

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.

68 container vessels to arrive at Yangon Port in Oct

The Myanmar Port Authority has organized maritime trade channels to accommodate rising import volumes for domestic needs, strengthen export activities, and enhance port capacity to handle the growing number of vessel arrivals.

A TOTAL of 68 container vessels are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port in October 2025, the Myanmar Port Authority announced. Twelve container vessels each run

by SITC Shipping Line and Cosco Shipping Line, 11 by Samudera Shipping Line, eight by CMA CGM Line, six by Maersk A/S Line, five by MSC Line, three each by ONE Line and Ti2 Container Line,

two each by RCL Line, Evergreen Line, BLPL Shipping Line and Land and Sea are scheduled to call in the Port in October.

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A container vessel docks at Yangon Port along the Yangon River for loading and unloading.

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Dr Than Lwin Tun

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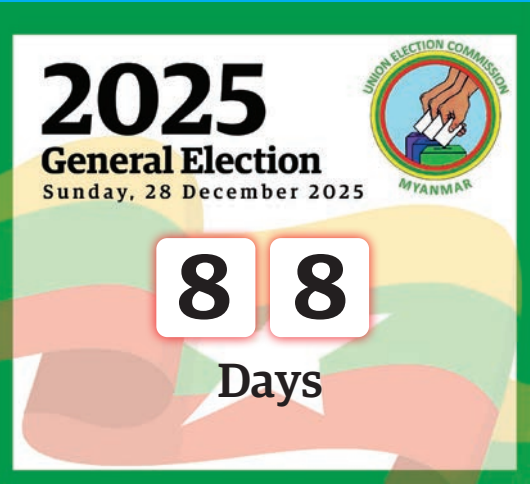
NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission



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

Check Your Name on the Voter List

THE voter lists have been displayed for the first time at ward or village-tract sub-commission offices from 30 September 2025 to 13 October 2025. If your name is not included in the list, submit a request using Form 3. If there are objections regarding names and information, file them with Form 4. If corrections are required, apply with Form 4-C. These forms can be collected free of charge at the respective sub-commission offices.

Displaced Persons Allowed to Cast Advance Votes

DISPLACED persons are allowed to cast advance votes for their original constituencies. They can collect Form 15 free of charge from the respective township sub-commission offices in the areas where they are currently residing and submit applications not later than 12 October 2025.

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 11 pm MST on 30 September 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 9:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area has formed over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move northwestwards and intensify into a depression over the Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal on 2 October 2025 and may cross into the South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh coasts on 3 October 2025. — DMH

Myanmar Gazette

Confirmation and appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

- The National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of U Zaw Zaw Oo, Director-General of the Department of Houses of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council, on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.
- The National Defence and Security Council has appointed Dr Kyaw Hsan Win, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation of the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Domestic RON 77 petrol to be sold at affordable prices in Nay Pyi Taw

TO ensure the nation's natural resources benefit the people and ease the burden of high fuel prices, the Ministry of Energy distributes domestically produced RON 68 petrol from the Petrochemical Industries (Thabayakan) at K2,200 per litre through Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise filling stations, starting 4 January 2025.

Although the No 1 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Minbu) under the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise had to suspend operations in 2023 due to mechanical faults, it has now resumed operations following repairs carried out by skilled staff. As a result, petrol (RON 77) produced by this refinery will also be distributed to the public at K2,245 per litre through the Filling



A general view of the No 1 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Minbu).

Station 0354 in Nay Pyi Taw, beginning 1 October.

According to the Ministry of Energy, the public can now purchase domestically

produced petrol (RON 68 and RON 77) at affordable prices from the Filling Station 0354 in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/MKKS

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)

MoFA Union Minister receives Qatari delegation

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the delegation led by Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of the State of Qatar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed potential areas for cooperation in Myanmar’s agriculture, healthcare, technology, energy and mining sectors, as well as investment opportunities in Myanmar for Qatari companies.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Union Minister U Than Swe meets Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed AL Attiyah, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of the State of Qatar yesterday.



CBM discusses AML/CFT measures

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe, who is also chairperson of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism, presided over the committee meeting yesterday.

During the meeting, she highlighted the attendance of Myanmar delegation at Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) face-to-face meeting on Myanmar’s progress report regarding anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing held on 3 and 4 September in the Macao Special Administrative Region, discussion on completed action plans and further activities, 8.2 result that raise the level to Largely Address, prioritized sector for five action plans to increase level in 16th report, preparations to make exact reply, and international



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe chairs the meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism yesterday.

cooperation to ensure good results.

Vice-Chair of the working group, U Kyaw Win Thein, who is also a member of the Anti-Corruption Commission, reported on the drafting of the anti-money laundering law and cooperation to draft the progress report, following the

criteria as per the recommendation of the judges.

Attendees were briefed on the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and technical and training courses discussions held in Japan and other anti-money laundering related matters. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Russian Ambassador



The Russian ambassador calls on Deputy Minister U Naing Min Kyaw yesterday.

U Naing Min Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged

views on the strengthening of existing bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena.

Also present at the meeting were an official from the Embassy of the Russian Federation and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

NATIONAL



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi holds talks with Qatari delegation led by Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah yesterday.

MNREC Union Minister meets
Qatari delegation led by ex-
Deputy PM & Defence Minister

U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, received a delegation led by Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of the State of Qatar, Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in the mineral sector between Myanmar and Qatar. Deputy Minister U Min Thu, the permanent secretary, and other officials were also present at the meeting.

— MNA/MKKS



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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

ဘဝချမ်းသာအခွင့်အရေးများရရှိရေး သက်ကြီးသူများ ဦးဆောင်ပါဝင်ပေး

“Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being, Our Rights”

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Myanmar National Human
Rights Commission

Statement 12/2025

1. In today’s world, international organizations and governments are recognizing their responsibility to protect the dignity and rights of older persons, as their population is increasing day by day. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that older persons are entitled to an adequate standard of living, including adequate healthcare and necessary social services, to ensure their physical and mental well-being and security in the event of inability to earn a livelihood.
2. Furthermore, to protect the rights of older persons, international action plans and regional declarations on ageing, including the 1991 United Nations Principles for Older Persons, explicitly outline their rights. These include freedom from discrimination and the right to dignity, equality, healthcare, social security, participation in community life, and family-based care.
3. To promote the rights of older persons, the United Nations General Assembly, in 1990, officially designated 1 October as the International Day of Older Persons, and it has been observed annually with a specific theme. This year’s theme is “Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights”.
4. Myanmar has also addressed the rights of older persons through its legal framework. Section 32 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) stipulates that the Union shall care for the aged. Furthermore, the Elderly People Law of 2016 prescribed that all citizens aged 60 and above are entitled to special care, with specific provisions for prioritizing their needs during natural disasters and disease outbreaks.
5. The State is providing healthcare and social security support for older persons. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) is also conducting educational activities to promote and protect the rights of older persons. In accordance with Sections 43 and 44 of the MNHRC Law, the Commission visits homes for the aged and day-care centres for the aged to monitor whether the older persons are being cared for with humanity, in line with relevant international and domestic human rights laws. MNHRC sent its findings and recommendations from these visits to the relevant government departments. In 2025, the Commission visited eight homes for the aged and one day-care centre for the aged.
6. On this International Day of Older Persons, we respectfully extend our welcome and honour the occasion by urging older persons to take a leading role in all aspects of socio-economic development for the new generation, drawing on their invaluable experience, skills, knowledge, and capabilities, and all stakeholders to respect and protect older persons’ rights.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 1 October 2025

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)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Finance and Revenue
Notification 110/2025

9th Waxing of Thadingyut 1387 ME
30 September 2025

State service personnel and retired service
personnel in the country allowed to further
enjoy additional allowance

Part (I)

Additional allowance for service personnel

1. Service personnel serving duties of the State in the country have been allowed to enjoy K30,000 each as additional allowance per month for the first time since October 2023 and for the second time since August 2024. In addition to the existing allowance of K60,000, an additional allowance of K30,000 per month was allowed for them.

