

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

PTTEP, MOGE to jointly explore, drill Mottama offshore gas blocks

PTTEP International and the Ministry of Energy (MOE) will soon sign agreements to launch new offshore projects.



Offshore natural gas field off the Mottama coast.

AT the offshore natural gas blocks M 5 and M 6, located off the coast of Mottama, Thailand’s state-owned oil and energy company, PTTEP International, will jointly conduct oil and natural gas exploration and drilling operations in collaboration with the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE).
The drilling operations at the offshore natural gas Blocks M 5 and M 6 are sched-

uled to take place from 1 November this year until 30 March 2027. It is also reported that navigation warnings have been issued for vessels within a four-kilometre radius of the designated drilling areas and locations.
Furthermore, PTTEP is set to carry out the installation of four new platforms and underwater pipeline connection works at the offshore block M 9, also located off

the Mottama coast.
PTTEP International Limited and the Ministry of Energy (MOE) will soon sign the necessary agreements to enable the implementation of new offshore projects. Meanwhile, PTTEP and the MOE will continue joint exploration and drilling operations for new wells within the Yadana and Zawtika project areas, where both parties are already collaborating. — ASH/KN

OPINION

Seek the best knowledge reliable for life

PAGE 8

NATIONAL **PAGE 3**



MoD Union Minister discusses job opportunities for discharged servicemen

NATIONAL **PAGE 4**



Myanmar delegation visits Chinese fuel plant, coal-fired power plant

BUSINESS **PAGE 7**



MTPO discusses exportation of 200 tonnes of frozen avocado to India this season

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission



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

Fragments of Light art show to be held at 1977 Restaurant & Lounge, Nay Pyi Taw

A group art exhibition titled "Fragments of Light Fine Art & Diamond Exhibition" will be held at the 1977 Restaurant & Lounge in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 25 and 26 October. The event is jointly organized by Sar

Ga Gallery and 1977 Restaurant & Lounge.

The exhibition will showcase diverse works by artistes Aung Ko, Aye Min, Ba Khine, CNK, Min Zayar Oo, Myat Co, Myat Kyawt, and Pyae Sone Kywe, featuring pieces

created with various media, including acrylic, oil, and mixed techniques. Paintings of different sizes, such as 24 into 24 inches, 36 into 24 inches, 18 into 24 inches, and 18 into 18 inches, will be on display. — ASH/KZL



Group Art Exhibition Catalogue titled Fragments of Light Fine Art & Diamond Exhibition.



2024 Population and Housing Census



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

Russian delegation visits Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Site



This photo shows the Russian delegation visiting the National Museum yesterday.

THE Russian delegation led by Ms Anna Sergeevna Vinnikova, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation, visited the Bagan ancient cultural site yesterday.

During the visit, the Deputy Minister and her team, along with ministers and officials from the Mandalay Region Government and officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

They arrived at the Archaeological Museum in the old city of Bagan, where the Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) explained the museum, and the Russian delegation asked questions.

Then, they visited the Ananda Temple in Old Bagan, the Myazedi Pagoda in Myinkaba Village, the Shwezigon Pagoda, the Rajakumar stone inscription, the mural paintings in the Myinkaba Gu Pyauk Gyi Pagoda, and the Nan Myint Tower.

Afterwards, they visited the U Ba Nyein Lacquerware Industry and Lacquer Shop in the New Bagan area to see the Myanmar traditional lacquerware and took documentary photos of the Bagan sunset view at Htilominlo Pagoda. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

MoD Union Minister discusses job opportunities for discharged servicemen

UNION Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, who is also chairman of the Employment Management Committee on Former Military Personnel, presided over the second coordination meeting of the committee at the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the intention of the formation of the management committee, and also the formation of five working committees to implement the eight objectives of the committee.

He continued that according to the objectives of the committee, industrial and technical training will be provided to the permanent military personnel and people's military servants at the vocational schools, and the



Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye presides over the second coordination meeting of the Employment Management Committee on Former Military Personnel yesterday.

Certificate of Recognition will be granted to those who complete the training. Depending on the types of vocational course, the certificates will be recognized by government departments, companies, and private enterprises to facilitate job placement. The Ministry of Labour will issue

domestic labour cards to permanent service personnel and people's military servants, and Overseas Worker Identification Cards (OWIC) for those seeking employment abroad. The committee will also cooperate with the Ministry of Labour to connect with agencies to help provide employment opportunities. For the people's military servants who have completed their service, arrangements will also be made for them to return to their original workplaces or positions at the government departments, companies, private businesses, or organizations where they worked before serving.

The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Union Minister receives delegation led by new UN RC/HC ad interim

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung received a delegation led by Ms Gwyn Lewis, the United Nations Interim Resident Coordinator and ad interim Humanitarian Coordinator (UNRCO) for Myanmar, yesterday morning at Office 1 of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

They exchanged views and discussed matters relating to the cooperation between the government entities and UN agencies for the more ef-

fective and efficient implementation of the UN's projects in Myanmar.

Furthermore, alongside the cooperative activities being undertaken by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Union Minister, acting as the International Cooperation Working Committee under the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, which was formed for earthquake recovery work, proposed and negotiated with the new United Nations Resident Coordinator and

Humanitarian Coordinator (UNRCO) a.i. to include the government's priority projects for earthquake response and recovery into the UN's ongoing work plans.

The meeting was attended by the Director General of the Union Minister's Office, the Deputy Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and representatives from the UNRCO Myanmar office. — MIFER



The new UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator calls on Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung yesterday.

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation visits Chinese fuel plant, coal-fired power plant

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin visited the quality fuel plant and coal-fired power plant in Huzhou of China, yesterday.

On arrival at the fuel plant, the Union minister and party observed the construction of crude oil and finished product storage tanks, the implementation of safety and environmental protection measures, the upgrading of low-quality fuel to RON 92, RON 95, and RON 98, digital control system for the entire production processes, testing of the refined fuel in laboratories and monitoring and control processes of transport of raw materials to the factory and distribution of finished products from the Control Station.

During the tour, the Union minister discussed with the chairman of the company



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin-led Myanmar delegation is pictured during their observation tours in China.

regarding the use of the digital system in the control system, the upgrade of the laboratory, sending of Myanmar staff to the Chinese factories, cooperation

in upgrading the RON 68 of the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar and willingness to conduct occupational training courses.

The company will send a

group to the Myanmar oil refinery soon to conduct a feasibility study and negotiate the bilateral cooperation.

The Myanmar delegates

then visited the coal-fired power plant and studied the measures to ensure the quality and continuous supply of coal, which is the main raw material used in coal-fired power generation, and the use of advanced technologies, such as Clean Coal Technology (CCT) not to have no impact on the environment.

The Union minister stated that since Myanmar has its own coal resources, if electricity can be generated from coal, the people will be able to access electricity at more affordable prices. Myanmar is striving to meet global climate commitments like other countries. He also invited to make an investment in Myanmar, and expressed willingness to cooperate in the transfer of advanced technologies and training courses for Human Resources development. — MNA/KTZH

MoIP Union Minister meets UN RC/HC



The UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Ms Gwyn Lewis, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim for Myanmar, and her delegation yesterday morning at the reception hall of the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed the Ministry's ongoing

arrangements to facilitate entry visas and stay permits for UN agencies operating in Myanmar, the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) being implemented between the Ministry, UNDP, and UNHCR to carry out the repatriation process for displaced persons from Rakhine State, and the temporary residence permission in Yangon granted to UN and INGO staff members

and their families from Rakhine State, in line with the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO).

