

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.

Steam locomotives set to boost domestic and foreign tourism

Passenger train services will be extended along the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay route to accommodate travellers during the upcoming Thadingyut public holidays.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, commission members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, inspected the PyinOoLwin railway station yesterday afternoon.

They were welcomed at the station by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and officials.

The Union Minister for Transport and Communications and officials reported to the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on repairing of a section



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tours at the PyinOoLwin railway station yesterday.

between pier 16 and No 2 approach structure of the Gokteik Viaduct between Gokteik and Naungpain damaged by terrorists to reoperate trains on the PyinOoLwin-Nawngkhio-Gokteik-Kyaukme railway section of Mandalay-Lashio railway, placing of the rail tracts with the use of way beams as temporary structure, production of the iron frames similar to the damaged ones, clearing of the bushes along the railway section, maintenance of the Htonpho-PyinOoLwin-Nawngkhio-Gokteik-Kyaukme section, removal of landmines planted by terrorists along the railway lines, destruction of railway

Salient points from the speeches delivered by the Senior General on his inspection tour of PyinOoLwin

- 1. Trains must be operated with steam locomotives along the PyinOoLwin-Gokteik-Naungpain section to attract domestic and foreign travellers.
- 2. It is necessary to systematically calculate measures for repairing the railway sections and secure and smooth running of trains.
- 3. Construction of the six-storey Thumingala Market (Nyantaw Market) project must be supervised to emerge as a modern market aligned with urban development.

parts and related accessories by terrorists, stealing of rail tract accessories by terrorists and timely installation of these accessories, and efforts to reopen the railway section.

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

86

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.

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UNESCO

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WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY 2025

“ပညာရပ်များ ပေါင်းစပ်၍ သင်ကြားရေးအသွင်သစ်ကို ဖော်ဆောင်ရန်”

“RECASTING TEACHING AS A COLLABORATIVE PROFESSION”

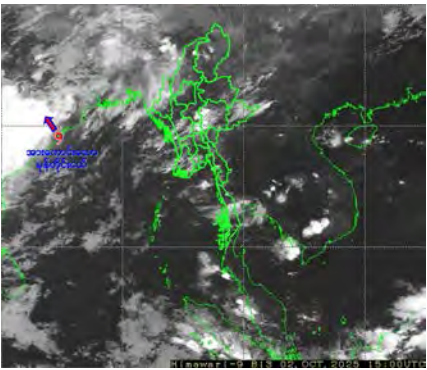
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Deep Depression News, No 5, 2025

Issued at 11 pm MST on 2 October 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 9:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over Northwest and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved north-northwestwards and crossed Odisha Coast close to Gopalpur. It is likely to continue to



move north-northwestwards, cross to South Odisha Coast and weaken into a Depression during the next 12 hours. — DMH

Yangon’s Yaykyaw Thadingyut Festival Market returns with festive spirit



Festival crowds gather at Yangon’s Yaykyaw Thadingyut Market.

YANGON’S most vibrant Yaykyaw Thadingyut Lighting Festival and Entertainment Market, held in commemoration of the Thadingyut Festival, began on 1 October in the well-known

Yaykyaw area of Pazundaung Township, Yangon.

The festival market offers a wide variety of stalls, including food and snack vendors, clothing shops, and outlets selling household goods. It is attracting large crowds and creating a bustling atmosphere.

The Yaykyaw Festival Market, famous for its lively spirit, was last held in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. After a break of nearly five years, it returned in November 2024. This year, the festival is taking place from 1 to 7 October, bringing festive cheer to the Thadingyut season. — Kyaw Soe Moe (Mingala Taungnyunt)/KZL

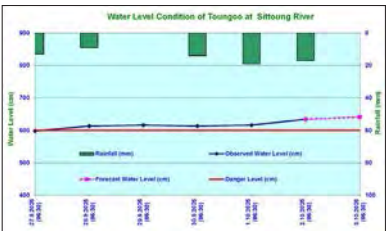
Flood Bulletin

Issued at 7 pm MST on 2 October 2025

ACCORDING to the 4:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded by more than one foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about three inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 4:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about its danger level. It may fall from the present water level by about two inches during the next one day may remain above its danger level.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Toungoo Township and Madauk, to stay away from the flood-prone areas. — 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)

Steam locomotives set to boost domestic and foreign tourism

FROM PAGE 1

In response, the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stressed the need to systematically repair the Gokteik Viaduct, blown up by terrorists in mine blasts and take security measures. It is necessary to systematically calculate measures for repairing the railway sections and securing and smooth running of trains.

