

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets the students of the University for the Development of National Races of the Union at yesterday’s event.

UDNR graduates urged to uphold union spirit as nation’s lifeblood

ALL ethnic nationalities are called upon to foster a genuine Myanmar spirit and embrace the shared belief of “We are Myanmar,” joining hands in unity and solidarity to strengthen the nation’s collective identity and harmony.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need for those teachers, being graduates of the UDNR, to forge unity among national races with the flourishing of the Union spirit in their assigned areas.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met students from the Five-Year BEd Course No 7 of the University for the Development of National Races of the Union at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

and SSPC Chairman said that teachers need to cooperate with parents and local organizations to enable all school-age children to pursue education.

Moreover, he noted that they have to organize students to pursue education at different grades with a reduction of the student dropout rate and achieving the grade promotion rate and nurture them to have knowledge for analyzing the rights and the wrongs.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with UDNR students

- 1. The graduates have to nurture their students to become well-rounded youth possessing the physical, intellectual, moral, economic, and social skills.
- 2. Those teachers have to participate in the work processes of holding a free and fair election on schedule.
- 3. The university graduates must nurture the students and youth to understand such values as goodwill, cooperation, unity, and a spirit of mutual assistance, so that these noble qualities may flourish.

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission

2025

General Election

Sunday, 28 December 2025

67

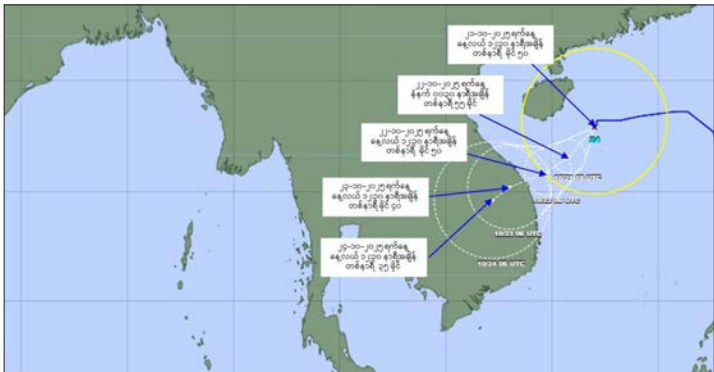
Days

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

Tropical Storm “FENGSHEN”
News, No 3, 2025

Issued at 4 pm MST on 21 October 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Tropical Storm “FENGSHEN” over the South China Sea has moved slowly Southwestwards. It is likely continue to move southwestwards and intensify into a Severe Tropical Storm “FENGSHEN” during next six hours. — DMH



Well-Marked Low-Pressure
Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 21 October 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal intensify into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a Depression over Southwest and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal off North Tamil Nadu and South Andhra Pradesh coasts on 22 October 2025. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards further intensify towards North Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and South Andhra Pradesh coasts on 23 October 2025. — DMH



2024 Population and
Housing Census



- The 2024 Population and Housing Census was conducted nationwide starting on 1 October 2024.
- The Union Report of the 2024 Population and Housing Census will be released on 27 October 2025.
- To obtain statistical data, visit the Department of Population’s website at www.dop.gov.mm.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security Council

Order 45/2025

1st Waxing of Tazaungmone 1387 ME
21 October 2025

Approval for Retirement

THE National Defence and Security Council has allowed Dr Marla Aung to retire from the duties of a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union for her health condition under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security Council

Order 46/2025

1st Waxing of Tazaungmone 1387 ME
21 October 2025

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Member of the
Constitutional Tribunal of the Union of Myanmar

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned Daw Ohnmar Aye to the duties of a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

UDNR graduates urged to uphold union spirit as nation's lifeblood

FROM PAGE 1

He pointed out that the school must be a learning venue for the students to be taught and endowed with wisdom and knowledge as the essence of education in addition to the critical thinking, rationality and civic ethics.

Therefore, he continued that all ethnic nationalities should nurture a Myanmar spirit and uphold the concept that “We are Myanmar,” working together in unity and solidarity as the national solidarity to promote peace, prosperity, and development of the country.

Likewise, he added that the graduates were urged to nurture the students and youth to understand such values as goodwill, cooperation, unity, and a spirit of mutual assistance, so that these noble qual-

ities may flourish.

He underscored that the graduates of the UDNR need to firmly uphold the Union spirit as the lifeblood of the nation while studying at the university.

The Senior General stressed the need for those teachers, being graduates of the UDNR, to forge unity among national races with the flourishing of the Union spirit in their assigned areas.

As those teachers are offspring nurtured by the State, they were urged to join hands with the State in efforts to ensure peace and stability and development of the State as a national duty based on Our Three Main National Causes.

The Senior General underscored that it is important for all to successfully hold a free and fair election so that the Union based on democracy and

federalism that all the people aspire to can be built.

To enable all eligible voters to cast votes, he explained that the government is expediting efforts to hold a free, fair and credible multiparty democratic general election that the people really aspire to.

As such, the Senior General gave guidance that those teachers have to participate in the work processes of holding a free and fair election on schedule.

He urged the university graduates to nurture their students to become well-rounded youth possessing the five strengths — physical, intellectual, moral, economic, and social — so that they may grow into capable and virtuous individuals who can be relied upon for the future of the nation.

He underlined that those

teachers were urged to nurture the new generation of students and youth, who will shape the nation's future – to develop patriotism and national spirit, and to become individuals with strong beliefs and sound convictions.

The Senior General highlighted that the teachers need to cooperate with the government in efforts to forge peace and stability in the nation and improve the socioeconomic life of the people.

On behalf of the students, Kayin ethnic student Sa Kyaw Zeyar Phyo from Kangyidaunt Township of Ayeyawady Region spoke words of thanks.

Two students presented the commemorative gift to the Senior General. The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman cordially greeted all

students.

Also present at the ceremony were Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission member and Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Commission member and Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, commission members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, the Rector of the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union, faculty members and students.

A total of 14,514 teachers have so far graduated from the University. — MNA/TTA

MoFA Union Minister receives Qatari Charge d’Affaires

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received a farewell call by Dr Rashid Abdulla MA Al-Kuwari, Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Qatar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, accelerating ongoing negotiations of bilateral agreements and enhancing investment and cooperation in other sectors. — MNA



The Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Qatar calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

NATIONAL

Abhidhamma, Honours and Visuddhimagga exams to be held

THE Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will organize the Abhidhamma, Honours and Visuddhimagga exams at the designated exam centres from 6 December (Saturday) to 8 December (Monday).

The nuns and civilians who do not pass the governmental Pahtamangetan (or) similar level test are eligible to take the Abhidhamma (ordinary) exam. Those who passed the Abhidhamma (ordinary) exam can sit for the Abhidhamma (honours) or Visuddhimagga exams.

Only the nuns and people who do not pass the government Pahtamagyitan, Dhamma Sariyatan or similar exams can sit for the Visuddhimagga exam.

The candidates are allowed to take level one or level two or level three of Abhidhamma, honours and Visuddhimagga exams. Those who have not yet passed all three levels in the past are allowed to retake the three levels together.

The exam cards will be distributed to the township Sangha Nayaka Committees in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states, and all the candidates can receive them before the exam day.

— MNA/KTZH

78th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida exam to be held for 33 days

THE Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will organize the 78th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida exam from 21 December 2025 to 22 January 2026 at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon.

The opening ceremony of the exam will be at Vijaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin at 8:30 am on 21 December; the reciting session will be at Maha Pasana Cave, and the alms-giving ceremony will be at the three-storeyed building. The well-wishers can contact 09 420701454 and 09 43067168, the exam division of the Religious Affairs Department.

