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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Patient Safety Vital to Expanding Primary Healthcare Services

The practical experience of veteran traditional medicine practitioners needs to be bridged with the research capabilities of the next generation of professionals.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to commence the 25th Traditional Myanmar Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Traditional Myanmar Medicine Symposium on 30 November 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings and best wishes for good health and well-being to all the officials, distinguished traditional medicine practitioners, experts from various related fields, and guests attending today's 25th Traditional Myanmar Medicine Practitioners' Conference and Traditional Myanmar Medicine Symposium.

Myanmar's traditional medicine is a valuable national heritage that has been preserved and passed down from generation to generation since our forefathers' time. It is also a trusted field of knowledge that has played a vital role in safeguarding the people's health from ancient times to the present day.

SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar, Vietnam Discuss Deepening Bilateral Ties, Trade and Regional Connectivity

The two countries reaffirm their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation and supporting Myanmar's participation in ASEAN.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing met Vietnamese President Mr To Lam at the Presidential Palace (Tonkin Palace) in Hanoi, Vietnam, at 11:15 am yesterday.

Upon his arrival at the Tonkin Palace, President U Min Aung Hlaing was warmly welcomed by Vietnamese President Mr To Lam.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers and deputy ministers accompanying the Myanmar President as members of his delegation, the Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam and relevant officials. Vietnamese ministers and officials also attended alongside President Mr To Lam.

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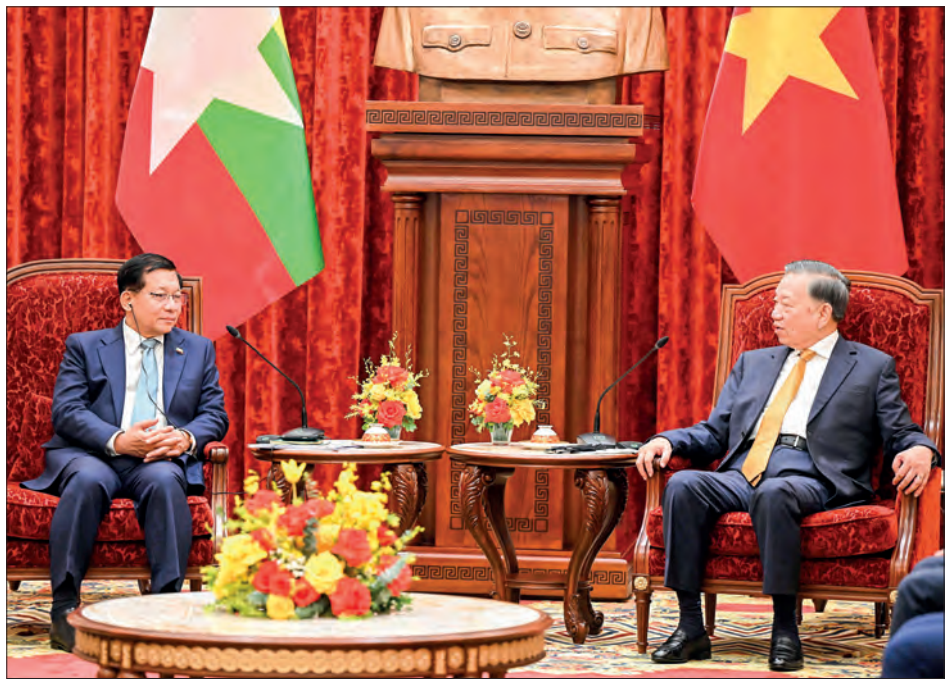

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing meets Vietnamese President Mr To Lam at the Presidential Palace (Tonkin Palace) in Hanoi yesterday.

13 companies granted permits for oil exploration and production

THIRTEEN companies have been granted operating permits to conduct oil exploration and production under the oil and natural gas exploration, production, purchase and sales sector, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.



This photo features an aerial view of an oil exploration and production block.

These companies will conduct exploration and production activities in the following onshore blocks: Improved Oil Recovery Block-3 Tetma Area (IOR-3 Tetma), Reactivation of Suspended Oil Fields Block-2 Natpalin Area (RSF-2 Natpalin), and Block-3 Ngashantaung Area (RSF-3 Ngashantaung).

The licensed companies include Mother City, Moe Daung Thar, Myin Mo Than, Myittar Yay Kyi, Naing Sie Group, Popa Survey and Construction, Pyay Hlan Hein, Shwe Oil, Shwe Sin Moe (ATK), Shwe Thein Than Kaba, Star Two Khaing Yar Zar, Taw Win Htike Tan, and Za Bu Yake.

The permitted companies are required to comply with existing laws and the terms and conditions stipulated in the operation agreements signed with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. They will also be entitled to benefits in accordance with the oil production-sharing ratios specified in those agreements. — TWA/TH

Taunggyi to host Shan New Year Festival in grand style on 7 Dec

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Photo shows the poster of Shan New Year Festival.
PHOTO: ZWE MARN

NATIONAL

Motto of 106th National Victory Day 2026

Strive together for national prosperity

10th Waxing of Tazaungmone, 1388 ME
4 December 2026

Objectives for 106th National Victory Day

10th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1388ME
4 December 2026

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

Shan New Year Festival to be held in Tachilek

SHAN New Year Festival for year 2121 of Shan calendar will be held in Tachilek, Shan State (East), from 7 to 9 December.

It is an annual celebration aiming to pass down Shan ethnics' cultural heritages, literature and customs to their next generations and to revive their culture by gatherings every year.

The festival will take place at the Shan literature and culture field in Tachilek and traditional arts and Shan food as well as amusement activities can be explored.

Similar celebrations will also be held in different areas where Shan ethnic groups live, as well as in Kengtung, Shan State (East), from 7 to 9 December. — TWA/ZS



Shan ethnic people join the celebration of Shan New Year Festival last year .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Central Committee on Public Military Service Conscription
Ministry of Defence

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 29 November 2026)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 30 November 2026: Light rains are likely to be isolated in Tanintharyi Region. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. The weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah and Rakhine states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kayah, Chin and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 November 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 November 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 November 2026: Generally fair weather. — DMH

NATIONAL

Patient Safety Vital to Expanding Primary Healthcare Services

FROM PAGE 1

Traditional Myanmar medicine encompasses the extensive knowledge and experience of traditional medicine practitioners in identifying medicinal plants, formulating medicines, and applying various practical therapeutic methods. I would like to express my respect and appreciation to generations of traditional medicine practitioners who have preserved and passed down this knowledge while dedicating themselves to safeguarding the people's health with compassion and goodwill.

A healthy and strong workforce is the foundation of a nation's long-term development. Therefore, alongside modern medicine, traditional Myanmar medicine must also be systematically developed and advanced as a national responsibility. In promoting its development, emphasis must be placed on preserving traditional knowledge, conducting research to assess the safety and efficacy of medicines and therapeutic methods, and applying the knowledge gained through such research to public healthcare.

The Traditional Myanmar Medicine Practitioners' Conference and the Traditional Myanmar Medicine Symposium have been held annually since 2000, and this year marks the 25th conference and symposium, celebrating their silver jubilee. I would also like to express my gratitude to the distinguished medical experts, traditional medicine practitioners, and all individuals from various related sectors who have worked together in unity over the past 25 years to contribute to the interests of the State and the well-being of the people.

This year's conference has four main objectives:

- To expand primary healthcare services for the public through traditional Myanmar medicine.
- To promote the development of traditional Myanmar medicine through the application of modern technologies.
- To enhance compliance with professional ethics among practitioners in order to uphold the dignity and reputation of traditional medicine.
- To preserve, safeguard and further promote traditional medicine practices and methods.

To translate these objectives into practical action, I would like to encourage participants to discuss not only their research findings but also the challenges they encounter in hospitals, clinics and field operations. I also urge you all to make recommendations based on practical conditions, identifying services that should be expanded for the public, medicines and therapeutic methods that should be prioritized, and areas requiring further strengthening to ensure quality control.

Similarly, training qualified professionals is a key factor in the development of traditional medicine. Therefore, the University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay), which was inaugurated on 9 January 2002, has been producing professionals holding the Bachelor of Traditional Myanmar Medicine (BTMM) and Master of Traditional Myanmar Medicine (MTMM) degrees. With the government's support, the Doctor of Traditional Myanmar Medicine degree programme has also been offered since January 2025.

In addition, several training courses were conducted in 2026, including a practical course in general disease treatment, a hospital management and leadership course for traditional medicine practitioners, and courses on quality control, stability and shelf-life studies of traditional medicines and health supplements. The knowledge gained from these courses needs to be applied in practice in hospitals, clinics and activities related to the quality control of medicines.

It is also necessary to bridge the practical experience of veteran traditional medicine practitioners with the research capabilities of the next generation of professionals. I would like to urge the university, hospitals and relevant organizations to work together by compiling and documenting the professional knowledge and experience of senior practitioners, incorporating these records into teaching, and providing young professionals with opportunities to participate actively in research activities.

In fulfilling the Ministry of Health's objectives of enabling everyone to live a long and healthy life and remain free from disease, the Department of Traditional Medicine must also play its part. I am pleased to acknowledge the expansion of short-term basic traditional medicine awareness courses in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and various regions and states.

It has been observed that traditional medicine hospitals and clinics have expanded their services beyond providing inpatient and outpatient care to include community-based medical treatment through field visits and health education programmes in schools. In expanding primary healthcare services, patient safety must be given priority. Health education activities should clearly explain disease prevention, the proper use of medicines in line with instructions, and the importance of seeking timely medical attention at hospitals and clinics in a way that the public can easily understand.

