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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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# Dawei Airport Upgrade to Speed Exports

## Collaborative efforts should be exerted to boost agricultural and livestock production to increase Taninthayi Region's GDP.



President U Min Aung Hlaing views MSME products on display at yesterday's meeting event booths.

THE Taninthayi Region government should take the lead in implementing initiatives in producing animal feed and raising livestock using agricultural products to bring considerable benefits to the region, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with local authorities, town elders and micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs at Pearl Ekari Hall in Dawei yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo reported to the President on the efforts to grow oil palm, produce crude palm oil and build a palm oil refinery, earning income from oil palm cultivation, production of rubber, coffee and cocoa, seafood production and export, production of pearl and edible bird nests, generating electricity from solar energy, and rehabilitation for the people who suffered impacts of floods.

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**ARTICLE**

From the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to the Goal of Everlasting Peace

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# Tourists Flock to Wahnet Elephant Camp

THE Wahnet Elephant Camp offers engaging tourism activities for visitors in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region.

This camp is home to 11 elephants – eight adults and three juveniles – providing unique experiences for guests.

An official from the camp stated, "Our elephant camp has been well-received by visitors. Guests can explore the nature of elephants and their environment, which enhances relaxation. We invite everyone to visit us. At our camp, an elephant ride costs K3,000 per person for a short distance and K5,000 for a ride to the pagoda at the foot of the mountain.

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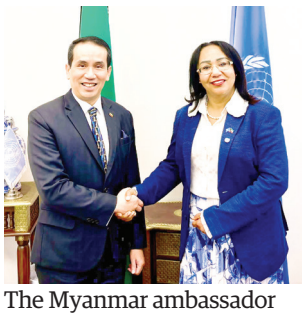
The Wahnet Elephant Camp in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region.

DIPLOMACY

# Ambassador Expresses Gratitude for UN Support

THE Myanmar Ambassador to Kuwait, U Min Thein, expressed his gratitude for the support and assistance provided by United Nations organizations in Myanmar's development and humanitarian efforts.

These remarks were made during a meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, Ms Ghada Hatim Eltahir, on 12 October at the United Nations House in Kuwait City.



The Myanmar ambassador meets the UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait on 12 October.

During the meeting, the ambassador provided an update on the priority initiatives being undertaken by the embassy. He also emphasized that the Myanmar Embassy will continue to collaborate with other embassies in supporting and participating in programmes organized by UN agencies in Kuwait.

In addition, the Resident Coordinator shared information about the UN's activities and initiatives in Kuwait, which include youth development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). — Htun Htun/ZN

# Myanmar-China Panel Eyes Mandalay's Economic Future

A panel discussion titled Myanmar-China Friendship and Cooperation and Mandalay's Future Economy will be held on 1 November at the Mandalay Convention Centre (MCC) in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region. Top economists, bankers, and development experts will speak at the discussion.

Development researcher U Zeya Thu will be the moderator, and panellists will include , a retired Union Minister; U Htay Myint, a Myanmar representative, Dehong Prefecture Chamber of Commerce; U Myint Zaw, Vice-Chairman, AYA Bank; Dr Kyi Shin from the City Hospital; and U Soe Ko Ko, Managing Director, KBZ Bank Limited.

The panel will explore emerging opportunities for Mandalay amid rapidly shifting economic dynamics in Asia, the potential local economic impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its international connectivity, and the benefits from Myanmar-China economic cooperation.

Attendees will gain insights into new economic and investment opportunities for Mandalay through the panellists' broad perspectives and experience. — ASH/KK

# NATIONAL

## Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

(a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people
(b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation
(c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts
(d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 13 October 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 14 OCTOBER 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Kayah and eastern Shan States, scattered in Yangon, Bago and Upper Sagaing Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin,Mon, Rakhine and (northern and southern)Shan States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.
**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.
**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.
**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 OCTOBER 2026:** One or two instances rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 OCTOBER 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 OCTOBER 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

# Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha Images begin worship procession

ON 13 October, the Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images were conveyed to the Indein Sankyaung, and from there to the Heya Ywama Sankyaung to be venerated by devotees.

Starting on 12 October, as per annual tradition, the Buddha images began their tour across 21 locations in Inlay to receive homage.



The PhaungdawU Buddha images being conveyed for a regional procession.

At the opening ceremony, the presiding monk Sayadaw U Dhamma Vacaka, along with the Venerable Sangha, consecrated the Buddha images. Regional ministers, officials, state/district/township department heads, members of the PhaungdawU Pagoda Board of Trustees, officials, and well-wishers then offered food and offertories.

"This year is livelier than previous years. This morning, the PhaungdawU Buddha images departed, and they will return on the 3rd Waning of Thadingyut, so we warmly invite everyone to come and pay homage," said a local woman from a floating garden.

The images will proceed from 12 to 29 October. The Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival is one of the most famous festivals in southern Shan State, traditionally featuring unique leg-rowing boat races, and typically attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors during the festivities. — Htun Htun/ZN

# Latha BEHS 2 Marks Signboard Launch, Receives Material Donations

A signboard unveiling and donation ceremony was held at 9 am yesterday at the Basic Education High School No 2 in Latha, which has been recognized as a China-Myanmar Friendship School (CMFS) by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

Counsellor Li Qianguo of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, Deputy Director-General U Myo Win Aung of the Yangon Region Education Office, Chairman U Tin Oo of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central), and Headteacher Dr Than Than Sein of Basic Education High School No 2 Latha jointly unveiled the signboard of the Friendship School.

Counsellor Li Qianguo and Deputy Director-General U Myo Win Aung delivered speeches.

The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar then donated fans, computers, refrigerators, printers and sports equipment to the school. The headmistress received the donations and expressed her gratitude.



The headteacher is seen receiving donations from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar has successfully installed and officially unveiled signboards at 24 schools across Myanmar. — Bala/MKKS



Kyaw Kyaw Eaindra, representing Myanmar, competes in the contest, where she won fourth runner-up.

# Miss Myanmar wins 4th Runner-Up at Miss Global 2026 Grand Finale

MISS Myanmar Kyaw Kyaw Eaindra has finished fourth runner-up at the Miss Global 2026 Grand Final, held in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

The Miss Global 2026 competition was held in Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Ratchaburi and Nakhon Pathom, Thailand, from 29 September to 11 October. The grand final took place in Nonthaburi, where Kyaw Kyaw Eaindra, representing Myanmar, finished fourth runner-up.

She also won several special awards at the Miss Global 2026 Grand Final, including Best Video Introduction, Best Evening Gown and three Best Icon titles, in addition to the fourth runner-up title.

Kyaw Kyaw Eaindra competed against representatives from 72 countries. — ASH/MKKS

# NATIONAL

# Capability and Inclusion Named Essential to Disaster Resilience

IT is necessary to strengthen resilience step-by-step, starting from individual households up to the national level as a national duty, said Vice-President U Nyo Saw at the ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026.

The commemorative ceremony took place at Jade Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.



Vice-President U Nyo Saw presents the winner of the painting contest at yesterday's event.

In his remarks, the Vice-President noted that the theme of the 2026 International Day, "Resilience Starts at Home" pushes all people globally to initiate the construction of buildings with resilience to disaster risks and societies in responding to disasters, making preparations and emphasizing rehabilitation.

He highlighted that, as Myanmar is a country highly vulnerable to natural disasters, it is placing great emphasis on pre-disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities in accordance with the Sendai Framework (2015-2030) and the Disaster Management Law (2013). Furthermore, in the recovery and rehabilitation efforts following the 2025 Mandalay earthquake, priority has been given to the 'Build Back Better' principle, and the Myanmar National Building Code 2025 is being drafted and implemented to ensure the construction of earthquake-resilient buildings.

The Vice-President underlined that, as capability and inclusive participation are vital factors in building disaster resilience, it is necessary to strengthen resilience step-by-step starting from individual households up to the national level as a national duty.

The Vice-President awarded winners in the open article contest, basic education high school level painting contest and animation video contest.

Union ministers also presented prizes to winners in the pamphlet design contests and basic education high school level painting contest while video clips on the message sent by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the endeavours on disaster management were screened. — MNA/TTA

# Dawei Airport Upgrade to Speed Exports

FROM PAGE 1

In his speech, the President underlined that the development of a country or region is measured by its GDP. Therefore, collective efforts should be made to increase agricultural and livestock production in order to boost the GDP of Taninthayi Region.

He stated that upgrading Dawei Airport and its runway is underway to promote business activities and tourism in Taninthayi Region. The upgrades are being carried out in anticipation of increased passenger traffic and aircraft arrivals and departures alongside the implementation of the Dawei Deep-Sea Port projects.

The President said that the Government is making efforts to implement the Dawei Deep-Sea Port projects, which are expected to create more job opportunities in the region. In addition, work is underway to construct a new Ye-Dawei railway section with a double-track route along the coastal area. Once completed, the railway line is expected to further increase passenger travel and freight transport.

In the tourism sector, the President urged all local communities to work together to preserve and enhance the region's naturally beautiful beaches, archipelagos, tourism resources and tourist destinations to promote the development of the tourism industry, while also maintaining the area's beauty, orderliness and cleanliness.

