

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.

Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha
Hluttaw buildings under repair

Repair works must be carried out systematically and step by step to ensure long-term durability and stability of buildings in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected the urban development undertakings and reconstruction projects in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and gave necessary guidance.

At the project sites of construction for the People’s Square and the Entertainment Platform near the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and the eight-way Pynmana-Taungnyo Road, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo reported to the Senior General on implementation of the projects.

In his response, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman stressed the need to host Myanmar’s traditional festivals and ceremonies on the People’s Square and the Entertainment Platform.

He added that it is necessary to design the plans for construction of the Myanmar’s prominent figures and monuments related to the State. Construction tasks must be carried out systematically phase by phase and all structures must have long-term existence and resilience against natural disasters.

He guided officials to check quality of all structures of the projects step by step.



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress of repairing the Hluttaw buildings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He then viewed round the construction site of the People’s Square and the Entertainment Platform and gave necessary guidance to officials.

On arrival at the site chosen for construction of the Nay Pyi Taw Archway on

Razathingaha Road to Nay Pyi Taw, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman heard reports on plans to build the archway by officials.

He made an inspection tour of Ra-

zathingaha Road to the Nay Pyi Taw Airport Road, the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and downtown Nay Pyi Taw by car and gave guidance on keeping along both sides of the road neat and tidy.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission

2025

General Election

Sunday, 28 December 2025

62

Days

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 26 October 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards. It is centered at about 415 Nautical miles Southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 405 Nautical miles East-Southeast of Chennai (India), 430 Nautical miles Southeast of Kakinada (India). It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may intensify into a Cyclonic Storm may form over the Southwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours, the severe cyclonic storm may form on 28 October 2025 and may cross Andhra Pradesh Coast on that night. Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and North Bay, Eastern central Bay of Bengal and cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 27 October 2025: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah and eastern Shan states. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 October 2025: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 October 2025: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 October 2025: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — DMH



2024 Population and Housing Census



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

Deep Depression News No 5, 2025

Issued at 4 pm MST on 26 October 2025

Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards. It is centered at about 415 Nautical miles Southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 405 Nautical miles East-Southeast of Chennai (India), and 430 Nautical miles Southeast of Kakinada (India).

It does not intend to move towards the Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Deep Depression is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

The Deep Depression is located at Latitude 11.3 degree North and Longitude 86.9 degree East, centre pressure of Deep Depression is 998 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 35-40 miles per hour at 3:30 pm MST today.

Next 72 hours forecast

It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may intensify into a Cyclonic Storm may form over the Southwest Bay and adjoining western central Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours, the severe cyclonic storm may form on 28 October 2025 and may cross Andhra Pradesh Coast on that night.

Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Chin, Mon and Rakhine states, isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Sagaing regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states from today evening to 28 October 2025. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH

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)

Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw buildings under repair

FROM PAGE 1

Arriving at the View Stand, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman looked into the repairing the damaged parts of the stand caused by the earthquake and gave guidance to officials to conduct an assessment for upgrading the View Stand and the front wing of the stand.

He also viewed round progress in construction of the buildings damaged by the earthquake in the compound of the Hluttaw.

At the No 1 Bridge at the entrance to the Hluttaw, the Union Minister for Construction and officials reported to the

Senior General that due to earthquake damage and displacement affecting the bridge, repair works were carried out using modern technology. The bridge consists of five spans, each weighing about 1,500 tonnes, making the total weight approximately 7,500 tonnes. Using advanced 3D Synchronized Jack technology, the entire bridge was lifted and repaired, and the officials clarified the repair process and the current completion status of the work.

After giving necessary guidance, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman inspected progress of repairing the

bridge, the archway, and Hluttaw buildings.

At the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building, the Union Minister for Construction reported to the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman on the damage to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw buildings, other supporting buildings, roads and bridges, fences and retaining walls in the devastating earthquake, repairing of the buildings on priority, and progress of the projects.

The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chair-

man gave guidance that repair works must be carried out systematically and step by step to ensure long-term durability and stability. The repairs should not only focus on appearance but also on structural strength and resilience. Records should be systematically kept regarding the extent of damage, the repair and reconstruction conditions, and the progress and completion status of the works.

The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman viewed round the repairing process at the buildings, roads and bridges in the Hluttaw compound. — MNA/TTA

Union Minister for Electric Power visits Rudong Huan Gang Offshore Wind Farm, China

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun, who is currently in Suzhou, the People's Republic of China, visited the Rudong Huan Gang Offshore Wind Farm yesterday — a 480-megawatt facility built by China Longyuan Power Group Corporation Limited on the mangrove coast off the Rudong in Jiangsu Province.

During the observation, factory officials explained that the project, China's first offshore wind power pilot project with an investment of about 2.54 billion yuan, was developed in four phases: the first phase in 2009 installed and tested 16 wind turbines with capacities of 1.5 MW, 2 MW, 2.5 MW, and 3 MW (total 30 MW) and began generating pow-

er in 2010; the second phase in 2012 added 58 turbines of 2.3 MW, 2.5 MW, and 3 MW (total 150 MW); the third phase in 2013 installed 20 turbines of 2.5 MW (total 50 MW); and the fourth phase in 2014 installed 11 turbines of 5 MW and 6 MW (total 50 MW).

In the fifth phase, 40 wind turbines of 4 MW each, totalling 200 MW, were installed and began generating power in 2015, bringing the total installed capacity to 480 MW. The foundations of the turbine towers included various types of structures, ranging from concrete piles with concrete caps (PHC pipe piles with concrete caps) to steel pipe pile structures. The Union minister and his team then inspected the plant's construction and its pow-



Union Minister U Nyan Tun visits the Rudong Huan Gang Offshore Wind Farm in Suzhou, the People's Republic of China yesterday.

er generation operations.

During the visit, the Union Minister met the officials from State-owned Chinese companies collaborating with the Ministry of Electric Power — namely, Shwe-

Li (1) Hydropower Co Ltd, Yunnan United Power Development Co Ltd, Goodwe Technologies Co Ltd, and POWERCHINA Chengdu Engineering Corporation Limited — and discussed the

requirements and future plans for implementing the projects. After the visits, the Union minister and his team returned to Myanmar by air yesterday. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 83/2025

6th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1387ME
26 October 2025

THE Union Election Commission has released the following rules, exercising the authority conferred by Section 26 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

1. These rules shall be called the Third Amendment to the Political Parties Registration Rules.

2. The expression “K15 million” mentioned in Rule 21 of the Political Parties Registration Rules shall be substituted with the expression “K30 million”, and the expression “K30 million” with the expression “K50 million”, respectively.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 84/2025

6th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1387 ME
26 October 2025

THE Union Election Commission has released the following rules, exercising the authority conferred by Section 90 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

1. These rules shall be called the Amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Rules.

2. The expression “K15 million” mentioned in Rule 99 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Rules shall be substituted with the expression “K30 million”.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 85/2025

6th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1387 ME
26 October 2025

THE Union Election Commission has released the following rules, exercising the authority conferred by Section 90 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law.

1. These rules shall be called the Second Amendment to the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Rules.

2. The expression “K15 million” mentioned in Rule 99 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Rules shall be substituted with the expression “K30 million”.

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 86/2025

6th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1387 ME
26 October 2025

THE Union Election Commission has released the following rules, exercising the authority conferred by Section 90 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law.

1. These rules shall be called the Second Amendment to the Region or State Hluttaw Election Rules.

2. The stanza (ee) of the clause (iii) of the Sub-Rule (a) of Rule 97 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Rules shall be added as an exception: -

“Exception: If the constituency includes townships that are part of a Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone, priority shall be given to appointing the elected representative of the respective local ethnic group as the representative of the Hluttaw for the relevant township”.

3. The expression “K15 million” mentioned in Sub-Rule (a) of Rule 99 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Rules shall be substituted with the expression “K30 million” and the expression “K30 million” shall be replaced with the expression “K50 million”, respectively.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Ayeyawady resident named 2.5 million visitor at upgraded BE Falls Resort



The 2.5 millionth visitor seen with other visitors at BE Falls Resort in PyinOoLwin.

BE Falls Resort, located near the PyinOoLwin–Lashio Highway, was upgraded to meet international standards and formally opened in December 2021. Since then, it has become a popular destination for local and international visitors.