He noted that gravel must be filled along the railway lines to meet the standards. Necessary maintenance must be undertaken at bridges along the railway section.

He underlined that trains must be

operated with steam locomotives along the PyinOoLwin-Gokteik-Naungpain section to attract domestic and foreign travellers. He added that passenger trains must be extended to give transport services to the people along the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay railway during the coming Thadingyut public holidays.

The Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar viewed around the railway station and gave necessary guidance.

When they arrived at the six-storey Thumingala Market (Nyantaw Market) construction project in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region Chief Minister

U Myo Aung reported on progress of the project, accomplishment of the guidance given by the Head of State on his inspection tour, plans to open shops on relevant floors, arrangements for car parks, systematic measures of drainage facilities, installation of solar panels to generat electricity for the market, and supervision for the project meeting the construction standards and to complete it on the schedules.

After hearing the reports, the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar gave guidance that the six-storey market aims to emerge as a modern market in conformity with the growing popula-

tion of PyinOoLwin and the increasing number of travellers and to be able to showcase domestic products and basic personal goods in a single place.

He noted that it is necessary to supervise the construction of the project to create a modern market aligned with urban development. Emphasis must be placed on the cleanliness of the building with systematic facilities of water and power supply for the market.

The Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar inspected the construction project of the market and gave necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA

Union Info Minister chairs coord meeting on community development initiatives



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presides over the coordination meeting of the Working Committee on Information and Development of a Resilient and Strong Social Community yesterday.

THE Working Committee on Information and Development of a Resilient and Strong Social Community held a coordination meeting yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information’s conference hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who also serves as Chairman of the Working Committee, Vice Chairman Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, as well as other committee members and relevant officials.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn emphasized the committee’s nationwide responsibilities and urged all

members to work together to build a resilient and progressive community for the public.

Following this, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister U Ye Tint provided a detailed explanation of the committee’s 18 key tasks.

Subsequently, the Secretary and other committee members presented updates on the progress and enhancement of community development activities carried out by their respective departments.

The Union minister, as the chairperson of the working committee, coordinated the presentations and delivered a closing remark. – MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Ethnic people warmly welcome Tatmadaw's recontrol of Kyaukme

DEPARTMENTAL organizations have arrived in Kyaukme to resume the government's administrative mechanism.

As Tatmadaw launches counter-terrorism operations in some townships, villages and areas temporarily controlled by terrorists, ethnic people warmly support Tatmadaw's recontrol over Kyaukme on 1 October and welcome and encourage Tatmadaw military columns.

After Tatmadaw totally controls Kyaukme and its environs, ethnic people who fled their native areas return to their areas.

Tatmadaw columns are continuing necessary security operations and mine clearance activities in Kyaukme and its surrounding areas to remove the dangers of landmines planted cruelly by terrorists. These efforts aim to restore government administrative mechanisms, allow local ethnic



Photos above show locals warmly welcoming departmental personnel upon their return to Kyaukme.

residents who had temporarily fled to return and resettle peacefully in their homes, and enable them to resume their social and economic livelihoods in safety. At the same time, repairs are being carried out on offices, departmental buildings, residential houses, and religious, educational, and healthcare facilities that were wantonly and brutally burned

and destroyed by terrorists while they had temporary control.

Yesterday, departmental organizations arrived in Kyaukme by car, which carried necessary relief aid and food-stuffs to reoperate their offices of the government administrative mechanism, and to reopen schools and hospitals for public healthcare services. So, resi-

dents warmly welcomed them.

Local ethnic people wish for peace as they have experienced the impacts of war. They also hope for receiving healthcare services, improvement of socioeconomic life and learning opportunities for children similar to the situations in the past peaceful days. Hence, they will join hands with Tatmadaw in the rehabilitation of

Kyaukme.

It was reported that ethnic people will cooperate with Tatmadaw in swiftly repairing schools, hospitals and clinics, offices, religious buildings and residential houses destroyed by terrorists. On the other hand, Tatmadaw columns will accelerate security measures to ensure the peaceful living of the people. — MNA/TTA

MADB issues notice on wheat plantation loans

1. Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, grants agricultural loans to farmers across the nation yearly, while the farmers also fully repay the debts in time, and such actions bring a win-win situation to the bank and farmers.
2. The bank grants agricultural loans for 23 crops, including paddy in rainy, cold and pre-monsoon periods ahead of the cultivation. The government encourages promoting the wheat plantation, and the bank will issue K150,000 per acre of wheat at a five per cent interest rate a year starting from the 2025 winter agricultural loan period through the respective district and township bank branches.
3. The farmers are requested to contact the bank, the respective district and township bank branches as quickly as possible to get the loan for wheat plantation in time.

