

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector; the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.



Acting President and State Security & Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Vice-Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission member, Union

Tatmadaw ever ready to serve the nation

Ethnic affairs, too, are best addressed through proposals discussed and resolved within the Hluttaw’s political framework.

Minister and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, ethnic leaders Saw Mutu Sae Po, U Zo Zam and Sai Tun Kyi, together with ethnic people, cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

The Senior General unveiled the signboard to mark the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

The Senior General and attendees themselves wrote their attitudes for the peace process and hung them at the peace tree.

The Senior General and distinguished guests interestingly viewed the booths to mark the 10th Anniversary of NCA at the lobby of MICC I.

The second session of the ceremony was held at the Jade Hall of MICC I. The 10th anniversary ceremony of NCA was inaugurated with an LED animation, and all attendees saluted the State flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. **SEE PAGE 3**

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission’s official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့စားနပ်ရိက္ခာနေ့
World Food Day 2025
“အနာဂတ်စားရေရိက္ခာဖူလုံဖို့ လက်တွဲဆောင်ရွက်ကြပါစို့”
(Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future)
အောက်တိုဘာလ ၁၆ ရက်နေ့

Enquiries and Reports on Voter Registration Now Accepted

1. To facilitate enquiries and reports regarding voter registration, the Union Election Commission has established call centres staffed by officials from the Union Election Commission, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the General Administration Department, and the Ministry of Immigration and Population. These call centres enable voters to enquire about voter registration matters and report any difficulties they may encounter. Voters can contact the following call centre numbers during office hours: -
- (a) Union Election Commission (Nay Pyi Taw)
(1) 067 3404302
(2) 067 3404303
(3) 067 3404304
(4) 09 252116996
(5) For text messages (SMS): 09 252116996
 - (b) Election Subcommission (Nay Pyi Taw Council)
(1) 067 417967
(2) 067 417963
(3) 067 881750256
(4) 09 5330130
(5) For text messages (SMS): 09 881750256
 - (c) Election Subcommission (Kachin State)
(1) 01 3331635
(2) 09 422544669
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 400021303
 - (d) Election Subcommission (Kayah State)
(1) 09 881446686
(2) 09 886834233
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 685636811

- (e) Election Subcommission (Kayin State)
(1) 058 21175
(2) 058 23432
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 778710146
- (f) Election Subcommission (Chin State)
(1) 01 3336611
(2) 01 3336622
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 442993233
- (g) Election Subcommission (Sagaing Region)
(1) 071 2032095
(2) 071 2032096
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 679779520
- (h) Election Subcommission (Taninthayi Region)
(1) 059 2021211
(2) 059 2023525
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 40372990
- (i) Election Subcommission (Bago Region)
(1) 052 2221268
(2) 052 2201991
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 251133187
- (j) Election Subcommission (Magway Region)
(1) 063 2028889
(2) 063 2028890
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 5202659
- (k) Election Subcommission (Mandalay Region)
(1) 02 4069042
(2) 02 4067344
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 36022777

- (l) Election Subcommission (Mon State)
(1) 057 2027256
(2) 057 2024391
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 400070903
- (m) Election Subcommission (Rakhine State)
(1) 09 421742428
(2) 09 43094457
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 421715494
- (n) Election Subcommission (Yangon Region)
(1) 01 2506293
(2) 01 2306250
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 441651416
- (o) Election Subcommission (Shan State)
(1) 081 2124995
(2) 081 2124540
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 254101508
- (p) Election Subcommission (Ayeyawady Region)
(1) 042 24616
(2) 042 23783
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 695837030

2. Please note that any telephone numbers used for purposes other than enquiries or reporting, including nuisance calls, will be recorded and deactivated.

Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Tatmadaw ever ready to serve the Nation

FROM PAGE 1

Artiste staff of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture presented a song “Toward a peaceful, new, modern State” in honour of the NCA’s 10th anniversary. Next, a video clip with the title “The future of the State will be shaped through a durable peace initiated by NCA”, which featured the emergence of NCA, and peace and development of the nation, was screened.

Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of NCA. (The speech delivered by the Senior General is reported on page 4 separately.)

Furthermore, the Senior General delivered a speech. He said: It has been over 77 years since Myanmar gained independence, and the country will mark its 80th anniversary in 2028. However, since the time of independence until now, the people of Myanmar have not been able to fully enjoy the essence of true independence. From the beginning of independence, various internal and external factors have caused the ethnic people of the country to face many forms of hardship and suffering. When compared with neighbouring countries and other stable and developing nations, Myanmar has lagged behind. Even when compared with countries of similar population size, land area, and economic conditions, Myanmar remains behind. This backwardness is the result of both domestic and international factors. Most seriously, the population and household census data stated that the people of Myanmar are still lacking in knowledge, technical skills, and educational standards. These facts clearly show that there is a great lesson to be learned — that efforts must be made to enhance the education standard of the citizens.

Since gaining independence, Myanmar has experienced various eras and different systems of governance. As men-

tioned in the previous peace conference, the country has seen both periods of prosperity and decline. During the 1988 pro-democracy movement, the people called for a multiparty democratic system. In accordance with the will of the people, Tatmadaw took measures to enable the nation to move toward the path of multiparty democracy in 2011, which the people had long aspired to. At the same time, steps were also taken to establish a Union based on a more complete form of democracy and a federal system. The Tatmadaw took the lead in all these measures.

As the Constitution was drafted under the circumstances that existed at that time, I understand that there is now a need for certain amendments. Therefore, after our government assumed state responsibilities in 2021, I personally, as well as through my representatives, held multiple meetings and discussions with ethnic armed organizations, political parties, and relevant individuals. During those discussions, some agreements were reached regarding constitutional amendments. My aspiration is for the country to be peaceful and prosperous, and it is necessary to review the factors that have caused us to fall behind. Accordingly, we are carrying out what is feasible, and I urge ethnic groups and relevant stakeholders to also focus only on what is possible and practical. Matters that cannot be done should not be pursued. Everyone should work together with the right objectives and a genuine sense of purpose.

Regarding ethnic affairs as well, it is best for proposals to be addressed within the political platform of the Hluttaw. Therefore, when considering and implementing matters related to this issue, I worked toward adopting a proportional representation system. As a result, preparations have been made to change the format of the upcoming election accordingly. This process has been carried out with the agreement of all political parties. The election is scheduled to be held in December. At present, a total of 57 political parties have registered to participate; six parties will contest na-

tionwide, while 51 parties will compete at the level of regions and states. More than 5,000 candidates have registered to run in the election. Therefore, it can be said that the upcoming election will be a strong and competitive one. Based on the experiences from the previous three elections, irregularities and errors occurred due to the use of ballots and advance voting. Therefore, arrangements have been made to enable voting through Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs), which will prevent electoral fraud. With this system in place, I believe the election will be free and fair. For the first phase, the election will be held in 102 townships, followed by 100 townships in the second phase, and the remaining townships will be covered in the third phase. Due to various reasons, it will not be possible to hold elections in 100 per cent of some constituencies. Even in the past three elections, nationwide elections could not be held completely. For the remaining townships where elections cannot be conducted for the time being, the future government is planning to continue holding by-elections during the interim period.

Myanmar needs to firmly stand on the path of democracy chosen by the people, and Tatmadaw is steadfastly carrying out efforts in this regard. In building the nation, it is essential to consider the country’s historical background and its geopolitical significance. Myanmar is located between two major powers, China and India, which have different political systems. Therefore, our country must act with a balanced and correct stance. Myanmar’s foreign policy is based on a non-aligned approach and on maintaining friendly relations with all nations. With this in mind, we must carefully and thoughtfully proceed with building a democratic and federal Union. In doing so, we must focus particularly on improving the nation’s weaknesses in knowledge, technical skills, and educational standards by prioritizing the development of education. Therefore, as a first step, it is essential to ensure that education can be provided up to the KG+9 level. In the Kyaukme

region, which was recently brought back under control, arrangements have been made to enable students to resume their studies as quickly as possible. Efforts must be made to prevent children from losing educational opportunities and to avoid setbacks in their learning. This must be carried out with mutual understanding and compassion among parents and among children themselves. Accordingly, efforts are being made to ensure that no child in the entire country falls behind in education. Likewise, plans are underway to promptly rebuild, repair, and reopen universities, colleges, and basic education schools that were temporarily closed or damaged due to violent attacks and destruction. Preparations are also being made to reopen one university in the near future. We must not allow our country to fall behind in education.