Recently, the resort welcomed its 2.5 millionth visitor. The milestone guest, Daw Thin Pa Pa Tun from Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, was presented with commemorative gifts by officials of BE Falls Resort. She received a bouquet, a trophy,

a one-year Gold Card granting free admission to the resort, and other souvenirs. In addition, the resort offered free access for her and her companions to the glass bridge, sky cable car rides, and buggy tours as part of the celebration. — MNA/KZL

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

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



151 illegal migrants held in Myanmar for illegal entry, telecom fraud

MYANMAR authorities have detained 150 Indian nationals and one South Korean national who entered the country illegally and were involved in online gambling and fraud. The detainees, who crossed border routes via neighbouring countries, including Thailand, were apprehended in Kayin State’s Myawady-Maethawthalay (KK Park) area.

The detainees are currently under investigation, with relevant authorities compiling personal records and coordinating repatriation to their home countries in accordance with legal procedures. The operation is overseen by Myawady District Administrator U Kaung San Lin,

and Deputy Director U Myint Bhone from the Ministry of Immigration and Population, along with other officials.

From 30 January to 26 October 2025, Myanmar authorities have identified and detained a total of 9,964 foreign nationals entering the country illegally. Among them, 9,339 have been repatriated via Thailand following legal procedures, while 625 remain under secure custody awaiting repatriation. — MNA/KZL

Immigration processes are underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.



Local ethnic people return to Hsipaw as health care services continue

TATMADAW has conducted a counter-terrorism operation to ensure the safety and peaceful living of the people, has regained the full control of Hsipaw, Shan State (North), and is currently carrying out rehabilitation activities in a timely manner, including the resumption of government administration, children’s education, and health care for the local population.

Yesterday, as the local ethnic people who had been temporarily displaced returned to Hsipaw, security forces and departmental officials welcomed and accommodated them.

In addition, the Hsipaw Township Hospital provides necessary health care services to the local ethnic population,



Security forces and departmental officials welcome the locals from Hsipaw returning to their homes in Hsipaw yesterday.

and yesterday it treated 33 outpatients and four patients requiring hospitalization.

In addition, security forces are reportedly continuing to carry out local security and territorial control duties to ensure stability, peace, and prosperity, promote long-term development, and enable local ethnic people to live and work peacefully. — MNA/TH

Veteran artists feature in monochrome art show at Artistic Space Gallery in Yangon

A group art exhibition titled “The Beauty of Monochrome (Episode-2)” is being held at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botataung Township, Yangon Region, from 25 to 29 October, according to the gallery.

The exhibition features over 100 paintings created by 30 veteran artists using various media such as pencil, watercolour, oil, and acrylic.

“The exhibition showcases a variety of themes, genres, and techniques presented by 30 painters. It is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, and we warmly invite people to come and enjoy the works,” said one of the exhibition organizers.

The displayed paintings vary in sizes, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. — ASH/KZL



Some of the paintings displayed at the exhibition.

NATIONAL

Ngwehsaung Beach to be established as smoke-free zone to boost tourism and public health

THE Ngwehsaung Beach area in Ayeyawady Region will be established as a smoke-free zone, according to U Win Min Ko, the Administrator of Ngwehsaung.

It is understood that the process of establishing Ngwehsaung Beach as a smoke-free zone will be carried out in phases across the four urban wards and the various beach locations.

“The aim of making Ngwehsaung a smoke-free beach area is to ensure that both domestic and international tourists who visit the beach can enjoy a relaxing environment, and to reduce the potential for public health to be affected by cigarette smoke. To implement this, the beach area’s administrative committee



A view of the Ngwehsaung Beach area, which is to be established as a smoke-free zone.

and health organizations held an awareness-raising workshop at the township level, and discussions have already taken place to ensure wide dissemination of information among officials from the hotel zone, restaurants, and guest houses, as well as town elders, departmental officials, and ward administrative bodies,” said U Win Min Ko.

In addition to establishing a smoke-free zone, efforts are being made to ensure the security, cleanliness, and scenic beauty of the beach, as well as the availability of healthy food options, so that both local and foreign tourists can relax and enjoy their visit to Ngwehsaung Beach. — ASH/KN

3rd Myanmar Intl Textile & Machinery Fair to be held for three days

THE 3rd Myanmar International Textile & Machinery Fair will be held for three days in December, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA).

The fair will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on 5-7 December at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Inya Lake Compound, No 37, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. The fair aims to promote long-term economic relations and potential cooperation between China and Myanmar in the textile and garment industry, as well as between Myanmar and ASEAN countries, and to develop Myanmar’s garment sector.

The MGMA has announced

that the exhibition will showcase the necessary products and related materials for the garment sector in one place. It will include textile products and machinery from China and Myanmar, local MSMEs and Made in Myanmar products, sewing motors, textile accessories and raw materials, clothing tags, pricing tags, printing and trim accessories, and printing and machinery for producing designs and patterns.

Furthermore, the fair will include panel discussions on the development of the garment sector, traditional Myanmar costume exhibitions, traditional costume exhibitions from China and ASEAN countries,

CMP and local brand fashion shows, exhibitors’ business matching sessions, and seminars related to the sector.

It has announced that exhibitors wishing to promote their products, including garment businesses, factories, domestic brand-owners, manufacturers, machinery importers, those interested in promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, and those interested in B2C and B2B cooperation, can connect through product showcases and business matching. For inquiries, people may contact +95-1-2314829, 2300253 (Ext: 11) or 09-430 81 424. — MT/ZN



A scene from the Myanmar Textile & Machinery Fair held in Yangon, Myanmar, in 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

AYA and MoneyGram partner for faster and more secure international remittances

FOR faster and more secure international remittances, AYA Bank has successfully partnered with the global money transfer service, MoneyGram, said AYA Bank.

International transfers from MoneyGram can be sent directly to AYA saving account and AYA Pay account and can be received full in cash at once with the best transfer rate.

Money transfers can be made by transferor’s ID card at nearby MoneyGram counters, or by signing up at MoneyGram app or by filling data at MoneyGram website. Money withdrawals can be made at more than 240 AYA branches with ID card, or AYA 24/7 ATM withdrawal service through AYA Mobile or AYA Pay app and at AYA Pay agents.

Further announcement on remittance service offered by AYA and MoneyGram will be continued at AYA Bank official Facebook page and transfers can be made safely, said AYA Bank. — MT/ZS

Strategic Partnership
Announcement



AYA BANK & MONEYGRAM

အိမ်ကိုငွေလွှဲဖို့ အလွယ်တူဆုံး
AYA Remit

AYA Bank has partnered with MoneyGram to offer faster and more secure international remittances for everyone in Myanmar.



AYA announced it has partnered with MoneyGram.

NATIONAL

Administrators and civil servants must remain free from party politics

❖ It is necessary for those in administrative roles and public service personnel to remain free from party politics.
❖ Therefore, it is necessary for administrators to be fully qualified and to possess skills in governance, knowledge of the law, and a vision for regional development.
(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the government coordination meeting of the SAC on 19 May 2025)

OPPLE launches latest software-defined lighting technology

THE latest OPPLE SDL (Software Defined Lighting) technology was officially introduced on 25 October at the Melia Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.

SDL (Software Defined Lighting) is a new technology that can change the light to closely resemble natural light via software and automatically adjust the indoor lighting in accordance with the external light. OPPLE Lighting’s team of over 100 expert engineers conducted research for over three years and obtained 183 patents before successfully developing this SDL technology.

“Opple lighting has been in Myanmar for about 12 years. Internationally, it’s been nearly 30 years. Today, we are introducing the SDL technology, which can change various colours and create light that closely resembles natural light. Furthermore, we



The Mingala Tower Residence Project: The New Star Light Construction in Mandalay, where OPPLE SDL Smart Lighting technology is used.

are meeting again with our sales agents from various regions and towns,” said U Peter Kyaw Moe, Sales and Marketing Director of Farmer Lighting Company Limited, the representative for Opple lighting in Myanmar, at the event.

The new SDL Smart Lighting technology was introduced to the world at an international technology exhibition in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2024.

OPPLE Lighting is a brand with a 29-year history, with its European headquarters in the Netherlands and its international headquarters in Shanghai, China. It is used in over 70 countries, has three manufacturing plants, and operates with over 5,500 production staff and more than 500 professional Research & Development (R&D) experts.

