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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Myanmar Completes 13 of 15 FATF Action Plan Measures

A Myanmar delegation led by Dr Khin Naing Oo, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, attended the plenary meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), held in Paris, France, from 26 to 30 October 2026, according to the press release issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar on 1 November 2026.

Myanmar has successfully completed 13 of the 15 action plan measures set by the FATF. The FATF issued its public statement on 30 October 2026.

SEE PAGE 3

Taninthayi Region Earns US$287.971M from Seafood Exports in FY 2025-2026

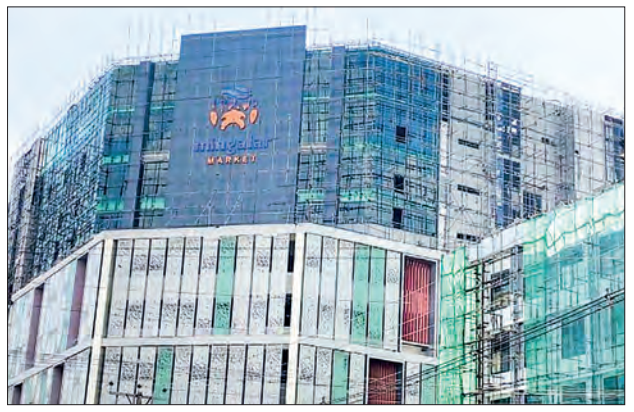


Photo shows offshore fishing vessels.

Taninthayi Region, which is home to more than 800 islands, earned US$287.971 million from seafood exports in the 2025-2026 financial year, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

Fishing vessels operating in Dawei, Myeik, Kawthoung and Bokpyin districts include 1,311 offshore fishing vessels and 63 trawlers, as well as 4,195 inshore fishing vessels and 395 fish carrier vessels. These vessels catch fish and shrimp from the sea for export and domestic consumption, contributing to national food security and foreign exchange earnings.

SEE PAGE 3



New building of Mingala Market.

New Mingala market expected to open in November

NEW modern Mingala Market located in Yangon Region's Mingala Taungnyunt Township is being planned to open in November, after reconstruction works completed, according to the Yangon City Development Committee. Opening is expected to be 1-5 November, and currently, shop relocations have been allowed as of 28 October, said a shop owner.

"Exact date for opening is still unknown, but it's sure it will be in November first week. At present, shop owners have made preparations inside the new building," said a shop owner. It is an eight-storey building, initial owners will be allocated for four floors and the construction company will receive the rest four floors, according to a source close to YCDC.

At the market, 4,067 YCDC-owned shops will need to reopen and shop owners will be re-allocated according to their initial shop numbers. The old building of the market caught fire twice in May 2010 and January 2016. — ASH/ZS

NATIONAL PAGE 4



Students and teachers from Hline BEHS explore national museum

NATIONAL PAGE 6

Medical Care Reaches Laymyethna in Rehabilitation Drive

NATIONAL PAGE 7



Students visit tortoise rescue centre

Myitkyina to celebrate Kachin traditional harvest feast festival and cultural exchange

THE Kachin Traditional Harvest Feast Festival and Cultural Exchange will be held over two days, on 15 and 16 November, at the Sitapu Manaw Ground in Myitkyina, Kachin State, according to the Kachin State Government Office.

The festival and cultural exchange will take place at Majoi Hall within the Sitapu Manaw Ground and will be attended by members of Kachin ethnic sub-groups, other ethnic groups residing in Kachin State, and local residents.



This photo features past celebrations of the Kachin traditional harvest feast festival and cultural exchange in Myitkyina.

"Kachin people traditionally celebrate the harvest feast festival in October and November, when the new paddy crop is harvested. The festival is known as 'Inlong Innan Sha'. Traditional harvest celebrations and the 'Insen Hkalwam' ceremony, which welcomes the new harvest, are held annually in various parts of Kachin State in accordance with local customs. In addition, traditional dance performances will be held at Myitkyina University to promote cultural exchange among the six sub-groups of Kachin ethnic, five Shan sub-groups, and other ethnic groups, including the Bamar, Kayin and Rakhine, residing in Kachin State," an official from the Kachin State Government Office said.

The Kachin Traditional Harvest Feast Festival and Cultural Exchange aims to strengthen solidarity among ethnic groups in Kachin State and foster peaceful coexistence among local communities, according to reports. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Invitation for the 4-Minute Educational Animation Video Competition Commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2026

1. The National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold an educational Animation Video Competition to eliminate ridicule against persons with disabilities and promote a rights-based perspective, commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which falls on 3 December 2026.
2. Anyone may participate by entering an animation video competition in accordance with the following rules:
   (a) Entries must clearly highlight the theme of the competition.
   (b) The competition title, depictions, and dialogues must be presented exclusively in the Myanmar language.
   (c) Entries must be created as a 4-minute animation video.
   (d) Entries may be created using any technique capable of producing animation video.
   (e) Entries must be created by referring to sample awareness videos available on the website: https://www.moswrr.gov.mm/awareness//movie-clip?Page=1.
   (f) The file format must be MP4, WMV, or AVI, with a minimum resolution of Full HD (1920x1080 pixels), RGB color specifications, and a file size not exceeding 1 GB.
   (g) The presentation and narrative execution must align with the storyline and reflect Myanmar culture and lifestyles.
   (h) In addition to content directly related to the animation video's theme, relevant supplementary information that is beneficial for the public to know may also be included.
   (i) Entrants must submit a signed letter of undertaking confirming that the animation is an original work and has not won awards or been published in other competitions, along with a brief biography.
   (j) Copyrights for the winning entries must be permanently transferred to the Department of Rehabilitation.
   (k) Animation videos that arrive past the deadline or fail to meet the specified requirements will not be considered. Winning animation videos will be utilized in appropriate venues, and unselected entries will not be returned.
3. Competing Animation Videos will be evaluated and selected by a panel of experts, and the winners will be awarded cash prizes and medals at the ceremony commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2026 to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.
4. Entrants must submit a soft copy of their Animation Video via email, DVD, or VCD — either in person or through postal/courier services — along with their name, a copy of their Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC), entry application form, and signed letter of undertaking, addressed to the Director-General, Department of Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Office No 23, Nay Pyi Taw (Phone: 067-3404604, Email: vulnerablegroup.moswrr@gmail.com, vulnerablegroup.dor@gmail.com), no later than 4:00 pm on 13 November 2026.
5. As part of efforts toward building an inclusive society where all persons with disabilities can participate, we respectfully invite and encourage everyone to contribute their skills and passion to public awareness initiatives by taking part in the Animation Video Competition commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which falls on 3 December 2026.

Department of Rehabilitation

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Toungoo to host Pujaniya festival dedicating to 28 Lord Buddhas

THE 95th Buddhist devotional ceremony of Toungoo, a locally well-known religious parade of 28 Buddhas will take place with entertainment programmes like previous years.


Toungoo's 28-Buddha-Image Puja was held in 2025.

It has been initially planned to hold the festival on the evening of 13th waxing of Tazaungmone, and exact date and time will be made known in a further announcement, said respective trustee board.

It is a famous religious festival in the region. The religious procession was successfully held along with Ketumadi town-founding festival in 2010. However, the event was held briefly after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like Toungoo's religious procession, the procession of 28 Buddhas in Pyinmana is also a famous religious festival in Myanmar. — TWA/ZS

Cyclonic Storm News, No 4, 2026

Issued at 4 pm MST on 1 November 2026

Cyclonic Storm Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over the Southeast and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards and intensified into a Cyclonic storm "Murasu" over the Southwest and adjoining West central Bay of Bengal . It is centred at about 490 nautical miles West-Southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 305 nautical miles East-Southeast of Chennai and 340 nautical miles Southeast of Machilipatnam, India.

It does not intend to move towards the Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Cyclonic storm "Murasu" is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Cyclonic storm, centre pressure and wind

The Cyclonic storm "Murasu" is located at Latitude 12.1 degree North and Longitude 85.3 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 1002 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour at 3:30 pm MST today.

Next 48 hours forecast

It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and intensify further into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over the West central Bay of Benagal on 2 November 2026 and may cross South Andhra Pradesh Coasts between Nellore and Narsapur, India on 3 November 2026.

General caution

Due to the Cyclonic storm "Murasu", rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin and northern Shan states and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states during this afternoon to 3 November 2026.

The squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH



NATIONAL

Myanmar Completes 13 of 15 FATF Action Plan Measures

FROM PAGE 1

In the statement, the FATF called on its member countries to facilitate humanitarian assistance to Myanmar and ensure smooth remittance services for Myanmar workers overseas. It also urged Myanmar to complete the remaining two action plan measures and take effective action to prevent online scams and illicit financial flows.