At hospitals and clinics, patients' conditions must be carefully assessed. If further examinations or specialized treatment are required, patients should be referred to the appropriate hospitals or clinics in a timely manner. Therefore, I would like to urge traditional medicine practitioners and other healthcare professionals to make utmost efforts to further strengthen cooperation and coordination between them.

I would like to express my gratitude to all traditional medicine practitioners, staff members and other participants who have joined hands with relevant organizations to provide healthcare services to disaster-affected people and deliver assistance to communities facing difficulties during natural disasters.

The government has been undertaking various measures, including upgrading traditional medicine hospitals and clinics, training and producing qualified professionals, organizing annual research paper-reading sessions, and supervising the production, distribution and sale of traditional medicines to ensure compliance with prescribed standards and specifications. To generate greater practical benefits for the public through these efforts, research, pharmaceutical production and healthcare services must be closely integrated.

In conducting research, commonly used traditional medicines and therapeutic methods should be given priority for selection, with their safety, efficacy and precautions for use examined systematically in successive stages. Research findings should be fully documented, covering their benefits, side effects and limitations. Relevant institutions, including the University of Traditional Medicine, hospitals, research units and laboratories, need to work together to ensure that the evidence obtained is applied to teaching, medical treatment and the improvement of medicine quality.

Traditional medicine manufacturers must also maintain quality at every stage of production, from verifying the authenticity and cleanliness of raw material sources to formulation, manufacturing, packaging, storage, distribution and sale. Medicine labels must clearly indicate the ingredients, directions for use, precautions and expiry dates. I would also like to urge all to spare no effort in strengthening procedures for reporting adverse events, which are associated with the use of medicines to the relevant departments, so that necessary investigations and reassessments can be carried out when required.

To ensure the long-term preservation of traditional Myanmar medicine, traditional medicinal practices passed down through generations in various regions should be documented and compiled with the consent of the original practitioners and local communities. These records should identify the origins of the respective traditional knowledge and be organized for use in education and research.

Medicinal plants and rare plant species should also be conserved in their natural habitats, with efforts made to replant and propagate them. Relevant departments, growers and traditional medicine manufacturers should work together to identify and verify plant species and apply appropriate methods for cultivation, harvesting and storage. These efforts will ensure a sustainable supply of quality raw materials for pharmaceutical production in the long term.

Myanmar is cooperating with ASEAN member states in the field of traditional medicine. It is also engaging in cooperation through international organizations and regional frameworks, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BIMSTEC and the Mekong regional cooperation frameworks. Furthermore, Myanmar is maintaining communication and cooperation in the traditional medicine sector with partner countries such as China and India.

At today's conference and symposium, I would like to encourage experts to openly and candidly exchange views and discuss not only their research findings but also the challenges they have encountered in practical implementation and the solutions they have developed to address them. I also urge you all to prioritize and identify recommendations that are beneficial to the public and can be practically implemented.

Following the conference, I would like the relevant departments and professional organizations to continue working on the necessary follow-up processes for each recommendation, including assigning responsible organizations, identifying collaborating organizations and setting target timeframes for achieving the expected results. You all should also review the progress made and the challenges encountered, and take additional measures as necessary.

In conclusion, I wish all distinguished traditional medicine practitioners and the new generation of professionals continued success in preserving, further developing and promoting Myanmar's traditional medicine heritage, and in continuing to serve the public's healthcare needs with goodwill, dedication and selfless commitment. I hereby deliver this message, with the hope that the 25th Traditional Myanmar Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Traditional Myanmar Medicine Symposium will produce positive outcomes to enable the public to gain greater access to safe and reliable healthcare services.

Agga Maha Thray Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma
U Min Aung Hlaing
President, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing Meets Thai Prime Minister to Discuss Border Security and Bilateral Cooperation

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing met Thai Prime Minister Mr Anutin Charnvirakul at 9 am local time yesterday in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers accompanying the Myanmar President as members of his delegation, the Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam and officials concerned. Members of the Thai Prime Minister's delegation also attended.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand as good neighbouring countries.

They exchanged views on cooperation in combating transnational crimes along the shared border, including online scams and gambling, drug trafficking, human trafficking and illegal trade.

They also discussed the need for effective measures to prevent the illegal export of drones into Myanmar through border areas, particularly those intended for use in activities that could undermine Myanmar's security and stability.



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Thai Prime Minister Mr Anutin Charnvirakul in Hanoi, Vietnam, yesterday.

Other issues included cooperation to reduce transboundary haze pollution, prevent illegal mining operations along the border, tighten controls to stop chemicals used in illegal mining operations from being transported across land borders, and maintain good water quality in rivers and streams.

The two leaders also discussed expanding bilateral cooperation in the energy, trade and environmental conservation sectors.

President U Min Aung Hlaing briefed the Thai Prime Minister on the Myanmar government's ongoing efforts to achieve domestic peace.

The discussions also covered Thailand's support for Myanmar at ASEAN and international forums, as well as Myanmar's efforts to cooperate constructively within ASEAN.

In addition, the two sides exchanged views on reciprocal friendship visits as a means of further strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Following the meeting, the Myanmar President and the Thai Prime Minister warmly greeted ministers and officials from both countries who had attended the meeting. — MNA/ST

Specialist medical team treats more than 1,500 patients in Monywa

SAGAING Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay visited the Monywa General Hospital (500-bed) on 29 November to encourage a specialist medical team from the Ministry of Health that was providing free medical services to local residents. The two-day programme, held on 28 and 29 November, provided free medical examinations and treatment for neurological, diabetic, hormonal, cardiac, gastrointestinal, respiratory, urinary, kidney and liver conditions.

During the visit, the hospital medical superintendent briefed the chief minister and his entourage on the medical services being provided. The chief minister discussed the necessary assistance with responsible officials and greeted members of the specialist medical team. The chief minister and his wife, the regional chief justice and his wife, members of the regional government and representatives of social organisations also distributed meal boxes, purified drinking water and soft drinks to patients receiving treatment. The regional government and donors jointly provided medicines for the programme, which examined and treated a total of 1,597 patients over the two days. — IPRD/KZL



Chief Minister U Ko Lay cordially converses with patients at Monywa General Hospital (500-bed) yesterday.

Myanmar, Vietnam Discuss Deepening Bilateral Ties, ...

FROM PAGE 1

During the meeting, the Vietnamese President delivered welcoming remarks, stating that Vietnam had always regarded Myanmar as a comprehensive partner and that relations between the two countries had continued to improve. He described the two countries as friendly partners and said Vietnam valued Myanmar's diversity, prosperity and peace. He also reaffirmed Vietnam's strong commitment to Myanmar's domestic peace and sovereignty, adding that Vietnam had consistently stood by and supported Myanmar's return to participation in ASEAN activities.

In response, President U Min Aung Hlaing said the initiative would bring substantial benefits to the region and that Myanmar would work with other countries to ensure successful implementation of Vietnam's proposed CLMV Smart Dry Port Corridor Initiative.

He added that Myanmar would continue its efforts to promote investment and trade between the two countries and expressed his hope that the Vietnamese President would visit Myanmar on a friendship visit at the earliest opportunity.

He further stated that if ASEAN failed to make changes in certain matters, it would be necessary to review the effectiveness of the ASEAN Charter. He also expressed his sincere appreciation for Vietnam's support for Myanmar at ASEAN and international forums.

The two leaders then exchanged views openly on a wide range of matters, including arrangements to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Myanmar-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership; strengthening interactions between the two countries' governments, parliaments, political parties and peoples; and further advancing bilateral cooperation and partnership.

They also discussed promoting cooperation in investment and trade, as well as arrangements to sign bilateral agreements to enhance collaboration in these sectors.

Other topics included linking inland ports with the Dawei Deep Sea Port to develop regional trade routes; advancing telecommunications technology; and strengthening cooperation in healthcare, education and tourism.

They also discussed cultural exchange programmes, including plans to send Myanmar cultural troupes to Vietnam, and Vietnam's continued participation in Myanmar's development initiatives.

The Vietnamese President reaffirmed Vietnam's continued support for Myanmar within ASEAN. The discussion also covered cooperation in disaster prevention, preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation.

Following the meeting, the two leaders cordially greeted officials from both countries who had attended the event. President U Min Aung Hlaing then departed from the Vietnamese Presidential Palace, where President Mr To Lam warmly bade him farewell. — MNA/ST

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing returns from ACMECS Summit, CLMV Summit

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who attended the 11th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit and the 12th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation (CLMV) Summit held in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, departed from Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi at 4:15 pm local standard time yesterday.

The President and delegation members were seen off at the airport by senior officers and officials led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam Ms Nguyen Minh Hang, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Wai Lin and his wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Zaw Min and his wife, officials, and families of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office.

During the farewell ceremony, the Vietnamese Guard of Honour stood at attention on both sides of the red carpet and saluted as they bade farewell to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

Members of the high-level Myanmar delegation, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe, Dr Kan Zaw and U Min Naung, deputy ministers and officials who accompanied the President, returned home on the same flight.

The special aircraft carrying the President-led high-level delegation arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at about 5.40 pm yesterday. They were welcomed back at the airport by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar, the Defence Attaché and officials.

In the afternoon, President U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by members of the delegation, visited a local poultry farm on the outskirts of Hanoi to observe its operations. Following a briefing by a responsible official, the President asked questions and held discussions on poultry farming techniques, feeding systems, market access, profitability and other matters of interest.



President U Min Aung Hlaing being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport yesterday.

