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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Local Development, School Safety



The Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session convenes its 23rd-day sitting in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

The 23rd day of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and parliamentarians. During the session, legislators raised seven starred questions to ministry officials and submitted one motion.

Addressing infrastructure and essential public services, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe said that a proposal to pave a 3.5-furlong eroded section of the Minhla-Hsinytegon Road with concrete will be submitted under the Union capital budget for the 2027-2028 financial year. He added that maintenance will be carried out on the deteriorated 300-foot suspension bridge across the Teikyan Creek in Lahe Township, with a feasibility study planned for 2027-2028 and construction proposed for the 2028-2029 financial year.

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YGEA Suspends Online Gold Registration Renewals Amid Sales Ban

THE Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association has announced that registrations for online gold sales under the mineral (gold) trading service category will not be renewed.

According to the association, a total of 811 online sales registration certificates under the jewellery category were issued between 2 October 2023 and 9 October 2026. Of these, 241 remain valid, while the other 570 have expired.

The association also stated that online sales of gold, raw gold, jewellery and products made from gold or raw gold are temporarily prohibited as part of the Government's efforts to stabilize the prices of the US dollar, gold and cars. Consequently, existing business registrations will not be renewed. However, businesses engaged in the separate sale of gemstones are still being permitted to operate, provided that they sign an undertaking, the association announced.

— ASH/KNN



This image features gold jewellery items on display in the market.

71st Kayin State Day to Unfold in Hpa-an on 7 Nov

THE 71st Kayin State Day will be held in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 7 November, according to the Kayin State government office.

The celebrations will feature a traditional Kayin 'Don' dance competition, a traditional rowing competition, a traditional Lethwei Golden Belt competition, exhibition booths showcasing the activities of Kayin State government ministries, booths displaying regional products produced by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and entertainment programmes.



This photo captures a traditional Kayin 'Don' dance performance during the previous 70th Kayin State Day celebration.

"The traditional Kayin Don dance competition will be held from 5 to 9 November at the Don dance stage at Thiri Ground in Hpa-an, while the traditional rowing

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BRIC Approves 1 Domestic, 2 Foreign Firms

THE Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC) gave a green light to two foreign enterprises and one domestic enterprise in the manufacturing sector with an estimated capital of US$1.857 million and K3.69 billion, according to BRIC's 2/2026 coordination meeting.

Those who have completed People's Military Training will be prioritized for employment in new investment businesses.

The committee will prioritize the businesses designated for export after value-adding agricultural produce and livestock products and import-substitution businesses with local products. BRIC endorses new businesses in accordance with existing rules and regulations. The committee is also endeavouring to spur investments in the region and create more job opportunities for residents.

— ASH/KK



The Bago Region Investment Committee convenes its coordination meeting.

NATIONAL

Public Notice

1. Due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, global fuel prices have increased, affecting transport costs for essential goods distributed by diesel-powered vehicles. To help stabilize prices of basic commodities, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue had previously announced a tax exemption on imported High-Speed Diesel (HSD 500 ppm), including customs duty, special commodity tax, commercial tax, and a two per cent advance income tax, effective from 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026, as published in state-owned newspapers. This tax exemption period has now been extended from 1 October to 30 November 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 30 November 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of HSD (500 ppm).

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. To ensure continuous development of the agricultural sector, which is a key foundation of the State economy, and to reduce production costs for farmers, a two per cent advance income tax on imported fertilizers will be exempted from 1 April to 30 September 2026, and announced in the state-run newspapers. This exemption period has now been extended from 1 October to 30 November 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 30 November 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of fertilizers.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. Due to rising global fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East, the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has also increased. To support power generation and reduce electricity costs, customs duty, commercial tax, and advance income tax on imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be exempted from 1 May to 30 September 2026. Such information has already been announced in state-owned newspapers, and this exemption period has now been extended from 1 October to 30 November 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 30 November 2026 and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of Liquified Natural Gas.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Notification 143/2026

9th Waning of Thadingyut, 1388 ME
4 November 2026

Renaming of Union Ministry

WITH the approval of the third regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small, Medium and Enterprises Development is hereby renamed the Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

(Sd) Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Shwedagon's 38th Matho Robe Weaving to begin on 23 Nov

THE 38th Matho (Overnight) Robe Weaving Competition and Offering Ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon will begin on 23 November, according to the Board of Trustees.

The robe-weaving competition will open at 4 pm on that day with a ceremonial procession at the Rahu corner of the pagoda platform. Altogether, nine teams will compete.

The awards ceremony for the participating teams will take place at 1 am on 24 November (the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone). The first prize will be K4.5 million; the second K4 million; the third K3.5 million; the fourth K3 million, and the consolation prizes (five awards) will be K2 million each.



An image from the 37th Matho Robe Weaving Offering of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

At dawn on the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone, devotees will offer completed Matho robes to Buddha statues at the four archways, the Padamya Myatshin Buddha Image, and other Buddha images across the platform.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees has announced that pilgrims wishing to stay overnight on the pagoda platform during the festival must bring their National Registration Cards. — TWA/ZN

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 4 November 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 5 NOVEMBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Southern Shan State, scattered in Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, eastern Shan States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

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

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, (southern and eastern)Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 NOVEMBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 NOVEMBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 NOVEMBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

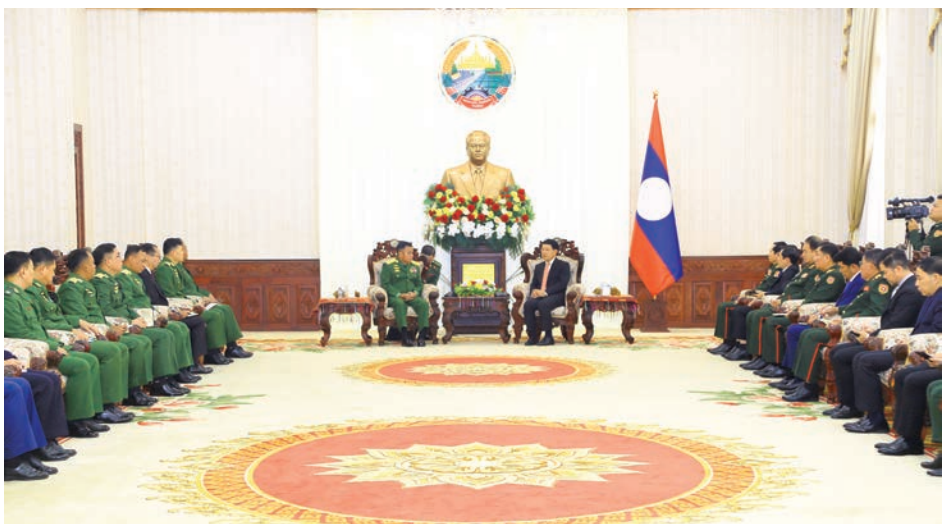
— DMH

NATIONAL

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo pays courtesy call on Lao PM

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, currently in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on his goodwill visit, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Mr Saleumxay Kommasith at the Office of the Prime Minister in Vientiane yesterday morning.

Also present at the call were senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR, and the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air). The Lao PDR Prime Minister was accompanied by officials from the Ministry of National Defence of Lao PDR and senior officers from the Lao People's Army.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Mr Saleumxay Kommasith in Vientiane.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on the great pleasure and honour of the appointment as Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which took effect on 5 October, the official visit paid by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Laos in July, during which he met with the President, Prime Minister and President of the National Assembly of the LPDR and held cordial and frank discussions on matters of mutual benefit to the two countries; and the signing of memorandums of understanding during the visit to further enhance the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation, maintaining peace and stability along the border areas of the two countries and expanding border trade into broader regional trade, enhancement of friendship and cooperation between the governments and armed forces of the two countries, strengthening the cordial relations between the two countries as good neighbours and good friends through mutual understanding, goodwill and sincerity over the 71 years of diplomatic relations, and the Myanmar side's profound gratitude to Laos for its humanitarian assistance following the destruction and losses caused by the major Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025, including the dispatch of rescue and relief teams and the provision of relief supplies for the people of Myanmar,

They also discussed the establishment of the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling at the national level by the Myanmar government on 10 December 2025 to combat these activities with the vigorous efforts, prospects for cooperation between the two countries to ensure peace and stability, security of livelihoods and socioeconomic development for ethnic communities in the border areas, as well as measures to safeguard the labour rights of workers in the border areas of both

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Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Local Development, ...

FROM PAGE 1

Regarding regional electrification, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw explained that power expansion across 21 remaining villages in Pindaya Township has been phased into Shan State capital budgets from 2026-2027 through 2028-2029 and subsequent financial years.

On matters of governance, environment, and land administration, Deputy Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Han Win Aung affirmed that public projects follow statutory parliamentary approvals and Gazette notifications, noting that local authorities consult relevant MPs whenever project locations or specifications shift. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo highlighted ongoing joint efforts with the Kachin State Government to curb illegal gold mining and safeguard Indawgyi Lake's ecosystem. Clarifying land grants in Kyaunggon Township, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu explained that detailed plot surveys for Wards 3, 4, and 5, which were never historically surveyed as town plots, will be submitted under regional funding for 2028–2029 following proper land-use conversions. Maj-Gen Min Thu also clarified that while Law 3/1986 targets assets derived from illegal enterprise or tax evasion, the theft and trading of household goods taken from conflict-affected communities are prosecuted directly under the Penal Code.