During the plenary meeting, Dr Khin Naing Oo led discussions on the country's efforts to address the FATF requirements. Representatives of major FATF member countries expressed their support for Myanmar's efforts, according to reports. – CBM/ST

Myanmar joins 9th Cairo Water Week, explores bilateral cooperation

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Min Naung, attended the 9th Cairo Water Week held in Cairo from 25 to 29 October 2026, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Arab Republic of Egypt U Kyaw Tin Shein.

During the visit, the Union minister joined the ministerial-level discussions with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, followed by bilateral meetings with Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Alaa Farouk, and Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr Hani Sewilam. The talks centred on expanding technical exchange and cooperation in agriculture and irrigation management.

Additionally, the Union Minister-led delegation engaged with officials from Egypt's General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) and toured several key facilities, including a cotton research institute, veterinary vaccine production laboratories, dairy farms, and Nile-fed irrigation and water research projects. — MNA/ST



Union Minister U Min Naung shakes hands with Egyptian Minister Dr Hani Seusilam.

Frontline Tatmadaw members receive warm welcome home



This image shows triumphant Tatmadaw troops receiving a warm welcome home in Kyaikmaraw, Mon State.

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members returning from security and regional stability operations were warmly welcomed back at a local battalion in Kyaikmaraw, Mon State.

Tatmadaw officers, other ranks, families, departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force members, Fire Brigade members, teachers, students and local communities welcomed back returning troops with heartfelt enthusiasm.

They also welcomed home victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia and presented the cash prizes to the returnees. The event included traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/ KZL

Kachin State Builds First Animal Feed and Hatchery Facilities to Bolster Food Security

TO stabilize local commodity prices and secure meat, fish, and egg supplies, Kachin State is constructing its first five-tonne-per-hour animal feed mill alongside a commercial hatchery capable of producing over 200,000 chicks per month. The facilities are being developed by KT Company on a 2.5-acre site in Shwepyitha Ward, Myitkyina, with state government backing.



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan inspects paultry farm in Myitkyina.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan inspected the construction progress on 31 October, touring the finished feed storage, hatchery building, mixing plants, and on-site testing laboratories. The Chief Minister coordinated with state officials to resolve supply needs and maintain construction timelines.

Once operational, the feed mill will produce over 40 tonnes of pelleted livestock and aquaculture feed, as well as 80 tonnes of feed powder, per eight-hour shift. The hatchery will initially yield nearly 80,000 chicks monthly using eggs from Mandalay and Sagaing, before scaling past 200,000 once a dedicated breeder farm is completed in Mawphaung Village. The project aims to eliminate regional feed and chick supply bottlenecks caused by transport disruptions.

During his inspection tour, the Chief Minister also visited a 60,000-bird broiler farm in Pyihtaung Village and commercial fish breeding ponds in Palana-5 to encourage expansion efforts in line with the forthcoming feed and chick supplies. — State IPRD/ST

Taninthayi Region Earns US$287.971M from Seafood Exports...

FROM PAGE 1

During the 2025-2026 financial year, the region exported 242,725.475 tonnes of fish and shrimp, earning US$287.971 million. However, foreign exchange earnings declined slightly compared with the previous financial year due to global fuel supply difficulties and reduced overseas demand for seafood products. In the 2024-2025 financial year, seafood exports generated US$303.628 million.

"Foreign exchange earnings declined slightly compared with last year because of global fuel conditions and a slight drop in seafood purchase prices in foreign markets. As we are a country with readily available raw materials, efforts are being made to produce value-added seafood products to prevent a decline in foreign exchange earnings. The establishment of a major seafood production zone in Taninthayi Region would certainly increase foreign exchange earnings and further expand the region's economic opportunities," said U Thet Soe, Secretary of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

Seafood export earnings from Taninthayi Region stood at US$312.525 million in the 2020-2021 financial year, US$272.026 million in 2021-2022, US$232.189 million in 2022-2023 and US$253.355 million in 2023-2024. Foreign exchange earnings from the seafood export sector have fluctuated from year to year due to changes in global fuel prices and the international political situation.

The Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation and related organizations are also making efforts to promote the production of value-added fish and shrimp products as a means of increasing foreign exchange earnings. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ST

NATIONAL

Crowds visit 6th Buddhist Council exhibits in Yangon


An official explains 6th Buddhist Council exhibits to students in Maha Pasana Cave in Yangon.

MORE than 1,000 monks, nuns, locals and students visited the historic exhibits marking the 70th anniversary of the successful conclusion of the Sixth Buddhist Council at the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, Mayangon Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

The visitors included 300 students from Basic Education High School No 5 in Mayangon Township and more than 700 residents.

They explored the history of the Maha Pasana Cave, where the Sixth Buddhist Council was held, and 10 exhibits highlighting important historical and religious heritage of Buddhism.

The displays included the conception, birth and enlightenment of the Buddha; His first sermon, the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta, to the Five Ascetics; and His attainment of Parinibbana. Officials explained the meaning of Buddhist councils and featured exhibits on the First, Second and Third Buddhist Councils held in India, the Fourth Buddhist Council in Sri Lanka, where Buddhist scriptures were inscribed on palm leaves, and the Fifth Buddhist Council held in Mandalay under the reign of King Mindon, where the scriptures were inscribed on marble slabs. The Kuthodaw Pagodas were also featured.

The visit aimed to help younger generations gain a deeper understanding of the history and cultural heritage of Buddhism and strengthen their respect and devotion to the Sasana. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/KZL

Sagaing Region CM calls for growth of silver and copper industries

AS the State is making efforts to further promote micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), create job opportunities for local residents, facilitate private businesses and preserve traditional Myanmar handicrafts, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay, members of the Region government, chairpersons of the Sagaing District and Township Management and Administration Committees, and officials visited the Tun Tun Silver and Copper Industry in Yahtaung Ward, Sagaing Township, on the morning of 31 October. During the visit, the owner explained the business's various silver and copper products and its current operations.

Afterwards, the regional chief minister met silver and copper entrepreneurs and pledged the regional government's support to export high-quality, innovative products; secure raw materials; sell finished products; and obtain loans from the State Economic Promotion Fund to expand their businesses. He encouraged the entrepreneurs to openly and honestly discuss any business-related needs or challenges they faced. — Region IPRD/MKKS


Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay and officials observe the displays at the Tun Tun Silver and Copper Industry in Sagaing on 31 October. **PHOTO: REGION IPRD**

Students and teachers from Hline BEHS explore national museum


A curator explains the museum's exhibits on ancient cultural artefacts to students at the National Museum.

A group of 100 students from Basic Education High School No 6 in Hline Township, Yangon Region, accompanied by supervising teachers visited the National Museum (Yangon) on Pyay Road yesterday.

During the visit, the students explored galleries featuring Myanmar scripts and manuscripts, the Lion Throne, the Yadanapon period, natural history and Myanmar's prehistory, Myanmar's urban culture, royal regalia, Myanmar traditional arts and crafts, ancient ornaments and jewellery, Myanmar paintings, Buddhist art, ASEAN countries and ethnic cultures. The visit helped students gain a better understanding of Myanmar's rich historical heritage and the importance of preserving and protecting the country's traditional cultural heritage. The National Museum (Yangon) is open to the public daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, except Monday and public holidays. Visitors are welcome to explore the museum. — Nyo Tun(IPRD)/KZL


XTBG-CAS Director-General Dr Yao Wu Xing presents samples of plant identification labels to a National Kandawgyi Gardens official.

Kandawgyi Gardens to cooperate with China on botanical development

A project will be developed and implemented in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) to promote botanical science and the development of the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region.

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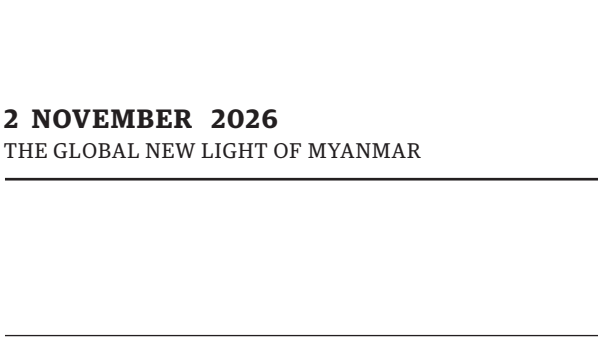
NATIONAL

Illegal buildings demolished in Shwe Kokko

THE government is cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries to eliminate online scams and online gambling, which threaten global socioeconomic affairs and national security. As part of these efforts, illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko area, where online scam and online gambling activities were extensively conducted, are being systematically demolished to prevent such activities from resuming.

In this regard, systematic demolition work is continuing on the remaining illegal buildings in the second phase of the Shwe Kokko area that were used for online scam and online gambling activities. Of the buildings being demolished using heavy machinery, one six-storey building had been 60 per cent demolished as of today, while the demolition of another six-storey building had reached 30 per cent completion.