Part (II)

Additional allowance for service personnel of Tatmadaw
(Army, Navy and Air)

2. Service personnel of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) serving duties of the State in the country have been allowed to enjoy K30,000 each as additional allowance per month for the first time since October 2023 and for the second time since August 2023. In addition to the existing allowance of K60,000, an additional allowance of K30,000 per month was allowed for them.

Part (III)

To comply with and implement the payment of additional allowances to ser-
vice personnel

3. The following provisions shall be observed when providing additional allowances to service personnel serving in the country under the responsibility of the State and to personnel of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air):-

- (a) Service personnel are entitled to receive additional allowances during the period of four months’ preparation for retirement, as well as during any period when they are receiving full salary, half salary, or other approved leave with pay.
- (b) Service personnel sent abroad on study leave, or those studying abroad under the conditions of deputation, are not entitled to receive additional allowances during the period of such study.
- (c) Service personnel who are granted study leave to acquire qualifications required for their duties—whether at a domestic university, college, or institute, or at an industrial/agricultural institute or high school under the learning regulations—are entitled to receive additional allowances during the period of such study leave.
- (d) Service personnel temporarily suspended from their posts are entitled to receive additional allowances during the period when subsistence allow-
ances are provided in accordance with existing regulations.
- (e) Service personnel receiving the fixed pay are also entitled to receive ad-
ditional allowances monthly.

Part (IV)

Additional allowance for daily wage employees and workers

4. Daily wage employees and workers from government departments and or-
ganizations were allowed a K1,000 additional allowance for the existing daily wage
of K4,800 per eight hours of each working day for the first time starting from October
2023 and for the second time starting from August 2024. In addition to the existing
K2,000 additional allowances, they will be allowed to enjoy K1,000 more additional
allowance. So, those daily wage employees and workers shall be allowed to enjoy
K7,800 as the daily wage.

5. The following service personnel are not entitled to the additional allowance —

- (a) Employees and workers who receive fees according to the completed
amount or quantity of work, such as under a work contract
- (b) Service personnel who work on a part-time basis

Part (V)

Additional allowance for retired service personnel

6. Retired service personnel (including Tatmadaw service personnel) were allowed
to enjoy K30,000 each per month of additional allowance for the first time starting
from August 2024. Now, in addition to K30,000 of additional allowance, they shall be
allowed to enjoy K30,000 per month of further additional allowance.

Part (VI)

To comply with and implement the payment of additional allowances to re-
tired service personnel

7. The following provisions shall be observed when providing additional allowances
to retired service personnel: -

- (a) The following provisions shall be observed when providing additional
allowances to retired service personnel living in the country, and those
living abroad temporarily or permanently shall not be allowed to enjoy the
additional allowance while residing abroad.
- (b) For the retired service personnel receiving more than one pension, they
shall be allowed to enjoy the additional allowance over the total amount
of all pension salaries.
- (c) Additional allowances shall be granted on the total pension amount received
by all entitled beneficiaries of the family pension (for example, the spouse
and all children of a deceased service personnel). Once the additional al-
lowance is determined, there is no need to readjust it when the entitlement
of an individual beneficiary ceases.
- (d) The additional allowance granted shall not be exchanged for a single lump-
sum pension.
- (e) Pensions and service gratuities shall continue to be received in accordance
with the currently prescribed regulations.
- (f) It shall follow the provisions mentioned in the second clause of the directive
issued under the letter No SaBha/Banda-2/2/310 (3904/2024) dated 15-8-2024
by the Ministry of former Planning and Finance.

Part (VII)

General

8. This order shall take effect from 1 October 2025. Therefore, it is necessary to
ensure that the additional allowance is paid together with the salaries, wages, and
pension payments for October 2025 to the government service personnel and retired
personnel.

(Dr Kan Zaw)
Union Minister

NATIONAL

Six Myanmar teachers receive Princess Maha Chakri Award

SIX Myanmar teachers have been awarded the Princess Maha Chakri Award, which is given by the Princess Maha Chakri Award Foundation to honour the teachers, according to the foundation at its press conference at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon on 29 September.

The foundation has previously awarded the prize to 11 countries, but now it has been extended to three more countries, making a total of 14 countries.

There are so far 69 award winners of the prize given every two years in the world, including Myanmar teachers. “The foundation selected the best teachers from each country on the best criteria. We give the prize to teachers every two years. Eligible countries have increased from 11 to 14,” said an official of the foundation.



The Princess Maha Chakri Award Foundation at a press conference.

Six Myanmar teachers have received the award, and there are 48 Maha Chakri Award Foundation Project Schools. The 2025 award ceremony will be held in Thailand on 15

October and will be streamed live on PMCA Facebook and YouTube. “I was awarded this prize

in 2020 and personally received it in 2021. Within one year, we went through selection processes and interviews at the township, state/region and national levels. After performances and curriculum were screened, three teachers were selected, and I stood at the number one. To win this award, you have to pass the exams and be able to present the projects you are working on”, said Ko Kyaw Zin Aung, who won the prize for the fourth time in 2021.

The foundation is on an annual visit to Myanmar, this time from 28 September to 1 October, to meet with officials from the Ministry of Education, study the schools of award-winning teachers, and hold a meeting between the Thai Ambassador and the Thai Businessmen Association to ensure that the schools meet their needs. — MT/ZN

First Korean reading contest to be held

THE Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar will organize the first Korean reading contest (21st Korean speaking contest).

As the first stage, contestants will have to submit a one-minute video online, a heart-touching topic about Korean literature, either a poem, a short story or a paper.

Those who passed the first stage will have to continue to compete offline, and the contest will be aired live. All who love Korean literature are urged to participate in the contest to create an exciting and memorable moment, and it is expected that all are keen to participate, said the embassy.

Applications will be accepted soon, and further announcements regarding the detailed schedule and participation steps will be made, it said. — MT/ZS



This image shows a poster for the first Korean reading contest.

Thadingyut Night Poem to be celebrated at PyinOoLwin Botanical Gardens

ALONG with beautiful views of the hill town, the festival called Thadingyut Night Poem will be held from 3 to 7 October at the National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens in PyinOoLwin Township.

Colourful lighting has been installed in the garden to give an unusual nightlife atmosphere.

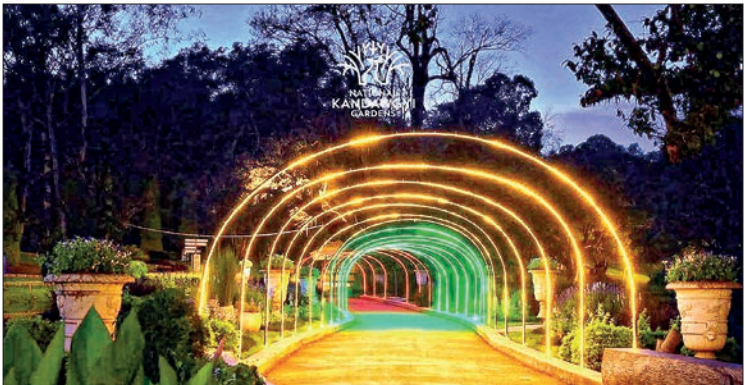
At the festival, a music show featuring famous singers: Helay, Tun Tun, Han Tun, Pu Sue, Phyto Myat Aung, Chit Zwe Thar, Paing Paing, Khoon Wadi Pyae, Thawdar Chan Myae and local singers will entertain the audience from 2 pm to 9 pm. Visitors can also enjoy DJ tunes by

Axel, 9Nine, Kylo, Joely, Barni, Zorro, Valatino and AXN with MC Hulk.