Later in the sitting, Dr Hla Tint from Bahan Constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to establish and implement a "Zero-Tolerance Anti-Bullying and School Safety Policy" across basic education schools nationwide to safeguard students' physical and mental well-being. The motion was seconded by U Kyaw San Oo from Pazundaung Constituency and accepted by the Hluttaw for debate. The session was then adjourned until 6 November. — News Team/ST

Defence Services C-in-C attends dinner hosted by Lao Deputy Minister for National Defence and Chief of General Staff Dept

DEPUTY Minister for National Defence and Chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Lt-Gen Saichay Kommasith and his wife hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife at the hall of the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the evening of 3 November.

The dinner was attended by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services together with his wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air). The Lao Deputy Minister and Chief of the General Staff was accompanied by his wife, senior officers from the Lao People's Army and officials.

The General and his wife first arrived at the venue of the dinner, where they were welcomed and greeted by the Deputy Minister of National Defence of Laos and the Chief of the General Staff and his wife.

A dinner was subsequently held, during which the Lao Deputy Minister of National Defence and the Chief of the General Staff delivered welcoming remarks, and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services responded with words of appreciation. They also enjoyed the dinner together. Before and during the dinner, the cultural troupe of the Lao People's Army entertained the guests with musical performances and dances.

After the dinner, the General and his wife presented the flower basket to the cultural troupe of the Lao People's Army and posed for documentary photos. — MNA/TTA



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo and his wife present a flower bouquet to the cultural troupe.

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C stresses importance of loyalty to State and Tatmadaw

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, currently in Laos on his goodwill visit, accompanied by his wife Daw Nilar, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, visited the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Office in Vientiane yesterday afternoon.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo meets the Myanmar Military Attache (Army, Navy and Air), staff members, and trainees in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The Military Attaché, staff and trainees introduced themselves to the General.

At the meeting, the General delivered a speech, saying that Myanmar and Laos are good neighbouring countries, and their leaders have maintained close and friendly relations in the past. As the Military Attaché Office plays an important role in providing diplomatic support for relations between the two countries and facilitating ties between their respective armed forces, personnel assigned to the office are carefully selected through successive assessments of their qualifications, morale and discipline to ensure that those who are loyal to the State and the Tatmadaw are entrusted with the responsibilities.

The General urged the trainees to effectively apply the knowledge and skills they had acquired to the development of their respective countries and areas of bilateral cooperation, strive to become dependable individuals for their countries, and make the most of the valuable international relations experiences gained throughout their service and training periods, adding that they have to remain loyal to the State, the Tatmadaw and their families, guided by their patriotism.

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services ...

FROM PAGE 3

countries, Myanmar's efforts to maintain friendly relations with neighbouring countries and its commitment to 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, Laos' support for the efforts being undertaken under the leadership of the Government to further strengthen peace and stability and promote comprehensive national development, and the Tatmadaw's role, under the leadership of the Government, in safeguarding the Our Three Main National Cause as a national duty.

After the meeting, the General presented an emblem to the Lao Prime Minister.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services visited the Lao People's Army Historical Museum in Vientiane.

The General and party viewed the historical heritage, such as arms and ammunition, military equipment and communication devices used in the Lao war, the leaders of historical wars in Laos, and documents of hero soldiers who bravely fought enemies displayed in the museum. The General signed the guestbook and presented gifts.

The museum was established in 1976 and is a historic site where the histories of fallen military heroes who sacrificed their lives in Laos' struggles for independence and national liberation, along with historical military artefacts, are systematically displayed. — MNA/TTA

300th pair receive kidney transplant at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Hospital

THE 150th kidney transplant operation, marking the 300th pair, was successfully performed at the 1,000-bed Defence Services Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

The operation was carried out by a multidisciplinary medical team, including kidney specialists, vascular surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensive care specialists and skilled nurses.

Both the kidney recipient and donor are reported to be recovering well and receiving continued medical care. The hospital performed its first kidney transplant on 8 August 2016. Kidney transplant operations are also available at Defence Services hospitals in Yangon, PyinOoLwin and Aungban, serving military personnel, their families and locals. — MNA/KTZH



This image shows a kidney transplant surgery in progress at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Hospital, which his achieved its milestone 150th successful kidney transplant.

71st Kayin State Day to Unfold in Hpa-an ...

FROM PAGE 1

competition will take place from 5 to 7 November at Kanthaya Lake in Hpa-an. The Kayin State Day opening ceremony will also be held at the Don dance stage at Thiri Ground on 7 November. Meanwhile, the traditional Lethwei Golden Belt competition will take place at the indoor sports stadium from 7 to 9 November," an official from the Kayin State government office said.

In addition, this year's 71st Kayin State Day celebrations will feature Kayin traditional theatre performances and modern music shows. — ASH/MKKS

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NATIONAL

NSPNC meets UWSP in Panghsan, Shan State

A delegation led by Union Minister for Defence and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae held talks with a delegation led by Vice-Chairman U Kyauk Kaw Ann and comprising senior leaders of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) in Panghsan, Shan State, on 3 November.



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the United Wa State Party (UWSP) meet in Panghsan, Shan State.

During the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said that this was his second visit to Panghsan for talks under the new government. He expressed satisfaction at learning that the people of the Wa region are fellow national brethren who respect the 2008 Constitution and have no intention of seceding from the Union. He assured the attendees that the needs of the region in education, healthcare and transport infrastructure would be coordinated and addressed. He also commended the UWSP for rejecting online fraud operations and actively cooperating with the Government to regulate and suppress such activities, expressing his hope for continued cooperation. He added that, building on more than 30 years of peace established with the Government, efforts would continue to strengthen and consolidate mutual trust.

In response, UWSP Vice-Chairman U Kyauk Kaw Ann said that their political aspirations had been presented during the previous round of talks. He reaffirmed that the UWSP respects and abides by the 2008 Constitution, has no intention of seceding from the Union, and will pursue its objectives strictly through dialogue and negotiation.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing then provided an update on the implementation of directives concerning education, healthcare and regional development issued following the meeting with the President.

The attendees subsequently held cordial and frank discussions on cooperation in eradicating online gambling and illicit drug activities, developing education, healthcare and transport infrastructure, maintaining regional peace and stability, and facilitating the flow of goods. The meeting concluded with an exchange of commemorative gifts and a group photo session, according to news reports. — MNA/TH

Myitkyina holds El Niño awareness session

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted an awareness session on the El Niño phenomenon and the systematic use of drinking water in Palan 4 Yuzanamyaing Village, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, yesterday to prevent potential water resource depletion.

Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nay Thu Yein Sein Hla explained that El Niño conditions could lead to rising temperatures and a reduction in water resources. He urged rural residents to store sufficient drinking water in advance, keep storage tanks clean, conserve and protect existing water resources, and use water systematically without wastage.

Departmental officials also distributed educational pamphlets outlining potential El Niño impacts, preventive preparations and appropriate response measures to the attending residents of Yuzanamyaing Village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



This image displays educational pamphlets being distributed among local communities in Myitkyina Township.

MDDC Dy Minister attends Vietnam International Digital Week 2026

DEPUTY Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Min Zeyar Hlaing attended Vietnam International Digital Week 2026, held in Ha Long City, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam, from 28 to 30 October, and returned to Yangon by air on 30 October.



Deputy Minister U Min Zeyar Hlaing joins the opening ceremony of the Vietnam International Digital Week 2026.

On the morning of 28 October, the deputy minister attended the opening ceremony at the Muong Thanh Luxury Ha Long Centre. Mr Nguyen Van Cong, Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, delivered the welcoming speech, while Mr Vu Hai Quan, Vietnam's Minister of Science and Technology, gave the opening address.

The deputy minister also addressed a ministerial round-table discussion entitled "Advancing Smart Connectivity, AI Governance and Enabling AI Transformation". He highlighted the importance of digital transformation to socioeconomic development, quality of life and national resilience, stressing the need for strong digital foundations, enhanced domestic digital capabilities and inclusive access to its benefits. He also called for cooperation in research and development, the sharing of computing resources and innovation infrastructure, the development of trusted cross-border digital and AI frameworks, human resource development and the exchange of expertise. He expressed Myanmar's readiness to work with partner countries, including ASEAN member states, to build a responsible and inclusive digital future.

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Defence Services C-in-C stresses importance of loyalty to State ...

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The General presented foodstuffs and gifts to military attaché office staff families, and trainees through officials.

The General and party visited That Luang Temple in Vientiane and observed systematic maintenance of architectural works of ancient Buddha images and figures of ancient Lao kings in the precinct of the temple.

