of Culture in Tatarstan. During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the national libraries and national museums of Myanmar and Russia, extended an official invitation for Myanmar to participate in the upcoming 6th "Russia-East" International Festival of National Cultures in 2027, and invited Myanmar to submit a film for screening at the Kazan International Film Festival, scheduled for September 2027. — MNA/TH

Roadside vegetation cleared along Kalay-Falam road

BUSHES and vegetation along both sides of the Kalay-Falam road between mileposts 73 and 74 have been cleared using heavy machinery.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, who is in Chin State to oversee rehabilitation work, inspected the clearance work yesterday, accompanied by Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Khin Maung Htwe and members of the Chin

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A clearup work underway along the Kalay-Falam road.

NATIONAL

Awards ceremony held for 76th Taunggyi Tazaungdine Balloon Competition

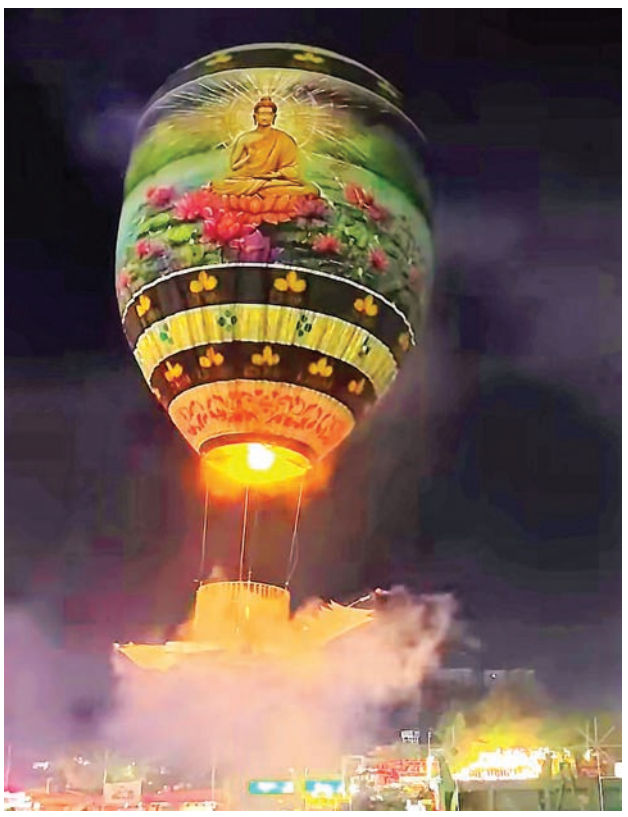
THE award ceremony for the 76th Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Competition, held over nine days from 16 to 24 November, took place at Awaiya Balloon Ground in Kyaunggyisu Ward yesterday evening.

This year's competition saw record numbers of participating balloons, spectators and visitors.

In the daytime two-legged natural toy category, the Teimkha team won first prize with its Parrot balloon, followed by the Maike team with its Garuda balloon and the Armanmee team with its Kattawa balloon.

In the daytime four-legged natural toy category, the R4 team won first prize with its Bear balloon, while Yonpyaw team took second prize with its Elephant balloon and the Etpyawmee team took third prize with its Rhinoceros. In another daytime category, the Lepwe team won first prize with three animal figures, followed by the Ropyaw team with three Rabbits and the Ko Pwamee team with three Horses.

In the nighttime Seinnapan category, the Zwe Lu Ngal team won first prize, followed by the Mi Eain team in second place and the Naykyasae team in third place. In the nighttime Nyameekyi category, Loikham won first prize, Nagapyan second prize and Shwe Zone Mee third prize.



This image showcases a winning hot-air balloon. **PHOTO - ZWE MARN**

A total of 561 balloons competed in the 2026 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Competition, comprising 112 nighttime balloons (71 regular nighttime balloons and 41 Seinnapan balloons) and 449 daytime balloons, including 236 two-legged animal balloons, 138 four-legged animal balloons and 75 toy balloons.

The Hot-Air Balloon Competition Organizing Subcommittee said that some changes would be made to the competition system for the 2027 event to further improve it. — Thitsa (MNA)/MKKS

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 25 November 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,650.00~3671.00	555.30~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,094,632.73	4,961,393.72	27,505,110.20	-

Myanmar, India Deepen Trade, Technical Cooperation for MSMEs

DISCUSSIONS on enhancing bilateral trade between Myanmar and India, including technical cooperation to support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), were held in Chennai, India, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meetings took place on 18 November in Chennai, where Myanmar Ambassador to India U Aye Min Htwe held separate meetings with officials and business executives from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Chennai and members of the India-ASEAN-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During the discussions, both sides explored ways to enhance bilateral trade between Myanmar and India and promote technical cooperation to support the growth of Myanmar's MSMEs. The Myanmar delegation also invited Indian investment in key sectors, including food processing, cold storage and logistics, and manufacturing.

The meetings were attended by Myanmar's Honorary Consul in Chennai, Prof Mr J Ranganathan, and Commercial Attaché U Lwin Ko Ko Maung, along with officials and business representatives from the respective chambers and associations.

Additionally, at the invitation of Takshashila University in Ongur, Tamil Nadu, India, the Myanmar Ambassador attended the university's second convocation ceremony as a Guest of Honour on 19 November and delivered a congratulatory address to the graduating students. — ASH/TH



This photo shows Myanmar Ambassador to India U Aye Min Htwe meeting with Indian officials during bilateral discussions.

Myanmar attends high-level ...

FROM PAGE 1

The dialogue was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait City on 24 November.

During the event, officials from the World Bank, the Kuwait Financial Centre, investment bodies, and the Capital Markets Authority discussed financing Kuwait's future through capital mobilization, strengthening investor confidence, and enhancing integration with the global economy.



Myanmar's Ambassador to Kuwait, U Min Thein, with attendees at the financial dialogue.

The event was attended by senior government officials, ambassadors, the UNDP Resident Representative, and senior executives from private-sector organizations. — Htun Htun/ZN

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NATIONAL

Shwe Kokko Phase II continues demolition of scam hubs

THE systematic demolition of illegal buildings used for online scams and gambling is continuing in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area to prevent such activities from resuming.

Of the illegal buildings in Phase II, a five-storey building being demolished using heavy machinery was 70 per cent demolished as of yesterday, while work on another five-storey building had reached 40 per cent completion, according to reports.



This image displays the systematic dismantling of scam-related buildings using machinery.

A total of 63 illegal buildings in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, which were used for online scam and gambling activities, have been classified according to their demolition methods: those to be demolished using heavy machinery, those to be brought down through controlled explosions, and those near residential buildings to be dismantled floor by floor by manual labour.

Of these, 13 buildings – four through controlled explosions and nine using heavy machinery – have already been demolished. The remaining 50 buildings will also be systematically demolished, according to reports.

The Government is working with neighbouring and other regional countries to completely eliminate online scams and gambling activities, which threaten global socioeconomic development and national security. — 100/MKKS

Roadside vegetation ...

FROM PAGE 3

State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee. He instructed officials to ensure clear visibility along the road and proper drainage.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister visited the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) automatic exchange office to inspect telecommunications services provided through the MPT and CDMA-MEC systems, equipment maintenance, and renovation work on the office building and two-unit staff quarters.

He also inspected the fully renovated buildings and warehouse of the Myanmar Radio and Television relay station, as well as its equipment, including damaged and missing items. He instructed officials to make arrangements to resume operations once replacement broadcasting equipment became available.

He then inspected renovation work on two staff quarters at the relay station, the storage of water in a 100,000-gallon reservoir and its distribution to nearby wards.