Of the 63 buildings scheduled for demolition in the second phase of the Shwe Kokko area, four designated for demolition using explosives and another four designated for demolition using heavy machinery have already been demolished. The remaining 55 buildings will also be systematically demolished. The Government is carrying out effective measures to combat online scams and online gambling as a national responsibility. — 100/KZL



The map reveals systematic demolition of scam hubs in the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown in Shwe Kokko area.

Kandawgyi Gardens to cooperate with China ...

FROM PAGE 4

As part of the ongoing collaboration, work is under way to conduct a plant species inventory, identify and classify plant species, install new tree labels and publish a plant species checklist for the gardens.

To strengthen the cooperation and ensure effective implementation of the activities, XTBG-CAS Director-General Dr Yao Wu Xing met officials of the National Kandawgyi Gardens on 30 October.

During the meeting, both sides discussed garden management, potential areas of cooperation in botanical science and plans for future activities. The XTBG delegation also presented samples of the new plant identification labels to be installed in the gardens.

PyinOoLwin's National Kandawgyi Gardens and China's CAS and XTBG will continue their cooperation through a jointly developed project covering botanical research and garden development, according to the report. — TWA/KZL

83 Thai Nationals Arrested in Online Scam and Gambling Crackdown in Tachilek

THE Government is treating the identification, prevention and suppression of online scams and online gambling operations as a national responsibility, recognizing the serious threat these crimes pose not only to local communities but also to the socioeconomic well-being of people worldwide. It is also working closely with neighbouring governments to effectively investigate, identify, arrest and take action against those involved in such activities.


This photo shows a building where online scam and gambling were committed in Tachilek.

In line with these efforts, combined teams comprising security personnel conducted investigations and searches in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State, following reports that online scam and gambling operations were being carried out in the area.

At around 5:45 pm on 31 October, the teams raided the Yu Warat Hotel in Samseng (A) Ward, Tachilek, and arrested 83 Thai nationals, comprising 42 men and 41 women, who were allegedly involved in online scam and gambling activities. They also seized 40 various laptops and 75 mobile phones used in the operations.

The arrestees will face effective and stringent legal action under existing laws after the necessary investigations have been completed. The seized equipment will also be dealt with in accordance with established procedures, according to reports. — MNA/ST

FPV Drone Attack Damages Equipment at 230-kV Toungoo-Thayagon Power Line Repair Site

SKILLED engineers and workers from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy have been carrying out repairs to towers along the 230-kV Toungoo-Thayagon power transmission line, which has been repeatedly damaged by explosions. The repair work is being conducted with the cooperation of security personnel and local residents.

However, at around 10:58 am yesterday, attackers launched FPV drone strikes against the repair site, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The 230-kV Toungoo-Thayagon power transmission line was constructed to transmit electricity generated by hydropower plants in upper Myanmar to consumers in lower Myanmar, including Yangon Region. The towers along the transmission line sustained damage at multiple locations following repeated attacks on 27 July and 28 December 2023, and 3 and 23 January 2024.


An FPV drone used in attacking Toungoo-Thayagon power line repair site.

While repair work was underway on the damaged towers, attackers carried out the latest FPV drone strikes, which damaged equipment and machinery at the site. Despite various challenges, efforts will continue to repair the transmission line. Once the repairs are completed, the line will be able to transmit approximately 200 additional megawatts of electricity, according to reports. — 100/ST

Water levels reduced at Ma Mya Reservoir after slope subsidence

WATER levels at Ma Mya Reservoir in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, continue to be lowered following subsidence of an embankment slope, while joint cleaning activities are being carried out in nearby villages.

Following repair work on the affected section of the reservoir embankment, water has been released through the emergency spillway to lower the reservoir's water level from its original storage level of 315 feet. As of the evening of 1 November, the reservoir's water level had fallen to 295.8 feet, a reduction of approximately 19.2 feet through water discharge.

Meanwhile, residents of villages near the affected slope are receiving necessary healthcare services. Tatmadaw members from local military units and residents are also working together to clear bushes and weeds at monasteries and schools and provide other necessary assistance.

Officials from the respective command inspected the activities and coordinated the provision of further assistance. — 100/KZL

NATIONAL

Medical Care Reaches Laymyethna in Rehabilitation Drive

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Health and the leadership of the Ayeyawady Region government, specialists from Hinthada District People's Hospital provided medical treatment to residents of Laymyethna Township on 31 October.

The field medical programme provided cervical cancer screening for women and treatment for patients with general illnesses, surgical conditions, obstetric and gynaecological conditions, bone and trauma injuries, eye conditions, dental and oral health problems, skin diseases, childhood illnesses, ear, nose and throat conditions, musculoskeletal problems requiring physical rehabilitation, and mental health conditions. More than 600 residents received the necessary medical care. — Township IPRD/MKKS



The specialist medical team from Hinthada District People's Hospital is seen at People's Hospital in Laymyethna Township on 31 October. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Sarpay Beikman receives submission of 168 books for National Literary Awards nomination

FOR the nomination of National Literary Awards 2026, Sarpay Beikman made an announcement via State-owned newspapers and Myanma Radio and Television, and writers, publishers, distributers and the public were urged to submit books which were published in 2026 for the first time.



The meeting for National Literary awards was held on 24 September at Sarpay Beikman.

Upon this request, writers, publishers and distributers have conveyed their first-edition books — two books per genre, and Sarpay Beikman has made compilations according to 19 categories for the award nomination.

Until 30 October 2026, the copyrights and registering subdivision has received a total of 168 book genres, of which 104 genres (208 books) are eligible and 64 genres (128 books) are ineligible for the award. — TWA/ZS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Sunday, 1 November 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Cyclonic storm "Murasu" over the Southwest and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards. It is centred at about 510 nautical miles west-southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 270 nautical miles east-southeast of Chennai and 310 nautical miles southeast of Machilipatnam, India. The weather is cloudy over the West central and Southwest Bay of Bengal and a few clouds to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 2 November 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin, Mon and southern Shan states, scattered in Yangon, Bago and lower Sagaing regions and Rakhine and northern Shan states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and southern Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 November 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.— DMH

Myanmar expatriates donate food and cash to mark Deepavali Festival



Donations are distributed to households at Deepavali festival in Kyauktan yesterday. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

A donation ceremony featuring food supplies and financial assistance contributed by Myanmar expatriates to mark Deepavali Festival, the Hindu festival of lights, was held yesterday morning at Veerama Kali Temple in Santawmi Ward 2, Kyauktan.

During the ceremony, U Thein Tan, Chairman of the Wanakwon Tamil Philanthropic Association, handed over festival supplies, nutritious food and cash donations to temple officials on behalf of the donors. The temple officials presented him with a certificate of appreciation in return.

"Although we are unable to celebrate Deepavali in Myanmar ourselves, we are delighted to donate essential food supplies and financial assistance for our parents, relatives and fellow brothers and sisters who will be celebrating the festival. We also hope to continue making donations in the future," said Ko Thurein, a philanthropic organizer based in Malaysia.

To mark Deepavali, donations of wheat, chickpeas, black gram, sugar and other food supplies, along with biryani meals and financial assistance of K80,000 per person, were distributed to 185 people. The philanthropic association makes donations without discrimination based on race or religion, and Myanmar citizens living abroad will continue to provide support and contributions, according to reports. — Oktha/TH

Singaing's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Taohn (West) Village, Singaing Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday morning.

Officials explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, interest rates, repayment periods and regulations governing the loan disbursement. The village project committee disbursed K44 million in revolving loans at low interest rates directly to 99 project members from the village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

NATIONAL

Students visit tortoise rescue centre

A total of 250 people, including departmental officials, teachers, students and Red Cross members visited the Bantbwe Forest Nursery and Tortoise Rescue Centre in Nawnghkio Township, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North), yesterday.

During the visit, Nawnghkio Township Forest Department Staff Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Tun explained the nursery's operations and seedling cultivation techniques, while Dr Tint Lwin, incharge of the Tortoise Rescue Centre briefed visitors on tortoise breeding, conservation activities and the centre's objectives. The visitors also toured the facility and raised questions, which were answered by officials.



Students observe tortoises at the Bantbwe Forest Nursery and Tortoise Rescue Centre in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North) on 1 November. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Established on 6 December 2012 with technical and financial support from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Tortoise Survival Alliance (TSA), the centre was caring for 699 tortoises of seven species as of October 2026, according to the Forest Department.

The tortoises comprised 345 Burmese roofed tortoises, 140 elongated tortoises, 65 yellow tortoises, two Arakan forest tortoises, two black pond turtles, 24 black marsh tortoises and 121 red-necked pond turtles. — IPRD/KZL

Farmers receive second round of rice export funding in Einme

FARMERS participating in the Rice Export Zone programme for the 2026-2027 monsoon paddy cultivation season received the second round of funding from the State Economic Promotion Fund in Einme Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 31 October.

The fund disbursement ceremony was held at Shwepyitan Hall of the Township General Administration Department.

Township Rice Export Zone Supervisory Committee Chairman U Aye Win Khine delivered opening remarks, followed by speeches by Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representatives U Khin Maung Win and U Soe Naing.