“Admission fee is required only, and the show is free and will start at 2 pm daily,” said an official from the organizer team of the festival.

A night bazaar featuring stalls selling food and local products has also been planned at the festival.

The National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens in PyinOoLwin said on its social media page that visitors are welcome to the Thadingyut’s Night Poem, which has been planned from 3 to 7 October. — MT/ZS



This photo depicts the Thadingyut light decoration set at the National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens in PyinOoLwin.

Yangon Zoo to host four-day Thadingyut Fair



This image displays an advert for Yangon Zoo's Thadingyut Fair.

A four-day Thadingyut Fair has been scheduled to take place at Yangon Zoo starting from 4 October.

At the event, which will take place from 4 to 7 October, M Plus Band, Joker performance and other game activities will be included.

“Unusually, this time will be created as a zoo date for participants, and our Yangon Zoo’s Thadingyut fair will be coming soon,” said the Yangon Zoo.

Yangon Zoo said the public is welcome to enjoy the Thadingyut Festival at the fair while exploring the nature of wild animals, which will give you a chance to have a loving moment.

Mini buggy and e-bike services have been extended at the zoo so that visitors can visit every corner with ease.

The public recreation zone, Yangon Zoo, is open from 8 am to 5 pm daily. — MT/ZS

NCA signed to end armed conflicts and restore durable peace

❖ The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) has been signed to end armed conflicts, and efforts are ongoing to achieve a durable peace.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2025)

MAPCO ships 6,000 MT of black gram to India, Pakistan

MYANMAR Agribusiness Public Co Ltd (MAPCO) conveyed about 6,000 metric tonnes of black gram (locally called Matpe) to India and Pakistan in the second week of September 2025.

MAPCO sent 4,250 metric tonnes of black gram SQ (Standard Quality) to India through Chennai Port and 1,725 metric tonnes to Pakistan via Karachi Port in the second week of September.

In addition to exports of rice, broken rice, parboiled rice and other crops, MAPCO also supported agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer for monsoon paddy growers in 2025. MAPCO has been conducting contract farming on 19,992 acres, in cooperation with farmers.

Myanmar’s pulses export is target-

ed to exceed 1.8 million tonnes in the current financial year 2025-2026, generating income of US\$1.5 billion, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Myanmar delivered 2.14 million tonnes of various pulses to international markets in the previous financial year 2024-2025, bagging \$1.82 million.

At present, pulse prices are cooling down due to low foreign demand.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green gram is exported to China and Europe.

India has a growing demand and

consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses’ annual quota set by India. Myanmar’s exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon



Export cargo bags are being loaded onto the overseas-bound merchant vessel.

peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$1.1M to edible oil, fuel importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$712,900 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$472,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 29 September from CBM’s foreign reserve purchased from the CMP companies after injection of \$25,230 to the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold over \$943,600 to edible oil-importing companies and \$622,500 to fuel oil-importing companies after sales of over 627,500 yuan on 26 September.

CBM sold \$826,100 to edible oil importing companies and over \$534,700 to fuel oil-importing companies on 25 September.

CBM sold \$300,000 to edible oil-importing companies and \$170,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 24 September, in addition to an injection of 100,000 yuan into the market.

CBM announced on 23 September that it would pump \$22 million into the fuel oil sector.

Moreover, CBM sold \$800,000 to edible oil-importing

companies and over \$99,000 to fuel oil-importing companies in addition to an injection of over 8,500 yuan into the market on that day.

CBM sold over \$1 million, 11 million yuan and four million baht in August. Furthermore, CBM also pumped over \$32 million, purchased from the companies working on a Cut, Make, and Pack basis, into the financial market.

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

Myanmar fruit firms seek new mango pulp export markets

ACCORDING to an official from the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association, they plan to explore new overseas markets next season and prioritize the export of pulp instead of bulk.

Marketable varieties such as Seintalone, Machitsu and Padamyar Ngamauk are exported every year to foreign markets including Russia and Singapore, and the price ranges from K one to two million per tonne depending on the quality. In previous years, the export volume dropped due to route difficulties.

Frozen pulp of these mangoes was canned and exported as a pilot project last year, and it attracted much interest and demand both in local and foreign markets, at a price of at least K1.5 million per tonne.

“Next year, we’re primarily preparing to export mango pulp. It is more convenient



Mango pulp cans are organized for sale in the market.

than bulk export. The process includes peeling, removing the core and grinding with a machine. Then, it is canned at a suitable temperature after being sterilized. There are no chemicals. It is simple. We just started shipping last year. We are drawing an SOP and expanding the market. We tried to export to Japan before

COVID-19, but their factories stopped running due to the pandemic,” one official from the association said.

The association is currently conducting value product training courses and wishes for the government’s help in finding new export destinations, he suggested. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Sustain aspiration, well-being and rights of older persons

THE 2025 United Nations International Day of Older Persons, observed under the theme “Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights”, highlights the transformative role older persons play in building resilient and equitable societies. Far from being passive beneficiaries, older persons are drivers of progress, contributing their knowledge and experience in areas such as health equity, financial well-being, community resilience, and human rights advocacy.

Since 2017, the Myanmar National Committee on Ageing has been implementing programmes to safeguard the rights of the elderly and to ensure their collective care and support. To provide income security for the elderly, a nationwide social pension programme was introduced in 2017. Under this programme, in the 2024-2025 financial year, a total of 110,796 elderly persons aged 85 and above were provided social pension benefits.

persons has increased to over 6.5 million, and the life expectancy is 66.9 years.

Since 2017, the Myanmar National Committee on Ageing has been implementing programmes to safeguard the rights of the elderly and to ensure their collective care and support. To provide income security for the elderly, a nationwide social pension programme was introduced in 2017. Under this programme, in the 2024-2025 financial year, a total of 110,796 elderly persons aged 85 and above were provided social pension benefits.

As the new generation of youth who will shoulder the future responsibilities of the nation, they are urged to recognize the rights of the elderly, treat them with respect, and provide collective care and support. It is necessary for all relevant departments and volunteer organizations to continue working together to ensure that all elderly persons are fully protected and cared for in accordance with the law.

Why General Election is Important

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

A GENERAL election is one of the most vital pillars of democracy. It is the process through which citizens directly choose their representatives and, ultimately, the direction of their country. The importance of a general election goes far beyond the casting of ballots; it is a mechanism that ensures the voice of the people is heard, respected, and translated into governance. It is more than a political event; it is the heartbeat of democracy. The importance of general elections lies not only in the act of voting but also in the principles they embody: freedom, equality, accountability, and legitimacy. The following points mention why the general election is important;

- **The Foundation of Democracy**
The general election is the cornerstone of democratic governance. It embodies the principle that power ultimately rests with the people. In countries with

free and fair elections, governments are formed not by force or inheritance but by the will of the majority. This ensures that authority flows from the consent of the governed, not from coercion or privilege. For example, when citizens participate in elections, they directly shape laws, policies, and leadership, ensuring that democracy remains alive and dynamic.