He also visited the partially damaged district administrator's residence, where renovation work is underway, and instructed officials to preserve its original architectural features, as the building is more than 100 years old. — District IPRD/KZL

1 killed, 4 injured in mine blast near TadaU Police Office

ONE civilian was killed, and four others were injured when a mine planted near a public road in TadaU, Mandalay Region, exploded during a security clearance operation on the evening of 24 November.

Terrorist insurgents have been committing attacks targeting public roads, bridges, markets, banks, electricity offices and administrative buildings, intending to undermine national stability and the rule of law while causing casualties and panic among local communities.

At approximately 8:30 pm on 24 November, security personnel responded to information provided by conscientious citizens about a suspicious backpack found beside a public road, about 30 metres north of the Township Police Force Commander's Office in TadaU. While security personnel were inspecting the area and carrying out clearance operations, a mine planted by terrorist insurgents exploded, injuring two security personnel and several civilians and killing one civilian.

Five TadaU residents sustained shrapnel injuries in the blast. They were identified as U Thet Swe Nyein, 45, son of U Mar Kyi; U Aye Maung, 35, son of U Than Tun Min; U Thein Swe, 57, son of U Hla Aung; U Aung Ko Myat, 48, son of U San Aung; and U Saw Than, 71, son of U Mya Khin.


Map shows the incident location of a mine explosion perpetrated by terrorists.

The injured victims were transported to Tada-U People's Hospital for medical treatment. However, U Thein Swe, 57, succumbed to his injuries while receiving treatment at the hospital. Innocent civilians continue to suffer injuries and fatalities as terrorist insurgents plant various types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and carry out remote-controlled mine attacks along public roads.

Following the explosion, security forces intensified mine-clearing and security operations around the blast site to ensure the safety and security of local communities. They are also cooperating with local communities to identify and apprehend those responsible for the attack. — MNA/ST

Ongoing concrete road construction inspected in Natmauk

OFFICIALS from the Natmauk Township Department of Rural Development, Magway District, Magway Region, conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the ongoing construction of an internal concrete road in Inngon (Ma) Village, Inngon Village-Tract. The project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year using permissible interest funds from the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project alongside public contributions from local communities.


Officials observe the ongoing concrete road project in Natmauk Township, Magway Region.

Township Head U Win Naing Oo of the Natmauk Township Department of Rural Development, together with departmental staff and members of the village project implementation committee, examined the progress of the concrete paving work. The township head also met village officials and committee members, urging them to ensure the project is completed on schedule and meets all designated quality standards.

The concrete road measures 520 feet long, 12 feet wide, and six inches thick. It is funded by K20.40 million from the MSY Village Project interest fund and K4.80 million in community contributions, totalling K25.20 million. Villagers have been carrying out the construction themselves since the first week of November with technical assistance from the Township Department of Rural Development, and the project is now over 30 per cent complete. According to Township Head U Win Naing Oo, once fully completed, the road will significantly improve transport and accessibility for 957 residents across 232 households in Inngon (Ma) Village. — Cho Lay(DRD)

NATIONAL

Toungoo-Thayagon Line Repairs Add 200 MW to Power Supply


Repair and reconstruction work on the 230 kV Toungoo-Thayagon power transmission line, which was damaged by explosive attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY**

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is making efforts to ensure an adequate electricity supply for the public by carrying out timely repairs to damaged power lines and replacing cables to increase transmission capacity. The 230 kV Toungoo–Thayagon power transmission line has now been repaired, enabling an additional 200 megawatts of electricity to be supplied to the public, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The 230 kV Toungoo–Thayagon transmission line was built to transmit electricity generated by hydropower plants in Upper Myanmar to consumers in Lower Myanmar, including Yangon Region. However, the line sustained extensive damage at numerous locations as a result of 12 explosive attacks by terrorist groups in 2023 and 2024, according to reports.

Meanwhile, plans are under way to install solar power systems at ministry offices to increase electricity generation, according to Deputy Minister Dr Khine Khine Soe, spokesperson for the Office of the President. She said that solar power generation would be significantly expanded alongside hydropower by the 2030–2031 financial year. The Government aims to provide the entire country with access to electricity by 2030 and has been drawing up and implementing plans towards this goal since taking office.

During a meeting on 17 November with a Cambodian delegation led by Deputy Minister Mr Cheap Sour of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin held frank and open discussions on opportunities for Cambodian investment and cooperation in Myanmar's existing offshore natural gas production blocks, prospective offshore blocks and vacant offshore blocks. They also exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and Cambodia in the electricity and energy sectors.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy aims to generate 5,180 megawatts from hydropower, 1,605 megawatts from solar power, 200 megawatts from wind power, 2,290 megawatts from natural gas, 585 megawatts from liquefied natural gas (LNG), 1,638 megawatts from coal, 370 megawatts from fuel oil (FO), 200 megawatts through imports from neighbouring countries and 182 megawatts from diesel in the 2030–2031 financial year. — Htun Htun/KNN

RBF project funds disbursed in Toungoo


Village representatives receive the fund in Toungoo Township, Bago Region.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Toungoo Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region, disbursed loans from the First Rural Business Fund (RBF) Establishment Project for the 2026-2027 financial year in Hinyaymya Village, Sutat Village-Tract, yesterday.

Township Head U Kyaw Thura of the Toungoo Township Department of Rural Development first explained that the RBF loans were being disbursed to provide the necessary capital to cultivators, livestock breeders and producers, and small, medium and micro enterprise operators, and to enable them to carry out such businesses under a group/collective system. He also clarified the benefits to be obtained from the project, and the duties, rights, offences, and penalties of rural citizens under the Rural Development Law and its regulations.

The project staff then explained the project cycle period, interest rate stipulations, and the rules and regulations to be followed in disbursing the loans. The township officer then handed over K30 million in project funds.

Afterwards, under the supervision of the township head and project staff, members of the Rural Business Enhancement Fund Supervisory Committee disbursed K30 million at concessional interest rates to five livelihood support groups in Hinyaymya Village: Toetet Kyipwa, Pan Khayay, Aung Kyawkya, Aung Myinthu and Aung Taingkyaw under the First Rural Business Fund (RBF) Establishment Project, according to U Kyaw Thura, Township Officer of the Taungoo Township Department of Rural Development. — Ko Naing (DRD)

Kachin Products to Shine at Myanmar ...

FROM PAGE 1

December, followed by a five-day product exhibition from 16 to 20 December.

In preparation for the event, a coordination meeting was held in Myitkyina on 11 November, attended by Kachin State Minister for Planning, Economy, and Finance U Chan Tan Khin, alongside gems and jewellery entrepreneurs, merchants, industrialists, and MSME business owners.

During the meeting, U Chan Tan Khin noted that the exhibition will serve as an opportunity to display products manufactured within the state while sharing investment opportunities and information. The event is aimed at fostering bilateral trade and creating investment opportunities under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to strengthen industrial connectivity. — TWA/ZN

MSY village project activities inspected in Thantaunggyi

Officials oversee Mya Sein Yaung village projects in Thantaunggyi Township.

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday of the status and success of family income-generation activities carried out with the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Masa (Upper) Village, Thantaunggyi Township, Thantaunggyi District, Kayin State.

District Head U Kyaw Myo Aung of the Thantaunggyi District Department of Rural Development, Township Head U Kyaw Myo Sint and staff of the Thantaunggyi Township Department of Rural Development, together with members of the MSY Village Project working group, inspected the success of agricultural, livestock, and trading businesses in Masa (Upper) Village, as well as whether the monthly reports were complete.