The State Economic Promotion Fund disbursement ceremony in progress in Einme Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 31 October.

A representative of Sonzee Myaing Business Group Co Ltd, which is implementing the Rice Export Zone programme, explained the progress of the project. Township Rice Export Zone Supervisory Committee Secretary Daw Kyawt Kyawt San also outlined the requirements for implementing the programme.

Under the second round of funding, participating farmers received K250,000 per acre. Farmers from eight village tracts in Einme Township benefited from the disbursement.

The funding aims to meet farmers' needs for monsoon paddy cultivation and production, while improving rice yields and quality and promoting rice exports. — Chit Thet Lel (Einme IPRD)/KZL

MRCS provides second instalment of livelihood assistance to 724 earthquake-affected households



The Myanmar Red Cross Society officials provide the second instalment of financial assistance to earthquake-affected households in Thazi Township.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) provided a second instalment of livelihood recovery assistance totalling K325.8 million to 724 earthquake-affected households in Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Thazi townships, Mandalay Region, from 20 to 22 October. Each household received K450,000 to help restore its livelihood activities.

The MRCS has allocated a total of K1.5 million in livelihood recovery assistance for each earthquake-affected household. The first instalment of K1.05 million had already been provided.

The assistance programme was carried out by the MRCS with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the German Red Cross. Red Cross staff and local Red Cross volunteers personally visited affected communities to deliver the assistance. — TWA/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar Press Council holds talk and discussion to mark Global Media and Information Literacy Week

A talk and discussion to mark Global Media and Information Literacy Week, organized by the Myanmar Press Council, was held on 31 October at the training hall of the Myanmar Press Council Office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

UNESCO designates and leads the annual observance of Global Media and Information Literacy Week during the fourth week of October. The week has been observed worldwide since 2012, with Myanmar participating since 2018. The initiative aims to recognize progress towards achieving media and information literacy for all, strengthen engagement at the national level and mobilize stakeholders worldwide to raise awareness.

The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2026 is "We All Play a Part – Media and Information Literacy for the People".

At the event, Myanmar Press Council Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo, together with Vice-Chairmen U Khin Maung Zaw and U Khin Maung Kyaw Din, led the talks and discussions, while Council Secretary U Hla Htut Oo served as master of ceremonies.

The event was attended by executives and members of the Myanmar Press Council, as well as journalists, who actively participated in the discussions. — ASH/TH



This photo shows a talk and panel discussion held to mark Global Media and Information Literacy Week.

OPINION

Boosting production to secure food and drive economic growth

Myanmar is a country with favourable natural conditions for carrying out agricultural and livestock breeding activities. Therefore, since ancient times, the country has engaged in traditional economic activities based on agriculture and livestock breeding, as well as the extraction and utilization of natural resources from above and below the ground and from above and below the water.

It is essential to move beyond traditional methods of agricultural and livestock farming and apply modern technologies that are continuously evolving. Only by conducting research, studying and analyzing relevant information, and making necessary adjustments in farming practices can greater benefits be achieved for the country's economic development and improvements in the socioeconomic well-being of the people. In addition, not only private entrepreneurs who drive economic activities but also civil servants working in state-owned enterprises need to perform their duties diligently and ensure that opportunities are created for them to work to their full potential.

The State is also providing the necessary investment and working capital loans to promote the development of manufacturing industries based on agriculture and livestock farming. Increasing agricultural and livestock production will ensure adequate domestic consumption. Therefore, systematic measures must be taken to secure markets and ensure that products are produced and exported in sufficient quantities to meet market demand.

In addition, responsible officials need to ensure that the necessary inputs for carrying out business activities are provided. If every citizen genuinely engages in productive work, a variety of products will be produced, thereby reducing imports and increasing exports. This, in turn, will make a significant contribution to economic growth and development.

In the country, in addition to businesses based on agriculture and livestock farming and those engaged in the extraction and use of natural resources, garment manufacturing under the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) system, which relies on foreign investment, is also being carried out. CMP businesses can serve as a source of foreign exchange earnings. Hence, the relevant ministries and regional governments need to provide the necessary support to ensure smooth operations of CMP businesses.

It is necessary to identify and examine the economic difficulties encountered in the past in connection with national economic development, draw lessons from them, and seek solutions through careful analysis. To increase the production of value-added goods from manufacturing industries based on agriculture and livestock farming, the country's main economic sectors, boost exports, and expand markets for domestic products, the government, agricultural and livestock producers, and business entrepreneurs must work together in a coordinated manner through concerted efforts to reduce high commodity prices.

The State is also providing the necessary investment and working capital loans to promote the development of manufacturing industries based on agriculture and livestock farming. Increasing agricultural and livestock production will ensure adequate domestic consumption. Therefore, systematic measures must be taken to secure markets and ensure that products are produced and exported in sufficient quantities to meet market demand.

ARTICLE

Pawsan Rice: Myanmar's Fragrant Treasure on the World Rice Stage

By Junior Thin

Among Myanmar's many agricultural treasures, Pawsan rice holds a special place. Famous for its distinctive fragrance, delicate taste, appealing texture, and remarkable cooking characteristics, Pawsan has become one of Myanmar's most celebrated rice varieties.

Its reputation extends far beyond Myanmar's borders. On the international rice stage, Pawsan rice has competed successfully against some of the world's best-known varieties, including Thailand's Jasmine rice, India's Basmati rice, and Vietnam's ST25 rice. Its achievements at international competitions have brought considerable pride to Myanmar and demonstrated the remarkable potential of the country's traditional rice varieties.

But what makes Pawsan rice so special? Behind its familiar appearance lies a fascinating combination of genetics, climate, soil, water, traditional farming practices, and careful post-harvest management.

A Grain That Grows Longer in the Pot

One of the most fascinating characteristics of Pawsan rice becomes visible only after cooking.

Instead of simply becoming wider and softer, the rice grains can extend significantly in length, sometimes approaching two or even three times their original length. Yet the grains can retain an attractive, well-defined shape rather than becoming excessively swollen.

This unusual characteristic is closely connected with the genetic properties of the rice grain. During cooking, the starch inside the grain absorbs water and heat, allowing the grain to expand in a distinctive way.

For farmers, preserving this characteristic begins long before the rice reaches the kitchen. Careful harvesting, drying, and storage are essential because cracks that develop inside the grain can reduce the quality of the cooked rice.

The Perfect Balance of Softness and Firmness

Texture is another reason why Pawsan rice is so widely appreciated.

Good Pawsan rice is tender and soft without becoming excessively sticky. At the same time, it retains enough firmness to provide a pleasant bite. This balance gives the rice a distinctive eating quality.

One important factor behind this texture is its starch composition, particularly its amylose content. Pawsan rice generally has a moderate level of amylose, which contributes to the balance between softness and firmness after cooking.

The final texture, however, is not determined by genetics alone. Temperature, water management, soil conditions, sunlight, humidity, and the timing of harvesting can all influence the quality of the grain.

This is why producing truly high-quality Pawsan rice requires more than simply planting the right seed.

The Land Behind the Grain

The character of Pawsan rice is closely connected to the land where it grows. Myanmar's Ayeyawady Delta and areas such as Shwebo District in Sagaing Region are particularly well known for producing high-quality Pawsan rice. The availability of water, fertile soils, local climate, and traditional agricultural practices create conditions that allow the rice to develop its distinctive characteristics.

This relationship between a crop and its geographical environment is more than a matter of farming convenience. Soil, temperature, water availability, sunlight, and seasonal conditions can influence the aroma, texture, and overall quality of rice.

In this sense, every grain of Pawsan carries something of the landscape in which it was grown.

The Fragrance That Sets It Apart

Perhaps the most memorable feature of Pawsan rice is its fragrance.



Its characteristic aroma comes from naturally occurring aromatic compounds within the grain. When properly cultivated, harvested, processed, and stored, Pawsan rice can retain its pleasant fragrance for a remarkably long period.

Traditional varieties such as Pawsan Gyi are especially valued for their aromatic qualities. Proper post-harvest management is essential, however. Delayed harvesting, excessive exposure to strong heat during drying, and unsuitable storage conditions can reduce the rice's natural fragrance. Maintaining appropriate moisture levels and storing the rice in a cool, dry environment can help preserve its quality and aroma.

Thus, the journey of Pawsan rice does not end when the farmer harvests the crop. The way the grain is dried, milled, packaged, and stored can be just as important as the way it was cultivated.

A Heritage Passed Down Through Generations

Pawsan rice is more than a commercial crop. It represents a living agricultural heritage. Traditional Pawsan varieties have been selected, cultivated, and preserved by Myanmar farmers over generations. Through this long process of natural adaptation and farmer selection, the varieties have developed strong relationships with local soil, climate, water conditions, and farming environments.

This is what makes indigenous varieties particularly valuable. Their importance cannot be measured only by yield. They also carry genetic diversity, cultural knowledge, traditional farming practices, and the agricultural history of a region.