A total of 712 Sayadaws and monks will attend the opening ceremony and reciting event. — MNA/KTZH

4-week Fire Safety Specialist Course opened in Nay Pyi Taw



Photos display the course opening event and the training demonstration. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**

THE opening ceremony of Fire Safety Specialist Course 2/2025 took place at the Fire Station in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Director-General U Myat Thu

highlighted the intention of the course like to overcome the challenges that the firefighters may face in the future, to ensure the balance of Men Power, Equipment Power and Technology Power supporting the

objectives of the department, to consistently study and practice in modern fire safety and search-and-rescue technologies currently practiced by international fire service organizations and to theoretically and practically teach the application and issuance procedures of fire safety inspection and approval certificates through an online system of the Fire Services Department. A total of 30 trainees joined the four-week course from 21 October to 13 November. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

553 tonnes of steel, 65 tonnes of roofing sheets sent for Mandalay, Sagaing reconstruction

UNDER the programme of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, steel reinforcement bars required for the earthquake disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts are being transported from Yangon via special freight trains.

A special freight train carrying 553 tonnes of HRB 500 type steel bars and 7,000 sheets of 4 Angle 0.33 mm roofing zinc sheets (weighing 32.56 tonnes) for the reconstruction and recovery work within Sagaing Region,

as well as 7,000 sheets of 4 Angle 0.33 mm roofing zinc sheets (weighing 32.56 tonnes) required for reconstruction and recovery work within Mandalay Region, arrived at Mandalay Shwekyetyet railway station yesterday morning.

Responsible officials inspected and accepted the consignment, and these will subsequently be distributed for the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects within the regions. — MNA/MKKS



Officials oversee the arrival of reconstruction supplies at Mandalay's Shwekyetyet railway station yesterday.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority”.

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



People’s Military Service Training 18 kicks off nationwide

THE opening ceremonies for People’s Military Service Training 18 were held yesterday at various military commands, and the commandants of the training depots delivered opening speeches. The ceremonies were attended by the chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers from various regions and states, commanders of the respective commands, and other officials. Trainees were presented with cash awards and essential items for recruits and offered encouragement and support. The People’s Military Service Law was enacted because every citizen has a duty to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty. The law came into effect on 10 February 2024 to facilitate the organization



The launch of the People’s Military Service Training 18 is in progress yesterday, with the trainees being warmly welcomed.

of military training courses. Those who have completed the People’s Military Service Training are now serving in various military units, fulfilling their responsibilities for national defence and security. — MNA/ MKKS

U Sein Oo presents Credentials to Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

U Sein Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolki-ah Mu’ izzaddin Waddaulah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar’ Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, on 18 October 2025, at Istana Nurul Iman in Brunei Darussalam. — MNA



The photo shows the presentation of Credentials to the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 18 October 2025.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- 1. Office of the State Administration Council
<https://sacoffice.gov.mm>
- 2. Ministry of Defence
<https://www.mod.gov.mm>
- 3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
<https://www.mlis.gov.mm>
- 4. Ministry of Information
<https://www.moi.gov.mm>
- 5. Myawady Webportal
<https://myawady.net.mm>
- 6. Myanmar National Portal
<https://myanmar.gov.mm>

NATIONAL

Hsipaw recovery underway as Tatmadaw restores education, healthcare, and administration



This photo shows the ongoing enrolment process in Hsipaw.

FOLLOWING the completion of a counter-terrorism operation by the Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) to ensure peace and stability for the public and the subsequent regaining of full control over Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North), intensive and timely recovery work is being carried out. These efforts focus on restoring the government’s administrative machinery, enabling children to continue their education, reinstating public healthcare services, and undertaking general rehabilitation tasks.

To ensure that the educational sector for students in and around Hsipaw is not adversely affected, and to facilitate the smooth operation of public

health services, members of the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Services Department, departmental staff, and residents today carried out joint cleaning and sanitation work at No 1 Basic Education High School and the People’s Hospital in Hsipaw.

Furthermore, student enrolment for school-age children commenced at No 1 Basic Education High School in Hsipaw. It is reported that 112 students have been enrolled to date. The Ministry of Education provided textbooks, stationery, and supplies free of charge to the newly enrolled students, and departmental officials addressed any other necessary arrangements.

In addition, the Department

of Immigration and Population has opened a temporary branch office at the Konedaw Pariyatti Teaching Monastery in Hsipaw. They have begun operations to verify household registrations for the local ethnic people and to process citizenship scrutiny cards. Security forces are also undertaking mine-clearance operations at departmental offices and areas heavily used by the public throughout Hsipaw.

Security forces are continuing their area security and dominance duties to ensure the long-term development and stability of Hsipaw Township, allowing the local ethnic residents to resume their social and economic activities peacefully. — MNA/MKKS

MADB Myitkyina branch launches cold-season farm loans



The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank’s Myitkyina branch is extending winter agricultural loans to farmers.

THE Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank’s Myitkyina branch started providing cold-season agricultural loans for 2025 on 16 October.

On the first day, K3 million of loans with K100,000 per acre to 30 acres were given to the farmers from Pammati ward and Shadaung village of Myitkyina.

The branch has planned to issue a total of K 103.7 million in agricultural loans for this winter, and the crops to be planted are oilseeds such as mustard and maize, a local said.

The loan plan will cover 202 acres of 29 farmers from Akye, Pammati,

Shadaung and Tatkone of Myitkyina, 835 acres of 113 farmers from Khetcho and Naunghee of Waingmaw, and 1037 acres of 142 farmers in total.

Intending to improve food security and socio-economic development of farmers, the MADB has been extending loans at low interest rates for farming costs.

Similarly, the branch has extended K 611.8 million of monsoon agricultural loans to 1214 farmers for 4079 acres in 35 village-tracts of Myitkyina, Waingmaw, PutaO and Nagmon, according to the MADB. — Htun Htun/ZN

Myanmar Women’s Football Team trains in Japan ahead of SEA Games

THE Myanmar Women’s National Football Team has continued training in Osaka, Japan, for the 33rd Southeast Asian Games in 2025, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The women’s national team arrived in Osaka on 19 October to do training at J Green Sakai as preparation for the SEA Games. During the training from 19 to 26 October, friendly matches have been planned.

The team comprises 26 players, and Win Theingi Tun, currently playing at Malaysia’s Sabah FC, will join the team when the competition kicks off.

The national women team features- GKs are Myo Mya Mya Nyein (Thitsar Arman), Zu Latt Nadi (ISPE) and Ei Sandar Zaw (Ayeyawady), DFs are Zune Yuya Oo (Ayeyawady), Phyu Phwe (Yangon United), Yu Yu Naing (Yangon United), Lin Lae Oo (ISPE), Hay Mann Soe (ISPE), Than Than Nwe (ISPE), Hnin Pwint Aye (ISPE), May Thet Mon Myint (Thitsar Arman) and Khin Myo Thandar Tun (Shan United), MFs are Phyu Phyu Win (Ayeyawady), Naw Htet Htet Wai (Ayeyawady), Khin Mo Mo Tun (Thitsar Arman), Win Win (Thitsar Arman), Khin Marlar Tun (ISPE), Yin Loon Eain (ISPE), Shwe Yee Tun (ISPE), Yu Per Khine (Shan United), Nan Phyu Phyu Thwe (Shan United), Yoon Wadi Hlaing (Yangon United) and Ei Thet Phyto (YREO), and FWs are San Thaw Thaw (Ayeyawady), Zin Moe Pyae (Yangon United) and Myat Noe Khin (Thitsar Arman).

Japanese coach Testuro Uki will lead the team as head coach.