In order to achieve these goals, efforts are being made to ensure a disciplined and systematic election, through which a new government can be formed and the country can move forward correctly along the path of democracy. I would like to urge parents, local leaders, and respected elders in every community to do their utmost to help preserve stability and support these efforts.

It is the will of the people that we work to establish a genuine, disciplined, and stable democratic system, and to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system. However, our efforts toward peace have been delayed. When we assumed state responsibilities, there were those who said that dialogue could not take place because Tatmadaw was leading the government. Tatmadaw itself signed the NCA, and I will never break the promises I have made. If we had been able to hold discussions earlier, implementation could have been achieved sooner. Nevertheless, during the period we have had, we have managed to reach certain agreements on constitutional amendments. Therefore, I urge all relevant stakeholders to act with genuine consideration for the interests

NATIONAL

Opening Speech by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)

15 October 2025

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Today marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the auspicious occasion of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). On this significant occasion, I wish to extend my warm greetings and good wishes to the leaders of the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) who participated in the signing of the NCA, those who contributed to the peace process, local and international witnesses and all national brethren residing in the Union for your good health and personal well-being as well as further success in your endeavors in peace for the interests of the country.

The fundamental requirement of our country today is peace and stability. With peace and stability, people will be able to pursue their livelihood. They will be able to build a secure, stable and prosperous socio-economic life. Therefore, we must continue our earnest efforts persistently to achieve peace and stability, fundamental prerequisites for the development of the country and people.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Successive Governments have strived, through various means, to end the path of armed struggle that emerged after independence. Even now, we are also continuing our earnest efforts to achieve peace. It is imperative that, until now, there are destructive elements at home and abroad that are trying to undermine the unity of our national brethren in all possible ways, we must remain vigilant against them. While remembering that “a herd divided is a tiger’s feast”, we should avoid the mindset of “I’ll paddle my own boat, even if it takes me to Bago.”

It is necessary to adhere to the saying “the strength of the Union lies within the country”, which carries a significant meaning and remains an eternal truth.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

In every peace-related dialogue, I



placed special emphasis on the NCA due to the fact that the NCA agreement is a fundamental foundation for the peace process, of the utmost importance for our country’s peace process. The purpose of signing the NCA is to achieve sustainable peace, to promote ethnic rights and democracy through nationwide ceasefires.

The initiative of the NCA started with the announcement No. (1/2011) dated 18 August 2011 by the President of the first democratically elected government, extending an invitation to all ethnic armed groups to engage in peace dialogue. Union Peace Central Committee (UPCC), composed of 11 members, chaired by the President, Union Peacemaking Working Committee (UPWC), composed of 52 members and chaired by the Vice-President, and Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) were established to hold peace dialogue effectively.

Subsequently, the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) with 13 members was formed at the Convention of ethnic armed organization in Laiza, Kachin State, on 2 November 2013. Representatives from UPWC and NCCT met 7 times to draft the NCA and agreed provisionally on seven articles and 33 sections of the Agreement from 9 March 2014 to 31 March 2015. Senior Delegation (SD) with 15 members was formed during the Lawkhila conference from 2 to 9 June

2015.

After endorsing the draft NCA, UPWC representatives and Senior Delegates from EAOs met eight times in July 2015 at the Myanmar Peace Centre. At the meeting, the draft agreement discussed between the representatives of UPWC and NCCT at the Lawkhila conference was finalized.

Following several talks, a delegation led by the President and eight EAOs was able to sign the NCA on a grand scale in the presence of the international witnesses on 15 October 2015. At the signing ceremony, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Tatmadaw, EAOs, and the international witnesses, such as the UN, EU, China, India, Thailand, and Japan, signed the NCA.

Subsequently, two additional EAOs signed the NCA on 13 February 2018, resulting in the total number of signatories to ten. The NCA was the outcome of several discussions among the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Tatmadaw, and EAOs for 18 months. The NCA was then adopted at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 8 December 2015. It is a remarkable peace agreement in Myanmar’s history. NCA is guaranteed commitment between the Government and the EAOs.

In line with the union spirits based on freedom, equality, and justice, while upholding our three main national causes,

the essence of the NCA is to build a union based on democracy and federalism, which ensures democracy, equity, and self-determination in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogue. It is necessary that all the EAOs understand the essence of the NCA and participate in the process in the interest of the State.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

The Constitution is the cardinal vein of a country. Since the drafting of our country’s Constitution (2008), State Peace and Development Council convened a national convention in 1993 with the participation of eight groups who were well-versed in politics, security, administration, and economics as well as social and legal affairs: representing political parties, elected representatives, ethnic groups, peasants, workers, intellectuals and technocrats, civil servants, and other invited individuals. The Constitution was also outlined in accordance with the 104 basic principles to implement a genuine and disciplined multi-party democratic system in the country. It was adopted by a nationwide referendum held on 29 May 2008. It is a law that was adopted after detailed discussions and consultations on separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers between the Union and the Regions and States as well as the provision of the state structure, the head of state, citizens, fundamental rights and duties of the citizens, elections, political parties, and general provisions, with (15) chapters and (457) articles. As the Constitution was drafted with the explicit purpose of building a democratic and federal union and division of power; its provisions fully constitute the concept of both federalism and democracy.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Ever since our government assumed State responsibilities due to the circumstances of the 2020 election, we attached great importance to achieving peace. Therefore, “Priority will be given to achieving peace as the essence of the State and stabilizing the results of

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

Opening Speech by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) 15 October 2025

FROM PAGE 4

the peace process in alignment with the agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement(NCA) to the extent possible” is included in the five-point roadmaps of the State Administration Council. Moreover, “to emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)” is included in the nine objectives as a political objective.

It is not a proper way to solve differences and political issues through arms. It could distance us from the political goal and lead to more conflicts. Therefore, we implemented a peace process by opening the door for peace and establishing the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, a Working Committee, and a Negotiation Committee to implement a new political culture, such as a peace process and political dialogue, instead of armed conflicts.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) discussed many times with seven Ethnic Armed Organizations, which signed the NCA, as well as with three Ethnic Armed Organizations which have not signed the NCA and political parties. During the discussions, 43 agreements were made to amend the Constitution (2008), which included strengthening the multiparty democratic system, building a Union based on a democratic and federal system, which is the ultimate goal of the entire people and working together for peace and development of the Union.

These agreements will be submitted to the newly formed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in order to proceed with the constitution amendments procedure. Similarly, representatives signed: Part I 37 points agreed in the 2017 Union Peace conference(second meeting), Part II 14 points agreed in the Union Accord, Part III 21 points agreed at the Union Accord in 2020 and subsequently ratified by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. We will continue to implement them.

Such dialogues are a practice of democracy. Moreover, through dialogues, we can conclude agreements and build mutual trust. Furthermore, it is necessary for the government and the EAOs

to continuously engage in genuine and meaningful dialogue to achieve sustainable peace and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Since assuming the State responsibilities, we laid down two national visions, which are “prosperity of the nation and food security” and two political visions, which are “strengthening a disciplined, genuine multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on a democratic and federal system”. Since our country is a Union comprising diverse ethnic groups, only with the unity of all ethnic groups, we build a nation that guarantees the prosperity of all national races.

There have been losses of lives and damage resulting from the armed conflicts, mostly in underdeveloped regions and states. These regions were underdeveloped before and after independence due to various reasons; the armed conflicts have exacerbated their situation, like a saying “adding insult to injury”. Observing the countries around the world, we can see that even remote areas achieve development when peace and stability are maintained. Myanmar is not only rich in natural resources but also possesses soil and water conditions which are suitable for agricultural and livestock activities. If only peace and stability are achieved, these underdeveloped regions at various times will undoubtedly enjoy progress. Therefore, I wish to encourage all of you to look at the local people with sympathy and join hands and strive to achieve peace and stability for their sake.

