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Myanmar and Oman signing an Air Services Agreement. **PHOTO: OMAN NEWS AGENCY**

Myanmar and Oman sign Air Services Agreement

ON 2 November, Myanmar and Oman signed an Air Services Agreement aimed at managing the aviation transport sector between the two countries and enhancing cooperation in civil aviation, according to a post on the Oman News Agency's X page.

The agreement seeks to expand air connectivity between Myanmar and Oman and create new opportunities for collaboration in their air transport service sector.

It was signed by Director-General U Zaw Zaw of Myanmar's Department of Civil Aviation and President Eng Naif bin Ali Al Abri of Oman's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The agreement consists of 26 articles, along with an annex detailing air flight routes between the two countries. It addresses various economic, regulatory, and operational aspects related to air transport services.

Additionally, the agreement establishes the necessary procedural framework for designated airlines from each country to operate passenger and cargo flights smoothly, while also opening up opportunities for code-sharing on joint flights.

The signing of this agreement marks an important step in strengthening bilateral relations between Myanmar and Oman in the civil aviation sector. Oman has concluded bilateral air transport agreements with 135 countries. — TWA/ZN

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Tangyan holds El Niño awareness meeting

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YCDC seeks tenders for Waste-to-Energy, CNG Joint Ventures

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Approves Ministry Renaming, Grants 2-Month Tax Relief on HSD 500 ppm, LNG



The Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's third regular session convenes its eighth-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

Lawmakers participated in discussions over the proposal sent by the President to rename the Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small and Medium-sized and Enterprises Development as the Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development, at the eighth-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Subsequently, Union Minister for Industry and Micro, Small and Medium-sized and Enterprises Development Dr Charlie Than said that using the phrase "micro, small and medium-sized enterprises" in the proposed amended title would clearly distinguish the enterprises into three categories based on their sizes. So, the Union minister sought approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to rename the title of the ministry. As no one objected to the proposal, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it.

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Nay Pyi Taw Hosts Special Prayer for Myanmar's Peace and Prosperity



The 2026 Special Prayer Service for Peace and Prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE 2026 Special Prayer Service for Peace and Prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at the Jasmine Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday.

On the occasion, some 700 participants, including bishops from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar and the Myanmar Council of Churches, Christian faithful from various denominations and ethnic youth, collectively sang hymns and offered praises to God.

Cardinal Charles Bo, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar; Bishop Dr U Myat San, Archbishop of the Methodist Church in Lower Myanmar; and Archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo of the Myanmar Council of Churches delivered remarks at the ceremony. Reverend Dr U Aye Min of the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance offered special prayers for peace and prosperity in the motherland, Myanmar. The ceremony concluded with a blessing imparted by the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

UMFCCI IR Committee Seals 136 MOUs with Global Business Bodies

THE International Relations Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has signed 136 memorandums of understanding with international business organizations and continues working with them, Committee Chairman Dr Win Sithu said.

Dr Win Sithu made the remarks at the committee's sixth coordination meeting held on 30 October in a hybrid format. The committee is working with domestic and foreign business organizations and 23 foreign chambers of commerce to promote investment and trade. The committee is organizing business meetings, forums and trade fairs to find new markets to boost trade, and

SEE PAGE 6

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw delegation led by C-in-C departs for goodwill visit to Lao PDR

AT the invitation of Lt-Gen Saichay Kommasith, Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff of the Lao People's Army, a Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo departed from Nay Pyi Taw International Airport for the Lao People's Democratic Republic yesterday morning.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is pictured ahead of his goodwill visit to Laos.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Daw Nan Kue Ku, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Win and his wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials from the Embassy and Military Attaché's Office of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Myanmar.

General Ye Win Oo was accompanied by his wife, Daw Nilar, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and officials.

Upon arrival at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Maj-Gen Vanhthong Boudtavong, Deputy Chief of the General Staff Department of the Ministry of National Defence of Lao PDR, and his wife, the Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Department, the Lao Military Attaché to Myanmar and his wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Aung Ko and his wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Yar Zar Tun and his wife, and other officials.

During the goodwill visit, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is scheduled to hold talks with military leaders of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and visit prominent landmarks across the country, according to news reports. — MNA/TH

Press Release on Deliberate Attempts by KNU, KNLA and PDF Terrorists to Undermine Myanmar-Thailand Bilateral Friendship

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw maintains a long-standing friendly partnership with Thailand. In line with advancing cooperation between the two armed forces, consistent collaboration is underway to ensure stability, peace, and security across the border regions of both nations. It has been observed that terrorist groups calling themselves CRPH, NUG, and PDF, including the KNU and KNLA – who do not favour bilateral friendship — are committing terrorist attacks that harm citizens of both countries in border areas and engaging in illicit activities. Furthermore, they are spreading rumours across online media through various means to generate public misunderstanding.

Subversive media, unwilling to see positive bilateral relations, have been spreading groundless rumours — including claims of impending destruction of warehouses on the Thai side — with the intention of inciting fear and anxiety among residents along the border. These online media reports have been determined to be entirely false and inaccurate.

Myanmar and Thailand maintain strong multi-sectoral ties across government-to-government, military-to-military, people-to-people, and institutional levels, standing as countries with a "Natural Strategic Partnership". The Myanmar Tatmadaw places special emphasis on maintaining peace and stability in border areas and is actively enhancing cooperation between the two armed forces. Moreover, the citizens of both nations share enduring bonds of friendship.

Intending to undermine bilateral relations, terrorist groups calling themselves CRPH, NUG, and PDF, including the KNU and KNLA, have been carrying out acts of sabotage along the border. It was reported that on 29 October 2026, a Thai citizen was injured by fire from a 12.7 mm heavy machine gun. Thai military authorities have already been informed that the Myanmar Tatmadaw does not employ this weapon. The incident was an intentional firing into Thai territory by terrorist insurgents seeking to disrupt bilateral friendship, and the Myanmar Tatmadaw expresses its deep sympathy for the injury sustained.

Valuing the existing friendly relations between the Myanmar and Thai armed forces, the Myanmar Tatmadaw will never engage in any conduct that violates the sovereignty of other nations. Instead, it continues to enhance bilateral cooperation, prioritizing mutual development, the safety and peace of both peoples, and regional stability.

Tatmadaw Information Team

Botahtaung Pagoda to hold 42nd Matho Golden Lotus Robe Weaving, Offering Ceremony



This photo shows the golden lotus robe weaving contest at Botahtaung Pagoda in the previous year.

THE Botahtaung Pagoda enshrining Sacred Hair Relic of Buddha will hold its annual Matho golden lotus robe weaving and offering ceremony, according to the pagoda's board of trustees. The 42nd ceremony will be held on the 14th waxing of Tazaungmone and the full moon day in the ME 1388 (23 and 24 November). Prizes in the weaving competition are K1.5 million for first place, K1 million for second, K800,000 for third, and K400,000 each for consolation prizes, along with medals. Women skilled in weaving, aged 18 to 50, can enter in teams of two. Teams must register their applications at the board's office before 3 pm between 6 and 10 November. Individuals can enquire for further details through the board of trustees of the Botahtaung Pagoda at 09 453200820 or 09 795684318. — NN/KK

Pre-Deepavali festival, awards ceremony for outstanding matric students held



Outstanding students of the 2025-2026 Academic Year being presented with awards.

A pre-Deepavali festival and an awards ceremony honouring outstanding students who passed the 2025-2026 matriculation examination were held at the National Theatre in Yangon on 2 November, according to the festival organizing committee.

The ceremony was inaugurated with the lighting of traditional oil lamps by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, the Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar, Hindu religious missionary teacher Dr Hla Htun of the Sananta Dhamma Palaka Hindu Federation, other guests and Hindu religious leaders.

The pre-Deepavali festival also featured stalls showcasing traditional Indian food, traditional costumes, electrical appliances, educational opportunities and Shwe Bank.

At the event, attendees heard speeches about the significance of Deepavali, and awards were presented to students who had achieved distinctions in the matriculation examination. Young Hindu performers also entertained the audience with traditional dances. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Approves Ministry ...

FROM PAGE 1

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Kyaw Htin also sought approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to grant the extension for Specific Goods Tax and Commercial Tax on High-Speed Diesel (HSD 500 ppm) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for October and November.

Lawmakers discussed the extension of the Specific Goods Tax and Commercial Tax on HSD 500 ppm and LNG for October and November. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the proposal.

Moreover, lawmakers participated in the discussions over granting Specific Goods Tax exemption for five vehicles imported for the Paletwa-Zorampur two-lane road construction project. Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint expressed gratitude to the lawmakers for their thorough discussion over the proposal, and he pledged that the vehicles will be used effectively in the relevant work project. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the proposal by vote.