Subsequently, the General and party also visited Wat Si Saket Temple, where ancient architectural works and Buddha images are kept. The General paid homage to Lao Sangharaja Maha Ahjan Yai Mahaved Masenai, who chairs the Lao Buddhist Association (Central) and asked about religious affairs and offered alms. The General and party also observed the systematic display of palm-leaf manuscripts and canons in the ancient Pitaka Chamber, Buddhist artistic works and historical heritages in the precinct. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends 4th Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security

AT the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe attended the 4th Minsk International High-Level Conference on Eurasian Security, held from 3 to 4 November 2026 in Minsk, Belarus.



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Maung Swe speaks at the fourth Minsk International High-Level Conference on Eurasian Security.

The Minsk International High-Level Conference on Eurasian Security was attended by over 600 delegates, including ministers, deputy ministers, diplomats, international researchers, and scholars from more than 50 countries, such as Myanmar, China, India, Russia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Laos, Cambodia, Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

At the opening ceremony of the conference, Belarusian President Mr Alexander Lukashenko, along with attending ministers, deputy ministers, and secretaries-general and representatives from organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), delivered their respective speeches.

In his speech, the President of Belarus stated that the Minsk International High-Level Conference serves as a platform that fosters unity. He highlighted that Eurasia is the birthplace of great civilizations and world religions, a region with a historical legacy of thousands of years of continuous interaction among diverse cultures and peoples. Today, it stands as home to the world's largest natural resources and the majority of its population. He expressed his belief that the development of the Eurasian region will shape a world free of fear and suspicion for future generations. He emphasized the desire to build a united Eurasia, noting that Eurasian security is an indivisible matter that concerns everyone. Since no single actor – neither the West nor the East – can fully guarantee this security alone, this responsibility must be shared jointly by all.

In his speech, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe stated that as the current global security landscape undergoes significant transformations, Eurasian countries need to forge a security path that prioritizes partnership, cooperation, and dialogue over competition and confrontation. He noted that Myanmar welcomes the drafting of the "Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the 21st Century" and will participate in line with Myanmar's foreign policy, existing domestic laws and regulations, the UN Charter, and international law. Myanmar strongly supports the emergence of an open, balanced, and inclusive security architecture based on inclusive dialogue, mutual respect, and equal partnership for the shared future of all nations.

He highlighted that a government has emerged in Myanmar following the free and fair 2025 multi-party democratic general election. The Myanmar Government, led by President U Min Aung Hlaing, is prioritizing two primary objectives: achieving national peace and stability, and fostering national development. Furthermore, the Myanmar Government regards the fight against transnational crimes, such as cyber threats, online fraud, and human trafficking, as a national duty, and is collaborating closely with neighbouring and partner countries.

During his attendance at the conference, the Union Minister held separate bilateral meetings with the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Mr Nurlan Yermekbayev, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr Sergey Lavrov, on 3 November. He also met separately with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov and Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr Aleksandr Venediktov on 4 November.

During the meeting with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Mr Nurlan Yermekbayev, discussions were held on encouraging Myanmar and the SCO to engage more actively in regional peace and economic cooperation, enhancing cooperation in the SCO's key areas of collaboration, including security and combating transnational crime, economy, trade, and digital technology, as well as transportation and regional connectivity, and supporting Myanmar's effort to become a full member state of the SCO.

During the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr Sergey Lavrov, both sides discussed prospects for elevating bilateral relations to deepen ties based on cooperation in priority sectors such as politics, economics, trade, investment, and social affairs, and to continue working together on international and regional fronts, including the United Nations and ASEAN.

At the meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, the Belarusian Foreign Minister reaffirmed his country's consistent support for Myanmar's sovereignty and equality, and pledged to continue extending its support at international fora. Additionally, they also discussed the opening of the Embassy of Belarus in Nay Pyi Taw, the enhancement of bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including politics, economics, and cooperation in the formulation and implementation of the Eurasian Charter.

During the meeting with Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr Alexander Venediktov, discussions focused on the construction of the Dawei Deep-Sea Port, enhancing cooperation in education and technology, continuous implementation of agreements reached between the leaders of both countries during the visit of the Myanmar President to the Russian Federation in August 2026, and despatching trainees from the Myanmar Police Force and the Armed Forces.

The Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security was first held in 2023, followed by its second session in 2024 and third in 2025. This year marks its fourth session, held under the theme "Navigating International Disorder in the Spirit of Cooperation: Can We Solve the Eurasian Security Puzzle?". — MoFA

Taunggyi holds El Niño awareness sessions

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted awareness activities and field inspections in Nawnghkio, Thayagon and Kontha villages, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), yesterday to inform the public about the El Niño phenomenon and prevent potential drinking water shortages.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win and officials met local communities across the three villages to highlight the risks of hot, dry conditions, water scarcity and severe shortages stemming from El Niño.

The district DRD head and officials utilized educational posters to detail heat-precaution guidelines, proper methods of storing drinking water in advance, and measures to conserve and use water systematically without wastage. Officials also conducted on-site inspections of drinking water storage conditions in the villages to assess local preparedness. — Karan (Rural)



An awareness session is underway in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State.

NATIONAL

Thailand hands over Myanmar drug fugitive

A Myanmar national wanted for drug-related offences has been arrested in Thailand and handed over to Myanmar authorities at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

On 1 January 2026, authorities seized 5.6 million stimulant tablets from a vehicle driven by two suspects near Kweltetsone Village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region. Following further investigations, six additional suspects involved in the transportation and distribution of the drugs were arrested. Authorities also seized another 0.380 million stimulant tablets, one kilogram of ice (methamphetamine) and 16.396 kilogrammes of heroin. The total value of the seized narcotics was estimated at K9.49538 billion.



The handover event of an arrested drug fugitive, Aung Zaw Min Khant, at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok.

Investigations identified Aung Zaw Min Khant, 42, a resident of Kankauk Ward, Chanayethazan Township, as the alleged main organizer of the drug trafficking network. Authorities learned that he had travelled to Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 November 2025. Accordingly, information was shared with Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) on 3 February 2026.

Acting on the information, a joint team from the ONCB and the Thai Immigration Bureau arrested Aung Zaw Min Khant in Bangkok's Huai Kwang District on 4 October 2026.

On 3 November 2026, at 6:30 pm, an ONCB delegation led by Mr Kanison Papernon, Director of the Suppression Division, handed him over to Myanmar authorities at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok. The Myanmar delegation included officials from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand and a team led by Police Colonel Zaw Lin, Deputy Commander of the MPF Drug Enforcement Division.

According to official figures in 2026, Myanmar has received 12 drug-related fugitives arrested in Thailand and one arrested in Indonesia, who were subsequently handed over to the relevant authorities in their respective countries.

Such cooperation strengthens friendship among ASEAN member countries and contributes to more effective efforts to identify, arrest and hand over fugitives involved in transnational drug crimes. — MNA/KTZH

Shwe Kokko Phase II continues systematic demolition of illegal buildings

TREATING the fight against telecoms fraud and online gambling as a matter of national duty, the Government is systematically demolishing illegal structures in the Shwe Kokko area to prevent them from being used again for scam and gambling operations.

As part of operations targeting the remaining illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko Phase II, heavy machinery has been deployed to dismantle key structures. The demolition of one six-storey building is 90 per cent complete, while work on another six-storey building is 60 per cent complete.


The image reveal systematic demolition of a six-storey building in the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown.

Of the 63 structures targeted for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, the authorities have determined the demolition methods according to building type and surrounding conditions. Four buildings designated for demolition using heavy machinery have been completely demolished. Work on the remaining 55 buildings will continue.

The Government is reportedly stepping up efforts to combat online fraud and gambling as a matter of national responsibility. — 100/MKKS

Shwedaung's village concrete road paving work inspected

OFFICIALS conducted an on-site inspection yesterday of the concrete paving work along an internal village road in Thabyayhla Village, Kyogon Village-Tract, Shwedaung Township, Bago Region, implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) by the Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Head Daw Khine Swe Wah of the Pyay District Department of Rural Development, together with Daw Sheila Win, Staff Officer (Technical) of the Shwedaung Township Department of Rural Development, engineering staff, and members of the Village Development Committee, inspected the construction of the internal village concrete road measuring 350 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and six inches in thickness in Thabyayhla Village. The district department head met village officials and instructed them to ensure the timely completion of the village concrete road in line with prescribed standards and specifications.

The concrete paving project commenced in the fourth week of September this year, utilizing K15 million from the Village Development Project (VDP) support fund for the 2026-2027 financial year alongside K5.7 million contributed by the local community. The work is being directly executed by the local villagers themselves under the technical support and close supervision of the staff from the Township Department of Rural Development. Operations have currently reached 90 per cent completion. Upon 100 per cent completion of the project, local communities will benefit from smooth and convenient transportation access. — Set Lu (DRD)


Officials oversee the village concrete road paving work in Shwedaung Township, Bago Region.

MDDC Dy Minister attends Vietnam ...

FROM PAGE 5

The discussion was attended by ministerial representatives from Cambodia, Burundi, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, ambassadors from the United States and the European Union, senior government officials, scholars and representatives of international organisations.