They also exchanged views openly and cordially on the continued collaboration between the Ministry and various UN agencies, including UNFPA, which has long been cooperating with the Ministry on population and development activities, and on prospects for enhanced cooperation with other UN organisations operating in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing, Permanent Secretary U Min Hein, Director-General of the Department of Immigration U Ye Tun Oo, and other responsible officials. — MNA/MKKS

Union Legal Affairs Minister meets ICRC delegation

UNION Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo received Mr Arnaud De Baeque, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Myanmar, and Ms Samindika Dilani Elkaduwe, Legal Coordinator at the ministry's meeting hall yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the translation of the Geneva Conventions from English into the Myanmar language, technical and legal review matters, plans to hold a workshop on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in cooperation with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Office of the Judge Advocate-General and relevant departments, and

other legal topics.

The deputy minister, deputy attorney-general, deputy advocate-general and officials from the Ministry of Legal Affairs also attended the meeting.

In the afternoon, the Union minister, together with Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint and officials, attended a coordination meeting on the Construction Development Law (draft) at the ministry's meeting hall.

The draft law is reportedly being discussed as a necessary legal framework based on lessons learned from the 2025 Mandalay earthquake and the current situation. — MNA/KZL

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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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.

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



Three balloon companies offer hot-air balloon services in Bagan

IN the global tourism industry, hot air balloon service has been introduced, and travelers around the world have increasingly come to prefer enjoying the beauty of nature from the sky. In Myanmar, during the open season, visitors will be able to ride hot air balloons to observe and explore the natural beauty of the Bagan cultural zone, and three balloon companies will provide service during this year’s travel season, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

During this year’s travel season, both local and foreign visitors will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Bagan region from above by taking hot air balloon rides operated by Balloons Over Bagan, Oriental Ballooning Myanmar, and STT Ballooning. Balloons Over Bagan has already begun its operation on 18 October and will continue offering services until April 2026. Oriental Ballooning Myanmar will start flying on 18 November until March 2026, while STT Ballooning will begin

operations in the first week of November and continue until February 2026.

Each of the three companies will offer services at a rate of US\$170–175 per person (approximately K 3,800–3,900 per dollar). At present, Balloons Over Bagan, which is operating two balloons this month, has already received over 600 bookings from both local and foreign travellers for this season.

“Bagan cultural zone is well-known around the world. What makes it even more famous is that, during the dry season, visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of Bagan from the sky through these hot air balloon rides. We expect a significant arrival of both local and international travellers as Bagan is such a charming and globally competitive destination. Starting from the third week of this month, visitors have already begun enjoying the scenic aerial views of Bagan. We also expect more tourists during the Tazaungdine holidays, like the



An aerial view of the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTOS: BOB**

Thadingyut holidays. Especially during this period, it is more likely to see many foreign travellers visiting here. Currently, among the three balloon companies, one is already providing services to both local and foreign tourists this open season,” said Daw San San Myint, assistant director of the directorate.

The hot air balloon was first invented in 1782, and in Myanmar,

U Kyaw Yin was the first person to ride a balloon in 1929. As the global tourism industry developed, hot air ballooning replaced traditional balloons, becoming a popular way to appreciate the world’s natural beauty. Travellers from China, Japan, the US, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Korea are especially fond of such experiences.

In the Bagan Ancient Cultur-

al Heritage Zone, which covers 19 square miles, there are 3,822 temples, stupas, and pagodas. Tourists particularly enjoy viewing these golden monuments from the sky at sunrise, sunset, and during the cool winter mornings, when the Ayeyawady River, misty fields, and green landscapes decorated with natural beauty offer a breathtaking aerial experience.

— Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



NATIONAL

14th Myanmar-China meeting on anti-human trafficking held



The 14th Myanmar-China Bilateral Meeting on Cooperation in Combatting Trafficking in Persons held at the Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon under the leadership of Officialing Police Brig-Gen Zaw San, Commander of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force.

THE 14th Myanmar-China meeting on Cooperation in Combatting Trafficking in Persons was held at the Parkroyal Hotel, Yangon, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by representatives led by Officialing Police Brig-Gen Zaw San, Commander of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force, and representatives led by Director Mr Wang Yong Can from the Anti-Human Trafficking Department of the Criminal Investigation Police Force under the Ministry of Public Security, the People's Republic of China.

The meeting aims to effectively cooperate in investigating

and detecting human trafficking, assisting and rescuing victims of human trafficking, assisting in the investigation and arrest of traffickers, and conducting information exchange on human trafficking. The meeting discussed the situation of cross-border human trafficking and the changing patterns of human trafficking, cooperation in investigating human trafficking, rescuing victims of human trafficking and arresting perpetrators, information exchange between the two countries and the ways to reduce illegal entry/exit and human trafficking between the two countries. — MNA/MKKS

Over 1,000 rare yellow-breasted buntings spotted at Kyonkapyin-Tapseik Reserve

MORE than 1,000 world's rarest yellow-breasted bunting birds have been recorded in the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik Wildlife Conservation Area, said the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik Wildlife Conservation Group (KTCG).

On 11 October 2024, more than 300 yellow-breasted bunting birds, a rare and listed endangered species, were recorded in the area, and on 18 October 2025, more than a thousand birds were initially recorded.

Due to the abundance of food, good habitat and the joint conservation efforts of locals and surrounding villages, the arrival of this world's rarest bird species has been observed more every year. The KTCG has been conducting regular censuses and co-conservation of habitats in collaboration with locals and scholars from their arrival until their return to their breeding grounds, as well as distributing conservation awareness posters every year.

The group was able to record the species for the seventh year in a row, and this is the eighth year.

The presence of rare species of birds, such as the yellow-breasted bunting, in the sanctuary shows that the habitat and valuable biodiversity are being well preserved. — MT/ZN



Residents and experts are cataloguing migrating yellow-breasted bunting birds.

Pyay Writers' Association holds respect-paying ceremony for veteran writers

THE Pyay Township Writers' Association held a homage-paying ceremony for veteran writers along with a donation event for association members at the Dhamma Hall of Yan Aung Mingalakin Pagoda in Pyay at 9 am on 23 October.

At the ceremony, Dr Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin – Pyay), Chair of the Pyay Township Writers' Association, delivered the opening remarks, after which three veteran writers were honoured by association members.

Dr Yin Wai Lwin also donated K1 million to support the construction of a new library named La Yaung Lan in Thitchopin Village, Wethteegan, and the donation was received by the library in charge, U Aung Thit (Hnaung Thit Cho), who expressed his gratitude.

In addition, rice, oil, salt, and onions were donated to 30 members of the association by Dr Yin Wai Lwin and executive member Daw Khin Hninzi Shwe. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KZL



72 more Myanmar migrant workers receive OWIC and overseas training

THE Safe Migration under the Ministry of Labour announced on 22 October that a further 72 Myanmar women workers who are going to work in Japan under the management of employment agencies have been allowed to attend the overseas job training course and apply Overseas Worker Identification Card.

The workers will have to attend the job training on 23 October and apply OWIC on 24



Myanmar migrant workers who are going to Japan under the management of employment agencies.

October, and they will need to resubmit if they are unable to do so by the prescribed schedule, it said.

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

True patriots with heroic spirit can sacrifice life and limb for nation and people

❖ Sacrificing one’s life and limbs for the sake of the country, the people, and the sovereignty of the nation is an act that only those with a truly patriotic and heroic spirit can carry out.

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

MTPO discusses exportation of 200 tonnes of frozen avocado to India this season

THE second work coordination meeting on collaboration in value-added production of avocado between Myanmar and India was held under the hybrid system on 22 October 2025 at the MyanTrade’s meeting hall, with Director-General of the Myan Trade and official concerned from the Trade Department, the Agriculture Department, Food and Drug Administration Department, Myanmar Economic Counsellors in Kolkata and New Delhi, representatives from Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association, Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association, and International Federation of Business Intellectuals and Changemakers (IFBIC) attending the meeting.

Dr Htein Lin, Director-General of the Myan Trade, gave an opening remark at the meeting. He addressed sending a sample to India from the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association regarding the exportation of 200 tonnes of frozen avocado to India, request-



This image displays the avocados for exportation.

ing India to provide necessary assistance to facilitate avocado export and inviting India to invest in the construction of a new avocado processing factory in Myanmar.