The 33rd SEA Games will take place in Chonburi, Thailand, in early December this year. — Htun Htun/ZS

ed), Lin Lae Oo (ISPE), Hay Mann Soe (ISPE), Than Than Nwe (ISPE), Hnin Pwint Aye (ISPE), May Thet Mon Myint (Thitsar Arman) and Khin Myo Thandar Tun (Shan United), MFs are Phyu Phyu Win (Ayeyawady), Naw Htet Htet Wai (Ayeyawady), Khin Mo Mo Tun (Thitsar Arman), Win Win (Thitsar Arman), Khin Marlar Tun (ISPE), Yin Loon Eain (ISPE), Shwe Yee Tun (ISPE), Yu Per Khine (Shan United), Nan Phyu Phyu Thwe (Shan United), Yoon Wadi Hlaing (Yangon United) and Ei Thet Phyto (YREO), and FWs are San Thaw Thaw (Ayeyawady), Zin Moe Pyae (Yangon United) and Myat Noe Khin (Thitsar Arman).

Japanese coach Testuro Uki will lead the team as head coach.

The 33rd SEA Games will take place in Chonburi, Thailand, in early December this year. — Htun Htun/ZS



The Myanmar Women’s National Football Team in the training session at J Green Sakai in Osaka, Japan, on 21 October.

National politics rooted in Our Three Main National Causes

❖ National politics is a permanent and stable form of statecraft that is grounded in Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty. It is aimed solely at upholding the long-term interests of the nation and its people.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2025)

China leads as top buyer of Myanmar rice with over 1M tonnes in H1 2025-2026

CHINA was the largest buyer of Myanmar rice with over one million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past six months of the current financial year 2025-2026 beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Indonesia is the second largest importing country of Myanmar rice with over 267,882 tonnes, followed by the Philippines with over 211,464 tonnes, Belgium with over 192,055 tonnes, Spain with 77,037 tonnes, Poland with 47,912 tonnes, Madagascar with over 43,648 tonnes, Senegal with 41,000 tonnes, the Netherlands with 36,175 tonnes, the UK with over 33,400 tonnes, Bulgaria with



Cargo vessels load and unload goods at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

31,003 tonnes, Czech Republic with 13,791 tonnes, Italy with 12,850 tonnes and Viet Nam with 2,158 tonnes.

Myanmar’s rice export in the first half of the current financial year 2025-2026 reached over 1.2 million tonnes, bagging US\$408 million, as per the MRF’s report.

Myanmar conveyed 142,788 tonnes in April, over 529,500 tonnes in May, 212,415 tonnes in June, 230,671 tonnes in July, 192,984 tonnes in August and 168,045 tonnes in September; totalling 1.2 million tonnes worth around \$408 million.

Myanmar mostly rely on sea trade for rice export.

The federation aims to achieve three million tonnes of rice exports in the current FY.

Myanmar bagged over \$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of

rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

MYANWEN Beauty 2025 to be held on 24-25 Oct

MYANWEN Beauty 2025 will be held on 24-25 October at Lotte Hotel from 9 am to 6 pm.

MYANWEN Beauty 2025, the MSME showcase, will bring about great opportunities for business people, designers and MSME entrepreneurs, jointly organized by Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) and Myanmar Cosmetics Association.

The beauty expo will feature Made in Myanmar local products, handicrafts, expert talks, fashion show, make-up demonstration and other fun events.

The objectives behind the expo are to help MSMEs expand businesses, bridge networks with local partners, share the innovation of local talents and MSMEs’ experiences and showcase innovative sustainable packaging solutions.

Experts engaged in Fashion and textiles, agri-food business, gems & jewellery, handicrafts, sustainable packaging, eco-friendly products, beauty brands and services and tech innovations in beauty will participate in the event. — NN/KK



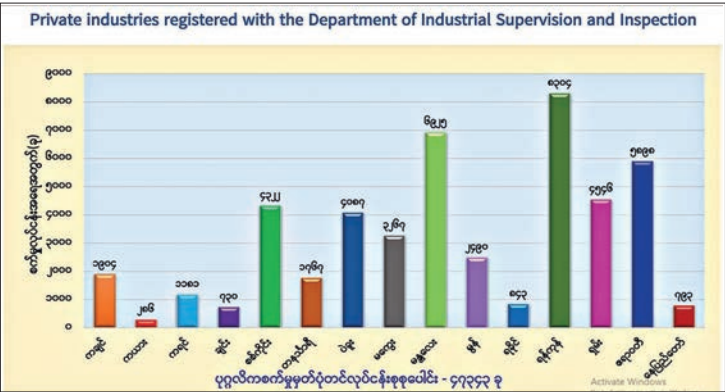
An invite to the MYANWEN Beauty 2025.

Over 47,300 private industries registered with DISI as of end-Sep

A total of 47,343 private industries have been registered with the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection as of September 2025, the Ministry of Industry’s data indicated.

Yangon Region, a commercial hub of Myanmar, is home to the private industries with 8,304 registered businesses, followed by Mandalay Region with 6,925 and Ayeyawady Region with 5,898.

The registered private industries grew to 47,609 in the previous financial year 2023-2024 from 45,015 registered in the 2022-2023 FY. A total of 206 industries were officially listed in the past FY 2024-2025 (April-March), reaching a total of 47,815 private industries. In the past six months of the current FY, some were deregistered, and the number of private industries registered with the DISI dropped.



Almost fifty per cent of the registered private industries are engaged in the food group. The lists of registered private industries are classified into 24 business groups; food, tobacco, clothing, wood and finished wood slabs, printing, chemical, rubber and plastic, basic mineral, computer and electronic device, unclassified machine, beverage, fabric, leather, paper and paper products, charcoal fuel, pharmaceuticals, non-metallic minerals, metal refining

equipment, electronics, vehicle and trailer, furniture and machines and equipment repair and installation.

The DISI is providing services for small and medium enterprises to get access to technical assistance and funding, explore markets, register the private industrial enterprises in accordance with existing laws and conduct safety inspections of boiler and electrical usage at worksites and environmental impact assessment. — KK

OPINION

Archaeology:
Tools to explore cultural
heritage of the State

INTERNATIONAL Archaeology Day (IAD) is a celebration of archaeology and its contributions to society. Every October, the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and archaeological organizations around the world present a variety of programmes and activities for people of all ages and interests. Whether it’s a family-friendly archaeology fair, a guided tour of a local site, a simulated dig, or a lecture by a visiting archaeologist, the interactive, hands-on IAD events offer opportunities to explore the past and experience the excitement of discovery.

International Archaeology Day is an annual celebration of archaeology held on the third Saturday of October. Established by

In Myanmar, archaeologists from relevant sectors have been striving to discover and study significant aspects of the country’s lost cultural heritage. Over successive periods, they have excavated and uncovered various cultural artifacts that reveal Myanmar’s history and traditions. Thanks to their efforts, the ancient Pyu city-states and numerous archaeological mounds have been identified as valuable historical evidence of Myanmar’s rich past.

have been striving to discover and study significant aspects of the country’s lost cultural heritage. Over successive periods, they have excavated and uncovered various cultural artifacts that reveal Myanmar’s history and traditions. Thanks to their efforts, the ancient Pyu city-states and numerous archaeological mounds have been identified as valuable historical evidence of Myanmar’s rich past.

Those archaeologists have sought the best methods and techniques to preserve ancient buildings, mural paintings, artefacts, and religious and cultural evidence, as well as royal documents. As a result, the world has come to recognize Myanmar’s culture and heritage. Although archaeologists continue to discover more cultural evidence for the State, they remain committed to ongoing exploration and excavation in the nation’s cultural areas to benefit both the State and its people.

Thanks to archeologists, Myanmar could seek recognitions of the UNESCO over its cultural heritage of Pyu city states and Bagan region as tangible cultural heritage and Atar Thingyan festival as the intangible cultural heritages. Indeed, a prominent day should be designated actually to honour the endeavours of archaeologists throughout the world.

the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), the event aims to raise public awareness of archaeology and its contributions to society through activities such as lectures, simulated digs, and museum tours. Organizations around the world including museums, parks, and universities host interactive, family-friendly programmes that invite people of all ages to take part.