With regard to the 2025 annual report of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Chairman of the commission U Thit Linn Ohn explained the formation of the commission with 13 members assigned to relevant subjects, establishment of its branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway and Pathein, and activities of the commission.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the lawmakers wishing to discuss the report could register with the director-general of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its ninth-day meeting on 5 November. — News Team/TTA

Myanmar, Laos boost diplomatic, military and ASEAN member state relations

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, who is paying a goodwill visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence General Khamlieng Outhakayson of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Ministry of National Defence yesterday afternoon.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo holds talks with Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence General Khamlieng Outhakayson in Vientiane.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the improvement of diplomatic relations, military relations and ASEAN member state relations between the two countries, their close cooperation in promoting regional development as member states of the four-country Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) cooperation framework, the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Programme, and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), plans to enhance security, stability and peace in border regions of the two countries including security along the Mekong River security, the ongoing acceleration of efforts to combat narcotic drugs, online scams and online gambling, as well as Myanmar's efforts to maintain friendly relations with neighbouring countries and its commitment to peaceful coexistence in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the country's current developments, including the efforts of the democratically elected Government to translate the people's aspirations into reality, Myanmar's balanced engagement with the international community, including neighbouring countries and ASEAN member states, in accordance with its active and non-aligned foreign policy, and the role of the Tatmadaw, under the leadership of the Government, in safeguarding the Our Three Main National Causes, which constitute its national duty.

They exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photos together with attendees. Also present together with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services were senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air). The Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence was accompanied by senior military officers from the Lao People's Army and officials. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

CBM Governor meets Thai Ambassador

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo received Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tor Saralamba at the meeting hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Thai Ambassador Mr Tor Saralamba calls on CBM Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo yesterday.

During the meeting, the Thai ambassador discussed the repatriation of dividends and loan repayments by Thai businesspeople to their home country, noting that the funds would subsequently return to Myanmar to support further investment. He also said that Thai banks with branches in Myanmar intended to provide loans to Thai and Myanmar companies to support the country's long-term economic development. In addition, he discussed arrangements for Myanmar workers employed in Thailand to send remittances back home through official channels.

The Central Bank of Myanmar governor explained that the Central Bank was providing support to facilitate the inflow of investment and ensure smooth financial transfers and payments related to such investments. She said that procedures were being developed for the repatriation of dividends and interest payments on loans. She also noted that the Central Bank regularly reviewed foreign currency reserve requirements in line with the circumstances of individual banks and was making adjustments to ease these requirements where appropriate.

Regarding worker remittances from Myanmar nationals employed overseas, she said that measures were being taken to ensure that the arrangements did not encourage unofficial money transfers.Deputy governors and officials from the relevant departments of the Central Bank of Myanmar also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

ARCCI, KSCCI sign MoU on industrial cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on industrial cooperation was signed between the Ayeyawady Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ARCCI) and the Kayin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KSCCI) during ARCCI's First Annual General Meeting for the 2025-2030 term, held in Pathein, according to the Ayeyawady Region Government Office.



This photo shows representatives of the ARCCI and the KSCCI signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on industrial cooperation.

Ayeyawady Region has strong economic potential across various sectors, including agriculture, rice production, aquatic products, livestock, salt production, agro-based industries, food processing, transportation and tourism. To promote sustainable economic growth, ARCCI will work in collaboration with the government, private sector, trade associations, universities, young people and the public.

Furthermore, ARCCI will strengthen its coordination with the regional government to ensure that the concerns of entrepreneurs are conveyed to the relevant authorities and that government policies and directives are effectively communicated to the business community, serving as a bridge between the government and the private sector. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C meets Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff, lays wreath at Unknown Soldier Monument in Laos

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, who is paying a goodwill visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, was welcomed with a Guard of Honour by Lieutenant-General Saichay Kommasith, Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Army, yesterday afternoon.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo lays wreath and pays tribute at the Unknown Soldier Monument.

On arrival at the Lao Ministry of National Defence, where the ceremony would be held, the General and party were welcomed by the Lao Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Army. The two leaders took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Lao Deputy Minister of National Defence and Chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Army reciprocally introduced their entourages and posed for documentary photos. The two leaders held talks at the guest hall of the ministry.

At the meeting, they discussed the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two armed forces; the exchange of goodwill visits at various levels between the two armed forces; the promotion of border trade; enhancement of cooperation in maintaining peace and stability along the border areas of the two countries; training programmes; the exchange of military sports teams and cultural troupes; and efforts to eliminate online gambling; Myanmar's ongoing efforts to eradicate online gambling and online scams, to eliminate such activities in the region and prevent their recurrence in the future; conducting operations to combat online scams, and completion of dismantling 1,053 online scam hubs to date.

They frankly exchanged views on the prevention and suppression of narcotic drugs; bilateral cooperation between the two armed forces to prevent ethnic armed groups from taking strongholds in the border regions of both countries, as these groups are building up their strength by purchasing and replenishing weapons and ammunition with income earned from the production, sale and distribution of narcotic drugs; the convening of meetings of the Regional Border Committee (RBC) and the Joint Border Security Committee (JBSC); and the efforts being made by the State Government to achieve domestic peace and promote development.

In the afternoon, the General paid tribute by laying a wreath at the Unknown Soldier Monument, accompanied by music performed by the military band of the Lao People's Army.

Afterwards, the General and members of his delegation cordially bade farewell to senior military officers of Laos and departed. — MNA/TTA

MYANWEN MSME products introduced at Ayeyawady-Yangtze Culture & Development Fair

THE Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) participated in the Ayeyawady-Yangtze Culture and Development Fair 2026, which was held in Mandalay.

In collaboration with AYA Bank, MYANWEN's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)- Healthy and Happy, Kiyo Myanmar, Super Hero Birdnest, Ywat Nu Hlaing, Sein War Moe, Bayda & Co and AAW Cotton Wears exhibited their products at the event.

MYANWEN Vice-Chair Daw Su Su Tin, International Relations and Networking Committee member Daw May Thant Sin and Mandalay-based MYANWEN members joined the event.

The event is designed to help strengthen Myanmar-China relations in culture, business and trade, promote regional business cooperation, as well as provide a significant opportunity to introduce Myanmar's products to broader markets.

MYANWEN will continue helping local women entrepreneurs' empowerment and their products to reach broader markets and enhancing opportunities for business networking and cooperation. — Htun Htun/ZS



A MYANWEN booth at the Ayeyawady-Yangtze Culture and Development Fair 2026 in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MYANMAR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK FB**



Village representatives accepting the VDP fund in Thantaunggyi Township, Kayin State.

VDP fund transfer ceremony held in Thantaunggyi

A ceremony to transfer Village Development Plan (VDP) project funds for Kazatpalo Village, allocated for the 2026-2027 financial year, was held yesterday at the office of the Township Department of Rural Development in Thantaunggyi Township, Kayin State.

District Head U Kyaw Myo Aung of the Thantaunggyi District Department of Rural Development first delivered opening remarks explaining the objectives, benefits, and procedures of transferring the VDP project funds. Following this, U Kyaw Myo Sint, Township Head of the Thantaunggyi Township Department of Rural Development, detailed the active cooperation required from the local villagers during the project implementation.

District Head U Kyaw Myo Aung then formally transferred K15 million in VDP project funds to the members of the Kazatpalo Village Project Implementation Committee.

The ceremony was attended by District Head U Kyaw Myo Aung, Township Head U Kyaw Myo Sint and staff, along with the village administrator and project implementation committee members from Kazatpalo Village. — Cho Lay (DRD)

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NATIONAL

Waingmaw inspects inter-village road construction

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection to check the progress of an inter-village road construction project in Mahkawyan Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, yesterday.

The inter-village road construction project is being implemented using funds allocated by the State for the 2026-2027 financial year. Work commenced in the fourth week of August this year and is currently 90 per cent complete. Upon full completion, the project will benefit 8,812 residents of Mahkawyan and Mongna villages by facilitating year-round travel, enhancing access to health, education and socioeconomic opportunities, and allowing local agricultural products to be transported to markets more easily and quickly. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



This image features an ongoing road construction project in Waingmaw Township.

Engineers from the Waingmaw Township Department of Rural Road Development examined the ongoing base-course construction work along the 2.28-furlong road connecting Area 2, Lane 1, in Mahkawyan Village. Project engineers briefed the progress of the project, after which the engineers instructed responsible personnel to ensure the work is completed within the designated timeframe and in compliance with prescribed quality standards.

YGH Successfully Performs Bone Marrow Transplants on 5 Cancer Patients

UNDER the guidance and support of the Ministry of Health, five bone marrow cancer patients admitted in September 2026 to the Bone Marrow Transplant Centre of the Haematology Department at Yangon General Hospital have successfully undergone bone marrow transplant treatment. All patients are reported to be in good health and were discharged from the hospital on 26 October.

The bone marrow transplant procedures were carried out through the collaborative efforts of the hospital administration team, professors and specialist doctors from the Haematology Department, expert professors and specialists from related departments, skilled nurses, and supporting staff. The five patients include a 57-year-old male from Dagon Myothit (North) Township, a 66-year-old male from Hline Township, a 54-year-old female from Hopang Township, a 62-year-old female from Thakayta Township, and a 58-year-old female from Taunggyi Township.



A team of professors, specialist doctors, experienced nurses and support staff performs a bone marrow transplant at Yangon General Hospital.

At Yangon General Hospital, bone marrow transplants have been successfully performed on a total of 38 patients to date- three in 2016, three in 2017, four in 2018, one in 2019, one in 2020, three in 2024, 10 in 2025, and 13 so far in 2026. The bone marrow transplant treatments will continue to be provided locally to reduce healthcare costs for the public. — MNA/KTZH

Sedoktara inspects MSY Village Project activities

OFFICIALS conducted an on-site inspection yesterday to review the successful implementation of family income-generating activities funded by the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Chinpyitkaing Village, executed by the Department of Rural Development, Sedoktara Township, Magway Region.