Last 14 August, a virtual meeting was held to discuss matters regarding reporting the quality of avocado produced by Myanmar and avocado output to India and Public-Private Partnership investments in av-

ocado value-added production in Myanmar.

There is an abundant harvest of avocados starting from September. Beyond self-sufficiency, avocado varieties such as Hass, Buccaneer, and Amaya are being exported to international markets.

There are about 20,000 growing acres of Hass avocado in the country. Last year’s avocado output was estimated

at 3,000 tonnes. The yield is expected to increase this year.

Moreover, the Department of Agriculture and the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO) are joining hands to seek registration with the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) for legitimate export to China.

On 19 July 2025, the Agriculture Department (southern

Shan State) held a workshop for avocado growers on raising awareness of customs inspection and safety regulations of the GACC, in cooperation with the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO).

Farmer owners need to cooperate in testing six common insects to export avocado to China, said U Kyaw Soe Min, secretary of the MAVO.

MAVO’s chair set up a farmer public company, eyeing Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand for avocado export this season. The association will help expedite imports of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and pesticide, along with member growers.

The head of the Shan State Department of Agriculture also elaborated on annual avocado export, avocado import conditions of potential markets such as China, India, Russia and Middle East countries and Myanmar avocado quality requirements in line with the European Standard. — NN/KK

CBM sells \$2.6 mln to edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over US\$2.66 million purchased from the CMP companies into the edible oil import sector on 22 October 2025.

CBM announced on 21 October that it would inject \$30 million into the fuel oil sector.

CBM also sold over \$1.7 million to edible oil-importing companies on that day, in addition to sales of 753,600 yuan.

CBM sold \$587,750 to edible oil importing companies, in addition to an injection of over 259,190 yuan into the

market.

CBM sold \$893,300 to edible oil importing companies and over \$396,500 to fuel oil importing companies on 16 October, in addition to an injection of 300,000 yuan.

CBM pumped over US\$39 million purchased from CMP companies into the market in September 2025. Moreover, CBM also injected over \$680,000, 6.2 million yuan and 300,000 baht into the market through FX Market online trading platform last month. CBM aims to curb the insta-

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

FDA warns against use of formalin in food

THE Food and Drug Administration Department under the Ministry of Health will take strong action against use of formalin in food.

The FDA notified food producers, distributors and sellers of the ban on the use of formalin in food. Failure to do so will result in legal action under Section 28 (a) of the National Food Law, FDA warned.

The FDA is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of food for the people.

FDA totally denies the use of formalin in food such as tofu, rice noodles, to lengthen the shelf life since exposure to formalin can cause short-term effects like eye, nose, throat, skin irritation, nausea, headache, vomiting, stomachache and respiratory problems. Severe exposure can lead to life-threatening conditions like cirrhosis of the liver, kidney disease, gastrointestinal problems and cancer in addition to adverse effects on pregnancy and fetus. — NN/KK

Seek the best knowledge reliable for life

IN THIS world, everyone should strive to become a useful and valuable person. In addition, one must live honestly, behave properly, speak truthfully, and possess a desire to work. Those who understand the dignity and value of work are neither ashamed nor afraid to work, and therefore, there are many employment opportunities.

One must train oneself to speak and interact pleasantly and courteously. To be able to communicate and behave politely and gracefully, both in thought and action, it is necessary to possess correct thinking and knowledge.

Therefore, to achieve success in life, one must strive to gain broad and profound knowledge. A knowledgeable person can analyze and act wisely in various situations, enabling them to achieve greater success and prosperity than others.

Everyone must clearly understand that the best time in life is the present moment. A person who can carry out tasks immediately without delay is someone who has taken the first step toward progress. The prosperity that every human being desires does not come automatically. It is achieved only through continuous effort, step-by-step learning, and significant investment of time, energy, and relationships.

Today's era is far more advanced in knowledge and skills than in the past, offering many choices for learning. If one studies a skill that best suits them, it can become a dependable means of livelihood. Therefore, when pursuing a field of study, only those who endure hardship, persist through challenges, and face difficulties with patience will be able to achieve success and reap the rewards of their efforts.

In learning any skill or field of knowledge, one must possess diligence, perseverance, determination, and effort. In seeking and acquiring knowledge, one should study earnestly and patiently under a teacher who is most suitable and reliable. Once a person masters a subject that initially seemed difficult, the satisfaction and sweetness of that achievement cannot be compared with anything else. Through that very knowledge, one can build and advance their life.

A learner must be free from boredom. They should seek out and read all relevant books on their field of study. Reading alone is not enough; one must be able to analyze and examine the subject in depth. Continuous research and inquiry, guided by broader insights and experiences, are necessary to improve and advance one's skills. Only through such diligent study can a learner achieve greater success and progress compared to others. Furthermore, one should also have the ability to pass on knowledge to future generations.

THE writer Shwe U Daung (real name U Pe Thein) (24 October 1889-10 August 1973) is a contemporary literary figure of great significance. The 24th of October 2025 is the 136th birth anniversary of Sayagyi Shwe U Daung.

Among many of the literary genres Shwe U Daung produced is his skilful adaptation of Sherlock Holmes' detective stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (22 May 1859-7 July 1930) (hereafter occasionally referred to as CD)

Ninety-five years ago, on 8 July 1930, *The New York Times* (*NY Times*) published an obituary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The *NY Times* obituary mentioned Sherlock Holmes as well as the statement that Sir Arthur was 'tired of hearing about his celebrated character Sherlock Holmes'. Still, since 1887, when his first Sherlock Holmes novel *A Study in Scarlet* was published, up to now, about five generations of at least millions of readers throughout the world continue to read and enjoy reading CD's 'stories' featuring Sherlock Holmes.

Conan Doyle's 'spiritism' and communication with the dead: a few juxtapositions

In the later parts of his life, Sir Arthur was preoccupied, almost obsessed with what is called 'spiritism' and his efforts to -indeed claims of - communicating with the dead. The *NY Times* obituary mentioned that CD had 'for the past few years .. devoted virtually all his time to the propagation of spiritism', Conan Doyle claimed 'to have had conversations with the spirits of many great men, including Cecil Rhodes, Earl Haig, Joseph Conrad and others'.

The 'whistling Nat spirit' and the whereabouts of the spirit of Abraham Lincoln

I might add that such claims of communicating with the dead can be found in many different cultures. In mid-1886, together with a cousin of mine and a niece, I attended a 'communicate with the dead' session conducted in a place near Prome (now Pyay). The séance or medium was a woman. For a fee, the séance communicated through *whistles* with the 'spirit' 'whistling *Nat* (spirit)'. The communication was through layers or stages, so to speak. First, the deceased's relatives had to verbally give the names of the

Arthur Conan Doyle's belief in fairies, spiritualism and communicating with the dead: a few juxtapositions

By Myint Zan

deceased and how long they had been dead. And then the séance whistled her communication to the *Nat* 'spirit'. After a pause, the *Nat* spirit replied in whistles. Parts of the 'whistling back' are discernible in the Burmese language. The séance interpreted verbally what the *Nat* spirit said. Mainly, they were brief utterances. Most of the *Nat* spirit's response was that the deceased were in 'good abodes'. My cousin suggested that I ask the 'whereabouts' of my late father, Dr San Baw (29 June 1922,-7 December 1984), through the séance to the 'whistling *Nat* spirit'. Mischievously, I said that I would ask about the whereabouts of the 'spirit' of Abraham Lincoln (12 February 1809-15 April 1865). My cousin begged me not to do so. So, I did not make my query. If I had continued my query, I would have said Lincoln (as of mid-1886 when I attended the session) has been dead for 121 years. It did not occur to me in 1986 that I could also have asked the spirit-medium about Conan Doyle or the spirit of Conan Doyle's whereabouts!

