

The
Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

High-level Myanmar delegation, led by Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, arrives back in Myanmar



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport yesterday.

ACTING President and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, paid working visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev respectively. Yesterday morning, the high-level Myanmar delegation led by the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left the Astana Airport of Kazakhstan for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They were seen off at the airport by Mr Roman Sklyar, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, U Thit Linn Ohn, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and officials.

Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, Commission Member and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Ministers U Nyan Tun, U Ko Ko Lwin and Dr Thet Khaing

Win, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, and military and civilian officials who accompanied the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar came back on the same flight.

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar arrived back at the Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport in the evening and were welcomed back at the airport by 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 members, Union ministers, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation and the Military Attaché’s Office to Myanmar.

— MNA/TTA

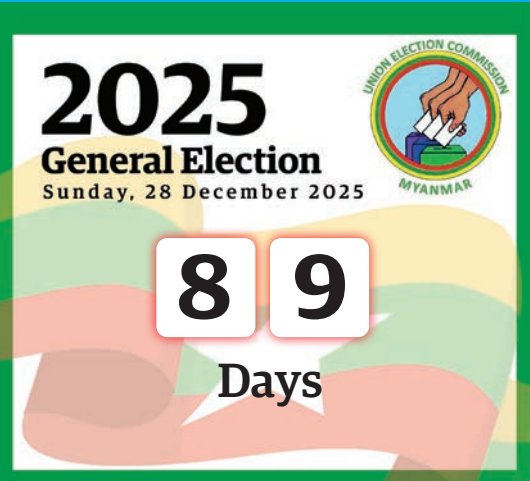
NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission



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

Appeal to Voters

29 September 2025

- The Union Election Commission will announce the voter lists for the general election, which will be held on 28 December 2025, at the respective ward and village tract sub-commission offices and in the villages of village tracts for the first time. Arrangements will be made to check the voter lists at the respective township commission offices if the lists cannot be announced at the ward and village-tracts for various reasons. When the voter lists are publicly displayed, voters must come and check the lists in order to obtain a complete and accurate voter list.
- Voters are encouraged to check the voter list, and if their names are not included, they may request to have their names added to the list by submitting Form 3. If any ineligible people are included, objections can be filed using Form 4. If there are errors in the voter list information, corrections can be submitted with Form 4-c. The required forms can be obtained free of charge from the ward and village tract sub-election commission offices. After the additions, removals, and corrections are made, the final voter lists for the general election will be publicly displayed again in November 2025. Voters will also have the opportunity at that time to submit any further requests, corrections, or objections as necessary.
- Therefore, in order to obtain a complete and accurate voter list, at least one person from each household should come without fail to check the list and to cooperate in this process.

Union Election Commission

SSMNC Chair Sayadaw meets Chinese Lingguangxi Sayadaw



The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chair Sayadaw, member Sayadaws, and the Chinese Lingguangxi Temple Sayadaw and members meet in Yangon on 28 September.

VENERABLE Van Shichang Zang from the Lingguangxi Temple in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, paid homage to eight Venerable Sayadaws led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw at Maha Vijara Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon Region on 28 September.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Presiding Patron of Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, vice-chair Sayadaws, Joint Secretary Sayadaws, member Sayadaws, deputy director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs, Pro-Rector (Admin) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Lingguangxi Temple Sayadaw and other invitees attended the ceremony.

The Chairman Sayadaw delivered Saraniya Katha, say-

ing Myanmar and China are long-standing, friendly neighbouring countries with deep traditional ties. Based on the shared Buddhist faith, the two countries continue to develop relations in social, economic, cultural, and religious sectors. Although Myanmar is a leading Theravada country, it has been working harmoniously with all Mahayana traditions on religious matters. In the world, as the desire, anger, and delusion are strongly occurring, people are facing many kinds of suffering. Therefore, all Buddhists are urged to extinguish the inner fires of defilements with the Noble Path and to make collective efforts to spread this noble practice across the world.

The Sayadaw of Lingguangxi Temple supervised religious affairs.

The two Sayadaws exchanged Dhamma gifts and donated offerings to the SSMNC Sayadaws. Mr Chu Shi-

wei, on behalf of Lingguangxi Sayadaw, donated cash and the deputy director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs received it.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun met Lingguangxi Sayadaw at the Ministry's office in Yangon.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed religious affairs and extended wishes to ensure bilateral cooperation for the propagation of the Buddha Sasana.

The delegation led by Lingguangxi Sayadaw visited the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday, and donated flowers, water and oil lamps, signed the visitors' book of the pagoda and donated cash.

Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Aggasami met Lingguangxi Sayadaw and discussed religious affairs. — MNA/KTZH

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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)

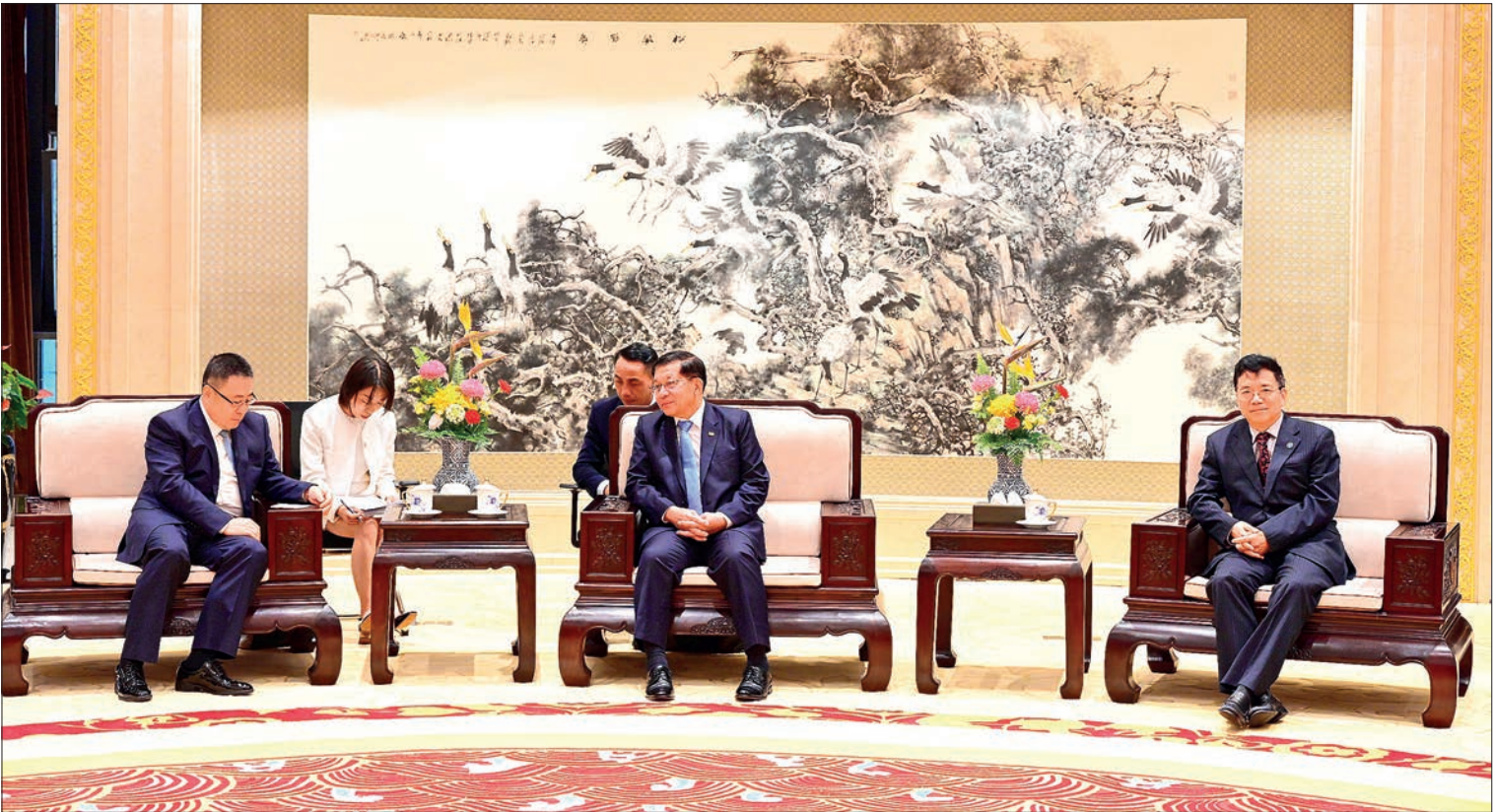
China, Myanmar to boost border peace and stability

Both sides are expediting efforts to ensure the successful and timely implementation of projects and agreements under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

THE high-level Myanmar delegation led by Acting President and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who was in the Republic of Kazakhstan during his working visit at the invitation of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, left the Astana Airport of Kazakhstan for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the special aircraft yesterday morning.

The aircraft landed at the Kunming Airport in Kunming, People's Republic of China. For a while, they were warmly welcomed by Mr Hu Dapeng, Member of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China and Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Yunnan Provincial Committee, and Special Envoy for Southeast Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr Deng Xiju and officials.

The Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Member of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Hu Dapeng, Member of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China and Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Yunnan Provincial Committee at the airport lounge of the Kunming Airport yesterday.