Officials oversee a livestock breeding project in Sedoktara Township, Magway Region.

During the inspection, U Thein Zaw Tun, Head of the Sedoktara Township Department of Rural Development, along with staff members and the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee members, inspected the agricultural and livestock breeding operations in Chinpyitkaing Village. They also checked the completeness of monthly financial records and accounts. Following the inspection, the township officer met village officials and committee members to facilitate and coordinate necessary support.

To support revolving funds for sustainable livelihoods under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project, a total of K30.80 million has been disbursed in Chinpyitkaing Village, Sedoktara Township – K27.90 million to 49 members engaged in agriculture, and K2.90 million to five members in livestock breeding, benefiting a total of 54 members who are actively implementing income-generating businesses, according to U Thein Zaw Tun, Township Head of the Sedoktara Department of Rural Development. — Ko Nyo (Rural)

30-day return requirement annulled for MoU workers' contract extension

THAILAND annulled a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) employment requirement that workers must return to live in Myanmar for 30 days when they extend their employment contracts.

It is a new programme, "U-Turn", which was reached in principle between Myanmar and Thailand, according to officials for labour affairs.

According to the Thai Employment Department's statement, 45,834 Myanmar workers' employment contracts for four years ended this year, and 46,906 workers' contracts will end in 2027.

Thai Employment Department's Director-General Mr Samart Pattamasukon said the two countries have agreed to remove the 30-day return requirement if employers want to continue hiring the worker. This relaxation aims to help retain experienced workers and prevent a sudden workforce shortage.

However, MoU workers will need to pass verification for their employer, passport, health, visa, and work permit to receive the exemption. Further, the Thai government has also planned to implement long-term foreign worker import from other countries, so that it can reduce the dependency on labourers from a few neighbouring countries. — TWA/ZS



Myanmar MoU workers in Thailand.

NATIONAL

Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown demolishing 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 six-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 six-storey building reached 50 per cent completion as of yesterday.



Map shows the systematic demolition of scam hubs in the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown.

Of the 63 buildings designated for demolition in Phase II of the Shwe Kokko area, four have been demolished through controlled explosions and another four using heavy machinery. The remaining 55 buildings will also be systematically demolished.

The government has been treating the fight against online scams and online gambling as a national duty. — 100/KTZH

Tachilek's VDP concrete road project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the 100-per-cent completion of a village concrete road project implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Phatimagon Village, Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), on 2 November.


This image depicts a completed village concrete road in Tachilek Township.

Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Thin and engineering staff, together with members of the village development committee, inspected the completed concrete road measuring 330 feet long, 10 feet wide and six inches thick. She met village elders and residents, urging them to form a village road committee and systematically maintain the road for its long-term durability, while coordinating necessary support based on village requirements.

The concrete road was constructed starting in the first week of August this year using K15 million in VDP support funds for the 2026-2027 financial year and K4.61 million contributed by local communities, with technical assistance and close supervision from DRD staff. The completion of the project ensures year-round convenience and improved transport, helping elevate the socioeconomic standards of local villagers. — Karan (Rural)

Tangyan holds El Niño awareness meeting

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted an awareness session in Panin Village, Tangyan Township, Shan State (North), on 2 November to inform the public about the El Niño phenomenon and prevent potential drinking water shortages.

Tangyan Township Department of Rural Development Head U Khine Min Tun and officials examined current water usage conditions in the village.

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

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


An El Nino awareness session in progress in Tangyan Township.

UMFCCI IR Committee ...

FROM PAGE 1

especially exports. The committee has signed 136 MOUs with international business organizations and continues cooperating with them. It is also planning to hold meetings with foreign chambers soon.

Committee Secretary U Kyaw Soe Han reported on the implementation of decisions from the previous meeting and on the International Relations Department's upcoming events. Committee Vice-Chairperson U Moe Kyaw also reported on the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2026 to be held on 14-15 November in Manila, the Philippines, and the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Council.

Vice-Chairperson Daw Thu Zar Win discussed the committee's ongoing work, and members asked questions about the topics raised. — NN/KK

Animation video entries invited for Intl Day of Persons with Disabilities

THE National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold the awareness four-minute animation contest with a view to ending mocking, ridiculing and belittling people with disabilities and developing rights-based perspectives ahead of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2026, according to the Department of Rehabilitation.

Those interested filmmakers and digital creators can submit an animated video that meets the following rules: entries must highlight the contest theme; titles, depictions and dialogue must be in Myanmar language only; videos must be four minutes long; any animation production method can be used; entrants should view sample awareness videos at https://www.moswrr.gov.mm/awareness//movie-clip?Page=1 and create their entries accordingly; files must be MP4, WMV or AVI format, at least Full HD 1920x1080 pixels, in RGB colour, and no larger than 1GB.

Entries must also meet these conditions: depictions and presentation must suit the storyline and reflect Myanmar culture and living style; videos must include additional related information useful to the public beyond the title and theme; entries must not be animations that have won other contests or been published elsewhere, and must include a signed declaration of original creation and a brief personal profile of the entrant; copyright of winning works must be fully transferred to the Department of Rehabilitation; and late or non-compliant entries will not be considered, winning videos will be used in appropriate settings, and non-selected videos will not be returned. Winners will receive cash prizes and medals at the 2026 International Day of Persons with Disabilities ceremony in Naypyitaw. Entries must be submitted as soft copies by email, or on DVD or VCD, in person or by mail, along with the entrant's name, a copy of the citizenship scrutiny card, the application form and the declaration, to the Director-General of the Department of Rehabilitation at Office 23, Naypyitaw (Ph: 067-3404604, email: vulnerablegroup.moswrr@gmail.com and vulnerablegroup.dor@gmail.com). The deadline is 4 pm on 13 November.

The Department of Rehabilitation invited the public to take part in the contest. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

YCDC seeks tenders for Waste-to-Energy, CNG Joint Ventures

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has called for tenders for joint ventures to generate electricity and compressed natural gas substitute from waste.

The Urban Environmental Conservation and Cleansing Department of the YCDC collects and disposes of more than 2,500 tonnes of waste daily from 33 townships within YCDC boundaries. Of them, about 1,500 tonnes go to the Htein Bin final deposit site in Hlinethaya Township, and about 1,000 tonnes go to the Dawei Chaung final disposal site in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.



Waste generated in Yangon City.

Under its renewable energy programme, YCDC plans to utilize waste-to-energy processes at the two landfill sites: extracting methane gas from waste and generating electricity using generators; extracting methane gas and producing compressed biomethane and Bio-CNG, a 90 per cent purified CNG substitute gas; and building a waste incineration plant and generating electricity through the incineration process.

Domestic companies, foreign companies and domestic-foreign joint ventures interested in the three processes are invited to submit proposals with full specified details to the Urban Environmental Conservation and Cleansing Department by 13 December.

Proposals must include which process the company intends to carry out and the feasibility study period; which final disposal site they want to operate at and the construction period; the joint venture period and operating system (Build-Operate-Transfer, Build-Own-Operate or Public-Private-Partnership); detailed business plans, including investment value, asset-sharing percentage, annual maintenance costs, profit-sharing percentage, operating period and estimated investment payback period; required land area; agreement on daily waste feedstock supply; whether tipping fees are required or not; water use system; rates for using or selling generated energy; plans for selling carbon credits (Certified Emission Reduction) and whether sharing arrangements exist or not; and any other information the company wants to include, along with required documents.

Proposals must be submitted on company letterhead bearing the company logo. Business entities can enquire about the information and figures needed for the business through the department located on the 5th floor of the YCDC 12-storey Building on Merchant Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, at 09 5187854, 09 5048931 or 09 680244602. — NN/KK

Kanbalu inspects farm-to-market road project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, is implementing the construction of a rural farm-to-market road in Myayhtoo Village, Kanbalu Township to enable local farmers to transport agricultural produce to markets at lower costs. Responsible officials conducted a field inspection of the project site yesterday.



Officials inspect the construction of a rural farm-to-market road in Kanbalu Township.

Kanbalu District Department of Rural Development Head U Soe Khine, Kanbalu Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Tin Tin Khine and engineering staff inspected the ongoing construction of the one-mile three-furlong farm-to-market road, measuring 12 feet in width, with a two-foot-thick earth layer and a nine-inch-thick sand-and-gravel layer. The work includes road construction, earth embankment formation, gravel surfacing, and compaction testing (CPR) on a section where a one-foot-thick earth layer was watered and compacted using a roller. They met members of the Village Agricultural Road Construction Committee, urging them to ensure timely completion in line with prescribed standards and specifications, while providing necessary coordination for matters raised by local communities.

The farm-to-market road project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with an allocated budget of K220.821 million. Tender-winning company Pyi Gyi Kyaw Company is undertaking the construction under the technical assistance and close supervision of district and township DRD staff. Upon completion, the agricultural road will significantly contribute to the social and economic development of rural residents in the village. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

19 seized vessels for sale through competitive bidding

THE Department of Fisheries invited domestic businesspeople to submit bids to sell 19 seized vessels through competitive bidding.