The local indigenous chicken farm in Vietnam raises three varieties of chickens – native chickens, black-boned chickens and medicinal chickens – in a mixed free-range farming system. The locally produced maize and barley are mainly used as feed, supplemented with green fodder. The farm produces eggs and chicken meat and sells them directly to markets and through online platforms. The farm also generates additional income by selling natural fertilizer produced from chicken waste. — MNA/TTA

Rakhine Chief Minister inspects development projects in Kyaukpyu

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Naing Oo, accompanied by State Hluttaw Speaker Dr San Shwe, state ministers and officials, inspected food security measures, urban cleanliness and local development works in Kyaukpyu Township yesterday morning.



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Naing Oo meets health staff at Kyaukpyu District General Hospital. **PHOTO: TIN TUN OO**

First, the chief minister visited a site in Rakhine Paikseik Ward, Kyaukpyu, designated for the establishment of an agriculture and livestock zone to improve local food security. Officials briefed them on the development plans. The chief minister instructed officials to expand the cultivation of oil crops, particularly groundnuts and sunflowers, alongside agricultural and livestock activities to ensure an adequate local supply of edible oil.

They inspected the construction of a gravel-filled retaining wall at Drainage Outlet No 2 in Asoeya Ward to improve the drainage. The chief minister instructed officials to complete the work on schedule and in accordance with prescribed standards, maintain all drainage outlets, prevent blockages caused by rubbish, and strengthen waste collection and public participation in keeping the town clean.

The chief minister visited Kyaukpyu District People's Hospital to inspect preparations for treating patients suffering from heatstroke amid the El Niño phenomenon, as well as the installation of a 100-kilovolt-ampere solar power system to ensure a 24-hour electricity supply.

He coordinated with officials to ensure the prompt delivery of necessary medical equipment and adequate supplies of medicines. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KZL

Myanmar Consul-General attends briefing on Fifth Plenary Session of CPC Central Committee

A special briefing on the Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was held at the Ming Du Lakeside Hotel in Nanning, China, on 27 November.

Daw Khine Su Lin, Consul-General of Myanmar in Nanning, attended the briefing, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the briefing, Associate Professor Yin Hongying of the Guangxi Institute of Public Administration gave a presentation on the guiding principles and policies of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.



Daw Khine Su Lin, Consul-General of Myanmar in Nanning, attends the special briefing on the Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The Consul-General of the Lao People's Democratic Republic based in Nanning, the Director of the Guangxi Liaison Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, a Pakistani Associate Researcher at Nanning Normal University, the Chairman of the Guangxi Overseas Culture and Tourism Association, the Chairman of the Guangxi Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco, the United States, and a representative of international students also delivered remarks respectively. — ASH/KNN

NATIONAL

Three Russian warships from Pacific fleet depart Myanmar after fourth maritime security exercise and goodwill visit

THREE warships from the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet, which had arrived in Yangon on a goodwill visit and to participate in the Fourth Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise, departed from Thilawa Port in Yangon for the exercise area alongside Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels on the morning of 28 November to conduct joint maritime exercises at sea, and were seen off by senior naval officers and Tatmadaw members of the Tatmadaw (Navy), Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Vice-Admiral Aleksei Anatolievich Kiiashko, the Russian Military Attaché to Myanmar, and other officials.



Senior officers and other ranks of Tatmadaw (Navy), Russian Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy Vice-Admiral Aleksei Anatolievich Kiiashko, the Russian military attaché to Myanmar, and officials see off Russian Navy Pacific Fleet warships departing Yangon's Thilawa Port.

On the morning of 26 November, a delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Vice-Admiral Aleksei Anatolievich Kiiashko held a meeting with Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Kyaw Lin Zaw and members of the Tatmadaw (Navy) at the Naval Training Command Headquarters. During the meeting, both sides held a cordial and candid exchange of views on bilateral naval relations, reciprocal goodwill visits by naval vessels, maritime security information sharing and training matters.

Furthermore, the opening ceremony of the Fourth Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise was held on the morning of 27 November at Thiri Maha Zeya Kyaw Htin Hall of the Naval Training Command Headquarters. It was attended by the Chief of Staff (Navy), officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw (Navy), the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, officers and other ranks of the Russian Navy, military attachés to Myanmar from Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, and observer delegations from invited countries, including India, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos. Attendees posed for a group photo following the opening ceremony.

During their stay in Yangon, personnel from the visiting warships toured prominent landmarks, conducted reciprocal ship visits between the two navies, attended a reception dinner aboard the Russian frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov and participated in harbour-phase exercises.

On 28-29 November, the Russian Navy warships conducted joint practical maritime security exercises at sea alongside Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels. An exercise review and closing ceremony were held aboard the naval vessel Mottama on the evening of 29 November, following which the Russian warships departed. — MNA/TH

Shwe Kokko Phase II continues demolition of online scam hubs

THE Government is placing particular emphasis on working with neighbouring and regional countries to crack down on online scams and online gambling, which threaten global socioeconomic affairs and national security, intending to eliminate these activities completely and permanently. In the Shwe Kokko area, where online scam and gambling operations were conducted on a large scale, illegal buildings are being systematically and permanently demolished to prevent such activities from resuming in these buildings.

As part of these efforts, one five-storey building among the remaining illegal buildings in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, which had been used for online scam and gambling operations and was being demolished using machinery, was demolished yesterday, reaching 80 per cent completion. The demolition of another five-storey building reached 10 per cent completion as of yesterday.

A total of 63 remaining buildings in Phase II, which were used for online scam and gambling activities, have been classified according to their demolition methods: buildings to be demolished using machinery, buildings to be demolished through controlled explosions, and buildings located close to residential homes that must be dismantled floor by floor using manual labour. Of these, 14 buildings have already been systematically demolished, comprising four buildings demolished through explosions and nine using machinery. The remaining 49 illegal buildings will also be systematically demolished.

The Government is working with neighbouring and regional countries to completely eradicate online scams and gambling, which pose threats to global socioeconomic development and national security. — 100/KZL

Press Release Regarding Airstrike on Graduation Ceremony of PDF Terrorists near Inyon Village, Sinbaungwe Township, Magway Region

FOLLOWING reports from local residents that a graduation ceremony led by Thayet District PDF Terrorist Battalion 5 was scheduled to be held on 26 November near Inyon Village, Sinbaungwe Township, the PDF terrorist camp was attacked and destroyed from the air on the evening of 26 November. However, terrorist-supporting media outlets have been spreading propaganda claiming that innocent civilians were killed because a school was bombed without cause, and it has been observed that some major foreign media outlets are citing and broadcasting these unverified reports.

Regarding the incident, upon receiving a confidential tip-off from a conscientious citizen that a graduation ceremony would be held on 26 November for a PDF terrorist training course opened by Thayet District PDF Terrorist Battalion 5 in Inyon Village, Sinbaungwe Township, Magway Region, the Tatmadaw systematically conducted aerial reconnaissance to verify the intelligence. Having obtained confirmed information, airstrikes were carried out on the evening of 26 November against the location where the PDF terrorist groups were gathered.



This Photo shows an aerial view on movement of terrorists near Inyon Village of Sinbaungwe Township.

According to reports received following the operation, many members—including Thayet District PDF Terrorist Battalion 5 leaders Taw Kyee Kan, Charlie, and Thaung Thaung—were killed, while the injured, including Platoon Commander-level member Ara Phat of PDF Terrorist Battalion 5, were transported to Hmonsa Village, Aunglan Township, for medical treatment.

Further intelligence indicates that Company Commander-level Ko Lin of Thayet District PDF Terrorist Battalion 5 and schoolteacher Than Toe Aung from Inyon Village discussed and agreed to claim that the Tatmadaw launched an airstrike while students were rehearsing dances for a Kathina festival at the school; to state that those injured were wounded at the school; to conceal the truth if contacted and questioned by the Education Office by replying that the Tatmadaw bombed the school's Kathina festival; and to withhold the truth and cover up the incident from PDFs in other townships as well as the NUG (MOD).

Additionally, it is learned that teachers from the Inyon Village school have been summoned by the Education Office to come to Sinbaungwe on 30 November, and the teachers who will be attending have been instructed not to tell the truth about the incident.

In this incident, acting on information from conscientious citizens who oppose terrorism, the Tatmadaw systematically conducted aerial reconnaissance to avoid harming innocent civilians, confirmed the accuracy of the intelligence, and carried out an airstrike on the gathering site of the PDF terrorist groups. According to reports from conscientious citizens, no innocent civilians were harmed or injured, and only members of the terrorist group suffered casualties.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

Mon State Gears Up to Modernize Salt Production

PREPARATIONS are underway at salt fields in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, to introduce modern technology in sun-dried salt production, with the aim of developing the salt industry and increasing the production of high-quality sun-dried salt.

As part of the systematic preparation of salt fields, work has been underway since September and October, when weather conditions are favourable, to excavate seawater intake channels, improve and level the ground of salt fields, and prepare seawater storage ponds.

Similarly, efforts are being made to introduce modern techniques and equipment to improve the quality and purity of salt. These include using HDPE plastic sheets instead of traditional earthen salt beds and conventional fire-boiling methods, as well as adopting systems and equipment to measure brine concentration in degrees Baumé.

In addition, salt-processing factories are being upgraded to produce high-quality value-added products, including not only coarse salt but also iodized salt, table salt and industrial salt.

Mon State has approximately 4,700 to 5,000 acres of salt fields, producing between 45,000 and more than 60,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt annually. The salt is distributed and sold in various parts of the country. Efforts are also being made to establish export links to supply standard-quality coarse and refined salt to foreign markets, including South Korea. — ASH/KNN



Preparations are underway at a salt field to introduce modern technology in solar salt production.

Myeik University hosts International Marine and Environmental Science Forum 2026



The opening ceremony of International Marine and Environmental Science Forum 2026 in progress at Myeik University on 28 November.

THE International Marine and Environmental Science Forum 2026 was held at Myeik University on 28 November to promote marine science research, sustainable coastal development and the blue economy in Myanmar.