Party of China, and Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Yunnan Provincial Committee held a meeting at the airport lounge. They openly exchanged views on enhancing the firm kinship relations of neighbouring countries between China and Myanmar and trustful friendly countries, provision of aid from China to Myanmar whenever the latter experienced natural disasters including earthquakes, and further plans to provide aid to Myanmar, thorough cooperation between the two countries in forging peace and stability in China-Myanmar border region, cooperation in combating cross-border crimes, speedy and successful implementation for projects and agreements in the China-Myanmar economic corridor, promotion of relations and trade between Myanmar, Yunnan Province of China, and further promotion of cooperation in benefiting the two countries and peoples.

The Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and party left for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the special aircraft. They were seen off at the airport by the Member of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China and Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Yunnan Provincial Committee and the party. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, answers media questions aboard special flight

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid working visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Kazakhstan at the invitation of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Yesterday morning, the high-level Myanmar delegation left the Astana Airport of Kazakhstan, and the delegation members were seen off at the airport by Mr Roman Sklyar, First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, U Thit Linn Ohn, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and officials.

On his way back to Myanmar, the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar replied to queries raised by the media aboard the aircraft and the full text of the question and answer session is presented as follows: —

Q: As the Acting President, by attending the “World Atomic Week Forum” held at the Atom Museum in Moscow, the Russian Federation, what benefits have we gained for Myanmar and its citizens? I would like to know in which sectors these benefits for the State can be effectively realized.

A: I attended the World Atomic Week Forum in Moscow at the invitation of President Putin. At the forum, I had the opportunity



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing responds to media questions on board the special flight returning to Myanmar.

to meet with President Putin, the Belarusian President, the Prime Ministers of Armenia and Ethiopia, other leaders, and the Director General of the IAEA. We were able to discuss areas for potential bilateral cooperation. This was a unique forum, primarily focused on exchanging views regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy. As a member country of the IAEA, Myanmar also participated in discussions on how nuclear energy can be used for human-beneficial purposes. The benefits we gained from attending the forum are considerable.

Q: During the trips to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, it is observed that the Acting

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held several meetings and discussions. Please explain what benefits or positive outcomes were achieved for our country through these discussions.

A: I was able to have a separate meeting with President Putin. Such a meeting was held in March. Based on the outcomes of that meeting, we reviewed the progress and assessed the situation. Both sides evaluated the results and discussed how to further expand areas of cooperation. Initially, our discussions focused on trade and investment, energy, transportation, defence cooperation, as well as collaboration in the space and nuclear sectors.

Similarly, upon arriving in

Kazakhstan, I held a meeting and discussions with the President of Kazakhstan. This was our second discussion, the first having taken place in March. Based on the outcomes of the initial meeting, we discussed which sectors to further expand, where to make investments in Myanmar, and how Myanmar's products could be used to produce value-added goods in Kazakhstan. We also explored collaboration in science and technology, as well as urban development sectors. I can say that the discussions produced very positive results.

Q: I know you are the first-ever Head of State of Myanmar, as the President paying a visit to Kazakhstan. I would like to know whether, in the future,

cooperation and investment between Myanmar and Kazakhstan can be further expanded and strengthened.

A: As I mentioned earlier, this was my second meeting with the President of Kazakhstan. Myanmar and Kazakhstan have maintained diplomatic relations for 26 years. Diplomatic ties were established on 26 September 1999, and I arrived there on 27 September, one day after the date. So, it coincided with the 26th anniversary, which was a special occasion. The Kazakh President also highlighted this significance. This was the first visit by a Myanmar head of state to Kazakhstan, marking a new step in bilateral relations. As I mentioned earlier, we were able to discuss areas of economic cooperation, investment measures, collaboration in science and technology, education, and healthcare. Kazakhstan is a developed country, rich in natural resources, especially underground resources such as oil and natural gas, as well as copper, gold, chromium, and iron. Kazakhstan is one of the world's top exporting countries. It is also engaged in both agriculture and livestock activities. Their wheat ranks among the best globally, based on sample testing. Similarly, Myanmar's main export product is Pawsan rice, which has attracted considerable interest. Discussions were held on how Myanmar could export this product. Overall, the opportunity to meet and engage revealed that both countries are eager to expand bilateral cooperation across various sectors with enthusiasm and commitment.

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NATIONAL

Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, answers media questions aboard special flight

FROM PAGE 4
Q: When building a modern and developed nation, the Head of State and government are implementing processes on multiple fronts. As citizens, we would like to understand how we can collectively cooperate and contribute to ensure the success of these initiatives.
A: The key point is that we need to make efforts on multiple fronts. On the other hand, political differences exist, but these should be approached with a broad perspective to benefit the Union. Some of the remarks being made have certain weaknesses. Specifically, some statements are based on political, religious, or ethnic viewpoints. We believe it would be better if these dis-

cussions were conducted with a wider and more inclusive perspective. At the same time, our own efforts are also required. These efforts involve two main areas. First is education. It can't be denied that the current situation in the country shows weaknesses in education. The second area is production and industrial work. These two areas must be actively pursued. As I mentioned earlier, most of our exports are raw materials, such as oil, natural gas, and forest products. However, the proportion of goods that are processed and exported after production is still very low. I highlight this as a limitation in our current economic approach. Therefore, we need to utilize the water, land, forests, and

mountains to develop production industries. That is a strong approach. Simply exporting raw materials, as we currently do, is not a robust strategy. A strong industry requires active production. During my visit to Kazakhstan, I noticed that in their GDP, there are three main sectors: agriculture, industry, and services. Their agricultural sector is relatively small, while the industrial and service sectors are considerably larger. Agriculture accounts for only about 20 per cent of GDP. I believe they are aware of this and actively support agricultural production. In their country, if someone wants to work and invest, permission is granted quickly within a short timeframe. Similarly, in our coun-

try, people need to take a strong interest in production. Instead of focusing primarily on buying and selling raw materials, we should first develop production. Through production, the country can generate revenue. I want to emphasize that the State should pay attention to this matter.
Q: This trip was a successful one, and I feel proud and pleased to have witnessed the tireless efforts you made day and night. As the President, what else would you like to say regarding this trip?
A: It was indeed a successful trip. During our visit, we were able to sign a cooperation agreement on nuclear matters. Furthermore, we signed another

cooperation agreement related to space, marking new steps forward for our country. Kazakhstan, which officially gained independence after 1991, has a long historical foundation. By effectively utilizing its human and natural resources, the country's current development is very evident. Astana, the capital city, is slightly ahead of Nay Pyi Taw in terms of urban development. The city's planning and layout provide valuable lessons in construction and urban planning, which we were able to observe closely. This experience also offered insights into how our country could approach urban development, and I consider that an important success of the trip.

MoI Deputy Minister meets National Literary Award Selection Committee



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint holds talks with members of the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement Selection Committee yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met members of the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement Selection Committee yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon. They discussed and coordinated matters related to the selection of the award and preparations for the successful organization of the literary award ceremony.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister inspected the ongoing construction of the three-storey reinforced concrete Sarso Beikman building in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon and the renovation of the Sarpay Beikman Library. During the inspection, he emphasized the need for the project to be completed on schedule with good quality, and for preparations regarding furnishings and exhibition arrangements to be carried out

simultaneously with the building's completion. Later, the deputy minister visited the Wazira Cinema on Bogyoke Road in Kyauktada Township, where he met company representatives and officials responsible for restoring the cinema to international standards while preserving its historic heritage. They discussed plans to expedite the submission of measures to be taken and related matters. — MNA/MKKS

Ambassador of Myanmar to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appointed

THE Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Nay Myo Oo, Ambassador of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. — MNA

Border Trade Procedures Course opens at Yangon Ex-Im Office

THE opening ceremony of Training Course 1/2025 on the procedures to be followed in conducting border trade was held at 9:30 am yesterday at the Conference Hall of the Export-Import Office under the Department of Trade in Yangon. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min explained that the purpose of launching this course is to facilitate smooth trade operations along the Rannong-Kawthoung-Yangon trade route between Myanmar and Thailand, to ensure accurate and speedy movement of goods, to reduce and eliminate illegal trade, and to help traders overcome difficulties in their business. He added that the training will

be beneficial, as it will provide systematic instruction on implementing trade activities in accordance with laws and procedures. The subjects will be taught not only by experts from the Ministry of Commerce but also by specialists from other ministries related to trade, as well as external professionals. They will emphasize laws, procedures, rules, and regulations relevant to the field. Present at the opening ceremony were officials from the Ministry of Commerce, guests from (UMFCCI), trainers, and trainees. The course on border trade procedures will run for five days, with a total of 56 trainees in attendance. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

NDSC Information Team Leader responds to media

ACTING President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar paid official working visits to the Russia Federation at the invitation of Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and to the Republic of Kazakhstan at the invitation of Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and he arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening.

After the arrival, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the National Defence and Security Council Information Team, responded to the media as follows: -
Q: What benefits has Myanmar gained from the Acting President's working visits to Russia and Kazakhstan, and what kinds of cooperation are likely to result from his attendance at the World Atomic Week Forum during this trip?