The 19 vessels, owned by the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and held as public property, will be sold in as-is condition.

A price proposal application form for the vessels costs K10,000, and details of the 19 vessels are attached to the price proposal regulations.

Bid applications and regulation forms will be sold until 17 November during office hours at the Department of Fisheries, Office 36, Pandita Road, Nay Pyi Taw.

The vessels can be inspected at the relevant Departments of Fisheries offices: 11 are placed in Kawthoung district, two in Myeik district, three in Bokpyin Township, two in Pathein district and one in Insein district. Applications must be submitted at the Department of Fisheries in Nay Pyi Taw. Payment order cheques will be accepted from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm on 18 November. The bid opening will be held at 10 am on 19 November.

Bidders must buy payment order cheques for each of the 19 vessels at Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw and submit them one day before the auction. Individuals can enquire about details through the Department of Fisheries at 067 418531 or 067 408477, according to the tender acceptance and scrutiny committee (auction sale committee). — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 3 November 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,655.00~3671.00	555.30~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	17,351,829.80	2,102,258.20	22,346,921.77	

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.

OPINION

Accelerating Myanmar's tourism revival

Close cooperation and balanced collaboration between the government and the private sector are essential to ensuring the systematic and sustainable development of Myanmar's tourism industry, revitalizing the international tourism market, and contributing comprehensively to the national economy and the socioeconomic well-being of the people.

Tourism is not only a sector that contributes to a country's economic development but also brings numerous benefits, including creating employment opportunities, increasing the income of local communities, promoting the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and raising international awareness of the country's traditional heritage, culture and natural beauty. Therefore, tourism is a sector of great importance to national interests.

Therefore, hotel and tourism associations need to work together in unity and cooperation to build a better future for Myanmar's tourism industry and ensure its long-term sustainable development. In addition, they should make creative and innovative efforts to promote the growth of the tourism sector and attract international visitors to explore Myanmar's unique and outstanding destinations through various ways and means.

Primarily, to accelerate the recovery and development of the tourism industry, efforts must be made to develop tourism products tailored to individual destinations and systematically identify and promote prominent year-round traditional festivals, ethnic New Year celebrations, traditional cultural events, destinations showcasing cultural heritage, and travel itineraries that appeal to tourists. These initiatives should be pursued to promote economic growth in both the State and private sectors.

Furthermore, efforts should focus on formulating tourism promotion plans for each region and state; identifying and promoting prominent year-round festivals and developing new tourism products tailored to individual destinations; issuing travel advisories for each region and state; and encouraging hotel and tourism associations to strengthen joint promotional activities in cooperation with state-owned media and television channels.

Greater emphasis should also be placed on expanding and improving the use of online booking services, e-ticketing systems and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. In addition, handicraft and artistic industries that can attract international tourists should be expanded and developed through innovation, thereby supporting the growth of the tourism industry alongside other business activities.

To promote the development of the tourism industry, the Myanmar Tourism Federation and its affiliated associations must strive to achieve progress in their respective sectors while working together to address and overcome prospects, existing challenges and forthcoming tasks. Only through such collective efforts can the socioeconomic well-being of local entrepreneurs and communities who depend on tourism-related businesses be strengthened and improved.

Primarily, to accelerate the recovery and development of the tourism industry, efforts must be made to develop tourism products tailored to individual destinations and systematically identify and promote prominent year-round traditional festivals, ethnic New Year celebrations, traditional cultural events, destinations showcasing cultural heritage, and travel itineraries that appeal to tourists. These initiatives should be pursued to promote economic growth in both the State and private sectors.

ARTICLE

The Wealth of Ideas: Between Ambition and Contentment

By U Khin Maung Myint

A few years ago, I attended an evening gathering where academic achievement and entrepreneurial success shared the same dinner table. Coffee had arrived, and conversation had reached that pleasant stage when solving the world's problems seemed easier than settling the bill.

One gentleman turned to me.

"Khin, if you could turn your ideas into money, you would be a rich man."

"How?" I asked.

"You have ideas about technology, education, business and social development. There must be a fortune hidden among them."

"Possibly," I replied. "Unfortunately, every time I have a good idea, I give it away free at gatherings like this."

The table erupted in laughter.

"Then charge an admission fee," someone suggested.

"Dangerous," I said. "Once people pay, they may expect the ideas to work."

For the rest of the evening, every suggestion prompted a warning: "Careful! Another of Khin's million-pound ideas is escaping."

Behind the laughter, however, lay a question: must everything valuable become a source of income?

There is nothing wrong with earning money through honest work. A useful idea developed into a business may support families, create jobs and improve lives. A sound educational proposal may open doors for children. An innovation in healthcare may relieve suffering. Financial reward can be a fair return for effort, skill and responsibility.

Nor does Buddhism require us to abandon aspiration. The wish to learn, build and serve can give life purpose. The difficulty begins when aspiration becomes craving – when achievement loses its satisfaction because another achievement must immediately follow.

Ambition can help us climb a mountain. Greed persuades us that no summit is high enough. Eventually, we become so occupied with climbing that we forget to enjoy the view or notice whom we have left behind.

In Buddhist thought, Lobha, or greed, extends beyond the desire for money. We may crave recognition, influence, praise or the pleasure of always being considered clever. Even a man who gives away his ideas may quietly hope that everyone remembers whose ideas they were.

That thought gives me a useful reason to smile at myself.

We can become attached to being generous, just as we can become attached to being wealthy. The outward act may look admirable while the mind is still waiting for applause. Examining our motives therefore matters as much as counting our achievements.

Contentment, known in Buddhist teaching as **Santuṭṭhi**, offers a way to appreciate what is sufficient while continuing to do worthwhile work. We can improve our circumstances without making our peace of mind depend upon every improvement.

A contented teacher may still prepare a better lesson. A contented doctor may still seek a better treatment. A contented entrepreneur may still build a useful enterprise. Their efforts can arise from care and purpose without being driven by a constant sense of personal inadequacy.

Generosity, too, extends beyond the purse. We can share knowledge, encouragement, attention and time. An idea freely offered may help someone in ways we never discover. Its value need not disappear simply because our name is absent from the result.

Yet sharing an idea and bringing it to fruition are different achievements.

It is a shame that so many promising ideas turn to nothing – warmly welcomed in conversation, then quietly forgotten. Some disappear for lack of resources or opportunity. Others fade because nobody accepts responsibility for the next step. Occasionally, we enjoy discussing a possibility so much that discussion itself becomes a substitute for action.

> *Contentment should not become an excuse for inaction, any more than ambition should become a servant of greed. We need enough aspiration to begin, enough discipline to continue and enough wisdom to recognize when a plan should change.*

A seed cannot grow on admiration alone. It needs soil, water and someone willing to tend it.

Ideas require similar care: a clear purpose, practical judgement, cooperation and patient effort. They also require humility. What sounds brilliant over coffee may reveal serious weaknesses in daylight. Listening, testing and revising are part of giving an idea a fair chance.

Contentment should not become an excuse for inaction, any more than ambition should become a servant of greed. We need enough aspiration to begin, enough discipline to continue and enough wisdom to recognize when a plan should change.

Looking back, I cannot say whether a fortune escaped across that dinner table. Perhaps some of the ideas were worth considerably less than the coffee.

But the laughter was genuine, the friendship was valuable, and the conversation reminded me that wealth takes many forms.

I went home grateful for an evening well spent. That was enough to appreciate – but perhaps one of those ideas deserved to come home with a plan.

Key Criteria for Selecting Vocabulary Items

By Maung Maung Aye

Vocabulary selection is an important part of language teaching because learners cannot learn every word in a language. Therefore, teachers need to select vocabulary items carefully according to learners' needs, levels, and communicative purposes. Although word frequency is an important consideration, it should not be the only criterion. Five key principles can guide vocabulary selection: teachability, availability, coverage, defining power, and similarity. These criteria help teachers choose vocabulary that is useful, learnable, and appropriate for effective language Key Criteria for Selecting Vocabulary Items.

Teachability refers to the practical ease with which a word or lexical item can be presented, explained, and practised in the classroom. It concerns the degree to which a word is suitable for classroom instruction, including how easily its meaning can be conveyed, how simple its form is to produce, and how effectively it can be presented in context.

One important factor in teachability is concreteness. Concrete words, such as apple, car, and run, are highly teachable because their meanings can be demonstrated through real objects, pictures, actions, or gestures. In contrast, abstract words such as integrity and existential are more difficult to teach because they usually require longer linguistic explanations.

Another important factor is formal simplicity. Short and phonetically regular words, such as cat and sit, are generally easier for learners to pronounce, remember, and use than longer words with difficult consonant clusters, such as squirrel, sixth, and breached. The simpler the form of a word, the easier it is for teachers to introduce and practise it effectively.

Conceptual basis is also important in determining teachability. Words that express concepts already understood by learners in their native language are usually easier to teach than words connected with unfamiliar cultural concepts. When new vocabulary can be related to learners' existing knowledge and experience, understanding and retention are likely to be improved.

Availability refers to how readily a word comes to a speaker's mind when the speaker needs to communicate in a particular situation. It is not necessarily related to how frequently a word occurs in written texts. A word may be relatively uncommon in a general corpus but highly important in a particular communicative situation.