- **Ensuring Accountability**
Through the election, the public has the power to reward leaders who serve well and to remove those who fail to deliver. This accountability makes governments more responsive to the needs of the people. It reminds politicians that they are servants

of the people, not rulers above them.

- **The Voice of the People**
A general election gives citizens a direct voice in shaping their nation's destiny. Every vote, whether from a farmer in a rural village or a worker in a busy city, carries equal weight. This equality is crucial, as it empowers ordinary people to influence the future of their country. Election also allows diverse opinions to be represented in government, ensuring that policies reflect the needs of different groups within society.
- **Promoting Stability and Legitimacy**
A government chosen

through a fair election carries legitimacy in the eyes of the people. Citizens are more likely to trust and obey leaders they have elected themselves. This legitimacy strengthens social cohesion and political stability, reducing the risk of unrest, violence, or rebellion. In contrast, governments that seize power without elections often face resistance, instability, and a lack of public support. Thus, elections act as a peaceful way of transferring power and preventing conflicts.

- **Driving National Progress**
Election encourages debate on important issues such as education, healthcare, the economy, and social welfare. Political parties and candidates must present

plans and visions for the future, allowing voters to choose the best path for national development.

- **Ensuring Political Accountability**
One of the greatest strengths of a general election is that it holds leaders accountable. Politicians are aware that their performance during their term will be judged by voters. If they fail to meet the expectations of the people, they risk losing power in the next election. This system of checks and balances discourages corruption, negligence, and abuse of power. In this way, elections act as a safeguard against dictatorship and misuse of authority.

- **Encouraging National Debate and Progress**
The general election stimulates open discussions about national issues. Political parties and candidates present their policies on topics such as education, healthcare, the economy, environment, and social welfare. This encourages public debate, informs citizens, and inspires innovation. As parties compete for votes, they propose better solutions, which can lead to progress and reform. Elections also motivate leaders to focus on long-term development rather than short-term personal gain.
- **Strengthening Civic Responsibility**
Election reminds citi-

zens of their duty to participate actively in public life. By voting, individuals acknowledge their responsibility in shaping the nation's future. This fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among the population. Civic participation also strengthens democratic culture, teaching future generations that freedom and rights come with responsibilities.

- **A Peaceful Means of Change**
In many parts of the world, changes in government without elections have led to violence and conflict. General election provides a peaceful, structured, and lawful way for societies to replace leaders and shift policies.

This peaceful transfer of power distinguishes democracies from authoritarian regimes, ensuring that change happens through ballots, not bullets.

Therefore, a general election is not just about voting; they are about empowerment, accountability, and the collective shaping of a nation's destiny. They uphold democracy, give people a voice, and ensure that leaders remain true to the principles of justice and equality. A general election is not just about selecting leaders; it is about preserving freedom, ensuring justice, and safeguarding the collective future of a nation.

In addition, the true power of a democracy lies in the hands of its citizens, and a general election is the instrument through which that power is expressed. By voting, people do not merely choose a government; they shape the destiny of their country.



Defining the Words That Shape Democracies

Before we explore the meaning of voting as a civic act, let us first understand the words themselves — ‘vote’ and ‘voting’ — as defined by respected dictionaries around the world and at home.

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary defines *vote* as “a formal choice that you make in an election or at a meeting in order to choose somebody or decide something”. It is an act of decision-making, often collective, that carries weight in governance and policy.

Merriam-Webster’s Advanced Learner’s English Dictionary describes a *vote* as “a usually formal expression of opinion or will in response to a proposed decision”. It emphasizes the intentional and expressive nature of the act — whether in support, opposition, or abstention.

In the **English-Myanmar Dictionary** widely used in classrooms and institutions across Myanmar, “*vote*” is translated as မဲ (*mae*), and “*voting*” as မဲခွဲခြင်း (*mae-pay-chin*). These words are deeply embedded in our national consciousness, often evoking images of long queues, ink-stained fingers, and the quiet dignity of participation.

These definitions, though varied in language and nuance, converge on a single truth: voting is a deliberate act of choice. It is both personal and political, both symbolic and practical. It is the mechanism through which individuals become part of a collective voice.

Whether from Oxford, Merriam-Webster, or our own English-Myanmar lexicons, they do more than explain a word. They illuminate a principle. The act of voting, as described across languages and cultures, is not merely a procedural matter; it is foundational. It is the embodiment of the universal right to participate in shaping one’s society. When we speak of *vote* and *voting*, we are not just referring to a moment in an election; we are invoking a global ideal: that every individual, regardless of origin or circumstance, has the right to be heard, counted, and represented.

Senegal: A Vote from Behind Bars

In March 2024, Senegal witnessed a dramatic electoral shift. Opposition candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye was elected president, endorsed by fellow opposition leader Ousmane Sonko — both of whom were in jail until just before the vote. The election had been postponed by the incumbent president, sparking nationwide protests. Faye’s victory was not just a political win; it was a symbol of defiance, youth empowerment, and a call for sovereignty. At 44, he became Africa’s youngest president, proposing bold reforms, such as a currency independent from the Euro.

This election exemplifies how voting can be a tool of resistance, especially when democratic processes are threatened. It shows that even under repression, the ballot can become a beacon of change.

Indonesia: Legacy, Controversy, and Continuity

In February 2024, Indonesia — the world’s third-largest democracy — elected Prabowo Subianto as president, with Gibran Rakabuming Raka, son of outgoing president Joko Widodo, as vice-president. Subianto, a former defence minister, had faced scrutiny over past human rights allegations. His victory, after multiple failed attempts, reflected both the enduring influence of political legacy and the electorate’s complex calculus of stability versus accountability.

Indonesia’s election underscores how voting is not always a clear moral choice; it can be layered with history, pragmatism, and generational shifts. It also reminds us that the right to vote includes the right to choose continuity, even amid controversy.

These examples show that

voting is never just about numbers — it’s about narratives. It is a mirror reflecting the hopes, frustrations, and aspirations of a people. Now, let us turn to Myanmar, where the act of voting carries its own profound weight.

Myanmar: The Nuances of Voting in the Social Fabric

In Myanmar, the words *vote* (မဲ) and *voting* (မဲခွဲခြင်း) carry meanings that extend far beyond their dictionary definitions. They are woven into the emotional, historical, and cultural threads of society, often evoking a mix of anticipation, anxiety, and aspiration.

Symbol of Agency: For many, voting represents a rare moment of agency. It is a chance to express one’s will in a system that often feels distant or opaque. The act of casting a ballot becomes a quiet assertion of self-worth and civic identity.

Act of Hope: Voting is fre-

quently seen as an act of hope — hope for change, for fairness, for recognition. Even in times of uncertainty, the simple act of making a choice can feel like planting a seed for a better future.

Gesture of Belonging: To vote is to belong. It affirms one’s place in the national narrative. It signals inclusion in the collective decision-making process, regardless of one’s background, ethnicity, or economic status.

Risk and Resilience: In certain contexts, voting has also carried risk. Yet, despite obstacles, many have chosen to participate — sometimes quietly, sometimes defiantly. This resilience reflects the deep-rooted belief that the right to vote is worth defending.

Cultural Reverberations: The language around voting in Myanmar is often solemn and respectful. Phrases like မဲခွဲခြင်းတယ် (“It’s important to vote”) are passed down in fami-

lies and communities, reinforcing the idea that voting is not just a right; it is a responsibility.