A: I would like to talk about this trip in three parts. That is because each of the three parts is important in its own way. The first one is Russia, the visit to Russia, and the visit to Kazakhstan. And on the way back, we also had a stopover in Kunming, China. These are the things I want to talk about. First of all, each of them is a bit different in nature. Because of these differences, I will explain them in three separate parts.

First of all, the World Atomic Week, organized by ROSATOM, was held in Russia. Regarding this, we attended the main forum. Then, we met with Russian President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. The representatives from countries around the world also attended the World Atomic Forum. During the participation, we discussed the peaceful use of nuclear energy, ensuring that nuclear energy is utilized peacefully for the benefit of the people in every country. In those discussions, we also listened to the perspectives and views of the attending countries. The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar also delivered an address at the event. He delivered a speech presenting Myanmar's attitude. In summary, Myanmar's stance is that the use of nuclear energy is intended for the country's energy



such as to secure a supply of stable electricity and to support progress in medical and agricultural research. For this, agreements were also signed with ROSATOM, Russia's nuclear energy agency. Moreover, there was a meeting with the President of Russia, Mr Vladimir Putin. When meeting with Mr Vladimir Putin, we discussed that Russia has always regarded Myanmar as one of the most reliable partner countries in Southeast Asia. On Myanmar's part, the country recognized Russia as a strategic partner, with a commitment to further strengthen relations. The discussions also covered technology exchanges, including cooperation in space technology, nuclear energy technology, and other areas of technological exchange that would bring direct benefits to the people. The second part is the visit to Kazakhstan. Regarding this trip, it was the first time a Myanmar Leader visited Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is quite a unique country. It is a landlocked nation located in the central part of Asia, as it sits at the junction of Asia and Europe. Being in the heart of Asia, as you may have heard, like the geopolitical theories, there will be Heartland, Greenland and the central regions of the world, and we should know these significant roles of these areas. This is the central part of the world — Asia — Europe. Being the middle part of the world's landscape, the major road transport and transportation networks pass through it. The country itself has been making significant progress, with high standards in education and healthcare. The President of Kazakhstan personally explained the sectors where Myanmar could collaborate with them. They also shared the op-

portunities within their country, potential investment prospects, and areas for joint development with Myanmar. Future cooperation will include technological collaboration, particularly in IT and other related sectors.

The special aspect of this visit is that Myanmar's Acting President was the first Head of State to visit Kazakhstan, which brought great satisfaction and pleasure to the President of Kazakhstan. Besides, at the end of the meeting, when the Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing returned, the President made a farewell in the car. These interactions reflected a friendly relationship, showing that Myanmar has gained a good partner country.

On the return trip, we visited Kunming. Upon arriving in Kunming, we met the standing member of the Communist Party of Yunnan Province, the secretary of the legal affairs commission, and Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Southeast Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During this meeting, four key points were discussed.

The most important point is that during the discussions, Myanmar and China are close friends and neighbouring countries, like Swe Myo Pauk Phaw, built on mutual trust. Both sides will enhance communication and cooperation. And, the Chinese will work with the Myanmar government to ensure peace and stability in the border areas between the two countries. The next point concerns promoting trade and economic cooperation. The next point is the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, both countries confirmed to quickly implement the agreed-upon projects and plans within the corridor. Moreo-

ver, China will continue to support Myanmar's peace process and make ongoing efforts to assist. I want all to know that we will make further efforts continuously. Therefore, to summarize all these visits, they have opened up new opportunities for Myanmar, including new prospects arising from our close relations with our neighbour, China. In order to grab these opportunities, there are two important things I often say. First, we must remain united. Second, we must think and plan in line with the times. We need to be aware of what is happening in the world today, what is happening internationally, and what is happening here in Myanmar. Only by analyzing the truth can we develop the right ideas and take the right actions for the progress of our country, the improvement of our people's lives, and the advancement of our socioeconomic situation.

Q: In the current trip, there was a discussion about nuclear energy. In the future, how could Myanmar make use of this nuclear technology? Moreover, I have heard that there are plans to build a small nuclear power plant to develop the country's electricity generation. When is it expected to start?

A: Regarding this, we have already signed an agreement. It has been an MoU since last year, and we have also signed additional agreements afterwards. The main point is that we are continuing to select the secure site for power plant so that we can be the first to utilize nuclear energy. As you can see in Yangon now, while we were holding the World Atomic Week Forum there, we were also doing similar activities in Yangon. What I want to emphasize about nuclear energy is that it is a safe form of energy. Nuclear energy can provide a stable and reliable source of electricity.

For Myanmar to develop, everyone already knows how much electricity the country needs. It is crucial to have a stable source of electricity wherever power is required. For example, electricity can come from solar, wind, hydro, natural gas, or other power plants. Whatever it may be, a country's electricity supply must come from a combination

of different energy sources. For instance, solar power is not available at night, and wind power is not reliable when the wind is weak. At such times, all the energy resources available across the country must be used together so that one source can compensate for another to meet the demand. This type of energy may require a significant initial investment. However, in the long run, it can provide stable electricity and support development. This relates to the electricity sector. The second part is Myanmar's engagement with nuclear energy. Because nuclear energy allows us to carry out research in areas like medicine and other scientific studies, I want to emphasize that it is an important energy source for the country's development. I want to notify this.

Q: As the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar met and held discussions with both the President of Russia and the President of Kazakhstan during the trips, how are the future cooperation and investment prospects with these two countries?

A: There are promising prospects for greater cooperation and investment between the two countries. They have shown a great interest in inviting Myanmar and working together. In addition, during our return trip, when we passed through Kunming, we also heard the statements made by the Yunnan Provincial Government of China. What they expressed essentially reflects the position of the Central Government of China. This is also an encouraging and positive sign regarding Myanmar. To summarize all the trips, all three countries welcomed Myanmar's election. They have always supported the desire of the Myanmar people to be able to lead to a multiparty democratic system. They also consistently support Myanmar's development. Because of this continued support, we will be able to successfully hold the upcoming multiparty democratic general election and move forward with our goal of establishing a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system. I want to encourage all our people to unite and cooperate in carrying this. Thank you all.

Over 130 ethnic groups reside across the Union as a unique characteristic

❖ A unique characteristic of our country is that over 130 ethnic groups live together across the entire Union in unity.
(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2025)

Yangon palm oil reference price stable for three consecutive weeks

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market remained unchanged at K6,610 per viss for the three consecutive weeks from 15 September to 5 October 2025, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers

not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK



Cooking oil bottles are neatly organized for sale at the supercentre.

China tops Myanmar rice imports over past 5 months



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto the overseas-bound merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

CHINA was the largest buyer of Myanmar rice with 498,926 tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past five 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 120,161 tonnes, followed by the Philippines with over 105,732 tonnes, Belgium with over 89,265 tonnes, Spain with 35,594 tonnes, Madagascar with over 20,784 tonnes, Poland with 20,548 tonnes, Senegal with 20,500 tonnes, the UK with over 16,100 tonnes, Bulgaria with 12,085 tonnes, the Netherlands with 10,900 tonnes and Italy with 900 tonnes.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports hit over one million tonnes in the current FY, bagging US\$355 million, MRF stated.

Myanmar exported over 142,700 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth \$52 million in April, over 529,500 tonnes worth \$91 million in May, over 212,400 tonnes worth \$71 million in June, 230,671 tonnes valued at \$77 million in July and 192,984 tonnes worth \$65 million in August. Rice exports mainly depend on sea trade, while only small volumes were exported to neighbouring countries via border points.

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 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

MACCS to streamline Ranong-Yangon container shipping from 1 Oct

MYANMAR Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) will be exercised in conducting import/export declaration for Ranong-Yangon container shipping starting from 1 October 2025, instead of the manual method, according to the Customs Department's MACCS notification 011/2025 dated 29 September.

Earlier, a manual method was utilized in customs declaration of export/import process for Ranong-Yangon container shipping to have smooth border trade, as per the Customs Department's notification 3/2024 dated 4 June 2024.

Hence, declarants need to fill in the declaration form with all the information related to their import/export. For import/export through the Ranong-Yangon container system, the following points must be filled in with special care: A1 for Station, 11 for Section, 1 for Mode of Transport, MMRGN (For Yangon), THRNN (For Ranong) for Loading/Unloading Location.

Individuals can enquire about details through MACCS's Help Desk Section at 01 379429 during office hours, or the Department of Customs. — NN/KK

Preserve fine arts as a national duty for generations

JUST as various countries around the world have their own traditional cultures and unique customs, the country also has its own distinctive traditions. Myanmar is a nation rich in high-standard cultural heritage. With its own script, traditional culture, customs, traditions, and etiquette, Myanmar has preserved these values handed down from generation to generation by its ancestors.

In Myanmar, it is necessary to preserve and cherish the cultural heritage that reflects the traditions and national characteristics of society. Among today's youth, foreign music, art, films, dances, clothing styles, and other cultural trends are spreading, which may undermine Myanmar's traditional culture and national identity. Successive governments have consistently emphasized the preservation of Myanmar's cultural

The knowledge and skills gained from the performing arts competitions help nurture and strengthen the national spirit and pride. Each ethnic group has long maintained its own script, cultural traditions, and artistic expressions. All ethnic communities have to preserve these literary, cultural, and traditional practices handed down through generations.

a national cultural and artistic institution contributing to the State's socioeconomic development.