Myanma Agricultural Development Bank



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 344 samples from 8 pm on 21 September 2025 to 8 pm on 28 September 2025, and no approved case was detected. During the period no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department,
Ministry of Health

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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)



Buddhist universities from Russia and Myanmar
sign cooperation agreement

THE Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) has announced the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Dashi Choinkhorlin Buddhist University (DCBU) of the Republic of Buryatia of the Russian Federation.

DCBU Rector Dymbryl Gurobazarovich Dashibaldanov and Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara, the founder and Chancellor of the SIBA, signed the agreement.

The primary objectives of the agreement are to foster international cooperation in the fields of education, science, and culture, to implement joint projects promoting mental, moral, and creative

development, and to exchange resources and experiences.

In the cooperation framework, the appointment of a contact person, information exchange, media publication, holding meetings and discussions, participating in the consultation teams, and conducting cooperation development activities are included.

At the invitation of the Governor of the Republic of Kalmykia, the 89-year-old Most Venerable Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara visited Russia and delivered a speech at the Third International Buddhist Forum on 28 September, lecturing on the four Brahmavihari. — Htun Htun/ZN



This photo shows Rector Dymbryl Gurobazarovich Dashibaldanov and Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara signing the agreement.

Most Ngwehsaung Beach hotel rooms
booked for Thadingyut holiday



This image displays hotels at the Ngwehsaung Beach.

FOR the Thadingyut holiday, most hotel rooms at the Ngwehsaung Beach have already been booked, according to residents and travel services.

Recently, visitor arrivals to the beach have risen, and the beach is likely to be crowded in the coming Thadingyut holiday, said residents. “Most hotel rooms will be occupied from 4

October. Visitor arrivals will be large in Thadingyut. Not many rooms are available now,” said Ko Mon Lay, a Ngwehsaung resident who gives Mini Oway service too.

At Ngwehsaung, popular tourist destinations are Snake Island, Phaya Thonzu, Lovers’ Island, elephant camp, Taungkadone beach, night market and Japanese cafe, Surf Club, and visitors can also enjoy a boat trip to Bird Island, Turtle Island and Kyunlyashe Gawayangyi Island.

In the forthcoming Thadingyut, which is also a peak tourism season, visitor arrivals are expected to increase in Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha, as well as in Bagan-NyaungU, Popa, Mandalay, Bago, Hpa-an, Taunggyi and Kalaw. In addition, local tourists have also prepared for a day trip to tourist destinations located around Yangon Region.

The arrival of both local and foreign tourists mounted again in the previous tourist season that started in October. — MT/ZS

Artist’s talk scheduled at
Narrow Sky solo exhibition

THE Japan Foundation in Yangon will host the Narrow Sky solo exhibition, a combination of Japanese art of folding paper (Kirigami) and Myanmar papercut.

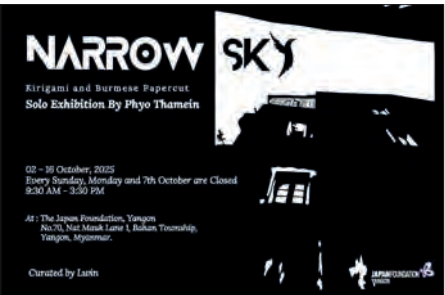
At the exhibition, which has been planned to take place from 2 to 16 October at the Japan Foundation, an artist’s talk event will be included.

Including artworks in a combination of Kirigami and Myanmar papercut, different artistic expressions will be exhibited, and interested individuals can come to enjoy with free admission, said the Japan Foundation.

The creator of the Narrow Sky, artist Phyto Thamein, will give an art-

ist’s talk from 1 pm to 3 pm on 4 October. Art enthusiasts can register to attend the in-depth exhibition talk by visiting <https://forms.office.com/r/zeLVEsiwgD>.

The Narrow Sky solo exhibition will be open to the public from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm from 5 to 7 October, except for holidays, until 16 October, at the Japan Foundation. — MT/ZS



This image reveals a poster for the Narrow Sky solo exhibition.

NATIONAL

Hazard awareness & safety training for Red Cross volunteers kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), launched a training course on Hazard Awareness and Safe Behaviour in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 September.

At the opening ceremony, MRCS Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay and the ICRC WeC Field Manager delivered remarks.