Generally, archaeologists study ancient objects that have been buried for hundreds of thousands of years to research the origins of living and non-living things. Their findings reveal the nature, behaviour, and evolution of these objects or organisms. Ultimately, discoveries related to artifacts remind the people of the importance of preserving ancient cultural heritage and maintaining the prestige and integrity of their natural culture and traditions.

In Myanmar, archaeol-

ogists from relevant sectors

The Role of Voters in
the General Election

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

THE role of voters in the general election is fundamental to the functioning of a democratic society. It empowers citizens to influence how they are governed and by whom. The following are the key roles and responsibilities of voters in the general election: -

❖ Exercising Democratic Rights

Voting is a constitutional right. By voting, citizens participate in the decision-making process of their country, ensuring

that the government reflects the will of the people.

❖ Choosing Leaders

Voters select representatives (e.g., Members of Parliament for Union Level, State and Regional Level) who will make laws, implement policies, and represent their interests. The outcome of the general election determines the leadership and direction of the government for a set term.

❖ Holding Leaders Accountable

Voting allows citizens to reward effective leaders and remove those who have failed to perform. This accountability encourages transparency, responsibility, and better governance.

❖ Influencing Public Policy

Political parties and candidates have different views on key issues like education, healthcare, economy, and the environment. Voters help shape national policy by choosing leaders whose views align with their own.

❖ Promoting Civic Responsibility

Voting encourages civic engagement and a sense of duty towards the nation. It sets an example for younger generations and helps sustain the culture of democracy.

❖ Ensuring Representation

Voting ensures that diverse communities and interests are represented in the government. It gives voice to minority groups.

❖ Participating in Change

The General Election can lead to significant changes in government and public policy. Voters have the power to bring about reform or continuity, depending on their collective choices.

In addition, the role of voters in the general election goes beyond just casting a ballot. It is an active, responsible, and essential part of maintaining a healthy democracy. Every vote matters, and every voter plays a part in shaping the future of their country.



“Seeds of Peace”

By Min Zan

From battles fought through smoke and flame, Our land still longs for calm and rest, No hearts to hate, no one to blame, In unity, we'll build our best.	For peace to stand, not fall, alone. Let anger fade, let pride give way, Let trust return where doubt once grew, For only hearts that choose to stay Can see a brighter morning too.	Shall we not also cast aside The chains of hate that still divide? Ten years have passed, the vow remains, The dream of peace still calls our name, If hands unite, the hope sustains And love shall light our land again.
The NCA was born through pain, Through talks unending, hope was sown, A thousand times we tried again—	From Gaza's cries to nationwide, The guns have ceased, the tears have dried,	Min Zan (From NCA to the Durable Peace)

I Say What I See: Loving-kindness &
Compassion – Healing Ways Towards Peace

To heal a divided world, let kindness and compassion lead the way.

By @Editor

his care and responsibility. Each month, he sent his earnings home through what was then called a *money order*.

I remember accompanying my mother to the Tamwe Post Office to collect it. The trip itself felt like a little adventure – walking hand in hand, waiting at the counter, watching the clerks stamp and sign papers. My mother’s eyes always softened when the postal clerk handed over the envelope; I understand now that it wasn’t only money she received; it was love in the form of livelihood.

My parents’ connection, though separated by miles, was bound by letters carried through what we fondly called *snail mail*. My father’s handwriting on the envelope was enough to bring a smile to my mother’s face. A single postage stamp – perhaps one *Pya*

in value, marked with the image of a bird we called ငှက်ခေါင်း, a bird larger than a sparrow yet smaller than a crow – carried messages of love across the land.

I used to collect those stamps, unaware that they held fragments of our family’s story. Sadly, I lost them all when our new two-storey house was built. Yet even now, the memory remains – the image of my parents’ quiet devotion sealed in every letter; in every remittance, in every shared silence between words.

At that time, I didn’t know that what I witnessed was *Loving-kindness and Compassion* in their purest, most human form. I only saw routine; now I see grace. Their gestures, simple yet sincere, were acts of love – my father’s diligence, my mother’s patience, their unspoken bond of giving and

receiving.

Today, I understand that *Metta* and *Karuna* need not always appear in grand forms. Sometimes, they are found in the hum of a post office, in the scent of old envelopes, or in the steady rhythm of a life built quietly for others.

Beyond the Family: The
Broader Circle of Loving-kindness

Loving-kindness and compassion are not confined within the walls of a home. They begin there – in the quiet devotion of parents, in the patient care between family members – but their reach can, and should, extend far beyond.

In the world we inhabit today, one that seems perpetually at odds with itself, the spirit of *Loving-kindness and Compassion* feels more urgent than ever. We

see societies shaken by conflict, suspicion, and a rush of self-interest that too often leaves empathy behind. Yet amid this war-ringing noise, there still flicker small lights – gestures of understanding, hands that help without expectation, and words that soothe rather than wound.

Such acts may never make headlines, but they hold the real potential to heal what division cannot. A bus conductor who waits a little longer for an elderly passenger, a neighbour who shares food in times of scarcity, a friend who listens when another cannot find echoes in the hearts they touch.

In every stage of life, we encounter both kindness and its absence. What makes the difference is not education, wealth, or power; but the willingness to feel – to recognize another’s joy or pain as

guides. It lives in ordinary people who choose, even for a moment, to place humanity before pride. Loving-kindness asks us to look beyond ourselves, not in doctrine or prayer, but in daily action – in how we speak, how we respond, and how we choose to care.

In every age, the form of kindness may change, but its essence does not. Whether through a letter in ink, a digital message, or a silent glance of understanding, the language of compassion remains universal. It reminds us that no matter how far we move apart – by distance, belief, or circumstance – our capacity to care still defines what is best in us.

The Enduring Grace of Kindness

As I look back on what I have seen and lived, I realize that **Loving-kindness and Compassion** are not merely virtues to be admired; they are the quiet forces that hold life together. They rarely make noise, yet they leave lasting echoes in the hearts they touch.

In every stage of life, we encounter both kindness and its absence. What makes the difference is not education, wealth, or power; but the willingness to feel – to recognize another’s joy or pain as

somehow connected to our own. This, I believe, is where humanity still breathes amidst the dust of conflict and confusion.

We often speak of progress in terms of invention, economy, or technology. Yet true progress, in the deepest sense, is measured by how we treat one another: The world does not need more speed; it needs more sensitivity. It does not need more opinions; it needs more understanding.

The loving-kindness I saw in my parents’ quiet lives – their compassion expressed not in words but in deeds – has become my lifelong reminder that goodness endures, even when times change. Their love was not loud, but it was steadfast. It shaped the rhythm of our days, taught us to care, and left us with the simple wisdom that to live kindly is to live meaningfully.

In the end, **Loving-kindness and Compassion** are not grand philosophies. They are choices – daily, deliberate, human. Each time we choose to understand rather than judge, to comfort rather than condemn, we keep alive the small, enduring grace that makes the world, despite its many flaws, still worth belonging to.

NATIONAL

36 PDF members rejoin legal fold

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support. The PDF members — 12 males and three females — entered the legal fold yesterday.

These returning members stated that they could no longer accept the terrorist acts committed by the armed groups and PDF, such as forced conscription, threatening, arresting, and killing innocent civilians and civil servants for the benefit of terrorist organizations, planting mines and destroying non-military infrastructure like roads and bridges. They also cited discrimination, internal hierarchical oppression, torture, killings, violence, poor living conditions, and demoralization due to an inability to resist Tatmadaw operations as reasons for leaving.