The knowledge and skills gained from the performing arts competitions help nurture and strengthen the national spirit and pride. Each ethnic group has long maintained its own script, cultural traditions, and artistic expressions. All ethnic communities have to preserve these literary, cultural, and traditional practices handed down through generations.

Therefore, the preservation and promotion of Myanmar's traditional culture is a matter of great pride for the nation and its people. Protecting cultural heritage, knowledge, and arts is not only essential for maintaining these traditions but also represents a national duty shared by all citizens. Hence, all artistes are called upon to actively use their artistic skills and talents to ensure that the unique culture, arts, and national characteristics of the Myanmar people continue to thrive and flourish. They are to contribute through their artistry to sustaining these traditions for as long as the world endures, and to help instil a strong sense of national spirit and resilience in the younger generation.

Tipping Points within the Earth's Natural Climate System

THE Earth's climate system is a complex structure formed by intricate interactions between the atmosphere, oceans, ice sheets (cryosphere), and the biosphere. When people hear the term "Climate Change," they often immediately think of global warming. In reality, climate change is a natural process of transformation. For instance, just as the annual cycle transitions through summer, rainy, and winter seasons, there are also planetary-scale climate cycles that shift over hundreds of thousands of years. Simply put, this natural cycle is currently in a phase transitioning from an ice age towards a warmer climate. In climate science, this type of change is referred to as Natural Climate Change.

How, then, did the concept of human-induced climate change arise? This finding is also scientifically valid. Essentially, while the climate changes naturally at a slow pace, human activities are causing it to warm at an accelerated rate. This human-caused climate change is termed Anthropogenic Climate Change. As humans emit increasing amounts of greenhouse gases, the rate of global temperature rise accelerates, pushing regional climates and weather patterns from a predictable state to an unpredictable one.

What are greenhouse gases? The gases in Earth's atmosphere, including the oxygen we breathe, can be divided into two main groups. The first group, which makes up the largest percentage, includes Nitrogen (N₂) at about 78 per cent, Oxygen (O₂) at about 21 per cent, and Argon (Ar) at about 0.9 per cent. While these gases are crucial for life and natural chemical processes, they have a minimal greenhouse effect.

Furthermore, there are other types of gases present in smaller quantities that have a very significant impact on the global climate. A primary one is Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), whose concentration is rising due to human activities like fossil fuel combustion (eg, coal, gasoline), industrial expansion, and de-

forestation. Another is Methane (CH₄), which is released from agriculture, livestock farming, and landfill sites (especially those containing plastic waste). Methane has a much higher heat-trapping capacity than CO₂. Another greenhouse gas, Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), is also seeing increased emissions due to the excessive use of chemical agricultural inputs (eg, fertilizers and other chemical additives) on farmlands.

Additionally, the Ozone Layer (O₃), which protects humans and animals from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, exists in the upper atmosphere. While it shields us from UV rays, if ozone descends to the lower atmosphere, it can act as a potent greenhouse gas. Another gas present in the atmosphere is industrial Fluorinated gases (F-gases), which have a much higher global warming potential than CO₂ and can persist in the atmosphere for centuries. Finally, Water Vapour (H₂O) is also a greenhouse gas. As the most abundant greenhouse gas, it naturally transitions between vapour and cloud form based on atmospheric temperature and has a very high heat-trapping capacity.

Therefore, atmospheric gases can be divided into those that are abundant (N₂, O₂, Ar) and greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, O₃, F-gases, H₂O). The human-driven increase in CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, and F-gases is the primary cause of the abnormally rapid rise in global temperatures, constituting the main drivers of anthropogenic climate change.

It is widely understood that the circulation of the atmosphere and oceans, and the existence of forests, are interlinked to form the global climate system. Within this system, certain components are particularly critical for climate change processes, acting as tipping points. Analogous to how the heart and brain are vital organs in the human body, despite all parts being important, scientists define these crucial components of the climate system as Climate Tipping Points. These points can be specific regions or circulation systems

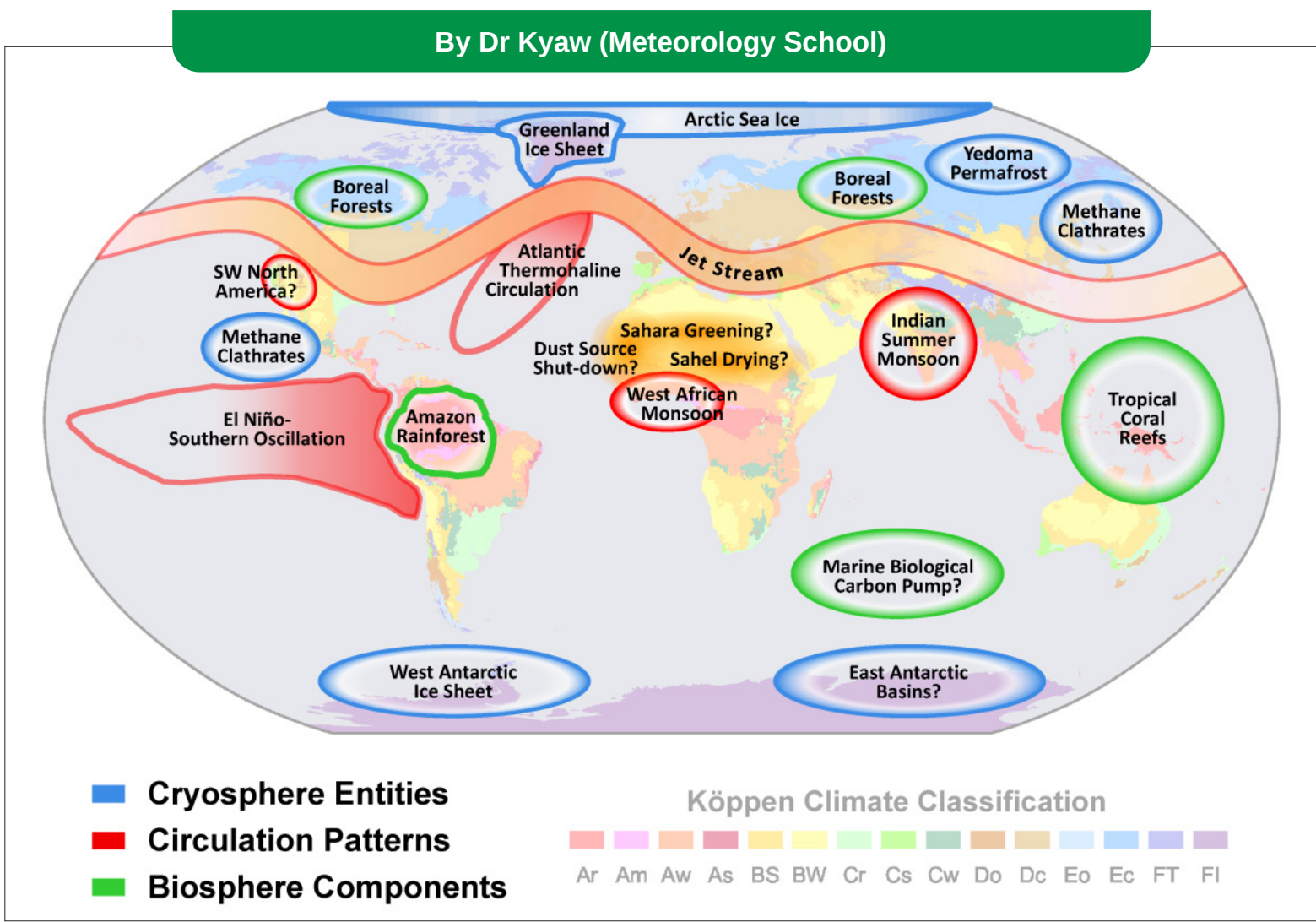
(e.g., ocean currents). While they normally exist in a stable state, they play a powerful role in climate change processes. If pushed beyond a certain threshold — like tilting a chair too far back until it falls over — these systems may not easily return to their original state and can instead accelerate climate change.

Such changes can impact not only their physical ecosystems but also human societies, agriculture, and other dependent ecosystems. The figure included with the article shows the most critical climate tipping points identified by scientists, including the author. These include polar ice sheets, monsoon systems, ocean circulation patterns, tropical rainforests, coral reefs, and glaciers. Each component plays a key role in maintaining global climate stability, and the failure of any one can accelerate global warming, hence their designation as tipping points.

One of the most important types of tipping points involves the Earth's frozen components, the cryosphere. For example, the Greenland Ice Sheet stores vast amounts of fresh water in its dense ice. Rising global temperatures are causing this ice sheet to melt faster, and scientists predict this melt could cause global sea levels to rise by meters in the coming centuries. Similarly, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and the East Antarctic Ice Sheet have limited resilience to rising temperatures. If the ice shelves buttressing these massive sheets melt and collapse, ice could flow rapidly into the ocean, significantly raising sea levels.

Likewise, Arctic Sea Ice is melting rapidly due to rising global temperatures. Unlike the melting of land ice in Greenland and Antarctica, the melting of sea ice does not directly raise sea levels. However, the loss of this reflective white ice reduces the Earth's albedo (the reflection of solar radiation back into space), causing the Earth's surface to absorb more solar energy and leading to even faster warming.