The first training was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 25 to 28 September, with 17 Red Cross

volunteers from Kayah State, Rakhine State, Shan State (North), Taninthayi Region, and Magway Region in attendance. The second course, currently being conducted from 30 September to 3 October, is hosting 17 Red Cross volunteers from Sagaing Region and Mandalay Region. — GNLM/MKKS

The training on Hazard Awareness and Safe Behaviour is underway in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 September.



Thadingyut 2025 music concert to light up Mandalay with ten singers

THE Happy Thadingyut 2025 Festival music concert, featuring performances by ten singers, will be held at Godzilla Bar in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, according to singer-cum-song composer Wai Gyi, who will also be performing.

The concert is scheduled for 4 October at Godzilla Bar, with appearances by Y-Zet, Young P, Jauk Jack, Oasis, Kyaw Htet Swe, Irene Zinmar Myint, Oak Soe Khant, Wai Gyi, Su Htet Hlaing, and Wine Lay.

“Singers will perform a variety of musical genres, and each of them has a large fol-



This image captures a promotional poster for the Happy Thadingyut 2025 Festival music concert.

lowing. That is why I would like to invite music lovers in Mandalay to come and enjoy this event,” said Singer-Cum-Song Composer Wai Gyi. The concert will be accompanied by the Godzilla Bar’s resident band, providing live backing for the ten singers. The show will begin at 7 pm. — GNLM/KZL

New supernatural drama premieres 3 Oct on MRTV-4, Pyone Play

IT has been announced by actor Wam Wum that the Myanmar television drama series “Blank Book” will begin airing on MRTV-4 Channel and the Pyone Play Application from 3 October.

The original story of the series was written by Sao Khun Sitt, Thiha Aung, Wai Hnin Thi, and May Wah Lwin, while the screenplay was adapted by Kyaw Kyaw Htun and Aye Moh Moh Aung. The series was

directed by Aung Myint Myat.

“This drama includes supernatural and mysterious elements. There will be ghost characters, such as trickster spirits, and stories similar to the tale of Ma Phae Wah. It’s a thrilling series that young audiences will especially enjoy,” said actor Wam Wum.

The cast includes Aung Zeya Min Htin, Phone Thiri Kyaw, Thinzar, Nan Eindray, Wam Wum, Swam Htet Nyi



Cast members of the television drama series ‘Blank Book’ featured on the promotional poster.

Nyi, Marn Dhana, and Aye Min Hein, among others. The series will be broadcast from Monday to Friday every week at 7 pm. — GNLM/MKKS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Thursday 2 October 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved north-northwestwards and reached over northwest and adjoining Westcentral and it is centered at about 440 Nautical miles West-Southwest of Sittway (Myanmar), 65 nautical miles South-Southwest of Puri, 25 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Gopalpur and 115 Nautical miles South-Southwest of Paradip (India). It is likely continue to move north-northwestwards and cross Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh coasts between Gopalpur and Paradip during tonight. Monsoon is moderate over the the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF 3 OCTOBER 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway, Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing Upper Sagaing , Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. 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 of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 mile per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of southwest monsoon from the Deltaic Myanmar Areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 OCTOBER 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 OCTOBER 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 OCTOBER 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

United, harmonious, and industrious nation will always prosper and develop

❖ A united, harmonious, and industrious nation will always prosper and develop. Without unity and solidarity, however, a nation will inevitably collapse and disappear, like salt dissolving in water.

(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)

MRF outlines domestic rice market outlook and exports

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) released Statement 95/2025 dated 2 October regarding the market outlook of premium rice and broken rice and export situations in the current financial year 2025-2026 beginning 1 April.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce, MRF has been exerting efforts to boost rice exports. Myanmar's rice export has reached 1.206 million tonnes as of 30 September 2025, meeting a target of 1.2 million tonnes for the H1 and generating an income of US\$408 million. MRF aims to export 1.8 million

tonnes of rice in the second half of March with monthly exports of 300,000 tonnes. MRF and export companies are endeavouring to meet the export target of three million tonnes this FY. Rice export was estimated at 2.48 million tonnes last FY 2024-2025.

Early maturing rice started flowing into the domestic market. The federation is cooperating with affiliated associations, millers, commodity depots and companies to ensure a fair market price for farmers. MRF has been emphasizing market promotion schemes. Traders offer K1.1 million to K1.2 million per



Workers diligently arrange the rice bags in the warehouse.