In Myanmar, the Mingalar Tower Residence Project: New Star Light Construction in Mandalay was successfully built utilizing OPPLE SDL Smart Lighting technology, and is the first to install this technology throughout the entire building. — Ko Linn/ZN

Online session on jobs in Germany to be held



This image displays an advert for the online session for living and working in Germany.

FOR those who are interested in working and studying vocational training in Germany, Goethe-Institut Myanmar’s living and working in Germany advisory service will host a

free online session.

The Zoom meeting has been scheduled from 1:30 pm to 3 pm on 28 October, and 15 people will be allowed to join. The Living and Working in Germany’s consultant Kaung Su Thet Aung will answer questions about requirements for professional careers in medical, engineering, IT and other fields, as well as opportunities for vocational training courses.

Interested persons can register in prior at <https://www.goethe.de/ins/mm/my/spr/lad/ber.html> in the Myanmar language or <https://www.goethe.de/ins/mm/en/spr/lad/amf.html> in English. Eligible persons will be replied to by email, said the Goethe-Institut. — MT/ZS

Three-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.499 bln

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 19 October, the combined teams impounded a boat (approximately K1.48 million) carrying illegal timbers and charcoal bags worth K1.720 million in Myeik, Bokpyin and Kyunsu townships, five boats (estimated value of K20.85 million) without fishing licence near Kho Island and Pidontaung island in Bokpyin Township and Meesein Island in Kyunsu Township and two unregistered motorbikes worth K3.5 million in Kawthoung and Bokpyin townships. The action was conducted under the Forest Law, the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law and the Export/

Import Law.

On 22 and 23 October, the combined on-duty teams seized illegal timbers worth K391,728 in Yedashe Township, an Isuzu truck (approximately K120 million) carrying illegal timbers in Thanbyuzayat Township, foodstuffs worth K1.074 billion in Mawlamyine Township, two unregistered motorbikes worth K6 million in Thanbyuzayat and Thaton townships, two vehicles (estimated value of K85 million) carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods worth K72.72 million without official documents along with an unregistered vehicle at the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint, two suspected jade bracelets valued at K2 million without official documents at the Yangon International Air-



Photo shows the confiscated illegal Knapsack Electrical Sprayer.

port (Warehouse) and an agricultural input worth K128.47 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port. The action was taken under the Forest Law, Export/Import Law, the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The Steering Committee reported 23 arrests on 19, 22 and 23 October, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1.499 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Nurture ourselves to become upright individuals

MORALITY means maintaining discipline in one's actions and speech. Everything one does, says, or thinks should be honest and upright. One should avoid deeds, words, and thoughts that may cause harm or suffering to others. A person should feel shame and fear at the thought of doing wrong. Only then can one become a person of good moral conduct.

The present time is an important foundation for the future. In the same way, youths are the essential force for the future of the nation. Only when young people, including students, read good

literature from an early age and gain correct knowledge will they grow into mature individuals with good moral values. Moreover, youths should follow the guidance of their elders. Most importantly, they need to pursue their education diligently, as this is the era of learning.

Politeness and wisdom are the pride of all human beings. Politeness encompasses both physical and mental conduct as well as one's actions in daily life. Wisdom can be defined as the ability to discern what should and should not be done, and to distinguish between right and wrong in all situations. Therefore, youths should strive to enhance their abilities with human dignity founded on politeness and wisdom. In this regard, the words of advice given by the elderly serve as the foundation for shaping Myanmar society with these virtues.

Parents are the first teachers and trainers of their children. They must guide their offspring along the right path in life. Since children are like statues made of wax, parents should focus on shaping them to appreciate and uphold good moral values, both physically and mentally. Moreover, teachers also have the responsibility to educate their pupils to become polite and wise.

Everyone can gain valuable advice from reading. Through books, they can shape their minds and develop themselves physically and mentally. Books in various genres provide experiences, guidance, expertise, ideologies, valuable quotes from classical literature, and new knowledge. By reading, people can accumulate diverse knowledge and experiences without having to spend all their time engaging in personal trials or incidents.

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When people interact and speak with one another politely, they become well-liked and respected, and the work they do is more likely to be accomplished. Young people have to build their lives with not only good manners and gentleness but also pleasant and courteous speech. Everyone appreciates being spoken to kindly. From their student years onward, young people should practise good morality in daily life and cultivate themselves to become upright individuals.

Marching in Unity, towards the Goal of Democracy

By Min Khant

TODAY, at this time, in this era, the goal of the nation and its people is the emergence of a Union based on democracy and federalism. As the development of a multi-party democratic system is crucial for achieving the goal, the Tatmadaw is paving the way for the nation to help reach a multi-party democratic path. In the path paved by the Tatmadaw, the election process, which is the lifeblood of the multi-party democratic system, is a vitally important milestone.

An election is an essential process for a multi-party democratic system to thrive as well as a turning point for a change in the administrative mechanism that will lead the country. For this turning point to be gentle, an election needs to be free, transparent, and fair, as well as acceptable to the stakeholders and the voters. Although there may be arguments and dissatisfaction, it is extremely important that those who win the election need to smoothly transfer the administrative mechanism and legislative pillar with minimal friction, in accordance with the enacted election laws.

Based on the lessons learned from the 2020 election, the NLD party leadership, misinterpreting the widespread public support they enjoyed, seized absolute control of the administrative and legislative machinery. They, driven by a lust for power, sought to unlawfully usurp the state power, bypassing the existing constitution. As a consequence, everyone has witnessed, acknowledged, and experienced that the 2020 election, marred by widespread electoral fraud, was neither fair nor a smooth transition. The 2020 election irregularities, a major stain on Myanmar's electoral history, prioritized a single party's dominance within the Hluttaws over the development of a multi-party democratic system, leading to detrimental consequences that would upset the balance of power between the three branches of government. Free, transparent, and fair elections are the lifeblood of a multi-party democratic system, and this election

is also related to the dignity of the ruling government and the election commission, which are responsible for carrying it out.

Therefore, the current government is already preparing to ensure that the upcoming 2025 multi-party democratic general election is a free and fair election, a dignified election, and a successful election, and to facilitate a smooth transition to the elected government that emerges from the election.

It is to be mindful that, in these times, there are terrorist individuals and terrorist groups, who have fled abroad, are attempting to achieve their political goals through armed struggle. They are trying various means to disrupt and prevent elections from taking place.

In truth, these destructive individuals and groups are obstructing the nation's pivotal elections and opposing a multiparty democratic system, making them power-hungry individuals. In other words, they cling to the utterly ugly and illegitimate results of the 2020 elections, holding the politically shallow belief that only their rule constitutes a genuine government. Based on their current attitudes and actions, they are terrorists and saboteurs disturbing and harming the peace and stability of the nation. As they obstruct the desires of the people, they are enemies of the entire populace. Some armed insurgent groups under the name of ethnic armed groups who desire to control territory and wield power, also fear the prospect of elections taking place. Accordingly, they are desperately employing all means to obstruct and disrupt the elections, and spreading rumours to prevent the emergence of a Union based on democracy and federalism, which the majority of the people aspire to.

Due to the rumour-mongering of those saboteurs, three questions have arisen among the public during this pre-election

period, causing concern. These three questions are:

- **Question (1):** Will the legitimacy of the election be affected if a large number of constituencies nationwide are unable to hold elections due to security conditions?
- **Question (2):** How will Hluttaw sessions be convened and will a government be formed if the number of elected representatives does not reach the required quorum?
- **Question (3):** Can it be a genuine election without any specific individual, or without any specific party?

These three questions have sparked criticism and debate between supporters and opponents of the upcoming election, while those against the election are using these points to heavily criticize and attack it. Not only domestically, but also various foreign countries and election monitoring groups are keenly interested in knowing these questions. Thus, clarifications were clearly made for these three questions in this article.

The answer to question number (1) is clear: The legitimacy of the election is not affected even though many constituencies cannot hold elections due to security conditions. It can be confidently said that it is not affected at all. The shortest answer to the question is that the constitution does not state how many constituencies must be present for the election to be successful.

To explain it more clearly, regarding the responsibilities of the Union Election Commission in Chapter (9) concerning elections in the Constitution, it is stipulated in "Section 399(e) that the postponement of elections in constituencies where free and fair elections cannot be held due to natural disasters or territorial security conditions is a duty. So, according to this provision, postponing elections in constituencies where elections cannot be held is in accordance with the Constitution.