I would briefly add that communicating with the dead and belief in afterlife or afterlives are two different, albeit related, 'genres', so to speak. In Christianity and Islam, after death, I would submit, there are 'two-way streets'. The deceased persons either go to hell or heaven and stay there 'forever'. (I recall a Thai Buddhist monk in a Thai Buddhist monastery near Los Angeles asked me rhetorically in 1984 'After you go to heaven, you go where? The answer would be "you" stay 'there'.) In some Christian sects, there is a third 'category' of purgatory between heaven and hell, so to speak. In Hinduism and Buddhism, 'sentient beings' go through both 'before lives' and 'after lives' till liberation (*moksha* or *Nibbana*) is achieved.

Afterlife in Plato's Phaedo and Conan Doyle's spiritism

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato (427 BCE-347 BCE), in his overrated and long-winded *Phaedo*, discussed the afterlife in the form of a dialogue between Socrates (469 BCE-399 BCE)

(lead discussant) and his disciples. Plato's dialogue *Phaedo* mainly deals with the existence and 'proofs' of the afterlife. Plato was ill, so to be mischievous again, he took an MC (Medical Certificate) and did not attend his Master Socrates' last discussion with or rather discourse to his disciples. Yet through another of Socrates' disciples, the person Phaedo, Plato learned about Socrates's discussions and discourse as produced in the dialogue *Phaedo*. (Here, **Phaedo** is in bold to distinguish it from the person Phaedo).

During Conan Doyle's lifetime, the English translations of **Phaedo** by classicist Benjamin Jowett (15 April 1817-1 October 1893) were available. Sir Arthur could have read it. Sir Arthur claimed (according to the *NY Times* obituary) he had 'communicated' with quite a few others with the 'spirit' of deceased writer Joseph Conrad (3 December 1857-3 August 1924). Note that Conrad pre-deceased CD by less than six years. Incidentally When I posted on social media about my unasked question to the 'whistling *nat* spirit' as to the whereabouts of the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, a commentator remarked that Lincoln has been dead for so long that the particular spirit-medium could not have communicated with Lincoln.

I will now encapsulate and discuss Sir Arthur's belief in fairies (in this life, so to speak and not 'dead fairies') as narrated by the polymath and pseudo-science debunker Martin Gardner (21 October 1914- 22 May 2010).

Conan Doyle's 'belief in fairies'

In 1976, Martin Gardner published his article 'The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle' in the book *Beyond Baker Street*, an anthology of Sherlock Holmes (edited by Michael Harrison). Gardner included his essay in *The Night is Large, Collected Essays, 1939-1995* (Penguin 1997, pp. 183-192). Writing parodically, he stated that Conan Doyle could not have written the Sherlock Holmes stories. Why? Mainly because apart from his spiritism as stated above, Conan

Doyle believed in the existence of (live) fairies.

Gardner wrote, and many other sources confirmed that in the year 1917 then two teenage girls, Elsie Wright (1901-1988) and Frances Griffiths (1907-1986), made an elaborate hoax that they had photographed fairies. The two girls were cousins. They lived in Cottesley near the British city of Bradford. The two girls were 16 and 9, respectively. Using cardboard cutouts of the pictures from coloured fairy tale books about elves, the two precocious girls declared that they had photographs of fairies!

Elsie's father was a keen amateur photographer. He developed the film from the camera Elsie had borrowed from him and taken the photos. Elsie's father knew that Elsie was good at drawing, and she had worked in a photographic studio. Elsie's father knew from the start that they were fakes. The two (mischievous!) (or were they incorrigible or persistent?) girls borrowed Elsie's father's camera again, and this time they photographed Elsie sitting on the lawn and reaching out to a foot-tall elf. To cut a long story short, what came to be known as the 'Cottesley fairies' hoax came to the attention of Conan Doyle. And the creator of the logical, brilliant Sherlock Holmes believed that these photos prove the existence of fairies!

I have seen a video of Sir Arthur stating that he had received many letters from people who wanted to meet his character, Sherlock Holmes, thinking that Sherlock Holmes was real. Sir Arthur stated that his own fictional creation, Dr John Watson, was 'stupid'. Sir Arthur has been very critical of his own character, John Watson, MD. Can we venture to say now that Sir Arthur, as far as his belief in the existence of fairies, elves, spirit mediums, and communication with the dead was concerned, was naïve? Gardner reported that when another person in 1920 lent the two girls his camera and said that he would accompany them to see the fairies,

the girls replied that the fairies were extremely shy and would not come out for another person! (*The Night is Large*, p. 188). Paraphrasing William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* ... ('and Brutus is an honourable man' which Shakespeare's character Mark Antony repeated several times), I would say 'and yet Conan Doyle still believed in fairies' (several times).

In his second postscript in 1995 of his article 'The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle', first published in 1976, Gardner stated that

QUOTE

.. in 1983 Frances (then 75), and Elsie then 80) made a full confession ... Elsie had drawn the little people on card board sheets, which the girl cut and stuck in the shrubbery [in the gardens] with long pins... the girl intended their pictures to be short lived practical jokes but they felt so sorry for poor Doyle that to protect his reputation they kept silent ... I thought it was a joke but every one keep it going. It should have died a natural death sixty years ago.

UNQUOTE

(*The Night is Large*, p.191)
Conan Doyle did write the *Sherlock Holmes stories: Trying to explain Gardner's parody and Conan Doyle's anomaly*.

The earlier part of Gardner's essay 'The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle' states that Conan Doyle could not have written the Sherlock Holmes stories. Gardner also states the claim that it was

QUOTE

'Holmes and Watson, [themselves who were] intent on guarding their privacy, [they] permitted Sir Arthur to take the credit for inventing them. In doing so, it conferred on [Doyle] that earthly immortality that his authentic but his undistinguished writings [on spiritism] could have provided'.

UNQUOTE

Here, Gardner cleverly made the fictional characters of Holmes and Watson real. Holmes and Watson were (in Gardner's words)

not 'immortalized' by Doyle but the other way round. That was a clever, almost brilliant parody or 'tease' by Martin Gardner. Was there any evidence that Holmes and Watson really existed? Are there records of their rental payments to the landlady (Mrs Hudson) for their rooms at 221 B Baker Street, London? Of course not. Still, quite a few, including on social media, thought that Gardner really claimed that Conan Doyle did not write the Sherlock Holmes stories. Of course, Doyle did.

Then the 'spirited' (pun intended) question of why Conan Doyle, the creator of the rational Sherlock Holmes, was so naïve and, in Gardner's words, so 'irrelevant'?

A few eminent scientists, Isaac Newton (25 December 1643-20 March 1727) and Johannes Kepler (27 December 1571-15 November 1630) had stated the erroneously, gloriously wrong view that the Earth is around 6,000 years old. Notwithstanding these 'irrelevancies' of Newton and Kepler, can we question or doubt how they could have written such true scientific and astronomical discoveries abundantly shown in their writings?

I am not comparing the naïvete, 'irrelevance' of Conan Doyle in his beliefs regarding fairies, spiritism, mediums, seances, communicating with the dead, with the understandable mistakes of Newton and Kepler. Conan Doyle's mistakes and, in Gardner's word, 'irrelevancies' are, one readily admits, more anomalous, and to be uncharitable, more pitiable than those of Newton and Kepler.

Talking of Newton, I understand that he had also written many volumes on the occult, Biblical chronology and other non-scientific items. I do not defend Conan Doyle's naïvete and 'irrelevancies'. It is an attempt to explain the anomaly, if you will, that the believer of spiritism, fairies, etc., could also have written the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Translations and adaptations of Sherlock Holmes stories

into Burmese

There have been adaptations and translations of Sherlock Holmes' novels, novellas and short stories into Burmese, mainly by Shwe U Daung.

In Shwe U Daung's skilful pen, the character Sherlock Holmes became detective (Maung) (hon-orific) San Shar, and John Watson became Thein Maung. The streets of London and places in England were transformed into the streets of Rangoon. I have read some of the adapted San Shar short stories of Shwe U Daung. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Shwe U Daung adapted and published perhaps most of the 56 short stories of Sherlock Holmes. Shwe U Daung adapted Conan Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study in Scarlet*, into Burmese. Shwe U Daung also directly translated *The Hound of the Baskervilles* into Burmese.