Modern hybrid varieties may offer advantages such as rapid growth and high yields. However, traditional varieties such as Pawsan possess unique characteristics of aroma, taste, texture, and adaptation that should not be lost.

Protecting these characteristics requires careful seed selection and systematic preservation.

Growing Pawsan for Quality, Not Just Quantity

Producing premium Pawsan rice requires careful attention throughout the entire growing season. Suitable soil and reliable water management are essential. Farmers need to consider the variety being cultivated, local climate, soil fertility, irrigation and drainage, sunlight, and temperature.

The period when the rice grain is filling is particularly important. Environmental conditions during this stage can influence the development of the compounds responsible for the rice's characteristic fragrance. Proper water management before harvest is also essential. Excessive water, insufficient water, or inappropriate drainage can affect grain development and final quality.

Post-harvest handling is equally important. Rice must be harvested at an appropriate time and dried carefully. Excessive heat or prolonged drying can damage the grain and reduce its quality.

Good storage practices are also necessary to protect the aroma and other desirable characteristics of the rice.

More Than Rice

Pawsan rice is more than something placed on a dinner table. It is the result of an extraordinary relationship between seed, soil, water, climate, farmers, and generations of traditional knowledge.

Its ability to lengthen dramatically during cooking, its pleasing balance of softness and firmness, its distinctive fragrance, and its connection with particular growing regions make it one of Myanmar's most valuable traditional agricultural products.

Its success on the international stage has shown that Myanmar's traditional rice varieties can compete with the world's most respected rice brands.

The challenge now is to protect what makes Pawsan special.

Farmers, agricultural scientists, researchers, processors, traders, and policymakers all have a role to play in preserving the genetic purity, quality, and reputation of Pawsan rice. By combining traditional knowledge with modern agricultural science, Myanmar can strengthen the quality and international value of this remarkable rice.

Pawsan is not simply a grain harvested from Myanmar's fields. It is a fragrant symbol of Myanmar's land, heritage, farming traditions, and agricultural potential.

With proper protection and responsible cultivation, this precious rice can continue to represent Myanmar proudly on the world stage for generations to come.

Reference: Myanma Alinn Daily (22-10-2026)

■

Why Myanmar's Classical Heritage Still Matters

By Kyaw Ye Aung

People experience joy, sadness, surprise, depression, and many other emotions in their lives. Therefore, they enjoy different types of music depending on their moods and circumstances. Music can reduce stress and motivate people to stay active. There are many kinds of music, such as classical music, pop music, rock and roll, hip-hop, and R&B. In our country, most older people enjoy listening to classical music, while younger people tend to prefer pop music.



As for me, both classical music and pop music give me great pleasure. I often listen to Burmese classical music at night before I go to sleep. Although some young people may find it a little boring, classical music gives us peaceful moments and touches our hearts. Classical music is unique because songwriters take the time to create meaningful and beautiful songs.

Classical music provides a diverse range of artistic experiences related to people's lifestyles, the beauty of nature, cultural heritage, traditions, and the history of Myanmar. However, it can be difficult to sing classical songs proficiently. In spite of its complexity, classical music remains deeply meaningful at its core. On the other hand, pop music gives us a feeling of freshness as soon as we hear it, and it is especially popular among young people nowadays. Although pop songs may not stay popular for a long time, they are generally easier for most singers to perform than classical songs.

Despite the differences between classical and pop music, both types can help us relax our minds. I would like to share one of my personal experiences with classical music. My father loves classical music because he used to sing to me whenever I fell asleep in his arms when I was young. He always understood the value of old classical songs and often emphasized their importance. I remember those happy times whenever I hear the Burmese classical music that my father used to sing. Through these memories, I have come to appreciate the essence of classical music. They are precious memories that I will never forget.

In conclusion, classical music is not just entertainment; it is a vital part of our identity. Therefore, we should protect and preserve classical music as part of Myanmar's national heritage.

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Mont Pya Thalet

(Myanmar Honeycomb Rice Pancake)

WHETHER enjoyed during an early-morning stroll or shared over an evening cup of tea, Mont Pyar Thalet, with its enticing aroma and wisps of steam rising from a hot clay pot, is one of Myanmar's most irresistible traditional snacks.

The snack gets its name from the numerous tiny air pockets resembling a honeycomb that form across its surface. With a lightly crispy bottom and a soft, tender centre, this traditional rice pancake can be enjoyed in either savoury or sweet variations, according to personal preference.

There are two delicious versions of Mont Pya Thalet to choose from.

The first is the savoury and spicy version, which is the most common and popular variety. It combines the rich, mellow flavour of boiled peas with the fresh aroma of spring onions and coriander, fragrant fried onion oil and a spicy kick of chilli powder. For those who enjoy a little tanginess, thinly sliced tomatoes are added to create a delightful blend of flavours without making the snack overly rich.

The second is the sweet version. A generous drizzle of thick palm jaggery syrup, accompanied by fragrant grated coconut and a sprinkling of roasted, crushed sesame seeds, blends beautifully with the mildly tangy rice aroma of the pancake, turning it into a truly distinctive sweet treat.

Now, let's explore the ingredients needed and the step-by-step process for making this delightful traditional snack.



Traditional Myanmar Delicacy

Ingredients

The following quantities are suitable for preparing Mont Pya Thalet at home using a small frying pan.

For preparing the batter

- Coarse rice flour (or raw rice flour) – 2 cups
- Cooked rice, mashed until soft – 2 tablespoons (to give the pancake a tender texture)
- Yeast – ½ teaspoon (or a small amount of baking soda)
- Salt – ½ teaspoon
- Warm water – as needed (to achieve a batter of the right consistency)

Toppings for the savoury version

- Boiled yellow peas – 1 cup
- Spring onions, finely chopped
- Fresh coriander, chopped
- Tomatoes, thinly sliced
- Roasted chilli powder
- Fried onion oil
- A little salt and monosodium glutamate (MSG), to taste

Toppings for the sweet version

Thick palm jaggery syrup, prepared in advance
Grated coconut
Roasted and crushed white or black sesame seeds

Step-by-Step Preparation

Prepare the batter and allow it to ferment

Place the rice flour, mashed cooked rice, yeast and salt in a mixing bowl. Gradually add warm water while stirring until all ingredients are well combined.

The batter should have a consistency similar to that used for Dosa or Myanmar-style Mont Lin Maya pancakes – neither too thick nor too runny.

Cover the bowl and leave the batter to ferment at room temperature for at least three to five hours. Leaving it overnight will produce even better results.

Once fermented, the batter should develop small bubbles and a pleasantly mild sour aroma.

Heat the pan

Place a small clay pot or a small non-stick frying pan with a rounded base over the stove and allow it to heat up.

Once sufficiently hot, lightly grease the surface with a little oil to prevent the pancake from sticking.

Pour in the batter

Stir the fermented batter again until evenly mixed. Using a ladle, pour approximately one ladleful of batter into the heated pot or pan.

Gently swirl the pan so that some of the batter spreads towards the sides. This will help create a lightly crispy edge.

Add the toppings

Once tiny bubbles resembling honeycomb begin to appear across the surface of the pancake, reduce the heat to medium.

For the savoury version:

Sprinkle the boiled peas, chopped spring onions, sliced tomatoes and roasted chilli powder over the pancake. Drizzle with a little fragrant fried onion oil.

SEE PAGE 11

Weekly News Quiz

(for 2 November 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Thursday's newspaper (29 October 2026).

National News Quiz

1. Celebrating its historic tradition by floating over 100,000 lotus flower-shaped oil lamps along the creek, which edition of the Thadingyut Floating Lantern Festival commenced on 27 October in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region?
   A. 150th edition
   B. 165th edition
   C. 175th edition
   D. 180th edition
2. According to the Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department, how many acres of monsoon paddy were planted with Pawsan rice in Ayeyawady Region, leading the nation in cultivation?
   A. Over 800,000 acres
   B. Over 1 million acres
   C. Over 1.3 million acres
   D. Over 1.5 million acres
3. According to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting 6/2026, which of Myanmar's 12 economic sectors accounted for the largest share of total investment as of the end of September 2026 at 28.05 per cent?
   A. Oil and gas sector
   B. Electricity sector
   C. Transport and communications sector
   D. Manufacturing sector

Global News Quiz

4. How many days does Toyota Motor Corp's AI-powered welding robot take to fabricate roll cages for entry-level racing karts down from up to three weeks?
   A. 2 days
   B. 3 days
   C. 5 days
   D. 7 days
5. In which Spanish province did the high-speed train collision that claimed at least 50 lives and injured 179 others occur along the railway line linking Madrid with Andalusia near Urda station?
   A. Seville
   B. Toledo
   C. Córdoba
   D. Valencia

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

DELICACY/NATIONAL

Traditional Myanmar ...