According to the 2008 Constitution, elections were held once in 2010, once in 2015, and once in 2020, for a total of three times, and by-elections were held once in 2012, once in 2017, and once in 2018. Experiences show that there are examples where respective Hluttaws were convened, and the formation of the Union Government, Region Governments, and State Governments were successfully carried out although elections could not be held in all constituencies. In this regard, it is easy to understand that holding elections in constituencies where it is possible and electing representatives does not affect the legitimacy of the election even if elections cannot be held in all constituencies across the country

The upcoming election will be held in three phases: the first phase will be held in 102 townships, the second in 100 townships, and the third in 72 townships, making a total of 274 townships where the election will be held. As there are 330 townships in Myanmar, only 56 townships will not be able to hold elections for the time being, but by-elections in those townships will be held later. This should make it understandable to anyone who can thoughtfully consider the legitimacy of the election.

The answer to question (2) is as stated above: the Constitution does not specify the number of constituencies or the number of representatives in holding elections. Therefore, regardless of the number of elected representatives from constituencies where elections can be held, Hluttaw sessions and the formation of a government can continue to be carried out in accordance with the Constitution in conjunction with the military-nominated representatives in the Pyithu Hluttaw stipulated by the Constitution. According to Section 109 of the Constitution, the number of elected representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall not

“The upcoming election will be held in three phases: the first phase will be held in 102 townships, the second in 100 townships, and the third in 72 townships, making a total of 274 townships where the election will be held. As there are 330 townships in Myanmar, only 56 townships will not be able to hold elections for the time being, but by-elections in those townships will be held later. This should make it understandable to anyone who can thoughtfully consider the legitimacy of the election.”

exceed 330, and the number of military-nominated representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall not exceed 110. So, no matter how many elected representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw there are, the relevant Hluttaw sessions can be convened in conjunction with 110 military-nominated representatives.

Regarding the validity of Hluttaw sessions, Section 128(a) of the Constitution stipulates that a session is duly constituted if more than half of the total number of representatives who are permitted to attend are present. This means the total number only includes representatives elected from the constituencies where elections were held and military-nominated representatives, who are all entitled to attend. **The number of representatives from constituencies where elections were not held is not included in the total count of representatives permitted to attend the Hluttaw. Consequently, the Hluttaw session will be duly constituted, and the Hluttaw proceedings can continue in accordance with the Constitution if more**

than half of the total number of elected representatives and military-nominated representatives are present.

This means that by regardless of how many elected representatives there are, collaborating with elected representatives, military-nominated representatives under the obedience, unity, enthusiastic work for the nation, and the leadership of military leaders, can proceed as outlined in its fifth point of the Five-Point Roadmap by the State Administration Council: "Further stages of the roadmap will be undertaken to hand over the State duty to the elected government." Furthermore, it will be possible to successfully continue building a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system and a Union based on democracy and federalism.

Excluding the 25 per cent of military-nominated representatives, the total number of candidates to compete in the election is 5,023. This includes 1,349 for the Pyithu Hluttaw, 835 for the Amyotha Hluttaw, 2,733 for the region and state Hluttaws, and 106 ethnic repre-

sentatives, making 5,023 candidates altogether. Even though some number of candidates might have decreased under the scrutiny of Union Election Commission (UEC), this might not affect the process.

The electoral system will use the First Past the Post (FPTP) system for the Pyithu Hluttaw only, and a Mixed-member Proportional Representation (MMP) system for the remaining Hluttaws. In this context, elected representatives from the Amyotha Hluttaw, region and state Hluttaws, and ethnic representatives will enter the Hluttaw proportionally. This means the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be seen as a dignified Hluttaw, free from disputes.

The Question 3 concerns those who ask, "Why isn't this specific person included?" or "Why isn't this specific party competing?" These questions reflect personal feelings. They represent the perspective of individuals with narrow democratic understanding and a focus on personal loyalty. The system that the public aspire to is a multi-party democratic system. Relying too heavily on

a single party or an individual can easily lead back to authoritarianism. Myanmar has previously experienced situations where one-party authoritarian rule and concentration of power in a single individual resulted in the government's inefficiency. The absence of a single party or individual in the multi-party democratic elections cannot be considered illegitimate. In the upcoming election, according to existing law, there are 57 parties competing and 5,023 candidates for Hluttaw seats. Those who support these parties and candidates are themselves citizens of Myanmar. They are trying to win the election and form a government in line with their parties' policies, in other words, to fulfill national responsibilities. Their efforts are worth to be recognized. The dissolution of parties due to failure to register legally is a consequence of their own choice. Accordingly, any criticism claiming that the 2025 elections is not genuine because of lack of certain individuals or old parties they prefer reflects personal preference and sentiment, and such criticism only disrupts the electoral process.

Once a government is formed through the people's votes in an election, those destructive and violent groups opposing the current government may find it difficult to continue their operations. As a result, armed terrorists and insurgents, fugitives, exiles and destructive groups have been actively opposing the elections and encouraging actions aimed at disrupting or destructing it.

These exile groups can only survive when the nation's stability and peace are broken and the public is in panic. They are willing to tread on the lives and livelihoods of the people in order to achieve their political objectives through violent armed means. It is necessary for the public and security forces, acting together in unity, to respond and resist the obstruction and disruption caused by these groups.



GREEN BOOST
ASEAN SET TO BENEFIT
FROM CARBON PLEDGE, P3

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

CHINA WATCH

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DUAL PURPOSE
RICE AND CRAYFISH
GROW TOGETHER, P4

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Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women at the China National Convention Center in Beijing on October 13.
SHEN HONG / XINHUA



China's path to gender equality hailed as model

By **PRIME SARMIENTO,**
YANG WANLI and XIN XIN

China, which has made historic progress in uplifting the well-being of women, can serve as a role model for other countries that wish to promote gender equality and highlight women's key role in global development, analysts said.

Namtip Aksornkool, senior specialist at UNESCO, said the high-level meeting will help to promote international collaboration. She also emphasized the critical role of women in global issues and highlighted that women's rights are human rights.

Aksornkool said that China has achieved significant progress in women's education and leadership. She said she is hoping that China will share its successful policies and inspire other nations to invest in women's potential.

Anita Amorim, head of the International Labour Organization's Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, said that in the context of South-South cooperation, women's empowerment offers a strategic lever for resilience and shared growth, while noting that the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women has served as both a celebration of progress and a critical point of reflection on the persistent gaps in women's rights and empowerment worldwide.

She said that over the years, the ILO has cooperated with China through South-South cooperation, bringing tangible benefits to countries in the Global South, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, in promoting employment, skills development and social protection, while promoting women's entrepreneurship and gender equality.

Sayamol Charoenratana, director of the Center of Excellence for Human Security and Equity at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, said that the meeting can provide the opportunity to reinforce women's contributions to both global and regional development, especially in the Global South.

"For many decades, there has been a deep stereotype that usually places women in supporting roles. Women are mostly attached to roles related to family and community," Sayamol said, adding that gender inequality is "a prominent problem in developing countries".

New measures to advance global women's cause

President pledges \$10m to UN Women; meeting marks 30th anniversary of Beijing Declaration. **Mo Jingxi** reports

President Xi Jinping announced on October 13 a slew of measures, including China's donation of an additional \$10 million to UN Women over the next five years, to support the global women's cause, as leaders and representatives from across the world gathered in Beijing to renew their collective pledge to promote women's development.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, Xi said that China will earmark a quota of \$100 million in China's Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund for implementing development cooperation projects for women and girls in collaboration with international organizations.

In addition, China will launch 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood programs with Chinese assistance that make women and girls priority beneficiaries, he said.

The two-day meeting was held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, which adopted the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a milestone document in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Over the past three decades, guid-

ed by the spirit of the Beijing World Conference on Women, the cause of women has been thriving around the world, with equality between men and women now a universal consensus of the international community.

However, women's all-round development still faces complex challenges such as war and conflict, and extreme poverty, as well as violence and discrimination.

"Looking ahead, we should rededicate ourselves to the purpose of the Beijing World Conference on Women," Xi said, as he outlined a four-point proposal aimed at building greater consensus, broadening the paths forward, and taking more concrete actions to accelerate women's all-round development.

He called for joint efforts to foster an enabling environment for women's growth, stressing that such development can only be achieved under the prerequisite of peace and tranquility.

