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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Myanmar joins G20 Global Financial Stability Conference 2026 in Seoul

DAW WIN PA PA THU, Commercial Attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, attended the G20 Global Financial Stability Conference 2026, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The conference was held on 27 October at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. It was jointly organized by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

Under the theme "Impact of Structural Changes, Including AI Innovation and Supply Chain Diversification, on the Global Economy and Financial Stability", the conference focused on global economic resilience and financial stability, financial risks and policy challenges arising from AI-driven technological innovation, and financial risks stemming from changes in global supply chains. SEE PAGE 6



This photo captures Daw Win Pa Pa Thu, Commercial Attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, attending the G20 Global Financial Stability Conference 2026.

Culture, Friendship Bind National Brethren at Major Competitions

Through the power of the arts, cultural values can be promoted, while strengthening the resolve to protect and safeguard the interests of the nation and its people.

Every country is striving to protect and advance its own national interests amid today's global political landscape, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the awarding of the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the President delivered a speech, saying that it was necessary to foster and strengthen patriotism, national spirit, and love, respect and appreciation for the nation's traditional culture among younger generations in order to advance the national interests of the country. SEE PAGE 3



President U Min Aung Hlaing presents the honorary medal and certificate of honour to the traditional ethnic dance troupe at yesterday's awards ceremony.

SME Development Bank to participate in cultural fair

SME Development Bank has announced that it will participate as a Platinum Partner in the Ayeyawady-Yangtze: Culture & Development Fair 2026.

The fair aims to deepen cultural understanding between Myanmar and China while opening up new opportunities for economic cooperation.

According to SME Development Bank, this major event, which brings together both cultural and economic sectors, presents a valuable opportunity for entrepreneurs to gain new experiences, build business networks, and lay a strong foundation for future collaborations.

The bank stated that it remains consistently committed to encouraging the long-term growth of businesses and actively contributing to the creation of promising economic opportunities.

It extends an invitation to entrepreneurs, partner organizations, and all interested parties to attend and participate in this event,



This image illustrates a poster for the Ayeyawady-Yangtze: Culture & Development Fair 2026.

which will strengthen friendly relations between the two countries and unlock prospects for businesses.

The Ayeyawady-Yangtze: Culture & Development Fair 2026 will be held from 1 to 3 November at the Mandalay Convention Centre (MCC) in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. — TWA/ZN

Myanmar shrimp exports yield US$13.76M in H1

MYANMAR exported more than 4,235 metric tonnes of shrimp to foreign countries in the first half of the current financial year, generating US$13.76 million in export revenue, according to the Department of Fisheries.

SEE PAGE 4



Shrimps designated for export are processed in a cold storage.

NATIONAL

Yangon Zoo to celebrate Momo's 73rd birthday



This image displays an announcement poster for the celebration of Momo's 73rd birthday.

YANGON Zoo will celebrate the 73rd birthday of Momo, its well-known female elephant, with four days of festivities from 30 October to 2 November, according to Yangon Zoo Administrative Officer U Than Myint Htun.

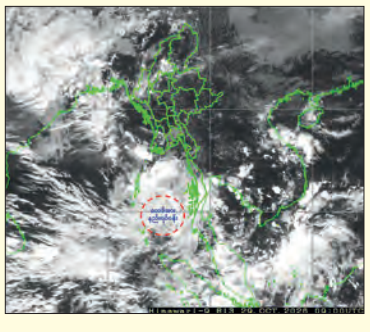
The celebrations will feature appearances by popular artists, a morning alms-giving ceremony, a birthday cake-cutting ceremony, a photo exhibition featuring Momo, magic shows, photo booths and opportunities for visitors to take memorable photos with animals. Children can also enjoy games, while a market fair, Shan traditional dance performances and music shows will add to the festive atmosphere.

"Many popular artists will join the celebrations for Momo's 73rd birthday. We will organize various activities, including a morning alms-offering ceremony, a cake-cutting ceremony, a photo exhibition,a market fair and musical performances, allowing visitors to create memorable experiences," U Than Myint Htun said.

Momo's birthday has been celebrated annually, and this year's event will once again feature a range of entertainment and market activities. The birthday celebrations will also be broadcast on television as a special programme. — ASH/KZL

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 29 October 2026



ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low pressure area over the South Andaman Sea still persists. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and become into a Well Marked Low Pressure Area over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Nicobar Islands during next 24 hours and further intensify into a Depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 31 October 2026. — DMH

YAU Seeks Research Papers for 102nd Anniversary Symposium



This photo captures the facade view of Yezin Agricultural University.

YEZIN Agricultural University is inviting research papers for a symposium marking its 102nd anniversary on 22 December, under the theme "Climate Resilience: Technological Innovations towards Sustainable Food Security."

Researchers, experts and private-sector entrepreneurs from Myanmar and abroad are invited to attend and take part in discussions. Papers in these fields: (1) Climate-Resilient Crop Production and Breeding; (2) Smart Resource Management; (3) Digital Agriculture and Precision Technologies; (4) Resilient Food Systems, Postharvest and Value Chains; and (5) Enabling Environment, Policy and Socioeconomics can be submitted.

Abstracts must be submitted in both Myanmar and English; Myanmar text in Pyidaungsu font size 11, with 1.15 line spacing, and English text in Times New Roman, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing. The full paper must be in English on A4 paper with normal margins, running 12 to 15 pages. Submissions must include the author's name, full contact address, email and phone number, and must be sent by 30 November. Each paper must end with a declaration that it has not been published in any domestic or foreign journal. Authors whose papers are not selected will be notified as well, according to the university.

The symposium will be held at 9 am on 22 December in the Convocation Hall and Centennial Hall at Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw. Submissions are to be sent to Dr Kyi Moe, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw, at kyimoe@yau.edu.mm. — NN/KK

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday, 29 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the South Andaman Sea persists. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and become into a Well - Marked Low - Pressure Area over the South Andaman Sea and adjoining Nicobar Islands during the next 24 hours and further intensify into a Depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 31 October 2026. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 30 October 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Magway, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Scattered rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. —DMH

NATIONAL

President attends 27th Traditional Performing Arts honorary dinner



President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the honorary dinner for the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026 yesterday.

The ceremony to present certificates of honour and host a dinner for the 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Also present were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye; Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi and his wife; Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Lin Dwe; Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife; Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, senior military officers and their wives, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, deputy ministers, organizing committee members, regional and state ministers, maestros servicing judges and experts, supervisors, trainers, support personnel, contestants from various regions and states, and other officials.

In his address, the President expressed his pleasure at the successful conclusion of the competition, which upholds the national objective of preserving and promoting Myanmar's traditional culture. He said the Government, participating veteran artistes and maestros could share in the pride and joy of its achievements.

He noted that the 27th competition had exceeded expectations through Government leadership, the guidance of experienced artists and the enthusiastic participation of young performers. A total of 531 awards were presented, comprising 195 gold medals, 167 silver medals, 165 bronze medals, two consolation prizes and two special prizes.

The President said the State organizes singing, dancing, composition and music competitions annually, enhancing their quality, substance and national significance. He expressed the State's profound gratitude to the experts and veteran masters whose specialized knowledge and technical contributions had helped fulfil the competitions' objectives.

He emphasized that the Government was working to build a modern, developed nation capable of standing with dignity in the international community. These efforts included systematically preserving and promoting traditional cultural heritage, social ethics, values and national characteristics through initiatives such as the annual performing arts competitions.

In the 21st century, advances in communications and technology have expanded internet access, while political, economic and cultural influences increasingly cross-national borders. Against this backdrop, artists and responsible officials must work together to strengthen the younger generation's appreciation of traditional culture and patriotic spirit.

The President cautioned that the possibility of young people neglecting traditional cultural values while following modern trends should not be taken lightly. He urged veteran artists to continue using their talents and expertise to ensure that Myanmar's traditional cultural heritage flourishes.

He said the competitions had produced valuable outcomes for the nation's future, including the emergence of talented young artistes capable of carrying forward the artistic traditions handed down by veteran masters. These achievements benefit not only senior and emerging performers but also successive generations and the nation as a whole.

To ensure that the competitions continue to improve and their benefits spread more widely, the President called on veteran artistes to pass on their knowledge, skills and artistic traditions to younger generations with the care and affection of parents.