Officials warmly welcome returnees during the ceremony marking their return to the legal fold.

Moreover, they expressed trust in the State and Tatmadaw's peace processes and a desire to live peacefully under the law, hoping to contribute back to the State and people whom they had

caused losses to.

The 15 individuals from Hmawby, Hlegu, Hlinethaya, Dagon Myothit (North), Sanchaung, North Okkalapa, Thongwa, Dala and Kyauktan

townships of Yangon Region and Waw township of Bago Region entered the legal fold, and were accepted by responsible officials. At the handover ceremony, PDF members were

handed over to their parents or guardians at Mingalar Hall of the Yangon Region Government Office yesterday.

Similarly, 21 PDF members from Sagaing Region – 18 males and three females – rejoined the legal fold with one MK-12, one magazine, nine 12-Volt bullets, one homemade pistol and one homemade magazine, and these 21 individuals were handed over to their parents or guardians at Zeyar Thiri Hall of Northwest Command.

Officials presented a K2 million prize, and foodstuff. There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar steps up crackdown on telecom fraud, speeds up repatriation of foreign nationals

TWO Filipino nationals, who had illegally entered Myanmar via border routes, passing through neighbouring countries including Thailand, and subsequently committed online gambling, internet fraud, and other criminal offences within the Kayin State areas of Myawaddy-Shwe Kokko and Mae Htaw Thalee (KK Park), were formally handed over to their respective country.

The transfer was conducted via the Myanmar-Thailand No 2 Friendship Bridge, in accordance with legal procedures, and out of consideration for humanitarian concerns and international goodwill.

To ensure the repatriation processes were systematic and smooth, U Myint Bhone, Deputy Director of Kayin State's Department of Immigration and Population, and other officials met with departmental joint teams yes-

terday morning. They inspected the implementation of the procedures for transferring the foreign nationals and verified the completeness and accuracy of the records and data, giving supplementary instructions where necessary.

Subsequently, the handover ceremony was held. Attendees included Deputy Director U Myint Bhone, Mr Andrew Labrador Agrafvante, Administrative and Technical Staff from the Philippine Embassy in Thailand, and officials from the Tak Provincial Immigration Bureau, Thailand. Officials from Myanmar systematically presented the documentary evidence related to the repatriation and transfer to the responsible officials from the respective countries.

From 30 January to 21 October 2025, a total of 9,551 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar

were identified, examined, and detained. Of this total, 9,339 individuals have been systematically repatriated to their respective countries via Thailand, in accordance with legal procedures. The remaining 212 foreign nationals are ready to be transferred to their respective nations and are being held under good care.

The government is actively working to identify, arrest, and take decisive, rigorous action against foreign nationals involved in Online Scam Centre operations and those manipulating these activities from behind the scenes. Furthermore, the government is actively cooperating to ensure the swiftest possible repatriation of foreign nationals who have suffered various hardships, including victims of human trafficking, to their respective countries. — MNA/KZL

MNHRC inspects Centre for Women Care and Development

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Myint and U Than Win, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, conducted an inspection visit to the Centre for Women's Care and Development in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, yesterday under Sections 22 (e) and 43 of the Commission Law.

During the inspection of the Centre for Women's Care and Development, the inspection team inspects the situation of healthcare for the trainees, food provision, living conditions in the

dormitories, access to non-formal education, the receipt of National Scrutiny Card, the provision of physical exercise and sports activities, the provision of clean drinking water, the right to contact their families, the right to family reintegration, the provision of vocational training, freedom of religion to ensure that their fundamental human rights.

The findings and recommendations from the inspection team's visit will be sent to the relevant departments for necessary actions under the Commission Law. — MNHRC



MNHRC members inspect the Centre for Women's Care and Development in Shwepyitha Township.

NATIONAL

Myanmar garment sector sees 9% export growth in H1 2025-2026FY



A garment factory working on a Cut-Make-Pack model.

MYANMAR’S garment export rose by nine per cent in the first half of the current financial year 2025-2026, beginning 1 April, compared to that of the corresponding period last FY, said Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, general secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Myanmar’s garment enterprises operate under the Cutting, Making, and Packaging model. European Union

member countries, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the US and China place garment orders from Myanmar

Myanmar’s top-earning sectors include garments and agricultural produce. The garment leads the export sector.

Myanmar’s garment sector plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the country, contributing to the country’s GDP to a certain extent. Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely con-

centrated in garments and textiles produced on the CMP basis. In addition to garments, manufacturing of electronic appliances, footwear, bags, wigs, lenses and cameras is also running under a CMP system.

Myanmar Garment Manufacturing Association and other related institutions are exerting concerted efforts to transform from the CMP to a full production model in the country. — ASH/KK

Myanmar film ‘A Tuu’ to hit cinemas on 24 Oct

THE premiere show for the major Myanmar film entitled ‘A Tuu’ was held on 20 October at the Kanthaya Migala Cinema in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, according to Director Win Lwin Htet.

The story and screenplay for the film were written by Win Lwin Htet, with the script penned by Di Di Htet Aung. The film was directed by the three-time Academy Award-winning director Win Lwin Htet for Toe Tat Film Production.

Director Win Lwin Htet stated, “A Tuu is one of the films I really wanted to shoot. When I was looking at locations while

shooting Kan Kaung (Lucky), I saw the town of Baw Hseng, which is about a 45-minute drive from Heho. It has a monastery dating back to the time of King Mindon, which I liked, and that’s what inspired me to make a film. A Tuu isn’t just a comedy; it also includes a dramatic element. I believe the audience will enjoy it”.

The film, set to be screened in major cinemas nationwide on 24 October, stars Academy Award winners Myint Myat and Yan Aung, along with Poe Mamhe Tha, Snow Kyi Phyu, Kay Nyi, Joker, Kyaw Htoo, and others. — ASH/MKKS



Actors and officials attending the ‘A Tuu’ film premiere show.

Yangon-Pathein highway repairs underway, targeting Oct completion

REPAIR and maintenance work on the Yangon-Pathein Highway is being carried out to complete the project by the end of this month, according to the Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction.

Starting from October 15, on the Yangon-Pathein Road section within Pantanaw Township, workers have been laying an asphalt overlay, adjusting the unevenness of the asphalt road surface, removing high road shoulders with an excavator, and patching with poured asphalt.

A responsible official from the Department of Highways stated, “The repairs have been ongoing constantly. Currently, we are repairing the section between the Bo Myat Tun Bridge and Pantanaw. There is also



A view of some road sections where repair and maintenance work is underway on the Yangon-Pathein Highway.

work being done on the section between Pantanaw and Kyaunggon. The stretch up to

Milepost 56 is being managed and repaired by a company under the BOT (Build-Oper-

ate-Transfer) system. The Department of Highways is responsible for the section from

Milepost 56 up to Pathein. We are working to complete the project by the end of October. However, we have to consider the weather. The current difficulty is the rain”.

Similarly, asphalt patching, levelling the road surface, cutting grass, and laying asphalt overlay are being carried out on the Yangon-Pathein Road sections within Kyaunggon Township and between Kyaunggon and Daka.

The Yangon-Pathein Highway is 113 miles and 2 furlongs long directly from Yangon to Pathein. From the Ayeyarwady River Bridge (Bo Myat Tun Bridge) at Milepost 41/3, one can travel to Hinthada, Myaungmya, Labutta, and Wakema, and from Milepost 33, one can travel to Maubin. — ASH/KZL

ECONOMY
WORLD

Bank of China promotes
RMB’s global use at
London roadshow



Photo taken on 20 October 2025 shows a view of a roadshow hosted by Bank of China in London, Britain. Bank of China on Monday hosted a roadshow in London to promote the global use of the renminbi (RMB), as officials, financiers and policymakers from China and Britain explore new ways to deepen cross-border financial cooperation. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BANK of China on Monday hosted a roadshow in London to promote the global use of the renminbi (RMB), as officials, financiers and policymakers from China and Britain explore new ways to deepen cross-border financial cooperation.