Citing statistics, Xi said that more than 600 million women and girls worldwide are still mired in war and conflict, while around 10 percent live in extreme poverty. "We need to enhance the protection of women and girls in regions struck by war, conflict, poverty or natural disaster, and support the vital role of women in preventing conflict and rebuild-

ing their homes," he said.

Xi also called for efforts to address global imbalances in women's development so that all women can share the benefits of economic globalization.

"Modernization of the world should involve and benefit women," he said, highlighting the importance of promoting high-quality development for women through scientific and technological innovation.

He further proposed jointly establishing a governance pattern to protect women's rights and interests, and writing a new chapter in promoting global women's cooperation.

China will set up a center dedicated to promoting global women's capacity-building, through which it will work with relevant countries and international organizations to cultivate more outstanding female professionals, Xi announced.

Participants from various countries and international organizations welcomed the measures and proposals put forward by China, saying that the meeting comes at a pivotal moment and is expected to serve as a new turning point for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

Icelandic President Halla Tomasdottir lauded China's achievements in lifting millions out of poverty and

advancing gender equality and green energy, saying they demonstrate that "change is possible".

In a world marked by uncertainty, conflict and accelerating climate breakdown, Tomasdottir said it is necessary to draw strength from the legacy of the Beijing World Conference on Women. "Gender balance is not a luxury, but the foundation for peace, the driver of innovation and the key to a livable world," she said.

Monica Mutsavangwa, Zimbabwe's minister of women affairs, community, small and medium enterprises development, said Xi's participation in the meeting underscored his firm commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

"I come to China every year. China is not leaving anyone or any place behind in its development, and that is something we all admire," she said, adding that Zimbabwe hopes to learn from China's experience in supporting women in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Roland Reiland, Luxembourg's ambassador to China, described the measures announced by Xi as "very important" and expressed hope that other countries would follow suit.

"We still have a long way to go in advancing the cause of women and ensuring their fulfillment of rights," Reiland said.



Tang Chengfeng poses with her welding mask at her factory in Chengdu, Sichuan province, in 2023.
PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Tang Chengfeng, 39, has devoted almost half her life to the grueling craft of industrial welding. In this male-dominated industry, the senior technician has mastered advanced welding techniques, and was awarded the title of national model worker.

Tang, of Sichuan province, began studying welding at a vocational school in the early 2000s. In 2007 she was offered a welding position at Sichuan Chuanguo Boiler company.

Over the years Tang has donned her heavy workwear daily and handled welding rods weighing more than 10 kilograms. She has shown her excellence in tackling urgent, difficult and important tasks, maintaining quality products and guaranteeing on-time delivery. Her portfolio includes producing more than 5,000 metric tons of headers and boilers to be exported to Iran, Thailand and Malaysia.

In 2019 she became a welding trainer, and has since taught about 600 workers every year. Two years later her own factory was established.

Liao Sha, 40, a bus driver for Guiyang Public Transport in Guizhou province, obtained her city bus driving license when she was 21. In 2007 she joined a driver line. Since then she has reported no accidents during her work.

One day in 2018 when she was driving, Liao noticed an elderly woman passenger with a young girl

Remarkable women
make their mark in
industries dominated
by men.
Chen Meiling
reports



Meng Yuan examines electricity meters in Guang'an, Sichuan.



Liao Sha (left) on her bus in Guiyang, Guizhou province, in September last year.

who looked sick. Liao immediately headed to a hospital.

"When I returned to the bus, all the passengers were still there. I apologized, but they said they stayed because they wanted to know if the girl would be OK. It was very moving,"

Meng Yuan, 47, from humble beginnings as an electricity meter technician to becoming an industry-renowned skills master with multiple national patents, remains dedicated to research and innovation in her industry.

Meng, of the Guang'an branch of State Grid Sichuan Electric Power Co, established her own innovation studio in 2014 after 20 years working at the front line. It has tackled key technical challenges in the electricity industry.

One such challenge was the corrosion of outdoor meter boxes. During routine meter replacements, Meng noticed the boxes, exposed to rain and sun, rusted easily. Replacing them required power outages and hours of labor.

After repeated trials, her team invented a new meter box that can be installed without cutting power, slashing replacement time from 2 hours to mere minutes.

The invention won the Sichuan provincial excellence award for quality control, secured a national patent and entered mass production, significantly "improving efficiency and reducing costs", Meng says.

In local governance, women's
voice becomes amplified

By **LI SHANGYI**

From village leaders to community volunteers, a growing number of women in China are taking on key roles in grassroots governance, bringing fresh ideas and vital perspectives to local development.

Between 2012 and 2022 the proportion of women among village committee members nationwide rose 4 percentage points, and their share among neighborhood committee members rose 5.5 percentage points, said Feng Ling, vice-president of the All-China Women's Federation.

In the township of Shilin in Hebi, Henan province, Zhang Guifang, 28, was elected Party secretary of Sanjia village in 2021. Over five years she helped transform the village by developing rural tourism, painting murals and promoting agricultural products through livestreaming, boosting residents' incomes and putting the village on the map.

In Fujian province, Zhong Tuanyu, 49, Party secretary of Jindouyang village in Fu'an, revived traditional She ethnic martial arts to develop cultural tourism, charting a new path in rural transformation.

Under her leadership, roads were repaired, street lights installed and tourism amenities upgraded. Many villagers became homestay hosts or martial arts performers. Thanks to rural tourism centered on She ethnic martial arts, the village's revenue rose from 200,000 yuan (\$28,000) in 2021 to 500,000 yuan last year.

According to the 2022 progress monitoring report of the Outline for Women's Development in China (2021-30), women accounted for 54.3 percent of neighborhood committee members and 41.3 percent of neighborhood committee directors, as well as 26.1 percent of village committee members and 10.9 percent of village committee directors.

The outline explicitly sets the goal of promoting the orderly participation of women in urban and rural grassroots social governance.

A government planning document for 2025 emphasizes deepening the implementation of projects that support rural women in contributing to rural vitalization, injecting fresh momentum for women to engage in rural development.

Feng said: "China has established a series of institutional arrangements at both national and local levels to provide strong guarantees for women's equal participation in the most extensive, genuine and effective forms of democratic practice."

Volunteer service has also become a vital channel for women to become involved in grassroots governance, and social organizations provide important platforms for their engagement.

In Daishan county, Zhoushan, Zhejiang province, Hu Songsu, 65, launched a campaign in 2020 to collect and recycle marine plastics. As head of the local fishers' wives organization, she and other women persuade fishers to gather waste from the sea and separate recyclables.

"As fishermen's wives, our main duties include ensuring fishing safety and resolving disputes among fishermen," Hu said. "Protecting the marine environment is the foundation of fishing safety."

Their voluntary efforts have not only reduced ocean pollution but also generated additional income for women who sort the plastic and fishermen who collect it, because the materials are sold to manufacturers.

A recently published paper on women's development in China said that last year there were 24 million registered women volunteers nationwide and 350,000 women volunteer service teams. They carried out nearly 1 million volunteer service activities, covering all 17 goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Zhong Tuanyu (second from left) and villagers practice martial arts at Jindouyang village in Fujian province.
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China's pledge sets green stage for ASEAN

China's commitment to further reducing emissions and boosting renewable energy production is expected to encourage Southeast Asian economies to accelerate their low-carbon transition, analysts said.

The move toward decarbonization is also expected to raise investment in renewable energy among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as China is one of ASEAN's biggest investors and trading partners in clean technology.

"China is setting the stage for ASEAN countries to increase their confidence in green, low-carbon transition while making economic growth a priority," said Dinita Setyawati, a senior analyst at global energy policy think tank Ember.

Cesar Carlito Baclagon, regional finance campaigner at 350.org, an international environmental group, said that China's plan to cut emissions and increase renewable energy production is significant for ASEAN, because this means Chinese factories will keep producing affordable solar panels, wind turbines and batteries that have long powered the renewable energy sector in ASEAN states.

"China's pledge could spur more renewable investment in ASEAN by sustaining low-cost technology and signaling investors that the age of coal is fading," he added.

In a video speech delivered to the UN Climate Summit held in New York on September 24, Chinese President Xi Jinping noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the

Country's announced targets will have big impact in region, experts say.
Prime Sarmiento reports



A visitor enquires about a robot that cleans photovoltaic panels during the 136th Canton Fair in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, in October last year. LIU DAWEI / XINHUA



Wind power equipment at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, on June 23.
WANG CHUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Paris Agreement, a pivotal year for countries to submit their new Nationally Determined Contributions, and announced China's new NDCs.