At present, the Hluttaw and the Government that emerged from a free and fair general election are assuming their respective responsibilities in the country. The Government has set and is implementing two priority objectives: ensuring stability and peace in the country and promoting national development.

The President explained that although Taninthayi Region possesses abundant natural resources and favourable geographical conditions, security weaknesses and instability have emerged in some areas due to politically motivated incitement, creating constraints on development activities. The President criticized that the inability to critically assess and distinguish right from wrong, as well as cause and effect, and the tendency to be misled by the statements of anti-national media outlets, individuals and organizations that exploit political issues for their own interests and oppose the development of the region and the country, as consequences of weaknesses in education.

The President underscored that, in some countries around the world, protests and unrest also occur due to political differences. However, such countries generally do not engage in acts that damage education, healthcare, the economy and other interests, as well as essential resources, in ways that could undermine the country's future.

He outlined that only by developing an educated population can a capable human resource base be built, enabling people to critically distinguish right from wrong and assess causes and consequences. This will also help promote the interests of the region and the country more effectively. Therefore, educational reforms must be undertaken without fail, he added.

At the meeting, as town elders and MSME entrepreneurs requested to reduce domestic flight ticket prices, Union ministers replied that arrangements are being made to set the appropriate price rate of domestic flight tickets depending on the costs. Moreover, town elders reported their plans to export high-value marine products to foreign markets upon completion of upgrading Dawei Airport. They also demanded that the State create linkages for sales of naturally edible bird nests to the micro enterprise market on a wider scale and to disburse loans for construction of the factory to produce value-added rubber products including rubber gloves using domestic raw rubber. Furthermore, town elders submitted their plans to borrow loans to purchase machines for the production of necessary consumer goods locally and invest in the businesses. They revealed they are trying hard to create jobs for locals and support the livelihoods of people from the fishery sector.

In response, Union ministers pledged to coordinate with relevant ministries to disburse loans to businesspeople under the policies with the aim of systematically producing edible bird nests in Taninthayi Region. They urged businesspeople and town elders to efficiently utilize land plots in the region under the directives and produce oil and natural gas from existing energy resources for development of the region and the nation. The Union ministers also explained that arrangements are being made to support construction of the rubber product factory under the rules and regulations.

The President viewed the booths of MSME products displayed by Taninthayi Region and asked about the products.

Also present at the meeting were the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Speaker, the commander of the Coastal Region Command, officials from the Taninthayi Region cabinet and residents.

In the morning, the President comforted Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force members receiving medical treatment for their injuries sustained in serving State defence and security duties at the local Tatmadaw hospital and presented cash awards and foodstuffs.

Moreover, the President fulfilled the needs of the hospital and presented cash awards to hospital staff. — MNA/TTA

**Key points from the speech delivered by the President at the meeting with residents in Dawei**

1. Implementation of the Dawei Deep-Sea Port projects is expected to create more job opportunities in Taninthayi Region.
2. Protests and unrest in some countries around the world with political differences do not engage in acts that damage education, healthcare, the economy and other interests.
3. Educational reforms must be undertaken without fail to help promote the interests of the region and the country more effectively.

# NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

## Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Healthcare Upgrades, Hospital Reopening, and Legislative Amendments

THE 15th-day meeting of the third regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and MPs. During the session, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Tin Htun addressed five starred questions regarding healthcare personnel deployment, medical supplies, infrastructure upgrades, and the reopening of local medical facilities.



The 15th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, chaired by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Responding to queries on Kalewa and Madaya townships, the deputy minister stated that Kalewa Hospital continues to receive essential medicine supplies, including 174 varieties delivered under regional guidance, while an assistant doctor has been dispatched to Masein Station Hospital. For the five station hospitals in Madaya closed for over five years due to conflict, rotating doctors currently provide mobile healthcare with regional military assistance, and rehabilitation funds will be systematically disbursed to enable their reopening in coordination with administrative bodies.

Addressing facilities in Aunglan, Kalaw, and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dr Tin Htun confirmed that renovations for the operating theatre at Aunglan's 100-bed hospital have been completed under committee arrangements, with doctor appointments under review. For Heho Station Hospital in Shan State, an operating room building has been earmarked under the 2027-2028 capital expenditure budget following the provision of a Type C Laboratory Set in August 2026. Meanwhile, the 25-bed hospital in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) was deemed adequately equipped for current demands given nearby referral facilities and the National Cancer Centre, though additional staff housing will be constructed in the 2027-2028 financial year.

Lawmakers also debated a motion tabled by U Thet Naing Oo for the Hpa-an constituency urging the government to establish large outpatient departments and zone-based advanced specialist hospitals to relieve the public's medical expenditure and narrow the urban-rural divide. Several parliamentarians supported the motion, recommending public-private partnerships, dedicated funding, and improved patient referral networks. Discussion on the proposal will continue on the 16th meeting day.

Before concluding the session, the Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw returned without amendments the "Seventh Amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law" and the "Fourth Rules Amending the Political Parties Registration Rules," which will proceed in accordance with parliamentary bylaws. The meeting will resume on 14 October. — News Team/ ST

## Union Chief Justice attends 4th ASEAN-China Justice Forum in Da Nang, Vietnam

AT the invitation of the Chief Justice of Vietnam, a Myanmar delegation led by Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay attended the 4th ASEAN-China Justice Forum, held in Da Nang, Vietnam, from 9 to 12 October 2026.

**4th ASEAN-China Justice Forum**

The ASEAN-China Justice Forum serves as a high-level platform for direct discussions on judicial matters among the Supreme Courts of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China. The Forum was first convened in 2014, followed by the Second Forum in 2017 and the Third Forum in 2022.

Judicial cooperation with ASEAN Member States and China forms part of Myanmar's ongoing efforts in judicial reform. Through participation in the Forum, the Myanmar delegation had the opportunity to exchange views with Chief Justices and heads of judiciaries from countries across the region and to discuss matters of mutual interest.

**Participation in the Justice Forum**

The 4th ASEAN-China Justice Forum was held on 10 October 2026, with the participation of judicial leaders, judges and senior judicial officials from 12 countries, with a total of 90 participants.

During the Forum, participants presented papers and exchanged experiences on various judicial issues in the digital era, including approaches to addressing cybercrime, cross-border civil and commercial disputes, the use of digital systems in court proceedings, and the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the future development of the justice sector.

On behalf of the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar, Assistant Director U Zali San delivered a presentation entitled "Strengthening Judicial Cooperation Against Cybercrime & Cross-Border Civil and Commercial Disputes in the Digital Era: Myanmar's Perspective".




A group photo session of the fourth ASEAN-China Justice Forum held in Vietnam.

**Bilateral Meeting with the Chief Justice of Vietnam**

Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay and Mr Nguyen Van Quang, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam, held a bilateral

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

# NATIONAL

## First Coordination Meeting of ASEAN Affairs Committee held

THE first coordination meeting of the ASEAN Affairs Committee, presided over by U Tin Maung Swe, Chairman of the Committee and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, was held yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs inNay Pyi Taw.



Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe presides over the first coordination meeting of the ASEAN (Affairs Committee in Nay Pyi Taw).

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw, along with members and representatives from the Ministry of the Office of the President, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

In his opening remarks, the Union minister stated that in addition to the existing channels of engagement with ASEAN, Myanmar will cooperate with ASEAN through the Committee. He highlighted that despite facing discriminatory treatment towards Myanmar since 2021, Myanmar, as a responsible ASEAN Member State, has implemented the ASEAN Five-Point Statement to the fullest extent possible in line with the Five-Point Roadmap laid down by the then State Administration Council, without compromising its sovereignty and national interests. He added that engagement with ASEAN is being pursued bilaterally with individual member states. Subsequently, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee and the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs underscored the progress achieved under the ASEAN Five-Point Statement in line with the Government's Roadmap.

During the Meeting, members of the Committee discussed and exchanged views on a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led process in restoring Myanmar's original role and rights within ASEAN, building on the existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and ASEAN Member States. — MoFA

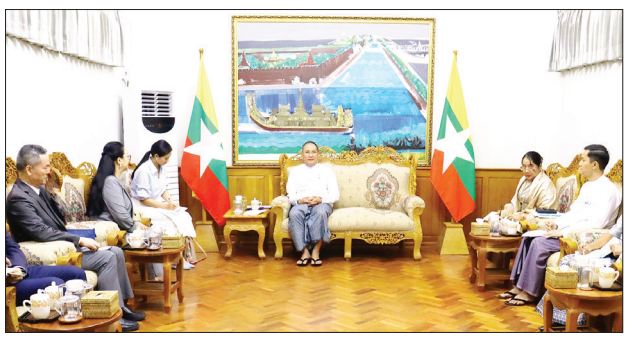
DIPLOMACY

## MNPIFER Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received a delegation led by Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday at Office 1 of the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially discussed matters on bilateral economic cooperation, the promotion of investment, the implementation of Chinese-aided projects, Myanmar's socioeconomic development and future cooperation between the two countries.