As Shwe U Daung's adaptation of Sherlock Holmes was one of the most prominent of the veteran writer's achievements, another veteran writer, Maung Htin (20 March 1908-29 January 2006) wrote a tribute to Shwe U Daung with the title 'The Last of Maung San Shar' in *The Working People's Daily* when Shwe U Daung passed away.

The writer and translator Mya Than Tint (23 May 1929-18 February 1898) also directly translated (not adapted) Sherlock Holmes stories. I am not aware of either Shwe U Daung or Mya Than Tint commenting on or translating any books of Conan Doyle on spiritism.

Sudden 'stoppage' of U Pe Thein's columns in the Loke Tha Pyithu Nayzin

In 1964 the Revolutionary government invited or perhaps co-opted U Pe Thein (Shwe U Daung) to be the Chief Editor of the new Burmese language *Loke Thar Pyithu Nayzin* (*The Working People's Daily*). Chief Editor Shwe U Daung had a regular column with the title 'From a Buddhist Perspective'. Later, he changed the heading of his column to 'From a Metta ('loving kindness') perspective'. The columns were in the form of a discussion between him and 'a pensioner'. Shwe U Daung's columns suddenly stopped around 1967, and just after about three years as Chief Editor, he was 'permitted to retire'. Now, what I would state here is hearsay, but at least about four persons had separately

told me that in one of his last columns, Shwe U Daung, wrote that in one previous life he was a guru (teacher) to then Revolutionary Council Chairman General Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002). Perhaps that displeased the strong man General Ne Win, or at least his underlings. And that might have been the main reason why Shwe U Daung's columns stopped and why he 'retired' as Chief Editor. (Since I do not know the exact year far let the month and date the article appeared I am, up to now, unable to retrieve that particular article of Shwe U Daung from the libraries). Of course, past lives and future lives form an integral part of elemental Buddhism.

Conan Doyle, perhaps like (dare I mention it?) Socrates and Plato believed in 'future life' (not necessarily 'future lives') as part of their spiritism. But did CD believe in 'before lives'? What would he have said to Shwe U Daung's supposed statement that he was the teacher of General Ne Win in a previous life, if CD were to come back?

'Silly' Sherlock Holmes stories?

Above, I have elaborated on Sherlock Holmes stories. Of course, there are detractors even to the Sherlock Holmes stories. Sir Arthur's younger compatriot, the evolutionist Richard Dawkins (born on 26 March 1941) wrote in one of his articles that Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories are 'silly'. I disagree. I have read more of the works of Dawkins than those of Conan Doyle. I have learned a lot from them. I could **not** say that I have gained concrete knowledge from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's books, as I indeed **have** from Professor Richard Dawkins' books. Still, I enjoyed reading some of Sherlock Holmes' detective stories even after I read Martin Gardner's perceptive and compelling critique of Conan Doyle's 'spiritism'. If Dawkins were to comment on CD's obsession with fairies, 'communicating with the dead', etc., he undoubtedly would have stated that they were also 'silly'.

I would now say that I have learned from books written by both Martin Gardner and Richard Dawkins. I found their books to be more relevant in the contemporary era for the purpose of enhancing knowledge than any of Arthur Conan Doyle's books.

NATIONAL

Hsipaw regains stability as schools reopen, hospital resumes services, and rehabilitation begins

TATMADAW has been carrying out counter-terrorism operations to ensure peace and stability for the civilian population. After regaining full control of Hsipaw in Shan State (North), coordinated efforts have been made to restore the functioning of government administration, resume education for children, and re-establish healthcare services for residents, alongside other rehabilitation activities being implemented in a timely and vigorous manner.

As part of these ongoing efforts, Tatmadaw personnel, together with members of the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Services Department, relevant departmental personnel, and residents, conducted a collective cleaning campaign yesterday at No 7 Basic Education High School in Hsipaw. The initiative aims to enable the swift reopening of schools, ensuring that students' education is not disrupted, and to ensure the smooth resumption of healthcare services through the reopening of hospitals in the area.

In addition, at No 1 Ba-



This photo captures students learning peacefully in Hsipaw.

sic Education High School in Hsipaw, school enrolment for school-aged children has been ongoing since 21 October. Today, a further 436 students – both boys and girls – were newly enrolled, bringing the total number of students to 1,155. The students were provided with school textbooks, stationery, and other learning materials free of charge by the Ministry

of Education.

Furthermore, residents returning to Hsipaw have been welcomed and accommodated by the responsible authorities. The Ministry of Immigration and Population has also opened a temporary branch office at the Konedaw Buddhism Learning Centre in Hsipaw, where it has begun conducting household registration checks and issuing

citizenship scrutiny cards.

In addition, to ensure the smooth provision of healthcare services for local ethnic residents, the Hsipaw Township Hospital, which had previously been destroyed by terrorist groups, was reopened yesterday. Medical personnel are now providing the necessary healthcare services to local people. At the hospital, a total of 42 outpatients,

comprising 16 men and 26 women, received medical care for fever and other general illnesses from Tatmadaw medical officers, doctors and health staff from the Ministry of Health.

Furthermore, public health activities are being carried out for residents of Hsipaw and nearby villages, including the prevention and control of communicable diseases, maternal and child healthcare, and health services for schoolchildren. In addition, special immunization activities are being conducted for 350 children under the age of 15, who are receiving vaccinations as part of the programme.

At the same time, Tatmadaw demining teams continue to clear landmines in and around Hsipaw, particularly in areas near government offices and public routes. Security personnel are continuing to carry out territorial security and administrative duties to help maintain peace, stability, and long-term regional development, thereby ensuring that local ethnic residents can live and work safely and peacefully. — MNA/KZL

Mon State salt fields begin 2025-26 preparations, early harvest could bring higher prices



A salt farm in Mon State.

THE salt industry in Myanmar is preparing for the 2025-2026 season, and the demand for salt has made it possible to get good prices during the initial production period, according to salt entrepreneurs from Mon State.

Mon's salt farmers started preparing in September, and if the weather is good, the production could start by the end of December, the entrepreneur U Naing Hu told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

“We have resumed production of raw materials since September for the upcoming salt season in Mon State. If the weather is good, early harvest may begin by the end of December. As the salt production declined last year, we might get a better price this year. There is hope for the farmers in the coming year if the price of salt is high”, said a salt trader.

In Mon State, the current prices

of raw and fine salts are K 1,100 and K1,350 per viss, respectively, and they were just in hundred kyats a viss in the same period last year. Due to early harvesting driven by bad weather in 2024-25, salt production decreased by about 50 per cent.

“Normally, April is the season for salt harvesting. It rained on 11 April, causing a forced harvest. The farmers didn't have enough time.. The price of salt was K150, 160 or 200. Early harvest caused a decrease in production. Mon State produced about 40,000 tonnes of salt, but it dropped to 18,000-20,000 tonnes in the previous season,” U Naing Hu said

Another major salt producer, Ayeyawady Region, also faced the same situation last year. In Myanmar's salt industry, 66 per cent is available from Ayeyawady Region while the rest 34 per cent is produced from Mon and Rakhine states. — MT/ZN

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 23 October 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal on 24 October 2025. — DMH

Tropical Depression “FENGSHEN” News, No 8, 2025

Issued at 4 pm MST on 23 October 2025

Tropical Depression Condition

ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 am MST today, the Tropical Storm “FENGSHEN” over the South China Sea has moved west-southwestwards and downgraded into a Tropical Depression and crossed near Da Nang, the Central coastal areas of Vietnam. It is likely to move southwestwards and gradually weaken. — DMH

27 online gambling agents arrested in Yangon, Mandalay

THE Myanmar Police Force arrested 27 online gamblers — 17 men and 10 women — together with 49 mobile phones, two laptops, two tablets and eight vehicles in Yangon and Mandalay in October.