Xi said that China will, by 2035, reduce economy-wide net green-

house gas emissions by 7 to 10 percent from peak levels. It will within the same period increase the share of nonfossil fuels in total energy consumption to over 30 percent and expand the installed capacity of wind

and solar power to over six times the 2020 levels, striving to bring the total to 3,600 gigawatts, he said.

China will, by 2035, also scale up the total forest stock volume to over 24 billion cubic meters, make new energy vehicles the mainstream in the sales of new vehicles, expand the National Carbon Emissions Trading Market to cover major high-emission sectors, and establish a climate adaptive society, he added.

Xi's announcement carries significant weight ahead of the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference, or COP30, which is scheduled in Belem, Brazil, in November. Signatories to the Paris climate pact, which includes China and ASEAN members, will submit

their respective NDCs at COP30.

Setyawati said that by investing heavily in renewables, China is treading a new growth path — one that is powered by clean energy and one that ASEAN governments should take note of as soon as possible.

Setyawati also cited China's focus on solar and wind power as home-grown energy sources, indicating that the country is moving toward "a more secure and resilient energy system". She said this will possibly encourage China to invest more in ASEAN states on the back of a possible exponential growth in clean technology.

According to a report released by global think tank Zero Carbon Analytics, China has invested over \$2.7 billion in clean energy in ASEAN states between 2013 and 2023. It also led in clean energy trade with ASEAN, valued at \$4.3 billion due to strong exports of electric vehicles, batteries, solar modules and wind components.

Sharon Seah, a senior fellow at Singapore-based think tank ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, said that ASEAN is "fully committed" to decarbonization as shown by the investment in an ASEAN Common Carbon Framework.

Malaysia, which is this year's rotating chair of ASEAN, has also given the ASEAN Power Grid new momentum by pushing for greater coordination between energy, economy and finance ministries, and central banks, to ensure there is a financing mechanism to realize many of the planned projects, Seah said.

COMMENT

A 'golden model' of regional collaboration

By **BAO ZHIPENG**

On the 10th anniversary of its establishment this year, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism enters a new phase called "version 2.0", which is characterized by unity and cooperation, openness and win-win outcomes, green innovation, and peace and tranquility. This new version aims at comprehensively advancing the quality of the LMC by focusing on strategic planning, conceptual values and institutional development, thereby fostering a more closely knit community of a shared future among Lancang-Mekong countries.

The version 2.0 aims to further highlight the role of the LMC as a

golden platform for regional cooperation, and support the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative. The LMC version 2.0 will help align itself with China's goals of building a China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

The six countries have laid a solid foundation for building version 2.0. They have continuously enhanced political mutual trust. The institution-building of the LMC is being accelerated. With the leaders' meeting every two years and foreign ministers' meeting every year, working groups for the six ministerial priority areas are functioning well.

The LMC's characteristics of being "down-to-earth" and "results-oriented" are increasingly evident. The

LMC Special Fund has supported over 800 projects, including flagship projects such as the LMC Bumper Harvest Projects, the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative and the Lancang-Mekong Sweet Spring Action.

The Lancang-Mekong countries have consistently promoted regional integration. Hard connectivity and soft connectivity within the region have been continuously advanced. Infrastructure connectivity in the Lancang-Mekong area has entered a phase of accelerated development.

The six countries have continuously strengthened coordination of regulations and policies in areas such as customs and quarantine. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement has officially



SHI YU / CHINA DAILY

entered into force since 2022. Negotiations on the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 have concluded. The Lancang-Mekong area will be turned into an important node integrating the CAFTA into global value chains.

Looking ahead, efforts can be made in the following three areas to make the LMC a "golden model" of regional cooperation. The countries should adhere to the principle of openness and inclusiveness and join hands to build "regionalism

with Lancang-Mekong characteristics". The LMC should continue to encourage all countries in the region to explore their own development models. The six countries should enhance participation of people from the six countries, create flagship brands for cultural exchanges, and make concerted efforts to safeguard the cultural diversity of the Lancang-Mekong area.

The author is an assistant research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and former secretary-general of the Global Center for Mekong Studies (China Center). This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in China Daily Global Edition. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



Farmers diversify work to double gains

Side-by-side cultivation of rice and crayfish creates sustainable, profitable model. **Zhao Yimeng** and **Liu Kun** report

Every year late in August crowds gather around tables in the night markets of Qianjiang, Hubei province, to gorge on plates of steaming crayfish liberally doused in chili oil and garlic. Shells are cracked, fingers licked and beer bottles clinked in toasts to the feast.

This scene plays out all across summer dining tables in China, but it is no more special than in Qianjiang, birthplace of an agricultural process in which crayfish are co-cultivated alongside rice.

Though few diners would probably be aware of this process as they tuck in, this circular ecological practice has been in place in the city since 2001, enabling farmers to use one field and one pond for dual harvests, creating a model for how agriculture can be profitable and environmentally sustainable.

Dai Hua, head of the Qianjiang Agricultural and Rural Affairs Bureau, said the innovative cultivation model ensures two harvests — grain above and crayfish below — while protecting the ecosystem and increasing farmers' income. The co-cultivation of rice and crayfish involves rice plants growing in shallow paddies while crayfish thrive in the muddy waters beneath. Insects and microbes attracted to the rice stalks become natural feed for the crustaceans. Their waste, in turn, nourishes the rice. After harvest, rice straw is left in the fields, decomposing to enrich the soil rather than being burned to pollute the air.

The nature-based biological chain involves less use of chemicals, cleaner water and two lucrative harvests from the same plot, Dai said.

The model not only doubles output, but also creates a natural balance that farmers and the environment both benefit from, he said.

According to the bureau, more than 95 percent of Qianjiang's 63,133 hectares of rice paddies practice co-cultivation. Last year the city produced 157,200 metric tons of crayfish, along with a bumper crop of rice.

"Ten years ago I could earn perhaps 7,500 yuan (\$1,050) a hectare from rice," said Chen Liang, a farm-



A farmer uses cages during a winter harvest ceremony for crayfish in Qianjiang, Hubei province, last year. GUAN HONGLEI / FOR CHINA DAILY



Clockwise from top: Chefs demonstrate cooking crayfish to students at a vocational school in Qianjiang last year. GUAN HONGLEI / FOR CHINA DAILY Visitors taste crayfish during an exhibition in Qianjiang in May. REN YONG / FOR CHINA DAILY Livestreamers at Qianjiang Agricultural Development Co during a crayfish promotional session this year. GUAN HONGLEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

er who tends 7.7 hectares in the Houhu Management Zone in Qianjiang.

"Now, with rice and crayfish together, I make at least 30,000 yuan a hectare and have annual income of 300,000 yuan."

Apart from higher income, the model reduces agricultural inputs and brings environmental benefits. "We barely use fertilizers or pesticides," Chen said.

The model cuts pesticide use by at least half and insecticide use by 70 percent, local authorities said.

Today Qianjiang's fields are dotted with bases of every size — 13 large-scale sites spanning more than

666.67 hectares each, and 70 mid-sized bases over 66.67 hectares.

Yang Yungang, deputy director of the Qianjiang Crayfish Industry Promotion Center, said the city has built a full industrial chain around its paddies. Some 19 processing companies and dozens of smaller factories turn raw crayfish into packaged dishes, snacks and condiments.

"Shrimp Valley, China's largest crayfish trading center, funnels hundreds of varieties of prepared crayfish to restaurants, supermarkets and e-commerce platforms across the country," Yang said.

The center produces more than

100 products such as oil-braised crayfish, frozen packs for online delivery and health supplements, he said.

Many younger villagers once eager to leave for factory jobs in cities are coming back to try their hand at co-cultivation, said Zou Yudong, head of crop management at the local agriculture bureau.

Local authorities said the city is promoting the standardization of seeds, inputs, farming practices, field management and harvesting to improve the quality of crayfish.

Researchers continue to refine the model by testing composite systems, adding other marine life such as mandarin perch and eels, or planting aquatic vegetables alongside rice and crayfish to balance ecosystems, Yang of the crayfish promotion center said.