The forum was opened by Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo, Myeik University Rector Dr Win Win Ei, Director-General of China's Third Institute of Oceanography Dr Zhang Haifeng and Dr Thazin Han.

At the opening session, the Union minister delivered the opening address, followed by remarks from the Region Chief Minister and the Chair of the Pyithu Hluttaw Education Committee. The Director-General of the Third Institute of Oceanography and the Rector of Myeik University also highlighted the objectives and significance of the forum.

Held under the theme "Advancing Marine Science for Sustainable Coastal Communities and Blue Economy", the forum provides a platform for researchers and academics to exchange scientific knowledge and research findings on marine science, coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, environmental conservation, fisheries and the blue economy.

The forum also aimed to strengthen international academic cooperation and promote the practical application of research findings in sustainable coastal development and local socio-economic improvement. The forum continued on 29 November. — Khine Htoo (IPRD)/ KTZH

Voice Journey Myanmar singing competition set for Jan 2027

THE Voice Journey Myanmar Singing Competition will kick off in January 2027, with its programmes set to be broadcast on free-to-air television channels.

The competition is organised by C7 Entertainment to help talented young singers turn their musical dreams into reality and introduce audiences to a new style of world-class musical performances.



Singers who will serve as judges at the press conference for the Voice Journey Myanmar Singing Competition.

"In this day and age, physical appearance and clothing styles can be changed and improved, but the voice we are born with cannot be changed. That is why all of us at Voice Journey Myanmar are looking forward to discovering and nurturing aspiring singers with distinctive voices and unique styles," said singer Irene Zin Mar Myint, one of the competition's judges.

The competition will present three awards, with a total prize pool of K180 million. Singers Phoe Kar, Wai La, Thar Dee Lu and Irene Zin Mar Myint will serve as judges. — ASH/ KZL

MEODA donates high-yield peanut seeds to farmers

THE Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association contribute high-quality peanut seeds worth over K36.99 million to 27 farmers covering 50 acres, with a view to supporting the development of the oilseed sector and boosting yields, the association said.

The donation ceremony and a field demonstration of sunflower planting using seeders and planters were held on 27 November at the Knowledge Centre in Sitpinkwin village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region.

Yangon Region Minister Dr Htoo Maung for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation attended, along with regional and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, Chairman U Maung Maung Zaw of the MEODA, Vice-Chairmen, executive members, department officials, officials of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Thanlyin district and Township Administration and Management bodies, and local peanut farmers.

The regional minister and the association chairman presented peanut seeds to farmers who exceeded target yields, with village tract administrators accepting on behalf of their communities. A farmer representative gave a vote of thanks.

U Tin Naing, director of the Yangon Region Agriculture Department, discussed good agricultural practices for oilseed crops and delivered closing remarks. Officials and local farmers then observed the field demonstration of sunflower planting using seeders. — NN/KK

Bids called for ground-floor partition work at Thukha Dagon Housing

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction is inviting open tenders for ground-floor partition work at the Thukha Dagon public rental housing complex in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.

Each lot involves ground-floor partitioning in 10 of 194 five-storey buildings, each containing four units.

The projects will be funded through the Union Supplementary Fund for the 2026-27 financial year, and interested Myanmar citizen entrepreneurs are invited to submit open tenders. Tender forms will be available at the DUHD, Office 40 in Nay Pyi Taw by 7 December. Bid proposals must be submitted by 3 pm on 10 December. The date, time and location of the tender opening will be announced later.

A tender enquiry can be made through 067 3407698, according to the tender acceptance and scrutiny committee. — NN/KK

OPINION

Enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities

NO one in society should oppress or discriminate against another person. In accordance with Myanmar's traditional customs, parents have taught their children from generation to generation not to belittle or insult others for their weaknesses.

No one is perfect in every respect. Every individual has weaknesses to some degree in life. Therefore, concealing one's own weaknesses while finding fault with and ridiculing the weaknesses of others is a sign of inhuman behaviour. Although everyone has weaknesses, those who strive to stand on their own feet are worthy of respect. Moreover, if a person can make a meaningful contribution to the development of the society to which they belong, despite their weaknesses, it is evident that they are a capable and decent person.

Therefore, persons with disabilities should demonstrate that, despite their disabilities, they are just as capable as others of leading independent lives. They should make the most of their lives and successfully overcome challenges. They must strive to face life with determination and never become discouraged, regardless of the circumstances.

People living in various communities may have physical or mental impairments, yet they continue to support one another as they strive to overcome life's challenges. In doing so, they should make every effort to work together in a spirit of forgiveness and tolerance, rather than viewing one another negatively or finding fault with each other.

We should build a harmonious society by refraining from taking pride in our physical abilities and extending assistance, to the best of our ability, to those who have physical impairments or intellectual disabilities for various reasons. We should also provide encouragement and support to people with intellectual or physical disabilities, helping them build their confidence and giving them opportunities to demonstrate that, despite their disabilities, they are capable of achieving great things.

The Government is also providing necessary assistance to persons with disabilities. According to the 2024 Census, 7.6 per cent of Myanmar's population aged five and above, or 2.29 million people, are persons with disabilities. Successive governments have enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015 and the Rules Relating to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2017 to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. They are also providing vocational training in fields of interest to persons with disabilities and supporting them in becoming self-reliant members of society. Furthermore, efforts are being made to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy the rights to which every citizen is entitled, including access to education, economic opportunities, social participation and sports.

Therefore, persons with disabilities should demonstrate that, despite their disabilities, they are just as capable as others of leading independent lives. They should make the most of their lives and successfully overcome challenges. They must strive to face life with determination and never become discouraged, regardless of the circumstances.

ARTICLE

A Robe Before Dawn: Myanmar's Night of Weaving and Offering

On the full moon of Tazaungmone, teams work through the night to weave a Buddhist robe and present it before sunrise – a tradition shaped by devotion, skill and shared effort.

By Junior Thin



AS evening settles over Myanmar on the eve of the Tazaungmone full moon, the sound of looms begins to travel through pagoda precincts. Under lights strung across courtyards, teams take their places at traditional wooden frames. Thread is drawn, the shuttle passes back and forth, and the work continues into the small hours. Their goal is not simply to make a robe. It is to finish it in time to offer it to the Buddha at dawn.

The garment is known as *Mathoe Thingan*, often literally translated as the "unspoiled" or "non-stale" robe. The name points to the ceremony's defining rule: the robe is woven and completed during the night, then offered without delay before sunrise on the full-moon day. In Myanmar, the occasion is one of the most distinctive religious observances of Tazaungmone, the eighth month of the traditional lunar calendar.

For readers unfamiliar with Myanmar's Buddhist calendar, Tazaungmone falls near the transition from the rainy season to the cooler months. Its full moon is also associated with Tazaungdine, the Festival of Lights, when pagodas and communities mark the season with religious offerings and festivities. The robe-weaving ceremony belongs to that larger calendar, but its focus is unusually concentrated: one night, one garment, and a deadline set by daybreak.

For many Myanmar Buddhists, the point is not the garment's price or the scale of the spectacle. Giving, or *dāna*, is a central Buddhist practice, and a robe is a practical offering associated with the monastic life. In the *Mathoe* ceremony, a garment made collectively and presented at daybreak gives that act a distinctly local form. People may contribute time, materials or organization, while others come to pay respect. Visitors may see a contest, with teams and prizes, but the competition takes place within a religious observance: skill is displayed in service of an offering. This blend of worship and participation helps explain why the night can feel both solemn and festive.

In some competitions, the work begins with raw cotton. Participants spin it into thread, prepare the loom, weave the cloth and sew it into a robe before morning. The sequence turns a familiar act of giving into a public demonstration of craft. Teams must divide tasks and keep pace together; one person's work depends on the next. The contest may reward design and workmanship, but the larger purpose is devotional rather than commercial. The visitor can see the collaborative process as spinning, weaving and sewing a robe from cotton before dawn.

When the robe is finished, it is carried to a Buddha image for offering. In Mandalay, the ceremony at Mahamuni Pagoda has drawn crowds of pilgrims, including visitors who came specifically to witness the early-morning presentation. Some TV channels reported that the robes are called "non-perishable" because they are not meant to grow stale: they are woven within the night and donated as soon as they are complete. The ceremony is therefore both an offering and a moment of public worship, bringing devotees together in the quiet hours before sunrise.

The timing gives the event its particular drama. A robe made over many days could still be valuable, but it would not embody the same act of collective urgency. Here, the deadline asks participants to bring patience, concentration and cooperation to a task that must be completed together. For the faithful, the work itself becomes part of the offering: devotion is expressed not only in the finished garment but in the effort invested in making it.

The ceremony takes place during the season of *Kathina*, another major period of robe-giving in Theravada Buddhist communities. Kathina offerings are made to the monastic community after the rains retreat. Mathoe Thingan is often described as echoing or imitating that robe-offering tradition, but the ceremonies are not identical. In the Mathoe event, the newly woven robe is commonly presented to a Buddha image; Kathina robes are offered to monks. The distinction helps explain why the night weaving has its own place in Myanmar's religious calendar, even as it shares the wider season's emphasis on generosity.

The event is also a living showcase of traditional textile skills. Across Myanmar, pagodas host weaving ceremonies and competitions, with the number of looms and the format varying from place to place. At Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda and other sites, teams weave robes for presentation at dawn on the full moon. The atmosphere can include music, announcements and spectators watching the work unfold. Yet the essential sequence remains simple: begin at night, finish before daybreak, and offer the robe as soon as it is ready.