I wish to underline here that demanding our needs by holding arms, prioritizing our own aspirations based on tribalism, holds back the development of these people. We have to be aware that it is a deviation from democracy and is not the right way. Our interests and aspirations must be discussed, negotiated, and decided in the respective Hluttaws that emerged from the democratic elections.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Nowadays, our ethnic brethren must respect the desires of minorities in accordance with democratic principles and work together in building a union based on democracy and federalism, which is the ultimate goal of our country. We must work together in building a Myanmar society which establishes a democratic administration system, ensures the endurance of the democratic system, and respects the rule of law. We have to pay attention to the fact that if democracy is properly practised, it is beneficial for the nation and its people. On the other hand, if it is not implemented correctly, it could lead to the loss of a nation’s existence, ethnicity, religion, social fabric and culture. Therefore, I would like to urge all national brethren to work together consciously to implement this goal.

Similarly, in building a Federal System that the entire people aspire to, we must recognize that federalism fundamentally involves power-sharing among diverse regions, states, ethnic nationalities and tribal groups. It is essential to look at the long-term interests of our people and our Union, and to build a model of federalism that is suitable for our country. The government will make necessary amendments regarding the required ethnic rights and political demands in accordance with the Constitution. I would like to reiterate our firm determination to tirelessly build a Union based on democracy and federalism.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

In accordance with the 2008 Constitution, our country will hold a free and fair multi-party democratic general election on 28 December. We will transfer state responsibility to the government that will emerge from the election, in line with democratic standards.

Since assuming the State responsibility, I have set out priority tasks in stages and implemented them amid many challenges. In this regard, we would like to call for the cooperation of the respective EAOs. In order to fulfil the wishes

and aspirations of the ethnic people in line with democratic norms, all ethnic representatives must be present in the Hluttaw, which is a political arena, so that the aspirations and objectives of each ethnic group can be openly discussed, collectively decided, and implemented.

In the upcoming election, the FPTP (First-Past-The-Post) electoral system will be used for the Pyithu Hluttaw only. For Amyotha Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaws, the Mixed-Member Proportional electoral system (MMP) will be used. This approach ensures that small parties and ethnic parties gain representation through a proportional representation system. If the elections are conducted only through the FPTP of the “winner-take-all” system, larger parties that win the majority of the votes would dominate the Hluttaw. By balancing with the PR (Proportional Representation) system, the votes for smaller political parties and ethnic parties will enable them to secure seats in the Hluttaw through proportional representation.

Our national brethren of the union need to choose individuals who will value the respective regions and ethnicities. We should nurture the habit of voting with good judgment for the flourishing of the democratic system.

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

In conclusion, based on the lessons learnt from history, national unity is of paramount importance for the stability, peace, and rule of law in the country. Peace and unity are also essential for ending armed conflict and ensuring that all ethnic peoples can live together in peace and harmony in the Union forever.

The goal of lasting peace can be swiftly achieved only through genuine political will, a sincere desire for peaceful negotiation, patience, and persistent efforts.

Hence, I would like to conclude by urging the entire people to uphold fast to mindfulness and wisdom, stand firm on the path of the NCA, and work together with patience and unity, to achieve nationwide perpetual peace in the future.

Thank you all.

NATIONAL

Workshop marks 10th NCA ceremony

THE 10th anniversary ceremony of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) took place with a workshop themed “Building Peaceful Future of Myanmar” at the Jade Hall of MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Member of State Security and Peace Commission National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister for Border Affairs and Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the workshop is being held to review the achievements, progress, and lessons learned over the ten years of implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), sharing experiences and perspectives gained from the peace process among key stakeholders, and promoting unity and reconciliation in Myanmar.

In order to build lasting and sustainable peace, trust must be built by implementing the agreements reached through dialogue and negotiation. Peace is the fundamental foundation for national development and socio-economic progress, and without political



The 10th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) Workshop on Building Peaceful Future of Myanmar in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

stability, the country could face negative consequences, such as hindrances to attracting foreign investment.

Therefore, efforts must be made to build a nation with stability and to curb the acts of violence that harm peace, stability, and the development of the country. As the Union Election

Commission plans to hold the upcoming elections in phases starting from 28 December, everyone should work together to reduce and eliminate violent activities to ensure that the elections can be held successfully. He urged the participants to use this workshop as an opportunity to identify effective methods, strategies, and

constructive ideas that align with the real needs of the people and the country's actual situation, to address the challenges, difficulties, and conflicts.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed on the intention of holding the international work-

shop and the agenda.

The patron made an opening speech to discuss the topic of “Exploring geoeconomic pathways to support the building of Myanmar’s peace with the assistance of regional and global partners.”

The experts from India, Thailand and Indonesia discussed under the topics of “Regional connectivity, trade, and the peace process,” “Economies crisis and non-traditional security threats,” “Migrant labour, community relations, and post-disaster/conflict reconstruction.”

After the event, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee chairman presented gifts to the foreign experts and had a documentary photo taken.

The constructive opinions and advice received from the workshop will be applied in peace, State economic development measures, security sectors and reconstruction processes after the natural disaster, and the workshop will continue on 16 October. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw ever ready to serve the Nation

FROM PAGE 3

of the Union, the ethnic national people, and the nation as a whole. I call on everyone to work together to prevent the country from falling into hardship and to contribute to national prosperity. I also wish to affirm that we are always ready to do whatever is necessary for the good of the country.

Kayin ethnic leader Soe Mutu Sae Po who signed the NCA; Mr Deng Xijun, the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China who was representative of the international witnesses; Indian Ambassador Shri Abhay Thakur, on behalf of the Indian witness and the Secretary of

the Ministry of External Affairs of India; former Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata who was temporary General Secretary of Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), and U Aung Min who signed the NCA spoke words of honour.

The Senior General presented commemorative gifts to special guests from China, India and ASEAN region, Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Sae Po and NCA signatory U Aung Min.

The Senior General had documentary photos together with the attendees to the ceremony.

Artistes and staff from MRTV and ethnic cultural representatives performed

songs and dances.

The Senior General presented the flower basket and K100 million to dance troupes from MRTV and the Fine Arts Department and ethnic dance troupes and posed for documentary photos with them.

Also, present at the ceremony were Commission member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Commission member and Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, commission members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, chief ministers from regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the com-

mander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and officials, advisers to the Acting President, chairs and representatives from political parties, leaders and representatives from EAOs, internal and international witnesses of signing the NCA, representatives and officials from UPCC, NSPNC, UPWC, UPDJC and JMC, special representatives from neighbouring countries, foreign diplomats, representatives of national races, representatives from ethnic armed organizations, political parties and international organizations.

After the ceremony, the Senior General hosted a lunch to the attendees who attended the 10th Anniversary of NCA. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Without unity and solidarity, no economic system can succeed

- ❖ Without our unity and solidarity, no economic system can succeed.
- ❖ No political system can lead effectively without stability and strength.
- ❖ No social system can guarantee lasting peace and happiness.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the opening of the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World held on 21 March 2025)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Announcement 134/2025

9th Waning of Thadingyut 1387 ME
15 October 2025

Announcement concerning election rallies and campaigning

1. Provisions concerning election-related gatherings, speeches, and campaigning have been enacted and outlined in Section 30-A of the Hluttaw Election Law and in Chapter 10 of the Hluttaw Election Rules. These provisions are to ensure that campaigning is conducted freely and fairly in accordance with the law by all candidates — whether they are representing a political party under the first-past-the-post system, under the proportional representation system, or are standing as independent candidates

— who have submitted their names for their respective constituencies in the various Hluttaws and have been scrutinized, approved, and announced by the relevant sub-commissions in line with the Hluttaw Election Law and its associated rules.
2. Candidates and political parties competing in the general election, which will commence on 28 December 2025, are to conduct all election-related gatherings, speeches, and campaigning in accordance with the provisions contained in the relevant