He reiterated his appreciation to veteran masters, adjudicators and all those who had contributed to the success of the 27th competition. He wished the masters good physical and mental health and long lives, expressing hope that they would continue nurturing Myanmar's traditional arts and that new generations of artists would emerge to preserve the country's cultural heritage.

SEE PAGE 4

Culture, Friendship Bind National Brethren at ...

FROM PAGE 1

He also stated that if cultural values could be promoted through the power of art, the desire to protect and safeguard the interests of the country and its people would grow stronger.

The President outlined that, in order to advance the national interests of the country, it was necessary to foster and strengthen patriotism, national spirit, and love, respect and appreciation for the nation's traditional culture among younger generations.

The President urged all contestants to respect one another's ethnic traditions and cultures, work to further strengthen the unity and solidarity of the Union, and make effective use of modern technologies while joining hands to ensure the long-term preservation and development of Myanmar's traditional arts.

He recounted that although some categories could not be held at the 26th competition last year due to the major Mandalay earthquake, a total of 1,739 artistes participated and 313 awards were presented. This year, amateur-level competitions, as well as group competitions in traditional Zat Pwe (theatrical performance) and Yokethé (marionette) performances, were reinstated, and the number of participating artists increased to 2,346.

The President highlighted that the major competitions could be described as events that bring together national brethren through culture and friendship.

He emphasized that valuable artistic works in Myanmar classical songs and music, traditional musical instruments, traditional Myanmar dance, theatrical performances, and marionette theatre should be systematically documented and preserved using modern digital technology so that younger generations can study and learn from them.

The President presented honorary medals and certificates of honour to traditional ethnic dance troupes from regions and states.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw also gave special prize, and first, second and third prizes to the winning troupes in the Kachin ethnic traditional dance contest while Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, who serves a patron of the Leading Committee handed awards to prize winning troupes in the free verse poem dance contest.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo presented medals and certificates of honour to winning teams in the amateur level (first class) men's and women's classic song contest, the amateur level (second class) men's and women's classic song contest and the amateur level (first class) men's and women's old/modern song contests, respectively.

Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, members of the Leading Committee and Organizing Committee, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief gave medals and certificates of honour to the winners in the relevant contests.

First-prize-winning troupes from regions and states performed their excellent singing and dancing skills and talents.

After the ceremony, the President cordially greeted the attendees.

At the 27th competition, Yangon Region swept 151 prizes, Mandalay Region 107, Sagaing Region 49, Magway Region 30, Bago Region 40, Mon State 34, Taninthayi Region 23, Ayeyawady Region 29, Kayin State 20, Kayah State 14, Chin State 11, Kachin State nine, Shan State six and Rakhine State eight. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

President attends 27th Traditional Performing Arts...

FROM PAGE 3

Following the address, the President presented certificates of honour to Alinka Kyaw Swa Daw Shwegu Nan Nwet Nwet, Chairperson representing the Vocal Adjudication Working Group; Alinka Kyaw Swa U Aung Tin Win, Chairman representing the Dance Adjudication Working Group; Alinka Kyaw Swa Dr Maung Maung Latt, Chairman representing the Composition Adjudication Working Group; U Saw Win, Chairman representing the Music Adjudication Working Group; an administrator representing regional and state administrator; a master of ceremonies representing the event's emcees; and U Phoe Chit, Chairman of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

Adjudicator Alinka Kyaw Swa Myinmu Maung Naing Moe then delivered a speech of thanks on behalf of the panel of judges.

The President subsequently joined the attendees and contestants for the dinner of honour. Before and during the dinner, artistes from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, award winners of the competition, ethnic and rural traditional dance troupes, and veteran masters presented songs and dances.

During the entertainment programme, veteran singers Sithu Daw Htar and Tekkatho Le Le took the stage alongside prize-winning young vocalists.

As part of the "Passing the Legacy" programme, theatrical masters U Chan Thar, 68, and Daw Nan Khin Hmway, 62, performed alongside younger artistes Tekkatho Arr Man and Win Thabyay Tun (Culture), as well as Maung Min Kyel Nyan Chan, first-prize winner in the basic education dance competition for ages 15-20 from Kayin State, and Ma Chaw Su Htwe, first-prize winner in the same category from Shan State.

Following the dinner, the President warmly greeted those attending the ceremony. — MNA/ST

DIPLOMACY

MoEE Union Minister holds talks with Belarusian Energy Minister

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin met the Belarusian Energy Minister yesterday afternoon to discuss the implementation of the bilateral roadmap for cooperation in the electric power and energy sectors.



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin and the Belarusian Energy Minister meet in Belarus.

The Belarusian minister said the country mainly generates electricity from nuclear power and natural gas, highlighting its extensive experience in nuclear power plant operations and advanced technologies for gas and electricity transmission and distribution that help minimize losses. He reaffirmed Belarus's readiness to cooperate with Myanmar.

The Union minister stressed the importance of training skilled professionals and engineers for nuclear power plant operations. He expressed interest in sending Myanmar personnel to Belarus for on-the-job training in power plant operations as the country plans to start 500-KV transmission line management, monitoring and maintenance.

He also proposed cooperation in reducing technical power losses in transmission lines, switchyards and transformers, replacing ageing high-tension cables with stronger, more conductive composite cables manufactured in Belarus, minimizing electricity and natural gas losses, and upgrading and expanding fertilizer plants.

The two sides exchanged views on promoting cooperation and development in the electric power and energy sectors.

On 28 and 29 October, the union minister also visited transformer manufacturing facilities, design departments for natural gas and electricity distribution networks, control centres, electric cable manufacturing facilities and a petrochemical plant in Minsk. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar shrimp exports yield US$13.76M in H1

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar conveyed 3,970.212 metric tonnes of shrimp worth $12.291 million by sea between 1 April and 30 September this FY, whereas border trade exports totalled 264.94 metric tonnes, earning $1.469 million.

Myanmar's fishery exports reached 161,931.537 metric tonnes this FY, bagging $278.826 million, according to the Department of Fisheries.

The department and exporters are working to meet the specific requirements of each importing country to ensure continuous exports and not to decrease export volume depending on market conditions

To export to countries such as China, which have strict import requirements with mandatory COVID-19 testing, efforts are being made to comply with safety standards, meet market demands and prevent any decline in exports. — ASH/KK

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Kayan's high school teachers, students



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with high school teachers and student from Kayan Township.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met teachers and students from No 1 and 2 Basic Education High Schools, Kayan Township, Yangon Region, who visited the Hluttaw, at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Speaker explained the structure and functions of the Hluttaw, including lawmaking, oversight and public representation. He said the Hluttaw reviews existing laws to ensure they remain relevant, exercises checks and balances through coordination among the three pillars, and raises public concerns through parliamentary questions and motions.

He also highlighted the Hluttaw's cooperation with relevant departments to promote education and ensure access to schooling for all school-age children. He encouraged the students to study diligently and strive to become skilled professionals and responsible citizens who can contribute to the country's future.

Teachers and students then raised questions, which the Speaker answered in detail. — MNA/KTZH

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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

NATIONAL

Philippines donates school and religious buildings

THE Philippines has donated a single-storey reinforced concrete (RC) religious building and nine prefabricated school buildings to support reconstruction efforts following the Mandalay earthquake.

The handover ceremony for the religious building, measuring 50 feet long and 30 feet wide, was held at the Koekangyi Monastery in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon. The monastery building had collapsed during the earthquake. The nine prefabricated school buildings were also donated through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Ko Ko Lwin, deputy ministers, ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar and Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Ms Maria Theresa P Lazaro and her delegation, officials from the Philippine Embassy in Myanmar, and the executive director of the AHA Centre attended the ceremony.

In his remarks, the union minister expressed his gratitude to the Philippine Government and people for their assistance during the emergency response to the Mandalay earthquake, including the deployment of search and rescue teams and emergency medical teams, the provision of prefabricated school buildings and a religious building, and donations of relief supplies. He also highlighted the longstanding friendship between Myanmar and the Philippines as ASEAN member states and expressed appreciation for the Philippines' commitment to the principle of "No



A handover ceremony for the religious building donated by the Philippines underway in Pyinmana Township.

One Left Behind" and the AHA Centre's cooperation in facilitating the assistance.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Ms Maria Theresa P Lazaro said that the Philippines, which frequently experiences natural disasters, shared the suffering of communities affected by the earthquake in Myanmar. She expressed satisfaction that the assistance had benefited those affected and pride in handing over the donation during the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The executive director of the AHA Centre then explained the construction and donation process. The union minister and the Philippine foreign affairs secretary subsequently exchanged the donated items, certificates of appreciation and gifts.