Nearly 100 representatives from the People’s Bank of China, the British government, the City of London, international financial institutions and think tanks attended the event, part of the bank’s 2025 Global RMB Internationalization Promotion Series. Discussions focused on expanding the RMB’s role in international trade, investment and financial markets.

Jenny Young, deputy director of trade and emerging markets at the British Treasury, said London is now home to more than 40 Chinese financial institutions and that Britain values its close cooperation with the Bank of China and other Chinese banks operating in the city.

“As China continues to play a pivotal role in the global economy, the development of RMB-denominated products presents real opportunities,” Young said. “London has become the largest RMB hub outside Asia, serving as a vital conduit between Chinese markets and global capital, whether through trade finance,

clearing, investment or foreign exchange. RMB business in London is helping firms and investors access and engage with the Chinese economy more easily.”

James Michael Douglas Thomson, deputy chair of policy and resources at the City of London Corporation, said London’s financial strength and China’s economic influence are becoming increasingly intertwined. Having worked in the financial services sector himself, Thomson said he had witnessed firsthand how pivotal China has become in discussions about global trade and commerce. — Xinhua

Crisis-hit Argentina inks
\$20 bln rescue with US

ARGENTINA and the United States signed off on a \$20 billion financial lifeline Monday, hoping to avert economic meltdown and boost President Javier Milei ahead of tough legislative elections.

President Donald Trump has plied Argentina with political and economic support ahead of the October 26 vote, which will decide whether his close ally Milei can force through labour, tax and pension reforms.

Milei, once a global poster boy for budget-slashing libertarian politics, is on the ropes as Argentines head to the polls.

Many of his reforms are languishing, his popularity is falling and he is battling to avoid devaluing Argentina’s currency, the peso, before the vote, fearing that

would drive up consumer prices.

But markets see the peso as substantially overvalued, forcing Buenos Aires to use scant foreign reserves to defend its value.

Now his friend in Washington has agreed to step in with a long-mooted \$20 billion plan.

Trump has also pledged another \$20 billion in public and private funds to help Argentina weather market turmoil, conditional on a strong electoral showing by Milei.

“If he loses, we are not going to be generous with Argentina,” Trump said as he hosted Milei at the White House earlier this month. Milei outlined details of the bailout in an interview with Channel 8 that aired Monday, saying it would only be activated if needed. — AFP

Brunei underscores
importance of reliable
statistics towards Vision 2035

QUALITY, timely and reliable statistics are vital in guiding Brunei’s progress toward achieving Brunei Vision 2035, a senior official said. Three areas are crucial to strengthening the national data ecosystem, which are: enhancing administrative data through better coordination, accelerating digitalization and the adoption of technologies such as artificial intelligence, and building data capabilities across government, said Hajah May Faezah Ahmad

Ariffin, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Economy, at an event.

“To achieve meaningful outcomes under Brunei Vision 2035, it is imperative that our policies are guided by trustworthy data,” she said. With a strong focus on evidence-based policymaking and whole-of-nation collaboration, Brunei stands ready to navigate the final decade toward realizing Brunei Vision 2035, the official said. — Xinhua

Vietnam’s banknote image reflects traditional
China-Vietnam friendship in textile industry

ON the back of Vietnam’s 2,000-dong banknote, women are seen working attentively at spinning machines, an image familiar to generations of Vietnamese.

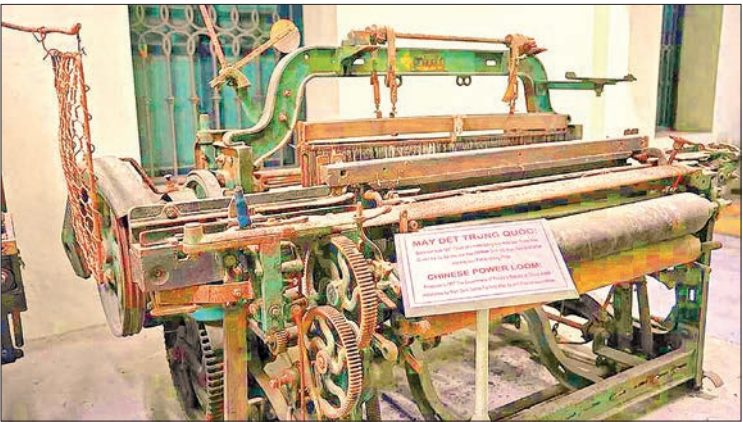
The scene captures a typical working day in the 1950s, when women at No 2 Yarn Workshop of the Nam Dinh Textile Factory in northern Vietnam’s Ninh

Binh province operated Chinese-made spinning machines in the newly built workshop provided by China.

According to Tran Trong Thuy, former Party secretary of the Nam Dinh Textile Garment Corporation, established in the early 20th century, the factory was once among the largest

textile facilities in the country and a symbol of Vietnam’s early industrialization.

Thuy recalled that in the 1950s, China provided aid to construct a new production line known as No 2 Yarn Workshop, which introduced a complete set of synchronized spinning machinery from China. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 9 October 2025 shows Chinese-made textile equipment at Vietnam Textile and Garment Traditional House in Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh province, Vietnam. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China’s AI drive injects momentum to digital economy

THE artificial intelligence (AI) boom in China is catalyzing growth in the country’s digital economy, as breakthroughs in key technologies and strong policy support fuel its rapid integration into industries and daily life.

China’s rapid AI expansion, underscored by its 60-per-cent share of global AI patents, is marked by a surge in enterprises, industrial scaling, and innovations in homegrown large models such as DeepSeek.

Backed by abundant data resources and a

complete industrial system, the country’s digital economy has demonstrated strong momentum. By 2024, the number of data enterprises exceeded 400,000, with the data industry scale reaching 5.86 trillion yuan (about US\$826 billion), marking a 117-per-cent surge from 2020.

Meanwhile, from agriculture to manufacturing and public service, AI applications are demonstrating tangible results in boosting productivity and transforming traditional industries.

— Xinhua



AI-powered firefighting devices are seen at Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 17 September 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Nikkei stock index closes at all-time high after Takaichi becomes Japan PM

THE Nikkei stock index closed at an all-time high on Tuesday on optimism for fresh economic steps as ruling Liberal Democratic Party head Sanae Takaichi became Japan’s new prime minister, but its upside was capped by profit-taking.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 130.56 points, or 0.27 per cent, from Monday at 49,316.06 after hitting an intraday record high near 50,000. The broader Topix index finished 1.05 points, or 0.03 per cent, higher at 3,249.50.

The US dollar climbed to the mid-151 yen range in Tokyo after Takaichi, known as a fiscal dove and proponent of easy monetary policy, was elected as prime minister by parliament, dealers said.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 151.15-17 yen compared with 150.71-81 yen in New York and 150.74-76 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Monday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1624-1625 and 175.70-74 yen against \$1.1637-1647 and 175.45-55 yen in New York and \$1.1662-1663 and 175.80-84 yen in Tokyo late Monday afternoon.



A monitor in Tokyo displays the closing price of the Nikkei Stock Average on 21 October 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan’s benchmark 10-year government bond yield dipped 0.010 percentage point from Monday’s close to 1.655 per cent, as the debt was bought following a report that the Bank of Japan sees no urgency to raise interest rates at its policy meeting next week.

The Nikkei index ended at a record high for two consecutive days, jumping over three per cent on Monday and gaining further from the outset of Tuesday on hopes for expansionary fiscal policies, despite the market already having factored in Takaichi becoming the next prime minister, brokers said.