FROM PAGE 10

For the sweet version:

Leave the pancake plain at this stage, without adding any toppings. The sweet ingredients will be added after it has been cooked.

Cover and cook

Cover the pot or pan securely with a lid and allow the pancake to cook over low heat for approximately two to three minutes.

Once the edges become crisp and the centre is fully cooked, the savoury Mont Pyar Thalet is ready to serve.

For the sweet version, transfer the cooked plain pancake to a serving plate, drizzle it generously with palm jaggery syrup, and finish with grated coconut and roasted sesame seeds.

Health Benefits and Nutritional Value

Compared with deep-fried snacks that require large amounts of oil, Mont Pyar Thalet is a relatively wholesome traditional food.

The rice batter undergoes natural fermentation, the process can encourage the development of beneficial microorganisms associated with gut health. Fermented rice preparations are also traditionally valued for their digestibility and may be easier on the stomach.

The boiled peas used in the savoury version provide a good source of plant-based protein and dietary fibre. Meanwhile, spring onions, tomatoes and coriander contribute vitamins and antioxidants.

Another advantage is its relatively low oil content. Since only a small amount of oil is used to grease the cooking surface and the pancake is cooked covered, allowing it to steam rather than being deep-fried, it can be a lighter, lower-oil alternative to many conventional fried snacks. This preparation method may also make it a more suitable option for those seeking to maintain cardiovascular health.

One important consideration, however, is that although palm jaggery syrup is a natural sweetener, it still contains sugar. People with diabetes may therefore prefer the savoury version with boiled peas rather than the sweet variety.

Furthermore, reducing the amount of fried onion oil and salt used in the savoury version can make it a more suitable choice for people managing high blood pressure or watching their weight.

With these simple adjustments, Mont Pyar Thalet can make a delightful breakfast or afternoon snack to enjoy as part of a balanced diet.

And that is our traditional food feature for this week – a delicious taste of Myanmar's culinary heritage! — Moon

Editorial notes and recommendations

FOR publication in an English-language newspaper or magazine, I recommend paying attention to the following points:

1. Name of the traditional snack

I recommend:

MONT Pyar Thalet (Burmese Honeycomb Rice Pancake)

THIS retains the original Myanmar food name while giving international readers an understandable description.

OTHER possible translations include:

- Burmese Honeycomb Pancake
- Traditional Myanmar Honeycomb Rice Pancake
- Fermented Rice Honeycomb Pancake

MY preference is **Burmese Honeycomb Rice Pancake**, as it conveys both its distinctive appearance and its main ingredient.

2. Food terminology

I have used the following expressions consistently:

Myanmar term	Recommended English
မုန့်ပျားသလက်	Mont Pyar Thalet
ဆန်မှုန့်	Rice flour

Tangyan's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Wamhong Village, Tangyan Township, Shan State (North), yesterday morning.

Tangyan Township Department of Rural Development Head U Khine Min Tun explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as enabling them to expand systematic small-scale agricultural businesses. Project officer Daw May Nwe Tun outlined interest rates, repayment periods and regulations governing the loan disbursement, after which officials handed over K33 million in revolving funds to members of the project committees representing Wamhong and Peinseng villages.

The village project committees disbursed the second round of revolving loans at low interest rates directly to 22 project members from Wamhong and Peinseng villages engaged in systematic agricultural activities to support local livelihoods and boost family incomes, according to the Department of Rural Development. — Karan (Rural)



An official presents MSY loan to a villager in Tangyan yesterday.

Myanmar participates in 15th IACA Assembly of Parties in Vienna

MYANMAR participated in the 15th Session of the Assembly of Parties to the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), held in Vienna, Austria, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The session took place at the Vienna International Centre on 30 October. Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Zan, Chargé d'Affaires of the Myanmar Embassy and Permanent Representative Office in Vienna, attended the meeting and participated in discussions on general policy matters.

In his remarks, Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Zan said that the admission of new member states to IACA reflected growing international recognition of the academy's important role in combatting corruption worldwide. He also highlighted Myanmar's interest in IACA's postgraduate and training programmes.

He stressed that capacity-building and technical assistance were particularly important for least developed countries in combating corruption. He therefore called for expanded scholarship opportunities and free online courses, as well as greater opportunities for young people and anti-corruption officials to participate in IACA programmes. — ASH/KNN



The 15th Session of the Assembly of Parties to the International Anti-Corruption Academy in progress.

Mongton inspects completed water supply project in Wamsala Village

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development inspected the 100-per-cent completion of a rural water supply project in Wamsala Village, Mongton Township, Shan State (East), yesterday morning.

District officials inspected the completed facilities, including a three-mile spring water pipeline connecting the source to the village, a 5,000-gallon concrete water storage tank, and a retaining dam measuring 25 feet long, three feet wide and five feet high.

They met members of the village water supply committee to discuss the installation of household water meters and the establishment of systematic maintenance plans for long-term sustainability, while coordinating responses to requirements raised by the community.

The water supply project was implemented with K110.38 million in state budget allocation by tender-winning Zhan Dana Company and Golden Ace Company under the technical assistance of Township DRD engineers starting from the fourth week of July this year. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

ECONOMY
WORLD

Russia at G20 meeting flags sanctions and asset freezes among methods undermining global trade

Officials discussed sanctions asset freezes and commercial fleet interceptions during meetings.

"ASSESSMENTS were provided of destructive actions undermining international trade, including the interception of commercial fleets, sanctions, asset freezes and other unscrupulous methods," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on the outcome of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Other statements:

Russian side stressed the importance of strengthening a multipolar world order, reforming the system of economic governance, and countering unfair competition and neocolonial practices



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov addresses the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Russia confirmed its intention to remain a leading supplier of energy resources, food and fertilizers to countries in need

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is leading the Russian delegation at the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta on 30-31 October.

The meeting is a key diplomatic event ahead of the G20 leaders' summit in Miami on 14-15 December. — SPUTNIK

OPEC+ set to keep December oil output targets unchanged, focus shifts to 2027 quotas

THE supply reduction had initially been agreed upon in 2023. OPEC+ oil-producing countries have agreed in principle to keep their December production targets unchanged, signalling a pause in output policy adjustments until next year as the group prepares to negotiate production quotas for 2027, Reuters reported on Sunday.

Three people familiar with the matter told the news agency that the understanding was reached ahead of Sunday's online meeting of seven key OPEC+ members — Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Oman.



OPEC+ oil-producing countries agree to maintain their current production targets. The Mina Al-Ahmadi oil refinery complex south of Kuwait City. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The sources declined to be identified, according to Reuters. The meeting comes as Gulf producers continue to increase exports that had been disrupted for months by the Iran war. However, most of these countries are still producing below their assigned output targets because of the disruption, Reuters reported. — ANI

Vietnam reduces gasoline special consumption tax

VIETNAM has reduced the special consumption tax on all types of gasoline to zero per cent from Sunday through 31 March 2027, under a new government resolution issued on Saturday, local daily VnExpress reported.

Under the special consumption tax law, which took effect on 1 July this year, the tax rates are set at 10 per cent for regular gasoline, eight per cent for E5 biofuel and seven per cent for E10 biofuel.

The tax was previously reduced to zero per cent from late March to June 2026 to help stabilize the domestic market.

Meanwhile, the environmental protection tax on gasoline and oil products remains at zero Vietnamese dong per litre.

These products are also exempt from value-added tax declaration and payment under a policy extended through the end of 2026, the report said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Protocol upgrading China-Peru FTA takes effect

THE protocol upgrading the China-Peru free trade agreement (FTA) took effect on Sunday, according to China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

China and Peru launched negotiations on the upgrade in November 2018 and signed the protocol on 14 November 2024. The original FTA was signed in 2009 and took effect in 2010.

The protocol improves seven existing chapters of the original FTA, covering rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, intellectual property rights, trade in services, temporary entry of business personnel, and investment, the MOC said in an online statement.

The protocol also adds five new chapters on standards and conformity assessment cooperation, competition policy, e-commerce, global supply chains, and environment and trade. — Xinhua

Addis Ababa wins 2026 Global Award for Sustainable Development

ADDIS Ababa Wins 2026 Global Award for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia's PM Office Announces.

The award marks a "proud moment" for the country's urban transformation, according to PM Abiy Ahmed's office.

Urban development is about creating quality public spaces, fostering a culture of urbanity, and making cities better places to live and work while preserving local history and heritage, the government emphasized.

"Today, Addis Ababa. Tomorrow, a new chapter for every Ethiopian city. Let us build cities that embrace the future without losing their connection to the past," the statement said, stressing that development must extend beyond the capital.

The recognition, also known as the UN-Habitat Shanghai Award, is presented annually to five cities worldwide for outstanding progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. — SPUTNIK



This photo, taken on 14 February 2024, shows the headquarters of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

BIZ WORLD

Narita airport to consolidate its 3 terminals into 1 for easier movement

JAPAN'S Narita airport is moving forward with a plan to consolidate its three terminals into one in the 2030s, with new and extended runways expected to raise annual flight movements to 500,000.