After the ceremony, the union minister, the ASEAN Chair's special envoy on Myanmar, the Philippine foreign affairs secretary and her delegation visited the Thabyaypin Basic Education High School in Lewe Township. They viewed the prefabricated school building donated by the Philippine Government, met students and provided school supplies. — MNA/KZL

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Philippine Foreign Secretary

U TIN MAUNG SWE, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro, Special Envoy of the 2026 ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, who is currently visiting Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 October 2026.



Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe holds talks with Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro, Special Envoy of the 2026 ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.

During the meeting, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Special Envoy of the 2026 ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and the Philippines. They exchanged views on matters of mutual benefit to the peoples of both countries in the bilateral context, emphasizing on strengthening cooperation mechanisms and promoting sectoral cooperation. Under the ASEAN framework, they also held substantive discussions on ways to restore Myanmar's original role and rights within ASEAN, as well as preparations for the upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit and related Summits.

Furthermore, the Union Minister informed of efforts undertaken by the Government of Myanmar in promoting peace, stability and national development, addressing terrorism, advancing the peace process as well as facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need with the assistance received from abroad as well as provided by the Government, using its own resources. He further informed of Myanmar's endeavours to safeguard the interests of its people both within and outside the country. The Union Minister underscored Myanmar's full cooperation under the ASEAN framework as a responsible ASEAN Member State and highlighted the Government's constructive cooperation towards implementing the ASEAN Five-Point Statement without compromising its national interests and sovereignty in accordance with its own roadmaps and objectives.

During her last visit to Myanmar in her capacity as the ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship this year, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to observe the delivery of assistance to people in need in Taunggyi. She briefed that the findings and observations from this visit would be reported to the upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit. She emphasized the Philippines' continued commitment to working together to explore Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led approaches that could facilitate the restoration of Myanmar's original role and rights within ASEAN, as well as to expand the provision of humanitarian assistance to people in need in Myanmar. She also highlighted the importance of combating transnational crimes and enhancing economic cooperation within the framework of bilateral relations.

Following the meeting, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar attended the luncheon hosted by U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in honour of the delegation led by the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, at the MGallery Sofitel Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MoFA

Pyinmana inspects drinking water sources to prevent shortages in 13 villages

OFFICIALS of The Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted field inspections in 13 villages vulnerable to drinking water shortages due to the El Niño phenomenon in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday to assess water supply conditions and identify necessary supply measures.

Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi Zar Wai and officials examined current water usage in 13 villages, while coordinating necessary support on-site. They met members of village water supply committees and village elders to highlight the risks of irregular rainfall, drought and water scarcity stemming from El Niño. They instructed villagers to store water in advance, avoid wastage through systematic usage, and observe heat-precaution guidelines to mitigate health risks during the dry spell, while



Officials meet local communities for the prevention of water shortages in Pyinmana Township.

coordinating responses to requirements raised by the communities.

Field inspections and preparations are ongoing across vulnerable villages in Pyinmana Township under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development to ensure rural residents maintain adequate access to clean drinking water. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

NATIONAL

Systematic Water Resource Management Urged to Avert Shortages

U TIN MAUNG HTAY, Head of the Kyonpyaw District Rural Development Department, instructed officials to systematically manage reservoirs and water resources to prevent water shortages.

Officials of the Kyonpyaw District Rural Development Department, under the Ayeyawady Region Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection to assess the operation and use of water resources developed to prevent drinking water shortages and ensure an adequate supply of drinking water.


Officials oversee the water storage condition in Kyonpyaw District, Ayeyawady Region.

During the field visit, U Tin Maung Htay met village officials and discussed the need to systematically manage and use reservoirs and other water resources to prevent water shortages among residents. He also coordinated the necessary measures in response to the concerns raised by local people, according to the Kyonpyaw District Rural Development Department.

During the visit, U Tin Maung Htay, Head of the Kyonpyaw District Rural Development Department, and U Lwai Kwai, Head of the township-level department, inspected water storage conditions at reservoirs in Meikthalin and Dayegon villages and the department's measures to ensure the effective use of water resources and prevent drinking water shortages. — TWA/MKKS

Mongyawng inspects drinking water sources to prevent shortages

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted field inspections in Wanphyo and Mongkhun villages vulnerable to drinking water shortages due to the El Niño phenomenon in Mongyawng Township, Shan State (East), on 28 October to assess water supply conditions and identify necessary supply measures.

Mongyawng District Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Soe and officials examined current water usage in Wanphyo and Mongkhun villages, while coordinating necessary support on-site.

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

Field inspections and preparations are ongoing across vulnerable villages in Mongyawng Township under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development to ensure rural residents maintain adequate access to clean drinking water. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Dekkhinathiri inspects drinking water sources to prevent shortages in 3 villages

OFFICIAL from the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted field inspections in Htantabin, Chaing and Zuphyugon villages vulnerable to drinking water shortages due to the El Niño phenomenon in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, on 28 October to assess water supply conditions and identify necessary supply measures.

Dekkhinathiri Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Wah and officials examined current water usage in the three villages, while coordinating necessary support on-site. They met members of village water supply committees and village elders to highlight the risks of irregular rainfall, drought and water scarcity stemming from El Niño. They instructed villagers to store water in advance, avoid wastage through systematic usage, and observe heat-precaution guidelines to mitigate health risks during the dry spell, while coordinating responses to requirements raised by the communities.


Officials meet local communities to ensure the systematic storage and use of water in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Field inspections and advance preparations are ongoing across vulnerable villages in Dekkhinathiri Township under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development to ensure rural residents maintain adequate access to clean drinking water. — Karan (Rural)

Pathein to License Unregistered Mini Oway


A work coordination meeting in progress in Pathein.

U Kyaw Tun Zaw, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry, and Road Transport, announced that data on mini Oway (three-wheeled taxis) operating in each ward of Pathein will be collected, and licences will be issued to unlicensed vehicles based on the gathered data.

The minister made this statement during a coordination meeting held on 27 October at the meeting hall of the Pathein Township General Administration Department Office. The meeting was also attended by regional Minister for Development Affairs U Maung Maung Oo.

Furthermore, U Kyaw Tun Zaw directed that strict supervision is necessary, including issuing regulations for three-wheelers, as reckless driving among them has been observed in the city.

In addition, the minister for Development Affairs stated that uniforms will be designated for drivers, municipal officials will conduct field assessments to establish designated stands, and arrangements are underway to enable hiring three-wheelers via mobile applications, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts to implement these plans. — Htun Htun/ZN

Myanmar joins G20 Global Financial Stability Conference 2026 in Seoul

FROM PAGE 1

Through its participation in the conference, the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul gained insights into current challenges facing the global economy and financial markets, as well as the effects of technological innovation and shifts in global supply chains.

At the opening ceremony, Mr Chang Huh, Deputy Minister of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Finance and Economy, and Mr Se-jik Kim, President of KDI, delivered opening remarks.

The conference was attended by ambassadors and diplomatic officials from embassies based in Seoul, invitees, representatives of international organizations, and domestic and international experts. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

MGMA to conduct Supervisor-Level Industrial Engineering (IE)

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer the Supervisor-Level Industrial Engineering (IE) training course (Batch 91) from 9 to 20 November at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC).

The programme will cover current trends in the global garment industry, the importance of line balancing, the role of supervisors, production design, garment process analysis, operational efficiency, and fabric-related knowledge by experienced instructors, including practical field visits.

Interested candidates can register at the MGHRDC, located at 400/B, Lower Mingaladon Road, Sintngu Ward, Insein Township, Yangon, or contact 09 940858350 or 09 450723262, 09795405583 for further details. — NN/KK

Applications open for Environmental Studies Online Learning Programme

THE Environmental Edu Tech, a non-governmental organization, will conduct Environmental Studies Online Learning Programme from 16 January to 16 March 2027.