Senior officials from the Ministry and representatives from the Chinese Embassy also attended the meeting. — MNPIFER



The Chinese ambassador calls on Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

## Tourists Flock to Wahnet ...

FROM PAGE 1

We are also planning an elephant buffet and an elephant show."

For those interested in learning more about elephants, a small elephant museum has been established on-site. The Wahnet Elephant Camp opened on 30 March 2018, with the goals of conserving elephants, raising public awareness about their nature, and creating employment opportunities for local communities. The camp is located five miles from the 16th mile marker on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road. Myanmar boasts 24 elephant camps, of which 12 offer tourism activities. — TWA/ZS



The Wahnet Elephant Camp in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region.

## Union Chief Justice attends 4th ASEAN-China ...

FROM PAGE 4

meeting on the afternoon of 10 October to strengthen judicial cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two Chief Justices emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation in the judicial sector alongside the further development of the strategic partnership between Myanmar and Vietnam, following the recent goodwill visit of the President of Myanmar to Vietnam. In light of the growing friendship and expanding economic cooperation between the two countries, Chief Justices discussed ways to strengthen protection of lawful rights and interests of investors in accordance with the law. They also exchanged views on cooperation in extradition matters and mutual judicial assistance in civil and criminal cases between the two countries. Furthermore, the two sides discussed opportunities to promote human resource development and strengthen professional capacity in the judicial sector through study visits for judges and judicial officers, court attachment programmes, and judicial training programmes.

The meeting marked an important step towards further strengthening judicial cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam, contributing to the promotion of the rule of law and the continued development of judicial relations between the two countries.

**Welcome Reception and Dinner**

The Chief Justice of the Union and the Myanmar delegation attended a welcome reception hosted by Mr Nguyen Van Quang, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam, for delegates and distinguished guests from various countries attending the Fourth ASEAN-China Judicial Forum. The reception was held on the evening of 10 October at the Ariyana Convention Centre in Da Nang. The Chief Justice and the Myanmar delegation also attended an official dinner hosted on the evening of 11 October at the Furama Resort Danang by Mr Le Ngoc Quang, Secretary of the Da Nang Party Committee and Member of the Party Central Committee.

**Visit to Ba Na Hills**

During his stay in Da Nang in connexion with the Forum, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay also visited Ba Na Hills, one of the city's well-known historical and tourist destinations.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay was accompanied by officials from the Supreme Court of the Union during his participation in the Forum and related activities. — MNA

# NATIONAL

## MNPIFER Union Minister attends Myanmar Alumni Networking Event for Training Courses and Seminars Conducted under MOFCOM Programme

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe attended and delivered opening remarks at the Myanmar Alumni Networking Event for Training Courses and Seminars Conducted under the Programme of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of the People's Republic of China, held yesterday at the Horizon Lake View Resort Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. The event brought together participants who had attended training courses and seminars conducted in the People's Republic of China under the programmes of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of the People's Republic of China.

At the ceremony, Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, remarked that Myanmar and China had long maintained friendly relations as neighbouring countries. She expressed her pleasure and pride in the successful publication of the 2025 Report on Corporate Social Responsibility of Chinese Enterprises in Myanmar by the Chinese Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM). She highlighted the importance of such initiatives not only for promoting economic growth in both countries, but also for advancing corporate social responsibility, environmental protection and social development. She further expressed her hope that these efforts would make meaningful contributions to the development of both countries.



Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe speaks at the Myanmar Alumni Networking Event for Training Courses and Seminars Conducted under China's Ministry of Commerce Programme.

In his opening remarks, Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe stated that Myanmar and China established diplomatic relations on 8 June 1950, and that their bilateral relations had since surpassed the Diamond Jubilee milestone. He noted that the two countries were good neighbours working towards building a community with a shared future, standing together through both good times and difficult times. The Union minister expressed his gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China, MOFCOM and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar for annually offering training courses and seminars aimed at developing Myanmar's human resources. He also highlighted the numerous benefits of these programmes, including strengthening the friendship and goodwill between Myanmar and China, enabling participating trainees and delegates to acquire international-standard knowledge and expertise, promoting people-to-people relations through cultural exchanges, and enhancing knowledge and understanding through the sharing of experiences between the two countries.

More than 120 participants, including senior officials from relevant ministries and organisations, as well as programme alumni, attended the ceremony. — MNPIFER

## 61st Myanma Gems Emporium enters Day 6

THE 61st Myanma Gems Emporium continued its sixth-day session yesterday at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting large numbers of domestic and foreign gem merchants.

Since the morning, gem merchants have viewed jade lots displayed inside the Maniradana Jade Hall and in designated areas outside the hall.


Gem traders look and evaluate the exhibits on display at the expo.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo, patron of the Central Committee for the Myanmar Gems Emporium, inspected the jade lots displayed in different sections of the exhibition hall, the submission of price offers by domestic and foreign gem merchants into tender boxes, and the announcement of successful bids for jade lots. He also gave officials the necessary instructions.

At the emporium, 550 jade lots, numbered 1 to 550 and belonging to Groups A and B, were offered to domestic and foreign gem merchants through an open tender system. A total of 474 lots were sold.

On the seventh day, merchants examined jade lots numbered 551 to 1,100 from Groups A and B and submitted their price offers into tender boxes. Officials closed the submission process at 5 pm, opened the tender boxes and examined the offers. The results for the jade lots offered on 14 October will be announced on the same day.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is working to ensure the successful holding of Myanma Gems Emporiums for the benefit of the State and the people. It is also systematically implementing resource management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of precious gemstone resources and preserve Myanmar's natural beauty for future generations. — MNA/KZL

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## Mohnyin opens free food processing course


The launch of the food processing technology course in progress in Mohnyin Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, opened a free vocational value-added food processing technology course in Semile Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, yesterday with the aim of enabling rural residents to pursue livelihood activities and gain employment opportunities in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Mohnyin District Department of Small Industries Head U Thein Zaw delivered the opening address, encouraging trainees to systematically learn the skills, apply them in practice, establish small-scale businesses, increase household income and reduce living expenses. Instructors explained the subjects to be taught during the course in detail, after which departmental officials provided training materials to the trainees.

A total of 20 female trainees from Semile Village are attending the free 10-day vocational training course, where skilled instructors are providing practical instruction in food processing technology to help participants establish their own businesses. Outstanding trainees who genuinely intend to start businesses will be assisted in obtaining necessary capital through coordination with relevant departments. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

# NATIONAL

## Fish Prices Drop Amid Surge in Sea Fish Demand

ACCORDING to the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon, increased supplies of sea fish from Myanmar's fishing grounds have pleased consumers as fish prices continue to fall.

"Fish prices are falling because sea fish are in abundant supply. This year, sea fish prices are lower than last year, with prices falling by K2,000 to K3,000 per viss. There is also a large supply of imported fish. This is a year in which the fishing industry needs to be approached with caution. Fish prices have been falling for more than a month as fishing boats return to Yangon with their catches. The falling prices are good for consumers, but they may create difficulties for those who catch and sell fish in the future," said Daw Tin Tin Nwe of MMG Company at the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market.



Fishery workers sort various species of fish. **PHOTO - ZWEMAN**

The increased supply of freshwater carp and rohu has also contributed to falling fish prices. The fish are supplied to more than 70 cold-storage facilities in Yangon at K700 per kilogramme, or K1,500 per viss. Last year, the price was K400 per kilogramme. The service fee, including storage costs, is now K2,000 per viss. Fish traders usually send thousands of visses of fish to cold-storage facilities, while the service fee for re-exporting the fish has also increased.

When fishing boats first set out to sea in early June, there were relatively few boats operating, and fish prices were favourable. Almost all fishing boats went out to sea early last month and caught large quantities of fish. As a result, Yangon's fish market was flooded with supplies, causing prices to fall.

Aquatic products from the Myeik Islands and the Andaman Sea in Taninthayi Region, fishing grounds in Ayeyawady Region, the Bay of Bengal off Rakhine State, and fishing grounds off Mon State are supplied to Yangon's fish market and exported to Thailand. — Thitsa/MKKS

## 7th disbursement of Village Revolving Fund Project conducted in Gyobingauk



THE Gyobingauk Township Department of Rural Development, Bago Region, held a ceremony yesterday in Ohnekyawtan Village to disburse the seventh round of project funds under the Village Revolving Fund Project.

During the ceremony, Daw Thi Thi Aung, Head of the Gyobingauk Township Department of Rural Development, along with project officers, explained that the initiative aims to alleviate rural poverty, support small-scale agriculture, livestock breeding, and family income-generating activities, as well as ease household livelihood difficulties. Following the briefing, project funds totalling K47.65 million were handed over to members of the Village Project Working Group.

Subsequently, the village project working group disbursed the revolving fund of K47.65 million on the same day to a total of 79 project members comprising 78 agricultural workers and one vocational tailoring worker in Ohnekyawtan Village, according to Daw Thi Thi Aung. — Sanda Lwin (Rural)

## Bogale's VDP concrete road project inspected

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the 100-percent completion of a village concrete road project implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Kyunkalay Village, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.