These nuances reveal that voting in Myanmar is not merely a political act; it is a social ritual, a moral statement, and a cultural pulse. It reflects the complexities of a society navigating its path towards representation and recognition.

Universal Voting Rights in Myanmar: A Call for Inclusive Progress

While the principle of universal suffrage is widely acknowledged, its full realization in Myanmar remains a work in progress. The path towards inclusive and meaningful participation requires continued attention to areas where access, understanding, and opportunity can be strengthened. In many communities, the experience of voting is shaped by practical realities that limit its reach and impact. These are not failures — they are signals for improvement. To move closer to the ideal of universal voting rights, efforts must focus on expanding accessibility, deepening civic awareness, and ensuring that every eligible voice has the means to be heard. The journey is ongoing,

and each step forward affirms the collective commitment to a more representative and participatory society.

These examples reflect structural gaps — not political judgements. They highlight the need for inclusive systems that ensure every eligible citizen can participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

Conclusion: The Vote as a Living Right

The words *vote* and *voting* may appear simple in dictionaries, but in practice, they carry the weight of history, identity, and hope. Across nations — from Senegal’s defiant ballots to Indonesia’s complex choices — and within Myanmar’s own evolving landscape, voting remains a powerful act of participation.

It is not just a right; it is a ritual of belonging. It is not just a choice; it is a challenge to be heard. And it is not just a moment — it is a movement towards dignity and representation.

As we reflect on the universal right to vote, we must remember: it is only universal when it is truly accessible, safe, and meaningful for all. The ink on a finger may fade, but the voice it represents must never be erased.

NATIONAL

Saleaintan Beach awaits visitors for Thadingyut holidays

THE Saleaintan Beach, the closest beach to Yangon, offers a chance to make a day-trip for the people, and stalls are being prepared at the beach for the visitors during the Thadingyut holidays.

The beach is famous for its beauty and long sandy beach, the local dish called ‘Ngathalauk Ohmauk’, and if proper preparations are made, it can host higher numbers of visitors like Ngweh-saung and Chaungtha beaches and create job opportunities for locals. Tourism growth can lead to regional development, bringing benefits to locals, as considered by tourism entrepreneurs.

“The Saleaintan Beach is one of the closest relaxation spots for the people of Yangon. For this Thadingyut holiday, locals are already preparing to welcome visitors who will come



A general view of the Saleaintan Beach. Photo: **KO KOLWIN**

for relaxation. Just like last year, there are also concerns among locals about the rough tides. As one of the closest seaside beaches to the city, it is also a place that brings peace of mind and tranquillity. It is not easy for a

beach to remain in its natural state. If the current beach can be beautified, it could attract visitors daily, becoming a leisure destination that benefits both the country and the locals,” said U Dhana Aung, a guesthouse

owner on the Saleaintan Beach.

The beach hosted high numbers of visitors from Yangon during the Thadingyut holidays last year, and the locals earned well. On the full moon day of Thadingyut, 17 October, the beach was

hit by huge tides, and the people could not relax fully during the holidays. Some of the people are worried about the tide on the full moon day of Thadingyut, 7 October, and some are just waiting to open the shops.

The beach is mostly crowded during Thingyan, the New Year holidays and festivals. Recently, some parts of the beach have had formation of sandbank and growth of grass, leading to a decline in visitor numbers. However, as it remains the only beach where the beauty of the sea can be experienced from Yangon, local shop owners are preparing in advance for the visitors during the Thadingyut holidays. Starting from the Thadingyut holiday season, the beach will once again become a destination for travellers throughout the dry season. — Aung Than Oo/KTZH

68 container vessels to arrive ...

FROM PAGE 1

Myanma Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, to bolster exports, and to improve port capacity for significant arrivals of ships. Myanma Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules promptly upon the extension of the schedule.

A total of 62 container vessels in January 2025, 53 in February, 58 in March, 62 in April, 65 in May, 62 in June, 60 in July and August and 59 in September arrived at Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 633 container vessels in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority’s statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel)

accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port has handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand and Maersk) started to run to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems, preventing them from sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 meters, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

18 foreigners detained for illegal entry into Myanmar

THE government is cooperating with international organizations to effectively suppress crimes, including online gambling and online fraud, occurring in border areas. On 30 September, authorities detained 18 foreign nationals who had entered illegally through routes leading to Myawady-Shwe Koko, KK Park, and Kyaukkhat areas in Kayin State. The detainees include seven Nepalese, four South Africans, two Chinese, two Sri Lankans, one Cameroonian, one Ethiopian, and one Zimbabwean.

The joint teams are compiling the necessary personal data and records to transfer these individuals to their respective countries as quickly as possible. Deputy Director U Myint Bhone of Ministry of Immigration and Population in Kayin State and responsible officials inspected the process and gave necessary instructions.

From 30 January to 30



Immigration processes are underway for the deportation of foreign entrants.

September 2025, authorities detained a total of 9,439 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar. Among them, 9,327 have already been deported systematically to their respective countries through Thailand in line with legal procedures. The remaining 112 are being held and well cared for and are ready for transfer to their countries.

The government is continu-

ing efforts to expose and arrest foreigners involved in online scam centre operations, including those masterminding them from behind the scenes. At the same time, measures are being taken to swiftly repatriate foreigners who are in distress for various reasons, including those victimized by human trafficking, in close cooperation with the relevant countries. — MNA/KZL

Free Picasso park to open in Paris in 2030

A park featuring Picasso sculptures is to open to the public in central Paris in 2030, with free entry, the head of the city’s Picasso Museum told AFP on Sunday.

The garden, about the area of two Olympic-size swimming pools, will be an extension to the museum and will contain a dozen bronze sculptures by Pablo Picasso, the official, Cecile Debray, said.

While New York and Chicago already boast Picasso installations in public spaces, the Paris project will be “the first open-air museum” dedicated to the famed Spanish artist, she said.

Speaking as the Picasso Museum celebrates four decades of existence, Debray said the future park would join together a garden area out the back of the museum and a small public park that runs alongside it. Among the artworks that will be on display will be The She-Goat, a life-sized bronze that Picasso made in 1950



This photograph taken on 29 January 2024 shows an exterior view of the Picasso Museum in Paris.
PHOTO: AFP

and which currently sits inside the museum.

Paris city authorities and

the French culture ministry are backing the park project, which was conceived “through

dialogue with the Picasso family, and notably Paloma”, the artist’s daughter, Debray said.

It will be a “magical” place to get away from the bustle of Paris, she said, adding that the public “will be able to interact with the works” and enjoy a cafe-restaurant giving onto the park.

Paloma Picasso told AFP that the project is “full of life — like my father”.

She said it was a “beautiful” way for Paris to honour the artist, who viewed the city as “hugely important” in his life, having spent the years of World War II there and installing a workshop.

The museum, located in the Marais district of Paris hugely popular with tourists, is also to build a new wing to double its space given over to temporary exhibitions.

Debray said the extensions — including the park — would cost some 50 million euros (\$60 million), to be funded by corporate sponsors and the Picasso family.

Work on it is due to start in 2028. — AFP

New-look Paris Fashion Week kicks off with Saint Laurent

A blockbuster show by Saint Laurent dedicated to clothing “as a form of discourse” kicked off a hotly anticipated Paris Fashion Week on Monday that is set to underline the big changes underway at the top of luxury labels.

The Spring-Summer 2026 womens-

wear week began with France’s Victor Weinsanto who sent out drag queen Nicky Doll as a model for his corset-heavy collection inspired by the pomp and style of the Versailles Palace.