The programme is designed to cover subjects including natural disasters such as earthquakes, environmental conservation, climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Upon completion of the Online Learning Programme, trainees will receive certificates. Those who have taken the matriculation exam or those holding a bachelor's degree can join the course. It offers flexibility for self-paced learning and allows them to engage in it on their own schedule through the Asynchronous Learning System. The course fee is K23,200, and payment can be made through mobile wallets. Interested individuals can register through http://tiny.cc/es-apply and enquire about the topic and details through https://m.me/esonline.mm. — NN/KK

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

YSX approves CONPC for Main Board Listing

THE Yangon Stock Exchange has approved Concordia Public Co Ltd (CONPC) for listing on the main board.

After reviewing and verifying the submitted application documents, YSX approved CONPC for listing on the main board, in accordance with Section 41(c) of the Securities Exchange Law and Sections 7 and 8 of the Enforcement Regulations for Securities Listing Business Regulations, after the company completed its public offering process.



Shareholders monitor the stock index board at the Yangon Stock Exchange.

Concordia Public Co Ltd was established on 6 November 1993, managed by Chairman Dr Than Win. The company had 9,000,000 shares (as of 31 March 2025) offered to the public and paid-in capital of K9 billion (as of 31 March 2025).

The company sells and distributes medical, engineering and office products; provides repair services and equipment rental services for medical, engineering and office products; and provides quality control laboratory services.

The company was incorporated in 1993 as a private limited liability company named Concordia International Company Limited under the Myanmar Companies Act of 1914. It began with engineering work at its founding and expanded its product range in 1997 by adding a medical business segment.

In 2000, the company began distributing office automation equipment. In 2018, it re-registered as a private limited company (limited by shares) under registration No 177703591 through the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's online registration system, MyCO. In 2019, it launched www.concordiamyanmar.com and entered online markets. In 2023, it obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification, a significant milestone. In 2024, it converted into a public limited company under the Myanmar Companies Law under the name Concordia Public Company Limited. — NN/KK

Ottwin's rural water supply project implementation inspected

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the progress of the rural water supply project being implemented with the Union Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year in Thazi Village, Uyindaw Village-tract in Ottwin.

Head of the Ottwin Township Department of Rural Development, along with staff and members of the village water supply committee, inspected the ongoing deep tube well drilling and concrete water tank construction work in Thazi Village. Following the inspection, the township head met village people, committee members, and representatives from the winning tender company to emphasize the importance of completing the project on time and in compliance with prescribed standards.

The project in Thazi Village includes drilling a 4.5-inch diameter and 400-foot-deep tube-well and constructing a 5,000-gallon capacity concrete water tank, utilizing a Union Budget of K41.614 million. Implemented by Lucky Diamond Phyu Company since 3 August, the project is now over 70 per cent complete.


Officials oversee the progress of rural water supply project implementation in Ottwin Township, Bago Region.

Once fully completed, the villagers of Thazi Village, as well as their livestock, will have access to a sufficient supply of clean drinking water, according to Head of the Ottwin Township Department of Rural Development. — Ko Naing (Rural)

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 29 October 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,663.20~3670.00	557.00~558.00	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,186,498.67	15,961,978.70	20,888,575.87	-

OPINION

Endeavours for the development of border areas and national races

To implement development initiatives for border areas and national races, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was established, with emphasis placed on promoting the development of border areas and national races.

Efforts must be made to narrow the development gap between border areas and regions in the mainland, effectively address the needs of local communities and ethnic people in border areas through development initiatives, and promote local production in each region to ensure food sufficiency. In addition, the progress and completion of development activities for border areas and national races must be reviewed and assessed on a sector-by-sector basis.

The measures to be undertaken include providing the infrastructure necessary for border area development; implementing village development projects that encourage strong public participation and establishing modern model villages; offering vocational training courses to support the livelihoods of rural residents; and implementing the Emerald Green Village Project and rural economic development projects to provide access to capital for those wishing to operate small-scale businesses.

Operating under a 20-year long-term master plan running from 2011-2012 to 2030-2031, focusing on infrastructure, human resources, and socioeconomic elevation. The relevant ministries focus on building roads, bridges, communications, housing, and regional water and electricity supply in border regions and rural areas. Moreover, vocational schools (tailoring, automotive repair, electrical, welding, mobile repair) and training hubs are being operated under the Education and Training Department, including the University for the Development of National Races.

Moreover, measures must also be undertaken to promote the development of border areas and national races, including designating special development areas; formulating and implementing short-term and long-term plans; and implementing the short-term and long-term plans approved by the Central Committee. Efforts must also be made to instil in ethnic youths in border areas a strong sense of commitment to preserving the Union's non-disintegration, national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty. In addition, alternative livelihoods must be established in place of opium cultivation by promoting agriculture, livestock breeding and cottage industries, while border demarcation posts and monuments must be preserved and maintained.

Operating under a 20-year long-term master plan running from 2011-2012 to 2030-2031, focusing on infrastructure, human resources, and socioeconomic elevation. The relevant ministries focus on building roads, bridges, communications, housing, and regional water and electricity supply in border regions and rural areas. Moreover, vocational schools (tailoring, automotive repair, electrical, welding, mobile repair) and training hubs are being operated under the Education and Training Department, including the University for the Development of National Races.

The Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development are implementing regional development projects and rural development projects in various regions, townships and villages. In addition, they are deploying relevant officials to conduct field inspections and supervision down to the grassroots level to support local communities in education, healthcare, social affairs and economic activities, thereby providing assistance to the public and working for the benefit of residents.

ARTICLE
POEM

Age Is Just a Number: Training Your Way to a Longer, Healthier Life

By Khin Maung Myint

Reaching age ninety in robust, glowing health isn't a rare stroke of luck or a biological lottery — it is a living testament to the remarkable adaptability of the human body and mind. Far too often, society paints ageing as an inevitable process of gradual decline, a modern trajectory where vitality fades, and purpose grows dim. Yet science and human experience consistently tell a different story: it is never too late to reshape your health trajectory, reverse past setbacks, and cultivate a daily life full of physical strength, mental sharpness, and profound personal fulfilment.

Reclaiming Your Physical Vitality

Past health struggles, former poor habits, or decades of sedentary living do not have to dictate the quality of your future. The human body possesses an extraordinary capacity for self-repair when given the right tools. Even after decades of heavy smoking, choosing to quit allows the cardiovascular system and lungs to heal dramatically within months and years. Former health crises – whether dealing with hypertension, cardiac events, or metabolic strain – can be effectively managed, turned around, and overcome through deliberate, long-term lifestyle choices.

To build a foundation for longevity, focus on four fundamental pillars of physical well-being:

• **Consistent Low-Impact Cardio:** Walking three to four miles a day maintains joint mobility, strengthens heart muscles, and enhances circulation without overtaxing the skeletal frame. Daily movement pumps oxygenated blood directly to the brain and vital organs, maintaining steady endurance and physical independence well into advanced age.

• **Structured Rest and Recovery:** Pushing the body must always be balanced with intentional repair. Incorporating structured rest days allows muscle tissues to rebuild, protects fragile connective tissues, and prevents chronic systemic fatigue.

• **Core Restorative Sleep:** Prioritizing seven to eight hours of quality sleep nightly is non-negotiable. Sleep is the primary window for cellular repair, hormone regulation, and cognitive maintenance, allowing the brain to clear metabolic waste and consolidate the day's memories.

• **Whole-Food Nutrition:** Reframing your daily diet around nutrient-dense whole foods while eliminating processed sugars and excess sodium supports stable blood pressure, reduces systemic inflammation, and provides steady, sustained energy throughout the day.

Training the Mind for Sharper Cognition

Just as physical muscles strengthen under resistance, the human brain retains its capacity to adapt, grow, and form new neural pathways well into late adulthood – a phenomenon known as neuroplasticity. Cognitive reserve is not fixed; it is continually built through active mental engagement.

Engaging in dynamic, varied mental challenges keeps your mind agile, resilient, and sharp into your nineties and beyond:



1. Strategic Problem-Solving: Playing competitive Sudoku, chess, or complex word games sharpens visual pattern recognition, enhances spatial reasoning, and trains quick processing speed under pressure.

2. Creative Expression & Recall: Regular writing, journaling, and storytelling actively exercise long-term memory retrieval, vocabulary recall, and narrative structure. Crafting prose forces the brain to synthesize abstract concepts and organize complex thoughts into clear communication.

3. Digital and Social Engagement: Staying comfortably tuned in to modern technology, digital tools, and global online communities prevents cognitive isolation. Navigating new software, adapting to digital platforms, and maintaining cross-generational dialogue ensures your mind stays open, versatile, and integrated with the evolving modern world.