100-baskets of new Aemahta paddy, K1.4 to K1.5 million for good-quality Aemahta, K2.2 to K2.3 million per 100-baskets of 90-day short matured rice, Manawthukha, Ayeyamin, Ayeyapadetha, K1.3 million per 100 baskets of Sinthukha paddy, depending on moisture content, quality and varieties.

MRF also suggests that farmers decide on rice crop as

per the demand of domestic and international markets amid prices going downward from early 2025, sell directly to rice mills rather than brokers through collective efforts of the farmers group to earn high prices and work together with rice exporting companies to implement contract farming systems or rice price guarantee schemes.

MRF will facilitate and co-

ordinate matters for farmers who want to cooperate with the aforementioned exporter companies. Farmers can contact MRF's regional committee or affiliated associations, or MRF's contact numbers 01 218266/68 and 01 2301128/29, and Viber 09 400067240 for any difficulty in selling recently harvested Aemahta and Ngasein paddy or for underpricing, MRF urged. — NN/KK

CBM to inject US\$25M to fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 2 October that it would sell US\$25 million to fuel oil entrepreneurs.

CBM sold \$1.8M to edible oil-importing companies and \$366,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 30 September.

CBM sold over \$712,900 to edible oil-importing companies and \$472,100 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 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



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

MCEF to launch AI in Construction Training Batch 3 on 11 Oct

MYANMAR Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) will conduct a one-day Training for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Construction Industry, Batch 3, from 9 am to 4 pm on 11 October at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, jointly organized by MCEF and Myanmar Computer Industry Association (Yangon).

That one-day training will cover Understating AI and Foundational Applications, Business Plan and Project Management with AI, Pre-construction and Design State with AI, Practical Implementation and Future Proofing, Applying AI to Finance, Accounting and Cost Management, Workshop, Strategies and Future for Starting to Use AI in Business and AI's Trustworthiness and Dos' and Don'ts.

MCEF's member companies, staff, engineers, managers, accountants, and those interested in AI can attend the training. The maximum number of trainees is only 30. MCEF and MCIA Yangon will give certificates to trainees. The training fee is K150,000.

Those interested can register through the MCEF Head Office's address: No 3 at the corner of Thanthuma and Waizayanta Roads, Thingangyun Township, via 09 893217109 and 09 660282000, and MCEF Nay Pyi Taw Office via 09 254454656. — NN/KK

Gold Market
Rate as of
2 October 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,990,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Choose proper industrial crops to boost production

THE State is encouraging the establishment of agro-based industries, particularly those based on bamboo, cotton, and rubber. The Head of State has frequently called for the development of these industries. Instead of carrying out production in the usual way, it is necessary to apply innovation and improvement to achieve better outcomes.

Using locally available agricultural raw materials, value-added goods and various finished products are being produced. The aim is not just to continue traditional methods, but to apply creativity and

Crops and products with distinctive regional characteristics should be developed into higher-value products through innovation, new technologies, and integration efforts. At present, the State is supporting the establishment of agro-based industries and is assisting in technology, finance, and other necessities. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to establish businesses with an innovative spirit and strive for success for both their own benefit and that of the nation.

The State stands ready to provide necessary support in terms of capital, technology, and other requirements for these industries. For national economic development, the State will also provide loans for the investment needed to expand industrial production. It is, in fact, creating opportunities and extending support for entrepreneurs who are genuinely committed to establishing businesses.

In Myanmar’s domestic market, a wide variety of agro-based and livestock-based industrial food products, consumer goods, and household items produced by MSMEs in neighbouring countries can be found. Some of these products, enhanced through technology and innovation, have become high-value goods far exceeding their original worth. Foods that are appealing in colour, aroma, and taste; consumer products with attractive and novel designs; and modern, stylish packaging are factors that have enabled these goods to gain a foothold in the market.

Crops and products with distinctive regional characteristics should be developed into higher-value products through innovation, new technologies, and integration efforts. At present, the State is supporting the establishment of agro-based industries and is assisting in technology, finance, and other necessities. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to establish businesses with an innovative spirit and strive for success for both their own benefit and that of the nation.