Availability can therefore be understood as the psychological availability of a word for a specific communicative need. For example, words that learners need when travelling, dealing with emergencies, or interacting in the classroom may be more important than words that are simply frequent in general written language.

One important consideration is situational necessity. Words such as ticket and platform are highly useful and readily needed in travel situations. In comparison, terms such as departure lounge may be more relevant to learners who travel frequently or have more advanced communicative needs.

Another consideration is psychological salience. Words that are immediately needed for basic survival and everyday communication, such as help, toilet, pain, and water, are highly available because speakers naturally need to recall them quickly in particular situations.

> *One important factor in coverage is polysemy, which refers to the ability of a word to have several related meanings. Words with a high degree of polysemy can provide greater coverage. For example, the verb get has many meanings, including obtain, become, understand, and arrive.*

Coverage is a criterion for evaluating the usefulness of a word according to its ability to cover several meanings or replace more specific words. It refers to the extent to which a word can be used in different contexts and express different meanings. Words with high coverage are often regarded as part of the core vocabulary.

One important factor in coverage is polysemy, which refers to the ability of a word to have several related meanings. Words with a high degree of polysemy can provide greater coverage. For example, the verb get has many meanings, including obtain, become, understand, and arrive. Teaching get can therefore give learners access to many communicative functions that might otherwise require several different verbs.

Another factor is generality. General words such as thing, do, good, and place can be used to fill gaps when learners do not know more specific vocabulary. Although these words may sometimes be less precise, they are useful because they can function in a wide range of situations.

Collocational range is also important. Words that combine naturally with many other words generally provide better coverage. For example, make can be combined with a mistake, a decision, money, and noise. In contrast, a word such as whinny has a much more restricted range because it is mainly associated with horses.

Defining power is a metalinguistic principle used to determine which words are particularly important for explaining the meanings of other words. It refers to the ability of a word to be used in definitions. Words with high defining power are commonly used in learner dictionaries to explain less familiar vocabulary. One important consideration is semantic primitives. These are basic concepts that are difficult to define without using other basic words. Examples include thing, live, feel, know, good, bad, and before. Such words are fundamental because learners can use them to understand explanations of more complex vocabulary.

Another consideration is the principle used in learner dictionaries. Many learner dictionaries use a restricted defining vocabulary consisting of approximately 2,000-3,000 high-frequency words. When learners know these basic words, they are better able to understand dictionary definitions and work out the meanings of unfamiliar vocabulary independently.

Defining power also contributes to learner autonomy. When learners have a strong knowledge of defining vocabulary, they can use language they already know to ask questions such as, "What does X mean?" and understand explanations without always depending on their teacher or translation. This enables learners to become more independent in vocabulary learning.

Similarity is another useful principle for selecting vocabulary items. Words that are similar to vocabulary learners already know may be easier to learn because learners can connect the new words with their existing linguistic knowledge. Similarity may involve meaning, form, pronunciation, or the relationship between words. For example, words that belong to the same semantic field can be taught together because their meanings are related. Similarly, words with related forms may help learners recognize patterns and remember new vocabulary. However, teachers need to be careful with words that look or sound similar but have different meanings, because such similarities can sometimes confuse.

In conclusion, effective vocabulary selection should be based on some important criteria rather than frequency alone. Teachability ensures that words can be easily presented and learned. Meanwhile, availability focuses on words needed for particular communicative situations. Coverage helps learners use words across different contexts, and defining power helps them understand the meanings of unfamiliar words. Finally, similarity helps learners connect new vocabulary with words they already know. Therefore, considering these five criteria can help teachers develop a practical, useful, and learner-centred vocabulary syllabus.

HEALTH/TECH/ENVIRON

WORLD

Ahead of COP31, Brazil offers a global fossil fuel exit roadmap

LAST year's UN climate summit host Brazil released Tuesday a roadmap for countries to transition away from fossil fuels, saying the endeavour was "necessary, urgent and yet possible" as nations prepare for next week's COP31 conference.

The COP30 conference in the Amazon city of Belem in 2025 ended with a final agreement that failed to explicitly mention fossil fuels after fierce opposition from major oil producers such as Saudi Arabia and Russia.

As an alternative, the Brazilian hosts offered to launch a roadmap for countries to shift away from oil, gas and goal on a voluntary basis.

"Taken together, the evidence and analysis in this Roadmap lead the COP30 Presidency to a clear conclusion that transitioning away from fossil fuels is urgent, inevitable and yet possible," the text released Tuesday says.



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (C) speaks alongside Environment Minister Marina Silva (R) and COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago during a press conference at the COP30 UN Climate Change Conference in Belem, Para state, Brazil, on 19 November 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

The document, however, acknowledges that "there is no unique solution for this complex puzzle" and that countries tailor measures suited to their circumstances.

The roadmap proposes a "collective agenda" in three phases, from 2028 to 2033, during which countries should draw up plans and transform their energy systems.

Nearly 200 nations adopted a landmark text at the COP28 summit in Dubai in 2023 that called for "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems".

"The transition is inevitable, so start planning now and as soon as possible, because this will be good for your country, for your society, for your economy," COP30 chief executive Ana Toni said in a media briefing.

But current policies and plans that have been announced so far "still leave the world short of the energy outcomes agreed in Dubai", the COP30 presidency document says.

COP31, which begins on Monday in Turkish Mediterranean resort Antalya, is not expected to produce major breakthroughs.

Instead, COP31 president Türkiye and Australia, which is steering the negotiations, are championing a voluntary programme aimed at boosting "electrification".

Toni said the fossil fuel roadmap would be discussed in Antalya on 10 November. — AFP

Global cervical cancer cases, deaths forecast to rise by 2050: study

GLOBAL cervical cancer cases and deaths are forecast to increase by 20.2 per cent and 39.3 per cent, respectively, by 2050, despite the condition being largely preventable, new research has found.

Australian and international researchers analyzed cervical cancer incidence, deaths, and health loss across 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2023 and modelled trends to 2050, according to a summary of the study on the Australian Science Media Centre website on Tuesday.

An estimated 887,000 new cases and 369,000 deaths occurred worldwide in 2023. By 2050, annual cases are forecast to rise 20.2 per cent from 2024 levels to 1.08 million, while deaths are forecast to rise 39.3 per cent to 522,000, according to the modelling study published in Nature Medicine.

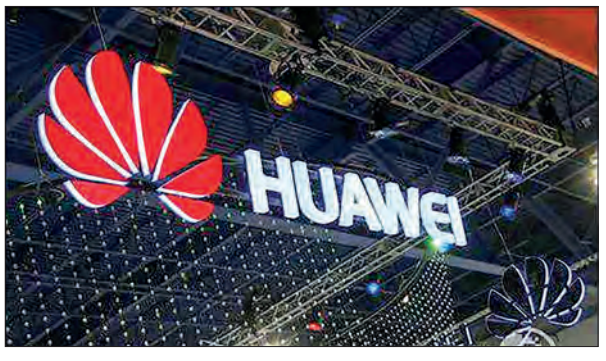
Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to face the largest increases, with cases projected to rise by 88.7 per cent and deaths by 95.4 per cent, reaching an estimated 206,000 deaths in 2050, the findings showed.

The study found that none of the seven global regions assessed is forecast to meet the World Health Organization's cervical cancer elimination threshold of fewer than four cases per 100,000 women by 2050 if current trends continue.

The authors called for greater access to human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, screening and treatment. However, access to these measures varies widely around the world.

In 2023, the age-standardized incidence rate of cervical cancer was more than four times higher in low-income countries than in high-income countries, while the mortality rate was more than seven times higher, according to the study. — Xinhua

Huawei launches programme to boost Zambia's AI capacity in public services



The logo of China's tech giant Huawei. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE tech giant Huawei on Monday launched a capacity-building program in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, to strengthen the country's ability to develop and apply artificial intelligence (AI) in public services.

In collaboration with the Smart Zambia Institute, a government agency, Huawei organized a program themed "Empowering Zambia's AI Future: From Strategy to Practice," gathering government officials, policymakers, and technical experts for discussions and practical sessions on AI applications in public institutions.

According to Huawei, the program will cover multiple areas, including the national AI strategy, large language models, AI-powered data centres, prompt engineering, retrieval-augmented generation and AI agents.

Addressing the event, Percy Chinyama, national coordinator of the Smart Zambia Institute, said AI could accelerate the government's digital transformation agenda by reducing reliance on paper-based systems, improving data management and supporting informed decision-making.

Chinyama urged government officials to embrace AI to improve efficiency and service delivery, with a focus on practical solutions to challenges affecting economic growth and the livelihoods of Zambians.

Yang Hebin, chairperson of Huawei's Southern African Multi-Country Board, said the initiative reflected the company's commitment to supporting Zambia's digital transformation through investment in technology and human capital development.

AI could offer Zambia an opportunity to accelerate national development by improving productivity and service delivery across various sectors, Yang added. — Xinhua

NASA's Swift Observatory to re-enter Earth's atmosphere

NASA'S Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere on Wednesday, nearly 22 years after its launch, NASA said in a statement on Monday.

Launched in 2004, Swift was the first-of-its-kind multiwavelength observatory designed to study gamma-ray bursts, some of the universe's most powerful explosions, using its three telescopes.