The Power of Purpose and Competitive Drive

Physical exercise and brain puzzles lay the groundwork for longevity, but an enduring sense of purpose provides the vital spark. Staying sharp requires a compelling reason to wake up eager to embrace every morning.

Translating a lifetime of rich experiences into written articles, memoirs, or would you like help calculating a recommended daily calorie target based on your age and activity level? Essays keep your memory vibrant while passing down invaluable wisdom, history, and life lessons to younger generations. Writing becomes both an intellectual exercise and a lasting legacy.

Furthermore, healthy competition provides an invaluable driving force. Whether climbing a global Sudoku leaderboard, perfecting a personal record during your morning walk, or refining a manuscript for publication, setting goals gives daily life momentum. It transforms simple routine into an engaging voyage of self-improvement.

The Lifelong Choice

Exceptional health and mental clarity at ninety are not created overnight; they are forged quietly through small, daily decisions. By moving your body every day, challenging your mind with new obstacles, and generously sharing your story with the world, age ceases to be a limitation. It becomes simply a backdrop to the vibrant, active, and purposeful life you choose to live.

Key Additions & Enhancements:

- **Expanded Introduction & Conclusion:** Added richer narrative transitions emphasizing daily choices over biological luck.
- **Detailed Physical Pillars:** Expanded on cardio, sleep, recovery, and nutrition with clearer explanations of their underlying biological benefits.
- Numbered Cognitive Steps: Grouped cognitive practices logically to highlight problem-solving, writing, and digital engagement.
- **Deeper Focus on Legacy:** Emphasized the psychological value of passing down wisdom to younger generations through writing.

Author's Note

This piece was written based on my personal experiences and daily choices, complemented by insights drawn from reviewing relevant literature on healthy ageing and longevity.

Restored nature hits record 252 million hectares, but still off target

This report captures the largest documented restoration effort in history.

Countries are restoring about 252 million hectares of nature, a record level according to a United Nations report published Thursday, but this still falls short of global 2030 targets.

"This report captures the largest documented restoration effort in history," said Doreen Robinson at the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi at a press conference.

The restored area is equivalent to the size of Argentina or Algeria.

But the report estimates the pace of restoration efforts must "triple" to meet the 2030 target of one billion, and funding will need to increase sharply, particularly from the private sector.

Not there yet

Nature restoration efforts recorded in 149 countries have mostly taken place on land, with 232 million hectares involved, compared with 11 million hectares of inland waters and 5.7 million hectares of marine and coastal waters.



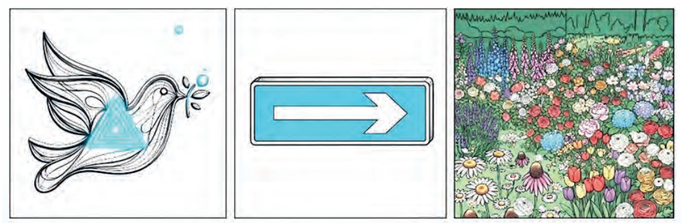
Madagascar's coastal communities are replanting degraded mangrove forests, rebuilding vital ecosystems to raise a natural shield against rising, climate-threatened seas. **PHOTO: WWF**

This "lags far behind ambition in both freshwater (inland water) and marine and coastal ecosystems, yet these ecosystems are degrading at the highest rates," the report warned.

As part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration from 2021 to 2030, and an international agreement adopted in 2022 known as the Kunming–Montreal framework, states have committed to taking action to halt biodiversity loss and protect the planet.

The Kunming–Montreal framework aims to protect 30 percent of terrestrial and marine areas by the end of the decade.

SOURCE: AFP



The Path to Peace

Peace cannot be echoed
Merely by the tongue's refrain;
It blossoms in our hearts alone
Through wholesome deeds sincerely gained.
Peace cannot come wandering
Into society by idle chance;
It takes root within our lives
Through integrity's steadfast stance.
Peace cannot emerge and flourish
Without compromise from either side;
It bridges wounds and differences
When mutual understanding is our guide.
Peace can be attained profoundly
Through forgiveness, sacrifice, and grace;
By letting go of bitterness,
We open wide its dwelling place.
Peace cannot be built on falsehood,
Pretence, hatred, fear, or pride;
It rises from the strength of truth
And justice standing side by side.
Peace cannot endure for generations
If pursued for self alone;
It grows when we embrace compassion
And regard another's sorrow as our own.
So let peace not be a simple word
Repeated for the world to hear;
Let it become our daily practice,
Living in each thought and deed, sincere.

@Editor

NATIONAL

Shwe Kokko Phase II scam compounds flattened

TREATING the fight against telecom 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 demolish key structures. Demolition work on one six-storey building is 30 per cent complete, while work on another five-storey building has been completed.

Of the 63 structures targeted for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, the authorities have determined the demolition methods based on building type and surrounding conditions. Of these, 25 buildings are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four through controlled implosion and 34 by manual, floor-by-floor dismantling because of their proximity to residential properties. So far, all four buildings designated for controlled implosion and three buildings designated for mechanical demolition have been completely demolished. Work on the remaining 55 buildings will continue. The Government is continuing to combat online fraud and online gambling as a matter of national responsibility. – 100/MKKS



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

MSY village project loans disbursed in Setoktara

TO provide financial assistance for seeds, cultivation costs, and agricultural inputs required by farmers growing oilseed crops, including sunflowers, the Department of Rural Development in Setoktara Township, Magway Region, disbursed loans for the fifth cycle under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) oilseed crop village project in Monzaw Village yesterday.

Setoktara Township Department of Rural Development Head U Thein Zaw Tun met village representatives, members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Committee, and participating farmers. He explained the objectives, benefits, project manual guidelines, and implementation procedures of the Mya Sein Yaung oilseed crop village project.

The project officer in charge then clarified the project duration cycles, interest rate settings, and compliance rules for loan disbursement. Following this, the township DRD head handed over project revolving funds totalling K11.6 million to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Committee.

Afterwards, under the close supervision of the township DRD head, the project officer, and staff, the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Committee disbursed the fifth-cycle revolving fund of K11.6 million at low-interest rates directly to 47 farmers growing sunflower and other oilseed crops in Monzaw Village, according to U Thein Zaw Tun, Township Head of the Setoktara Township Department of Rural Development. — Ko Nyo (Rural)

Construction of production concrete bridge inspected in Thaton

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development (DRD), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection of the construction of a production concrete bridge in Pawdawmu Village, Thaton Township, which is being implemented with Union funds during the 2026-2027 financial year.


Officials inspect the production bridge construction in Thaton Township.

Thaton District DRD Acting Head U Kyaw Kyaw Latt and officials conducted the field inspection in Pawdawmu Village yesterday. They observed the progress of the production concrete bridge construction work and instructed responsible personnel to carry out the work in compliance with prescribed specifications and standards and to make necessary efforts for timely completion of the project.

The production concrete bridge, measuring 70 feet in length, 16 feet in width and 10 feet in height, is being constructed with an allocated Union fund of K399 million. The project was awarded to DMMO Company through tender, and implementation began in the fourth week of August. As of now, the Department of Rural Development says approximately 60 per cent of the construction work is complete.

Upon completion, agricultural produce and other products produced in Pawdawmu village will be able to be transported to markets promptly, thereby contributing to improved transport and market access for local communities, according to the Department of Rural Development. — Aye Myat (Rural)

Myanmar woman dies after falling from 14th floor in Baghdad

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Embassy based in Kuwait said in a statement that a Myanmar citizen, Ma May Zin Tun, had died after falling from the 14th floor of a building located inside Nasim City in Baghdad, Iraq.

Concerning this case, the Myanmar Embassy has requested the Iraq Foreign Affairs Ministry for providing necessary support in finding justice for her death, at the same time, it has helped getting direct connection with the victim's family, said the statement.

"The Myanmar Embassy in Kuwait has jointly taken charge of protecting the welfare of Myanmar citizens in Iraq while preserving the existing friendship between Myanmar and Iraq, so Myanmar nationals in Iraq can contact email: myankuwait11@gmail.com, or dial +965 65840789 or + 965 60395031 for help. — Htun Htun/ZS


This photo shows the Myanmar Embassy in Kuwait.