3. Hluttaw Election Rules, in order to ensure the election is free, fair, peaceful, and stable. The Union Election Commission hereby announces that the permitted campaign period for the general election commencing on 28 December 2025 shall be 60 days, from 06:00 on 28 October 2025 until 24:00 on 26 December 2025.
- Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

MoFA Union Minister attends Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement in Kampala, Uganda

AT the official invitation of General Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participated in the Ministerial Meeting of NAM, which is being held on 15-16 October 2025 in Kampala, Uganda. Foreign Ministers, Deputy Foreign Ministers and representatives of the NAM Member States have been attending the Ministerial Meeting and delivering country statements at the Plenary Session being held at the Speke Resort Convention Centre. Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe delivered the country statement at the Plenary Session of the Ministerial Meeting of NAM in the morning of 15



Attendees of the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement pose for a documentary group photo in Kampala, Uganda. October 2025. In his statement, the Union Minister highlighted that the world today is confronting multi-faceted challenges, resulting disproportionate impact on developing countries. He also mentioned that the competition among global powers could lead to potential challenges like a trade war and World War III. To defend such worrying challenges and to safeguard peace, stability and development, the solidarity of NAM is important than ever. He stressed the importance of NAM to continue to protect the common interests of developing countries. He also mentioned that as a founding member of the NAM, Myanmar has been strictly following the principles of the NAM. In accordance with the theme, “Deepening cooperation for Shared Global Affluence”, he assured Myanmar’s reiteration on unwavering commitments, including the commitment to work hand-in-hand with other NAM Member Countries towards achieving peace, equality and development of the developing countries. Moreover, the Minister ap-

prised the Government’s efforts on ensuring free and fair general elections, cooperation with the neighbouring countries on combatting online scams and transnational crimes and ongoing developments in the country, including Rakhine State. Before the Ministerial Meeting, a delegation led by U Kyaw Tin Shein, Myanmar Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, attended the Senior Officials Meeting of NAM held on 13 and 14 October. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum which was founded in 1961 with the view to advancing the interests of developing countries. Currently, NAM has 121 member States, 18 observer countries and 10 observer organizations. Myanmar is a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement. — MNA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

March towards the goal of NCA steadfastly

PEACE can be achieved only through political means – by engaging in dialogue and negotiation to find solutions. It is necessary to work collectively to attain peace by ending armed conflicts and pursuing dialogue and coordination. In the country’s peace process, a significant milestone was the successful establishment of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which enabled all stakeholders to sign and commit to ending hostilities in Myanmar.

For the nationwide ceasefire, all parties engaged in coordination and dialogue. Through extensive discussions and negotiations, the outcomes that emerged led to the establishment of the NCA. On 15 October 2015, the NCA was successfully signed. The Agreement

did not come about easily; it was the result of more than 5,000 rounds of peace negotiations since the very first invitation to the talks, culminating in the signing of the accord. Since gaining independence in 1948, Myanmar has experienced nearly eight decades of internal armed conflicts, during which the ethnic national peoples have not yet been able to fully enjoy the true essence and benefits of independence. The ongoing armed conflicts and current situations clearly reflect this reality. The root causes of these conflicts have been found to stem primarily from differences in views and attitudes among the ethnic national groups themselves. Internal armed conflicts have hindered the nation and its people from achieving development and progress. The lack of development has, in turn, lowered socioeconomic conditions and prolonged the cycle of armed conflict. Those who suffer the most from these consequences are the citizens of the country as a whole, particularly the local people living in the conflict-affected areas, who bear the heaviest burdens.

The purpose of signing the NCA is to initiate a nationwide ceasefire and to lay the foundation for lasting peace, the rights of ethnic nationalities, and democracy. Therefore, all stakeholders need to continuously and jointly implement the NCA’s key provisions, which emphasizes that “to achieve lasting and sustainable peace in this country, we, the signatories to this NCA, pledge to each other to diligently work together to implement all provisions contained in this agreement completely, successfully and without fail in an accountable, responsible and transparent manner.”

For the nation to achieve both internal peace and durable peace, the core interests of the State, political parties, and ethnic armed organizations are engaging in ongoing dialogue. To end armed conflicts and attain long-term sustainable peace, all ethnic nationalities must work together and cooperate closely along the path of these negotiations.

The purpose of signing the NCA is to initiate a nationwide ceasefire and to lay the foundation for lasting peace, the rights of ethnic nationalities, and democracy. Therefore, all stakeholders need to continuously and jointly implement the NCA’s key provisions, which emphasizes that “to achieve lasting and sustainable peace in this country, we, the signatories to this NCA, pledge to each other to diligently work together to implement all provisions contained in this agreement completely, successfully and without fail in an accountable, responsible and transparent manner.”

Breaking Boundaries, Sustaining Action: The Post-Rabies Day Roadmap to Zero by 30

By Dr Aung Tun

A Global and Regional Menace: Understanding the Prevalence

Rabies, an acute viral infection of the central nervous system, is virtually 100 per cent fatal once clinical symptoms appear, yet it is also 100 per cent preventable. This paradox makes rabies a neglected public health crisis, especially in Asia and Africa. Globally, dog-mediated rabies causes an estimated 59,000 human deaths annually, with 40 per cent of victims being children under 15 years old. The vast majority — up to 95 per cent of human deaths — occur in these two continents where dog vaccination and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) access are often limited.

The Persistent Burden in Myanmar

In Myanmar, rabies remains a major, high-priority public health concern. Despite national efforts against other diseases, rabies has been responsible for more deaths than malaria in recent years. **Fatalities and Exposure:** Myanmar sees an estimated 200 human deaths from rabies annually. Furthermore, between 150,000 to 200,000 people suffer from dog bites each year, placing a huge strain on the public health system. Approximately 40 per cent of victims are children under 15.

Reservoir: The disease burden is significantly linked to an estimated 3.8 million dogs nationwide, many of which are stray or free-roaming. High incidence areas include Yangon, Mandalay, and Bago Regions.

The Current Alarm: Recent Occurrence in Thailand

The threat of rabies is constant in Southeast Asia, and recent events in a neighboring country serve as a stark reminder of its persistent danger.

In September 2025, a rabies outbreak led authorities in Thailand to declare parts of Bangkok

and Samut Prakan as temporary epidemic zones, imposing a 30-day ban on the movement of dogs, cats, and other mammals. This was triggered by the detection of infected stray animals in high-mobility urban areas. This rapid spread in a major urban center underscores the need for constant, robust surveillance and control measures across the region, particularly after major awareness events have concluded.

2. Open Wounds: The virus can also enter the body if saliva makes contact with existing open wounds or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth). Intact skin does not transmit the virus.

Once the virus enters the body, the process is:

1. Entry and Incubation: The virus enters the body. The incubation period is highly vari-

common route is a deep bite or scratch from an infected animal.

the nerves to the salivary glands, where it is shed in the saliva, making the animal infectious to others.

Signs of Rabies in Dogs

If you observe the following signs in a dog in your community, you should suspect Rabies:

- **Unprovoked aggression** or suddenly attacking people or objects.
- **Making unusual sounds** (crying, whining, or changes in the usual bark).
- **Excessive drooling** or frothing at the mouth.
- **Chewing or swallowing non-food items** (e.g., stones, straw, cloth).
- **Abnormal change in behavior** (e.g., becoming lethargic, hiding, or failing to recognize their owner).

Life-Saving Steps After a Bite (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis - PEP)

If you are bitten, scratched, or licked on an open wound by an animal (especially a dog), you must take the following 3 steps immediately without delay.

Step 1: Wash the Wound for 15 Minutes with Soap and Water

- Wash the wound thoroughly with **plenty of water and soap** for a minimum of **15 minutes**. This is the most crucial first-aid action and dramatically reduces the amount of virus at the site of infection, significantly preventing transmission.
- After washing, apply an **antiseptic solution** (such as Betadine or iodine) to the wound.

Practical Alert: Do NOT suture (stitch) the wound. If suturing is necessary due to the severity of the injury, it should only be done after a healthcare professional has administered Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG) around the wound. Also, avoid tight bandaging.

Step 2: GO to a Health Facility Immediately

- **Regardless of the animal**

(even a domestic pet), clean the wound and proceed to the nearest **Rural Health Centre, Township Hospital, or Clinic** immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to appear.