As of Monday, the US Space Force predicted that the roughly 3,200-pound (1,450-kilogramme) spacecraft would re-enter the atmosphere at around 3:30 am Eastern Time (0830 GMT) Wednesday, with an uncertainty window of 11 hours.

NASA expects most of the spacecraft to burn up as it travels through the atmosphere, but some components are expected to survive re-entry.

Depending on the timing of re-entry, any surviving debris could land in areas between 20.6 degrees south and 20.6 degrees north, while the risk of harm to anyone on Earth is very low, estimated at approximately one in 2,100, according to NASA.

NASA had sought to extend Swift's operational life through a commercial spacecraft servicing mission, but the effort was scaled back to technology demonstrations after the servicing spacecraft encountered technical problems and ran low on fuel. – Xinhua

Silver-haired Chinese take up AI, video editing and drones

ZHAO Minghui, 71, took notes of the tutor's guidance with a pen, listing how to use artificial intelligence (AI) applications on her smartphone.

"We may be getting older, but we still want to keep up with the times," said Zhao after the class at Ningxia University for the Elderly in northwest China.

Zhao used to ask her children for help with her smartphone. After enrolling in the university's classes, she learned to send WeChat messages, make mobile payments, book tickets and medical appointments, and edit short videos, all on her smartphone. This year, she registered for the AI course. Instructor Yu Cheng recalled that roughly 60 to 70 per cent of his students could not use smartphones back in 2019 when he started teaching there. Today, he rarely encounters such students.



This undated photo shows the elderly taking a short video production class at Ningxia University for the Elderly in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"Type in a sentence, and it can generate text or pictures," said the amazed Zhao, who now uses AI for answering questions and even chatting when she feels bored. Across China, universities for the elderly are offering AI, video production and drone photography courses, helping retirees handle everyday tasks more easily, keep in touch with family or simply try something new.

China had more than 323 million people aged 60 and above by 2025, accounting for 23 per cent of its population. However, only 53.7 per cent of that age group were internet users, compared with a national internet penetration rate of 80.1 per cent, official figures showed. — Xinhua

China, Mozambique hold short video competition to mark longstanding friendship

AN award ceremony for a short video competition themed "United Hearts, Shared Dreams: China and Mozambique" was held Monday in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, celebrating the longstanding friendship between the two countries and encouraging people-to-people exchanges through creative storytelling.

Organized by the Confucius Institute at Eduardo Mondlane University with support from the Chinese Embassy in Mozambique, the competition was part of activities marking the 2026 China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges.

The competition attracted more than 100 video submissions from participants of diverse backgrounds, including students, journalists, businesspeople and local employees of Chinese businesses.

The entries highlighted various aspects of China-Mozambique cooperation, including landmark projects such as the Maputo-Katembe Bridge and the Mozambique-China Cultural Centre, as well as personal experiences of learning Chinese and everyday interactions between people of the two countries. — Xinhua

Stolen Audemars Piguet watch returned to store in Tokyo shopping complex

AN Audemars Piguet wristwatch stolen from a store in a shopping complex in Tokyo's Nakano Ward last week has been returned via courier, investigative sources said Monday.

A package containing the luxury watch and an apology note arrived at the Nakano Broadway shopping complex store on Sunday morning from Aichi Prefecture, according to the sources. The watch's identification number matched that of the stolen item, and investigators found no significant damage.

The sender's name was written on the package, but Tokyo police suspect it may have been a false name. — Kyodo



Investigators inspect the area near a watch store in the Nakano Broadway shopping complex in Tokyo on 29 October 2026 following a theft at the store.
PHOTO: KYODO

Handicraft festival opens in Vientiane

THE opening ceremony of the 25th Lao Handicraft Festival 2026 took place in Lao capital Vientiane on Monday. This year's event features more than 200 booths showcasing handicrafts from across the country, alongside international exhibitors from Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and Japan. Visitors can explore a wide range of products, including textiles, jewellery, basketry, pottery, wood carvings, traditional foods and herbal products, while watching demonstrations of traditional skills such as silk weaving, cotton spinning and silversmithing. — Xinhua

Egypt's Grand Egyptian Museum launches immersive "Eternal Sun" light experience

EGYPT'S Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) launched an immersive light-and-sound experience on Sunday, offering visitors a new way to explore the country's ancient civilization through modern visual and audio technology.

The launch coincides with the first anniversary of the museum's official opening. Titled "Eternal Sun", the 35-minute show takes visitors on an audio-visual journey through ancient Egyptian history, drawing inspiration from natural cycles such as sunrise and sunset, the Nile's annual flooding and harvest seasons, which shaped ancient Egyptians' relationship with their natural environment.



An immersive light and sound experience titled "Eternal Sun" is staged at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt, 1 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

With architectural projection mapping, dynamic lighting, live music, and storytelling in Arabic and English, the project transforms the museum's Grand Hall into an immersive stage. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Thailand to raise excise tax on imported EVs to 35% from 2027



A man walks past an electric vehicle (EV) charging plug of South Korean automaker KIA during the 2026 Bangkok International Motor Show at the Impact Arena convention venue in Bangkok on 25 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

THAILAND will raise the excise tax on imported battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) and range-extended electric vehicles (REEVs) to 35 per cent from 1 January 2027, the government said on Tuesday. The move aims to protect the domestic auto industry and draw investment into local production. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas said the cabinet approved the change at a meeting held in the northeastern province of Udon Thani. Imported BEVs are currently taxed at 10 per cent and imported REEVs at 15 per cent.

BEVs run only on battery power and are driven by electric motors. REEVs combine fuel and electric power, can be plugged in to charge, and are driven only by electric motors.

The change follows decisions by the National Electric Vehicle Policy Committee, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. The committee wanted to encourage local production of key vehicle parts and keep the industry stable as it faces more competition from imported cars that are not in government incentive schemes. Ekniti said the goal is to strengthen the production chain, create jobs for Thai workers, and upgrade their skills while helping the domestic automotive industry move beyond its traditional manufacturing base and become a regional and global hub for making and exporting green vehicles.

The move would make competition fairer for cars built in Thailand and encourage investment in local EV production, he noted, adding that domestic carmakers and parts suppliers would benefit directly through higher production and employment across the supply chain, making the Thai auto and parts industry more competitive. — Xinhua

US stocks mixed as markets await midterm results

WALL Street stocks were mixed early Tuesday in cautious trading ahead of midterm US election results as Apple retreated following earnings.

Political analysts expect President Donald Trump's Republican party to lose at least one of the two congressional chambers and possibly both. Investors are also contending with conflicting signs on the state of the Middle East war, with Trump confirming new strikes on Iran at the same time the United States and Iran have revived diplomacy efforts. About 10 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.5 per cent at 51,723.37.

The broad-based S&P 500 climbed 0.3 per cent to 7,559.95, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index advanced 0.6 per cent to 25,312.83. — AFP



A view of the exterior of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City on 19 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ferrari reports 13% rise in net profit on year

ITALIAN luxury car brand Ferrari on Tuesday reported net profit of 431 million euros ($482 million) in the third quarter, 13 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The company said net revenue also rose by seven per cent year-on-year to 1.896 billion euros, saying an increase in car personalizations had helped "robust financial growth".

"Our order book now reaches into 2028," Ferrari chief executive Benedetto Vigna said in a statement.

"Building on this solid foundation, we are further raising our full-year guidance," he said. Ferrari said it expected ts adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) to rise to at least three billion euros in 2026 — slightly up from a previous forecast of 2.97 billion. — AFP

Tunisia's aerospace sector expands as exports, investment grow

TUNISIA'S aerospace sector has expanded, with more than 85 Tunisian and foreign companies as well as over 20,000 people, amid growing exports and investment, the country's senior official said Tuesday.

Hatem Soussi, central director at the Tunisian Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, told Tunisian National Radio that the North African country has one of the world's highest proportions of university graduates in engineering and technology.

Sector exports reached about 1.74 billion Tunisian dinars (around US$582 million) in 2025, growing at an average annual rate of 20.4 per cent over the past four years, he said. — Xinhua

Pfizer reports lower profits but lifts forecast

PFIZER reported lower profits Tuesday but raised its full-year forecast as it pointed to boosted sales from pharma assets added from acquisitions in recent years.

The drugmaker, which has closed major deals with smaller companies specializing in oncology and obesity treatments, reported profits of $3.2 billion in the third quarter, down eight per cent from the year-ago level. Revenues were down less than one per cent to $16.6 billion.

Pfizer's results in recent quarters have been hit by lower sales from COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, but it has compensated with higher sales of other legacy drugs and those acquired in corporate deals.

Pfizer said sales of acquired products grew 37 per cent operationally in the quarter.

Products seeing significant revenue increases included the blood thinner Eliquis; Nurtec migraine medication; and cancer drug Lorbrena. Pfizer increased research and development spending in the third quarter compared with a year ago and also had higher restructuring costs. — AFP



The Pfizer logo is seen outside the company's headquarters on 8 August 2025 in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Apple reports revenue, net income growth in Q4



Attendees view the new touchscreen MacBook Pro at the Apple "Pro and Tell" event on 28 October 2026 in Los Angeles, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

US technology giant Apple reported Monday that its fiscal fourth-quarter revenue rose 11.7 per cent year on year to US$114.48 billion, while net income increased 11.8 per cent to $30.71 billion, driven by strong sales of iPhones and Mac computers.