The move aims to strengthen the functionality of the airport near Tokyo and boost its competitiveness as an international hub in Northeast Asia, particularly as Tokyo's Haneda airport continues to operate near capacity.



Supplied photo shows a rendering of the new terminal at Narita airport slated to open in the 2030s. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"We want to improve convenience for passengers, including those making connections," an official of Narita International Airport Corp. said.

The company, together with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and others, outlined their plans at a July meeting on strengthening Narita airport's facilities.

Since opening in May 1978, the airport has expanded through additions including new terminals, but transfer passengers have faced inconveniences such as needing to travel between terminals by bus. — Kyodo

Tunisia, Senegal vow integrated economic partnership

TUNISIA and Senegal have pledged to forge an integrated economic partnership and expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in industry, trade and investment, the Tunis Afrique Presse (TAP) reported on Saturday.

Tunisian Minister of Equipment and Housing Salah Zouari, who also oversees the Industry, Mines and Energy portfolio, met with visiting Senegalese Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock Cheikhou Oumar Ba on Friday, according to TAP.

The ministers explored new partnership opportunities between companies from the two countries and stressed the need to strengthen the exchange of expertise in industrialization, technological development, and the enhancement of product competitiveness.

Zouari called for promoting joint investment, highlighting the close complementarity between the two countries in the industrial, mining, energy and agricultural sectors. — Xinhua

S Korea's October exports nearly double

SOUTH Korea's exports almost doubled in October, driven by an unprecedented boom in semiconductor demand, government data showed Sunday.

The outbound shipments, which account for about half of the export-led economy, surged 93.7 per cent from a year earlier to US$115.28 billion in October, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.

It marked the second-highest monthly exports after hitting a record high of $121.1 billion in September.

Semiconductor exports skyrocketed 259.4 per cent to $56.44 billion amid the continued expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure investments that led to price hikes in memory chips.

For the first 10 months of 2026, the cumulative exports reached $930 billion, putting the country on track to surpass the historic annual exports of $1 trillion by November.

Imports advanced 36.0 per cent to $72.78 billion last month, sending the trade surplus to $42.50 billion. — Xinhua

Hyundai Motor India sales rise 17.7% in Oct

HYUNDAI Motor India Limited (HMIL) on Sunday reported its highest-ever total monthly sales, including exports, of 82,299 units in October, a 17.7 per cent year-on-year rise.

The milestone was driven by record domestic sales of 62,799 units, a 16.7 per cent rise, and exports grew 21.1 per cent to 19,500 units, the automaker said.

Tarun Garg, MD & CEO - HMIL, said, "Strong festive demand, coupled with healthy momentum in both domestic and export markets, helped us set this new sales record."— ANI

Sri Lanka's fuel import bill jumps 51.5%

SRI Lanka's fuel imports expenditure from January to September 2026 increased by 51.5 per cent from the same period last year, according to data released by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

The bank's latest External Sector Performance report, dated 30 October, showed that the country spent US$4.49 billion on fuel imports during the first nine months of 2026, compared to $2.96 billion on fuel imports during the same period in 2025.

Fuel import spending, however, declined slightly in September. Sri Lanka spent $415.1 million on fuel imports during the month, down 5.8 per cent from $440.7 million in September 2025. September 2026 also marked the country's fifth consecutive month of fuel imports expenditure decline.

Despite the downward trajectory, the overall fuel import bill remained significantly higher than during the same period last year, said the bank. — Xinhua

Canada raises key rate to 2.5%

THE Bank of Canada raised its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.5 per cent on Wednesday, its first increase in more than three years, as higher energy costs pushed up inflation and raised concerns about broader price pressures.


The image shows the historic central block of the Bank of Canada Building head office, located at 234 Wellington Street in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

The increase was widely expected. The central bank also sharply raised its inflation forecast for 2027 to 3.1 per cent from the 2.0 per cent projected in July.

Growth this year is now expected at 1.0 per cent, up from the bank's July forecast of 0.7 per cent. "With the outlook for inflation substantially higher and the economy showing resilience, an increase in the policy rate is needed to reduce the risk that elevated energy prices could spill over and become generalized inflation," Governor Tiff Macklem said in opening remarks to reporters. "There could be a need to increase the policy rate further, but given uncertainties, we will proceed carefully."

The rate increase is likely to push up bank lending rates and mortgage costs and could slow economic growth. Macklem said the bank's priority was to keep costs contained. — ANI

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Quad unveils $85 million trusted AI initiative, US vows $10 million for India minerals recycling

The four countries will channel AI assistance through the Quad Accelerator.



The diplomatic engagement marked the third ministerial meeting of the bloc this year, following earlier meetings in New Delhi in May and Manila in July. **PHOTO: ANI**

FOREIGN ministers representing the Quad bloc of India, the United States, Japan and Australia formally announced plans on Saturday to provide more than $85 million in technical and financial assistance aimed at broadening regional access to trusted artificial intelligence infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific. Concurrently, Washington pledged a separate $10 million allocation to support critical minerals recycling initiatives in India and ASEAN member states.

The major policy announcements followed a high-level meeting of the alliance's top diplomats on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Summit in Georgia.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong attended the meeting.

According to an official joint statement issued after the meeting, the four countries intend to channel the pledged artificial intelligence assistance through collaborative frameworks such as the Quad AI Accelerator.

Furthermore, the delegates emphasised the critical role of emerging technologies and the Pax Silica initiative in promoting sustainable economic growth and strengthening multilateral cooperation across the Indo-Pacific. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan aims to build capability to rapidly launch rockets

JAPAN'S Defense Ministry is soliciting research proposals from private companies as part of efforts to develop small rockets that can quickly launch alternative satellites if existing ones in space are attacked or malfunction.

Around 70 million yen ($444,000) has been allocated in the financial 2026 budget for the research initiative aimed at expediting space transport.

In filtering the research proposals, the ministry said it will study the development costs as well as the methods and time required for manufacturing the rockets and decide on a contractor by February next year.

The ministry also envisages the use of 3D printers and other tools to efficiently manufacture rocket parts and is considering whether launches will be carried out from land, sea or air. – Kyodo

North Korea tests cluster bomb warhead

NORTH Korea has tested a cluster-bomb warhead designed to be mounted on tactical ballistic missiles and vowed to deploy various types of such warheads by the end of this year, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing its state media.

The North's Missile Administration conducted the test on Saturday to assess the combat adaptability and destructive capability of a cluster-bomb warhead intended for tactical ballistic missiles, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. The research institutes under the Missile Administration "confirmed that Standard Type 2 cluster-bomb warhead is capable of turning into ashes a target area of 12 to 13 hectares with its highest-density power," KCNA said. – ANI

'Air-con nation' Singapore eyes alternatives to cool down

LONG dubbed an "air-conditioned nation", Singapore is experimenting with cooling alternatives from chilled beams to "passive displacement" to curb its thirst for energy-guzzling air conditioning.

The city-state has the highest per-capita air conditioner ownership rate in Southeast Asia, with about 99 per cent of private residences equipped with cooling units.

Singapore's local building sector accounts for one-fifth of its emissions, while cooling itself accounts for 40 to 60 per cent of a building's energy consumption, according to studies.

A stroll down renowned thoroughfare Orchard Road highlights that dependence. Shoppers are greeted by blasts of cool air that waft into the street as doors swing open — a major draw given daytime highs hover between 31C and 33C yearround.

But air conditioning can make the heat problem worse. Compressor units belch hot air back out into the environment, and the electricity that powers the systems can contribute to climate change if generated from fossil fuels.

Some buildings in Singapore are looking at other options, including active chilled beams, which are perforated panels equipped with cooling coils that are mounted on ceilings. — AFP



This photo taken on 21 August 2026, shows a technician checking the chillers that produce a hybrid cooling method at an office building in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP**

China unveils detailed plan for manned moon landing

CHINA will adopt a "two launches, lunar orbit rendezvous" architecture for its manned lunar exploration program, a senior engineer said on Saturday, as development work for lunar landing advances steadily.

Wang Xiang, deputy chief designer of China's manned space programme and chief designer of the lunar exploration program, outlined the plan at the 7th Manned Space Symposium in Beijing.

Under the scheme, two rockets would separately send the Lanyue lunar lander and Mengzhou crewed spaceship into the Earth-moon transfer orbit, and the two spacecraft would perform a rendezvous and docking in the lunar orbit. Astronauts would then transfer from the Mengzhou spaceship into the Lanyue lander for the descent to the lunar surface and subsequent scientific work. Wang said the approach matches China's existing technical capabilities and infrastructure, and the separate development of the spaceship and lunar lander can help standardize production and support the formation of a long-term family of vehicles. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Ayeyawady suffer heavy defeat to defending champions

MYANMAR'S Ayeyawady FC suffered a 0-7 defeat to defending champions Naegohyang FC of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in their opening Group A match of the 2026-2027 AFC Women's Champions League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 1 November.