Furthermore, permafrost regions like the Yedoma permafrost in Siberia are thawing rapidly. This ice-rich soil con-



tains vast amounts of organic carbon. When it thaws, microbes decompose organic matter, releasing the potent greenhouse gases methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, further amplifying warming. Additionally, Methane Clathrates (frozen methane deposits on ocean floors) could become unstable as oceans warm, potentially releasing large quantities of greenhouse gases into the water and atmosphere. The rapid change in each of these cryospheric components poses a significant risk of pushing the climate system past a point of no return, hence their status as critical tipping points.

Beyond non-living systems, the living part of the Earth — the biosphere — also represents a crucial climate tipping point. The Amazon Rainforest, often called the "lungs of the planet," is a prime example. Trees naturally absorb CO₂ and release oxygen. The Amazon maintains its own humidity and generates its own rainfall cycle through evapotranspiration and cloud formation. However, deforestation and droughts caused by heatwaves

are weakening this self-sustaining ecosystem. Scientists warn that global warming could push the Amazon past a threshold where it can no longer sustain itself as a rainforest, potentially transforming it into a savanna. This shift would release billions of tonnes of stored carbon and alter global rainfall patterns.

The boreal forests stretching across Canada, Alaska, and northern Russia are also suffering from increased wildfires and dieback due to hotter summers, pests, and heatwaves. If their resilience is lost, these vast, dense forests could shift to less dense woodlands or grasslands, reducing their capacity to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

Similarly, tropical coral reefs, often called the "rainforests of the sea," are another biosphere tipping point. Corals thrive within a narrow temperature range, and rising sea temperatures are causing widespread coral bleaching. If the rate of reef destruction exceeds regeneration, these incredibly biodiverse ecosystems could collapse. Another vital biological component is the marine

biological carbon pump, where marine organisms transport carbon from the surface to the deep ocean. This process helps regulate atmospheric CO₂, but changes in ocean chemistry, temperature, and currents can weaken it, reducing the ocean's carbon absorption capacity.

A third major category of tipping points involves circulation systems. The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a critical one. This system, driven by differences in water temperature and salinity, acts like a conveyor belt, transporting warm water northward and cold water southward. The melting of Greenland's ice, as mentioned, pours fresh water into the North Atlantic. This influx of fresh water can dilute the salinity, potentially weakening or even shutting down this circulation system. Such a change could disrupt global climate patterns, leading to harsher winters in Europe, droughts in Africa, and irregularities in Asian monsoons, as research has shown.

Furthermore, the jet stream, a powerful air current in the upper atmosphere vital for weather

patterns, is being altered by Arctic warming. A weaker jet stream can lead to prolonged heatwaves or cold spells, floods or droughts, increasing the frequency of extreme weather events. Practical evidence, including the author's research, indicates that the irregular onset, retreat, and rainfall of the Myanmar monsoon are influenced by these jet stream changes.

Another crucial tipping element is the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the equatorial Pacific, which causes El Niño (warmer) and La Niña (cooler) phases. While these alternate naturally, climate change is making these oscillations more intense and frequent, leading to more severe global floods and droughts. Relatedly, the West African Monsoon, which supports millions of farmers, is also becoming unstable due to changing sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, exacerbating droughts and floods in the Sahel region. The expansion and contraction of the Sahara Desert also influence African and global climate patterns.

Most critically for our region, the Indian/Asian Summer Monsoon, the lifeblood of South Asia's climate, is showing signs of destabilization due to global warming, leading to more frequent droughts and floods.

Climate tipping points do not change in isolation; they are interconnected. Scientists warn of tipping cascades, where one change triggers others. For example, Arctic Sea ice loss amplifies warming, accelerating permafrost thaw. Methane release from permafrost then adds more greenhouse gases, potentially disrupting monsoons and weakening ocean circulation. Similarly, a weakened AMOC could reduce rainfall over the Amazon, pushing it further toward dieback.

Among all these components, the Asian monsoon system is particularly crucial. It delivers annual monsoon rains to about a third of the world's population, sustaining agriculture, freshwater supplies, and ecosystems across Asia. Anomalies in the monsoon, such as delayed onset or weakened intensity, directly threaten food security across Southern Asia, from Pakistan and India to Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Southern China. If the monsoon system is pushed past its tipping point by climate change, the consequences could include crop failures, water scarcity, mass migration, and political instability.

In conclusion, the Earth's natural system contains climate tipping points — from the Greenland Ice Sheet and Arctic Sea ice to the Amazon rainforest, coral reefs, the AMOC, and global monsoons — that are difficult to reverse once crossed. Each component is vital for global climate stability, and the failure of one can trigger cascading changes in others. People must understand this. As climate change is a challenge that cannot be solved by one individual or nation alone, it is the duty of all humanity to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect ecosystems through precise, well-implemented global policies to keep these systems within their natural bounds.

NATIONAL

Amarapura-era sandstone artefacts unearthed at tooth relic site

THE Amarapura-era alms-bowl, tray and vase made of sandstone were discovered during the excavation of the ancient tooth-relic building in Inwa, and are preserved in the Inwa Museum, according to author and researcher Bo Shake.

In order to restore the building to its original state, the archaeological department supervised the excavation work, during which these artefacts from King Bagyitaw's time were found.

"During the process of excavation, sandstone alms bowl, tray and vase were found at the foot of the south-eastern wall. In ancient times, they provided offerings at that place. So, we plan to put them in the original place where they were found. At present, they are temporarily kept in the Inwa Museum," he said.

The materials found will help a lot with renovation work

as good examples, he added. In the first week of September, the excavation team also uncovered a marble sphinx sculpted during the reign of King Bagyidaw, and it is also preserved in the museum.

The excavation work is currently about two-thirds complete, and the marble sphinx and sandstone artefacts have been found so far, and it is hoped that the remaining sphinxes will be found later, he said. — MT/ZN



Unearthing an Amarapura-era alms-bowl and tray of sandstone.

Dried bamboo shoot exports meet only 10% of Japan's order



This image displays dried bamboo shoots.

JAPAN has offered many tonnes of dried bamboo shoots for purchase. Still, they're just able to export 10 per cent so far, due to raw material shortage, said the bamboo shoots and bamboo growers' association chair, U Thurein Tun.

Currently, dried and wet bamboo shoots have been exported to China, Thailand and Japan.

Japan wishes to purchase more than 200 tonnes of dried bamboo shoots annually; however, only 10 per cent of the foreign demand could be exported due to inadequate raw

materials.

"Bamboo shoots have overseas orders from Thailand, China and Japan. For the moment, we have exported dried bamboo shoots and dried fermented bamboo shoots. Dried fermented bamboo shoots are being exported to neighbouring countries, Thailand and China and the major destination for dried bamboo shoots is Japan. We have received an offer for more than 200 tonnes from a single Japanese company, but we could export only 7-10 tonnes due to inadequate raw materials, as a result of unsys-

tematic picking from the natural sites," he said.

Now, they have sought permission from the government to allocate land for bamboo cultivation to meet the export demand, and when they have been granted land plots, they will ensure the good-quality bamboo production in accordance with their export goal.

"We have sought permission for agricultural land for bamboo planting from the respective departments to establish our own bamboo farms in collaboration with entrepreneurs. Apparently, they will give land, but official permission for planting hasn't been received yet. If we can establish our own farms practising proper techniques, we think we can export in accordance with the foreign demand and can produce a good-quality product too," he added. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Over 1,500 apply for medical, dental university admission interviews

A total of 1,528 students passed the matriculation exam 2025, applying for admission interviews for medical and dental universities, according to the Ministry of Health.

Of those who passed the matriculation exam with STEAMS-1 and applied prioritizing medical and dental universities, the ministry released the eligible candidates' list for the interview scheduled on 1-3 October 2025.

Eligible candidates will have to sit the interview at the Naypyitaw State Academy, in person without fail, it said, and those who have been on the list of the morning section will have to arrive by 7:30 am, and those on the list of the afternoon section will have to arrive by noon. Original matriculation certificate and original citizenship scrutiny card are required to be presented, it added. — MT/ZS



This photo showcases the Naypyitaw State Academy.

Flood damages paddy fields and other crops in Natmawk



This image reveals inundated areas in Natmawk on 28 September 2025.

IN Natmawk, Magway Region, heavy rains since 27 September caused flooding and damaged late-season crops, including paddy, cotton, sesame, sunflower and bean, according to locals.

At around 8 am on 28 September, water entered some houses in Zay and Aungsan wards, and some households were evacuated to safe areas, said the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

"Flooding is rampant in all low-lying areas along Natmawk's Yin Creek, including urban wards, Layeain village, and Mezali village. A whole family in Mezali village died," said a local.

The flooding has also caused a number of houses to be swept away, causing some casualties.

"In the city wards such as Zay and Aungsan wards, the water level was almost the same as the height of a man. So, we

had to help with the emergency evacuation," said a local Parahita volunteer.