Afterwards, the district officer met village officials and MSY Village Project members and coordinated and provided necessary assistance.

In Masa (Upper) Village, Thantaunggyi Township, loans were disbursed at concessional interest rates from the MSY Village Project revolving fund as follows: K22.10 million to 32 people engaged in agriculture, K3.90 million to six people engaged in livestock, and K8.80 million to nine people engaged in trading – a total of K34.80 million to 47 members – according to Township Head U Kyaw Myo Sint of the Thantaunggyi Township Department of Rural Development. — Ko Nyo (Rural)

NATIONAL

Plans Advance for Kyaiktiyo Waste Incinerator

PLANS are underway to install a waste incinerator near the square at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaiktiyo Township, Mon State, according to the Kyaiktio Pagoda Board of Trustees.

"As the number of pilgrims visiting the pagoda increases day by day, the volume of waste generated has also risen, making it necessary to install a machine to burn the waste. We have therefore begun making arrangements to install a waste incinerator. We are currently looking for a suitable site and seeking donations to purchase the machine. The incinerator will be capable of burning about 200 kilogrammes of waste per hour and will run on diesel. The ash produced can also be used as fertilizer.

"We have also been clearing a large accumulation of waste along the western slope of the pagoda, and about 50 per cent of the work has been completed. As the waste is located down a ravine along the slope, workers have to descend using ropes to carry out the cleaning, which has made the work difficult. Efforts are continuing to address the problem.

"The incinerator will be installed on a site measuring about 40 feet. We are also seeking donors and studying the installation and operation of the machine," said an official from the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Board of Trustees.



This photo depicts pilgrims visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

Kyaiktiyo Pagoda attracts large numbers of domestic and foreign visitors throughout the year. About 200,000 pilgrims visited the pagoda between 6 October and 6 November this year. — ASH/MKKS

Hpa-an conducts El Niño awareness campaign

THE Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection to ensure rural residents do not face drinking water scarcity due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, alongside a heatstroke prevention awareness talk, in Hlakadaung Village, Hpa-an Township, yesterday.

District Head Daw Thida Win San of the Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development and responsible officials inspected the current water consumption situation in Hlakadaung Village, Hpa-an Township, and coordinated to fulfil requirements.

Subsequently, the district head and responsible officials met members of the village water supply committee, town elders, and local villagers. They reportedly explained the dos and don'ts for preventing heat-related illnesses caused by El Niño and coordinated necessary measures. — Ko Ko Soe (DRD)

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Htantabin's reservoir fencing work inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection in Lower Lamutan Village, Htantabin Township, Yangon Region, yesterday to monitor the construction of a reservoir fence and related works aimed at ensuring access to safe drinking water for rural residents and preventing animals from entering the reservoir area.



Officials inspect the construction of a reservoir fence in Htantabin Township.

Htantabin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Cho Me Aye and responsible officials observed the construction of a fence around the earthen reservoir, measuring 560 feet in length and five feet in height, along with related work. The township head also met village residents to discuss carrying out the work in line with prescribed standards and specifications for long-term sustainability, while providing necessary coordination and assistance in response to matters raised by villagers.

The reservoir fencing and related work are being implemented through the joint efforts of township DRD engineers and local communities with an approved budget of K13.44 million, and approximately 60 per cent of the overall work has now been completed, according to the department. — Thaw Zin Htoo(Rural)

Kengtung holds El Niño awareness session

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted an awareness campaign and field inspection in Lawtaing (Upper) Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), yesterday to inform the public about the El Niño phenomenon and prevent potential drinking water shortages.



This image shows officials conducting an awareness session in Kengtung Township.

Kengtung District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Ei Ei Myat and officials met local communities in Lawtaing (Upper) Village to highlight the risks of extreme heat, dry conditions, water scarcity and severe shortages stemming from El Niño.

The district DRD head and officials utilized educational posters to detail heat-precaution guidelines, proper methods of storing drinking water in advance, and measures to conserve and use water systematically without wastage. Officials also inspected the progress of water pipeline repair and extension works implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP), as well as current drinking water storage conditions in the village to assess local preparedness.

Field inspections and public awareness campaigns are ongoing across vulnerable villages in Kengtung District under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development to ensure rural communities maintain adequate access to clean drinking water. — Poe Thakhin (DRD)

OPINION

Striving to expand learning opportunities for youths

The Government regards the education sector as a fundamental investment in national development and is giving it priority attention. It is emphasizing expanding access to educational opportunities from basic to higher education, improving the quality of education, expanding technical and vocational education and training, aligning teaching with workplace requirements, enhancing the quality of teachers, and promoting the all-round development of young people.

The role of teachers is of utmost importance. No matter how much curricula, teaching materials and modern technologies advance, the quality of teachers remains the most crucial factor in effectively nurturing and developing students' knowledge, skills and moral character.

Education should not be limited to academic instruction alone; it should also help students develop into physically and mentally healthy, strong and disciplined young people. Sports activities not only promote good health but also help instil discipline, perseverance, teamwork and a sense of responsibility. Therefore, efforts must be made to ensure that students become physically fit and healthy while achieving high academic standards.

The Government is increasing its financial investment in the education sector. In the 2026-2027 financial year, 6.92 per cent of the State budget will be allocated to the Ministry of Education. Including education-related expenditures by other ministries, the total allocation for the entire education sector is planned to reach 9.22 per cent. Furthermore, the Government aims to increase the budget allocation for the Ministry of Education to at least 10 per cent in the 2027-2028 financial year and 15 per cent in the 2028-2029 financial year.

According to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Education, more than 7.5 million students are enrolled in the 2026-2027 academic year, including approximately 4.9 million at the primary level, over two million at the middle school level and more than 600,000 at the high school level of basic education.

Of the 50,962 basic education schools nationwide, 35,539 have been opened. Similarly, 48 of the 50 universities under the Department of Higher Education have resumed operations. A total of 315,285 teachers are serving at the basic education level and 10,679 at the higher education level. Of the 25 Education Degree Colleges, efforts are underway to upgrade five to the university level as teacher education institutions.

Universities of Education must also place emphasis on improving the quality of teacher education, expanding research activities, promoting digital transformation and producing teachers who are well prepared for the era of artificial intelligence (AI). In addition, they should continue to strengthen community service and expand international cooperation.

Education should not be limited to academic instruction alone; it should also help students develop into physically and mentally healthy, strong and disciplined young people. Sports activities not only promote good health but also help instil discipline, perseverance, teamwork and a sense of responsibility. Therefore, efforts must be made to ensure that students become physically fit and healthy while achieving high academic standards.

ARTICLE

What Remains When the Lights Fade?

By Laura Htet (UDE)



Some nights seem to carry a little more meaning than others. The moon appears brighter, the breeze feels gentler, and familiar places take on a beauty that is difficult to describe. In Myanmar, the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone brings just such a feeling. As November arrives with its cool evenings, pagodas glow with candlelight, monasteries welcome devotees, and families come together to prepare offerings. Beyond the beautiful celebrations, however, lies something far more precious: a reminder of how generosity, faith and kindness can bring warmth into our lives.

Tazaungmone is one of the most meaningful months in the Myanmar calendar, particularly for Buddhist devotees. The full moon marks the end of Buddhist Lent, a period traditionally devoted to religious practice, reflection and spiritual discipline. During this time, many people make special efforts to observe religious principles, offer donations and develop good habits. When the full moon arrives, the atmosphere becomes especially joyful as devotees gather at pagodas and monasteries to pay homage, make offerings and share in the spirit of giving.