Breakthroughs have been made with winter crayfish farming in ponds that can achieve year-round supply, such as the ability to produce seed stock by separating breeding and farming areas within the same pond, Zhang Yun, head of the center, said.

The nutritional shortages in winter have been overcome with microbial fermentation and specially processed feed that improves digestion in low temperatures. Farmers also supplement essential minerals directly into the water to stabilize conditions and support growth during colder months.

Cold-resistant aquatic plants are also used in ponds to maintain coverage throughout the year, supported by microbial methods that keep water stable.



Scan code to see the video

Organic farming transforms poor village's fortunes

By **ZHU XINGXIN** and **CHEN LIANG**

Tucked away in the rugged landscape of the Taihang Mountains in Shanxi province, the village of Chehe in Lingqiu county has blossomed into a thriving village by adopting the principles of organic agriculture.

For decades the village was a place of hardship. Its land was barren, its infrastructure outdated and its people reliant on the whims of nature for their livelihood. Led by the village head, Wang Chun, its people had long struggled to eke out an existence from the unforgiving landscape. In the 1990s Wang started leading villagers to plant trees on the barren slopes around the village.

However, the real change came in 2013. That year, under the guidance of China Agricultural University and in collaboration with 16 other organizations, Chehe was chosen as the first pilot site for an organic agriculture initiative. The project aimed to transform the local economy and environment through sustainable practices.

The villagers pooled their resources — land, forests and rivers — into a cooperative, breaking away from traditional farming methods and embracing organic cultivation and livestock rearing.

The transformation was nothing short of miraculous. Nearly 47 hectares of land was converted into organic farmland, on which villagers cultivated a variety of organic grains and vegetables. They also employed organic methods to raise more than 30,000 chickens and 5,000 sheep. All these products were certified as traceable organic goods, quickly capturing the attention of eager markets in nearby Hebei province and big cities such as Beijing and Tianjin.

A single organic egg from Chehe became a coveted item, contributing significantly to the village's newfound prosperity, Wang said. Last year eggs from Chehe yielded income of 3 million yuan (\$420,000) for the village cooperative.

By 2023 Chehe's collective income had risen from zero in 2013 to 138 million yuan, with individual incomes rising from 2,300 yuan in 2013 to 25,000 yuan in 2023.

The village did not stop at agriculture. It seamlessly integrated organic farming with tourism, creating a unique cultural experience. Visitors could walk through lush vegetable gardens, pick fresh produce, and stay in charming guesthouses that offered an authentic taste of rural life.

ROLLING UPDATES:

WORLD/ARTICLE/AD

Timor-Leste becomes
ASEAN's 11th member

Timor-Leste applied for ASEAN membership in 2011.

TIMOR-LESTE has been welcomed into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the grouping's 11th member, following an official ceremony at the 47th ASEAN Summit in the Malaysian capital on Sunday.

Timor-Leste's President Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao were present

at the signing of the Declaration on the Admission of Timor-Leste into ASEAN.

Timor-Leste, located in the easternmost part of the Lesser Sunda Islands in Southeast Asia, applied for ASEAN membership in 2011. In November 2022, ASEAN member states principally agreed to admit Timor-Leste as a new member of the regional

grouping.

The 47th ASEAN Summit and related summits were hosted by the ASEAN 2025 chair Malaysia on Sunday to Tuesday.

Established in 1967, the grouping includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Timor-Leste. — Xinhua



In a historic occasion for the region, the Signing of the Declaration on the Admission of Timor-Leste into ASEAN took place at the Opening Ceremony of the 47th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, held on 26 October 2025. The Declaration was signed by ASEAN Leaders together with the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, marking the ASEAN Leaders' consent to accept Timor-Leste as the 11th Member State of ASEAN. This achievement is the result of years of close cooperation between ASEAN and Timor-Leste.

PHOTO: ASEAN.ORG

Marching in Unity, towards the Goal of Democracy

From page 9

While all people are working to ensure the success of the election process, which is vital for peace, stability and the development of a genuine multiparty democratic system, it is important to remain vigilant and not be swayed by the instigations or false propaganda spread by domestic and foreign destructive groups aimed at derailing the elections.

The Government has enacted laws on protec-

tion of election from disruption to hold the election successfully. These laws are in place to safeguard both the candidate representatives who will contest in the election and the civil servants who will successfully conduct and manage the election. This law is already in effect, and according to it, legal action has been taken against 93 offenders who disrupted or obstructed the election process

For the stability, peace, and development of the nation, and during

this pivotal period of political transition for the state, this article reminds people that they should choose the candidates who can genuinely work for the benefit of the country, who can truly implement the multi-party democratic system, who can authentically uphold and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, and who are capable of working towards building a prosperous nation when casting votes to properly elect public representatives.

Since the Government explicitly declared that a free and fair election would be held undoubtedly, heads of states from many countries, including major world powers, have recognized, supported, and endorsed this. It is also understood that election observation missions will be sent.

Furthermore, it is essential for the people to fulfill their duties as patriotic and responsible citizens by wholeheartedly participating in the genuine

multi-party democratic path, which, under the leadership of the Government, can guarantee stability, the rule of law, and sustainable development. This participation is crucial for the successful holding of the multiparty democratic general election that will shape the future of the nation in a stable and peaceful manner.

By practically exercising the precious citizen's rights and through the united strength of the entire nation, all must

resist the dangers posed by destructive elements and stride forward in a balanced manner to successfully reach the democratic goals that everyone aspires to.

Consequently, the entire population is urged to participate in their respective roles actively during the pre-election period and the election period itself for holding the free, fair, dignified and successful general elections and for fulfilling the responsibilities of a citizen.

Cambodia, Thailand sign joint
declaration on peace

CAMBODIA and Thailand on Sunday signed a joint declaration on peace on the sidelines of the 47th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in the Malaysian capital.

The declaration was signed by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul.

At the signing ceremony, Hun Manet said Cambodia reaffirms its strong commitment to fully imple-

menting the joint declaration and to continuing close cooperation with Thailand and all partners to ensure lasting peace that brings tangible benefits to people in both countries.

For his part, Anutin said the declaration, if fully implemented, will provide the building blocks for lasting peace and, more importantly, will help mend Thai-Cambodian ties.

Armed clashes between Cambodian and

Thai forces broke out on 24 July along their border. The clashes have resulted in more than a hundred deaths and injuries.

On 7 August at an extraordinary meeting held in Malaysia, the two ASEAN member states agreed on the details of a ceasefire and signed an agreement, pledging to maintain current troop deployments without further movement and not to increase forces along the border. — Xinhua

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In the matter of the Financial Institution Law, 2016
In the matter of MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Yangon Branch)
[Under Paragraph 34 of the Directive on External Auditors of
Banks of the Central Bank of Myanmar (10/2019)]

Public Notice regarding Publication and Exhibition of Financial Statements

Pursuant to Paragraph 34 of the CBM Directive (10/2019), notice is hereby given that the Audited Financial Statement of the MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Yangon Branch) for the Financial Period ended 31st March 2025, and the External Auditors' Report had been published on the website of the bank at

<https://www.bk.mufg.jp/global/globalnetwork/asiaoceania/yangon.html>

On the date of 27th October 2025

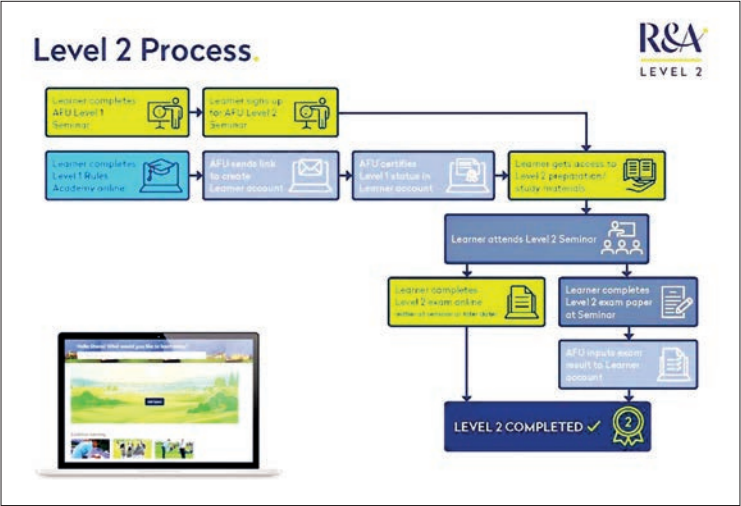
MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Yangon Branch)

SPORTS

MGF, AAC to host R&A level 2 rules seminar

THE Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) and the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (AAC) Rules Scholarship Programme will jointly organize a two-day seminar on R&A level 2 rules at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Yangon on 15 and 16 November. AAC programme scholars as well as MGF’s R&A level 3 certified referees U Ba Hla Maung, U Thein Zaw Wai, U Kyaw Zaw and Asian Tour level 3 referee U Zayar Htut will give lectures at the seminar, accord-

ing to MGF. At the test after the seminar completion, those who receive 60-79 marks will be awarded a pass certificate, those receive 80-89 marks will be awarded merit and those receive above 90 marks will be awarded distinction. Interested persons can contact U Tun Kyaw, dialing 09 5193423 to register. It costs about US\$50 fee per person however MGF President U Ko Ko Aye will contribute all expenses. — MT/ZS



The level 2 process is seen.