On 29 October, the deputy minister attended a workshop entitled "Trusted Services Beyond Borders: Establishing Digital Trust Infrastructure for an AI-Driven World".

The event brought together approximately 500 delegates from more than 30 countries, including ministers and senior government officials from ASEAN and other Asia-Pacific countries, representatives of international organisations such as the GSM Association, UNDP and the World Bank, technology and telecommunications companies, digital equipment suppliers, universities and research institutions. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Tsunami readiness is everyone's responsibility

The year 2026 is expected to be a year of extreme weather conditions, which could result in natural disasters striking various parts of the world. To prevent and mitigate, to the greatest extent possible, the impacts of natural disasters, including potential tsunamis, people around the world must stand united, work together and collectively overcome these challenges.

Due to the El Niño phenomenon, which has already entered an extremely intense phase, the likelihood of natural disasters occurring is high. As sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean continue to rise, day and night temperatures are increasing worldwide, accelerating the melting of glaciers and icebergs and causing widespread disturbances in oceanic conditions around the world. As these developments could have various impacts on sea areas, countries with coastlines must begin taking precautionary and preventive measures without delay.

> This year's theme for the World Tsunami Awareness Day, "Be tsunami ready: Resilience starts with you", highlights the power of individual and community preparedness. From knowing evacuation routes to practising emergency drills, everyone has a role in protecting themselves, their loved ones and their communities. In implementing tsunami early-warning systems, all communities must be prepared so they can act quickly.

In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction. In fact, tsunamis may strike without warning, but their impact can be devastating. As coastal populations grow and sea levels rise, millions remain exposed to a threat that can claim lives and destroy livelihoods within minutes. Yet knowing the warning signs and acting quickly can make the difference between life and death.

This year's theme for the World Tsunami Awareness Day, "Be tsunami ready: Resilience starts with you", highlights the power of individual and community preparedness. From knowing evacuation routes to practising emergency drills, everyone has a role in protecting themselves, their loved ones and their communities. In implementing tsunami early-warning systems, all communities must be prepared so they can act quickly.

Various devastating natural disasters, including tsunamis, have struck the world over millions of years. These disasters have caused immeasurable losses of human lives, property and homes. However, despite the widespread destruction they have brought, natural disasters have never succeeded in wiping out humanity. Throughout the ages, human beings have endured natural disasters and successfully recovered and rebuilt their lives to ensure their continued survival.

There have also been many examples of countries and peoples around the world coming together to support one another and assist in recovery and reconstruction when a country has been struck by a natural disaster. Therefore, in line with the theme of World Tsunami Awareness Day, "Be tsunami ready: Resilience starts with you," all humanity must work together to turn this message into reality and achieve its objectives.

ARTICLE

Extraterrestrials Sending Messages through Neutrinos?

Comments on a question posed at the 2026 Nobel Physics Prize Announcement

By Myint Zan

On 7 October 2026, the Nobel Committee announced the laureate for the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2026.

The Nobel laureate's research deals with neutrinos. And the last question from the audience was about the possible (repeat possible) linkages between neutrinos and extraterrestrial civilizations (ET, ETC).

On the webcast reproduced on YouTube, a journalist asked the sole recipient of the 2026 Nobel Physics prize, Professor Francis Halzen (born 23 March 1944), to 'fantasize about 50 or 100 years from now' whether the neutrinos may contain messages from other civilizations'. Professor Halzen said that possible contact from ET through neutrinos is of interest and has been raised by some of his colleagues. He stated, though, that he did not 'want to go through there' (that ETs may use neutrinos to contact us) (YouTube video 25 minutes 40 seconds to 27 minutes).

Professor Hazlen said there are more realistic issues to be solved regarding neutrinos. Nevertheless, Hazlen stated that unexpected discoveries have been made about the Universe and perhaps what the journalist questioner suggested (about discerning messages from ET civilizations through neutrinos) may, in fifty years, be more discernible.

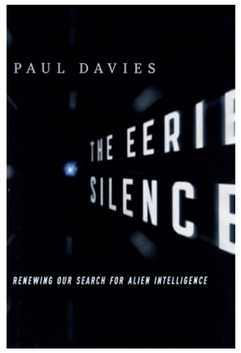
The questioner from Swedish TV gave a timeline of fifty or a hundred years and requested a Nobel Physics laureate to 'fantasize' (her words) about (ET) civilizations (Halzen used the word 'aliens' in his reply) fifty to a hundred years from now.

Would a future Nobel Prize in Physics (in the field of cosmology and neutrinos) be awardable for indicating the possible presence of ET messages in the neutrinos? As a dilettante, I would say that a message from ETs through neutrinos may not be scientifically resolved for a very long time.

A book published in 2010 titled *The Eerie Silence: Reviewing Our Search for Alien Intelligence* by astronomer Paul Davies (born 22 April 1946) stated briefly about neutrinos and ET search:

'*One possibility (in ET search) is Neutrinos, famous for their extraordinary ability to pass through matter. The snag is that they tend to pass right through receivers... If ET is using neutrino beams to send messages, we have our work cut out for us* (at page 96 of *The Eerie Silence*, Mariner Books edition 2011).

And again: '*So that despite difficulty humans do possess detectors that could in principle pick up an alien message encoded in a neutrino beam*' (at page 97). That statement was made by Paul Davies in 2010. In a Press conference on 7 October 2026, Nobel Physics laureate Francis Hazlen stated that scientists have not been able to build such large detectors.



Several ETC enthusiasts and sceptics have expressed their views regarding the existence or otherwise of ETCs. Astronomer Frank Drake (28 May 1920-2 September 2022) of Drake equation fame formulated in 1961 stated the possibility of up to a million of ETCs in the Milky Way galaxy alone.

Talking of the Milky Way, the 2026 Nobel Physics laureate states that the neutrinos 'emanate' or came from outside of the Milky Way galaxy. Wow! So where is (was) the source of the neutrinos? Not from the 'nearby' Andromeda galaxy, which is about 2.5 million light-years away? If it is not from Andromeda, then what lies immediately outside of the Milky Way galaxy? Or what? But I digress.

Astronomer Carl Sagan (9 November 1934-20 December 1996) was also an ETC enthusiast. He also believed that in the Milky Way galaxy alone there are several million ET civilizations.

Among ET sceptics, if not deniers, are the evolutionist and philosopher of Biology Ernst Mayr (5 July, 1904-3 February 2005) and Neo-Christian palaeontologist Simon Conway Morris (born 6 November 1951). Ernst Mayr, apparently, did not categorically state that there are no ETCs, only that it is a waste to spend money on the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). Conway Morris virtually asserted that there were no ETCs in the whole Universe! The observable Universe is about 92 billion light-years across. How arrogant of Conway Morris to claim that we *homo sapiens* are the only intelligent beings in the whole Universe.

Among the four persons named above, two enthusiasts (Drake, Sagan) were astronomers, cosmologists. Two of the sceptics, deniers, were evolutionists, palaeontologists (Mayr, Conway Morris). But cosmologist Paul Davies, after a fairly long discourse in *The Eerie Silence*, equivocated by coming just short of the statement that there may not be ETCs after all.

Evolutionist and almost 'evangelical atheist' Richard Dawkins (born 26 March 1941) stated in effect that there could be ETs. He 'caveated' his statement, though, that if there are ETs (without the addendum of 'civilizations') or ETCs (civilizations), they could only have developed through Darwinian biological evolution. So Darwinian evolution writ large to the whole Universe!

Now, to two very popular (not in the positive sense of popular science books authored by Mayr, Sagan, Dawkins) books on ET. They are *Chariots of the Gods* by Eric von Däniken (14 April 1935-10 January 2026), which made the claim that aliens have visited the Earth and, among many others, built the Pyramids! Online sources stated that *Chariot of the Gods* had sold about 60 to 70 million copies since publication in 1968. It has apparently been translated into Myanmar.

Avi Loeb (born 26 February 1962), a Harvard cosmologist, published *Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth* in 2021. He, in effect, claimed that an interstellar object named 'Oumuamua' might be an extraterrestrial artefact (or is it a 'ET pilotless vehicle'?) sent by an extraterrestrial civilization. Loeb's book, as did Von Däniken's 53 years earlier, was on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Rightly so, Loeb's preposterous theories have been critiqued by many scientists.

Due to Loeb's other academic credentials, I would reluctantly hesitate to 'lump' Loeb's with those of von Däniken's gloriously wrong fantasies about ET visits. Martin Gardner (21 October 1914-May 22,2010) was a polymath and prolific writer. His view on Extraterrestrial Civilizations was that he didn't know whether they exist (existed) or not. From my discernment, he did not state either positively or negatively the existence or non-existence of Extra-Terrestrial Civilizations.

Three Statements Juxtaposed

Martin Gardner, much as I greatly admire him, might have taken his 'mysterianism' too far. In his book *Did Adam and Eve have Navels*? (first published 2000, W.W.Norton & Co.) he quoted science-fiction writer Hugo Gernsback (16 August 1884-19 August 1967) who said in November 1926 that even if humans survive for another one hundred million (100 million!) years 'it will be just as far from the end of knowledge as we are now' (at p.310).