One of the most significant traditions associated with this occasion is the Kathina robe offering ceremony. Following the end of Buddhist Lent, devotees offer robes and other essential items to Buddhist monks as an expression of respect and gratitude. These ceremonies are not simply about presenting material gifts. They represent the devotion of people who wish to support the Sangha and contribute to the continuation of Buddhist teachings. Families and communities often work together to prepare food, arrange donations and welcome others to participate. In every offering, there is a quiet expression of faith and a sincere wish to do something meaningful.

Another remarkable tradition is the Mathoe Thingan weaving ceremony. During this special event, groups of women gather to weave robes throughout the night, hoping to complete them before dawn. The finished robes are then offered as acts of devotion. The tradition is particularly beautiful because it brings together patience, cooperation and dedication. Each person contributes time and effort, showing that meaningful achievements do not always come from individual strength. Sometimes, the most beautiful things are created when people work together with a shared purpose.

Tazaungdine is also widely recognized as a festival of lights. Candles, lanterns and colourful decorations brighten pagodas and public spaces, creating a wonderful atmosphere throughout the country. Among the most famous celebrations is the Taunggyi Hot Air Balloon Festival, where beautifully illuminated balloons rise into the night sky. Their glowing colours and impressive designs attract visitors and create unforgettable memories. Yet, beyond the excitement and spectacular sights, the lights carry a deeper message. They remind us that brightness has the power to transform darkness, just as kindness can bring hope into someone's difficult moments.

Perhaps this is what makes the season so meaningful. It encourages us to think about the kind of light we bring into the lives of others.

We often associate generosity with wealth. We imagine that giving means making large donations, offering expensive gifts or having more than enough to share. However, true generosity is not measured by the size of what we give. A simple meal shared with someone hungry, a little help offered to an elderly neighbour, or a few encouraging words spoken to someone going through a difficult time can mean more than we realize. Sometimes, the smallest acts of kindness leave the deepest impressions.

The Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone offers a wonderful opportunity to look beyond our own concerns and become more aware of the people around us. While preparing donations for monasteries, we can also remember those who may be struggling quietly. Some elderly people may need a little companionship. Some families may be facing financial difficulties. Others may simply need someone willing to listen without judgement. We do not always need to do something extraordinary to make a difference. Often, being thoughtful and considerate is more than enough.

The occasion also brings generations together in a special way. Grandparents share familiar traditions with their grandchildren, parents teach their children the value of giving, and neighbours work side by side to prepare religious offerings. These moments may seem ordinary, but they help preserve the cultural and spiritual values that have been passed down through generations. Traditions remain alive not only through ceremonies but also through the lessons we carry into our everyday lives.

Beyond the celebrations, the full moon can also inspire us to reflect on our inner world. Life does not always move at the pace we wish. We face responsibilities, unexpected challenges and countless worries. Sometimes, we become so occupied with earning more, achieving more and planning for tomorrow that we forget to appreciate the simple blessings already within our reach. We may overlook the people who care about us, the kindness we receive and the peaceful moments that make life worthwhile.

A meaningful religious occasion gives us a reason to pause. It invites us to look at our thoughts, examine our actions and consider whether we have been living with enough patience, understanding and compassion. Have we been kind to the people around us? Have we listened before judging? Have we offered help when we had the opportunity? These questions may sound simple, but answering them honestly can encourage us to become better human beings.

Most importantly, the spirit of Tazaungmon should not disappear when the celebrations come to an end. Lighting candles, making donations and participating in religious ceremonies are beautiful expressions of devotion, but their deeper values should remain with us throughout the year. Generosity should not be limited to festival days, compassion should not depend on special occasions, and kindness should never become something we practise only when it is convenient.

As the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone arrives once again, let us celebrate not only the beauty of our traditions but also the goodness they inspire in us. Let us give without expecting something in return, help without waiting to be asked, and treat others with the understanding we would hope to receive ourselves.

After all, the brightest light is not always the one hanging above a pagoda or shining in the night sky. Sometimes, it is found in a generous heart, a helping hand and a kindness that asks for nothing in return. The full moon may gradually fade from the sky, but the goodness we share can continue to shine long after the festival is over.

Learning Skills for Employment

By Loke-thar



For students, passing the 12th grade examinations of the Ministry of Education is the doorway to acquiring higher education in colleges and universities of the Ministry of Education and private schools/colleges across the country. The passing rate this academic year is around 50per cent. Those who passed the exams, including those who passed with flying colours, will probably pursue higher education, whether in professional or arts and science universities or pursue distance learning programmes of the Department of Distance Education of the Ministry of Education. Alternatively, they could attend the various Vocational Training Schools of the Department of Vocational and Technical Education under the Ministry of Education. Due to relaxations of education level requirements for training courses of the Vocational Training Schools, students after completion of basic education (though not passing the 12th Grade Exams) may join the Vocational Training Schools.

Those who are unable for some reason to continue their education in the institutions mentioned above may be thinking of entering the labour market to earn a living. The labour market is open to anybody who is of working age, for all kinds of employment. But the chances of getting suitable employment are higher if the employee has some specific skills in demand by employers. Even for entry-level jobs in the organizations concerned, those with certain skills in demand will have an edge over those with a basic education completion certificate.

Hence, to increase chances of getting employment, one has to acquire skills that are in demand by the Labour market, whether in the industry sectors of Agriculture, Manufacturing, Construction, or the Services sector, which is the one most absorbing skilled workers. For entry-level jobs in all these sectors, acquiring specific skills related to an occupation in demand will increase chances of being hired.

For those who have attained the employment age of 18 years and have no specific skills but are actively seeking employment for an entry-level position in any particular Industry sector, it would be beneficial if they attend the Level 1 training course (there are four levels of skills training, with Level 1 being the initial level course) for the specific occupation, being conducted by public/private training providers registered under the 2013 Employment and Training Law of the Union Ministry of Labour. The Level 1 courses are of short duration (around 3 months) and are conducted according to Level 1 of the National Occupational Skills Standards for the specific occupation. The successful candidate is awarded a Competency Certificate which is nationally recognized. It will greatly help the employment seeker to secure, at least, an entry-level job in the occupational skills that he/she has been trained in.

With the further development of the Production and Service sectors, job opportunities are expected to rise in all sectors of the economy in the future. Young persons seeking employment in any specific sector will be able to obtain employment if they are trained and certified to be competent for the particular occupation at least at the entry level.

SCI/TECH: WORLD

China launches Shenzhou-24 spaceship to Tiangong space station with first foreign astronaut on board

The space station has entered the docking orbit, with good working conditions for docking and astronaut entry.



The Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship blasts off atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

CHINA launched the Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship on Wednesday, sending three astronauts, including a Pakistani payload specialist, to its orbiting Tiangong space station.

The spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China at 8:18 am (Beijing Time), according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

About 10 minutes after the launch, the spaceship separated from the rocket and entered its designated orbit, the CMSA said, noting that the launch of the Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship was "a complete success".

The spaceship will later perform a fast, automated rendezvous and docking with the space station complex, and the Shenzhou-24 crew will then enter Tiangong.

The space station has entered the docking orbit, with good working conditions for docking and astronaut entry, the CMSA said.

The astronauts aboard the spaceship are mission commander and spacecraft pilot Tang Hongbo, flight engineer Wu Yi, and Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, the first-ever foreign astronaut to visit Tiangong.

The Shenzhou-24 mission marks the first joint flight consisting of Chinese and foreign astronauts in the history of China's manned space program.