- **Emergency Alert:** If the bite is on the **face, head, neck, fingers, or toes** (areas rich in nerves), this is a high-risk scenario. Treat it as an emergency and seek the hospital immediately, as the virus can reach the brain faster.

Step 3: Receive the Necessary Vaccine and RIG

- The doctor will assess the severity of the wound (known as the exposure category) and determine if you require the **Rabies Vaccine** and/or **Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG)**.
- **RIG:** This is an antibody injection given directly around and into the bite site to immediately neutralize the virus before the vaccine can take effect. For severe (Category III) wounds, **RIG is essential in addition to the vaccine**.

Practical Information for the Public (Myanmar):

- Rabies vaccines and RIG are generally available at **Major Public Hospitals** and Health Departments under the Ministry of Health.
- Vaccines are often provided **free of charge** or at a low cost at government hospitals. However, the availability and cost of services, especially RIG, may vary by region. Always check with your local health provider.

Preventing Rabies (Our Collective Responsibility)

Preventing Rabies is the single most effective way to save lives. Global initiatives, including WHO and WRD (World Rabies Day), aim to achieve **Zero human deaths from dog-mediated Rabies by 2030**.

1. Vaccinate Your Dogs

- **The single most effective way to control Rabies in a**

community is by vaccinating dogs. Achieving **70% vaccination coverage** of the dog population is enough to break the cycle of transmission.

- Make it your responsibility to consult a **veterinarian** and ensure your pet dog is vaccinated **annually** against Rabies.
- Systematic control and vaccination of stray/roaming dogs are also critical to protecting the wider community.

2. Avoid Bites

- Educate children on **how to interact safely with dogs** (e.g., never approach a strange dog, never disturb a dog that is sleeping or eating, and never tease a dog).
- Avoid contact with **wild animals** (like bats or foxes) entirely. They may carry the virus

3.Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- Individuals at high risk of exposure (e.g., veterinarians, laboratory workers, or frequent travelers to high-risk areas) should consider receiving the **Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis** vaccine.
- Receiving PrEP simplifies post-exposure treatment. If bitten, the person would only need **two doses of the vaccine** and would **not** require the costly and sometimes difficult-to-find RIG.

Sustained Action: Myanmar’s ‘One Health’ Roadmap

World Rabies Day is a kick-off, not a finish line. To achieve the global goal of “Zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030,” Myanmar is implementing a long-term ‘One Health’ strategy, uniting the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Department of Livestock and Veterinary (DLVD).

DLVD Initiatives: Eliminating Rabies at the Source (The Dog)

The DLVD drives the elimination strategy through its **National Action Plan for Rabies Elimination in Dogs (2018–2030)**:

- * **Mass Dog Vaccination**



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မနွေးအမြန်လက်တွဲပေး

TRIVIA TIME

DID YOU KNOW?

"Rabies is 100% preventable, and yet every year, thousands of people - mostly children - needlessly die."

Dr Bernadette Abela-Ridder, World Health Organization

SHARE+

FOLLOW+



(MDV): This is the paramount action. The DLVD, in collaboration with partners, conducts extensive vaccination campaigns in high-risk areas (e.g., Yangon, Mandalay, Bago), aiming for a sustained 70% dog vaccination coverage threshold required to break the transmission cycle.

- * **Pilot Success:** Successful pilot projects in townships like Lewe and Nyaung-U demonstrated that high coverage leads to a cessation of animal rabies cases, proving that elimination is feasible.

MOH Initiatives: Protecting Human Life
The MOH ensures the human population is protected:

- * **Free and Accessible PEP:** Maintaining a consistent supply and distribution of free rabies vaccines and RIG to hospitals nationwide, ensuring timely treatment regardless of location.

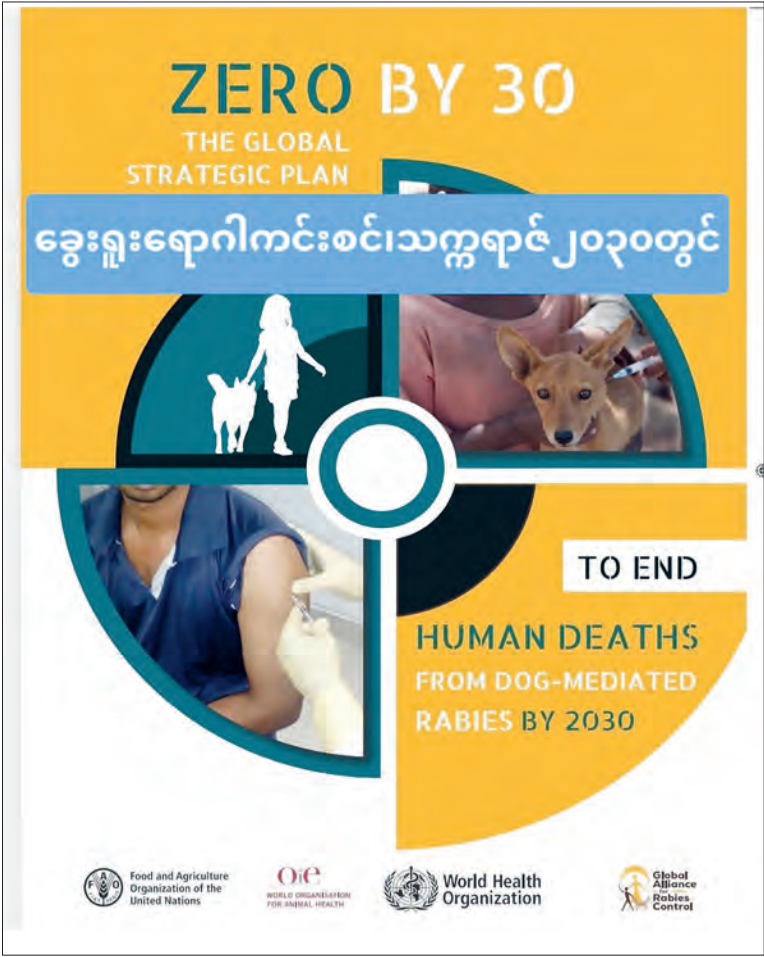
- * **Community Education:** Continuous public health campaigns promoting the life-saving steps of wound washing and immediate PEP seeking.

Conclusion

Despite the massive progress in global health, rabies remains a deadly, neglected tropical disease, yet it is entirely preventable through the concerted efforts of the animal and human health sectors. The only true barrier to achieving “Zero by 30” is the failure to sustain action — the willingness to let down our guard between awareness campaigns. The lesson from both the global prevalence and local efforts in Myanmar is clear: Rabies is eliminated at the community level, one vaccinated dog at a time, and one prompt medical intervention at a time. It requires persistent funding, unwavering political commitment to the ‘One Health’ strategy, and most critically, the continuous engagement of every citizen to ensure their pets are protected and they know the life-saving steps of wound care. We must move beyond celebrating awareness days and embed rabies prevention as a fundamental, non-negotiable part of our daily public and animal health commitment, guaranteeing a rabies-free future for our children.

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4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Global Rabies.
5. Recent Regional Public Health Bulletins (eg, Reports on Rabies Outbreaks in Thailand).



The Disease Process: From Host to Brain

Rabies is caused by the Rabies Lyssavirus. While domestic dogs are responsible for up to 99 per cent of human cases in Asia, the virus can be transmitted by any warm-blooded animal, including cats, bats, and certain wildlife species.

Transmission to humans occurs primarily when virus-laden saliva enters:

1. **Bites or Scratches:** The most

able, typically 3 to 8 weeks, but can range from days to years.

2. Replication and Travel: The virus replicates locally, then enters the peripheral nerves. 3. Ascension and CNS Infection: The virus travels slowly up the nerves towards the spinal cord and brain. Once it reaches the brain, it causes fatal inflammation (encephalitis).

3. Symptom Onset and Spread: The virus travels back down

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends global engineering conference in Shanghai

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, who is also Patron of the Myanmar Engineering Council, attended the General Assembly of World Federation of Engineering Organizations and Global Engineering Congress held in Shanghai, China, from 12 to 17 October.