That, one submits, while appearing to be humble, portrays, indeed, betrays dollops of presumptions, indeed arrogance.

Contrast this with the much more modest, less whimsical, less presumptive statement of the questioner from Swedish TV, which requested the 2026 Nobel Physics laureate to 'fantasize' fifty or a hundred years into the future as to whether ETCs may send messages through neutrinos from outside our Milky Way galaxy.

In stark contrast to Gardner's views of the unknowability of all things, a passage in a book published in the former Soviet Union around 1965 titled *Fundamentals of Marxism, Leninism* stated, in effect, that 'Marxist view that there are things humans do not know as yet, **not that they cannot know**'. Those who questioned and provided replies to the question about ETC's messages through neutrinos may have views closer to the Marxists as stated above. I do not infer, at all, that they are Marxists. Still, their humbleness, curiosity and optimism are to be preferred to the fantastical, phantasmagorical statement of Hugo Gernsback and Martin Gardner.

Immanuel Kant (24 April 1774-12 February 1804) was a philosopher whose philosophy was said to have caused a 'Copernican revolution in philosophy'. At the conclusion of his treatise *Critique of Practical Reason*, first published in 1788, he stated (in translation)

'*Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the more often and steadily we reflect upon them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me*'.

The statement was made more than 230 years ago. Since then, knowledge of 'the starry heavens above' has increased leaps and bounds. In one of his writings, Kant supposedly postulated the existence of galaxies in the 'heavens above'. In his lifetime (through no fault of his), he certainly was not aware of the existence of neutrinos. Being a genius, he would have appreciated the pioneering research work done by the Nobel laureates.

What would he have said to the query of neutrinos possibly carrying messages from extraterrestrial civilizations?

Whether the moral law is within humans (every human? or only philosophers like Kant?) is debatable since even the nature of consciousness is a 'grand question' according to the Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine. Hence, whether the 'moral law' is 'within me', within humans can still be pondered, investigated and debated.

But, gentle reader, among the statements above, namely those of Martin Gardner, Marxists/Leninists, members of the Nobel committee, Nobel laureates and those of Immanuel Kant, which impresses you the most? ■

Building Trust for All

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

As the saying goes, Rome was not built in a day. In the same manner, building trust for all is no easy task, we have all well known. Of course, just making oneself better than others is not the complete way to build trust. Doing one's best, needless to say, is the very first step towards building trust for everyone. And then, a trustworthy person must have favour with others, possibly even financial support from them sometimes. Strangely enough, trust may look like a guest who has not been invited but comes to us; that is, if we are absolutely trusted by everybody, such trust usually comes right to us in an automatically apparent way so as to have good luck or opportunities. Actually, there should be seen three important characteristic traits of a trusted person – qualification, mission, and reputation, I believe.



Here, a qualification for building trust for all people may or may not be a certificate or diploma. Academic, professional or vocational qualifications will or will not depend on a person's ability to perform tasks. On the road to formal education, those certificates and diplomas are often submitted for recommendation in accordance with laws and rules. On the other side to informality or non-formality, any legal documented evidence can or cannot be required, but anyone who really has professional qualifications or skills rather than a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and even a PhD is mostly appointed at some work domain. Action speaks louder than words, as the proverb states. Thus, a person's qualification must be any authentic action at a given time and circumstance, not words only at all.

And a trustworthy person should have accomplished missions, which personally means that a trusted person must be able to take responsibility and accountability for his actions. According to Longman, the term `responsibility´ means a duty to be in charge of someone or something so that we make decisions and can be blamed if something bad happens, while according to Oxford, the word `accountability´ refers to the fact of being responsible for our decisions or actions and expected to explain them when we are asked. We can see this in most trusted persons. They are responsible and accountable to their core audience or regulars. For a trustworthy person, every mission must be accomplished with responsibility and accountability for the simple reason that without these two qualities of building trust, a person will always fail to complete his mission. Also, as an irresponsible person, for some unaccountable reason, he will never take action without fail.

Reputation is the life of a person. We can look at many world-famous people, classics or celebrities. They are still earning a good reputation until nowadays, of course. This is mainly because they are trusted implicitly or explicitly from every corner of the globe. In actual fact, establishing a reputation is not as easy as most think, because a reliable person tends to sacrifice almost everything to be dependable to others; for instance, a popular TV star cannot eat whatever he likes or wants, spicy and salty foods in particular, which may make his face ugly with acne and spots in some way or another. Not only that, reputation is one in a million as well as if it is lost once, it will never be rebuilt once again in the future. Worst of all, nobody totally believes in a person with any reputation. Some people are notoriously known for their bad reputation, yet no one utterly trusts them. To be said better, a person with some reputation will get trusted by most people to the full.

After all, a trustworthy person should have certain qualifications for being so. On the other hand, it is certain that a person without any qualifications finds it so difficult to be believed by others. Without mission accomplished while earning qualifications, such a person is no more than a golden statue; his qualifications would be a white elephant for him. For a dependable person, his qualifications and mission should go hand in hand very often. After these qualities will surely come his good reputation, as much as he can do his utmost. More importantly, a well-trusted person has to show resilience, honesty and integrity in maintaining his reputation. Above all, we need to believe in ourselves at first.

NATIONAL

Decision made to proceed with 50 land cases in Yangon Region

THE 2/2026 meeting of the Yangon Region Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmland and Other Lands was held on 3 November at Meeting Hall 3 of the Yangon Region government office.



The meeting of the Yangon Region Committee for Re-investigating Confiscated Farmland and Other Lands is in progress.

At the meeting, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and Chairman of the Yangon Region Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmland and Other Lands delivered the opening remarks.

Committee Joint Secretary U Kyaw Nyein presented details of the cases using a PowerPoint presentation. Attendees participated in discussions and provided suggestions regarding farmland and other land issues within the region, after which the committee chairman and regional chief minister gave the closing remarks.

At today's meeting, with the agreement of the attendees, a total of 50 cases from townships – comprising two cases from North Okkalapa; seven cases from Dagon Myothit (South), three cases from Dagon Myothit (North), two cases from Dagon Myothit (East), four cases from Dagon Myothit (Seikkan); one case from Dala; three cases from Thanlyin; seven cases from Hlegu; eight cases from Hlinethaya; five cases from Mingaladon; six cases from Shwepyitha; one case from Taikkyi; and one consolidated case combining 22 files from multiple districts – will continue to be processed in compliance with established policies and procedures. — TWA/ZS

UMFCCI hosts labour arbitration seminar

ORGANIZED by the Ministry of Labour, a labour arbitration seminar was held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 3 November 2026. 2026.

During the event, Union Minister U Maung Myint told attendees to share their experiences in resolving labour disputes to find fast and efficient procedures, and he also urged the tribunal members to act impartially. Regional Minister U Saw Jacob Htoo said fewer disputes can mainly support workplace tranquillity and productivity growth.



A labour arbitration seminar held at UMFCCI.

Directors-general and other officials discussed labour organizations' role, the social security system, labour rights and fair resolution methods.

Currently, more than 700,000 workers are employed at 7,236 factories in Yangon Region, except Coco Islands. Township arbitration groups and regional tribunals have been formed in 44 townships to find quick resolutions to disputes in accordance with the law. — TWA/ZS

MTSH to disburse FY2025-26 dividends

MYANMAR Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co Ltd (MTSH) will arrange for shareholders to collect dividends declared for the financial year 2025-26, according to a company announcement. Shareholders whose shares were recorded in a securities account as of the 14 September record date are entitled to begin collecting dividends from 5 November through their respective securities companies. Shareholders who opened securities accounts on or after 14 September, and those who have not yet opened securities accounts, must collect their dividend amounts directly from MTSH starting 5 November, based on the number of shares they hold.

Shareholders must call MTSH's IR Department at 01 2301731, 01 2301741, 01 2301884, 01 2301885 and 01 2301853 during office hours to register for dividend collection, and MTSH will notify them of the collection date.

While collecting dividends, the shareholders must present these required documents: the original share certificate, or a receipt confirming that share certificates were deposited with a securities company on or after 14 September, or an original MTSH certification that the share certificate has been lost; and the shareholder's citizenship scrutiny card. Those collecting through a representative need to bring an original power of attorney authorizing the representative to collect the dividend and the representative's citizenship scrutiny card in addition to the aforementioned documents.

Moreover, organizations or companies holding share certificates must also provide a power of attorney to collect a payment order issued by resolution of the company's board of directors, the original company license (if a copy, it must be certified as a true copy), and the representative's citizenship scrutiny card, in addition to the required documents.

Under the current income tax law, shareholders will not be required to pay additional income tax on dividends received, according to MTSH's board of directors. — NN/KK

CBM provides FE for air ticket costs via FX Online Trading System

FOR Myanmar workers who are going to work abroad under the management of the Ministry of Labour, the Central Bank of Myanmar has provided foreign currencies via the FX Online Trading System for purchasing flight tickets, it said in a statement issued on 3 November.

This plan is designed for Myanmar citizens to easily buy foreign currency in cash for small transactions in the market and to control speculation by unofficial money transfer service providers.