But the benchmark’s upward momentum slowed in the afternoon, briefly dipping into negative territory, with investors locking in gains as Takaichi’s ascent was confirmed. “As there were no surprises and Ms Takaichi was elected Japan’s prime minister as anticipated, investors moved to take profits for now,” said Chihiro Ota, assistant general manager of investment research at SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. Investors are now paying attention to economic measures to be implemented by the Takaichi-led government and the results of earnings by Japanese companies for the April-September period, Ota said.

The market is closely watching the new government’s economic policies, as the LDP’s new coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party, appears cautious of expanding fiscal spending, brokers said. — Kyodo

US govt shutdown leaves Unilever demerger on ice

BRITISH consumer goods giant Unilever has postponed a demerger of its ice cream business, saying Tuesday that the US government shutdown meant a New York listing could not be approved. The new standalone firm, The Magnum Ice Cream Company, which includes also the Ben & Jerry’s brand, had been on track to begin operating by mid-November. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (219N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (219N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Sanae Takaichi elected Japan PM, unveils cabinet lineup



Sanae Takaichi (C) rises to accept a round of applause after winning the prime ministerial designation vote in the House of Representatives in Tokyo, Japan, 21 October 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

SANAE Takaichi, leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was officially elected the country's prime minister on Tuesday after winning in both houses of parliament, becoming the country's first female leader.

In the House of Representatives vote, Takaichi secured 237 votes, defeating head of the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party Yoshihiko Noda with 149 votes and other rival candidates.

The House of Councillors also held its vote, but no candidate secured a majority in the first round.

Takaichi led with 123 votes, followed by Noda with 44.

As a result, an unprecedented runoff for the upper chamber, the first in 13 years, was triggered between Takaichi and Noda, with Takaichi ultimately winning the race.

By winning in both chambers, she was officially named Japan's 104th prime minister, the first woman in the nation to hold the office.

Takaichi was elected LDP president on 4 October. The prime ministerial designation vote was originally scheduled for 15 October

but was postponed to 21 October as uncertainty following Komeito's withdrawal from its decades-long coalition with the LDP cast doubt on whether Takaichi could secure enough parliamentary support in the PM race.

To consolidate her votes, Takaichi held negotiations with several opposition parties, including the Democratic Party for the People and Japan Innovation Party. With Japan Innovation Party ultimately deciding to back her, she was able to effectively lock in her victory on Tuesday. — Xinhua

EU proposes to trim anti-deforestation rules to ease rollout

THE European Commission said Tuesday it wanted to ease sweeping anti-deforestation rules by exempting thousands of firms from paperwork and cutting back requirements for small companies.

EU officials said the proposed changes — including a six-month grace period for large companies — seek to solve some underlying technical issues and lower the administrative burden for businesses covered by the rules.

They mark the latest reversal by Brussels on a landmark law banning imports of products driving deforestation that was cheered by environmentalists but assailed by key trading partners.

The law was initially meant to come into force at the end of 2024 but that deadline was pushed back by a year, and then last month the EU's executive cited IT issues to propose postponing its rollout by a further year to the end of 2026. — AFP

Indonesia to cut domestic airfares ahead of year-end holidays

INDONESIA will cut domestic airfares by up to 14 per cent ahead of the Christmas and New Year holidays to ease travel costs for the public, the country's Ministry of Transport announced on Tuesday.

The price reduction will apply to economy class tickets for domestic flights operating between 22 December and 10 January next year, according to the ministry.

Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said the policy reflects the government's commitment to helping people travel more affordably during the year-end holiday period.

"We are taking this step to maintain inter-regional connectivity and ensure smooth public mobility with more affordable fares. We want to make sure that everyone can enjoy air transportation services, especially during the Christmas and New Year periods," he said. — Xinhua

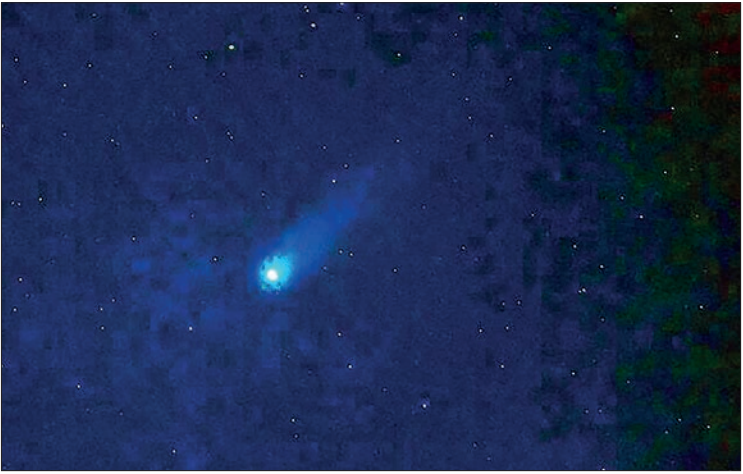
Comet Lemmon to make closest approach to Earth in 1,300 yrs on 21 Oct

COMET Lemmon is set to make its closest approach to Earth in around 1,300 years on Tuesday, with good viewing opportunities for the greenish cosmic snowball expected until 2 November as it brightens upon nearing the Sun.

While the comet will be difficult to see with the naked eye, it can be captured on long camera exposures pointed low at the western sky around an hour after sunset, according to the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

On Sunday, observers in the Tokachi region in Hokkaido were able to clearly photograph the comet near the Big Dipper constellation in the

northwestern sky between 5:30 pm and 7 pm. The comet, named after Mount Lemmon observatory in the US state of Arizona, where it was discovered during a survey in January, follows an elongated elliptical orbit around the Sun. Its previous close approach is estimated to have occurred approximately 1,300 years ago, with its next approach set to occur in around 1,100 years. Between Thursday and 2 November, the comet will appear relatively higher in the sky for about an hour after sunset, making it easier to observe. It may even be faintly visible to the naked eye in areas with minimal light pollution and clear skies. — Kyodo



Comet Lemmon shines among the stars in the night sky over the town of Urahoro in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on 19 October 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

SPORTS

Nottingham Forest appoints Dyche as new manager after Postecoglou’s short-lived reign

NOTTINGHAM Forest has confirmed the appointment of former Burnley and Everton boss Sean Dyche as the new manager.

The 54-year-old Englishman has signed a contract running until the summer of 2027, becoming Forest’s third manager of the season.

Dyche replaces Ange Postecoglou, who was dismissed just 17 minutes after Saturday’s 3-0 defeat to Chelsea in the Premier League. Postecoglou failed to win any of his eight matches in charge, drawing two and losing six, after replacing Nuno Espirito Santo, who was sacked only three games into the campaign.

Forest currently sits 18th in the Premier League, with just one win from eight matches in what has been a turbulent start to the season.

Dyche’s first match in charge will come on Thursday in the Europa League at home to Porto, followed by a Premier League trip to Bournemouth on Sunday.

“A respected and experienced Premier League manager, Dyche brings the perfect blend of character, tactical acumen and proven achievement to guide the club through its next chapter,” read the club statement.

“As a former Forest youth player who lives locally, Dyche also has a deep understanding of the values and pride of Forest and its supporters.”

“His appointment represents the best opportunity for a successful and competitive season across both domestic and European competitions,” the statement added. — Xinhua

Barca Miami match ‘adulterates’ La Liga: Real Madrid’s Courtois

REAL Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said Tuesday the plan to take Barcelona’s La Liga match against Villarreal to Miami is “adulterating” the competition.

La Liga announced they were moving the game to the United States in December, which will be the first European League fixture to be held abroad.

“It’s totally adulterating the competition,” Courtois told a news conference.