According to Zhang Jingbo, spokesperson for the CMSA, more than 90 scientific experiments and technology tests are planned for the Shenzhou-24 mission, with these covering space life sciences, space material science, microgravity fluid physics and combustion science, fundamental physics, space medicine and new space technologies. — Xinhua

Belgium inaugurates Europe's largest satellite factory

BELGIUM'S King Philippe inaugurated Tuesday what is to become the EU's largest satellite factory, aiming to meet growing European demand for space infrastructure.

Located in the southern city of Charleroi, the facility run by Belgian firm Aerospacelab is to produce, among others, satellites for the European Union's Iris2 project, which seeks to rival Elon Musk's Starlink constellation.

"We've grown even faster than our own ambitions", beamed Aerospacelab's CEO Benoit Deper, noting his company has ballooned from a "tiny startup" in 2018 to a large-scale project playing a role in Europe's "space sovereignty" today.

The "megafactory" in Charleroi — a city more commonly associated with its low-cost airport and abandoned factories from Belgium's industrial past — has an annual production capacity of about 500 satellites. — AFP



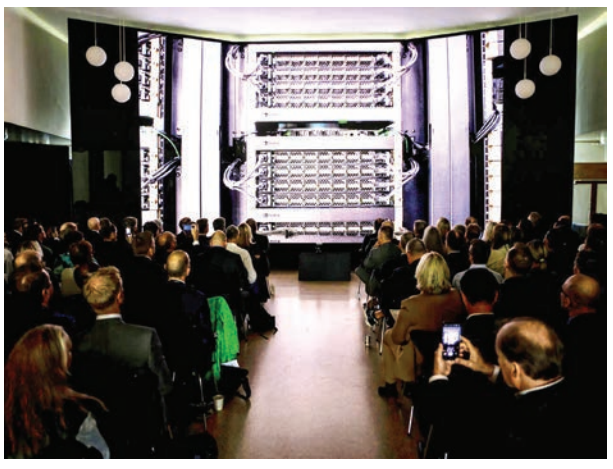
Aerospacelab's new satellite manufacturing megafactory in Marcinelle, near Charleroi, Belgium. **PHOTO: AEROSPACELAB.**

After AI, EU bets on quantum as next big thing

FEARING Europe could lose ground in another technology race, as it lags behind the United States and China on AI, the European Union will unveil plans on Wednesday that it says will make the continent a global quantum computing powerhouse.

The cutting-edge technology harnesses the power of quantum mechanics — laws that govern how physics operates at atomic and sub-atomic scales — to solve certain problems much faster than traditional computers.

The EU describes the impact expected from quantum to be "catalytic" in several areas, leading to breakthroughs on drugs, earlier medical diagnoses as well as super-efficient batteries. Quantum could even accelerate AI development. "Quantum is also a huge technology, it might be the new AI afterwards, it might develop in parallel, or maybe it might not really get the uptake it needs," said Hadrien Valembois of the industry group Business Software Alliance.



The European Union unveils new legislative plans in Brussels to position Europe as a leading global powerhouse in quantum computing technology. **PHOTO: AFP**

But, he added, that all depends on the rules set, the funding dedicated to the technology, and how governments take it up — whether they try "to develop it or to restrain or put a brake on it". Seeking to learn lessons from the AI race and develop "European champions", an EU law known as the Quantum Act will favour European businesses for public money over non-EU firms, according to a draft document seen by AFP. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

AI helping cyber attackers find weaknesses faster than companies can fix them

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is helping cyber attackers identify weaknesses in technology faster than companies can fix them, Cisco Chairman and CEO Chuck Robbins has warned, urging business leaders to act on the growing cyber threat while there is still time to strengthen their defences.

In a post on X, Robbins said, "AI is being used to find weaknesses in technology faster than many companies can fix them, and we have been given a warning while there is still time to act."

He added that the guidance applied regardless of the technology companies use or the partners they work with, and stressed that the priority was to ensure the work was carried out safely and started immediately.

The warning comes as the Alliance for Critical Infrastructure (ACI), in a post on LinkedIn on Tuesday, outlined the growing risks posed by AI-driven cyberattacks and called for faster action by companies responsible for essential services. – ANI

Lao PM calls for unity in ending violence against women

The Lao party and government have consistently prioritized gender equality and the protection of women's and girls' rights.

LAO Prime Minister Saleumxay Kommasith has called on all sectors of society to work together to end violence against women and girls, ensure justice for victims, and strengthen protection measures.

In a statement marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Wednesday, Saleumxay emphasized that violence against women and girls is a violation of fundamental human rights and human dignity. He warned that it threatens families, public health, education, and national development, stressing that addressing the issue is a shared responsibility, according to the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday.



People participate in activities in celebration of the That Luang festival in Vientiane, Laos, 23 November 2026. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ XINHUA**

This year's commemoration marks the 26th anniversary of the international observance and is being held under the theme "Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure Justice, Protect Victims, and Strictly Punish Perpetrators According to the Law".

Saleumxay noted that the Lao party and government have consistently prioritized gender equality and the protection of women's and girls' rights, while working to strengthen comprehensive support and protection mechanisms. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University opens first-ever winter intake

KYRGYZ-Russian Slavic University (KRSU), Bishkek, will admit Indian MBBS students in a winter intake for the first time, with classes set to begin in February 2027. The university has set aside 40 seats for the intake, which can be extended to a maximum of 50. Admissions in India will be handled by Noida-based consultancy MBBSDirect, which manages KRSU's India admissions and conducts the university's entrance examination in India.

The development was confirmed during a visit to the university by Gaurav Pathak, Founder and Managing Director of MBBSDirect, from 25 to 30 October. The tuition fee for the winter intake will remain the same as for the regular intake. — ANI

29 miners feared trapped in flooded Indonesian mining pit

At least 29 miners are feared trapped in a flooded mining pit at PT Antam's Ciguha site in Indonesia's Bogor, West Java, local officials said Wednesday.

The incident occurred on Monday afternoon during heavy rain, which caused a nearby river to overflow and flood into the mine shaft, according to an official report.

Authorities did not receive a report of the trapped miners until early Wednesday.

Multiple rescue teams are at the scene carrying out search and rescue operations, including pumping water out of the mine. As floodwaters inside the shaft have yet to recede, the drainage process is expected to take considerable time. — Xinhua

S Korea's births rise for 27th month in Sept

SOUTH Korea's births rose for 27 consecutive months amid shifting social mindset towards childbirth, statistical ministry data showed Wednesday.

The number of newborn babies gained 12.2 per cent from a year earlier to 25,113 in September, continuing to grow since July 2024, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

For the first nine months of 2026, a total of 218,896 babies were born, up 14.3 per cent from a year ago. The nine-month growth rate marked the steepest since relevant data began to be compiled in 1981.



Newborn babies rest in a hospital nursery in South Korea as national birth numbers record 27 consecutive months of growth. **PHOTO: YONHAP/KYODO/FILE**

The total fertility rate, or the number of children a woman is expected to bear during life, added 0.10 over the year to 0.95 in September.

The sustained growth in births was attributed to higher marriage rates over the past two years, a growing population in their 30s and increasingly positive societal attitudes toward childbirth. However, marriage figures, widely seen as a leading indicator for future birth rates, showed signs of cooling. A total of 16,299 couples tied the knot in September, down 11.7 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua

New Zealand seizes some 250 kg of drugs in global dark web crackdown

NEW Zealand police have seized nearly 250 kilogrammes of drugs and cryptocurrency worth 500,000 NZ dollars (about US$273,405) in a coordinated global crackdown on dark web drug suppliers, police said Wednesday.