According to the company's financial results for the quarter ended 26 September, operating income rose 9.9 per cent to $35.63 billion from $32.43 billion a year earlier. Diluted earnings per share increased to $2.1 from $1.85, while the company's gross margin was 47.9 per cent.

Revenue from Apple's iPhone business increased 17.5 per cent year on year to $57.58 billion, while Mac revenue jumped 23.7 per cent to $10.79 billion.

However, iPad revenue declined 10.4 per cent to $6.23 billion, and revenue from wearables, home products and accessories fell 7.9 per cent to $8.3 billion.

Apple's Services business generated revenue of $31.57 billion, up 9.8 per cent year on year, setting a new all-time record.

Apple's revenue in the Greater China region rose 21.02 per cent year on year to $17.54 billion. Revenue in the Americas reached $48.68 billion, while revenue in Europe totalled $32.01 billion.

Apple CEO John Ternus said the company achieved September-quarter records for total revenue and iPhone sales. — Xinhua

China's roles as global seller, buyer go hand in hand: German trade fair group CEO

CHINA is both a major source of products and innovation and a highly significant market for international companies, Peter Ottmann, CEO of Germany's NuernbergMesse Group, said in a recent interview with Xinhua, adding that "these two roles belong together".

Ottmann is leading a business delegation from NuernbergMesse Group, a major player in the international trade fair industry, to the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE), scheduled to take place from 5 to 10 November in Shanghai in east China.

"Our debut at CIIE this year comes at a particularly meaningful moment: NuernbergMesse is celebrating 20 years in the Chinese market, where we established our first overseas subsidiary," Ottmann told Xinhua.

Headquartered in Nuremberg, Germany, NuernbergMesse Group has 15 subsidiaries and affiliated companies in countries including Austria, Italy, China and India, as well as a network of exhibition representatives spanning more than 100 countries and regions. The group organizes over 150 trade fairs and exhibitions worldwide each year.



This photo taken on 2 November 2026 shows a view of the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai), the main venue for the China International Import Expo (CIIE), in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Through its participation in Shanghai, the group aims to strengthen connections between Chinese and international industries, help Chinese enterprises expand into overseas markets, facilitate the introduction of international industry resources into China, and promote two-way trade and economic cooperation.

"CIIE gives us an excellent platform to present the NuernbergMesse Group, our international network, and our refreshed global brand appearance directly to China," Ottmann said. — Xinhua

Britain's manufacturing PMI rises to 5-month high in Oct

BRITAIN'S manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to a five-month high in October, as output growth accelerated and new orders increased, S&P Global data showed Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI stood at 52.8 in October, up from 51.9 in September. The survey was conducted from 12 to 27 October and closed before Britain's Autumn Budget statement on 28 October.

Manufacturing production rose for the seventh successive month in October, with the rate of expansion hitting a 25-month-high. New orders rose at the fastest pace since July as manufacturers reported stronger demand from domestic and overseas markets. However, the expansion in output and new orders did not translate into further employment growth. Hiring stalled after increasing for six consecutive months amid concerns about possible policy changes, Rob Dobson, director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said. — Xinhua

Brunei companies strengthen long-term partnership to boost urea export logistics

BRUNEI Fertilizer Industries (BFI) and Muara Port Company (MPC) have further strengthened their long-standing partnership through an exchange of agreements aimed at enhancing logistics services and terminal operations to support BFI's granular urea export activities.

According to the official media Pelita Brunei on Tuesday, the partnership is expected to extend economic benefits to local companies while contributing to the development of the country's logistics sector capabilities and capacity.

It also supports the development of the country's downstream industrial sector. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0107N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0107N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2026** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0416N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0416N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2026** 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.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Chinese Lijian-2 rocket launches new group of satellites



A Lijian-2 Y2 carrier rocket carrying a new satellite group blasts off from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China, 3 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA successfully launched a Lijian-2 Y2 carrier rocket from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China on Tuesday.

Lifting off at 8:15 am (Beijing Time), the rocket sent 18 satellites of the Spacesail Constellation into planned orbit, with these forming part of China's commercial low-orbit satellite network. This successful launch marks the first time the Lijian-2 has carried out a large-scale satellite internet constellation deployment mission. The Lijian-2 is a liquid-fuelled carrier rocket independently developed by CAS Space. It is China's first launch vehicle featuring a "universal booster core" configuration, with a payload capacity of 8 tonnes to a 500-kilometre sun-synchronous orbit and 12 tonnes to a 200-kilometre low Earth orbit. — Xinhua

US strikes Iran's Qeshm Island near Strait of Hormuz

THE United States attacked Iran's strategic Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing US officials. The attacks were the latest in "a series of limited strikes Washington has secretly carried out against the country in recent weeks as President Trump touted the possibility of a diplomatic deal", the report said. — Xinhua

EU says supermarket cyberattacks not isolated, investigations ongoing



This photograph shows empty refrigerators in a Delhaize supermarket in Boortmeerbeek some 30 kilometres from Brussels on 2 November 2026 following an IT incident. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE European Commission said Tuesday that recent cyberattacks affecting supermarket refrigeration systems across several European Union (EU) countries were not isolated incidents, while stressing that national investigations were ongoing and that it was too early to attribute responsibility.

Commission spokesperson Thomas Regnier told a midday press briefing that the Commission was in direct contact with member states and relevant national authorities and had convened two coordination meetings Tuesday morning.

"I would be extremely careful when it comes to attributions. It's not for us to do for now," Regnier said when asked about possible foreign involvement.

He said the incidents underscored the need for collective resilience and preparedness, showing how cyberattacks could disrupt essential services and affect citizens' daily lives. — Xinhua



(COMBO) This combination of images taken on 2 November 2026 and released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 3 November 2026 shows a cruise missile in flight and detonation during a demonstration conducted by the DPRK's General Missile Bureau at an undisclosed location in North Korea. **PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS / AFP**

DPRK tests dispersal warhead of strategic cruise missile: KCNA

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has tested a dispersal warhead for a strategic cruise missile, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Tuesday.

The DPRK Missile Administration conducted what it described as the "major weapon system" tests on Monday to assess the warhead's power and its flight characteristics for vertical strike, the report said.

The medium-sized dispersal warhead mounted on the cruise missile is "capable of turning into ashes a target area of five to six hectares with its highest-density power", the Warhead Institute affiliated with the Missile Administration was quoted as saying in its assessment.

The Cruise Missile System Institute of the Missile Administration noted it had perfected the weapon system's capability to deliver a vertical strike by improving the cruise missile's terminal maneuverability, taking into consideration the natural and geographical characteristics of the targeted area, the report said.

The general director of the Missile Administration said the DPRK's armed forces should defend the country's security and deter all sorts of threats, calling Monday's tests part of "routine scientific research to increase the power of combat systems", the report added. — Xinhua

Cambodia traffic accidents claim over 1,300 lives in first 10 months of 2026

ROAD traffic accidents killed at least 1,307 people in Cambodia during the January-October period of 2026, according to a National Police report released on Tuesday.

In October alone, traffic fatalities claimed 147 lives, averaging nearly five deaths per day. "Most of the crashes resulted from speeding and failing to yield the right-of-way," Interior Minister Sar Sokha said in a social media post, noting that nighttime driving accounted for the majority of the incidents.

Deputy National Police Chief Lieutenant-General Chev Hak recently highlighted that motorcyclists comprised the vast majority of casualties, with roughly 70 per cent of those victims failing to wear safety helmets. – Xinhua

LOCAL SPORTS

Inter-State/Region billiards, snooker competition continues

THE 2026 Inter-Region and State Billiards and Snooker Competition continued at the National Sports Stadium 1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, to raise the standard of billiards and snooker and develop a new generation of athletes.

The competition is being organized by the Ministry of Sports in cooperation with the Sports and Physical Education Department, the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation and the Yangon Region government.

Yesterday's events featured men's and women's 6-Red Snooker and 9-Ball Pool, as well as men's 15-Red Snooker and billiards competitions.

In the men's 15-Red Snooker matches, Kaung Zan Htet of Magway Region defeated Ye Yint Hmu of Mon State 3-2, while Naing Win of Yangon Region beat Than Zaw Htun of Ayeyawady Region 3-1. Aung Nyi Nyi Maung of Yangon Region defeated Kaba Lin of Shan State 3-2, and Mann Hein Kyaw of Mandalay Region beat Nyein Pyae Phyo of Bago Region 3-2.



A cue-sports player competes in the Inter-State/Region Billiards and Snooker Competition in Yangon.

In men's 6-Red Snooker, Ko Ko Chit of Kayin State defeated Aung Naing Soe of Yangon Region 4-3. Shan Htun Aung of Chin State beat Kyaw Swa Lin of Ayeyawady Region 4-2, while Min Si Thu Tun of Mandalay Region defeated Ye Htut Naing of Ayeyawady Region by the same score. Thura Zaw of Yangon Region also beat Phi Ei of Shan State 4-3.

In men's 9-Ball Pool, Sai Kwan Maing of Shan State defeated Aung Myint of Kachin State 9-7, while Aung Phyo of Yangon Region beat Khant Min Htun of Sagaing Region by the same score.