The Group A first-day matches were hosted by Myanmar.



Ayeyawady FC and Naegohyang FC compete during their match. **PHOTO: AYWDFC**

Ayeyawady faced DPRK club Naegohyang in their opening fixture but were unable to withstand the defending champions, conceding seven goals. Despite their efforts to put up a strong performance on home soil, Ayeyawady struggled to contain their opponents. They conceded twice in the first half and five more goals in the second half.

Ayeyawady fielded a combination of loan signings and foreign players alongside local players, including Phyu Phyu Win, Zune Yu Ya Oo and Ei Sandar Zaw. Focusing mainly on limiting the number of goals conceded, Ayeyawady managed to hold their opponents until the 43rd minute before conceding their first goal shortly before half-time.

Naegohyang's goals were scored by Ku Hwan Ri in the 43rd minute, Ri Yu Jong in the first minute of added time in the first half, Jong Ku in the 52nd minute, Kim Ju Chan in the 70th minute, Yun Ae Cho in the 81st and sixth minutes of added time in the second half, and Cho Un Ok in the 90+4th minute.

In the day's earlier match, played at 3 pm, Japanese club Kobe defeated Iranian side Bam Khatoon 4-1.

The second round of Group A matches will take place on 4 November. Naegohyang will face Bam Khatoon at 3 pm, while Ayeyawady will take on Kobe at 7 pm. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Yamashita defends Maybank C'ship title for 5th win on LPGA Tour

JAPAN'S Miyu Yamashita won her second straight Maybank Championship on Sunday to claim her fifth career title on the LPGA Tour.

The 25-year-old Yamashita, who grabbed her first win on the tour at last season's British Open, began the final round with a two-shot lead at Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club and shot a 4-under 68 for a 22-under total of 266 to win by two strokes.

"I wasn't thinking I'd be able to win back-to-back, so I'm really happy," Yamashita said after she became the first Japanese golfer to get three wins in one LPGA season since Ai Miyazato in 2010, when she won five.

Yamashita has placed fourth in Japan's all-time list for the wins on the tour, behind Ayako Okamoto (17), Miyazato (9) and Nasa Hataoka (7).

Yamashita had three birdies before closing the front nine with her only bogey of the round and added two more birdies in the second half to get herself over the line.



Japan's Miyu Yamashita celebrates after winning the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur on 1 November 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"I was able to play the 18 holes while feeling tense in a good way," she said. — Kyodo

Weightlifting competition continues in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2026 Inter-State and Region Weightlifting Competition continued at the weightlifting training gymnasium of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 November, with athletes competing in the snatch, and clean and jerk events across various men's and women's weight categories.

In the women's 61-kilogramme category, April Tun of the Ayeyawady Region team claimed first place with a snatch of 80 kilogrammes, a clean and jerk of 99 kilogrammes and a total of 179 kilogrammes. Yoon Pa Pa Thwe of Yangon Region finished second with 63 kilogrammes in the snatch, 80 kilogrammes in the clean and jerk and 143 kilogrammes overall, while Yoon Yoon of Mandalay Region took third place with lifts of 53 kilogrammes and 65 kilogrammes, giving her a total of 118 kilogrammes.

In the men's 70-kilogramme category, Wai Lwin Phyo of Mandalay Region secured first place with a snatch of 113 kilogrammes, a clean and jerk of 136 kilogrammes and a total of 249 kilogrammes. Khun Kham Naung of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory finished second with lifts of 86 kilogrammes and 103 kilogrammes, totalling 189 kilogrammes, while Thint Myat Wira Win of Kayin State placed third with lifts of 75 kilogrammes and 110 kilogrammes, totalling 185 kilogrammes.

April Tun also set three new Region and State records in the women's 61-kilogramme category. Her snatch of 80 kilogrammes surpassed the previous record of 76 kilogrammes, while her clean and jerk of 99 kilogrammes exceeded the previous record of 98 kilogrammes. Her combined total of 179 kilogrammes also broke the previous record of 172 kilogrammes.

Similarly, Wai Lwin Phyo established three new Region and State records in the men's 70-kilogramme category. His snatch of 113 kilogrammes surpassed the previous record of 106 kilogrammes, while his clean and jerk of 136 kilogrammes exceeded the previous record of 132 kilogrammes. His combined total of 249 kilogrammes also broke the previous record of 236 kilogrammes.

The competition will continue on 2 November, starting at 10 am, with snatch and clean and jerk events in various men's and women's weight categories. Sports enthusiasts and members of the public are invited to attend the competition free of charge. — MNA/KZL



A weightlifter in action during the 2026 Inter-State and Region Weightlifting Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Weekly News Quiz

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10

Answer Key

1. (C) 175th edition (From the Shwegyin Thadingyut Floating Lantern Festival story on **Page 1**)
2. (C) Over 1.3 million acres (From the Pawsan rice cultivation story on **Page 7**)
3. (B) Electricity sector (From the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting report on **Page 5**)
4. (B) 3 days (From the Toyota AI welding robot story on **Page 13**)
5. (B) Toledo (From the Spanish high-speed train collision story on **Page 14**)

Quad unveils $85 million trusted AI initiative, US vows $10 million for India minerals recycling

PAGE 14



WORLD

Iran labels British military as terrorist entities

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry on Sunday announced that Tehran had designated Britain's Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) as "terrorist and hostile" entities over the British government's anti-Iran actions over the past year.

The decision, effective Sunday, was based on a resolution adopted by Iran's Supreme National Security Council, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry condemned the British government's anti-Iran policies and actions as contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly those concerning respect for national sovereignty and the prohibition of unlawful measures against other states.

It reaffirmed Iran's determination to safeguard its national security and interests, citing several "hostile" actions by the British government, including its participation in the war against Iran by making military bases and facilities on British territory available for use, as well as its designation of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps as a "threat to national security." — Xinhua

Finland expands defence buildup with space centre

THE centre will start operations on 1 January 2027, the Finnish Air Force announced. It will be located within the Finnish Air Force HQ in central Finland.

The centre's goal is to monitor space activity, coordinate Finland's actions with NATO and other allies , and run its own space systems. The core of the centre's assets will be a satellite remote sensing system developed by Finland's ICEYE company, which signed a contract worth $176M with the country's defence ministry in 2025. Recently, Finland has significantly increased its military spending. — SPUTNIK

Yerevan Pathway charts course for biodiversity action, but challenges remain

Negotiators secured a major landmark agreement as COP17 concluded in Yerevan.



Representatives attend the closing plenary for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) in Yerevan, Armenia, 30 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) concluded in Yerevan on Saturday after negotiators secured agreement on the conference's main decisions, including the Yerevan Pathway aimed at accelerating global biodiversity action.

This encouraging outcome came at a critical time for global biodiversity protection. Halfway between the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 2030 deadline, countries face a widening gap between their commitments to protect nature and the action to fulfill them. Whether the Yerevan Pathway can help close that gap will depend on financing, national policies and sustained international cooperation.

The conference's main task was to conduct the first global review of collective progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which sets out 23 targets for 2030.

The assessment presented governments with a clear warning: Without a rapid acceleration of implementation, the framework's 2030 targets and mission would not be achieved, putting its longer-term goals for 2050 at risk. — Xinhua

Bolivia declares emergency over destructive El Niño

BOLIVIAN President Rodrigo Paz declared a state of emergency Saturday to free up resources for dealing with the impact of the El Nino weather phenomenon, wreaking havoc around the world.

The decree also calls for deploying more rescue teams in hard-hit areas as Bolivia grapples with both flooding and drought because of El Nino, Paz said in an address to the nation.

"This will be a phenomenon that will have very severe impacts in terms of drought and floods, and we need the cooperation of all institutions," Paz said.

Drought is affecting 78,000 families in six of the country's nine departments and has led to the loss of more than 75,000 head of cattle, according to a government report this week. El Nino warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns. — AFP

India and Belgium forge closer diamond ties

INDIAN Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held discussions with representatives of the diamond industry in Brussels, exchanging views on global diamond trade and emerging market trends while highlighting the longstanding trade linkages between India and Belgium across the diamond value chain.

The informal interaction took place at the Embassy of India in Brussels on 30 October, according to a post by the Department of Commerce on social media platform X.

During the interaction, Agrawal discussed developments in the global diamond trade with industry representatives and exchanged perspectives on emerging trends shaping the sector.



DIVA Museum for Diamonds, Jewellery and Silver in Antwerp, Belgium. **PHOTO: MUSEUM DIVA**

He also highlighted the longstanding relationship between India and Belgium in the diamond value chain.

The engagement comes against the backdrop of the close commercial linkages between the two countries in the diamond industry, with the interaction providing an opportunity to exchange views on developments in international markets and the evolving dynamics of global diamond trade. — ANI