At present, foreign currency is being sold at the Yangon International Airport and authorized dealer licensees' money changer counters for those who would go abroad for work, medical purposes, education, pilgrimage and attending seminars by the invitation of foreign governments or institutions.

A person is allowed to buy US$100-500 at a rate higher than K10 of CBM's FX Market Online Trading rate, which is released on a daily basis on the CBM website.

A list of authorized banks and money changers and their details has been made public on their official websites and Facebook pages. — TWA/ZS



A façade view of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

MTE to sell teak, hardwood logs, and sawn timbers

LOCAL Marketing and Milling Department, Myanma Timber Enterprise, operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for an open tender to sell about 5,170 tonnes of industrial raw teak, hardwood logs and sawn timber.

Open tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 17 November at Tawwin Hall, Myanma Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Source locations include Export Marketing and Milling Department's factories in Nay Pyi Taw, southern Shan State, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region.

Interested bidders can observe details of the open tender through the official website of Myanma Timber Enterprise www.mte.gov.mm or by dialling 09 5166930 (Export), 09 795700439, or 09 402705515 of the Local Marketing and Milling Department, according to the Open Tender Holding Committee. — NN/KK

Chandigarh University ranks No 1 among private universities in India for the 4th year in a row

Chancellor Satnam Singh Sandhu credited Prime Minister Modi's leadership for India's higher education success.

CHANDIGARH University has secured its position as India's Number 1 Private University for the fourth consecutive year in the QS Asia University Rankings 2027. Continuing its stellar rise, the institution climbed four places to reach 104th rank among all Asian universities, while improving its overall score from 66.6 in 2026 to 70.3.

This achievement highlights a remarkable trajectory from its 271st position in 2022, demonstrating a 61 per cent improvement over six years driven by strong performance across multiple academic indicators.

Through this robust growth, the university has successfully surpassed numerous established international institutions across top Asian nations like China, Japan, and South Korea.



Chandigarh University located in Gharuan, Punjab, India. **PHOTO: CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY**

Reacting to this milestone, Member of Parliament and Chandigarh University Chancellor Satnam Singh Sandhu welcomed the results, attributing the impressive global and regional strides of Indian higher educational institutions to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

13th China Film Festival opens in New Zealand

THE 13th China Film Festival held its premiere in the New Zealand capital on Tuesday evening, with several Chinese films set to be screened during the festival.

"Traces of Justice" was presented at the premiere, followed by an engaging interaction between the creative team and the audience.

"I'm particularly pleased that the film is about a police officer, because I spent 40 years as a police officer in Wellington and around New Zealand before I became a politician," Greg O'Connor, assistant speaker of New Zealand House of Representatives, said at the premiere. – Xinhua

6 Pakistani men arrested over unlicensed taxis for foreign tourists

SIX Pakistani men were arrested Wednesday on suspicion of operating unlicensed taxi services for foreign tourists at popular sightseeing destinations in Japan, investigative sources said.

The joint investigation team of Hyogo and Kyoto prefectural police forces said the group repeatedly provided illegal taxi services during this summer, sharing specific vehicles for their operations in a suspected violation of the Road Transport Act, the sources said.

The suspects, all in their 20s, are believed to have transported tourists apparently from Europe and North America to sightseeing spots including Arashiyama in Kyoto, Himeji Castle in Hyogo Prefecture and the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima. – Kyodo

Pierce Brosnan endorses Callum Turner for James Bond

FORMER 007 actor Pierce Brosnan has given his seal of approval to Callum Turner as a potential contender for the next James Bond. Brosnan, who portrayed the iconic British spy across four films from 1995 to 2002, shared his thoughts in a recent interview with Vanity Fair, as cited by Variety. Having previously shared the screen with Turner in the 2017 film 'The Only Living Boy in New York', Brosnan expressed high regard for his former co-star's acting capabilities.



Callum Turner as a potential contender for the next James Bond. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

"Oh, I'm just an audience member now. I'm just the man in the street who is eager to see who is going to play this epic role of cinematic history," Brosnan said regarding the ongoing speculation around the franchise.

Speaking about the current shortlist of actors, he noted, "All the men who are on the list now are actors I admire. Callum Turner is someone I've worked with, and he's so strong. They all have a voice, a physique, and a presence on film. They all have longevity as actors, all of these young men." While final auditions reportedly take place in London, other actors frequently mentioned as frontrunners or floated in discussions include Jack Lowden, Josh O'Connor, and Jacob Elordi. — ANI

Japan's latest Godzilla film sets live-action opening-day record

TOHO Co said Wednesday its latest Godzilla film "Godzilla Minus Zero" earned 910 million yen ($5.75 million) on its opening day, setting a record for a live-action film's first-day box-office revenue in Japan.

The figure for the film featuring the fire-breathing, city-stomping monster is more than double the opening day earnings of the previous film, "Godzilla Minus One", according to Toho.



"Godzilla Minus One." **PHOTO: TOHO.**

"Godzilla Minus Zero", which opened on Tuesday, is set in Japan two years after the events of the previous film, which grossed over 7.65 billion yen. Takashi Yamazaki, who also directed the previous film, handled the screenplay and VFX, or visual effects. The company said the latest film is scheduled to be released in North America on Friday. It is also set to be shown in other parts of Asia as well as in Australia, Europe and the Middle East. — Kyodo

ECONOMY
WORLD

New Zealand votes with economy, cost of living in focus

The cost of living is the biggest issue for voters.

NEW Zealanders are voting this week in an election focused on rising costs of living and the economy, as pollsters forecast a tight contest and neither main party close to winning a majority.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon is hoping his right-wing coalition can cling to power with a message of "no new taxes" and by painting his opponents as an unpredictable alliance of left-wingers.

But the opposition Labour Party is banking that voter worries about costs of living will see it returned to office.

Here's what you need to know about the poll:



New Zealand's National Party's leader Christopher Luxon addresses his supporters in Auckland, New Zealand, 14 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The cost of living is the biggest issue for voters, according to the RNZ-Reid Research Poll run by New Zealand's public broadcaster.

Sixty-four percent of respondents said inflation and rising costs were their biggest concerns, followed by the state of New Zealand's healthcare system and then petrol prices.

The economy and rising unemployment rounded out the top five issues, according to the poll.

Luxon, a millionaire businessman-turned-politician, has led his National Party to worrying lows in polls and had to fend off two leadership challenges this year.

Luxon has told AFP he sees himself as a "super salesman" for the country and would push for more free-trade deals if re-elected.

His main opponent is Labour former Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, who succeeded Jacinda Ardern in 2023 and has seized on National's inability to curb the cost of living to revive his party's fortunes. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kazakhstan's oil output rises in October after Karachaganak field overhaul

KAZAKHSTAN produced 8.5 million tonnes of oil in October, up from September, when output declined due to scheduled maintenance at the Karachaganak oil and gas field, the Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency reported Tuesday, citing the Kazakh Energy Ministry.

The overhaul at Karachaganak ran from 7 September to 1 October and production has since returned to normal levels. The ministry said in September that the maintenance was expected to reduce oil output by up to 450,000 tonnes, according to Interfax-Kazakhstan. – Xinhua

IMF clears path for Jordan's bailout tranche

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached a staff-level agreement with Jordanian authorities on Tuesday to clear the way for the release of $294 million as part of the country's four-year bailout programme. "Programme performance has remained strong despite ongoing headwinds and elevated uncertainty stemming from the protracted war in the Middle East," said IMF mission chief Cesar Serra in a statement. "All quantitative performance criteria and most structural benchmarks for the sixth review were met, and steady progress is being made toward achieving the programme's overall objectives." – AFP

Corruption costing Kenya billions: World Bank

CORRUPTION is costing Kenya billions of dollars each year in lost revenue, inflated business costs, and lost earnings for workers, while taking a huge toll on investment and economic growth, the World Bank said in a report published Wednesday.

Kenya suffers corruption at every level of society -- from endless petty bribes paid to traffic police, to vast procurement scandals that go to the top of government, and it has contributed to massive protests over the past two years.

The World Bank report said the east African country is among the most corrupt of its peers among lower middle-income countries, and estimates that the governance weaknesses are adding around 370 billion shillings ($2.8 billion) every year to Kenya's fiscal deficit, equivalent to two per cent of GDP.

This figure, which its authors describe as "conservative", comes from lost taxes, inefficient public spending, higher borrowing costs, and other issues caused by corruption.

Ordinary Kenyans are furious over the levels of graft -- the issue was a major part of the massive protests in mid-2024 when the government tried to raise taxes -- and the World Bank notes that its people would be far more willing to contribute if they trusted their leaders. — AFP



Ordinary Kenyans are furious over the levels of graft. **PHOTO: WORLD BANK**

Ransomware attacks on Japanese companies more than double in 5 years

RANSOMWARE attacks on Japanese companies totaled 239 from January through October, more than double the number recorded in 2021, a survey by a cybersecurity firm showed Wednesday, underscoring the growing cyber threat in the country.