Officials inspect the completed village concrete road in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Pyapon District Department of Rural Development Head U Htet Aung, Bogale Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thin Thin Hlaing and engineering staff, together with village committee members, inspected the completed concrete road measuring 500 feet long, eight feet wide and six inches thick. They met village elders and residents, urging them to form a village road committee and systematically maintain the road for long-term durability, while coordinating necessary support based on village requirements.

The concrete road was constructed during the 2026-2027 financial year using K15 million in VDP support funds and K3 million contributed by residents, totalling K18 million, with technical assistance and close supervision from DRD staff. The completion of the project ensures year-round convenience and improved transportation for local villagers. — Karan (Rural)

## Asia Hotel & Catering Expo 2026 Welcomes Myanmar Businesses

ACCORDING to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar businesspeople have been invited to join the Asia International Hotel Supplies and Catering Expo (AHSE 2026) to be held in the Macau Special Administrative Region of China.




The Previous Asia International Hotel Supplies and Catering Expo is pictured.

The event, which is set from 18 to 20 November, includes the hotel and tourism industry, food and beverage, food manufacturing and packaging and agricultural sectors, and it is a business exhibition where international business networks can be established.

In addition to the global business networking, business dialogues and seminars will be featured as well. With around 1,000 exhibitors, about 20,000 participants are expected to attend, including observers and businesses from Asian and international markets. — TWA/ZS

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# OPINION

## Readiness to defy natural disasters with proper preparation

MYANMAR faces impacts of natural disasters, especially in the monsoon season. Although many types of natural disasters, such as storms, floods, landslides, and outbreaks of fire, can be forecast in advance thanks to experts from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology as well as other meteorologists, not only Myanmar but all countries cannot forecast the possibility of earthquakes.

As such, the severe Mandalay earthquake left unprecedented loss and damage in some regions and states in Myanmar last year. As soon as the earthquake hit Myanmar, international organizations and rescue teams from various countries provided aid to Myanmar. Although not all victims could be rescued, these international rescue teams carried out search and rescue operations to save as many victims as possible.

Based on the experience and lessons learned from cooperation with international search and rescue teams during the Mandalay earthquake, Myanmar has been working to further enhance its existing search and rescue capabilities in line with international standards. At present, efforts are being carried out to conduct training, provide the necessary equipment, and undergo international-level assessment and accreditation to ensure the safety of society.

Currently, to ensure an effective and rapid response in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring anywhere across the country, 17 companies comprising 116 permanent and auxiliary firefighters each have been organized at the headquarters of the Myanmar Fire Brigade in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and in the regions and states. In addition, 333 platoons, each comprising 35 permanent and auxiliary firefighters, have been formed at the township/town level. A total of 13,627 search and rescue personnel have thus been organized in a state of readiness.

From among these search and rescue teams, 30 firefighters who met the required criteria were selected and formed into a team and received urban search and rescue (USAR) training from instructors from France and Singapore in October 2019. In addition, firefighters from the advanced search and rescue training courses conducted by the department are being screened and selected for the continued formation of a specialized urban search and rescue (USAR) team.

Two Medium Team-level Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams have been formed and trained at the Myanmar Fire Services Department Headquarters in Yangon and the Fire Services Department in Nay Pyi Taw. The State has also provided the two teams with modern search and rescue equipment and operational vehicles, appointed a total of eight doctors and nurses, and raised nine search dogs (canines), which have been trained in basic obedience and search techniques.

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# ARTICLE

# From the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to the Goal of Everlasting Peace

**By Min Khant**

At present, the paramount aspiration of the entire populace residing within the State is the cessation of armed conflicts that have persisted for over seven decades since independence, and the realization of everlasting peace.

In accordance with the objective imperatives of the nation, state stability and socioeconomic development can only be accelerated and consolidated once sustainable peace is achieved. Only through enduring and everlasting peace can armed conflicts be brought to an end, enabling the successful realization of the national objective sought by all national brethren: the building of a Union founded upon democratic and federal principles.

It is precisely for this reason that the Government is making unwavering and steadfast endeavours to secure perpetual and everlasting peace for the benefit of the State and the entire populace. The foremost and indispensable step toward achieving sustainable peace is the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and the expeditious realization of political objectives within an optimal timeframe.

**The NCA serves not only as a solid cornerstone for achieving enduring and everlasting peace but also as the gateway to the broader peace process. It is therefore imperative to advance courageously and resolutely along the path of national reconciliation and political dialogue through this gateway.**

**The essence of the NCA lies in upholding Our Three Main National Causes and in building a Union based on democratic and federal principles that fully guarantees democracy, national equality, and self-determination in accordance with the Union Spirit founded on liberty, equality, and justice, and in alignment with the outcomes of political dialogues. Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) are therefore urged to comprehend the profound essence of the NCA, transcend self-interest and pride, and conscientiously cooperate to fulfil the genuine aspirations of the State and its people.**

The NCA is not merely a ceasefire agreement; rather, it represents a momentous milestone executed through mutual consensus among the Government, the Tatmadaw, and Ethnic Armed Organizations, with the overarching aim of establishing a Union based on democracy and federalism peacefully and stably.

The NCA was not drafted unilaterally by any single individual or entity; it is a historic accord formulated based on the aspirations and proposals of Ethnic Armed Organizations, rigorously negotiated and agreed upon through numerous rounds of deliberations involving the Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, and the Ethnic Armed Organizations before being formally signed.

A retrospective look at the historical genesis of the NCA further illustrates its significance, solemnity, and intrinsic value. It commenced under the first democratic Government on 18 August 2011, when President U Thein Sein extended an invitation for peace to achieve perpetual and everlasting peace. To conduct substantive peace dialogues aimed at resolving over seven decades of ethnic armed conflicts, the Union Peacemaking Central Committee (UPCC), the Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC), and Union-level peace negotiation teams were established, subsequently conducting peace talks with Ethnic Armed Organizations at both state and Union levels.

Responding to the democratic government's invitation for a nationwide ceasefire, Ethnic Armed Organizations progressed from state-level talks to Union-level dialogues. To enhance the effectiveness and outcomes of Union-level engagements, 16 Ethnic Armed Organizations formed the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) and the Senior Delegation (SD) in 2014, initiating formal negotiations with the Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC). Throughout 2015, the draft NCA was exhaustively deliberated and refined with leaders from the 16 Ethnic Armed Organizations, culminating in the historic, dignified signing ceremony of the NCA on 15 October 2015. The signing ceremony brought together nine government representatives led by President U Thein Sein alongside Tatmadaw leaders, 24 representatives comprising three delegates each from eight Ethnic Armed Organizations, 21 domestic witnesses, and international witnesses representing China, India, Japan, Thailand, the European Union, and the United Nations. With two additional Ethnic Armed Organizations acceding to the agreement in 2018, a total of 10 organizations have officially signed the accord.

The NCA comprises 7 chapters, 33 articles, 86 sub-articles, and a total of 104 provisions. It encompasses Basic Principles, Aims and Objectives, Ceasefire Matters, Consolidating the Ceasefire, Guarantees for Political Dialogue, Future Political Roadmap, and Miscellaneous Provisions.

The paramount principle of the NCA is to establish a Union based on democracy and federalism that offers full guarantees in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogues, and to refrain from resolving political problems through military means. Instead, it seeks to resolve issues through political dialogue, foster a new political culture, and prioritize a nationwide ceasefire as the prerequisite to ending armed conflict.

A defining attribute of the NCA—imbued with noble intentions and substantive depth—is that its provisions were formulated based on the aspirations and initial proposals stemming from the Ethnic Armed Organizations' conferences held in Laiza, Kachin State (November 2013) and Law Khee Lar, Kayin State (June 2015). The Government and the Tatmadaw engaged with all Ethnic Armed Organizations in an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality through unprecedented concessions, magnanimity, patience, and an earnest commitment to perpetuate peace in Myanmar. Consequently, the NCA was not achieved easily; from the inaugural invitation for peace talks under the first democratic government to the signing of the agreement, the process spanned 1,450 days and involved more than 5,000 consultative meetings.

> *The NCA was not drafted unilaterally by any single individual or entity; it is a historic accord formulated based on the aspirations and proposals of Ethnic Armed Organizations, rigorously negotiated and agreed upon through numerous rounds of deliberations involving the Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, and the Ethnic Armed Organizations before being formally signed.*

> *As a binding commitment and mutual agreement between the Ethnic Armed Organizations and the State Government, the NCA was ratified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as a Union Accord. As such, it remains a historic and inviolable treaty that cannot be nullified under any circumstance. Therefore, the Government and the Tatmadaw remain committed to rigorously adhering to the provisions of the NCA in their pursuit of enduring peace.*

As a binding commitment and mutual agreement between the Ethnic Armed Organizations and the State Government, the NCA was ratified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as a Union Accord. As such, it remains a historic and inviolable treaty that cannot be nullified under any circumstance. Therefore, the Government and the Tatmadaw remain committed to rigorously adhering to the provisions of the NCA in their pursuit of enduring peace.