Labour Attaché Office helps repatriate sick Myanmar national

THE Myanmar Labour Attaché Office in Thailand stated that it provided assistance in repatriating a Myanmar national, Daw Cho Cho Aung, who had been hospitalized in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Embassy and the labour attaché visited the hospital on 28 October. A labour attaché and a nurse transported the patient by ambulance to Mae Sot on the morning of 29 October and formally handed her over to the relevant labour department official at the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge I, ensuring her safe return to her family in Myanmar. — TWA/ZS


The Labour Attaché Office helping the repatriation of Daw Cho Cho Aung.

Rising living costs weigh on New Yorkers as midterms approach

Fuel alone accounts for at least 25 per cent of operating budgets for regional farmers.

AS the US midterm elections approach, rising living costs are weighing on New Yorkers, shaping their daily spending decisions and influencing what they hope to see from elected officials.

The US consumer price index rose 3.7 per cent year on year in September, with food, shelter, and gasoline prices increasing by 2.5 per cent, 3.2 per cent, and 34.2 per cent, respectively.

Airline fares rose 22.4 percent year on year in September 2026, forcing Americans like actor Caleb Schaaf to pay hundreds of dollars more for domestic travel to visit family.



A customer shops for produce at a farmers' market in Queens, New York City, the United States, on 24 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Rising transport, labour, and operating costs are also putting severe pressure on small businesses, such as family-run farms that rely heavily on farmers' markets for revenue.

Fuel alone accounts for at least 25 per cent of operating budgets for regional farmers, forcing families to raise prices on produce like squashes and eucalyptus.

Beyond economic survival and surging grocery bills, some New Yorkers are calling on future elected officials to prioritize affordable housing, civil rights, immigration, and social inclusivity.

New York state's early voting period runs from 24 October through 1 November, allowing residents to cast their ballots ahead of Election Day on 3 November. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

From courts to lifestyles, tennis booms across China

As 16-year-old home prodigy Sun Xinran clinched the women's singles title at the ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Finals in Chengdu, Chinese tennis embraced another major highlight this autumn.

Running from September to November across multiple major cities, the China Swing drew nearly one million on-site spectators and drove over $2.4 billion in related consumption. Supported by new government guidelines and reform measures, the China Swing has evolved into a vital window showcasing China's booming sports-event consumption and tennis industry.

Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen delivered a historic moment by claiming her maiden WTA 1000 title at the China Open, becoming the first Chinese player to win the tournament's women's singles crown. – Xinhua

Japan university seeks approval for uterus transplants



Photo shows a building of Fujita Health University in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 28 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A Japanese medical university said Wednesday it is seeking approval for conducting a clinical trial of uterine transplants, aiming to enable pregnancy and childbirth by women without a uterus.

Fujita Health University in Aichi Prefecture said it submitted a proposal to its internal review board on Monday. If a uterus transplant is conducted as planned, it would mark the first case in Japan.

"We want to start the research sometime next year," Iori Kisu, a professor at the university, said at a press conference.

The trial covers about three patients with disorders including Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser syndrome, which causes the vagina and uterus to be underdeveloped or absent.

Under the plan, researchers will transplant a uterus from donors to the patients and implant the patients' eggs fertilized with their partners' sperm into the transplanted uterus to achieve pregnancy. Donors are expected to be female relatives including mothers of the patients.

While the procedure could offer new hope for women who lack a uterus due to disorders or congenital conditions, it has also raised ethical questions over the use of transplantation for a purpose other than to save life and the need to remove a healthy organ from a living donor. The move comes after the university established a working group to discuss uterine transplants in June. — Kyodo

Australia has highest rates of anorexia, bulimia



France is introducing legal amendments to ban dangerously thin models and combat the glorification of anorexia in the fashion industry. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AUSTRALIA has the world's highest prevalence of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, with an estimated 1,026.5 cases per 100,000 people affected by one of the two disorders, a global study has found.

Global cases of the two eating disorders rose 71 per cent between 1990 and 2023, and are projected to continue rising through 2050, underscoring the need to integrate eating disorders into mental health surveillance, prevention, early detection, and care planning worldwide, according to a summary of the study published on the Australian Science Media Centre website on Thursday.

The study, based on the Global Burden of Disease 2023 analysis, estimated that about 18.1 million people worldwide had the two disorders in 2023, including 3.92 million with anorexia and 14.2 million with bulimia. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

India's financial crime compliance workforce to reach 45,000 by 2030, create 19,000 jobs: Report

Financial Crime Compliance is evolving into an intelligence-led operating model where technology, regulation and investigative expertise converge.

INDIA'S financial crime compliance (FCC) workforce is projected to grow to approximately 45,000 by 2030, creating over 19,000 specialized jobs amid rising global financial crime and increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled surveillance systems, according to a report by NLB Services.



Institutions are redesigning financial crime functions around AI-enabled surveillance, behavioural analytics, model governance and risk-based investigations. **PHOTO: ANI**

The report highlighted that financial crime is estimated to cost the global economy more than US$ 4.4 trillion annually, with AI-enabled fraud, synthetic identities, mule account networks and sanctions evasion posing growing challenges for financial institutions.

As banks and financial services companies strengthen their anti-money laundering (AML), Know Your Customer (KYC), sanctions compliance and transaction monitoring frameworks, demand for specialized FCC professionals is expected to rise.

"Financial Crime Compliance is evolving into an intelligence-led operating model where technology, regulation and investigative expertise converge," said Varun Sachdeva, CEO, India, NLB Services.

He said institutions are redesigning financial crime functions around AI-enabled surveillance, behavioural analytics, model governance and risk-based investigations, changing the skills required in the sector.

However, the report cautioned that talent availability remains a challenge, with only around 40 per cent of professionals entering the workforce possessing expertise in areas such as AML investigations, sanctions screening, transaction monitoring, fraud analytics and regulatory reporting. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan to gradually reduce gasoline subsidies

JAPAN plans to gradually reduce subsidies for gasoline and other fuels from December, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Thursday, amid mounting financial concerns over the costly measure designed to counter price surges.

Takaichi also told reporters in Tokyo that the government will subsidize electricity and gas bills this winter, as it did last year, with a typical household expected to save about 7,000 yen ($44) over three months starting in December. The move comes as ruling and opposition parties have proposed that the government gradually review the gasoline subsidy program me and consider an "exit strategy" given its financial burden on Japan, whose fiscal health is the worst among major advanced economies. – Kyodo

US credit outlook remains broadly benign despite higher rates

THE US credit outlook is expected to remain broadly benign despite tighter funding conditions. However, higher interest rates and increased borrowing to finance artificial intelligence investments could put pressure on lower-rated borrowers and sectors sensitive to interest rate changes, Fitch Ratings said.

"Higher-for-longer interest rates and rising AI-related funding needs will test interest-sensitive and lower-rated US borrowers, but Fitch Ratings expects the overall credit outlook to remain broadly benign," the ratings agency said. – ANI

Britain's budget targets breathing space for households, businesses

BRITISH Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey on Wednesday unveiled the Budget 2026, aiming to give families and firms breathing space from rising costs through supporting measures in the fields including energy, income, housing, spending and business tax.

The government will provide 100 pounds (about US$133) household energy payment for up to 20 million qualified households in England, with funding for similar support provided to the rest of the UK. Meanwhile, it will extend the value-added-tax cut on electricity bills to 1 July 2027, according to the budget.



Gas prices are displayed at a petrol station in London, Britain, 26 March 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The budget supports drivers by extending the cut to fuel duty for a further six months, while cutting prices at local, lower-powered public chargers to reduce costs for electric vehicle drivers who rely on them.

Earlier Wednesday, the Chancellor also abolished standing charges on household gas bills, a fixed daily fee added on top of a household gas bill regardless of how much gas has been used. — Xinhua

European natural gas prices top 100 euros for first time in nearly 4 years

EUROPEAN natural gas prices surged above 100 euros (about US$111.50) per megawatt-hour on Wednesday for the first time since December 2022, amid concerns over disruptions to liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies from the Middle East and tightening inventories ahead of winter.

Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF) natural gas futures for November delivery, the European benchmark, climbed to an intraday high of 100.75 euros per megawatt-hour. Prices have risen by about 40 per cent so far this month.

According to Gas Infrastructure Europe, EU gas storage facilities were about 74.9 per cent full as of 26 October, well below typical levels for this time of year. Storage levels in Germany and the Netherlands stood at approximately 61.7 per cent and 65.5 per cent, respectively, adding to supply pressures as the winter heating season begins.