“It’s easy to talk about the NFL and the NBA (which move locations), they have 82 games and it doesn’t change anything for them, and in the NFL it’s voted for by the owners of the teams...

“Here it’s the opposite... they decided to do it and it adulterates the competition.”

Courtois said Barcelona



Real Madrid’s Belgian goalkeeper (1) Thibaut Courtois looks on during a press conference on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match between Real Madrid CF and Juventus at the Real Madrid Sports City in Valdebebas, in the outskirts of Madrid on 21 October 2025. PHOTO: AFP

would gain an advantage by facing Villarreal at a neutral stadium, rather than in a normal away game.

“Villarreal away is a difficult game... everyone should play at home and away, apart

start of each league match.

However the protests at the start of each match were not all shown on television broadcasts.

“Hiding it... is censorship and manipulation, and that’s not good at all,” added Courtois.

Madrid have expressed their disapproval of the match being moved and Spanish media have reported that the club have filed a complaint to the Spanish government.

Coach Xabi Alonso reiterated he is also against the Miami switch.

“My opinion is clear... the club is defending their interests and we will see what happens,” said the coach. Belgian stopper Courtois is set to make his 300th appearance for the club on Wednesday when Real Madrid host Juventus in the Champions League. — AFP

Maradona’s heirs sign deal with Swedish company to market brand

THE five heirs to Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona, who died in 2020, have signed a deal with Swedish-Iranian businessman Ash Pournouri and his company Electa Global to market products under the Maradona name, the Swedish company said Tuesday.

The company said in a statement that under the long-term agreement “Electa will manage all aspects of product design, manufacturing, marketing, and retail, in close coordination with the family.”

“There aren’t many official Maradona products,” Pournouri

told AFP.

Argentina’s legendary number 10 died of a heart attack on 25 November 2020, at the age of 60.

But while other football stars, such as Cristiano Ronaldo or Kylian Mbappe, have leveraged their names and stardom into brands, Maradona never

did.

“This is partly because it didn’t happen during his lifetime, and since his passing, his family and children haven’t wanted to undertake anything with anyone,” Pournouri explained, adding that “it took some time to earn their trust.” — AFP

Liverpool’s Ekitike returns to face floundering Frankfurt

WHEN Liverpool striker Hugo Ekitike returns to face his former club Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League on Wednesday, he will find a side which bears little resemblance to the one he left in July.

Last year, Frankfurt qualified for the Champions League by finishing in the Bundesliga top four for the first time in their history.

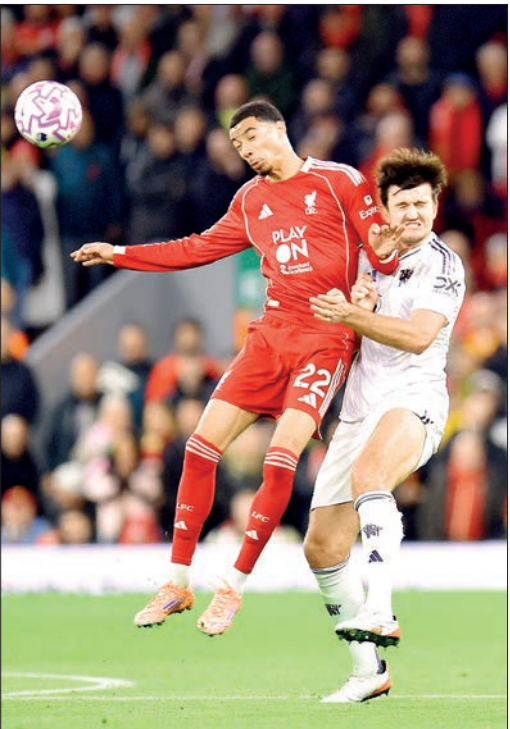
Their third-placed finish was their best result since the 1992-93 season.

However, the Eagles have lacked any sort of consistency since the start of the current campaign and boast just one win in their past five games in all competitions.

Liverpool’s misfiring forward line will be licking their lips looking at Frankfurt’s defence, which has conceded 18 goals in that five-game run.

While Liverpool, on a four-game losing streak, have teething problems of their own, Frankfurt have struggled after once again losing their biggest star. — AFP

Manchester United’s English defender (5) Harry Maguire battles for the ball with Liverpool’s French striker (22) Hugo Ekitike during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 19 October 2025. PHOTO: AFP





WORLD

Israeli PM meets with Egyptian intelligence chief, office says

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hassan Mahmoud Rashad, the head of Egypt's General Intelligence Service, met on Tuesday to discuss the Gaza ceasefire.

In a statement, Netanyahu's office said the two met in Jerusalem with teams. "They discussed advancing (US President Donald) Trump's plan, Israel-Egypt relations and strengthening peace between the countries, as well as other regional issues," the office said.

The rare meeting came amid uncertainty over the ongoing fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and as US Vice-President JD Vance arrived in Israel in a bid to shore up the ceasefire. — Xinhua

Russian intelligence chief accuses NATO of preparing war with Russia

NATO is rapidly mobilizing resources for a war with Russia, said Sergei Naryshkin, director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service.

"We certainly see European members of NATO preparing for a war with our country. The task has been set to quickly provide the NATO Allied Response Force, designated for this purpose, with all necessary resources," read Naryshkin's statement published on the intelligence service's website on Monday. He was speaking at a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States held in Uzbekistan's Samarkand. — Xinhua



Researchers put the container of Chang'e-6 lunar samples into a protection case after a returner opening ceremony at the China Academy of Space Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation in Beijing, capital of China, 26 June 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Scientists discover rare meteorite relics in Chang'e-6 lunar samples

SCIENTISTS studying lunar samples brought back by China's Chang'e-6 mission have identified rare meteorite relics that could reshape our understanding of mass transfer in the Solar System.

The study, published in the latest issue of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, was led by a research team from the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry (GIG) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The CI chondrites are so rare on Earth that they account for less than one per cent of all collected meteorites. In contrast to Earth, the Moon has almost no atmosphere and plate tectonics, meaning it preserves a pristine record of ancient asteroid impacts — like a "natural archive." Using advanced techniques to examine mineral composition and oxygen isotopes, the researchers scrutinized lunar soil and confirmed that the fragments came from CI-like chondrites — a type of meteorite rich in water and organic materials that typically originates in the outer Solar System.

The study implies that the Earth-Moon system may have experienced more collisions from carbonaceous chondrites than scientists had previously estimated. This discovery not only indicates that material from the outer Solar System can migrate to the inner Solar System, but also has important implications for explaining the origin of water on the lunar surface, said Lin Mang, a researcher at GIG. — Xinhua



Displaced Palestinians gather around a truck to receive aid supplies that entered Gaza in the morning at the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, on 20 October 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sustaining Gaza ceasefire 'vital' to deliver aid, save lives: UN

MAINTAINING the Gaza ceasefire is crucial to delivering life-saving humanitarian aid in the territory, the United Nations said Tuesday, repeating a call for all crossings to be opened.

"Sustaining the ceasefire is vital; really it's the only way we can save lives," Abeer Etefa, Middle East spokeswoman for the UN's World Food Programme, told a briefing in Geneva.

"We know it's a fragile ceasefire; the most important thing is that it lasts." Etefa said that since the ceasefire came into force, 530 WFP trucks had crossed into Gaza, bringing in more than 6,700 tonnes of food, which she said was "enough for close to half a million people for two weeks".

"Convoys are pushing through, food is getting to the warehouses and distributions

are happening in an organized and dignified manner," she said.

Etefa added that WFP had not seen looting of its convoys since the ceasefire. The spokeswoman said WFP now had 26 food distribution points open in Gaza — up from five on Friday, but still far short of the 145 it hopes to run throughout the territory. Most are in the south and centre of the Strip. — AFP