One point can be confusing to visitors: *Mathoe Thingan* does not necessarily mean a robe made from lotus fibre. Some ceremonies feature robes called "golden lotus robes," and lotus-thread weaving is a celebrated craft in its own right. But extracting fibre from lotus stems and turning it into thread is a separate, time-consuming process. A cultural account of lotus robes from Inlay Lake describes the work as taking far longer than a single night. The defining feature of Mathoe Thingan is the overnight completion and dawn offering, not a particular plant fibre.

By the time the first light reaches the pagoda, the night's work has become a public act of giving. The robe may be small beside the gilded Buddha image before which it is offered, but its meaning lies in the hours and hands behind it. For participants, the ceremony joins faith with a practical skill; for onlookers, it offers a rare view of textile making as a shared religious observance. And for Myanmar's communities, the robe completed before dawn carries a simple message: generosity is not only something given, but something people can make together.

A Candle in the Wind, an Eternal Light against the Darkness

By Dr Myint Soe Aung



THE Festival of Lights is more than an event of mere celebration; it is a gentle reminder that the greatest light lies in what we carry within ourselves.

As we look back at the last Thadingyut, we remember how beautifully Myanmar celebrated its Festival of Lights, filling homes, streets, monasteries and pagodas with warmth, joy and devotion. Beyond the celebrations, the festival brought a special feeling of hope, reminding us that even in difficult times, light never loses its way. It gave us a reason to look towards Myanmar's future with renewed faith, peace and optimism.

At the heart of Thadingyut lies an important episode from the life of Gautama Buddha. According to Buddhist tradition, after attaining enlightenment, the Buddha ascended to Tāvatiṃsa, the heavenly realm, where he spent three months teaching the Abhidhamma to the celestial beings, including his mother, who had been reborn there. His teaching was also an expression of gratitude towards his mother. On the full moon day of Thadingyut, the Buddha descended to the human world at Sankassa. The celestial beings illuminated his path with three magnificent stairways of gold, silver and precious stones. People on earth welcomed him with lamps and lights. This sacred return became the spiritual foundation of Thadingyut.

The historical development of Thadingyut is closely connected with the growth of Buddhism in Myanmar. During the eleventh century, King Anawrahta of Bagan played a major role in strengthening Theravada Buddhism through royal patronage and religious reforms. The establishment of Buddhism as a powerful cultural and intellectual force helped shape the religious traditions of the country. Over the centuries, Thadingyut developed from a religious observance into a major public celebration. Historical records and paintings at Bagan preserve scenes of illuminated pagodas and traditional oil lamps, showing how deeply the festival became rooted in Myanmar's cultural memory. Its customs also grew to include paying respect to parents, teachers, monks and elders, asking forgiveness and expressing gratitude.

For the people of Myanmar, as we know Buddhism is not simply a system of religious belief. It is deeply connected with everyday life, social relationships, moral conduct and the understanding of existence. The devotion expressed during Thadingyut reflects this relationship. People visit monasteries, offer food and flowers, light candles and share meals with neighbours. Younger members of families pay respect to their elders, while elders offer blessings and forgiveness. These practices bring generations together and preserve a valuable culture of mutual respect. As October gives way to November, Myanmar's festive spirit continues with Tazaungdine, another important Festival of Lights. This year, its celebrations will reach their peak around the third week of November. One of its most spectacular attractions is the hot-air balloon festival, particularly famous in Taunggyi. Beautifully decorated balloons rise into the night sky, bringing together tradition, creativity and community celebration. It is a wonderful example of how Myanmar's cultural heritage continues to evolve while remaining connected to its roots.

The beauty of this season becomes even more meaningful when we look beyond national boundaries. From Myanmar to India, the month of lights brings together different cultures through a shared language of faith, wisdom and hope. Myanmar's Thadingyut, celebrated in October, is followed by India's Deepavali, celebrated this year just recently, while Myanmar now looks forward to Tazaungdine! Though each festival has its own history and religious significance, together they create a beautiful sequence of celebrations that connects people across geographical and cultural borders. Thadingyut welcomes the Buddha's return to the human world with the illumination of lamps, celebrating wisdom, gratitude and the triumph of light. Diwali carries the universal message of light overcoming darkness, ignorance giving way to knowledge and hope overcoming pessimism. Tazaungdine continues this spirit through the generosity of Kathina robe offerings: the devotion of Mathoe Thingan weaving and the magnificent lights that illuminate Myanmar's night skies.

One of the most significant traditions of this season is the Kahtein, or Kathina, which is a robe-offering ceremony. After the three-month Buddhist rainy-season retreat, known as Vassa, devotees offer robes and other necessities to monks. This tradition is observed throughout the Buddhist world, particularly in Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Laos. It represents generosity, respect and the close relationship between monastic and lay communities.

Among Myanmar's most beautiful cultural traditions is the overnight weaving of Mathoe Thingan, a freshly woven Buddhist robe. During Tazaungdine, groups of women gather at monasteries and pagodas to weave, cut and stitch robes throughout the night, completing them before dawn. The robes are then offered to monks in the morning. There is something deeply moving about this tradition.

SEE PAGE 11

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

TRADITIONAL MYANMAR DELICACY

Mont Sein Paung – A Traditional Myanmar Steamed Delicacy



WHETHER it is on a misty morning or at dusk as the sun is setting, the sight of steam rising from a traditional steamer, accompanied by the familiar call, "Hot, warm Mont Sein Paung!", can bring a sense of warmth and nostalgia to the hearts of Myanmar people.

Made with two steamed layers, one white and the other brown like jaggery, Mont Sein Paung has a soft, fluffy texture and is topped with freshly grated coconut and fragrant ground sesame. Simple yet timeless, it is a quintessential traditional Myanmar snack.

Unlike some other traditional sweets, Mont Sein Paung is not sticky. When eaten warm, it has a uniquely soft and airy texture that gently melts in the mouth. Made primarily from pure rice flour and steamed, it has a delicate aroma of fresh rice and a light, fluffy texture. The bottom white layer has a mildly rich flavour, while the upper brown layer blends beautifully with the fragrant sweetness of pure palm jaggery. In some regions, cooked black-eyed peas are also added, giving the snack an additional rich and tender bean flavour.

Freshly grated coconut sprinkled on top adds richness, while roasted sesame powder mixed with a little salt provides a fragrant aroma and a subtle savoury note. This balance keeps the snack from becoming overly sweet or rich, making it especially enjoyable piece by piece with a cup of hot green tea.

Ingredients

(The following quantities are suitable for preparing one steamerful for a family.)

1. Rice flour (or raw rice flour) – 3 cups
2. Glutinous rice flour – 3 tablespoons (to help keep the cake soft rather than becoming hard when cooled)
3. Palm jaggery – about ½ cup, or approximately 10 pieces, simmered with a little water until thick and then cooled
4. Salt – ½ teaspoon
5. Clean water – about ½ cup (for moistening and kneading the flour)
6. Cooked black-eyed peas – ½ cup (optional; boil until tender)
7. Freshly grated coconut – 1 cup
8. Roasted and ground white or black sesame seeds – 3 tablespoons
9. Salt – ¼ teaspoon (to mix with the ground sesame)

Step-by-Step Preparation

- Prepare the jaggery syrup: Simmer the palm jaggery with a small amount of water until thick. Strain it to remove any impurities and allow it to cool completely. (If the jaggery syrup is hot, it can cause the flour to become sticky.)
- Divide the flour: Combine the rice flour, glutinous rice flour and salt in a bowl. Mix well and divide the mixture equally into two portions.
- Prepare the white layer: Sprinkle a little clean water over one portion of the flour, a little at a time, and gently rub and knead it between your palms. Do not turn it into a thick batter. The mixture should have the consistency of damp sand – when squeezed, it should form a small lump but crumble easily when rubbed apart.
- Prepare the brown layer: Gradually add the cooled, thick palm-jaggery syrup to the remaining portion of flour, gently rubbing and kneading it in the same manner as the white layer.

SEE PAGE 11





Weekly News Quiz

(for 30 November 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Friday's newspaper (27 November 2026).

National News Quiz

1. Under which theme will the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin Township hold its 19th Flower Festival from 4 December to 4 January?
   A. Enchanted Garden Realm
   B. Fairy Flowers World
   C. Blooming Paradise Valley
   D. Golden Lotus Wonderland

2. In which Chinese city were the fourth Belt and Road Energy Ministers' Conference and the first Administrative Board meeting held on 25 and 26 November?
   A. Beijing
   B. Shanghai
   C. Qingdao
   D. Chongqing

3. Which prohibited chemical dyes were found in Shwe Thin Thu turmeric and chilli powders, prompting the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to declare them unsafe for consumption?
   A. Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow
   B. Auramine-O and Rhodamine-B
   C. Sudan I and Metanil Yellow
   D. Brilliant Blue and Allura Red

Global News Quiz

4. How old are the rocks discovered by Chinese geologists in eastern Hebei Province, which are now recognized as the oldest known rocks in Asia?
   A. 2.85 billion years
   B. 3.45 billion years
   C. 3.95 billion years
   D. 4.25 billion years

5. What is the name of SpaceX's proposed constellation of up to one million solar-powered satellites approved by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate AI data centres in orbit?
   A. Starlink
   B. Starshield
   C. Starmind
   D. Starcloud

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

DELICAY/ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Mont Sein Paung – A Traditional Myanmar Steamed Delicacy

FROM PAGE 10

Add a little water if necessary.

- Sift the mixtures: To achieve a light and fluffy texture, pass both the white and brown mixtures separately through a medium-mesh sieve. If using cooked black-eyed peas, gently fold them into the mixture after sieving.
- Steam the cake: Line a steamer or steaming tray with a damp, thin cotton cloth. Spread the white mixture evenly over the bottom. Do not press or compact the flour, as this would prevent steam from passing through properly. Keep it loose and fluffy. Spread the brown mixture evenly over the white layer.