Under the incumbent elected administration, the third democratic government, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee (NSPCC), led by the President, keeps the door to peace perpetually open. It continues to pursue enduring peace along the NCA path to bring an end to armed conflicts. Accordingly, to implement the peace process essential for national stability and development, an open invitation without preconditions was issued on 21 April 2026 vide Statement 1/2026 to convene talks.

Following the peace invitation extended by the new, third democratic government, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC), to be in-line with government peace policies, has engaged in sustained dialogues with NCA signatories, EAOs that have deviated from the NCA path, non-signatory EAOs, peace partners, armed groups, political parties, peace facilitators, and diplomats. These engagements were initiated primarily through bilateral discussions, focusing on local development undertakings to cultivate mutual understanding and trust.

During the six months from 11 April 2026 to 10 October 2026 under the newly elected administration, the NSPNC convened 13 meetings with seven NCA-signatory EAOs, eight meetings with five non-signatory EAOs, and seven meetings with six peace partner organizations – totalling 28 rounds of discussions with 18 entities. Constructive deliberations have been achieved, and engagements are proceeding based on mutual respect and trust.

The primary agendas addressed in these meetings encompass building mutual trust and confidence; expeditiously establishing a Union based on democracy and federal principles in accordance with political outcomes; fostering regional peace, stability, and development; upholding the rule of law; combatting illicit narcotics, transnational crimes, and online scam operations; eradicating terrorist organizations from relevant territories; facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to areas in need; and engaging in open, frank, and cordial discussions to encourage EAOs that have strayed from the NCA framework to rejoin the peace process.

Furthermore, recognizing that earning the trust and confidence of the public is indispensable to the success of this monumental undertaking, concerted efforts are underway to adopt a people-centred approach, ensuring that the dividends of peace are enjoyed by the populace at the earliest possible juncture.

**The ethnic armed conflicts that erupted in tandem with the very date of independence have been perpetuated by divergent political agendas, narrow ethnocentric outlooks, and self-serving individual interests. Under the pretext of self-determination and ethnic rights, armed entities have sought territorial control and mobilized funds through illicit enterprises, including the narcotics trade, illegal exploitation of state-owned natural resources, online fraud syndicates, and cross-border arms trafficking – which have become deeply entrenched in peripheral areas beyond the administrative reach of the State.**

The State cannot accept demands driven by fervent ethnic and local parochialism that exceed reasonable bounds and are pursued through armed violence. Ethnic Armed Organizations are thus strongly urged to eschew the pursuit of their aspirations by force of arms and, instead, embrace the new political culture of constructive dialogue.

**As the incumbent administration is a democratically elected government working in close cohesion with the Government, the Tatmadaw, and the people stand united at this pivotal juncture to facilitate a smooth transition towards achieving the common national aspiration shared by all ethnic nationalities and the entire populace: "strengthening a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union founded upon democratic and federal principles."**

**Therefore, with a view to restoring stability, peace, and socioeconomic well-being to local populations who have borne the brunt of armed conflicts, an opportune moment has arrived to act with wisdom and vigilance, cease hostilities nationwide, and embark on the NCA path – the gateway to everlasting peace.**

Accordingly, EAOs currently on the NCA path, those that have diverged from it, and those hesitating to embark upon it are earnestly exhorted to demonstrate a genuine aspiration for perpetual and ever lasting peace, open-mindedness, patience, and resilience against external instigations. By prioritizing pragmatic necessities over parochial demands and making courageous decisions, all stakeholders are called upon to exert collective, concerted efforts to swiftly realize the ultimate goal of everlasting peace, advancing from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement to eternal and everlasting peace.

# NATIONAL

## Online scam hubs demolished in Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown



Images reveal the demolition of a five-storey structure in Phase II crackdown in Shwe Kokko.

THE Government has prioritized efforts to combat online fraud and online gambling as a national duty, working not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries to conduct effective inspections and crackdowns to prevent such syndicates from gaining a foothold in the country.

Demolition work on the remaining 63 structures in Phase II of operations in the Shwe Kokko area resumed systematically on 6 October, following the classification of the buildings according to the demolition methods to be used: 25 structures are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four using controlled explosives, and 34 located adjacent to residential homes are to be dismantled floor by floor through manual labour.

During ongoing demolition operations until yesterday, one five-storey building designated for demolition using heavy machinery underwent further dismantling. It was 92 per cent demolished, while the other was 30 per cent dismantled. Meanwhile, preparations for the use of explosives, including wiring, are underway for a six-storey building scheduled for explosive demolition.

Demolition work on the remaining 63 structures in Phase II of operations in the Shwe Kokko area resumed systematically, following the classification of the buildings according to the demolition methods to be used: 25 structures are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four using controlled explosives, and 34 located adjacent to residential homes are to be dismantled floor by floor through manual labour.

The Government is placing particular emphasis on cracking down on online fraud and online gambling operations, commonly referred to as online scams, which threaten global socioeconomic development and national security. It is working with neighbouring and regional countries to eliminate these activities. — 100/KTZH

## Tachilek holds township-level stakeholder review meeting on VDP



A township-level stakeholder review meeting on Village Development Project in progress in Tachilek Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a township-level stakeholder review meeting on the Village Development Project (VDP) at the meeting hall of the Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development in Tachilek District, Shan State (East), yesterday to improve project effectiveness and facilitate the exchange of implementation experiences.

State Hluttaw Representative U Sai Awan Kham delivered the opening address, after which Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Thin explained the objectives of the review meeting and topics to be discussed.

Committee members from 40 villages implementing the VDP in Tachilek Township participated in group discussions, sharing strengths, weaknesses and challenges encountered during project execution. Members of the Township-Level Project Implementation Working Group coordinated necessary measures to address the issues raised.

The meeting was attended by members of the Township-Level Project Implementation Working Group, departmental officials and committee members from the 40 VDP villages, who agreed to utilize the meeting's outcomes to further enhance the success of future village development activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

## Tatkon opens free consumer goods course



The opening ceremony for consumer goods production technology course is underway in Tatkon Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, opened a free vocational consumer goods production technology course in Sinthay Village, Tatkon Township, yesterday, aiming to support rural livelihoods, create employment opportunities and turn out skilled workers in the 2026-2027 financial year. Tatkon Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Zin Lin Htet delivered the opening address, explaining that vocational training courses are conducted after assessing local products, market demand, labour requirements and livelihood opportunities suited to local conditions. Nay Pyi Taw Department of Small Industries Assistant Engineer Daw May Hnin Thaw explained the subjects to be learned in detail, after which departmental officials provided the trainees with training materials.

A total of 20 trainees from Sinthay and Chongyi villages in Tatkon Township are attending the free five-day vocational training course, where skilled instructors are providing practical instructions in consumer goods production technology to help participants establish their own businesses. Outstanding trainees who genuinely intend to start businesses will be eligible to receive loans under the department's Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. — Poe Thakhin (Rural)

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## Times City Shines with Jewellery Gala Ahead of Thadingyut

AT the pre-Thadingyut gems festival 2026 organized by Times City, jewellery collections produced by well-known gems and jewellery shops will be displayed in a jewellery fashion runway show.

The fashion show will be exhibited in two parts. With creations by designer Ko Lin, make-up artist Sora, Hai and designer Ko Pann, famous runway models will feature in part 1 on 18 October.

Public's attention is mounting on the show, which will feature designer dresses and luxury jewellery collections.

The gems festival will commence on 18 October and run until 20 October, Times City stated. — TWA/ZS



This image displays a poster for the Times City's pre-Thadingyut gems festival and fashion runway show.

# NATIONAL

## YSX trading value tops K1.5B in Sept

THE total trading of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) amounted to K1.5 billion, with 223,793 shares changing hands in September 2026, according to YSX's statistics.

MTSH topped the trading on YSX with 47,873 shares valued at K415.4 million, followed by FPB with 59,983 shares valued at over K414 million, FMI with 15,695 shares valued at K286.9 million, MAEX with 22,781 shares valued at K152 million, EFR with 64,188 shares valued at K116.96 million, MCB with 7,062 shares valued at K91.36 million, TMH with 3,722 shares valued at K12.449 million and AMATA with 2,489 shares valued at K 10.68 million.

The YSX was established in 2015 and currently lists eight public companies and eight companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are listed on the security market.

The stock trading value was estimated at K5.16 billion with trading volume of over two million shares in August 2026. The stock trading value in September dropped by over K3.6 billion compared to that of August. — NN/KK

## Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 13 October 2026

| | US$ | Chinese yuan | Thai baht | Indian rupee |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Exchange rates | 3,660.00~3662.80 | 557.40~558.70 | 125.50~125.70 | 43.60 |
| Trading amount in the market | 10, 081, 111.87 | 10,119,002.35 | 70, 851,899.15 | - |

## Fees for various geographical indication services announced

THE Intellectual Property Agency has announced the fees payable for various services related to applications for the registration of Geographical Indications (GIs) under the Trademark Law.

The prescribed fees are K450,000 for the examination of a geographical indication registration application (GI-1), K150,000 for the examination of a geographical indication re-registration application (GI-3), K80,000 for the examination of an application to correct clerical errors or other amendable mistakes in an application (GI-4), and K450,000 for the examination of an opposition statement (GI-6). The registration fee for a geographical indication is K150,000, while the fee for the examination of an application for a certified copy of a registration certificate (GI-7) is K50,000.