On 13 October, the Union minister attended the opening ceremony of the assembly and made a remark saying Green Engineering is more than just a specialized field, as it serves as a moral compass for harmonizing humanity and nature. The China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) has significantly supported the development of Myanmar engineers, and with the backing of CAST and Asia-Pacific engineering associations, the Myanmar Engineering Council became a permanent member of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than speaks at the World Federation of Engineering Organizations 2025 General Assembly and the Global Engineering Congress held in Shanghai, China on 14 October 2025

in 2018, gaining recognition under the Washington Accord and other regional accreditation standards. He also added that the future of engineering education should focus not on machines but on meaningful public contributions, with investments toward developing the mindset and intellect of young people in addition to labs and research departments. Therefore, engineering is not a competition with the use of resources but taking responsibility to transform expectation into practical action.

On 14 October, the Union minister made an opening

speech titled " Transformative Power of Information and Communication Technologies" at the Information and Communication Technology Forum of Global Engineering Congress.

This year's theme was Engineering Shapes a Green Future, and the congress was jointly organized by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), Chinese Academy of Engineering and Shanghai Municipal People's Government. The congress will focus on the pivotal role of engineering technologies in addressing climate change, fostering green economic growth, shaping a globally sustainable and human-centred development framework, and enhancing human well-being. It aims to contribute to the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. — MNA/ KTZH

Myanmar, Russia to deepen educational cooperation

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein received a Russian delegation led by Mr Evgeny Grigoryev, Member of the Government of Saint Petersburg and Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of the Government of Saint Petersburg of the Russian Federation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cor-

dially exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and Russian universities, sending scholarship students to Russia, promoting the learning of the Russian language to develop the tourism sector and fostering human resource development through the enhancement of bilateral relations in the education sector and further edu-

cational cooperation between the two countries.

Also, present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Nay Myo Hlaing, Directors-General, whereas the Russian delegation leader and party were accompanied by Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Myanmar and delegation members. – MNA/



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein holds talks with Mr Evgeny Grigoryev, Member of the Government of Saint Petersburg and Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of the Government of Saint Petersburg of the Russian Federation and his delegation yesterday.

46 foreign nationals illegally entering Myanmar intercepted

AUTHORITIES have successfully intercepted and detained 46 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar, including 45 Chinese citizens and one Filipino national. These individuals reportedly entered the country via border routes, transiting through neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and were involved in online gambling, online scams, and other illegal activities in Kayin State, specifically in Myawaddy, Shwe Kokko, KK Park, and Kyaukkhat areas.

The detained foreigners were subjected to further screening and investigation yesterday. Responsible agencies collected personal information and records to facilitate their swift repatriation to their respective countries. The process was supervised by the officials of Kayin State's Department of Immigration and Population, who ensured that

necessary measures were completed.

From 30 January to 15 October 2025, a total of 9,536 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar were intercepted and detained. Among them, 9,337 individuals were systematically repatriated to their countries through Thailand following legal procedures, while 199 remain in the country awaiting transfer. All detained individuals are being well cared for.

The government continues to actively identify, arrest, and take strict action against foreign nationals involved in online scam operations and those manipulating such criminal activities from abroad. Simultaneously, authorities coordinate to ensure the safe and rapid repatriation of foreigners who are victims of trafficking or have faced hardships while in Myanmar. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar attends 13th AMMDM in Cambodia

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win attended the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and related meetings being held in Cambodia from 15 to 17 October.

The first day of the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) took place on 15 October, and Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and Kitte Sangahak Bandith Kun Kim, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Missions, First Vice President of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) 2025, delivered speeches.

During the meeting, the Union minister stated that it has now been 20 years since the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). In ASEAN, the three community pillars – political, economic, and socio-cultural – have each been carrying out their



Union Minister Dr Soe Win attends the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and related meetings in Cambodia.

respective responsibilities and activities in a unified and coordinated manner in line with regional agreements. In the socio-cultural community, particularly in relation to disaster management and emergency response activities, relevant ministries of member states have been cooperating openly, transparently, and in a spirit of friendship. As a result, over the past 20 years, disaster management activities have been carried out effectively to a certain extent.

He also appreciated the support of the ASEAN Secretary-General Office, AHA Centre, rescue teams and emergency healthcare services and relief items of ASEAN countries after the Mandalay earthquake, and highlighted these supports as “One ASEAN, One Response”, the successful implementation of AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and further cooperation for AADMER 2026-2030.

At noon, the Union minister met with

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn and exchanged views on earthquake response and rehabilitation activities and regional disaster management activities.

The Myanmar delegation, led by the director-general of the Disaster Management Department, also attended the 47th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) being held from 13 to 14 October in October.

— MNA/KTZH

Russian medical team partners with YGH on cancer care

A delegation led by Professor Dr Moiseyenko from the Napalkov Cancer Centre in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, visited Yangon General Hospital yesterday afternoon to review and discuss effective treatment methods.

The team observed four cancer patients in the orthopaedics, general surgery, and haematology departments and consulted with the hospital's specialist doctors on the most appropriate treatment approaches.

The delegation also examined the health status of patients in the Haematology

Department, particularly those with blood cancers, and discussed necessary therapies. At the Bone Marrow Transplant Centre, they reviewed successfully treated patients and shared insights on transplant procedures for upcoming cases.

Following the hospital visits, Professor Dr Moiseyenko delivered a lecture titled “Cancer and Age: How Ageing Mechanisms Relate to Oncological Diseases” in a meeting hall. The session saw professors and department heads from the University of Medicine 1 (Yangon), the Defence Services Medical Academy, and

Yangon General Hospital, including specialists in oncology, radiology, and clinical medicine. Participants openly exchanged experiences and insights on cancer treatments.

Around 120 attendees, including professors, department heads, specialist doctors, assistants, and postgraduate students from Yangon General Hospital, Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed), Mingaladon Specialist Hospital (500-bed), and other hospitals, attended the discussion. Commemorative gifts were exchanged to mark the occasion. — MNA/KZL



Professor Dr Moiseyenko from the Napalkov Cancer Centre, the Russian Federation, delivers a lecture titled “Cancer and Age: How Ageing Mechanisms Relate to Oncological Diseases” at the Yangon General Hospital yesterday.

MoFA Dy Minister meets Chinese Special Envoy



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw meets Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The discussion of the meeting focused on further enhancement of the existing Pauk-Phaw relation and building a community of shared future between the two countries, and acceleration of mutually beneficial cooperation. In addition, they discussed continued cooperation for main-

taining peace and stability along the Myanmar-China border, the latest developments on the peace process and national reconciliation in Myanmar, the continued support of China on the efforts of Myanmar to achieve lasting peace and socioeconomic development of its people, and to combat online gambling and other illegal activities in border areas. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual support in the regional and multilateral context, and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. — MNA

NATIONAL

Top students from 2024-2025 matric exam visit S’pore universities, landmarks



Officials from the Singapore Institute of Management greet Myanmar outstanding students.

AS part of a state-sponsored programme, a delegation of 33 students who achieved outstanding results in the 2024-2025 university entrance examination, accompanied by their supervisors, was sent on an overseas study tour.

They departed from Yangon on a Myanmar Airways International (MAD) flight and arrived at Singapore’s Changi International Airport on the morning of 14 October, where they were welcomed by officials from the Myanmar Embassy.

In the afternoon, the high-achieving students visited the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore. Dr Zaw Min Aung, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim, provided a briefing on the tour itinerary and presented them with commemorative gifts. In the evening, the embassy hosted a dinner for the students at the Singapore Cricket Club, after

which the group visited Merlion Park.

The students visited and explored the Botanic Garden yesterday morning before proceeding to the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM). There, they were greeted by university officials who delivered welcoming remarks and gave a presentation on the university’s background and the academic courses it offers. The students were then given a tour of the campus.