Dark web drug suppliers are anonymous vendors operating on encrypted darknet marketplaces to distribute illegal narcotics globally via mail and courier networks. **PHOTO: GERD ALTMANN FROM PIXABAY**

The seizures were made as part of Operation TorNado, a months-long international operation coordinated by Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, and joined by partners in 14 countries including New Zealand, according to a police statement.

The operation also helped take down one of the largest illicit drug suppliers based in New Zealand and identify a prolific global dark web supplier, police said.

New Zealand Detective Sergeant Johno Wylde said it was the first time the country had participated in the global operation, following an earlier "Operation Dawn" domestic investigation, which infiltrated and targeted darknet drug suppliers operating in New Zealand. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Australian inflation rises to 3-yr high

The consumer price index rose by 4.9 per cent in the 12 months to October.

AUSTRALIA'S annual inflation rate rose to a three-year high of 4.9 per cent in October, according to official data released Wednesday.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said that the consumer price index rose by 4.9 per cent in the 12 months to October, up from 4.3 per cent in September and the highest figure since October 2023.

The spike exceeded expectations from economists at Australia's Big Four banks, who had forecast headline inflation at either 4.7 or 4.8 per cent in October.



A young man looks at a "for sale" sign in front of a property in Canberra, Australia, on 22 September 2026. **PHOTO: Xinhua/FILE**

The ABS said that the annual trimmed mean, a measure of underlying inflation preferred by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), rose from 3.6 per cent in September to 3.8 per cent in October.

The data was released ahead of the RBA's Monetary Policy Board meeting for the final time in 2026, early in December, to consider adjusting interest rates. — Xinhua

Why Panama wants to reopen a massive open-cast copper mine

PANAMA'S government has begun talks with a Canadian mining company on reactivating Central America's largest open-pit copper mine, despite strong opposition from environmentalists.

Copper extraction at First Quantum Minerals' Cobre Panama site was suspended in November 2023 after the Supreme Court declared the company's mining concession unconstitutional because it violated environmental and public bidding regulations.


An employee inspects heavy machinery that sits unused at the Cobre Panama copper mine. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The decision came after weeks of anti-mining protests that had paralyzed the country.

First Quantum and its associates are seeking about $27 billion in damages over the shutdown — around 30 per cent of Panama's GDP.

Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino has argued in favor of restarting production to help finance a costly, more gradual closure. — AFP

Indian banks' valuations narrow gap with global peers

INDIAN banks are no longer significantly expensive compared with leading global lenders, with several top private-sector banks now trading at a discount to international financial leaders, according to a report by global brokerage firm Jefferies.

The report notes that after years of commanding a steep valuation premium, divergent stock price performance over the past two to three years has effectively closed the gap. Since 2024, the MSCI AC World Financial Index has surged 60 per cent, significantly outpacing Indian financial stocks, which gained 14 per cent in dollar terms over the same period.

Global lenders across the United States, Europe, Japan, South Korea, China, and Latin America outperformed due to stronger earnings upgrades, improved net interest margins, lower credit costs, and share buybacks.

However, Jefferies observes that earnings upgrade momentum for global financials is beginning to lose steam following September quarter results. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's economy signals exit from deflation

THE Bank of Japan has concluded that underlying inflation, excluding temporary factors, has reached its two per cent target, nearly 14 years after the goal was set. Given the reality of persistent price increases, this is a reasonable conclusion.

The central bank forecasts consumer prices, excluding fresh food, to rise 2.6 per cent in fiscal 2027 from the previous year, above its target. Japan can be said to have emerged from deflation — a sustained decline in prices.– Kyodo

New Zealand needs to modernize retail payments system

NEW Zealand needs to establish a pathway to deliver the retail payments capabilities required by a modern economy and connect with an increasingly digital global economy, a senior Reserve Bank official said Wednesday.

Speaking at Payments NZ's The Point conference in Auckland, Reserve Bank Assistant Governor Karen Silk said the country's payments system remains reliable, but reliability alone would not guarantee its future fitness.– Xinhua

Argentina's economic activity contracts for 3rd consecutive month

ARGENTINA'S economic activity fell 1.2 per cent year-on-year in September, extending its decline to a third consecutive month, the country's National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) reported Tuesday.

The Monthly Economic Activity Estimator, a preliminary indicator of GDP from the INDEC statistics office, showed that economic activity fell 1.8 per cent quarter-on-quarter in the July-September quarter, following a 0.6-per cent contraction in GDP in the second quarter.

Despite a 1 percent increase in economic activity in the first nine months of the year, local analysts estimated that Argentina's economy may have contracted for two consecutive quarters, potentially putting the country in a technical recession.

Official GDP data for the third quarter will be released on16 December. — Xinhua


San Telmo Market, Buenos Aires, Argentina. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE**

Unannounced strike cancels multiple Eurostar trains

MULTIPLE Eurostar trains were cancelled on Wednesday due to an unannounced strike by some of the company's staff.

According to a notice on Eurostar's website, several trains scheduled for Wednesday between London, Paris and Brussels were canceled.

The company said that affected passengers could alter their travel date or receive a full refund.

Eurostar staff called the strike on Wednesday to demand higher wages amid mandatory annual salary negotiations, French TV channel BFMTV reported, citing a union source. — Xinhua



Several trains scheduled for Wednesday between London, Paris and Brussels were cancelled. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

German solar power generation hits record high in 2026

GERMANY has generated more than 100 terawatt-hours (TWh) of solar power so far this year, exceeding that threshold for the first time in a calendar year, according to the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE).

The figures include electricity fed into the grid and on-site consumption. The institute uses a conservative estimate for on-site consumption so that actual solar generation could be slightly higher. – Xinhua

China opens new expressway near China-Vietnam border

A new expressway has opened near the China-Vietnam border, making cross-border transport more convenient.

The 51.4-kilometre expressway in China's Yunnan Province connects Tianbao Port with Malipo County. It cuts travel time from Wenshan city to the border port from around two hours to about 80 minutes, boosting regional connectivity and logistics efficiency. — Xinhua



A newly opened expressway in China's Yunnan Province connecting Tianbao Port near the Vietnam border with Malipo County. **PHOTO: SCREENSHOT FROM WENSHAN RELEASE/GLOBAL TIMES**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 18 VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 18 VOY. NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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: **2301929**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V LICIE VOY.NO. (018)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LICIE VOY. NO. (018)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: **2301929**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

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PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

The manufacture of NACL Industries Limited have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "New Maykha Agrochemical Company Limited" to new distributor name "Amara Agrochemical Company Limited". If any object or enjury, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Nagarjuna Oryzole	Propiconazole 25% EC	F2020-3010
2	Nagarjuna 2,4-D	2,4-D Amine salt 72% w/w SL	F2020-3012

Amara Agrochemical Company Limited
Marlarmyaing Avenue Street, Pyay Road, No (531/B), 8 Quarter, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, 11041, Myanmar, 017501352

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

The manufacture of NACL Industries Limited have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Marlarmyaing Agrochemical Company Limited" to new distributor name "Amara Agrochemical Company Limited". If any object or enjury, please contact to Pesticide registration Board. Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Eraze	Pretilachlor 50% EC	F2020-3011
2	Eraze Strong	Bensulfuron-methyl 0.6% + Pretilachlor 6% G	F2023-2537
3	Nagarjuna Cyper-10	Cypermethrin 10% EC	F2019-2055

Amara Agrochemical Company Limited
Marlarmyaing Avenue Street, Pyay Road, No (531/B), 8 Quarter, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, 11041, Myanmar, 017501352