This photo shows a meeting on intellectual property held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

Other prescribed fees include K 80,000 for an application to amend information recorded in the register (GI-8), K450,000 for an application to declare a Geographical Indication registration invalid or to cancel it (GI-9), K100,000 for an application to use a Geographical Indication mark (GI-10), K25,000 for an application to change representative details (GI-12), K 500,000 for an appeal application (GI-14), and K80,000 for an application to extend the time limit (GI-15).

Geographical indication registration plays an important role in protecting local products against counterfeiting and promoting them in the market. Registration grants products legal protection and helps enhance their market reputation, potentially enabling them to command higher prices by verifying their authenticity and geographical origin. — TWA/TH

## MTE invites tenders for timber extraction services in Shan State

THE Myanma Timber Enterprise, Shan State (East/South), has invited open tenders for timber extraction services during the 2026-2027 timber harvesting season.

Services include logging, stump removal, road construction, road repair, road grading, skidding, and timber loading/unloading for 7,500 tonnes of teak from Mongkan reserved forest, Mongton Township, and Mongpugyi reserved forest (Apatow), Kengtung Township, and 9,000 tonnes of hardwood from Kengtawng reserved forest, Mongnai Township, to the Namhsan timber depot, based on a per-tonne arrival price. Furthermore, 20,000 tonnes of hardwood from Mongyawng/Monglan reserved forests in Mongkai Township and 8,000 tonnes of hardwood from the Naungwoe reserved forest, Yaksawk Township, to the Mwaytaw timber depot, under two lots with per-tonne arrival price. Forms are available on 13 and 26 October at the Myanma Timber Enterprise Deputy General Manager's Office in Taunggyi. The submission deadline is at 4:30 pm on 29 October. The bid opening date will be announced in due course. — NN/KK

## THAI EXPO Yangon returns for its 5th edition on 4-6 Dec

THE fifth edition of THAI EXPO Yangon will be held from 4 to 6 December at the Yangon Convention Centre (MCC). This sales expo is designated for Yangon businesses to further elevate brand success. It will provide a platform to meet numerous partner businesses and access valuable commercial opportunities, showcase brands effectively without a large marketing budget, connect directly with buyers, distributors, and decision-makers travelling from Thailand, enable business matching, and gain media coverage before, during, and after the event to enhance brand image and build customer engagement. Moreover, it will help businesses to sell across a wide range of product categories, strengthen brand identity, share different business cultures among enterprises from various sectors and collect customer feedback on the spot. Businesses can choose booth spaces suited to their industry type via 09 970733234, 09 254277355, 09 980521428, 09 450045003, 09 777773929, or 09 777737923, and Ms Sarapee Sripankaew (Thailand) at +66 619616587. — NN/KK

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# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# Cambodia's Pchum Ben festival draws over 2.1M travellers

CAMBODIA'S three-day traditional Pchum Ben festival concluded with 2.16 million people travelling to various tourist destinations across the South-East Asian country, Minister of Tourism Huot Hak said on Tuesday.

This marks a 0.8-per-cent increase compared to last year's festival, he shared the figures on his official Telegram channel, adding that of the total travellers, 24,343 were foreign visitors.



People offer steamed rice to honour their ancestors during the Pchum Ben festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 10 October 2026. Cambodia on Saturday started to observe its traditional three-day Pchum Ben holiday, also known as Ancestor's Day, running from 10 to 12 October. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Hak added that the holiday's most-visited destinations were the cultural hub of Siem Reap, the coastal provinces of Kampot and Preah Sihanouk, as well as Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Cham provinces.

Celebrated from 10 to 12 October, the Pchum Ben festival, also known as Ancestor's Day, stands as Cambodia's second-largest annual celebration, surpassed only by the Khmer New Year in April.

The holiday holds deep spiritual significance. On the occasion, Buddhist devotees visited pagodas nationwide to make offerings to monks, dedicating the merits to their deceased relatives and loved ones. — Xinhua

# Malaysia to remain open economy despite geopolitical tensions, says official

MALAYSIA will remain committed to keeping its economy open and maintaining its status as a trading nation despite ongoing geopolitical tensions fracturing the global economy, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Johari Abdul Ghani said on Tuesday.

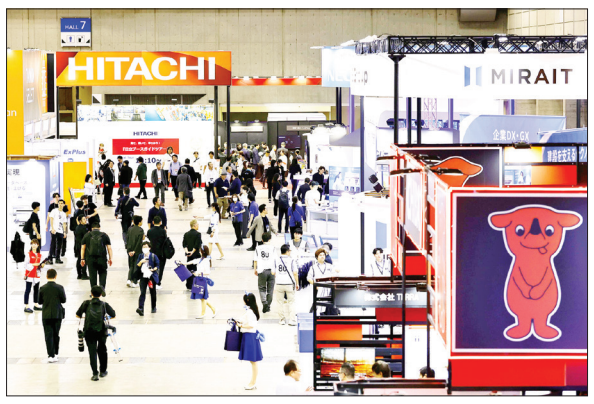
The global political and economic landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, with countries increasingly prioritizing the protection of domestic industries and strategic economic interests, often at the expense of global economic integration and the multilateral trading system, Johari said in his remarks at the EU-Malaysia Business Day 2026. — Xinhua

# Physical AI in spotlight at Japan's electronics show CEATEC

THE Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies 2026 opened on Tuesday at the Makuhari Messe convention centre in Chiba near Tokyo, with artificial intelligence-powered robots and machinery operating autonomously set to take the spotlight.

The major electronics show, which features 821 companies and organizations showcasing advanced AI technologies, opens as new AI models are being developed at a pace that top executives at tech heavyweights say should be slowed.

Mitsubishi Electric Corp and Hitachi Ltd are exhibiting technologies that use AI to operate robots and machinery more efficiently at manufacturing sites, while other exhibitors cover the disaster prevention and cybersecurity areas that are attracting growing interest.




The Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies 2026, a major electronics show, opens in Chiba Prefecture on 13 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The organizer, the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association, expects more than 110,000 visitors over the four-day event, held in tandem with a mobility show, through Friday.

The number of startups and university research institutions has risen to a record 246 from 232 last year, while the first-time exhibitors account for 41 per cent of the total participants.

For the Japan Mobility Show Bizweek 2026, a business-focused exhibition organized by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, automakers and other companies are showcasing technologies, including autonomous driving. — Kyodo

# Japan's wholesale prices rise 6.8% in Sept amid cost pressures

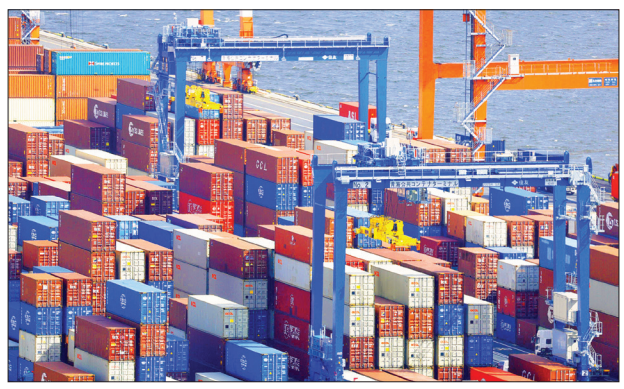
JAPAN'S wholesale prices in September rose 6.8 per cent from a year earlier amid persistent cost pressures, Bank of Japan data showed Tuesday.

The increase in prices of goods traded between companies slowed from 7.6 per cent in August, falling below seven per cent for the first time in four months but remaining unchanged from or higher than those in the first five months of 2026. The data came as the BOJ weighs the timing of an additional interest rate hike. The central bank has two policy meetings remaining this year, scheduled for 29-30 October and 17-18 December.

Import prices surged 24.5 per cent from a year earlier, while export prices rose 17.9 per cent.

By category, prices rose 40.2 per cent from a year earlier for nonferrous metals, 15.3 per cent for information and communications equipment, 12.8 per cent for plastic products and 11.5 per cent for petroleum and coal products.

Agricultural, forestry and fishery products showed a 13.3 per cent decline. "Prices rose from the previous month across a broad range of categories as companies continue to pass on higher raw material and component costs," a BOJ official said. "We will continue to monitor the effects of Middle East tensions, artificial intelligence demand, rising costs and government measures to curb inflation." — Kyodo



File photo taken in May 2026 shows shipping containers at Tokyo Port in the Japanese capital. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# Australia acts to reserve gas for home market as prices soar

ONE of the world's biggest gas exporters, Australia will introduce legislation to its parliament on Wednesday to force companies to reserve up to 20 per cent of gas production for local customers. The Middle East war has caused liquefied natural gas prices to soar globally, as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz disrupts supply.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labour government has said the reservation scheme will secure Australian gas for local homes and businesses at a fair price, in a significant structural economic reform. Resources Minister Madeleine King will outline the final form of the scheme in a speech in Canberra on Wednesday, after feedback from jittery gas companies and trade partners including China and Japan. — AFP

# New air route launched between China, Ethiopia

A China Southern Airlines flight landed in Ethiopia on Monday night, marking the successful inaugural flight of a new and only air route operated by a Chinese carrier between China and Ethiopia.