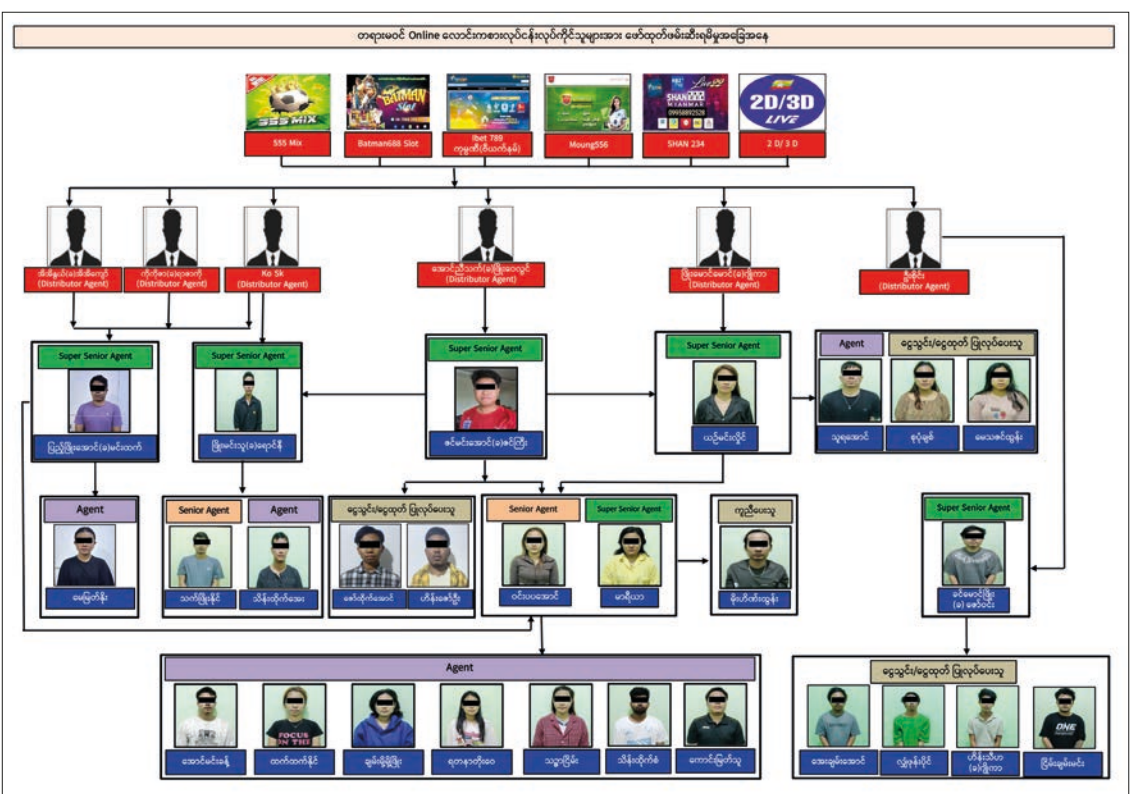
On 14 October, the police arrested 14 offenders together with 23 mobile phones and three vehicles at Secret Villa Private Resort in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, and another three offenders with five mobile phones and three vehicles in Yankin Township on 15 October.

On 16 October, the authorities arrested three offenders together with seven mobile phones, one laptop and one vehicle in PyinOoLwin, whereas two offenders with five mobile phones, one laptop and one vehicle in Mahaaungmyay township of Mandalay Region. On 20 October, five offenders were arrested

with nine mobile phones and two tablets in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.

According to the confession, the offenders had to apply to be agents for the Ibet 789 Online website, 555 Mix website, Moug 556 website, Batman 688 Slot Website, Shan 234 website and 2D/3D website. They had to advertise the gambling posters on Facebook groups and Telegram groups, where they showed Viber numbers to lure the users. When the users contacted them on Viber, the agents opened accounts to gamble on websites. The more users the agents find, the more potential they will gain to be senior agents. While serving as senior agents, they can be super senior agents if they can find commissioned agents and users.

The offenders used KBZ Special Account, KBZ Bank Account, AYA Bank Account, YOMA Bank Account, CB Bank



This image reveals the network of the gambling agents arrested in Mandalay and Yangon.

A Bank Account, AYA Pay Account, Kpay Account and Wave-pay Account for money transfer and withdrawal. — MNA/KTZH

Over K14B worth of drugs seized in Kalay



Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicles.

AUTHORITIES seized over 6.5 million stimulated tablets and over 39 kilogrammes of heroin worth over K14 billion in Kalay Township, according to the Myanmar Police

Force.

A combined security team searched a Forland driven by Nye-in Chan Maung (aka) Kalar Lay at 5:30 pm on 14 September. The team

seized 6.52 million stimulant tablets from the vehicle.

According to the investigation, police later arrested Htoo Aung Kyaw, who was involved the drugs to be transported at 11:30 am on 19 September and got the information that Yawshu (who remained at arrest) was an offender to carry from Mongyai Township, Shan State (North) to Kalay Township.

According to the information of the drugs transportation from Mongyai Township, the combined team later seized a Forland driven by Kyaw Htay at 4:30 pm on 13 October in Kalay Township and seized the Forland driven by Kyaw Htay with 29.23 kilogrammes of heroin as well as a motorbike with Paung Shan Hauk (aka) Ko Chin who bought the seized heroin in Kalay Township at 5 pm on the same day.

Afterwards, the Police arrested the offenders who led to transport from Mongyai to Kalay, Li Lay in Kalay Township at 6 pm on the same day and Soe Myint (aka) Ka Larlay in Lashio Township at 5 pm on 16 October.

Police have charged those arrested and are continuing to investigate others suspected of involvement in the case. — MNA/MKKS

118 foreigners detained for illegal entry in Myanmar

THE government continues to investigate and deport foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar and became involved in online gambling, online scams, and related criminal activities in border regions.

Authorities have recently detained 118 foreign nationals from 14 countries who had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes — some transiting via neighbouring countries, including Thailand — and were engaged in online gambling and scam operations in the Myawady-KK Park area of Kayin State.

Officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population, led by Deputy Director-General U Myint Bhone, inspected the verification process. They coordinated the collection of personal data and records to facilitate their repatriation to their respective countries as quickly as possible.

From 30 January to 23 October 2025, a total of 9,669 foreign nationals who had entered Myanmar illegally were apprehended, and 9,339 of them have been deported through Thailand to their home countries. The remaining 330 individuals are under proper care and are ready for transfer in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

The government remains committed to eradicating illegal online scam operations by conducting coordinated investigations and enforcement actions in collaboration with neighbouring countries and international organizations to prevent and eliminate unlawful online gambling and financial fraud activities in border areas. — MNA/KZL

Vietnam targets 11% annual growth in retail sales, service revenues by 2030



Vietnam's total retail sales of goods and consumer service revenue are projected to grow by an average of 11 to 11.5 per cent per year by 2030. **PHOTO: HOANG DINH NAM/AFP/FILE**

The strategy focuses on enhancing domestic purchasing power and increasing international demand for Vietnamese products, as stated in the report.

VIETNAM'S total retail sales of goods and consumer service revenue are projected to grow by an average of 11 to 11.5 per cent per year by 2030, local daily *Dau Tu* reported Thursday.

The target is part of the country's retail market development strategy through 2030, with a vision toward 2050.

The strategy aims to boost domestic purchasing power

while stimulating demand for Vietnamese products in international markets, according to the report.

By 2030, e-commerce sales are expected to expand by 15 to 20 per cent annually, accounting for 15 to 20 per cent of the nation's total retail sales of goods and consumer service revenue.

The plan also seeks to have around 40 to 45 per cent of small-

and medium-sized enterprises participating in e-commerce platforms.