Following the tour, the group had lunch at a Hainanese chicken rice restaurant at the Singapore Institute of Management. In the afternoon, they visited Gardens by the Bay. Later, they travelled to Sentosa Island to explore the Singapore Oceanarium. The outstanding students concluded their day by shopping and browsing at the VivoCity shopping centre. — MNA/KZL

Yangon Chinese Cultural Centre hosts screening of popular ‘Shenzhou-13’ film

A screening of the Chinese-produced documentary film “Shenzhou-13” was held yesterday at the Yangon Chinese Cultural Centre in Ahlon Township, Yangon. The event was hosted by the China Media Group and the Yangon Chinese Cultural Centre.

The film is an educational space documentary shot from the perspective of an astronaut on the first six-month mission in orbit. It depicts the daily life of astronauts in space and the magnificence of the 400-kilometre-high orbit, giving viewers a close-up pass of planet Earth and an immersive sense of the cosmos, as if one could reach out and touch the sea and sky.

“This film is a documentary that provides knowledge about space, the Earth, and the way astronauts live. It is currently being shown in cinemas across

China and is one of the latest and most popular releases,” said Ms Zhang Xiaoming of the China Media Group. “It has been noted by young people, students, and parents as a very interesting and educational film. Our intention is for students from different countries to learn about space together and to understand the power of science and technology. By experiencing the art of film, they can learn more about China through the screen.”

The “Shenzhou-13” film, which was screened today, was a major success in the People’s Republic of China during October 2025, with box office revenues exceeding 45 million yuan.

The screening was attended by students from the Bowen Chinese School and guests from various social organizations. — MNA/KZL



The Chinese-produced documentary film “Shenzhou-13” is shown at the Yangon Chinese Cultural Centre in Yangon.

Myanmar registers diabetes drug Semaglutide under brand name Seglupac

AA Medical Products Ltd has received approval from PMI (Pacific Medical Industries Ltd) to register the first Semaglutide drug in Myanmar under the name Seglupac.

Seglupac (Semaglutide) is a medication for type 2 diabetes and obesity. The drug is known to regulate the activity of the GLP-1 hormone and blood sugar, as well as reduce appetite. It has also been shown to help prevent serious side effects such as heart disease.

"This approval is a huge step forward for PMI Pharmacy. This is the success of not only Pacific AA Group but also PMI's commitment to the health and well-being of the



This image reveals Seglupac, the first drug for type 2 diabetes and obesity produced in Myanmar.

Myanmar people", said a statement from AA Medical Products Ltd.

Currently, more than four million people in Myanmar, including 8.4 per cent of men and 12.6 per cent of women, suffer from diabetes and obesity, and generic drugs such as Ozempic® and Rybelsus® are reported to be

expensive and unaffordable for most people.

With Seglupac, this important medicine is being distributed to all social classes in Myanmar. PMI Pharmacy's mission is to help people from all walks of life become more accessible at affordable prices.

The company has also announced that it will be launching Seglupac 3 (Semaglutide 3mg), Seglupac 7 (Semaglutide 7mg) and Seglupac 14 (Semaglutide 14mg) tablets locally, while maintaining international quality standards and selling at reasonable prices and reducing the burden on patients and families across the country. – MT/ZN

OWIC issued for 10 Myanmar women workers bound for Laos

A total of 10 Myanmar women workers who are going to be sent to Laos through authorized overseas employment agencies have been allowed to attend the overseas job training course and apply for the Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC), the Safe Migration announced on 15 October.

The workers will have to attend the job training course on 16 October and apply the OWIC on 17 October, and resubmit if they are unable to do so by the schedule.

The agencies will have to prepare and immediately resubmit a list of workers to be sent, the date of dispatch within one week from the date of departure, passport copy, OWIC copy and Excel soft copy to the Department of Labour at dolmigrationjapan@gmail.com. — MT/ZS

Late renewal of petroleum storage licence subject to fines

THE Department of Mines under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation notified business-people of renewing licences for the storage of petroleum and petroleum products two months before expiry, and a late renewal is subject to fines.

The petroleum and petroleum product storage licences issued by the department are set to expire on 31 December 2025.

The licence holders need to renew them within two months before the expiry date, according to Petroleum and Petroleum Products Rule 119.

The renewal can be done from 1 November and 31 December 2025. The late fee is set at two per cent of the licence



One of the filling stations in the city of Yangon.

fee per day commencing from 1 January 2026.

According to the ministry’s notification (037/2023) released on 31 October 2023, those who fail to renew their licence for a year will get their licence revoked automatically and deleted from the list. While renewing licences, renewal forms, storage licences, last inspection records of the department (copy) and documentary photos and documents of storage tanks of petrol stations are required to be presented.

Individuals can enquire about details by dialling the following contact number 09 673409376 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Office 19. — NN/KK

CBM announces US\$27M injection into fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 14 October that it would pump US\$27 million into the fuel oil sector.

Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.79 million to the edible oil-importing companies from the foreign reserves purchased from the companies working on a Cut, Make, and Pack basis, in addition to an injection of over \$1.455 million into the market.

CBM sold over \$1.8 million to edible oil-importing companies on 13 October, in addition to an injection of \$594,800 into the financial market.

CBM sold \$2.26 million to edible oil-importing companies on 10 October in addition to an injection of \$400,000 into the

market.

CBM sold over \$1.9 million to edible oil-importing companies in addition to sales of over 354,000 yuan in the market on 9 October.

CBM announced on 8 October that it would sell \$30 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry. CBM also sold over \$1.87 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$530,290 to fuel oil-importing companies on that day, in addition to an injection of over 4.98 million baht and over 21,480 yuan into the market.

CBM pumped over \$39 million purchased from companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis into the market in September 2025. Moreover, CBM also injected

over \$680,000, 6.2 million yuan and 300,000 baht into the market through the foreign exchange market online trading platform last month.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM’s notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MRCCCI to host seminar on business continuity success

MANDALAY Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) will organize a seminar titled “From Crisis to Continuity a Business Continuity Mindset” on 22 October from 1 to 3 pm at Hotel Hazel in Mandalay.

At the seminar, Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet will share practical approaches to business continuity planning, highlighting identifying and assessing unprecedented risks, operating business amidst crisis, implementing how to secure information management and ensure employee safety.

It is a free seminar yet the number of attendees is limited. Therefore, interested individuals need to register through Ma Moe Tha Zin Myint (Ph: 09 75400 4112).

In early October, MRCCI, in cooperation with the Depart-

ment of Labour, also offered domestic vocational training (jam processing training) to those young people affected by the Earthquake.

Furthermore, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), MRCCI and the Small-Scale Industries Department opened motorcycle mechanics training especially for young people affected by the Mandalay Earthquake in September.

MRCCI has been joining hands with the departments concerned and the institutions to create job opportunities for those young people, as the Mandalay Earthquake that happened on 28 March 2025 devastated the socio-economic status and well-being of the residents. — NN/KK

Myanmar Durian Growers and Exporters Association to be formed

A Myanmar durian growers and exporters association will be founded after organizing the groups in six regions and states, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

The Myanmar Durian Grower Exporter Group was formed with members from Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions, and Mon and Kayin states on 4 October.

"The group was formed on 4 October. It is a national-level group for six regions and states where durians are cultivated. Previously, there were separate groups such as

the Kayin and Yangon groups. Now these six groups are merged under the management of the MFVP. Now, we have completed everything in our capacity," said MFVP Chair U Soe Than Min Din.

Following the formation of the organization, they will submit to the Directorate of Investment and Company Registration to become an association. After the registration, they will be able to connect with the international community and contribute more to the development of the durian industry, he said. — MT/ZN



The Myanmar Durian Growers and Exporters Group meeting in progress on 4 October.