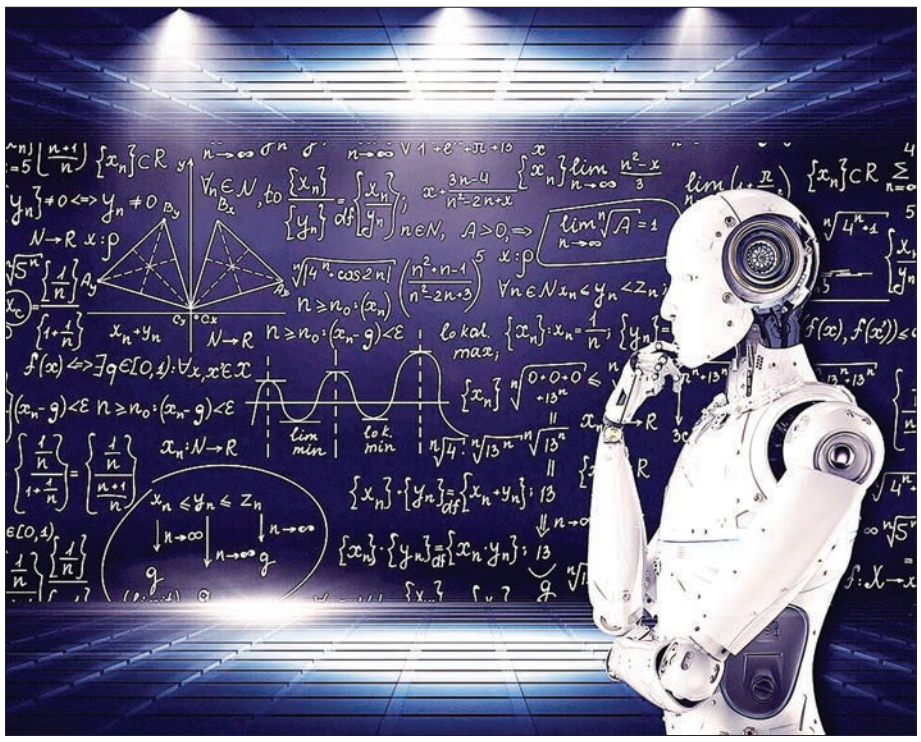
ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Russia challenges Western grip on AI with UN initiative

AI is a technology that should serve the common good.

THE UN General Assembly's Second Committee has approved a Russia-drafted AI resolution despite opposition from Western countries, Dmitry Chumakov, Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, told Sputnik.

AI is a technology that should serve the common good, and "countries seeking to build their digital future without being dictated to by a handful of states and corporations supported the initiative," said the Russian diplomat following the vote.



AI & Machine Learning. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ CC BY 2.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

The resolution:

- opposes the monopolization of AI by a small group of countries and corporations
- calls for broader access to AI technologies for developing nations
- explicitly excludes military applications from its scope

The initiative received 79 votes in favour, 57 against and 42 abstentions. The resolution was deliberately kept free of political overtones, noted the deputy UN envoy, yet Western countries still opposed it, using various pretexts to delay decisions on important issues.

This was particularly evident in discussions on technology sharing and development assistance, he added.

The Russian proposal will now be considered at a UN General Assembly plenary meeting in December. — SPUTNIK

All hostages rescued in Colombia's Cartagena

ALL hostages held at a local supermarket in Colombia's northern city of Cartagena were freed and one of the hostage-takers was killed, Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella told media early Wednesday.

The hostage-takers had been given an opportunity to surrender and release the hostages, but they turned down the offer, de la Espriella said.

The president, who went to Cartagena on Tuesday evening, said he authorized the rescue operation after assessing the situation with senior military and police officials.



Colombian security forces secure the area outside a supermarket in Cartagena following a successful overnight hostage rescue operation. **PHOTO: AFP**

The hostage crisis lasted more than 16 hours, with 10 hostages released on Tuesday, and the remaining 20 were rescued in Wednesday's operation, local media reported.

A group of masked gunmen stormed the chain supermarket in Cartagena on Tuesday morning, taking customers and employees hostage. Footage from the scene showed some hostages with their hands tied and armed men guarding them nearby.

The president said the gunmen had fled into the supermarket and taken hostages after a failed attempt to rob an armoured cash transport vehicle. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

N Korea seeks closure of Swiss office in Pyongyang over sanctions

NORTH Korea on Wednesday sought the closure of a Swiss diplomatic office and urged its head to leave the country within 48 hours over Switzerland's "open hostile act" of putting a children's camp in the Asian country on the sanctions target list.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry summoned the head of the Swiss office and declared him persona non grata, the official Korean Central News Agency said. – Kyodo

UAE plans more desalination plants outside Gulf

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) plans to build more desalination plants outside the Gulf to diversify its drinking water sources and enhance supply resilience, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported Wednesday, citing UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei. Speaking at the RAK Energy Summit in Ras Al Khaimah, Al Mazrouei said that in addition to seeking alternative trade and logistics routes, the UAE is looking to diversify its clean water sources. – Xinhua

Houthis say attacked Saudi oil refinery, financial centre

YEMEN'S Houthi group said Wednesday it had carried out two military operations targeting a major oil refinery in eastern Saudi Arabia and a financial centre in the Saudi capital Riyadh. The first operation targeted the Ras Tanura oil refinery in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, with "precise and direct hits" causing fires at the facility, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement broadcast Wednesday on Houthi-run al-Masirah TV. The second operation targeted a financial center in Riyadh in three phases and caused "significant damage," Sarea said. – Xinhua

London museum makes 'miraculous' move to former meat market

THE London Museum, a free museum telling the story of the British capital, reopens this week in former meat market buildings transformed into an exhibition space.

The museum has relocated from a dated 1970s-era site to a 19th-century brick building formerly part of the Smithfield Market in central London, in a project costing £437 million ($570 million).

The atmospheric new space, which incorporates objects from the last 2,000 years, opens to the public Saturday.

"It's thrilling to see people in the museum," Sharon Ament, the museum's director, told AFP at a press preview Tuesday.

She called the completed building "miraculous and I think, much needed: we've got this great new museum for London." On the ground floor a huge open space with brick walls and iron columns has seating and places to eat and shop. — AFP

SPORTS

Yangon beat Myawady 3-0 in postponed M-League match

Yangon United defeated Myawady 3-0 in a postponed Matchday 4 fixture of the 2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League season at YUSC Stadium on 25 November.

The Grand Royal M-League is organised by the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League Committee, with Grand Royal, AYA Bank and AYA Pay as its main sponsors.

With this victory in their postponed Matchday 4 fixture, Yangon United moved to within two points of league leaders Yangon City, with a game in hand. Although Yangon United's overall performance was relatively ordinary, an early goal and their superior strength in terms of player quality helped them secure the win.

Yangon United fielded an almost full-strength side featuring David Htan, Maung Maung Lwin, goalkeeper Zin Nyi Nyi Aung, Than Paing and Zaw Win Thein, while Myawady also included most of their key players in the starting line-up.


Yangon United and Myawady competing in the match.

Yangon United took the lead in the eighth minute through full-back Hein Phyo Win. However, they were unable to take control of the match and subsequently came under pressure from Myawady.

Yangon United doubled their lead in 39 minutes when Maung Maung Lwin converted a penalty. Thaya Win Htet scored their third goal in 87 minutes to seal a 3-0 victory.

Yangon United forward Maung Maung Lwin received the AYA Pay Player of the Match award, along with a commemorative prize and K1 million in prize money.