Newcomer Belgian designer Julie Kegels had Spanish singer Rosalia on

the front row for her early afternoon debut event, where models stepped out of an apartment door and onto a catwalk in the upmarket Passy neighbourhood of the capital.

The day closed with a blockbuster Saint Laurent production on Place du Trocadero, opposite the Eiffel Tower, where models in black leather jackets or bold flowing fabrics walked between flowerbeds of white hydrangeas arranged in the shape of the label’s logo.

Creative director Anthony Vaccarello had the increasingly polarized politics of many countries on his mind as he argued that luxury clothing, instead of being a symbol of income inequality, could be a language of exchange.

“At a time when dialogue is fading, style becomes a form of discourse — not one that imposes but one that connects and adds nuance,” he wrote in his show notes.

This Paris Fashion Week, which follows a historic one in Milan, is set to feature around 10 different labels with new creative directors following a flurry of new appointments over the last year. — AFP

UNESCO launches the world’s first virtual museum of stolen cultural objects

UNESCO on Monday inaugurated the world’s first virtual museum of stolen cultural objects during the MONDIACULT 2025 held in Barcelona, Spain, according to its website.

The initiative aims to protect the world’s common heritage and fight against the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property. Using innovative technologies such as 3D modelling and virtual reality, the virtual museum digitally reconstructs and showcases stolen cultural objects selected by member states. The platform also features narratives, educational content and testimonies from affected communities, highlighting the cultural and historical significance of these items. A special gallery devoted to successful restitution cases further underscores the importance of best practices and international cooperation in the return of cultural property. — Xinhua



(from C-L) US actress Andie Macdowell, US model Kendall Jenner, French model Cindy Bruna, US actress Eva Longoria and others guests celebrate on stage after presenting creations for L’Oreal Paris show “Liberte, Egalite, Sororite” (Liberty, Equality, Sisterhood), as part of the Paris Fashion Week Women Ready-to-wear Spring-Summer 2026 collection at the Hotel de Ville, in Paris on 29 September 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

Gold hits record, dollar drops as US shutdown looms

GOLD prices hit another record high, the dollar dropped and stock markets traded mixed Tuesday as traders prepared for a possible US government shutdown that could disrupt the release of key economic data.

Congressional Republican and Democratic leaders met President Donald Trump Monday in a bid to find a breakthrough before a midnight Tuesday deadline, but top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer told reporters afterwards that “large differences” remained.

Vice-President JD Vance accused the Democrats of putting “a gun to the American people’s head” with their funding demands, adding that “I think we’re headed to a shutdown because the Democrats won’t do the right thing”.

While shutdowns are not usually painful, Neil Wilson at Saxo markets remained cautious.

“Usually, markets ignore shutdowns — most last only a few days and investors seem to take a long-term view of the



A view of the US Capitol as the sun sets on 29 September 2025 in Washington, DC. House and Senate leadership met with President Donald Trump earlier in the day at the White House to try and avoid a government shutdown at midnight 30 September **PHOTO: ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

situation, and the short duration of most incidents has little impact on company profits. The average length of shutdowns is eight days,” he wrote.

However, Wilson warned: “It could be different this time.

Deep political divisions could see this drag on. A longer shutdown could have serious consequences for stocks. In the 35-day shutdown of 2018-2019 the S&P 500 fell 14 per cent.”

He pointed to the White

House threatening mass firings, extending a recent widespread federal cull, while recent changes to economic policy added to uncertainty and raised the prospect of a potential recession. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Zealand reports US\$244.8-bln offshore investment in year ended March 2025

New Zealand’s offshore investment reached 422.6 billion NZ dollars (US\$244.8 billion) in the year ended 31 March 2025, with nearly 71 per cent held in the United States, Australia, Britain, and Japan, Stats NZ reported Tuesday. Most were held as portfolio investments, with smaller shares in direct investment, financial derivatives, and reserve assets, according to a statement from the statistics department. The country’s foreign-currency external debt stood at 157.8 billion NZ dollars (US\$91.4 billion), with 95 per cent hedged against currency risk, it said. As of 31 March 2025, overseas investors held 633.8 billion NZ dollars (US\$367 billion) in New Zealand assets, it said, adding more than 58 per cent of foreign investment came from Australia, the United States, Britain, and Singapore. — Xinhua

ADB trims growth outlook for developing Asia and Pacific amid new global trade environment

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has trimmed its growth outlook for developing Asia and the Pacific by 0.1 and 0.2 percentage points for this year and next, respectively, amid the emergence of a new global trade environment, shaped by tariffs and updated trade agreements, according to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2025, released Tuesday.

The updated report projected economies in the region to grow by 4.8 per cent this year and 4.5 per cent next year from its April forecasts of 4.9 per cent and 4.7 per cent, respectively.

Higher tariffs imposed by the United States, along with

elevated trade uncertainty, are expected to weigh on the region’s growth. Inflation is expected to continue easing to 1.7 per cent this year, amid lower prices for food and energy, before increasing modestly to 2.1 per cent next year as food prices normalize.

“US tariffs have settled at historically high rates and global trade uncertainty remains at elevated levels,” said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park.

“Growth in developing Asia and the Pacific has remained resilient this year thanks to strong exports and robust domestic demand, but the worsened external environment is impacting the outlook,” Park added. — Xinhua

S Korea’s industrial output remains steady in Aug

SOUTH Korea’s industrial output remained steady last month, with consumption and investment turning downward, statistical office data showed Tuesday.

The seasonally-adjusted production index in all industries, which exclude the agriculture, livestock and fishery sector, was unchanged in August from a month earlier after growing for the past two months, according to Statistics Korea.

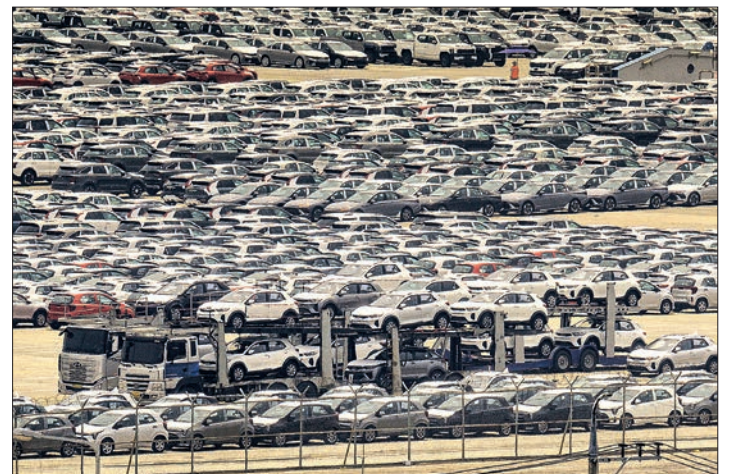
Output among manufacturers expanded 2.6 per cent last month, but production in the construction industry tumbled 6.1 per cent.

Production in the service and the public administration sectors declined 0.7 per cent

and 1.1 per cent each.

Output in automobile and medicine advanced in double digits, but those for semiconductors and food fell in single figures.

Manufacturers posted an average capacity ratio of 74.7 per cent in August, up 2.2 percentage points compared with the previous month. — Xinhua



Vehicles for export are seen at a port in Pyeongtaek, southwest of Seoul on 8 July 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan’s Aug industrial output falls 1.2% on sluggish demand for PCs

JAPAN’S industrial output in August fell 1.2 per cent from the previous month, declining for the second consecutive month, weighed down by a lull in demand for personal computers, government data showed Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted index of production at factories and mines stood at 100.9 against the 2020 base of 100, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said in a preliminary report. It followed an upwardly revised 1.2 per cent drop in July.