Ayeyawady United and Yadanabon players in action during the match.

Ayeyawady United secure home victory in MNL match

AYEYAWADY United claimed a 1-0 home victory over Yadanabon FC in the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League season’s Week 7 fixtures held on 26 October at Kyauktine Stadium in Patheingyi. Hosting at home for the first time this season, Ayeyawady United earned their maiden home win through an

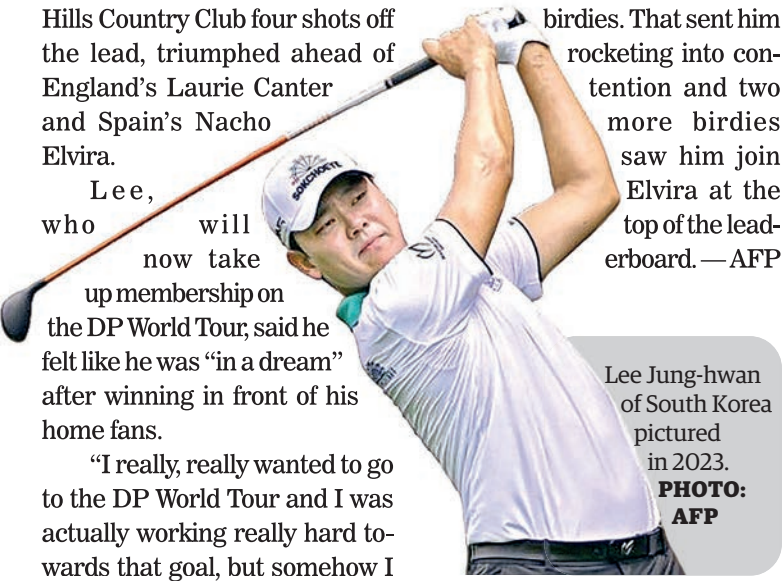
early own goal by Yadanabon’s Soe Htet Win in the 8th minute. Despite creating several chances, neither both teams managed to add to the score line. The result marked Yadanabon’s second defeat of the season, leaving them third on the table with 13 points from seven matches, while Ay-

eyawady United now have 10 points from the same number of games. The final day of Week 7 will continue today, with Dagon Star United facing Maha United at the Yangon United Sports Complex, and Rakhine United meeting Dagon Port at Thihadipa Stadium. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

South Korea’s Lee Jung-hwan surges to first DP World Tour win

SOUTH Korea’s Lee Jung-hwan came from behind with a seven-under-par 64 in the final round to win the Genesis Championship by three strokes on home soil Sunday for his first DP World Tour title. The 451st-ranked Lee, who started the last day at Woo Jeong Hills Country Club four shots off the lead, triumphed ahead of England’s Laurie Canter and Spain’s Nacho Elvira. Lee, who will now take up membership on the DP World Tour, said he felt like he was “in a dream” after winning in front of his home fans. “I really, really wanted to go to the DP World Tour and I was actually working really hard towards that goal, but somehow I

was coming up short a little bit,” said the 34-year-old. “I was really making the effort and now I have this really great opportunity. I’m just really grateful.” Lee looked out of the running when he carded a bogey on the second hole but he followed that up with five straight birdies. That sent him rocketing into contention and two more birdies saw him join Elvira at the top of the leaderboard. — AFP



Lee Jung-hwan of South Korea pictured in 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Deaflympics: Athletes optimize hand signs for speedy communication on field

WITH use of hearing aids and cochlear implants banned during the Deaflympics kicking off in Tokyo next month, some athletes have developed optimized hand signs for speedy communication on the field of play. At a training camp in August, Japan’s men’s football team developed methods like finger spelling to convey information on the pitch. With the team favored to reach the top of the podium at the games, captain and goalkeeper Takumi Matsumoto said they developed the signs following suggestions from some players who had returned from stints at European clubs. There is an advantage in “communicating efficiently by using concise expressions”



Japan’s Deaflympic men’s national football team members perform the Japanese national anthem in sign language ahead of a friendly match on 11 October 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

given the width of the pitch and continuous flow of play, said Matsumoto, 36, who was born with congenital hearing loss and has been wearing hearing aids since age 3. In other sports, the Japanese women’s

basketball team uses different hand signs to represent specific terminology. Communication has become more active compared with when they relied on unspecified gestures, they said. — Kyodo



47th ASEAN Summit kicks off in Malaysia

ASEAN leaders will discuss ASEAN community-building and external relations during the summits from Sunday to Tuesday.

THE 47th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and related summits kicked off in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Sunday under the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability.”

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia, the chair of ASEAN 2025, said rising contestation and growing uncertainty test not only ASEAN economies, but ASEAN’s collective resolve to keep faith in cooperation.

He noted that ASEAN’s strength lies in the conviction that respect and reason

still bind the members together.

His speech was followed by the signing of the Declaration on the Admission of Timor-Leste into ASEAN, marking the entry of Timor-Leste as the 11th member of the grouping.

During the summits scheduled for Sunday to Tuesday, the ASEAN leaders will focus their discussions on issues related to ASEAN community-building and ASEAN’s external relations.

They will deliberate, among others, on ways to deepen regional integration, stimulate economic growth, and enhance ASEAN connectivity. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 26 October 2025 shows a logo of the 47th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit on a street in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
PHOTO: XING GUANGLI/XINHUA

China overtakes US as Germany’s top trading partner amid tariff strains

CHINA has replaced the United States as Germany’s largest trading partner in the first eight months of 2025, according to data from Germany’s Federal Statistical Office.

Analysts say the shift reflects the growing impact of US tariffs and trade barriers, which are straining transatlantic economic ties and weakening Germany’s export momentum.

From January to August, Germany’s exports to the United States totalled 101 billion euros (US\$117 billion), down 6.5 per cent from a year earlier. Exports in August alone fell 20.1 per cent year over year to 10.9 billion euros, the steepest decline since November 2021. Imports from the United States reached 63.4 billion euros, bringing total bilateral trade

to 164.4 billion euros (\$191 billion). By contrast, trade between Germany and China proved more resilient, rising to 166.3 billion euros (\$193 billion) during the same period.

Under a trade deal that took effect on 1 August, the United States imposed a 15 per cent tariff on most European Union exports. — Xinhua



The Port of Hamburg (Hafen Hamburg), one of Europe’s largest and most important seaports, serves as a vital gateway for global trade, handling millions of tons of cargo annually through its extensive container terminals and logistics networks.
PHOTO: HAFEN HAMBURG

Year-long funeral starts for Thailand’s former queen Sirikit

THE year-long funeral ceremony of Thailand’s former Queen Sirikit started Sunday, with grieving royalists set to salute the procession bringing her remains to lie in state at Bangkok’s Grand Palace.

The royal family is venerated in Thailand, treated by many as semi-divine figures and lavished with glowing media coverage and gold-adorned portraits hanging in public spaces and private homes nationwide.

Former Queen Sirikit, the mother of the current King Vajiralongkorn and wife of the nation’s longest-reigning monarch, died late Friday at the age of 93.

Digital advertising billboards in the Thai capital are displaying towering black tributes to the royal matriarch, while citizens have been asked to wear dark tones and curtail celebratory public events.

The former queen’s body is due late on Sunday afternoon to make the short trip from Chulalongkorn Hospital to the seat of the Thai royalty, where she will lie in state for one year before cremation. — AFP