Place the steamer over vigorously boiling water, cover the lid with a cloth to prevent condensation from dripping onto the cake, and steam over high heat for approximately 20-25 minutes.

- Serve: Once the cake is cooked and fragrant, turn it out onto a serving plate and cut it into diamond-shaped or appropriately sized squares. Sprinkle generously with freshly grated coconut and the salted ground sesame mixture. Serve warm with hot green tea.



Health Perspective

Because Mont Sein Paung contains no cooking oil and is prepared entirely by steaming, it can be a relatively light traditional snack.

Oil-free and easy to digest: As it is steamed rather than fried and contains no added frying oil or saturated fat from cooking, it is relatively light and easy on the stomach.

Palm jaggery instead of refined sugar: Palm jaggery contains minerals such as iron and potassium, along with other naturally occurring minerals. However, it is still a form of sugar and should be consumed in moderation.

Nutritional balance: Roasted sesame provides calcium and beneficial fats. Adding cooked black-eyed peas can further increase the snack's plant-based protein and dietary fibre.

Those managing diabetes should be mindful of portion sizes, as both rice flour and palm jaggery are rich in carbohydrates and sugars. In addition, freshly grated coconut used as a topping can spoil relatively quickly in hot weather. For the best quality and freshness, it is advisable to eat Mont Sein Paung while it is still warm and freshly prepared. — MOON

MRCS holds Mid-Term Review of Anticipatory Action and Disaster Risk Management Programme

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society's Disaster Management Department, in collaboration with the German Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross, held a Mid-Term Review of the Anticipatory Action and Disaster Risk Management Programme at Rose Garden Hotel in Yangon on 26 November.



The Mid-Term Review of the Anticipatory Action and Disaster Risk Management Programme in progress.

The two-day mid-term review was held on 26 and 27 November. At the opening ceremony, MRCS Executive Committee member Professor Dr Tin Maung Hlaing, Head of Office of the German Red Cross Mr Finbarr Sweeney, and Country Manager of the Finnish Red Cross Ms Hannaleena Pölkki delivered opening remarks.

The review was attended by the Chairman of the Yangon Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee, members of the Red Cross Supervisory Committees from Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Mandalay Region and Mon State, as well as directors, deputy directors and other officials from the Society's headquarters.

The participants reviewed progress made since the programme began in 2023, its achievements, challenges and lessons learnt. They also discussed key activities to be completed before the end of 2029 and areas where further learning and knowledge development are needed. — TWA/KZL

Press Release Regarding Airstrike on Graduation Ceremony of PDF ...

FROM PAGE 6

Subversive media outlets are spreading false propaganda regarding the incident, claiming that the Tatmadaw bombed the school while students were rehearsing dances, resulting in the deaths of teachers and students. This press release is issued so that the public may know the true facts in the face of their false propaganda, and to announce that, in cooperation with conscientious citizens, counter-terrorism operations will continue to be carried out as necessary in accordance with the Rules of Engagement (ROE).

Tatmadaw Information Team

A Candle in the Wind, an Eternal Light against ...

FROM PAGE 9

Women work together, often without sleep, not for personal recognition but as an expression of devotion and collective generosity. It is a living example of how faith, craftsmanship and community spirit can come together.

From the lamps of Thadingyut to the brilliance of Diwali and the glowing skies of Tazaungdine, the light travels across traditions, yet its message remains beautifully connected. For a young generation of Myanmar, these connections should be a source of pride and inspiration. We inherit a civilization shaped by Buddhist wisdom, extraordinary architecture, ancient traditions and a deep culture of generosity. But preserving our heritage does not mean remaining only in the past. It means carrying its finest values into the future. We must protect our traditions while building a society that values education, knowledge, equality, compassion and peace. Our cultural identity should become a source of strength, not a boundary separating us from the rest of the world.

For a young generation of Myanmar, these connections should be a source of pride and inspiration. We inherit a civilization shaped by Buddhist wisdom, extraordinary architecture, ancient traditions and a deep culture of generosity. But preserving our heritage does not mean remaining only in the past. It means carrying its finest values into the future. As a young generation, we have a responsibility to understand that the real meaning of these festivals goes far beyond their outward beauty. Thousands of lamps can illuminate a city, but only kindness can illuminate society. A beautifully decorated pagoda is a wonderful sight, but a peaceful mind and a compassionate heart are even more beautiful. The true offering to the Buddha is not simply a candle, a flower or a robe; it is the effort to practise truth, generosity, forgiveness and love in our everyday lives.

There is perhaps no more beautiful expression of this spirit of light than the words of the Buddha in the Dhammapada (Verse 387):

"Divā tapati ādicco,
Rattiṃ ābhāti candimā;
Sannaddho khattiyo tapati,
Jhāyī tapati brāhmaṇo;
Atha sabbam ahorattaṃ,
Buddho tapati tejasa."

(The sun shines by day, the moon illuminates the night, the warrior shines in armour, and the meditating sage shines through wisdom. But the Buddha shines with his radiance throughout the day and night.)

These timeless words beautifully express the deeper meaning of Thadingyut. The lamps that illuminate Myanmar's streets and pagodas are symbols of something far greater: the light of wisdom, compassion and understanding. The Buddha's radiance is not merely the brightness of the physical world; it is the light that removes ignorance, overcomes hatred and guides humanity towards truth. This is the light that every generation must strive to carry within itself.

Myanmar has given the world a remarkable spiritual heritage. Its people have preserved traditions of meditation, Buddhist learning, generosity and community life for centuries. Today, we hope for a future in which this heritage shines alongside peace, education, prosperity and human dignity. Let us preserve our heritage while building a future rooted in knowledge, peace, dignity and understanding. May every young heart become a flame of hope, illuminating the path towards a brighter and more harmonious Myanmar. A new dawn is waiting, and the light of a beautiful tomorrow shall shine upon Myanmar!

NATIONAL

Preparations Underway for Myanmar-China Investment & Trade Expo 2026

TO host the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Expo 2026 in December in Nay Pyi Taw, a coordination meeting was called at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 27 November.



A coordination meeting is in progress to organize the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Expo 2026.

The meeting emphasized the dos and don'ts for affiliated associations, companies and exporters during the exhibition. Participants were urged to sell goods at a reasonable price, ensure a systematic export process, avoid issues that can affect the market in the long term, and refrain from trades that can impact the exchange rate. UMFCCI would make sure necessary regulations in order for the event to take place by its agenda.

The Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP), the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBMSMA), the Myanmar Rice Federation, the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants' Association (MFPTMA), the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), the Myanmar Livestock Federation (MLF), the Myanmar Industries Association (MIA), the Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (MFPEA), the Myanmar Pulp and Paper Industry Association (MPPIA) and the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) and exporters and bank representatives attended the meeting.

It will be held from 16 to 20 December in Nay Pyi Taw, and ahead of it, an investment and trade summit has been planned to be held on 15 December. — TWA/ZS

YGN Moves to Boost Industrial Output, Stabilize Prices

ACCORDING to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), efforts will be made to stabilize commodity prices by boosting the production capacity of 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region.

To achieve this, a coordination meeting for the industrial zones in Yangon Region was held on 26 November. During the meeting, officials discussed improving drainage systems within the industrial zones, inspecting whether factories and companies are actively operating, and reviewing whether those who have acquired industrial zone land plots have implemented their business operations.

Officials from the industrial zones in the region and representatives from various departments, including the YCDC, discussed working together to stabilize commodity prices by ensuring factories and companies operate at full capacity to boost production and facilitate smooth transportation. — TWA/ZN



The meeting of the industrial zones in Yangon Region emphasizes boosting industrial outputs.

Avocado quality needs to be higher for export

MYANMAR'S avocados are going to be allowed for exporting to Thailand again through two border trading gates as of coming December, so the fruit quality will need to be higher.

Although avocado production in Myanmar has been good, farmers will need to ensure more systematic growing methods, the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides and more systematic harvesting process to produce good quality fruits, said the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO).

"Following our discussion, companies would be officially allowed to export next month but there are some conditions. We will keep going to normal trade gradually," said MAVO secretary U Kyaw Soe Min.

In this year's avocado season, Thailand banned Myanmar from exporting avocados, leading to falling prices in domestic market and losses for farmers.

Despite high yield, Myanmar's avocado quality isn't very good, because of it, US California species Hass are being planted locally and nearly 90 per cent of production is being exported to Thailand every year. — TWA/ZS



This photo shows export-quality Myanmar avocados.

Taunggyi to host Shan New Year Festival...

FROM PAGE 1

THE Shan New Year Festival, which falls on 7 December 2026, will be celebrated in grand style at the Awaiya Hot-air Balloon Field in Taunggyi, Shan State, with the participation of Shan ethnic communities from China, India and Thailand, according to the Central Executive Committee of the All Myanmar Shan Literature and Culture Association in Taunggyi.

The Shan New Year Festival has traditionally been held in rotation by Taunggyi, Lashio and Kengtung. As Taunggyi is the host city this year, the festival is expected to attract large crowds. In addition, Shan communities living as citizens of other countries will take part in the celebrations for the first time this year. It is therefore expected that the Shan New Year Festival will be as lively as the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival.

"The traditional Shan calendar has 12 months, beginning with Nataw and ending with Tazaungmone. As the calendar begins again in Nataw, the first waxing day of Nataw marks Shan New Year. It is said that the Shan era was first introduced during the reign of Shan King Sao U Te. In honour of the year in which the king's son, Sao Khun Seng, returned from Sri Lanka after bringing back Buddhist scriptures, the Shan era began to be calculated and used from that year onwards, and the tradition continues to this day," said U Sai Khin Maung Sein, Vice-Chairman of the All Myanmar Shan Literature and Culture Association in Taunggyi.