Japan’s Kumamoto airport launches popular Kumamon rebrand to lure visitors



The project was launched with the Kumamoto prefectural government and other partners. **PHOTO: KUMAMOTO-AIRPORT.CO.JP**

JAPAN’S Aso Kumamoto Airport on Wednesday began a five-month campaign to attract tourists to the southwestern prefecture by rebranding itself as Aso Kumamon Airport named after the popular black bear character and

mascot. Images of the character will be painted on the floor of the entrances and stairs among other locations in the airport until 15 March next year, the airport said. The project, launched with the Kumamoto prefectural government and other partners, also provides an area for visitors to take photographs alongside an image of the bear donning a pilot’s uniform. The popular Kumamon was created in 2010 to promote Kumamoto ahead of the launch of the Kyushu shinkansen bullet train service the following year. — Kyodo

Russia’s 2025 new vehicle sales to surpass 1.3 mln units

RUSSIA’S Minister of Industry and Trade Anton Alikhanov said on Tuesday that new car sales in the Russian market are expected to total 350,000 units in the fourth quarter of 2025, with full-year sales estimated to reach 1.3 million to 1.4 million units. “Considering the recent dynamics of our auto market, we expect about 350,000 more new cars will be sold in the fourth quarter. In other words, the new automobiles market volume in all segments will be about 1.3-1.4 million units as of 2025 year-end,” the minister said. — Xinhua

Qatar Airways admits technical snag caused diversion to Ahmedabad

QATAR Airways confirmed that the flight QR816 from Doha to Hong Kong was diverted to Ahmedabad on 14 October due to a technical issue, the Airlines confirmed to ANI. The diversion was a standard precautionary measure and the aircraft landed safely. “Passengers and crew will be provided with necessary assistance. The safety and security of our passengers and crew are our highest priority,” the statement added. — Xinhua

Jeep-maker Stellantis to invest \$13 bln in US



The Jeep Wagoneer S is the first all-electric Jeep. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JEEP-MAKER Stellantis announced Tuesday plans to invest \$13 billion in US plants over the next four years, adding more than 5,000 jobs in Michigan and other midwestern states. The plans, which the company said represent its largest US investment push in its 100-year history, include the reopening of a factory in Belvidere, Illinois, whose fate has been a source of tension between the company and the United Auto Workers since the plant closed in 2023. Stellantis will invest \$600 million to reopen Belvidere to expand production of the Jeep Cherokee and Jeep Compass, with initial production expected to launch in 2027. — AFP

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 20th October 2025 (Deepavali Publick Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SERENA VOY.NO. (539W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SERENA VOY.NO. (539W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (209N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (209N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2025** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UVFUS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UVFUS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

SPORTS

BARCELONA midfielder Frenkie de Jong signed a new deal until 2029, the Spanish champions announced Wednesday.

The 28-year-old Dutch international joined Barcelona from Ajax in 2019 and is in his seventh season with the Catalan giants, winning two La Liga titles and the Copa del Rey twice.

"Barca are confident that the midfielder can be a pivotal part of the current sporting project due to his quality and experience," said the club in a statement.

De Jong has struggled for form at times but became a key part of the midfield under Hansi Flick last season alongside Pedri Gonzalez.

"I always

De Jong pens new Barca deal to 2029



dreamed of playing for Barca, and now that I am living the dream I have always had since I was a child, I want to continue pursuing this dream for many more years, and I am eager to win titles," De Jong told a news conference. — AFP

Barcelona's Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong signed a new contract with the club on Wednesday stretching until 2029. PHOTO: AFP



Liverpool last season became English champions for a record-equalling 20th time. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Liverpool owners vow 'work isn't done' on 15th anniversary of takeover

LIVERPOOL owners Fenway Sports Group say their "work isn't done" yet, despite returning the club to the top of English and European football as they marked 15 years at Anfield on Wednesday.

Principal owner John W Henry, Liverpool chairman Tom Werner and FSG president Mike Gordon also thanked fans "for telling us when we've fallen short" in a message on the club's website.

Under the Americans' ownership, Liverpool won the English league title for the first time in 30 years in 2020, adding another Premier League crown last season, and celebrated a sixth Champions League triumph, in 2019.

It has not all been plain-sailing, with significant mis-steps including the club's ill-advised involvement in the proposed European Super League, which prompted a swift apology and U-turn from Henry.

Club bosses also scrapped controversial ticket hikes after a fan protest. "Off the field, there have been times we've got things wrong," the management trio said in their joint statement. — AFP

Tuchel laughs off good-humoured 'stick' from England fans

MANAGER Thomas Tuchel laughed off taunts from England fans as "British humour" after his team smashed Latvia 5-0 to become the first European side to book a place at next year's World Cup.

Harry Kane's first-half double in Riga on Tuesday, along with goals from Anthony Gordon, Eberechi Eze and a Maksims Tonisevs own goal, guaranteed England a place at the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Tuchel was on the receiving end of light-hearted chants from the travelling fans who were responding to the German's criticism of the atmosphere during Thursday's 3-0 friendly win over Wales at Wembley.

He was subjected to taunts of "We sing when we want" and "Are we loud enough for you?". "I got a bit of stick today, in the first half, pretty much in every song," said Tuchel. — AFP

Tearful Osaka battles injury to reach Japan quarterfinals

NAOMI Osaka battled through injury and her emotions to reach the quarterfinals of the Japan Open on Wednesday, choking back tears after hitting the winning shot against defending champion Suzan Lamens.

Top seed Osaka, playing a singles tournament in her native Japan for the first time in three years, won 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 to set up a last-eight match against Romania's Jaqueline Cristian. "Emotionally I was

going through a lot in this match," said Osaka.

"And then in the third set I tried my best to have no regrets." The former world number one was leading 5-0 in the final set in the city of Osaka when she needed a medical timeout to receive treatment on her left leg. She returned with heavy strapping on her thigh and lost the next two games before closing out the match in 2 hours, 20 minutes. — AFP



Japan's Naomi Osaka reacts after beating Suzan Lamens. PHOTO: AFP

Japan's Kumamoto airport
launches popular Kumamon
rebrand to lure visitors
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WORLD

World's first IAEA collaboration centre for fusion energy research, training established in SW China

As a leading direction for clean energy, it promises sustainable power for the future.



IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi addresses the joint opening of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the IAEA World Fusion Energy Group 2025 and 30th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, southwest China, 14 October 2025. PHOTO: VCG/CGTN

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Collaborating Centre for Fusion Energy Research and Training was officially inaugurated in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, during the Second Ministerial Meeting of the IAEA World Fusion Energy Group and 30th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference.

China attaches great importance to the development of fusion energy, stated Shan Zhongde, director of the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) at the opening ceremony of the meeting. The country has constructed multiple large-scale scientific facilities and is actively fostering deeper integration of industry, academia, and research, alongside strengthening international cooperation, Shan added.

Fusion energy, a crucial direction for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, offers prominent advantages compared to fission energy, including higher energy density, abundant raw material resources, lower radioactive contamination, and inherent safety. It is one of the important future development directions for clean energy. — Xinhua

Singapore tables bill to protect victims of online abuses

SINGAPORE proposed legislation Wednesday to set up a powerful new body that can compel social media firms to take down harmful posts, block access or remove apps to shield users from cyberbullying and other online abuse.

With more Singaporeans falling victim to harmful online content, the government said the Online Safety (Relief and Accountability) Bill will help them seek relief and legal redress. The bill provides for the formation of an Online Safety Commission (OSC) with powers to address complaints against harmful content. Its powers "include directions to take down the harmful content, restrict the perpetrator's online account or allow the victim to post a reply", the Ministry of Digital Development and Information (MDDI) and the Ministry of Law said in a joint statement. — AFP

Rising geopolitical tensions driving transformation in energy market: Novak

RISING geopolitical tensions, sanctions and trade wars are giving a powerful impetus to the transformation of the global energy market, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on Wednesday.

"It is important to note that we all see this: the growth of geopolitical tensions, sanctions pressure, trade wars — all this increases the risks of energy supply, in addition to what I said from an investment point of view, this is a powerful impetus for the transformation of the global energy market," Novak said at the Russian Energy Week.

Gas supplies to Europe from Russia have halved, while Russia occupies about 19 per cent of the EU market, Novak said.

"Today, we have actually seen a decrease in gas supplies. While Russian gas previously accounted for ap-

proximately 44 per cent of Europe's energy balance, today it remains at approximately 19 per cent of total im-

ports. That is a halving. Nevertheless, Russian gas supplies are continuing," Novak said. — SPUTNIK



Gas supplies to Europe from Russia have halved, while Russia occupies about 19 per cent of the EU market. PHOTO: AFP/FILE