According to Vietnam's National Statistics Office, the country's total retail sales of goods and consumer services were estimated at nearly 5.18 quadrillion Vietnamese dong (about 196 billion US dollars) in the first nine months of 2025, up 9.5 percent year on year. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea issues US\$ 1.7 bln FX stabilization bonds

SOUTH Korea's finance ministry said Thursday that it issued foreign exchange stabilization fund bonds worth US\$1.7 billion.

One billion dollars of the US dollar-denominated bond with a maturity of five years was issued at a yield of 3.741 per cent, a record-low spread of 17 basis points over US Treasury bonds, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The Japanese yen-denominated bonds worth 110 billion yen (US\$700 million) were sold with four maturities of two years, three years, five years and three months and 10 years at a yield ranging from 1.065 per cent to 1.919 per cent.

The ministry said the record-low spread indicated an improved assessment of South Korea's economic situation and policy direction among global investors. — Xinhua

Trump tariffs to dent India leather industry revenue 10-12% current fiscal: Crisil

FACED with US tariffs, India's leather and allied products industry are expected to see revenue decline 10-12 per cent this current fiscal, according to Crisil Ratings.

The 50 per cent tariff (25 per cent reciprocal tariff plus 25 per cent penalty for purchase of Russian oil) imposed by the United States (US) on Indian goods will slash export volume, the rating agency said Thursday.

Given the significant export concentration, the decline would be despite a moderate improvement in domestic demand following the rationalization of Goods and Services Tax (GST), besides other favourable macro-economic factors such as lower income taxes, benign inflation, and low interest rates, it is further observed. — ANI

Stung by high costs, Dutch board 'shopbus' to cheaper Germany

DUTCH consumers are crossing into Germany for cheaper shopping due to high living costs, set to impact the 29 October elections. Marleen Naipal, a 53-year-old Rotterdam hair stylist, traveled 400 km round-trip on a €40 (\$45) "shopbus" to Bocholt, finding cosmetics half-priced.

She joined bargain-hunters from Amsterdam and Utrecht, with companies offering overnight trips to Luxembourg for alcohol and tobacco.

Bus driver Ali El-Abassi decries Dutch grocery prices. A Consumentenbond survey of 130 products revealed 15 per cent average savings in Germany, up to 25 per cent for brands, citing higher Dutch VAT (9 per cent vs. 7 per cent for groceries, 21 per cent vs 19 per cent for non-food) and regulations like mandatory Dutch labeling preventing bulk imports.

High costs dominate voter

polls, fueling far-right leader Geert Wilders' 2023 success by emphasizing purchasing power.

Political scientist Marcel Lubbers links it to housing and immigration. The ACM investigates "territorial supply constraints".

Naipal attributes rising expenses to politics, hoping elections alleviate suffering. For now, retail therapy takes precedence as she enjoys her haul. — AFP



Dutch shoppers feel the pinch. **PHOTO: ANP/AFP**

India’s processed potato exports surge as Asia’s snack demand booms: GTRI

INDIA’S exports of processed potato products are rising sharply, signaling the country’s growing foothold in Asia’s fast-expanding snack and convenience food supply chain, according to Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its latest note. The note added that most of the export turnover comes from dehydrated potato granules and pellets, with additional growth coming from products such as potato flour, starch, chips, and ready-to-eat potatoes. India’s exports of dehydrated potato granules and pellets have jumped from US\$11.4 million in FY2022 to US\$63.3 million in FY2025 — a surge



India’s exports of dehydrated potato granules and pellets have jumped from US\$11.4 million in FY2022 to US\$63.3 million in FY2025. PHOTO: ANI

of more than 450 per cent in just three years. The think tank added reflects robust demand from Southeast and East Asia, where food manufacturers are scaling up production of instant noodles, snack foods, and quick-service restaurant (QSR) items. — ANI

New Evangelion ride to open in Japan’s Huis Ten Bosch resort in spring

THE operator of Huis Ten Bosch, a Dutch-themed seaside resort in southwestern Japan, said Thursday it will open a new indoor attraction based on the popular “Evangelion” anime franchise next spring, as it seeks to diversify its visitor base. “Evangelion The Ride-8K,” projected on a massive 8K dome screen, will allow visitors to experience battles against the mysterious enemies known as “Angels” through sudden drops and seat vibrations. It will feature an original story set in the resort’s European-style townscape, creating “an experience of unparalleled intensity and realism,” the park said on its official Instagram account. — Kyodo

Amazon uses AI to make robots better warehouse workers

AMAZON on Wednesday said it is speeding up the automation of its warehouses with the help of artificial intelligence and robotics, raising questions about the future of human workers. The e-commerce colossus known for its promise of quick deliveries showed off robotic arms and other high-tech warehouse tools in Silicon Valley, saying AI is not only powering innovations but accelerating how quickly they are developed by the second largest employer in the United States. “Blue Jay” robotic arms billed as capable of efficiently picking, sorting, and consolidating at a single workstation were among AI enhanced equipment items demon-

strated by Amazon at a conference held in a massive distribution center in Silicon Valley. The arrival of Blue Jay, being tested in South Carolina, follows that of a Vulcan robot early this year that Amazon described as having a sense of touch while tending to its duty helping fulfill orders for customers. Amazon Robotics chief technologist Tye Brady credited AI with slashing the time it took to design, build and deploy Blue Jay by some two-thirds to just slightly more than a year. — AFP



An Amazon delivery driver wears smart glasses displaying real-time navigation and delivery instructions directly in his field of vision, during Amazon’s “Delivering the Future” event at a Silicon Valley distribution centre. PHOTO: AFP

Over 5 million passengers travel through Sharjah Airport in Q3 2025

SHARJAH Airport has reported robust operational growth in the third quarter of 2025, with the number of passengers rising to 5,127,120, marking a 16.7 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2024, which saw 4.39 million passengers. These figures reaffirm the airport’s position as a leading destination both locally and internationally. On aircraft movements, the total number of scheduled and non-scheduled flights reached 30,737, a 10.7 per cent rise from 27,758 flights during the same period last year. — ANI

MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.24 feet to 20.73 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of 5 November to 8 November 2025. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (910N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (910N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML 002)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML 002)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses the annual appreciation dinner of the American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China (AmCham China) in Beijing, capital of China, 28 February 2025. **PHOTO: YAO DAWEI/XINHUA/FILE**

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng to have trade talks with US in Malaysia on 24-27 Oct

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng will lead a delegation to Malaysia from 24-27 October for US-China trade talks.

CHINESE Vice-Premier He Lifeng, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, will lead a delegation to Malaysia from 24 to 27 October to hold economic and trade consultations with the US side, China's Ministry of Commerce announced Thursday.

The two sides will hold consultations on important issues in China-US economic and trade ties in accordance with the important consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries during their phone calls this year, a ministry spokesperson said in a statement. — Xinhua

Venezuela warns US: We have 5,000 Russian missiles

PRESIDENT Maduro has announced Venezuela possesses 5,000 Russian-made Igla-S man-portable air-defence systems.

The claim comes as a direct response to US military deployments — including stealth jets and Navy ships — to the Caribbean, which Caracas calls

a “dress rehearsal” for an operation to oust Maduro.

“No fewer than 5,000 in key air defence positions to ensure peace,” Maduro stated during a televised ceremony with military leaders.

White House claims its presence is for counter-narcotics operations, having destroyed several vessels allegedly smuggling drugs from Venezuela.