This year's Shan New Year Festival will feature singing and dancing performances by Tai Khün Shan communities from China, Ahom Shan communities from India, Tai Yuan Shan communities from Thailand and Shan communities from Myanmar.

The festival is being organized with the aims of encouraging all Shan people to participate, preserving and promoting Shan national identity, literature, culture, arts and traditions, safeguarding traditional New Year customs and practices for future generations, strengthening unity among Shan communities and fostering friendship with other ethnic nationalities of the Union, and promoting a sense of individual responsibility and good practices in collective leadership. — Thitsa (MNA)/KNN



Gold Market Rate as of 29 November 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

EU withdrawing maximum daily volumes of gas from storage facilities: Russia's Gazprom

EUROPE has been withdrawing record volumes of gas for this time of year from its underground storage facilities for four days in a row now, with a new daily record set on 26 November Russian energy giant Gazprom said on Saturday, citing data from Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE).

"For the fourth consecutive day, Europe is withdrawing record volumes of gas for this time of year. GIE data show that the volume of gas withdrawn from European underground storage facilities on 26 November was the highest for that date since records began," Gazprom said.

A new daily high was recorded in France, while Germany, which possesses the largest gas storage capacity in Europe, is rapidly depleting its accumulated energy reserves, withdrawing roughly one per cent of the total gas held it its storage facilities each day, the Russian energy giant also said.

On Friday, Gazprom pointed out that the real cold weather is yet to arrive in Europe, even as the region continues to draw heavily on its underground gas storage facilities amid a cold snap in November. — SPUTNIK



A tanker loaded with liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the floating LNG terminal "Neptune" in Lubmin in the German state of Pomerania. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

OpenAI countersues Apple in row over trade secrets

OPENAI countersued Apple on Friday, alleging that the iPhone maker committed similar trade secret theft that it had accused the ChatGPT provider of this summer.

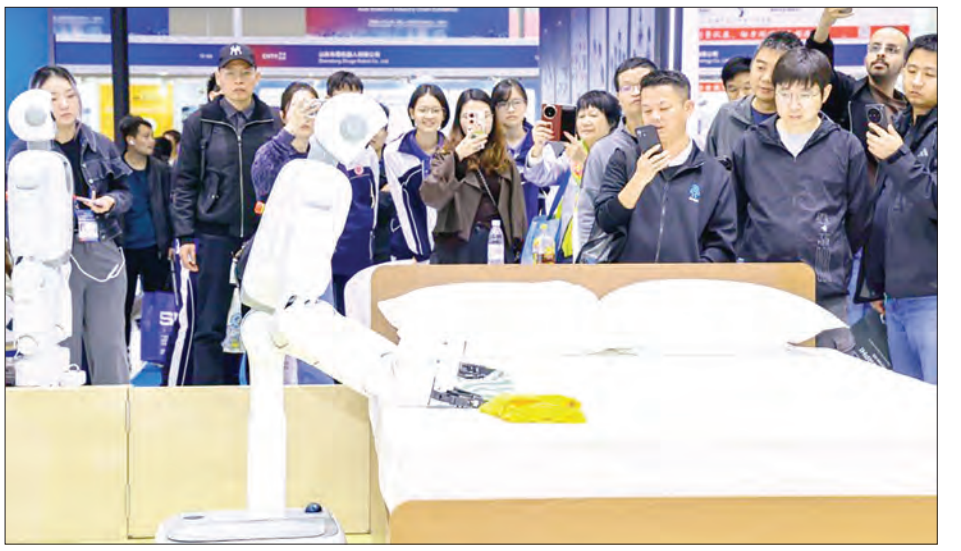
OpenAI alleged that Apple was stealing trade secrets through a former employee and pressuring shared suppliers to hamper its entry into the connected devices market.

An Apple spokesperson denounced the filing as "a transparent attempt to distract from the substance" of its own lawsuit.

The countersuit came in a filing Friday in federal court in San Jose, California, as part of the lawsuit filed by Apple in July against OpenAI and two of its employees who previously worked for Apple. — AFP

Intended deals top 175b yuan at China Hi-Tech Fair

THE 28th China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF), one of the country's largest technology exhibitions, concluded on Saturday in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province, with intended deals valued at more than 175 billion yuan (about $26 billion).



Visitors watch robotics and artificial intelligence demonstrations at the 28th China Hi-Tech Fair exhibition hall in Shenzhen, Guangdong province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The fair attracted more than 480,000 visits by professional visitors, including over 45,000 by international visitors. A total of 1,365 purchasing delegations attended the event, where agreements were inked for over 570 projects covering procurement, investment and financing.

The three-day fair brought together more than 5,000 exhibitors from over 120 countries and regions, with 22 specialized exhibition areas covering 400,000 square meters. Exhibits ranged from major equipment and cutting-edge consumer electronics to computing infrastructure and healthcare technologies.

More than 100 new technologies and products made their debuts at the fair, which also hosted over 200 forums, roadshows and industry summits. More than 20 countries, including Russia, Brazil, Argentina, the Republic of Korea and Singapore, organized exhibitor delegations. — Xinhua

OPEC+ braces for difficult 2027 oil output talks

SAUDI Arabia, Russia and the 19 other OPEC+ members will meet online Sunday to set their production quotas for next year, with analysts expecting difficult talks amid an uncertain market outlook.

The Organization of the 12 Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+) will also address the burning issue of new baseline capacity levels for each member, which form the basis for output quotas.

The US war against OPEC member Iran and a flare-up of energy infrastructure attacks in Russia's invasion of Ukraine have muddied the outlook.

The discussions will be "one of the most complicated OPEC+ meetings in years", Rystad Energy analyst Jorge Leon said.

"It will be very difficult for the organization to set in stone some targets," he told AFP.

Bloomberg has reported that OPEC+ could keep the current output quotas for January given the geopolitical uncertainty, citing two unidentified delegates in the group.

After months of shortages and soaring prices due to the Ukraine and Iran wars, the International Energy Agency has forecast a return to a market surplus for the fourth quarter, as supplies rise but demand remains subdued. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0419N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0419N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0064N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0064N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Neutral Swiss vote on easing arms export rules

Proponents argue that the reform is essential to keep the Swiss arms industry competitive and ensure its place in international supply chains.



Campaign posters line streets in Switzerland ahead of a national referendum on easing restrictions on Swiss-made weapons exports. **PHOTO: AFP**

SWITZERLAND could ease restrictions on its weapons exports in a tightly contested referendum on Sunday pitting the country's neutral and humanitarian traditions against security concerns and a billion-dollar arms industry.

The wealthy landlocked country does not export to nations involved in armed conflicts and insists on being consulted if its clients want to transfer Swiss-made arms to another state.

Parliament eased the restrictions last year, with the government backing the changes.

Under Switzerland's direct democracy system, left-wing parties and NGOs forced a referendum on the issue, arguing that the amendment endangers Swiss neutrality.

Proponents, including the centrist and right-wing parties, argue that the reform is essential to keep the Swiss arms industry competitive and ensure its place in international supply chains.

It is a matter of "retaining, within our territory, the expertise essential to our independence and security", said Yvan Pahud, a member of the hard-right Swiss People's Party, during the campaign. — AFP

Russian senator praises updated strategy for Arctic development


A Russian officer (R) and soldiers stand next to a special military truck at the Russian northern military base on Kotelny island, beyond the Arctic Circle on 3 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE presidential approval of the updated strategy for the development of the Arctic zone is a decision of historic proportions that sets Russia's course for decades to come, Egor Borisov, senator from Russia's Sakha Republic (Yakutia), told Sputnik.

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin approved the strategy for the development of the Arctic zone and ensuring national security in the Arctic. It envisages an increase in average wages in the region to 373,000 rubles ($4,544) by 2035.

"This is a decision of historic proportions, one that defines our country's trajectory for decades to come. The Arctic has traditionally been viewed as a vast storehouse of resources and a strategic shield for Russia," Borisov said.

The senator admitted that for him, a person who was born and raised in Yakutia and has spent his entire life working for its benefit, that document held special significance.

The document shifts away from the outdated, raw-material-focused approach and places the absolute highest priority on the quality of life of those living in the Arctic, as well as their well-being and social security, the senator said. — SPUTNIK

Trump says term 'Super Intelligence' will be mandatory for use in US

US President Donald Trump has said that the term "super intelligence" will be mandatory for use in the United States.

Trump has proposed using the term "super intelligence" to describe a new stage in the development of AI technologies. On Saturday, he criticized Fox News journalist Shannon Bream for using the term "artificial intelligence".

"Can someone please explain to her that it is Super Intelligence, not Artificial Intelligence, and our Great Chairman of the SEC, Paul Atkins, will soon be making that term mandatory. Like me, he likes ACCURACY in language!" Trump wrote on Truth Social. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish president calls for Aegean stability

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday called for stability in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean during rare talks with Greek President Konstantinos Tasoulas.

During a closed-door meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said Türkiye had no hesitation in turning the Aegean into a sea of peace and prosperity, according to a statement from the Turkish presidency.

He noted that bilateral relations hold significant potential across all fields, adding that Ankara is working to advance a positive agenda with Athens. — Xinhua

Pakistan sends troops to Saudi Arabia

PAKISTAN has sent a contingent of army troops to Saudi Arabia under the framework of bilateral defense cooperation, reaffirming its commitment to Saudi Arabia's security and territorial integrity, the Pakistani military's media wing said on Sunday.