The flight, carrying over 200 passengers, was welcomed by a traditional water cannon salute when it arrived.

"We are a tourist group from Guangzhou, consisting of 20 people. We took the first flight of China Southern Airlines to Addis Ababa. We are quite excited, and it was also a memorable experience," said Zhu Binghong, a tour group leader.

The tour group will stay in Ethiopia for nine days to explore the capital and the tribes in Southern Ethiopia, according to Zhu.



A flight operated by China Southern Airlines is welcomed by a traditional water cannon salute at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, on 12 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The passenger flight is operated twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays, connecting the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou and Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, via the central Chinese city of Changsha.

As China-Africa economic and trade cooperation and personnel exchanges continue to grow, China Southern Airlines said that it will continuously explore intercontinental routes and expand air links between China and Africa to promote connectivity between the two sides. — Xinhua

# Lao PM pushes for infrastructure upgrades to fuel national

LAO Prime Minister Saleumxay Kommasith has called on the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to prioritize essential infrastructure construction and repairs, particularly strategic roads and key public services, to support national development.

Speaking at a meeting with the ministry on Tuesday, Saleumxay called for a nationwide assessment of strategic routes and connecting roads to evaluate their condition and compliance with standards. He said construction and repairs should be prioritized and carried out in phases based on available resources and actual needs. — Xinhua

# Trade deal with US, Canada still in effect: Mexican president

THE United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) remains valid and in effect, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Monday, emphasizing that reviewing the trade pact does not mean ending or dismantling it.

In response to US President Donald Trump's repeated suggestions that the deal could be scrapped or replaced, Sheinbaum explained that the agreement is undergoing a periodic review as required by the USMCA.

Under the USMCA, a review six years after the agreement took effect assesses its operation, considers any changes that may be needed, and determines whether all three parties agree to extend it for another 16 years.

Sheinbaum said that Mexico and Canada had requested a 16-year extension, while the United States had proposed maintaining a 10-year framework with annual reviews. — Xinhua

# BP slashes debt thanks to high oil prices

BRITISH energy giant BP reported Tuesday that it had slashed its debt pile as the US-Iran war pushes up oil and gas prices.

In a trading update ahead of its third-quarter earnings later this month, BP also announced higher refining margins but said it would take a sizeable write-down on its clean energy operations.

The company, which before the start of the Middle East conflict began pivoting back to its core oil and gas business, added that it would set out a new strategy in December.



A motorist purchases gasoline at a BP station on 29 April 2026 in Chicago, Illinois. **PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / AFP**

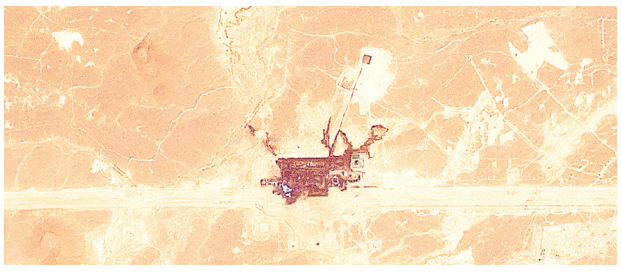
BP said net debt at the end of the third quarter was expected to be $13.5 to $14.5 billion, down from $22.3 billion in the second quarter. It had previously targeted a debt reduction to between $14 billion to $18 billion by the end of next year.

BP added in its update that it would write down the value of its clean energy businesses by a further $3.0 billion to $4.5 billion.

The group's share price gained 1.3 per cent in early London trading following the update. — AFP

# Saudi Arabia plans to expand East-West pipeline daily capacity to 10M barrels: minister

SAUDI Arabia plans to raise its East-West Pipeline's throughput capacity to around 10 million barrels per day in the coming years, Saudi Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz said Monday.



This handout satellite image taken by Planet Labs PBC on 11 September 2026 shows a general view of an infrastructure site after it was damaged by fire southeast of Medina along the general route of Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline (Petroline). **PHOTO: AFP**

Abdulaziz made the remarks during a ministerial dialogue at the 25th World Petroleum Council Energy Congress in Riyadh, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Abdulaziz said development plans were under consideration to upgrade pumping stations, transmission pipelines, and the gas system to further expand the pipeline's throughput capacity.

He said the current energy crisis had exposed vulnerabilities in supply chains, stressing that developing alternative transport routes and preparing for potential supply disruptions were essential for energy security. — Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (369W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (369W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES
## WORLD

# El Nino Watch: the impacts around the world this week

FOOD security concerns, wildfires and power warnings are among the impacts around the world this week from an exceptionally strong El Nino weather cycle.

Here is a look at how this year's phenomenon, in which a warmer sea surface shifts global weather patterns, has been affecting people globally:



The sunset is visible through the smoke from forest fires in the Amazon rainforest, along Highway AM-254, near the city of Autazes, in the state of Amazonas, northern Brazil, on 9 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

### Indonesia and Amazon fires, orangutans rescued

El Nino is associated with strong drought in Indonesia, where tracts of forest and plantations have been burning in biodiverse Borneo and the South Sumatra region for months.

The fires have caused a regional haze crisis, with Malaysia last week closing schools in several regions and Singapore announcing subsidies for people seeking medical treatment for haze-linked illness.

Malaysia has called for a meeting of regional body ASEAN to discuss the haze, and offered firefighting assistance.

Experts say years of deforestation and peatland drainage in Indonesia have made it more vulnerable to fires during dry periods.

The fires have sickened tens of thousands of people, while conservationists have rescued dozens of orangutans trapped by smoke and flames, including Novita, a female found clinging to a treetop with burns on her hands and feet.

"She had to leave her habitat, and we had to rescue her, primarily because of the flames," said Andi Muhammad Khadafi, head of the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency. — AFP

# AI cuts wildlife monitoring workload for Indigenous rangers in Australia: study

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) has reduced image-processing workloads for Indigenous rangers in northern Australia by 81.4 per cent, according to recent research.

Researchers explored the use of AI in Indigenous-led community-based wildlife monitoring in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area in West Arnhem, Northern Territory, according to a statement released Tuesday by Australia's Charles Darwin University (CDU).

The programme uses camera traps to monitor animals of cultural and conservation concern and involves Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers in land management.

Researchers from Warddeken Land Management, CDU and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia's national science agency, applied the AI animal-detection model MegaDetector to 1,572 hours of data collected by rangers. The technology reduced the number of images requiring analysis from 925,088 to 172,290, cutting processing time from six months to two months. — Xinhua

# 8 injured after stabbing rampage at S Korea's commercial complex

EIGHT people were injured on Tuesday after a male suspect went on a stabbing rampage inside a commercial complex housing a discount outlet in South Korea's western port city of Incheon, according to Yonhap news agency. An emergency call was received around 1:49 pm local time, reporting the stabbing incident.

The suspect, presumed to be in his 60s, was arrested for allegedly slashing shoppers and visitors.

Among the eight victims, one was in cardiac arrest while the other seven were rushed to nearby hospitals.

The suspect allegedly wielded weapons while moving on escalators from the second basement floor, where the discount store is located, up to the second floor, before being subdued by other visitors at the scene. — Xinhua

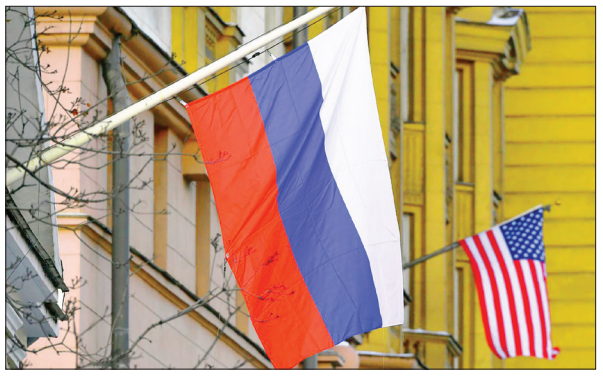


News coverage showing file footage of a North Korean missile launch is seen on a screen at Seoul Station in Seoul on 12 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Russia-US diesel fuel deal meets interests of both countries – Kremlin

THE agreement between Moscow and Washington on diesel fuel meets the interests of the United States, global energy markets and Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

"In fact, this is a very mutually beneficial element of Russian-US cooperation. And this is in the interests of the United States, it is in the interests of global energy markets and in the interests of Russia, so this is happening," Peskov told reporters.



Flags of Russia and United States at the American Embassy in Moscow. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

The Kremlin sees no direct link between the US decision on Russian diesel fuel and Russia's position on negotiations on Ukraine, Peskov added.

European countries, like all other countries of the world, are active buyers of Russian oil, Peskov said.

The EU's intention to impose sanctions against Russia in response to the US decision on diesel fuel imports may interfere with the agreement between the two countries, Peskov said. — SPUTNIK

# DPRK confirms test-firing of tactical ballistic missile

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) confirmed on Tuesday it test-fired a tactical ballistic missile a day earlier.