Market analysts attributed the price surge to continued disruptions to LNG shipments from the Gulf region and growing concerns that the conflict between the United States and Iran could escalate following the US midterm elections, further tightening global supplies.



EU gas storage facilities were about 74.9 per cent full as of 26 October, well below typical levels for this time of year. **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

According to Trading Economics, forecasts of colder-than-usual weather in parts of Europe and Asia could boost heating demand and intensify competition for LNG cargoes between the two regions, putting further upward pressure on natural gas prices. — Xinhua

Microsoft beats expectations fuelled by Azure cloud business

MICROSOFT shares popped more than five per cent Wednesday afternoon after it reported better than expected revenue and profit, fuelled by its Azure cloud computing division which grew by 48 per cent in the September quarter.

"We are delivering greater capability, choice, control, and cost efficiency for customers across our entire stack," Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said in a statement.

The technology giant recorded $92.3 billion in total revenue and more than $36.6 billion in profit, the company said in a securities filing Wednesday.

Analysts had expected around $90.6 billion in revenue and $35.1 billion in profit, according to FactSet.

The quarterly earnings report comes just days after Microsoft offered voluntary buyouts to about 60,000 employees, roughly a quarter of its workforce, as the tech giant spends heavily on artificial intelligence investments. — Xinhua



The technology giant recorded $92.3 billion in total revenue and more than $36.6 billion in profit. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Singapore central bank reminds banks to manage environmental risks

SINGAPORE'S central bank has reminded banks to identify, assess and manage material environmental risks arising from their activities and exposures, including those linked to pollution and deforestation.

Banks are expected to consider relevant information released by the National Environment Agency under the Transboundary Haze Pollution Act, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said in a statement on Wednesday.

Where customers may be linked to activities contributing to haze, banks should engage them to understand their involvement and assess whether adequate measures are in place to prevent, detect and stop fires, MAS said.

Banks should take appropriate steps to mitigate heightened environmental risks, including imposing conditions, reviewing financing terms, limiting further exposure or reassessing customer relationships, it added. — Xinhua

Suzuki Motor overtakes Honda as Japan's No 2 automaker by global sales

SUZUKI Motor Corp overtook Honda Motor Co to rank second among Japanese automakers in global vehicle sales in the April-September period, behind Toyota Motor Corp, according to data released Thursday by the country's eight major automakers.

Toyota, the world's largest automaker by sales volume, reported its first financial first-half declines in global sales and production in two years amid weaker demand in China. Sales, including Lexus vehicles, fell 4.0 per cent to 5,059,014 units, while production dropped 1.9 per cent to 4,895,406.

Suzuki's climb from fourth place a year earlier comes amid stronger sales in India.



Suzuki Motor Corp overtook Honda Motor Co to rank second among Japanese automakers in global vehicle sales in the April-September period, behind Toyota Motor Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The eight automakers sold a combined 11.83 million vehicles worldwide, down 1.3 per cent from a year earlier. Honda and Nissan Motor Co, which is trying to turn its business around, saw declines.

Higher gasoline prices amid the Middle East crisis accelerated the growth of electric vehicle sales in China, where Toyota and other Japanese automakers faced stiff competition from local companies. Toyota's sales there plunged 25.1 per cent. The company's overseas sales in the six-month period slipped 6.5 per cent to 4,256,216 units, and production outside Japan declined 5.6 per cent to 3,215,352 vehicles. — Kyodo

Lloyds reveals soaring quarterly profit

BRITISH bank Lloyds reported a sharp increase in third-quarter net profit on Thursday thanks to no repeat of last year's hefty provision to compensate customers who were improperly sold car loans.

Profit after tax for the July-September period reached £1.71 billion ($2.27 billion), up 120 per cent from the third quarter last year, Lloyds said in a statement.

Revenue grew nine per cent to £5.07 billion.

Chief executive Charlie Nunn said "the group is delivering sustained strength in financial performance, with continued income growth", adding that it was "on track to meet" its full-year targets.

However its share price slumped five per cent in late morning deals on the London stock exchange, where the top-tier FTSE 100 index was rising slightly. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (296N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (296N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-10-2026** 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 SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2617N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2617N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-10-2026** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Iran Guards says three tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz

The vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy.



Iran began talks on 26 October with the three countries of the Mecca security pact, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, to discuss regional issues as the months-long Middle East war remains locked in a stalemate. **PHOTO: AFP.**

IRAN'S Revolutionary Guards said Thursday that three tankers had caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, a day after the US military insisted it had demined key routes through the waterway.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorized southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," the IRGC said in a statement.

The vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy, the statement said.

It was not immediately clear when the incidents occurred or which flags the tankers were flying.

In recent weeks, Iran has reported multiple vessels striking sea mines, prompting US Central Command (CENTCOM), which runs military operations in the region, to reaffirm on social media its insistence that all mines in "primary transit routes" have been cleared.

On Thursday, Hossein Mohebi, the spokesman for the IRGC challenged the claim, saying: "Prove your Hormuz mine-clearing claim with independent evidence, not statements!" in a post on X.

Since the outbreak of the war on 28 February, Iran has severely restricted traffic through the strategic waterway, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil and gas consumption. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Call of Duty' slammed for using real Seoul crowd crush footage

FAMILIES of victims of South Korea's deadly Halloween crowd crush have demanded that footage of the disaster used in the latest instalment of "Call of Duty" be removed, a representative told AFP Thursday, condemning its "complete lack of sensitivity".

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4", the newest edition of the hit franchise, features a full-scale North Korean invasion of the South, beginning with a surprise attack by Pyongyang's forces.

In a scene from the game that briefs players on the damage caused by the invasion, footage from the deadly 2022 crush that killed more than 150 revellers is used to depict the aftermath of the attack.

Desperate efforts to perform CPR, police and firefighters controlling the scene, and bodies lined up along the streets are shown, with monochrome tones and noise filters added to make it appear as if it was the result of war. — AFP

NYC passes law restricting children's use of AI chatbots

THE governor of New York state signed a new law Wednesday preventing minors from using AI chatbots that act as companions, in one of the broadest moves yet for restricting consumer-facing models.

The law requires chatbot operators, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, to verify the ages of users and restrict the use of certain traits by the artificial intelligence interface if the user is under 18.

If used by a minor, chatbots would not be able to produce any content that could leave its user to believe it "is human, alive, or experiences human emotions", the law states. — AFP

Bolsonaro claims he is Brazil's true leader after fleeing to US



Bolsonaro fled Brazil after losing Sunday's election. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

BRAZIL'S defeated right-wing presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro insisted Wednesday he is his country's rightful leader, after fleeing to the United States to start a self-imposed exile.

Bolsonaro's defiance on arrival in Florida signalled continued upheaval for Brazil, where leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won a dramatic runoff election Sunday.

"I am the elected president, and the criminals who stole Brazil's election are part of a criminal organization that has established a tyranny," Bolsonaro said in the statement published on his X account, slamming "electoral fraud."

"I will lead the opposition from here," he said. In a subsequent statement, he revised his claim, saying he is the "leader", rather than "president".

Bolsonaro, 45, touched down earlier Wednesday in a private jet at Opa-Locka Executive Airport near Miami.

Rogerio Marinho, the leader of Bolsonaro's Liberal Party in the Senate, told reporters in Brasilia that he was in "solidarity" with the former candidate, describing him as a "political exile".

However, he distanced himself from Bolsonaro's statement, and refused to back up Bolsonaro's claims of electoral fraud.

"The Liberal Party cannot make that claim," he said. "There is no evidence of that." — AFP

Cuba wins UN vote against US embargo

THE UN General Assembly on Wednesday adopted a new resolution calling for an end to the US embargo against Cuba, although support for the communist-ruled island fell to its lowest level in three decades.

Nearly every year since 1992 similar resolutions have been put to a vote and passed, but support for the measure this year was markedly lower.

The resolution, which has called for lifting the economic, trade and financial embargo against the island, received 130 votes in favour, with 17 against and 25 abstentions. It was the lowest level of support since 1995.

The debate this year, however, is taking place amid a major new pressure campaign by Washington against Cuba, including an oil blockade and broad sanctions that have severely crippled Cuba's economy.