In men's billiards, Kyaw Swa Win of Ayeyawady Region defeated Zaw Lin Nu of Chin State 3-0, while Win Ko Ko of Mandalay Region beat Thi Han Soe of Sagaing Region by the same score.

In the women's 6-Red Snooker matches, Phyu Sin Aung of Mandalay Region defeated San San Maw of Yangon Region 3-0, while Amy Aung of Yangon Region beat Aye Aye Myat of Shan State by the same score.

In women's 9-Ball Pool, Khon San of Shan State defeated Nwe Ni Lin of Magway Region 5-4. Win Marlar Aung of Mon State beat Tin Myo Hlaing of Chin State 5-0, while Thet Wah Win of Mandalay Region defeated Khin Sandy Lwin of Chin State 5-3. Thanda Toe Aung of Mon State also beat May Chaw of Magway Region 5-4.

The competition will continue at 10 am on 4 November 2026. Members of the public and sports enthusiasts are welcome to attend free of charge. — MNA/KZL

YGN hosts IKO Myanmar Karate Championships

THE IKO Myanmar Kata and Kumite Championships 2026 were held yesterday at MICT Park, Hline University Campus, in Hline Township, Yangon.

IKO Myanmar (International Karate Organization Myanmar) organized the competition, which was opened with remarks by U Min Lwin, an official of the organization.

The competition featured junior and senior divisions, with 16 categories for athletes aged 18 and above. A total of 12 teams from Yangon Region took part, with more than 300 athletes competing, including 170 in men's and women's Kumite and 140 in Kata events.



This photo captures the opening ceremony for the IKO Myanmar Kata & Kumite Championships 2026 in Yangon.

After the competitions, IKO Myanmar officials presented medals to the first-, second- and third-place winners in both the junior and senior divisions.

IKO Myanmar athletes will also compete in an international karate tournament scheduled to take place in Japan in May 2027. Five male and two female athletes under the age of 18 will participate in their respective weight categories. — Bala/KZL

Weightlifting championships continue in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2026 Inter-State and Region Weightlifting Championships continued at the Weightlifting Training Gymnasium of Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, with the aim of raising the standard of weightlifting and developing a new generation of athletes.

The championships are being organized by the Ministry of Sports in cooperation with the Sports and Physical Education Department and the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation.

In the women's 77-kilogramme category, Nan Cherry Phoo of Shan State won first place with a snatch of 65 kilogrammes and a clean and jerk of 80 kilogrammes, giving her a total of 145 kilogrammes. Her teammate Oat Kine Htun finished second with a total of 142 kilogrammes (61 kilogrammes in the snatch and 81 kilogrammes in the clean and jerk), while May Lae Lae Win Hlaing of Yangon Region took third place with a total of 141 kilogrammes (60 kilogrammes and 81 kilogrammes, respectively).

In the men's 75-kilogramme category, Wai Yan Phyo of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory team secured first place with a total of 236 kilogrammes, lifting 100 kilogrammes in the snatch and 136 kilogrammes in the clean and jerk. Shine Nyi Nyi of Yangon Region came second with 235 kilogrammes (100 kilogrammes and 135 kilogrammes), while Zin Min Aung of Taninthayi Region finished third with 226 kilogrammes (95 kilogrammes and 131 kilogrammes).

Wai Yan Phyo also set a new Inter-State and Region record in the men's 75-kilogramme clean and jerk event with a lift of 136 kilogrammes, surpassing the previous record of 134 kilogrammes set by the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation.

The competitions will continue at 10 am on 4 November 2026, featuring men's and women's snatch and clean and jerk events in various weight categories. An awards presentation ceremony will follow the competitions. Members of the public and sports enthusiasts are welcome to attend free of charge. — MNA/KZL



A female weightlifter competes at the 2026 Inter-State and Region Weightlifting Championships.

Chinese Lijian-2 rocket launches new group of satellites

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WORLD

WHO urged to review drinking water standards amid nitrate health fears

DOZENS of global health and environmental organizations called on the World Health Organization on Tuesday to revise decades-old standards for nitrate levels in drinking water, arguing they do not reflect recent scientific evidence about potential health risks.

In an open letter, 85 organizations, including Greenpeace International and the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), called on the United Nations health agency to include nitrate in an upcoming review of its drinking water guidelines.

The toxic effects of nitrates — a residue left behind by intensive farming — are widely recognized as particularly dangerous for children and pregnant women.

But the current WHO guidelines — which set the maximum acceptable nitrate level in drinking water at 50 milligrammes per litre as nitrate or 11.3 milligrammes per litre as nitrate-nitrogen — date back to 1958 and are "outdated", the organizations warned. That level was set specifically to prevent so-called "blue-baby syndrome" — a deadly blood disorder in which the blood's capacity for carrying oxygen is reduced. — AFP



Residents fill containers with drinking water from a tanker truck at an emergency distribution site amid ongoing water shortages in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 15 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

US, Iran reviewing proposals, differences remain — Qatari foreign ministry spokesperson

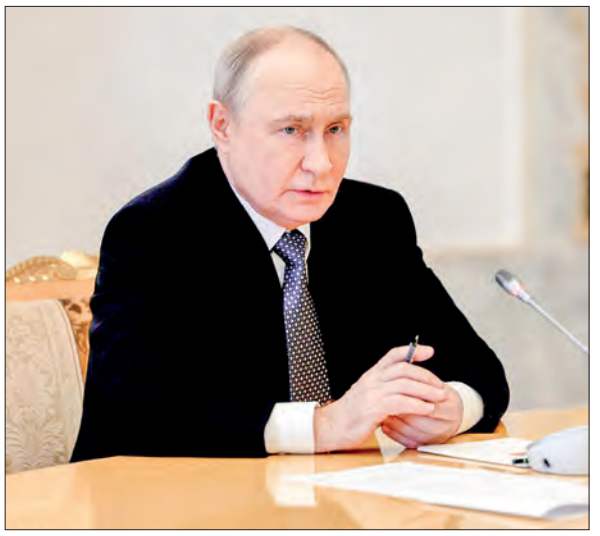
QATAR said Tuesday that the United States and Iran are reviewing proposals aimed at ending their conflict, but differences between the two sides remain unresolved despite continued diplomatic engagement.

"Bridging the gap is still a work in progress," Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari told the ministry's weekly press briefing, confirming that both sides were studying proposals and ideas presented by mediators. Al Ansari said a Qatari delegation had returned from Tehran on Monday evening after more than three hours of talks with Iranian officials, longer than the scheduled one hour. — Xinhua

Russia's political opponents try to reduce its strategic potential – Putin

Russia's political opponents have attempted to reduce its strategic potential and dismember it, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

"All our geopolitical adversaries, opponents, at different times in different ways, once enemies, but all of them have practically attempted to reduce, diminish Russia's strategic potential, and, best of all, dismember it itself," Putin said at a meeting of the Council on Interethnic Relations. The president noted that external forces have always tried to divide Russian society.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff at the Constantine Palace in Strelna, a suburb of Saint Petersburg, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

In recent years, Russia has pointed to unprecedented NATO activity near its western borders.

The alliance is expanding its initiatives, describing them as a means of "deterring Russian aggression". Russia has repeatedly expressed concern over the buildup of NATO forces in Europe. Russia emphasized it posed no threat to anyone, but would not overlook actions that could potentially jeopardize its interests. — SPUTNIK

US voters go to polls with midterms serving as referendum on Trump

US voters headed to the polls Tuesday in midterm elections widely seen as a referendum on President Donald Trump's second term amid concerns over the cost of living and the war in Iran.

Public opinion surveys indicate the opposition Democratic Party is set to regain a majority in the House of Representatives, reflecting voter dissatisfaction with Trump, his Republican Party and their governing record.

In addition to being favoured to win back the House, surveys show Democrats are also mounting a strong challenge for control of the Senate, where they need to pick up at least four additional seats to secure a majority.

All 435 House seats are up for grabs along with 35 of the Senate's 100 seats. Currently, Republicans hold a narrow majority in the House and a 53-47 majority in the Senate.



A voter casts their ballot on 3 November 2026, in Michigan for the US midterm elections. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Traditionally, the party in control of the executive branch tends to lose ground in the midterms, which are held roughly two years into a president's four-year term.

Trump's approval ratings fell to record or near-record lows in the weeks leading up to the elections, with surveys indicating that inflation, gas prices and the cost of living remained top issues for voters amid concern over the stalemated US-Iran war. Republicans faced strong headwinds going into the polls.

The stakes are high for Trump and his administration. A Democratic takeover of the House would make it more difficult for his party to enact legislation and could open the door to aggressive congressional oversight into administration policies and officials.

If Democrats were to win control of the Senate as well, the administration would encounter greater difficulty securing confirmation for judicial and executive-branch nominees.

Some observers say that if Republicans lose control of Congress, Trump, who is constitutionally barred from serving another term, may focus more on foreign policy, an area where presidents wield significant influence and discretion.

Several Senate races have drawn considerable attention. The nonpartisan Cook Political Report has listed seats in Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Ohio and Texas as "toss-ups",meaning either party has a realistic chance of winning. All are currently held by Republicans. — Kyodo