The test-launch was designed to verify what it called "the success in the research for the technical upgrading of an important core element", the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The KCNA report calls Monday's test event part of the regular activities "to put weapon systems on a highly-developed technological basis".

The technical upgrading of the core element is a success "heralding an important change in improving the performance and sophistication of all offensive weapon systems", it said. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Myanmar to compete in 5th Asian Para Games



The Myanmar para-athletes are pictured prior to the departure for Japan.

MYANMAR will compete in the 5th Asian Para Games, scheduled to take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 24 October 2026.

Myanmar athletes will participate in three of the 18 sports featured at the Games – para-athletics, para swimming and para Taekwondo.

The Myanmar delegation, led by Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who is President of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, departed Yangon by air yesterday evening to compete in the Games. Officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, along with executives and officials of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, saw off the delegation at Yangon International Airport.

The 5th Asian Para Games will feature more than 490 events across 18 sports, with over 3,000 athletes from 45 Asian countries expected to participate. — Bala/KZL

## M League II 2026-27 season kicks off on 15 Oct



Officials and representatives of participating clubs attend the introduction ceremony and press conference for the M League II 2026-27 season.

THE M League II 2026-27 season will kick off on 15 October, Myanmar League Committee Chairman U Zaw Min Thein has announced.

He announced this at a press conference and participating clubs' introduction ceremony for the M League II 2026–27 season, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar League Committee at Mercure Yangon Kaba Aye in Yangon on 12 October.

For the new season, financial support for each participating club has increased from K3 million to K5 million. The AYA Pay Player of the Match award has also risen from K200,000 to K500,000.

In addition, the prize money for the season's Best Player award has increased from K1 million to K3 million. U Zaw Min Thein urged the clubs to compete fairly and to the best of their ability, noting that the increased prize money was intended to raise the standard of the competition and make it more competitive.

He also encouraged clubs to generate income through social media platforms and strengthen support from fans in their respective regions to help cover team expenses.

Ten teams will compete in the M League II 2026-27 season: Rakhine United FC, Yamanya United FC, University FC, Manaw FC, Royal Dagon FC, Enjoy Brother FC, VUE Nay Pyi Taw FC, Elite Kings FC, Asia Lion FC and Junior Lions FC.

Matches will be held at YUSC Stadium, University Stadium and Padonma Stadium in Yangon from 15 October 2026, with the season scheduled to conclude in March 2027. — TWA/KZL

## Netflix wins Spain TV rights for 2030 World Cup

STREAMING platform Netflix will show every match of the 2030 World Cup to audiences in Spain and Andorra, the entertainment giants announced Tuesday.

"(We) will offer all 104 matches of the world's biggest football competition live," Netflix said in a statement.

Spain, the reigning champions, will co-host the 2030 World Cup with Portugal and Morocco, while Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay will also hold matches to celebrate the tournament's centenary.

"As part of the agreement, one game per match-day will be available to watch for free in Spain," said Netflix in a statement.

A national free-to-air television channel will also show all of Spain's games and the final among other matches, the streaming platform confirmed.

The deal reinforces Netflix's approach to competing with traditional broadcasters to show live sporting events. It is the first time the subscription-based platform will be able to show the men's World Cup. Netflix holds the rights in the United States and Canada to show the 2027 and 2031 editions of the women's World Cup. — AFP

## Coach Kovac extends contract at Dortmund until 2029

BORUSSIA Dortmund on Tuesday announced a two-year extension to coach Niko Kovac's deal, keeping the 54-year-old at the club until 2029.

Kovac's new deal was considered a mere formality, given the stabilizing effect he has had since arriving last year.

Former Croatia midfielder Kovac won the double with Bayern Munich but was considered an underwhelming appointment when he took over at Dortmund, particularly after a poor stint at Wolfsburg.

But he has revived his reputation at the Westfalenstadion.

Kovac took Dortmund on an unlikely run from mid-table to fourth spot and a crucial Champions League place after taking over midway through the 2024/25 season, before leading them to a runner-up finish last campaign.

In 53 Bundesliga games, Kovac is averaging 2.15 points per match, better than any previous coach at the eight-time German champions. — AFP

## Ayeyawady signs 2 Japanese players


A Japanese player.
**PHOTO: AWFC**

MYANMAR women's club Ayeyawady have signed new foreign players to strengthen their squad for the 2026-27 AFC Women's Champions League and the second round of the Myanmar Women's League.

Following the first round of the Myanmar Women's League and the AFC Women's Champions League qualifiers, some foreign players left the club, while Myanmar national team striker May Htet Lu's contract expired, prompting Ayeyawady to recruit new players.

The club have signed Japanese defender Iwashita and midfielder Miyamoto. Miyamoto began her career in university-level competitions before turning professional with Japanese top-flight women's club Albirex Niigata and later joining Ayeyawady.

Defender Iwashita played professionally for Japanese women's club Nagano from 2022 to 2025 before joining Thai club BGC-CAS in the middle of this year. She has now moved to Ayeyawady.

The second round of the Myanmar Women's League will begin on 19 October, while the AFC Women's Champions' League group-stage matches are scheduled to take place from 1 to 7 November. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

# WORLD

## Indonesia wildfire burns homes, displaces hundreds

A forest fire on Indonesia's Sumatra island has razed nearly 300 homes, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate, an official said Tuesday, as the country battles devastating blazes and haze.

Residents first spotted the fire approaching their village in the Bangka Belitung province on Saturday and tried to put it out themselves with portable water pumps, mayor Riza Herdavid told reporters. "They thought it was taken care of. But it's peatland, and there was still a fire smouldering underneath. So, when they assumed it was over, the wind shifted and quickly drove the fire towards the settlement."

The local disaster agency said nearly 1,000 people fled the village.

"My house is gone," Leni, a 55-year-old villager now staying at a shelter with her family, told AFP. "There's nothing left. I could only save myself and take my kids with me... I panicked and didn't have the time to grab anything," said Leni, who like many Indonesians has one name.

Another survivor, Haryanti, said strong winds had fuelled the flames, which ravaged homes made mostly of wood. "I immediately ran to save myself. None of my belongings survived... only the clothes on my back," the 50-year-old homemaker told AFP. — AFP



A child and mother wearing face masks look on from a bridge amid thick haze from forest and land fires in the region in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, on 12 October 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Trump says he may meet top DPRK leader during Asia trip next month

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he may meet with Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, during his trip to Asia in November.

Asked by reporters at the White House whether he planned to meet Kim during the trip, Trump replied, "I may."

"That'll be exciting, won't it? But I get along with him," the president added.

Trump has expressed his intention to attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in China next month.

In August, Trump suggested that he expected to meet Kim sometime this year. — Xinhua

## IMF edges up 2026 global growth forecast to 3.1% as Mideast conflict, AI boom split world economy




A press briefing on the World Economic Outlook of International Monetary Fund (IMF) is held in Bangkok, Thailand on 13 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday nudged its 2026 global growth forecast to 3.1 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point from its July projection, as economies lifted by the artificial intelligence (AI) investment boom offset those hurt by the Middle East conflict.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, titled "Resilience Under Strain, Urgent Choices," the IMF projected global growth slowing from 3.5 per cent in 2025 to 3.1 per cent in 2026 before recovering to 3.4 per cent in 2027. The 2027 figure is unchanged from the July forecast and 0.2 percentage points higher than the April forecast.

The IMF said growth is becoming more concentrated. Just 32 economies now account for 95 per cent of global growth, down from 54 in April. Roughly 47 per cent of economies had their forecasts downgraded.

The fund described the world economy as neither simply slowing nor accelerating but having growth reallocated according to each country's exposure to the war-driven energy shock and to AI-related demand.

The strongest performers combine limited energy vulnerability with deep ties to the AI hardware supply chain. By contrast, energy importers with little connection to the technology cycle, including many low-income countries, face the hardest mix of higher import bills, weaker currencies, and falling real incomes. — Xinhua

## China-ASEAN entering new phase of digital economic cooperation, says scholar




China and ASEAN sign Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 October 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA and ASEAN have inaugurated a transformative phase of regional economic cooperation anchored in digital innovation, financial integration, and technological capacity building, as key agreements begin to take effect, according to a Malaysian scholar.

The fruition of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area Version 3.0 and the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement is setting the institutional foundation for a digital economy in South-East Asia projected to reach US$2 trillion by 2030, Ong Tee Keat, president of the Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia-Pacific, told a recent forum.

Ong pointed out that the evolution of the Belt and Road Initiative into a high-quality, sustainable phase requires strong digital and financial integration alongside physical infrastructure, while local currency settlements, bilateral currency swap networks, and interoperable digital payment systems have proven their value in insulating cross-border trade from external shocks.

Highlighting China's AI Plus International Cooperation Initiative and mechanisms such as the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, Ong noted that these platforms offer practical pathways for open technology transfers and equitable artificial intelligence governance.

The true measure of regional resilience lies not in how swiftly the most advanced economies leap ahead, but in our collective ability to uplift the most vulnerable, Ong said, adding that the enduring China-ASEAN partnership offers a proven template for regional economic synergy and shared prosperity. — Xinhua