The number of ransomware incidents through October surpassed the 228 cases recorded in all of 2025. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/UNSPLASH**

A separate survey by a US company also found that 37 per cent of targeted Japanese firms paid ransoms, with experts warning against doing so as there is no guarantee that attacks will stop after payment.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that encrypts data, such as confidential documents and customer information, rendering it inaccessible until a ransom is paid, or steals data. The number of ransomware cases reported by Yokohama-based Macnica Inc. includes attacks that did not involve data encryption.

The number of ransomware incidents through October surpassed the 228 cases recorded in all of 2025, setting a new annual record, according to Macnica.

"The number of cases could surge if attacks using artificial intelligence grow," said Yutaka Sejiyama of Macnica's Security Research Centre. "Incidents leading to leaks of more sensitive personal information could also emerge."

The growing threat facing Japanese companies is also reflected in the ransomware infection rate, according to a report by California-based security firm Proofpoint Inc. — Kyodo

Airlines need fair returns as airport investments and charges drive up costs: Indigo CEO



Airlines must be allowed to recover their cost of capital as rising airport charges and investments add to their operating expenses and contribute to airfares. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

AIRLINES must be allowed to recover their cost of capital as rising airport charges and investments add to their operating expenses and contribute to airfares, IndiGo CEO Willie Walsh said, calling for greater scrutiny of airport investments and their impact on the aviation industry.

"We have to be able to return our cost of capital as an airline. Or else we can't sustain the investment," he said.

Walsh further added that every component of an airline's cost base affects the prices it can offer passengers, and airport charges should not be viewed as insignificant when compared with fuel expenses.

"Every aspect of your cost base contributes to the ticket prices that you'll be able to offer your customers," he said.

He also questioned airport investments that may not be required by airlines or passengers but increase the investment base on which airport operators expect returns.

He pointed out that airports are often accepted as profitable businesses, while airlines face criticism when they generate profits, highlighting the need for a balanced approach towards returns across the aviation value chain. — ANI

Petronet holds discussions with Qatar to secure LNG imports

PETRONET LNG Ltd, India's largest gas importer, is holding discussions with Qatar to secure some US-sourced LNG from 2028, Group General Manager Vivek Mittal said during an analyst call on Tuesday.

Qatar currently supplies Petronet with 7.5 million metric tonnes of LNG annually. The existing agreement, due to expire in April 2028, has been extended for another 20 years until 2048.

Mittal said Qatar had shown willingness to consider India's request and could allocate part of the contracted volumes from other sources secured by the Gulf nation. — ANI



Qatar had shown willingness to consider India's request and could allocate part of the contracted volumes from other sources secured by the Gulf nation. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

S Korea's imported car sales jump 29.3% in Oct

SOUTH Korea's imported car sales jumped in double digits in October, driven by explosive demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and German luxury models, industry data showed Wednesday.

The number of newly imported passenger car registrations here advanced 29.3 per cent from a year earlier to 31,117 in October, according to the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association.

For the first 10 months of 2026, 310,846 imported vehicles were sold, up 24.6 per cent compared to the same period of last year. US automaker Tesla took a top spot in terms of automotive sales here among foreign companies by selling 9,165 units.

German automaker Mercedes-Benz came next with the sales of 6,744 units, followed by German carmaker BMW with 5,633 units, Volvo with 1,682 units and Chinese automaker BYD with 1,594 units. — Xinhua

UME Co, Ltd.
(the "Company") (under Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
As per special resolution duly passed in writing on 2 November 2026 by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 2 November 2026.
2. Daw May May Lwin (Advocate No.4972 and IP Reg. No. 110573) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 5 December 2026 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

Daw May May Lwin (+95 95135414)
B.Sc.R.L (Advocate No.4972 and Insolvency Practitioner Reg, No.110573), Liquidator
36 Street, No. 48/50, Room 1, Quarter 3, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region 5
November 2026

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC TOKYO VOY.NO. (637S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC TOKYO VOY.NO. (637S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (181N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (181N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-11-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (043)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (043)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-11-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Inquiry urges Australian govt to terminate AUKUS pact

The final report said that the inquiry did not uncover any "convincing foundations" for AUKUS.



This photo taken with a mobile phone shows a vehicle displaying a red submarine-shaped sign reading "NO AUKUS" outside the National Press Club of Australia in Canberra, Australia, 4 November 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AN independent inquiry has called for the Australian government to immediately terminate the AUKUS treaty, describing the pact as the riskiest defense decision in national history.

Former government minister Peter Garrett and former Australian Defence Force chief Chris Barrie, two of the five commissioners conducting the public inquiry into AUKUS, presented the final report at the National Press Club of Australia in Canberra on Wednesday, concluding that the landmark security pact does not serve Australia well and should be scrapped.

After receiving more than 1,000 submissions and conducting 10 days of public hearings around the country, the final report said that the inquiry did not uncover any "convincing foundations" for AUKUS.

"We concluded that AUKUS is the worst, riskiest and most costly defense decision ever made by an Australian government," the report said.

"AUKUS jeopardizes our sovereignty, further entangles us with US war planning and actually endangers our security."

The report made 16 recommendations, including that Australia immediately terminate pillar one of the AUKUS deal, under which Australia would acquire eight nuclear-powered submarines in the 2030s and 2040s, due to current delivery schedules "most likely" being unachievable.

Additionally, it said that plans for a US naval base near Perth in Western Australia should be suspended until "critical questions" regarding nuclear security and health and environmental safety for the local population are fully examined. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

China ready to work for fruitful APEC meeting

CHINA is willing to work with all parties to do a good job in the final stage of the 2026 APEC "China Year" and contribute to the fruitful results at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday.

The upcoming leaders' meeting is an important one concerning the future development of the Asia-Pacific region, Wang said when co-chairing the 37th APEC Ministerial Meeting via video conference with Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao.

China will host the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen in south China in November this year, which will mark the country's third hosting of the event following Shanghai in 2001 and Beijing in 2014. – Xinhua

Ex-President Yoon faces possible election invalidation

FORMER South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol faces possible invalidation of his 2022 election as an appellate court on Wednesday upheld a suspended prison sentence for election law violations linked to false statements during his presidential campaign.

The Seoul High Court sentenced Yoon to one and a half years in prison, suspended for three years, dismissing his appeal and upholding the lower court's guilty verdict on all counts of violating the public official election law.

The team of Min Joong-ki, an independent counsel who led an investigation into corruption allegations involving Yoon and his wife, requested the appellate court to uphold the lower court's ruling. – Xinhua

US lauds Greenland's approval of Arctic Security deal with Washington, Denmark

THE United States has welcomed Greenland's approval of a trilateral security agreement with Washington and Denmark, describing the development as a "massive win" for NATO and a major victory for American national security, as the pact seeks to strengthen defence cooperation and expand the US military presence in the strategically important Arctic region.

US State Department Spokesperson Tommy Pigott, in a post on X, said the agreement was a significant achievement for all three parties and the NATO alliance.

"The Greenland deal is a massive win for the United States, a massive win for Greenland, and a massive win for NATO. And it's a deal that only President Trump and @SecRubio could have delivered," Pigott said.

The US Department of State, in a separate post, also welcomed the approval, saying it would help secure Washington's strategic interests in the Arctic and strengthen American defence.

"Greenland's ratification of President Trump's historic agreement marks another major victory for American national security. This Administration is securing America's strategic interests in the Arctic, strengthening our national defense and ensuring this critical region remains free of adversarial threats," the department said. — ANI



The image shows the harbour and town of Ilulissat (historically known as Jakobshavn) on the west coast of Greenland, facing Disko Bay. **PHOTO: BRITANNICA**

Russia open to joint projects with US only if beneficial to Moscow

RUSSIA is open to joint undertakings with the United States, but only if they are beneficial to Moscow, Director of the Department of Economic Cooperation at the Russian Foreign Ministry Dmitry Birichevsky told Sputnik.

"We have been and remain ready for ... the likely build-up of the sanctions and tariffs. At the same time, we remain open to implementing joint undertakings with the Americans where this is technically possible but only when it is needed and beneficial to us ourselves," Birichevsky said.

In October, Russian special presidential envoy for investment and economic cooperation with foreign countries Kirill Dmitriev, said that Russia and the US are discussing a whole set of economic projects, and the agreement between the presidents on diesel fuel is just one of them. The list of projects Russia is discussing with the American side includes various projects in the Arctic: energy projects, projects in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) sector and other areas. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Weightlifting Championships conclude in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2026 Region and State Weightlifting Championships and prize presentation ceremony were held at the Weightlifting Training Hall of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Organized by the Ministry of Sports in cooperation with the Sports and Physical Education Department and the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation, the seven-day tournament aimed to raise the standard of weightlifting and nurture young athletes.



The championship trophy of the Weightlifting Championships presented to the winning team at yesterday's event.

Yesterday's events featured the men's 85-kilogramme, 95-kilogramme and over-95-kilogramme categories in the snatch and clean and jerk disciplines.