The match had been postponed because of Yangon United's participation in the AFC Challenge League group-stage matches. Their remaining postponed fixture against Hanthawady United is scheduled for 9 December. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Vital Europa League tie as Celta Vigo looks for points against in-form Bournemouth

CELTA Vigo hosts AFC Bournemouth in the UEFA Europa League on Thursday evening, looking for its first home points of the league phase against a side that has won all four of its matches.

The match at Balaidos Stadium is the first competitive meeting between the clubs. Bournemouth sits second in the 36-team standings with 12 points, and Marco Rose's side has won nine straight matches in all competitions.

Bournemouth has already won in Spain this season, opening its European campaign with a victory away to Real Sociedad.

Celta sits 27th, outside the playoff places, after losing its two home games to Juventus and Union Saint-Gilloise. Claudio Giraldez's side lost 2-1 away to Real Madrid in La Liga on Saturday.

Forward Borja Iglesias and midfielder Miguel Roman are expected to miss out with left calf and right knee injuries, respectively. Defender Carl Starfelt, who missed Saturday's match with a right thigh injury, remains doubtful despite returning to partial training. — Xinhua


The image shows players from RC Celta de Vigo celebrating a goal on the pitch. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Top Spanish cyclist Blasi considers ski mountaineering at 2030 Winter Olympics

SPANISH road cyclist Paula Blasi says she is open to trying ski mountaineering with an eye on competing at the 2030 Winter Olympics.

The 23-year-old spoke to Spanish sports daily MARCA during a training camp in Gran Canaria. She won La Vuelta Femenina, the Amstel Gold Race and the Volta a Catalunya Femenina this year and recorded several other top-10 finishes.

"I have joked about it with the International Ski Mountaineering Federation. I told them, 'Get some skis ready for me, because 2030 is coming in strong,'" she said. – Xinhua

Figure skating: "Riku-Ryu" pair vows to express gratitude through tour

JAPAN'S Olympic figure skating pairs champions Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara on Tuesday vowed to show their gratitude to fans for their support through their upcoming nationwide ice show tour starting in January.

"Since we have been based in Canada, we haven't had many opportunities to perform in Japan," Kihara said at a press event in Osaka. "Through this tour, we want to share the beauty of pairs skating and express our gratitude to our supporters."


Japanese figure skaters Riku Miura (front) and Ryuichi Kihara pose for a photo in Osaka on Nov. 24, 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The popular duo known as "Riku-Ryu" retired from competition after winning the gold medal at the Milan Cortina Olympics in February and announced their engagement in August.

To help fans better appreciate pairs skating, Miura and Kihara will perform on rinks the same size as those used in competition. "I hope we can perform the same kinds of elements we did in competition," said Miura, who said she still trains five days a week. — Kyodo

Raheem Sterling given suspended jail sentence for dangerous driving

FORMER England footballer Raheem Sterling was Wednesday given a 12-month suspended prison sentence for dangerous driving and possession of nitrous oxide after crashing his Lamborghini.


Raheem Sterling in action for Arsenal in January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The 31-year-old was also ordered to complete 100 hours' unpaid work and was banned from driving for 24 months during the sentencing hearing at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court.

Sterling pleaded guilty in September to driving a Lamborghini Urus dangerously on 28 May 2026.

He also admitted possession of six nitrous oxide canisters for wrongful inhalation, a class C drug, and failing to provide a specimen. Sterling's sentence is suspended for 18 months.

The former Manchester City forward had been seen by other motorists inhaling from a balloon while driving his black sports car, swerving in and out of lanes, a court previously heard. — AFP



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WORLD

Egypt, Maersk discuss full Suez resumption

EGYPTIAN President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Vincent Clerc, CEO of Danish shipping and logistics group AP Moller-Maersk, discussed in Cairo on Wednesday expanding cooperation and the company's operations through the Suez Canal, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

The Egyptian president welcomed Maersk's decision to resume operations through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, describing the waterway as safe for maritime traffic and free from threats.

Clerc said Egypt was a strategic partner and a key hub for the group's activities in the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa, adding that the Suez Canal remained the preferred route for Maersk's global network. — Xinhua

Japan unveils rover prototype for Moon water mission

JAPAN'S space agency unveiled Wednesday a test model of a rover that will travel to the Moon's south pole in a search for water, which could potentially be used for rocket fuel.

Dubbed LUPEX—Lunar Polar Exploration — the mission aims to send a Japanese rover to the Moon in 2028 in collaboration with India, which successfully landed a spacecraft near the lunar south pole last year.

The Moon's polar regions contain areas known as permanent shadows, which never see sunlight, and scientists say it is highly likely that water exists there near the lunar surface.

The LUPEX team hopes the rover will gather data on the quantity and quality of the water, helping to determine if it could one day be used to make space exploration more sustainable.

"We ultimately want to use lunar water for rocket fuel," project manager Takeshi Hoshino told reporters on Wednesday. — AFP



A driving test model of the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) rover is demonstrated at the headquarters of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in Tokyo on 25 November 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trade between Russia, Brunei to exceed $1B in 2026: Putin

Putin thanked the sultan for cooperation in improving defence and security, including at sea.

Trade between Russia and Brunei will exceed $1 billion in 2026, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

"We are developing trade and economic ties, although the volume is still modest, but still the trends are very good. This year we will have over a billion dollars in trade, good prerequisites have been created for future development, I mean, first of all, our cooperation in the field of financial relations, this gives us the opportunity to develop contacts on all lines," Putin said at a meeting with Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah.

Putin also thanked the sultan for cooperation in improving defence and security, including at sea.

Putin welcomes Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah at the Kremlin. Hassanal Bolkiah's visit coincides with the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Brunei.

Hassanal Bolkiah said that talks with Vladimir Putin will lay the foundation for a more productive cooperation between the two countries.

The Sultan of Brunei said that it was a great honor for him to meet with Putin again. "I think today we will lay the foundation for even more productive cooperation," Hassanal Bolkiah said. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah met on 17 June 2026 in Kazan on the sidelines of the Russia-ASEAN Commemorative Summit. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

Pentagon to spend over $2.8B on 15 Boeing KC-46A tankers

THE Pentagon will allocate over $2.8 billion to purchase 15 KC-46A tanker aircraft from the American corporation Boeing, an official notification from the US Department of War showed.

"Boeing Defence, Space & Security, a division of The Boeing Co, Seattle, Washington, has been awarded a $2,819,046,560 modification to a previously awarded contract (FA8625-11-C-6600) for 15 KC-46A Lot 13 production aircraft, G081, subscriptions, and licenses," the notification said. According to the document, the work will be performed in Seattle, with completion expected by 30 June 2030.

KC-46A refueling tanker aircraft play a key role in US aviation operations in the Middle East, providing aerial refuelling for American fighter jets. — SPUTNIK

India, Malaysia armies demonstrate combat tracking

THE Indian and Malaysian armies conducted specialized demonstrations on combat tracking and house intervention, including hostage rescue operations, as part of the ongoing seventh edition of joint military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2026 in Malaysia.

Personnel from both armies participated in the demonstrations, showcasing the employment of specialized teams and Army Canines (K-9) in complex operational scenarios, with a focus on precision tracking, detecting adversary movements, swift tactical intervention and suspect disarmament. — ANI

China, Cambodia to conduct joint military exercise

THE Chinese and Cambodian militaries will hold a joint exercise in Cambodia from late November to mid-December, according to a statement from China's Ministry of National Defence released on Tuesday.

The exercise, codenamed "Golden Dragon-2026", will focus on "joint counterterrorism and anti-piracy operations and humanitarian relief", said the statement. This is the eighth edition of the "Golden Dragon" series involving these two militaries. – Xinhua