Similarly, on 28 September, some wards in Yenangyaung, such as Sonetaik, Tabinshwehtee, Myoma (North), and Salintan, faced water encroaching into the houses due to heavy rains, and firefighters from the township fire brigade helped evacuate the households to safer locations. — Htun Htun/ZN

Cambodia sees significant progress in advancing gender equality over past 3 decades: minister

CAMBODIA has seen significant progress in women’s education, economic empowerment, health, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, and leadership over the past 30 years, said Cambodia’s Minister of Women’s Affairs Ing Kantha Phavi.

She said the kingdom has made remarkable strides in advancing gender equality, anchored in strong political will from the highest levels of leadership, a whole-of-government approach, and inclusive partnerships across civil society, the private sector, and development partners.

“Women and their families have benefited from sustained

peace, poverty reduction, decent work, and high economic growth,” Phavi told Xinhua in an interview on Friday.

The minister said gender equality was placed at the heart of all four phases of the government’s Rectangular Strategy, recognizing that “women are the backbone of Cambodia’s economy and society.”

She added that the current government has continued to commit to this legacy through the Pentagonal Strategy, which emphasizes continued investment in gender equality and the building of a highly civilized, ethical, equitable, and inclusive society in which “women are the core.” — Xinhua

More than 11 mln students go to school in Afghanistan

MORE than 11 million students go to school in Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Ministry of Education, Qari Mansoor Ahmad Hamza, has said.

“A total of 11,175,089 students go to school in Afghanistan,” the state-run Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) quoted Hamza as saying on Sunday.

According to the official,

there are a total of 18,621 schools in the country, with 3,215 of them being private schools and the remaining state-owned and public schools providing education to students free of charge.

The Ministry of Education would spare no effort to provide high-quality education to children of the country, the official added. — Xinhua



The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Taj Mahal remains India’s most visited monument, attracts 6.9 mln visitors in 2024-25

Built in the 17th century by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as an ivory-white marble mausoleum for his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

INDIA’S iconic monument of love, Taj Mahal, has emerged as the country’s most visited tourist destination, attracting 6.9 million visitors, including over 600,000 foreign tourists, in 2024-25, an official report released on Saturday said.

“Among the Centrally Protected Ticketed Monuments,

Taj Mahal leads in visitor numbers for both domestic (6.26 million) and foreign (0.645 million) tourists in FY 2024-25,” the latest India Tourism Data Compendium released by the federal tourism ministry said.

The 17th-century ivory-white marble mausoleum was built by Mughal emperor

Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself.

According to the tourism ministry, the mausoleum has been the top revenue-generating and most visited monument for more than a decade. — ANI

“Favourite day of the year”: Lady Gaga showers fiancé Michael Polansky with love in birthday post

LADY Gaga has poured her heart out to celebrate her fiancé, Michael Polansky’s birthday on Saturday.

Showering Polansky with love and affection in a heartfelt tribute, the singer wrote, “Happy Birthday to my honey. I hope 42 is your best year yet, you have done so much in your 42 years I am so proud of you every day — and so grateful for this day you came into the world, it was the most special day.”

Calling her fiancé’s birthday her “favourite day of the



year”, Gaga offered a glimpse into their birthday celebrations.

birthday smile

“A crisp and almost rainy day, a long walk, with the backdrop of a sweet birthday smile and lots of laughter and angel food cake with chocolate sauce. Even this goat knows what a

happy day your birthday is to me. I love you,” she added.

Gaga also shared pictures from their birthday getaway, showing the couple spending time away from the city. She also included the special birthday cake in the album.

The Grammy-winning singer’s heartfelt post came weeks after she honoured him while accepting the Artiste of the Year Award at the 2025 MTV Video Music Awards. Shortly after, she also announced their creative collaboration on her sixth album, ‘Mayhem’. — ANI

Lady Gaga has poured her heart out to celebrate her fiancé, Michael Polansky’s birthday on Saturday. PHOTO: ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

China's water conservancy investment to exceed 5.4 tln yuan during 2021-2025 period

CHINA'S total investment in water conservancy facility construction is expected to exceed 5.4 trillion yuan (about US\$759.6 billion) during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), 1.6 times the level in the previous five-year period, Minister of Water Resources Li Guoying said on Monday.

According to the Ministry of Water Resources, China invested a record high of over 1.35 trillion yuan in the construction of water conservancy facilities in 2024. This follows the sector's landmark achievement of surpassing one trillion yuan in 2022, marking a new milestone and setting record-breaking investment levels for three consecutive years.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has commenced construction on 172 major water conservancy projects, accelerating the optimization of water infrastructure in terms of

layout, structure, function, and system integration, Li said.

By the end of 2024, the country had completed 95,000 reservoirs, 200 large and medium-sized water diversion projects, 6,924 large and medium-sized irrigation districts, and 318,000 kilometres of dikes, forming the world's largest and most comprehensive water conservancy infrastructure system, which benefits the largest pop-

ulation.

Meanwhile, China has continuously enhanced its flood and drought disaster prevention system, successfully managing 3,981 river floods that exceeded warning levels.

The country effectively responded to severe droughts in river basins, such as the Yangtze River and the Pearl River, ensuring the safety of water supplies for residents in affected areas

and meeting irrigation demands for crops.

During the 2021-2025 period, economic losses from flood and waterlogging disasters as a percentage of the gross domestic product dropped to 0.18 per cent from 0.28 per cent during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020).

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's water resources sector consistently ad-

hered to the principle of prioritizing water conservation, said Vice Minister of Water Resources Chen Min at the same occasion.

With an average annual economic growth rate of 5.5 per cent, the country's total water consumption remained stable with zero growth, Chen told the press conference.

Water use efficiency saw significant improvement. In 2024, water consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP and per 10,000 yuan of industrial added value dropped by 17.7 per cent and 23.6 per cent, respectively, compared with 2020 levels.

By the end of 2024, the national area under water-saving irrigation reached 638 million mu (about 42.53 million hectares), up 12.5 per cent from the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period, Li added. Meanwhile, water consumption per mu of irrigated farmland decreased by four per cent. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 27 July 2025 shows the Fenghuangjing Pumping Station, which is part of the Yangtze-to-Huaihe Water Diversion Project, in Wuhu, east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

US soybean farmers in desperate situation as harvest season underway



Grant Kimberley, a sixth-generation soybean farmer and marketing director of the Iowa Soybean Association, operates a seeding machine at his family farm in Maxwell, Iowa, the United States, 26 April 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AS the harvest season is underway in America's agricultural heartland, soybean farmers found themselves in a "desperate situation" amid rising costs, extreme weather and tariff concerns.

"We're in a significant and desperate situation where none of the crops that farmers grow right now return a profit. They don't even break even," Stefan Maupin, executive director of Tennessee

Soybean Promotion Council, told the Tennessee Lookout news website.

Soybean farmers planted around 1.75 million acres (708,200 hectares) of soybeans in 2025. In its recent report, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture estimated losses of nearly US\$110 million for Tennessee soybeans this year.

Soybean farmers had a difficult growing season as severe

weather patterns — flooding in the spring and drought in the summer — reduced yields drastically.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) predicted an average soybean yield of 53.5 bushels per acre this year. However, Maupin said this estimate was likely too high for Tennessee, with some local farmers predicting yields closer to 30 bushels an acre due to the bad weather.

"Compounding the crisis are rising costs for fertilizer, land and equipment, all while soybean prices sink," said Newser, a news website.

According to the report of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, based on an average yield of 50 bushels per acre, soybean farmers are projected to lose about \$84 per acre as of 12 August. If a farmer has 3,000 acres, that is a roughly quarter-million dollar loss. — Xinhua

Japan govt says US tariffs hurting auto industry in monthly report

THE Japanese government on Monday maintained its view that the economy is recovering moderately but said higher US tariffs are adversely affecting the auto industry.

In its September monthly economic report, the Cabinet Office upgraded its assessment of private consumption for the first time in 13 months, citing improvement in consumer sentiment on the back of income growth and a pause in fresh vegetable price increases.

It also lifted the view on capital investment for the first time in 18 months, saying it is "picking up moderately," reflecting corporate moves to boost investment in software development in addition to machinery equipment. While keeping intact its overall evaluation, the report said, "the effects caused from the US trade policies are seen mainly in the automotive industry" after hefty tariffs were imposed in April under President Donald Trump. — Kyodo

Malaysia launches Steel Industry Roadmap 2035

MALAYSIA has formulated the Steel Industry Roadmap 2035 (SIR2035) to provide a sequential pathway to stabilize, restructure, and transform Malaysia's steel industry, its Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz said here on Monday.

The minister unveiled the roadmap in a SEAISI forum, saying the move is in line with the nation's New Industrial Master Plan 2030, the National Energy Transition Roadmap, and its net zero aspirations by 2050.

According to him, SIR2035 outlines 15 main strategies across three phases. In the immediate term (the next two years), the focus is on stabilization: managing overcapacity, restructuring licensing frameworks, enforcing discipline against illegal operators, securing domestic raw materials, and laying foundations for decarbonization. — Xinhua

Germany’s Lufthansa to slash 4,000 jobs by 2030

GERMAN airline group Lufthansa said Monday it will cut 4,000 jobs, nearly four per cent of its workforce — a move underscoring the slump gripping Europe’s largest economy.