A send-off ceremony was held in Rawalpindi on Saturday, attended by Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and other senior military and diplomatic officials, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The ISPR said the deployment was being carried out under agreed commitments and the established framework of defense cooperation between the two countries, adding that the troops would perform their assigned duties within Saudi territory. — Xinhua

Polls open in Spain's snap parliamentary elections

POLLING stations have opened in mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands for the early parliamentary elections.

Polling places opened at 9 am Madrid time (08:00 GMT) and an hour later in the Canary Islands. The vote will continue until 8 pm local time (19:00 GMT).

More than 38.6 million people may cast their votes to elect 350 members of the Congress of Deputies (the lower house of parliament) and 209 members of the Senate (the upper house of parliament). — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Myanmar to face Hong Kong in two friendlies

THE Myanmar women's national team will play two international friendly matches against Hong Kong SAR at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, Yangon, on 1 and 4 December, with both matches scheduled to kick off at 5 pm.

The matches will take place during the December FIFA Women's International Match Window. Myanmar have been training since the second week of November with a preliminary squad of more than 30 players. The friendlies will mark the team's return to international action following the Asian Games.

The matches will also be the first international friendlies under the leadership of new head coach Colin Bell of England.

Myanmar and Hong Kong previously played two friendly matches in Yangon in October 2024, with Myanmar winning both by a 4-1 scoreline.



Myanmar women's national team is seen during a training session. **PHOTO:MFF**

Myanmar's preliminary squad comprises five goalkeepers: Ei Sandar Zaw, Khin Khin Zaw (Ayeyawady), Zu Latt Nadi (Institute of Sports and Physical Education), Chan Myae Yadana (Shan State) and May Oo Khin (Yadanabon).

The defenders are Zin Yuya Oo and Khin Moe Wai (Ayeyawady), Thiri Nandar Soe, Aye Aye Soe and Yamin Thant Zin (Yadanabon), Lin Le Oo and Than Than Nwe (ISPE), and Nan Sanay Ma and Yu Yu Naing (Yangon United).

The midfielders are Phyu Phyu Win and Naw Htet Htet Wai (Ayeyawady), Khin Mo Mo Tun, Win Win and Zin Mar Htwe (Thitsar Arman), Win Sandar, Pin Myint Yan and Yupa Khine (Yadanabon), Khin Mar Lar Tun and Lin Myint Mo (ISPE), Daisy Aung and Yoon Wati Hlaing (Yangon United), and Honey Phyu Wai and Win Yupa (Young Lionesses).

The forwards are Shin Thant Phyu Sin Pyone (Ayeyawady), Myat Noe Khin (Thitsar Arman), Hnin Sandar Win and Win Thiri Tun (Yadanabon), Shwe Yi Tun (ISPE), and Su Su Kyi and Zin Moe Pyae (Yangon United). — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Boxing: Teraji KOs Amador to defend WBO super flyweight belt

JAPAN'S Kenshiro Teraji succeeded in his first WBO super flyweight title defence Sunday with a fifth-round knockout of previously unbeaten Mexican challenger Jassiel Amador.

Fighting in a world title tripleheader at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan, Teraji bettered Amador with technique and speed from early rounds and finished the contest with a rush after his right rattled the opponent, who failed to make use of his reach advantage.

"I knew my right would catch him if I could land my jabs (with left)," said the 34-year-old, three-division champion after he went back to his basic fighting plan. "I'm getting fewer unnecessary shots, and it's become a good style."

WBA bantamweight champion Riku Masuda defended his belt for the first time, prevailing by unanimous decision against fellow Japanese top-ranked contender Seiya Tsutsumi as he handed the former titleholder his first career defeat in the process. — Kyodo



Japan's Kenshiro Teraji attacks Mexico's Jassiel Amador during their WBO super flyweight title bout at Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo. **PHOTO: Kyodo**

Murase, Bouchard win snowboard big air World Cup opener

JAPAN'S Kokomo Murase and Canada's Eli Bouchard won the women's and men's titles at the FIS Snowboard Park and Pipe World Cup opener in Innsbruck, Austria.

Using the new two-run format where both scores count, Murase tallied 178.00 points (89.25 and 88.75) to edge out Belgium's Sky Remans (169.50) and American Hahna Norman (153.00), both of whom captured their first career World Cup podiums.

In the men's event, Bouchard scored 185.75 points, finishing ahead of German debutant Damian Millinger (177.75) and Japan's Hiroto Ogiwara (172.75). — Xinhua

Real Madrid fall behind Atletico as Bellingham sent off

REAL Madrid fell to a surprise 2-1 home defeat by Alaves in La Liga on Saturday with midfielder Jude Bellingham dismissed in the final stages after diving to win a penalty, while their city rivals Atletico Madrid won to move second.



Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham was sent off as his team lost to Alaves on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Jose Mourinho's side had won their last 10 matches across all competitions but fell two goals behind at home against Quique Sanchez Flores's visitors.

Kylian Mbappé pulled one back for Madrid but they could not claw their way level and Bellingham was shown a second yellow card late on after tumbling in the area. — AFP

India rallies past China to claim hockey Asian Champions Trophy

INDIA beat China 3-1 to win its third consecutive Women's Asian Champions Trophy field hockey title in Bhopal, India, on Saturday.

India became the first team to win the tournament four times after scoring three goals in the third quarter to overturn a one-goal deficit.

Chen Yujun put China ahead in the second quarter, but Deepika Sehrawat scored twice and Ishika Chaudhary added another as India fought back to secure the title.

Japan beat Malaysia 5-2 in the bronze medal match. South Korea and Thailand completed the six-team field. — Xinhua

Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10

1. (B). Fairy Flowers World (From the PyinOoLwin Kandawgyi Flower Festival story on Page 1)
2. (C). Qingdao (From the 4th Belt & Road Energy Ministers' Conference story on Page 3)
3. (B). Auramine-O and Rhodamine-B (From the FDA unsafe food products warning story on Page 5)
4. (C). 3.95 billion years (From the oldest known rocks in Asia discovery story on Page 14)
5. (C). Starmind (From the SpaceX orbital AI data centres story on Page 16).



30 NOVEMBER 2026
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

WORLD

Pakistani PM holds space-ground call with Pakistani astronaut, sends greetings to Chinese crew

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif holds a historic video call with astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali aboard China's Tiangong station.

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held a space-ground call with Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, who is now aboard China's space station carrying out the Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceflight mission.

During the call held at the headquarters of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, Sharif congratulated Ali on becoming the first foreign astronaut to board China's Tiangong space station, while conveying his sincere greetings to Ali's fellow astronauts from China.

He said the year 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, adding that Ali's milestone mission demonstrates the enduring friendship between the two countries and proves that the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership has reached an unprecedented height. — Xinhua



Photo released by Prime Minister's Office on 28 November 2026 shows Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (2nd L, front) attends a space-ground call ceremony at the headquarters of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Use of AI at International Space Station to be expanded: Roscosmos

RUSSIAN state space corporation Roscosmos plans to expand the range of tasks performed by Russian cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) with the use of the GigaChat neural network, Roscosmos Deputy Director General Dmitry Gorshkov said on Saturday.

"Last year, we launched the GigaChat into orbit together with Sber and developed the first intelligent assistant to free up time of cosmonauts and automate some routine functions they carry out constantly... Its further development includes its integration into full-scale operation as an offline AI assistant at the station," Gorshkov said at the AI Journey Conference.

On 27 November 2025, the GigaChat neural network was sent to the International Space Station. Sergey Kud-Sverchkov and Sergey Mikayev have become the first Russian cosmonauts to try it. — SPUTNIK



The Russian space agency's Nauka module docks with the International Space Station. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

India, Vietnam to lead Asia-Pacific economic growth in 2027: S&P Global

VIETNAM and India will emerge as the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region in 2027, according to S&P Global's Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q1 2027 report.

The ratings agency maintained its overall Asia-Pacific gross domestic product growth forecast at 4.4 per cent for 2027, unchanged from its September projection, while nudging up the 2026 forecast to 4.8 per cent from 4.6 per cent.

"Our Asia-Pacific GDP forecast is still 4.4 per cent for 2027, same as in September. We only made a material upward revision to our growth forecast for Hong Kong and a significant downward revision to the Philippines. We expect Vietnam and India to be the region's fastest-growing economies in 2027," the report stated.

For India, S&P Global projected GDP growth at seven per cent in both the current and subsequent fiscal years ending in March. Growth during the June and September quarters drew support from strong goods exports, public-sector investment, and household consumption, with buoyant credit growth fueling consumer spending. — ANI



NSE Exchange Plaza, the corporate headquarters of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) in Mumbai. **PHOTO: NSEWEBMASTER, CC BY-SA 4.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Sri Lanka to launch feasibility studies for new expressways

SRI Lanka plans to launch feasibility studies in January 2027 for a proposed expressway linking Katunayake and Chilaw and a network of expressways centered on Anuradhapura, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development Bimal Rathnayake told parliament on Saturday.

Rathnayake said tenders were called on Saturday to select consultants to conduct the feasibility studies. The minister said the remaining construction work on the Central Expressway was estimated to cost 758.9 billion Sri Lankan rupees (about US$2.28 billion). — Xinhua

IRGC showcases 3 new types of drones

THREE new models of defensive and strike drones have been showcased at an exhibition highlighting the achievements of the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in the city of Mashhad in northeastern Iran, the country's media reported on Saturday.

One of those drones is designed for defensive tasks, such as countering various types of enemy drones and small aerial vehicles, while the other two models are intended for offensive operations and engaging enemy units at close range, the Tasnim news agency reported.

The Sayeh, which is Persian for "shadow", quadcopter was developed by drawing on experience from the Ukraine conflict, designed to counterattack drones, such as the Sting, Wild Hornet and P1-Sun, the report said. — SPUTNIK