The ministry main-

tained its basic assessment of industrial production from the month before, saying it “fluctuates indecisively.”

Of the 15 industrial sectors, 12 including metal products, and inorganic and organic chemicals, saw output decreases.

Among them, electrical machinery and communications equipment fell 5.7 per cent from the previous month, reflecting a lull in personal computer orders. In contrast, production of motor vehicles increased 2.5 per cent due to strong demand in over-

seas markets, including the United States, with transport equipment, and electronic parts and devices also up. A ministry official said it remains difficult to gauge the negative impact of higher US tariffs on Japan’s industrial output.

Based on a poll of manufacturers, the ministry expects output to grow 4.1 per cent in September and expand 1.2 per cent in October. In August, the index of industrial shipments climbed 0.5 per cent to 99.8 and that of inventories was down 1.0 per cent at 99.1. — Kyodo



This photo taken on 14 August 2025 shows shipping containers and a container ship (C) at the international cargo terminal in Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

Indonesia to launch waste-to-energy projects

INDONESIA will inaugurate a batch of waste-to-energy (WTE) projects in late October as part of efforts to tackle mounting waste and boost renewable energy, the country’s sovereign wealth fund Danantara said Tuesday.

Rosan Roeslani, chief of state investment agency Danantara, said in the first stage, eight WTE plants will be launched later next month. Indonesia

ultimately aims to build 33 WTE plants across the country, each with a daily capacity of handling 1,000 tonnes of waste and an investment value of up to 3 trillion rupiah (about US\$180 million).

Indonesia produces around 35 million tonnes of waste annually, with only about 60 per cent currently managed, Rosan said, adding that the WTE programme is expected to

provide a long-term solution to the country’s waste problem while catalyzing the development of new and renewable energy sources.

According to Rosan, the WTE projects are expected to cut national greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80 per cent, generate as much as 15 megawatts of electricity per plant, and reduce land use by 90 per cent. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to develop internationally recognized quality infrastructure system to boost exports: ministry

SRI Lanka will establish an internationally recognized National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) system to strengthen product standards and boost trade competitiveness, the Ministry of Science and Technology announced on Tuesday in a statement. Minister of Science and Technology Chrisantha Abeysena said budget allocations have been made under the

ministry for 2025 to develop the NQI, with 750 million rupees (about US\$2.5 million) allocated to upgrade laboratories and facilities in responsible institutions.

The initiative is expected to enhance the safety and quality of Sri Lankan goods and services, including food and medicine, while ensuring that imported and exported products comply with inter-

national benchmarks, the statement said. The government’s goal is to develop an export economy, and it is essential to maintain correct international standards and compliance, the minister said, adding that a stronger quality system would protect consumers and businesses while increasing global demand for Sri Lankan products. — Xinhua

Vietnam targets US\$145 bln in electronics exports by 2025

VIETNAM aims to reach US\$145 billion in electronics exports by the end of 2025, up from \$126 billion in 2024, Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

In the first eight months of 2025, the export of computers, electronics and components brought in \$56.7 billion, making them Vietnam’s largest export category,

the report said.

However, challenges remain as over 90 per cent of leading suppliers are foreign-invested firms, and domestic companies are mainly involved in assembly, highlighting the need for deeper integration into high-value production, the report added. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HF SPIRIT VOY.NO. (2526E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HF SPIRIT VOY.NO. (2526E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25032)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25032)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Netanyahu apologizes to Qatar, promises no new strike, US says

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling Qatar's prime minister from the White House on Monday, apologized for strikes against Hamas in the Gulf country and promised not to do so again, the United States said.

Netanyahu, who had until now been defiant since ordering the strikes on 9 September in Qatar, placed the call as he was meeting with US President Donald Trump about a ceasefire in Gaza.

"As a first step, Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed his deep regret that Israel's missile strike against Hamas targets in Qatar unintentionally killed a Qatari serviceman," a White House statement said.

"He further expressed re-



US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu participate in a press conference in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, DC, on 29 September 2025. US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Washington was "very close" to securing peace in the Gaza war, after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and releasing a 20-point peace plan. **PHOTO: AFP**

gret that, in targeting Hamas leadership during hostage negotiations, Israel violated Qatari sovereignty and affirmed that Israel will not conduct such an attack again in the future," it said.

Israel did not immediately give an account of the call, although Netanyahu was expected later to hold a news conference with Trump.

The White House statement said that Netanyahu and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani also agreed to set up a three-way group to "enhance coordination, improve communication, resolve mutual grievances and strengthen collective efforts to prevent threats". — AFP

Lingering Typhoon Bualoi inflicts death, flooding on Vietnam

FLOODING from long-lasting Typhoon Bualoi devastated homes, infrastructure and farmland across swaths of



An aerial photo shows flood waters surrounding homes after typhoon Bualoi passed over Lam Thanh commune in Nghe An province on 30 September 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Vietnam on Tuesday, with the death toll rising to 26 and dozens more missing.

Rainfall from the storm inundated the capital Hanoi, bringing large parts of the city to a standstill and rerouting dozens of flights.

Bualoi made landfall in central Vietnam late Sunday, packing winds of 130 kilometres (80 miles) per hour, and remained over land for almost 12 hours.

It arrived in Vietnam after battering parts of the Philippines, where it killed 27 people and forced 400,000 to evacuate their homes. — AFP

Honda unit to provide fuel cell system to US space firm for lunar testing

AMERICAN Honda Motor Co has agreed to provide its regenerative fuel cell system to US space firm Astrobotic Technology Inc for lunar testing, as the companies seek to support a prolonged human presence on the Moon, they said Monday.

Under the agreement, Honda's system, designed to produce oxygen, hydrogen and electricity using solar energy and water, will be integrated into Astrobotic's solar-powered system, in the hope of continuously providing power during the long lunar nights.

Honda's fuel cell system can store solar power as hydrogen during lunar daylight and convert it to electricity during the lunar night, the period of darkness that lasts about 14 Earth days. The only byproduct of the fuel cell is water, which can be reused, they said. Bobby Rolley, Astrobotic's lunar power systems architect, said the partnership is a "major move" towards its vision of enabling "survival through the harsh lunar night and extending mission durations from days to years." — Kyodo



Concept rendering of Honda Motor Co's regenerative fuel cell system integrated with Astrobotic Technology Inc's solar-powered energy system, called Vertical Solar Array Technology. (Photo courtesy of Honda Motor Co.) **PHOTO: KYODO**

NGOs urge no green label for fossil fuel investments

FOSSIL fuel developers should be excluded from financial investments labelled sustainable, NGOs and associations urged on Tuesday, as part of any reform of the European Union's green finance transparency

rules. More than 120 signatories including organizations such as Reclaim Finance, financial institutions as well as legal experts urged Brussels in an open letter to offer "sufficient safeguards to prevent

greenwashing".

The European Commission will propose how to revise the 2021 rules known as the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation later this year. — AFP

SPORTS

Sinner, Tien advance to China Open final

ITALY'S Jannik Sinner advanced to his third consecutive China Open final on Tuesday with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Australia's Alex de Minaur. Later, American teenager Learner Tien reached his first career tour-level final in Beijing after Daniil Medvedev retired injured from their semifinal.

The top-seeded Sinner, 24, extended his dominance over De Minaur, improving his head-to-head record to 11-0. The world No. 2 dropped a set to the 26-year-old Australian for the first time since 2020.