Lufthansa said the majority of the job cuts would be in Germany and take place by 2030, targeting administrative rather than operational positions.

The group, which employs around 103,000 people, includes Eurowings, Austrian, Swiss and Brussels Airlines, as well as the recently acquired Italian flagship airline ITA Airways.

Germany is facing a second straight year of recession, with unemployment at a decade high.

The downturn has hit some of the country’s corporate giants hard, squeezed by Chinese competition, high energy costs and slow adoption of new technologies.

Lufthansa’s announcement comes just days after another major German company, industrial giant Bosch, said it would cut 13,000 jobs, or three per cent of its global workforce.

“The Lufthansa Group is reviewing which activities will no longer be necessary in the future, for example due to duplication of work,” the company said in a statement.

“In particular, the profound changes brought about by digitalization and the increased use of artificial intelligence will lead to greater efficiency in many areas and processes,” it said.

Lufthansa set new financial targets for 2028-2030, including an adjusted operating margin of eight to 10 per cent. — AFP



The tale of a Lufthansa airplane sticks out of a hangar at the Franz Josef Strauss airport in Munich, southern Germany, on 20 September 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Toyota global sales up 2.2% in Aug on solid US demand

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Monday its global sales in August rose 2.2 per cent from a year earlier to 844,963 units for the eighth straight month of increase, boosted by solid demand in the US and other overseas markets.

Global production climbed 4.9 per cent to 744,176 vehicles, the world’s largest automaker by volume said, increasing on year for the third consecutive month on the back of strong sales of hybrid vehicles.

Toyota’s overseas sales set a new record for August, rising 4.4 per cent to 748,694 units, with sales in the United States growing 13.6 per cent to 225,367 units, thanks to robust demand for hybrids despite higher tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump.

Among other regions, sales in China edged up 0.9 per cent to 153,415 units, thanks to the effects of the government’s subsidies for purchases of environmentally friendly vehicles and strong demand for its new electric vehicle model, the automaker said. — Kyodo

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We, **Zhejiang Tide Cropscience Co.,Ltd** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Myanmar **Golden Byter Co.,Ltd** to **Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.**, If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from here to next (2) weeks.

Sr.	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.	The New Distributor
1	Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd	Tide-Thio 500SC	Thiophanate-methyl 500g/1SC	Provisional	P2020-4972	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.
2	Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd	Tide-IPB	Iprobenfos 48% EC	Provisional	P2020-4838	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd

Address: **SEINN LAE THWIN CO.,LTD.** No.(525), First Floor, Corner of Merchant Street & 38th Street, Ward No.(6), Kyauktada T/S, Yangon. Tel 09-455188188

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ROTTERDAM TRADER VOY.NO. (9999N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ROTTERDAM TRADER VOY.NO. (9999N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-9-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (234W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (234W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-9-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR PANGANDARAN VOY.NO. (003E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR PANGANDARAN VOY.NO. (003E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-9-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

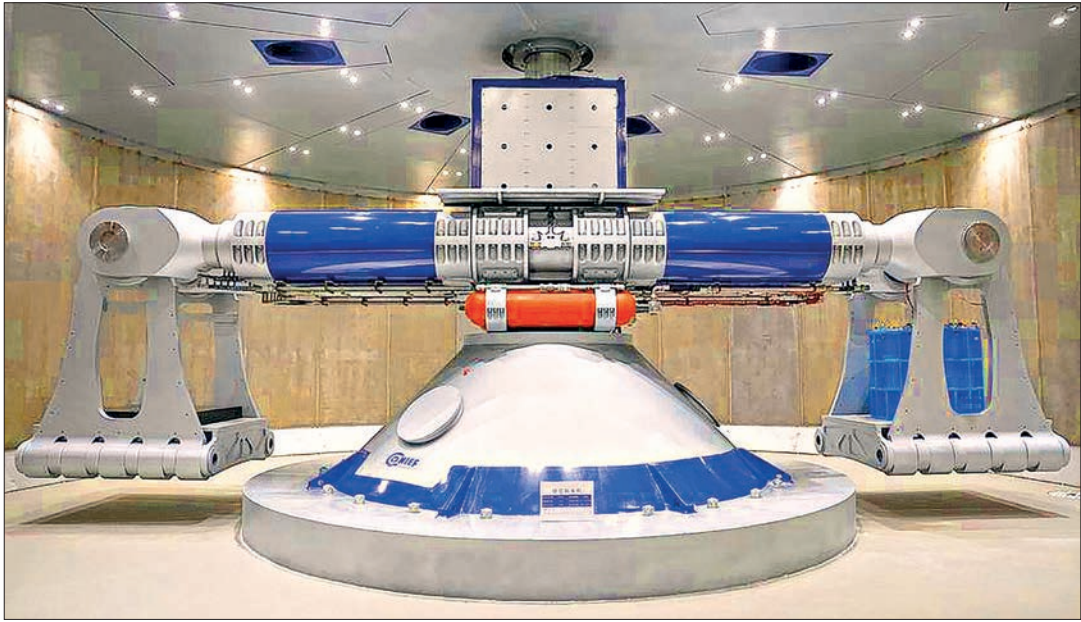
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China debuts world's mightiest centrifuge, unleashing ultra-intense gravity



This photo taken on 29 September 2025 shows the centrifuge coded CHIEF1300, one of the core components of the Centrifugal Hypergravity and Interdisciplinary Experiment Facility (CHIEF), in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA on Monday launched the world's largest centrifuge in terms of capacity, capable of generating 300 times Earth's gravity for a load up to 20 tonnes. The machine, coded CHIEF1300, is one of the core

components of the Centrifugal Hypergravity and Interdisciplinary Experiment Facility (CHIEF) currently under construction in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province. It can be harnessed for

frontier research spanning deep-ocean and deep-Earth resources extraction, disaster mitigation and prevention, underground waste disposal, and the synthesis of new materials. — Xinhua

Typhoon Bualoi kills dozens in Vietnam and Philippines

A typhoon that ripped roofs off homes has killed dozens of people across Vietnam and the Philippines, officials from both countries said on Monday, as a weakened storm Bualoi crossed into neighbouring Laos. The typhoon battered small islands in the centre of the Philippines last week, toppling trees and power pylons, unleashing floods and forcing 400,000 people to evacuate. A Philippine civil defence official said later on Monday the death toll there had more than doubled to 27, with most of the victims either drowned or hit by debris. Scientists warn that storms are becoming more powerful as the world warms due to the effects of human-driven climate change. In Vietnam, Bualoi made



A view of Cua Lo beach damaged after typhoon Bualoi made a landfall in Nghe An province on 29 September 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

landfall as a typhoon late on Sunday, generating winds of 130 kilometres (80 miles) per hour. At least 13 people were killed in Vietnam, while a search is ongoing for 20 others, disaster authorities said in an online update. More than 44,200 houses were damaged, including those with roofs torn off, mostly in the

central Ha Tinh province. At least 800 houses were flooded, and nearly 6,000 hectares of crops were inundated, according to the update. Images published by AFP showed corrugated metal roofs blown off buildings and household debris strewn across saturated streets in Vietnam's coastal Nghe An province. — AFP

New Thai PM pledges to revive economy amid challenges

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul delivered his government policy statement to parliament on Monday, outlining a comprehensive plan focused on economic revival amid multifaceted challenges. In an address to the National Assembly, Anutin, who is also the interior minister, acknowledged the "uncertainty on all fronts" facing the country and stressed the need to address immediate problems while laying a foundation for sustainable growth. On the economic front, Anutin said his government's agenda aims to boost income and reduce living costs for citizens, tackle debt issues, promote savings, and restore tourist confidence through enhanced safety measures and domestic stimulus programmes.

For national security, priorities include peacefully resolving border disputes with Cambodia and pursuing a proactive foreign policy to enhance Thailand's international standing, he told the joint sitting of parliament. On social issues, he stated that the administration is committed to a crackdown on all forms of illegal gambling, strict adherence to the rule of law, and a decisive fight against corruption, while maintaining fiscal discipline, transparency, and efficiency. He said the policy also covered environmental issues, with

plans to accelerate the installation of early disaster warning systems, especially in high-risk areas, and promote a low-carbon society through the support of clean energy. The prime minister assured that all policies would align with the existing national strategy, which aims to ensure equitable access to education and health-care, empower the private sector, especially SMEs, to keep pace with global developments, and upgrade national industries toward targeted sectors. Despite a limited timeframe and a budget set by the previous administration, Anutin affirmed his minority government's dedication to facilitating a public referendum and constitutional amendments through inclusive participation. The two-day session, scheduled to conclude on Tuesday, marks the formal start of Anutin's administration. The 59-year-old Bhumjaithai Party leader was elected the Southeast Asian nation's 32nd prime minister after winning a parliamentary vote earlier this month.