At the prize presentation ceremony, the Best Female Athlete award went to Ma Naw El Kanyaw George of Ayeyawady Region, while the Best Male Athlete award went to Maung Htet Arkar Phyo of Magway Region. Athletes who set new records and the top three finishers in the various weight categories also received medals and cash prizes.

Yangon Region won the women's team championship with 159 points and the overall championship with 311 points, while Sagaing Region claimed the men's team championship with 170 points.

Held from 29 October to 4 November, the tournament attracted 130 athletes representing 12 men's teams and eight women's teams from various Regions and States. — MNA/KZL

Billiards and Snooker Championships continue in Yangon

THE 2026 Inter-State and Region Billiards and Snooker Championships are continuing at the National Indoor Stadium 1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.

The tournament 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, with the aim of raising the standard of billiards and snooker and nurturing a new generation of athletes.

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

In the men's 15-Red Snooker event, Kaung Zan Htet of Magway Region defeated Naing Win of Yangon Region 3-1, while Aung Nyi Nyi Maung of Yangon Region beat Mann Hein Kyaw of Mandalay Region 3-1.

In the men's 6-Red Snooker event, Ko Ko Chit of Kayin State defeated Shan Htun Aung of Chin State 4-1, while Min Si Thu Htun of Mandalay Region beat Thura Zaw of Yangon Region 4-2.

In the women's 9-Ball Pool event, Khon San of Shan State defeated Win Mar Lar Aung of Mon State 5-3, while Thet Wah Win of Mandalay Region beat Thanda Toe Aung of Mon State 5-2.

The finals and prize-giving ceremony will begin at 10 am on 5 November. Sports enthusiasts and members of the public are invited to watch the competitions free of charge. — MNA/KZL



A snooker player strikes the ball at yesterday's match.

Real Madrid set to appoint tennis great Nadal to board

REAL Madrid plan to appoint retired tennis superstar Rafael Nadal to their board of directors, the club said on Wednesday.

Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam winner, has been an honorary club member since 2011 and shares a strong relationship with Madrid president Florentino Perez.

"For Real Madrid and for all Madrid supporters, it is a source of immense pride that a figure of his sporting and human stature – a benchmark of Spanish and world sport – should become part of our board of directors and, in this role, contribute to the present and future of our club," said Los Blancos in a statement. Real Madrid's socios – members – are expected to ratify Nadal's appointment at the club's general assembly on 21 November. – AFP

Manulife Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup begins on 8 Dec

THE Manulife Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup 2026, offering a top prize of K5 million, will be held over five days, from 8 to 12 December.

Organized by the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, the tournament aims to promote the development of Sepak Takraw in Myanmar and nurture talented young athletes.

The competition will feature three events: men's open regu, men's under-25 quadrant and women's regu. The round-robin and semi-final matches will take place from 8 to 11 December, followed by the finals on 12 December.

In the men's open regu event, the champions will receive K5 million, the runners-up K3 million, the third-placed team K2 million and the fourth-placed team K1 million.



The victorious team celebrates at the Manulife Mandalay Sepak Takraw Championship Cup 2026.

In the men's under-25 quadrant event, the first-, second-, third- and fourth-placed teams will receive K3.5 million, K2 million, K1 million and K500,000 respectively.

In the women's regu event, the champions will receive K3 million, the runners-up K2 million, while the two teams sharing third place will each receive K500,000.

Matches will be held at the Thuwunna Sepak Takraw Training Centre and Junction Square in Kamayut Township. Interested teams can register by contacting U Nyunt Myaing on 09 5157718, U Htet Zaw on 09 2038759 or U Htin Aung on 09-686065690. — TWA/KZL

'Annoyed' Zverev loses first match as world No.1 in Paris

ALEXANDER Zverev made a losing start to his reign as world number one on Wednesday as the two-time Grand Slam champion went down 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 to an inspired Lorenzo Musetti at the Paris Masters.

Playing his opening match in the round of 32 in the French capital, the German accumulated errors to tamely exit the tournament against the 24-year-old Italian.

Former world number five Musetti became the fifth man to defeat a player in his opening match as the world number one. — AFP

Inquiry urges Australian govt to terminate AUKUS pact

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WORLD

Democrats projected to win US Congress in midterm elections

Several media outlets described the outcome as a "blue wave" or even a "blue tsunami".



The latest projections from NBC indicated that Democrats could win more than 250 seats. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

DemocratS are projected to flip control of the US Senate after winning several key races in battleground states, securing control of both chambers of Congress in the midterm elections, election forecasting agency Decision Desk HQ reported late Tuesday.

Before the midterms, Republicans held 218 seats in the House of Representatives, compared with 214 for Democrats. The chamber also had one independent member and two vacancies, one in a Republican-held district and the other in a Democratic-held district, following the resignations of their respective representatives in 2026.

With 218 seats required for a majority, Democrats needed a net gain of just three seats to regain control of the House.

The latest projections from NBC indicated that Democrats could win more than 250 seats, marking a major political turnaround in the House. Several media outlets described the outcome as a "blue wave" or even a "blue tsunami".

Before the Senate elections, Republicans held a 53-47 majority over Democrats. Democrats needed a net gain of four seats to reach the 51-seat threshold for a majority.

As votes were counted throughout election night, US media outlets projected Democratic victories in several states, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Kansas, Ohio and Maine.

Notably, South Carolina, Texas and Kansas are all traditionally Republican strongholds, having voted for Donald Trump in each of the past three presidential elections.

Texas Democratic Senate candidate and state Representative James Talarico is projected to defeat Republican candidate and Texas Attorney-General Ken Paxton, becoming the first Democrat since 1988 to win a US Senate seat in the state. Democrat Gina Hinojosa is also projected to win the Texas governor's race and become the state's first Democratic governor in more than 30 years. — Xinhua

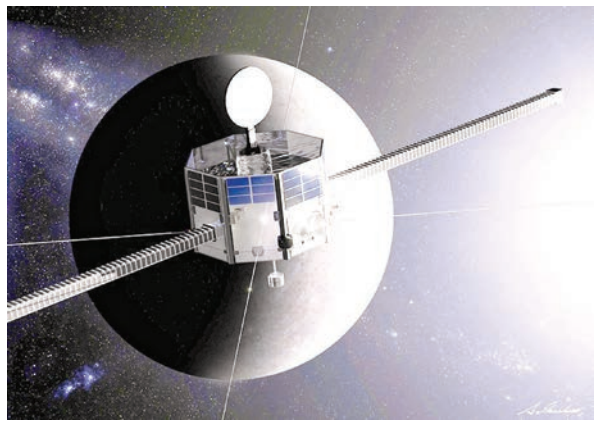
Japan space probe aims to capture its 1st Mercury images

JAPAN'S Mercury probe Mio, part of the Japan-Europe joint Mercury exploration mission BepiColombo, is on course to attempt to take its first images of Mercury next spring after arriving at the planet later this month, sources close to the matter said Wednesday.

It is expected to capture Mercury's tenuous sodium atmosphere and possibly its terrain, marking the start of preparations for full-scale scientific observations after a 10-billion-kilometre journey over roughly eight years.

Mercury, the planet closest to the Sun, is exposed to extreme temperatures and remains difficult to reach because of the Sun's strong gravitational pull, leaving it relatively unexplored.

BepiColombo is the world's first mission in which two spacecraft, separately developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and the European Space Agency, will orbit Mercury simultaneously. Equipped with special heat-protection systems, the spacecraft will conduct observations from different orbits. — Kyodo



File photo shows an image of the Mercury probe Mio, developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. **PHOTO: JAXA /KYODO**

Israel, Kazakhstan sign space cooperation agreement

ISRAEL and Kazakhstan signed an agreement in Jerusalem to cooperate in space research and satellite technology, Israel's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology said in a statement Tuesday.

The agreement was signed by Israeli Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology Gila Gamliel and Baubek Oralmagambetov, chairman of Kazakhstan's Aerospace Committee, during a meeting of the two countries' joint commission on trade and economic cooperation. It aims to promote joint activities in Earth observation, satellite data, space education and technology demonstrations, the statement said. It also seeks to strengthen ties between Israeli and Kazakh space companies and encourage the exchange of information and expertise. — Xinhua

Thailand outlines development priorities for upper northeastern region

THAILAND'S government has outlined a four-pronged development strategy for the country's upper northeastern region, focusing on agricultural production and trade, cross-border commerce, tourism promotion and comprehensive efforts to combat illicit drugs, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said Tuesday. Speaking while summarizing the outcomes of a mobile Cabinet meeting, Anutin said the initiatives aim to increase farmers' incomes, enhance the value of Thai agricultural products, strengthen cross-border connectivity with regional economic corridors and ensure sustainable public safety.



The government places high priority on developing infrastructure and transport to boost trade. Khon Kaen Light Rail Transit (KKRT) project in Khon Kaen, Thailand. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ FUTURE SOUTHEAST ASIA /FILE**

In the agricultural sector, the government plans to enhance the value of processed agricultural products by leveraging the growth of the future food and bio industries, while simultaneously accelerating the development of three major cash crop groups: rice, natural rubber and energy crops. — Xinhua