In recent weeks, the US has repeatedly used its military to destroy boats allegedly involved in drug trafficking off the coast of Venezuela. According to US authorities, these operations are part of efforts to combat transnational crime and drug trafficking. — SPUTNIK



President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro during the plenary session of the Outreach/BRICS Plus meeting. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

NEWS IN BRIEF

N Koreans head to cinema as nation holds 1st intl film festival in 6 yrs

NORTH Korea is holding its international film festival for the first time in six years following a hiatus due to COVID-19, state-run media said Thursday, providing a rare opportunity for locals to see movies from overseas. The six-day event, the 18th of its kind, kicked off Wednesday at the Pyongyang International Cinema House, with filmmakers and jury members attending. After an opening ceremony, participants watched a movie titled “Red Silk”, a Russian-Chinese joint production. — Kyodo

2 dead after being swept to sea by strong winds in southeast Melbourne

TWO men drowned after being swept into the ocean in southeast Melbourne amid severe winds that hit the Australian state of Victoria on Wednesday. Police on Thursday said one of the two men was a British national who was surfing in extreme conditions, and the other was his friend who tried to rescue him. Victoria Police said in a statement that emergency services were called to reports of two men in trouble in the water at Frankston Beach, 38 kilometres southeast of central Melbourne, on Wednesday afternoon. — Xinhua

US military strikes another alleged drug boat in eastern Pacific, killing 3

THE US military on Wednesday struck one more suspected drug-trafficking vessel in international waters in the eastern Pacific, killing all three people aboard, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday night.

“Today ... the Department of War carried out yet another lethal

kinetic strike on a vessel operated by a Designated Terrorist Organization (DTO). Yet again, the now-deceased terrorists were engaged in narco-trafficking in the Eastern Pacific,” he wrote on social media platform X.

Hegseth again accused the vessel of carrying narcotics, saying it was traveling along a known

narco-trafficking transit route.

“These strikes will continue, day after day. These are not simply drug runners -- these are narco-terrorists bringing death and destruction to our cities ... We will find them and kill them, until the threat to the American people is extinguished,” he said. — Xinhua



This image from a video released by US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth appears to show an alleged drug-smuggling boat in the Eastern Pacific Ocean moments before a US military strike destroys it. **PHOTO: US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PETE HEGSETH'S X ACCOUNT/AFP**

SPORTS

Bellingham strike helps Real Madrid edge Juventus

JUDE Bellingham's goal helped record 15-time winners Real Madrid maintain their 100 per cent start to the Champions League with a 1-0 victory over Juventus on Wednesday.

Xabi Alonso's Spanish giants mostly outplayed their visitors but could not extend their lead after England international Bellingham netted

from close range in the second half. Italian heavyweights Juventus, now without a win in seven games across all competitions, fought hard but failed to find an equalizer at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid's solid win was ideal preparation for Sunday's Clasico against rivals Barcelona in La Liga and left them as one of five sides to win all

three of their opening league phase matches, including holders Paris Saint-Germain.

"It was a very tough game with chances at both ends and we had to sweat for it, but it was an important win against a big team," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois told Movistar, after making his 300th appearance for the club. — AFP



Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham celebrates scoring the winner against Juventus in the Champions League. PHOTO: AFP



Lamine Yamal and Barcelona were beaten 3-2 by Villarreal when they last met in May. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

La Liga's Miami match: Why did it fail and what happens next?

LA Liga's ambitious plan to relocate Barcelona's December match against Villarreal to Miami, USA, crumbled under intense domestic pressure, marking a setback for the league's global expansion efforts.

Since 2018, La Liga has sought to emulate the NFL and NBA by staging games abroad to tap into the lucrative North American market and boost competition value, securing UEFA and RFEF approval this time.

The collapse stemmed from a players' protest: a 15-second standstill across matches, organized by the Spanish footballers'

association (AFE), citing lack of consultation, breach of collective agreements, and excessive workloads. Real Madrid, Barcelona, and Villarreal vehemently opposed it, labeling it unfair and a "stain" on the league.

Fans and clubs also criticized payment disparities and logistical issues. La Liga president Javier Tebas lamented the lost "historic opportunity," while Villarreal accused the league of disrespect and incompetence. The incident damaged La Liga's credibility, prompting potential lawsuits against AFE and calls for better communication. — AFP

Injured Italian skier Bassino out of home Winter Olympics

TWO-TIME world champion Marta Bassino will miss her home Winter Olympics following surgery on Thursday on a broken leg she suffered during a training fall this week.

The 29-year-old, who has won world championship gold in

the super-G and parallel giant slalom disciplines, fell on Wednesday during her preparations for the first World Cup event of the alpine skiing season in Sölden.

She was due to take part in the giant slalom event

on Saturday. "Marta Bassino's surgery at the Madonnina Clinic in Milan has been completed," Italy's winter sports federation (FISI) said in a statement.

Bassino's left leg fracture, near the joint between the shin and the knee, "has been successfully reduced and repaired, with the reinsertion of the medial collateral ligament", FISI added. — AFP



Marta Bassino of Italy fell during her preparations for the first World Cup event of the alpine skiing season. PHOTO: AFP

Gender-row boxer Lin wins gold in first event since Paris Olympics

CHINESE Taipei Olympic boxing champion Lin Yu-ting won gold on her return to the ring following the gender row that exploded at the 2024 Paris Games, her coach told AFP Thursday.

Lin and Algerian boxer Imane Khelif were at the centre of a storm in Paris where they won Olympic titles in separate weight classes.

Lin won gold in the 60-kilogramme category on Wednesday at Chinese Taipei National Games in her first event since

the Olympics.

A photo posted on Lin's Facebook Stories showed the boxer smiling and holding a gold medal.

"It was good. We just did the preparations we were supposed to do," her coach Tseng Tzu-chiang said, confirming it was Lin's first official event since Paris. Lin had planned to compete at the world championships in Liverpool in September and agreed to undergo a compulsory genetic sex test, Tseng said. — AFP

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng to have trade talks with US in Malaysia on 24-27 Oct

PAGE 14



WORLD

CPC plenum concludes, adopting recommendations for China's 15th Five-Year Plan

THE 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) convened its fourth plenary session in Beijing from Monday to Thursday.

Participants at the session deliberated over and adopted the Recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development, according to a communique of the session released on Thursday.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presided over the meeting. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered important addresses, according to the communique.

The participants heard and discussed a report presented by Xi on the work of the Political Bureau.

Xi also delivered explanatory remarks on the draft recommendations.

At the session, the CPC Central Committee fully affirmed the work of the Political Bureau since the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

China is now on the verge of accomplishing the major objectives and tasks of the 14th Five-Year Plan, according to the communique. — Xinhua

China nears achieving its 14th Five-Year Plan's key objectives, per the communique.



A photo taken on 3 March 2015 shows the red flags on top of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China.
PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Thailand, Cambodia agree to expedite demarcation efforts of shared boundary

THAILAND and Cambodia have agreed to advance efforts to demarcate their shared boundary following a two-day

special meeting of the Joint Commission held in Chanthaburi in Thailand.

The development comes ahead of

the ASEAN Summit this weekend in Kuala Lumpur in which both countries are likely to reach and sign an accord to resolve ongoing border conflicts in the presence of US President Donald Trump. The long standing border dispute between the two countries escalated in July this year when over five days troops clashed claiming lives and displacing people in thousands on both sides. A ceasefire, mediated by Malaysia, was implemented in late July 2025 and ASEAN observers, coordinated by Malaysia, are monitoring the truce.

The joint statement released after the Cambodia-Thai Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) held from 21-22 October concluded on Wednesday, reached several key agreements aimed at advancing and expediting the land demarcation process, as per local media reports from both countries. — ANI

Japan ruling party proposes higher departure tax for intl travellers

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Thursday called for hiking the departure tax from the current 1,000 yen (\$7) per person, hoping to use the increased revenue to address challenges posed by a surge in inbound tourism.

The proposal made by an LDP panel in charge of tourism issues comes as a plan has emerged within the government of new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to raise the international tourist tax, as it is formally called, to 3,000 yen. She floated the idea before becoming premier.

The panel concluded that the tax, introduced in 2019, is a stable revenue source for debt-ridden Japan, which plans to attract some 60 million foreign visitors a year by 2030. — Kyodo



This photo taken on 7 August 2025 shows an extraordinary General Border Committee (GBC) meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **PHOTO: CHENG YIHENG/XINHUA/FILE**