Under an agreement with the opposition People's Party, which supported his premiership bid without joining the coalition, Anutin has promised to dissolve the lower house of parliament within four months after officially taking office. — Xinhua

Indonesia develops vast rice fields to boost food security

INDONESIA has begun cultivating around 481,000 hectares of rice fields in the Merauke district of Papua province, aiming to turn the region into a national food granary under a strategic project, Coordinating Minister for Food Affairs Zulkifli Hasan said Monday. The project, located in Wanam, taps into about one million hectares of swamp land that can be converted into productive farmland. It is expected not only to produce staple food commodities such as rice, but also to generate ethanol from sugarcane and cassava, as well as biodiesel blends from palm oil, Hasan told

a press conference after a coordination meeting in Jakarta. "This step will strengthen our food sovereignty agenda while supporting emission reduction targets and climate adaptation," the minister said. According to Hasan, the development would serve as a pillar of Indonesia's efforts to achieve food, energy, and water self-sufficiency. The government, he added, is prioritizing security, environmental protection, and spatial planning in the implementation, while expediting land use rights and other permits to ensure efficiency and resilience in the long term. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Paris Olympics and Paralympics cost French state 6.6B euros: audit body

THE 2024 Paris Summer Olympics and Paralympics cost the French state 6.6 billion euros (\$7.7 billion), the national audit body announced on Monday.

The amount is an increase on the initial estimate of 5.9 billion euros in June but the head of the national audit body said it did not represent “budgetary overspending”.

Government expenditure on the organization of the two sporting extravaganzas last summer cost 3.02 billion euros, which included 1.44 billion euros for security.

A further 3.63 billion euros were spent on work linked to infrastructure projects.

The figures include money spent to ensure that the River Seine was suitable for swimming in preparation for the open water swimming and triathlon events.

By way of comparison, in

2023, budget documents had estimated public investment of 2.44 billion euros.

Last year the president of the national audit body, Pierre Moscovici, said the Paris Olympics would cost the state “three, maybe four, five billion euros”.

Moscovici, a former French finance minister and European Union Commissioner, on Monday highlighted “the undeniable success of the Games”.

He said although the event generated “significant public spending”, he emphasised that there had been “no budgetary overspending” and that public costs had been “contained”.

The separate 4.4 billion-euro costs of the local organising committee (COJO), which represented a surplus of 75 million euros, had already been made public.

That money came almost exclusively from private financ-



French Court of Accounts (Cour des comptes) first President Pierre Moscovici (C-R), alongside Nacer Meddah (C-L), president of the third chamber of the Court of Accounts, speaks during the Court of Accounts’ report presentation of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, in Paris on 29 September 2025. PHOTO: AFP

ing and from Solideo, the body responsible for delivering Olympic construction projects, which was in part publicly financed.

The auditing body said while infrastructure expenditure was “generally well controlled”, there was “a particularly erratic process of budgeting for security costs”.

It also said that based upon available data the economic impact of Paris 2024 was “modest at this stage” and “relatively limited in the short term”. — AFP

Bruised Real Madrid still defining spirit, personality: Alonso

REAL Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said Monday his team is still growing in personality and spirit, following their thrashing by Atletico Madrid in La Liga.

Los Blancos fell to their first defeat of the season against their city rivals before travelling to Almaty in Kazakhstan, where they will face Kairat in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Alonso’s side were overrun 5-2 on Saturday by Atletico and the coach, who joined from Bayer Leverkusen in June, insisted his wounded team has not yet defined their personality.

“(Connection) is fundamental when you have to build your idea of (how to play) football, building a spirit,” Alonso told reporters.

“I think we are still in that construction phase, a phase of improvement. How long will it last? I don’t know how long, but we are still taking steps forward.

“To take two steps forward



Real Madrid’s Spanish coach Xabi Alonso gestures on the touchline during the Spanish league football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and Real Madrid CF at the Metropolitano stadium in Madrid on 27 September 2025. PHOTO: AFP

maybe you have to take one back. We want to keep improving, to keep defining what we want to be, in a footballing sense as well as in terms of the team’s personality.”

Madrid had not conceded five goals against Atletico since 1950 and midfielder Fede Valverde said the players had discussed the bruising defeat among themselves and with the coach and his staff.

“It’s been a very tough few days, really tough. It was a hard blow, we talked a lot and got together to have conversations about changing our attitude and group dynamics,” said Valverde. — AFP

Rooney says he has ‘no faith’ that Amorim can revive Man Utd

WAYNE Rooney says Manchester United have lost their soul and he has no faith in the ability of beleaguered manager Ruben Amorim to turn things around.

Amorim has taken 34 points from his 33 Premier League games in charge following Saturday’s 3-1 loss at Brentford and is yet to oversee consecutive top-flight wins.

United endured their worst league campaign for 51 years last season, finishing an embarrassing 15th in the Premier League.

They spent freely in the summer transfer window, bringing in Matheus Cunha, Bryan Mbeumo and Benjamin Sesko, but are languishing in 14th spot in the table after their latest defeat.

Rooney, United’s all-time leading goalscorer, said he goes to games expecting the team to lose.

“I just don’t know what’s going on,” the 39-year-old said on his BBC podcast.

“I have tried my hand in management and it didn’t work out too well, so I get it. Ruben Amorim is my age, he’s still a young manager and I’m sure he’s got a massive future, but what’s going on at Man Utd, this is not Man Utd.

“I honestly hope he can turn it around and he does. But... after everything I’ve seen, honestly, I’ve got no faith in it.”

Rooney, who won five Premier League titles and the Champions League with United, said he did not recognize the club.

“I don’t see players fighting, I don’t see character, I don’t see desire to win. I go to a game watching... expecting the team to lose or maybe pick up a point. — AFP

China debuts world's mightiest centrifuge, unleashing ultra-intense gravity
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WORLD

Russia's Rosatom working on plasma rocket engine for space travel



The Soyuz-2.1a launch vehicle carrying the Soyuz MS-25 spacecraft for the new International Space Station (ISS) crew consisting of NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson, Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy and flight attendant Marina Vasilevskaya of Belarus, blasts off from the launch pad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
PHOTO: SPUTNIK

SCIENTISTS of Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom are successfully working on a project to create a plasma rocket engine with a capacity of several hundred kilowatts.

This technology will allow Russia to reach a new level of space exploration, Viktor Ilgisonis, head of Rosatom's Scientific and Technical Research and Development, said on Monday.

In 2023, Rosatom developed a plasma accelerator with an external magnetic field for a prototype plasma rocket engine with increased thrust of at least 6 N and specific impulse of at least 100 kilometres (62 miles) per second. The average power of such an engine, operating in a pulsed-periodic mode, could reach 300 kW.

Rosatom has said that the creation of a plasma rocket engine with a capacity of several hundred kilowatts will enable Russia in the future to achieve technological leadership in this field and reach a new level of space exploration, carry out interplanetary flights, and also regularly exchange cargo between the Earth and the Moon. — SPUTNIK

Iran's president vows not to surrender to US bullying on nuclear issue

IRAN'S President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday here that Iran will never surrender to US bullying regarding the nuclear issue.

He made the remarks at a cabinet meeting while highlighting the US "irrational and bullying" behaviour in response to Iran's efforts to achieve a fair solution to the nuclear issue, according to a statement published on the website of his office.

Pezeshkian said Iran rejects and condemns the imposition of any restrictions and sanctions, emphasizing that Iran has stood ready to negotiate transparently and achieve a fair and reasonable solution.

The imperious approach that the other side adopted will never be accepted, he added. "We will continue the path of dignity proudly," he said. Pezeshkian said Iran had never sought to make nuclear weapons, citing a religious decree by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei which prohibits the development of atomic weapons. — Xinhua

Indonesia eyes expansion of export markets in Africa, Latin America

INDONESIA plans to expand its export markets in Africa and Latin America next year as trade negotiations with countries in both regions are underway, Trade Minister Budi Santoso said Monday.

Santoso noted that several African countries have expressed interest in forging regional trade agreements, although such processes could be time-consuming. Indonesia has already initiated negotiations with a delegation from South Africa, which, he said, is expected to encourage other African nations to join.

Santoso added that Indonesia is also targeting stronger penetration into Latin American markets.

The country has existing trade agreements with Peru and Chile, and has launched negotiations with the Southern Common Market.

At present, Indonesia has implemented 20 trade agreements, is negotiating 16 others, and is in the process of ratifying 10 newly approved accords, according to the minister. — Xinhua

China, Japan, ROK sign 2026-2030 environmental cooperation action plan

CHINA, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) have adopted a new joint action plan on environmental cooperation for the 2026-2030 period, an official said on Sunday.

The plan outlines a series of cooperative activities focused on eight priority areas, laying a solid foundation for trilateral environmental collaboration over the next five years, said China's Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu at the 26th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and the ROK held in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province.

The environmental authorities of the three countries have strengthened practical cooperation to jointly address regional and global environmental challenges, Huang said, noting that they have implemented three phases of such plans, achieving substantial results in air pollution control, sandstorm prevention, and chemical environmental management.

Huang added that enhancing environmental cooperation, advancing regional green development and improv-



From left, Japanese Environment Minister Keiichiro Asao, Chinese Ecology and Environment Minister Huang Runqiu and their South Korean counterpart Kim Sung Hwan shake hands in Yantai in China's Shandong Province on 28 September 2025.
PHOTO: KYODO

ing people's environmental well-being align with the shared interests of the three countries and that China is willing to work with the other two countries to elevate trilateral environmental collab-

oration to a higher level.

The annual environment ministers' meeting has been hosted by the three countries in rotation since 1999. — Xinhua