In recent weeks, Havana accused Washington of mounting a diplomatic offensive to pressure countries into withdrawing their support for the Cuban resolution. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar wins ASEAN senior amateur golf title

MYANMAR'S senior amateur golf team won the Team Handicap championship and several other awards at the 40th ASEAN Senior Amateur Championship 2026, held in the Philippines from 25 to 29 October.

Myanmar took first place in the Team Handicap event, while the team finished second in Team Gross and third in the age-category team event under the Stableford format. Myanmar golfers also secured individual awards.



Myanmar's senior amateur golf team is pictured alongside winning medals at the ASEAN Senior Amateur Championship 2026. **PHOTO: MGF**

The Team Handicap-winning side comprised U Hla Myint Shwe, U Tin Maung Maung Win, U Win Myint Ching, U Ko Ko Aung, U Sai Aik Aung and U San Aung. The Team Gross runners-up were U Ko Ko Aye, U Aik Pan, U Soe (Mandalay), U Sai Philip Yi, U San Min and U Aung Lin.

Myanmar joined the ASEAN Senior Amateur Golf Associations in 2023. The latest results reflect the team's performance and growing international experience in senior amateur golf.

The championship was held on the Nick Faldo and Andy Dye courses at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in the Philippines, with 268 golfers aged 55 and above from the host country, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Myanmar taking part. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

French businessman Roux de Bezieux takes over 2030 Winter Olympics after leadership turmoil

HIGH-FLYING businessman Geoffroy Roux de Bezieux vowed Thursday to deliver an "enchanted moment" as he was unveiled as the new head of the organizing committee of the 2030 Winter Olympics in the French Alps.

The organization of the 2030 Games has been hit by a leadership crisis, with Edgar Grospiron resigning as head in September, the latest in a series of high-profile departures from the organizing committee.

"Presiding over Alpes 2030 is an honour because above all it is a commitment to promoting, as a team, sport and France," Roux de Bezieux said.

The 64-year-old, the former president of France's largest employers' association (Medef) between 2018 and 2023, was on the board of the 2024 Paris Olympics organising committee and helped organize the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France.

"Presiding over Alps 2030 is an honour because above all it is a commitment to promoting, as a team, sport and France," said Roux de Bezieux, who started his working career at French cosmetics giant L'Oreal before making his fortune creating or running several telecom operators and companies. — AFP



Geoffroy Roux de Bezieux (L) alongside France's Sports Minister Marina Ferrari. **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool skipper Van Dijk glad to see return of 'Anfield energy'



Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIVERPOOL captain Virgil van Dijk believes some impressive recent home displays have restored the belief of the Anfield faithful following last season's lacklustre title defence.

Successive home wins over Villarreal, Brighton and Chelsea — whom they beat on penalties in the League Cup on Wednesday — in three different competitions mean Liverpool head into Sunday's match against Premier League champions Arsenal at Anfield in confident mood.

The Reds appear to be increasingly comfortable with new boss Andoni Iraola's tactics after the former Bournemouth boss replaced the sacked Arne Slot in June.

"It's a night like this (against Chelsea) and the other night (Villarreal) — I think the fans definitely like what they're seeing and, of course, you feel that energy and it's great," said van Dijk.

"I've been feeling that energy for quite a while and when you then miss it a little bit then to get it back is obviously very good. Results help, massively. We understand it as well."

The 35-year-old Netherlands defender added: "We want to show that for the full 90 minutes, every game, home and away and obviously it's not the easiest thing to do but we're trying to and nights like this helps.

"We put a lot of work in behind the scenes. Hopefully the reward will come."

Iraola made seven changes, including fielding four players under 22, against Chelsea in a game that finished 1-1 before Liverpool won the shoot-out 6-5 to book a quarter-final with Bournemouth. — AFP



Bayern Munich and Ajax will meet in an exhibition match in Nairobi on 5 January 2027 to mark the official opening of Kenya's new 60,000-seat Raila Odinga International Stadium. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

Bayern Munich, Ajax to inaugurate Kenya's new national stadium in Jan

BAYERN Munich and Ajax will meet in an exhibition match in Nairobi on 5 January 2027, to mark the official opening of Kenya's new 60,000-seat Raila Odinga International Stadium.

Kenyan President William Ruto announced the match in a prerecorded video message from Moscow, where he is attending the Russia-Africa Summit.

The two clubs have won 10 European Cup and UEFA Champions League titles between them, with Bayern claiming six and Ajax four.

"Come 5 January 2027, we will open this new modern historic match between two giants of European football, FC Bayern of Germany and AFC Ajax of Amsterdam," Ruto said.

Both clubs confirmed the fixture on social media.

"We are proud to announce that we will face FC Bayern in the opening match of the new Raila Odinga International Stadium at Talanta Sports City in Nairobi, Kenya," Ajax said in a post on X. — Xinhua

Iran Guards says three tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz

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WORLD

Rosatom discussing cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy with US

Despite ongoing difficulties, nuclear cooperation and development discussions between the United States and Russia continue without interruption, according to Likhachev.



The image shows the cooling towers and construction site of the Kursk II Nuclear Power Plant (Kursk NPP-2) in Kurchatov, Russia. **PHOTO: ROSATOM/ SPUTNIK /FILE**

Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom is discussing a number of potential areas for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy with the United States, CEO Alexey Likhachev told Sputnik.

"Oddly enough, nuclear cooperation with the United States has not been interrupted, despite all the difficulties. Moreover, I would say that discussions with the American side are currently ongoing on certain development, additional development topics. There are no guarantees that these topics will be implemented, but the discussions are ongoing," Likhachev said. — SPUTNIK

India, Mexico launch preferential trade agreement talks to expand trade, investment



India's total exports of textiles, apparel, and handicrafts reached approximately $35.5 billion to $35.8 billion in FY2026, with a recent rebound showing 10.3 per cent year-on-year growth between April and August 2026. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ GARTEXINDIA**

INDIA and Mexico have formally launched negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), setting a framework to expand bilateral trade, attract investment and strengthen supply chains, as the two countries seek to deepen economic cooperation across key sectors.

The negotiations began with the signing of the Terms of Reference (ToR) by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Mexico's Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Luis Rosendo Gutiérrez Romano, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The ToR lays down the framework, scope, modalities and roadmap for negotiations. The proposed agreement aims to create new business opportunities and promote investment flows through balanced and mutually beneficial terms.

India and Mexico agreed to deepen their partnership following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Canada in June 2025.

The negotiating framework covers market access for goods, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, dispute settlement, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade and trade remedies. — ANI

China's longest metro loop line enters full operation in Wuhan



Passengers are pictured at a station of the Wuhan Metro Line 12 in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, 29 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

METRO Line 12 in Wuhan, the capital of central China's Hubei Province, became fully operational on Thursday, making it China's longest metro loop line, according to the China Association of Metros.

Stretching 59.9 kilometres and serving 37 underground stations across seven urban districts of Wuhan, the line connects the Wuchang and Hankou railway hubs and offers transfers to 18 existing and planned lines. A full loop takes about 96 minutes.

The line opened in two phases. The first phase, 35.3 kilometres long, entered service on 1 May this year. With the second phase now operational, Wuhan Metro's operational length exceeds 581 kilometres, roughly the driving distance between Berlin and Munich or between Rome and Milan. — Xinhua

Moldova to hold top security meeting over giant cyberattack

MOLDOVA has convened a meeting of its National Security Council over a major cyberattack on government information systems, the presidency said Wednesday.

The cyberattack took place between 19 and 23 October, according to Moldova's Electronic Government Agency (AGE).

Approximately one million personal ID numbers were targeted in an attempt to unlawfully extract personal data and around 750,000 data sets were extracted, the agency said.

"President Maia Sandu has convened a meeting of the National Security Council for the coming days to assess the attack and determine appropriate response measures," the presidency said in a statement.

Moldova has a total population of around 2.4 million.

Prime Minister Vasile Tofan earlier Wednesday told a government meeting that there were "indications of a broader campaign involving foreign state actors".

"The relevant authorities are investigating, including their involvement in the recent incident," he said, without specifying which countries were suspected.

Tofan said the director of AGE, Nicoleta Colomeet, had been dismissed and that he had asked the institution to place greater emphasis on the security of digital services.

The targeted information includes names, dates of birth, insurance status and health information as well as financial information including IBANs, according to AGE.

"The main risk is the use of data in attempted fraud and online manipulation," the agency said. — AFP