"It's obviously great to be again in a final. It's a special place to be," Sinner said in his post-match news conference. "Every year is different. I'm very happy, and let's see what's coming tomorrow."

Sinner seized control early, breaking in the sixth game to move ahead 4-2. He then held

off two break points in the following game before serving out the opening set.

De Minaur, the world No 8, responded with characteristic grit. In a grueling second set, he saved multiple break points before finally converting his chance late in the 10th game to take it 6-4, ending a nine-match streak without winning a set against the Italian.

The deciding set, however, belonged firmly to Sinner. He broke immediately for a 2-0 lead, then held a marathon service game after saving three break points to consolidate his lead. Another break followed as he surged to a 4-0 lead, mixing baseline power with deft touches at the net.

De Minaur managed to hold serve once to avoid a shutout, but Sinner closed the match with a strong final service game, firing an ace and forcing two errors to secure



Learner Tien hits a return during the men's singles semifinal match between Daniil Medvedev of Russia and Learner Tien of the United States at 2025 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, China, 30 September 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

the victory after two hours and 20 minutes.

"It was a key moment in the third set. When you break and hold serve, it's good," said Sinner, a four-time Grand Slam winner. "Then I tried to stay a bit more aggressive, which worked very well. He was play-

ing great tennis, very physical. All things considered, I'm very happy about today's level and match."

With the win, Sinner reached the Beijing final for the third straight year. He lifted the trophy in 2023 and was the runner-up in 2024.

In the day's second men's semifinal, 19-year-old Tien continued his breakthrough run, advancing when Medvedev retired early in the third set while trailing 5-7, 7-5, 4-0.

Medvedev, 29, had appeared in control early, recovering from a 3-0 deficit to edge the opening set. But Tien, ranked 52nd, showed remarkable resilience. After falling behind 3-0 in the second set, the teenager broke back and then struck again at 5-5 before holding serve to level the match.

Medvedev requested a medical timeout after the set and returned with visible discomfort. Limping between points, he was broken twice as Tien surged ahead 4-0. With his movement severely hampered, the 2021 US Open champion retired, leaving the court to warm applause from the Beijing crowd. — Xinhua

Saliba signs new long-term deal at Arsenal

WILLIAM Saliba has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

The France defender has reportedly put pen to paper on a five-year deal, which will keep him at the club until 2030. His previous contract had been due to run until 2027. Saliba, 24, had been expected to extend his stay at the Emirates despite earlier reported interest from Real Madrid.

The centre-back joined the Gunners in 2019 but had a number of loan spells before establishing himself as a regular in Mikel Arteta's team during the 2022/23 season.

Since then Saliba has been at the heart of an Arsenal side that has finished second in each of the past three seasons in the Premier League.

"I feel at home. We have a good team, we have a good squad, we have good staff. The coach is perfect for me, so it's the best place to be," said Saliba.

"I enjoy every day when I have the chance to wear this shirt. I try to give everything, and now I'll give even more to this club and to the fans."

Manager Arteta said: "William is loved by all the players and staff, and that speaks volumes about his character, commitment and attitude every day."

— AFP



(FILES) Arsenal's French defender #02 William Saliba controls the ball during the UEFA Champions League Semi-final First Leg football match between Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the Emirates Stadium in north London, on 29 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Barca's Yamal eyes up PSG after Ballon d'Or miss

BARCELONA winger Lamine Yamal almost became the youngest ever Ballon d'Or winner last week at 18, and Wednesday's Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain offers the ideal opportunity to begin stating his case for next year.

PSG star Ousmane Dembele won the award for the best player in the world but is out injured and will miss the match at the Olympic stadium, leaving runner-up Yamal the floor.

Last season it was the then 17-year-old who inspired Barcelona's charge to the semifinals, and despite two outstanding displays against Inter Milan, Hansi Flick's side fell just short.

They missed out on facing PSG in the final, as the French side crushed Inter to claim their first Champions League trophy.

Yamal pledged he would bring the cup to Barcelona, who have not won it since 2015 and the days of Lionel Messi.

Despite Yamal's quality, already immense and still increasing, Barcelona have improved without him last season.

In the 2024/25 campaign they struggled when he was absent, depending far too much on him, but they have just won five games in a row, the first four of those without the teenager.

Yamal was sidelined with a groin issue but on his return against Real Sociedad on Sunday in La Liga made an instant impact when introduced in the 58th minute.

The right winger burst into the box and crossed for Robert Lewandowski to head home the winner, little over a minute after entering the fray.

It was the perfect way to reintroduce himself, shaking the crowd out of their stupor. — AFP



THE General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly concluded on Monday.

In her closing remarks, General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock said 189 UN member states delivered speeches at the General Debate, including those from 124 heads of state and government.

“At the beginning of this week, we referred to the United Nations as the house of diplomacy and dialogue, standing at a crossroads, a place where we gather to have hard conversations during challenging times,” she said. “If this high-level week is an indication, this house is fulfilling that purpose: the United Nations is still relevant.”

Throughout the week, there were moments of energy — even electricity — where member states felt the collective will to do better; to reach further; to choose the right path at the crossroads, she said.

“This week’s General Debate, with strong engagements and impassioned words, showed that we are capable of finding the strength to lift up our common leadership, to find collective solutions, and to take the right path at the crossroads,” she said. “Let us be inspired by the legacy of our past, and daring for a better future that is better together. Unafraid. Unbroken. United.”

This year’s session coincides with the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The High-level Week provided world leaders with an opportunity to take stock of the past eight decades and look ahead.

The raging wars in various parts of the world, major-power rivalry, the climate crisis, and a deficit in sustainable

UN General Assembly concludes General Debate



Annalena Baerbock, president of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, delivers closing remarks during the General Debate of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York, on 29 September 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

development, among other challenges, provided enough topics for debate.

Apart from the General Debate, world leaders had the opportunity to make a point at a series of high-level meetings, including the resumed High-level

International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution and the high-level event to mark the 80th anniversary of the United Nations.

Many countries, including France,

Britain, Canada and Australia, announced their recognition of Palestine’s statehood right before or during the High-level Week, making Israel and the United States increasingly isolated on the question of Palestine. — Xinhua

76th Intl Astronautical Congress kicks off in Sydney

THE 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) opened in Sydney on Monday, gathering thousands of space professionals,



Clay Mowry, president of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), addresses the opening ceremony of the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) in Sydney, Australia, 29 September 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

decision-makers, academics, industry leaders, astronauts, and students from around the world.

The five-day event, held under the theme “Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth,” will serve as a global platform for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and innovation on space-based solutions for Earth and beyond, said the event organizer, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in a press release.

At the opening ceremony of the event, the 2025 IAF World Space Award — Team Category was presented to China’s Chang’e-6 mission team. — Xinhua

Qatar says meeting on Gaza plan to be held with Hamas, Türkiye later Tuesday

Qatar said it was set to hold talks with Hamas negotiators and Türkiye Tuesday to discuss US President Donald Trump’s Gaza plan, with a foreign ministry spokesman saying Hamas would study it “responsibly”.

The comments come just hours after US President Donald Trump unveiled a plan in Washington calling for a ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, disarmament of the group and a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, followed by a post-war transitional authority headed by Trump himself.

Qatar and Egypt handed the proposal to Hamas on Monday, and “the (Hamas) negotiating delegation promised to study it responsibly,” foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari told a press conference.

He added: “There will also be another meeting today, also attended by the Turkish side, with the negotiating delegation.” The latest talks follow an earlier meeting on Monday between Hamas representatives and Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Doha. — AFP