ON 1 September 1970, the fresher welcome ceremony of the Rangoon Arts and Science University (RASU) took place. The University of Rangoon was established in December 1920. Hence, 1970 was the golden jubilee year of the founding of the University. In 1964, the then Revolutionary government changed the name of the University to Rangoon Arts and Science University. As befits the name, only subjects in the Arts and Science subjects were taught at RASU. Subjects taught in the Arts stream include Burmese, Geography, History, Law, Pali (language), Philosophy, Psychology (in Burma, psychology is considered to be in the Arts stream), and the Science subjects include Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Zoology. In that same year of 1970, English as a special subject was offered at a separate institution, the then Institute of Education, as an inaugural English ‘major’. To be eligible to take the English major, the matriculants of that year had to obtain distinctions in English. Initially, the stipulation was that only 15 matriculates who obtained distinctions in English would be accepted into the inaugural English major. But later on, it was extended to about twenty students. Yours truly passed the 1970 matriculation examination with distinctions in Burmese and English. In those days, the results of the Matriculation exams were published for about five days in the Burmese-language newspapers. Burma has seven states and seven divisions. Rangoon Division is one of them. Those who took the Matric exam in the Rangoon division can go to the high schools or to their exam venues to check the results. The roll numbers of those who passed the Matric exams are posted there. But for the remaining states and divisions, due to communication difficulties, the results with the roll numbers of the matriculates were printed for a few days in the newspapers. In the now-defunct newspaper Rangoon Daily, *Yangon Thadinsar*, both the Matric Roll numbers and the names of the students who passed the matriculation exams were published. I knew about this only over four decades later, when I checked the 27 or 28 or 29 June 1970 issue of Yangon Daily. In 2018, I checked the results of all states and divisions except the Rangoon Division (which was not published in the newspapers). I checked them with a law student at the library of the University of Mandalay. Apart from Rangoon Division in the 13 other states and divisions there were

Reminiscences of Fresher Welcome Ceremony at Rangoon Arts and Science University and choosing Law as a speciality

By Myint Zan

about 14 to about 16/17 students who obtained distinctions in English and about 15 to 17/18 students who obtained distinctions in Burmese (as it was formally called) Yours truly was the only student who obtained distinctions in both Burmese and English matriculation papers in all the 13 states and divisions except the Rangoon division. As there were two (six-distinction holders) in Rangoon Division, namely (now) Dr Nilar Tin (public health specialist) and U Khin Maung Nyunt (I do not know his whereabouts), there may be at least four but perhaps no more than seven to ten students who obtained distinctions in both subjects during the Matriculation year of 1970.

I can say that though all of the inaugural English major entrants obtained distinctions in English, none of them got a distinction in Burmese in the Matric exams. And two candidates (sort of) demoted themselves from 2nd year at RASU to 1st year English major. The late Dr Myo Myint (PhD in linguistics from the University of Edinburgh, as far as I know, the only inaugural English major graduate to obtain a doctorate from a foreign University) transferred from 2nd year Geography major to 1st year English. About three months after Dr Myo Myint passed away in July 2017, his bust was displayed in the English Department of the University of Yangon and was reported in *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

But my parents suggested that I take law because it is a profession. So, I did take law and applied English as a second choice. I recall that my late father, Dr San Baw (29 June 1922- 7 December 1984), even mentioned

that if the University admission authorities enquired why I did not take an English major, I could give the reasons.

Speeches of the Professors at the RASU Fresher Welcome

So, on 30 or 31 August 1970, I ‘checked in’ at Khabaung student hostel at Thamaing (township) about 10 miles from the Rangoon University campus. On the morning of 1 September 1970, I took a bus from a bus stop near the Thamaing hostels to the RASU campus for the fresher welcome ceremony, which was held at the Convocation Hall of RASU at the end of Chancellor Road. I missed the earlier session of the fresher welcome ceremony. I met my first cousin, U Hla Myint, then a third-year law student (now a retired Law Officer/Prosecutor) near Convocation Hall, and he stated the fresher welcome ceremony had already started, “Why are you not going there?” he said. I missed the earlier ‘welcome’ speeches of the Rector of RASU, Dr Maung Maung Kha (PhD in Physics, University of London) (1917-2005) and perhaps the Registrar, the late Daw Sein Sein. I did hear the speeches of Burmese Professor U Maung Maung Gyi (2 March 1914-28 May 1982), Head of the Department of English at RASU, the late Daw Tin Saw Mu, Psychology Professor and Head of the Department Dr Hla Thwin (PhD Columbia University), who passed away in February 1974, Philosophy Professor Dr Khin Maung Win (PhD Yale University (7 October 1929-9 January 2011), Law Professor U Hla Aung (LLM, Harvard University) (1923-2020), and

Geography Professor Dr Daw Thin Kyi (PhD Clark University, United States) (1 June 1917- 13 October 1990)

I recall snippets of three speeches given by three different Professors: Law Professor U Hla Aung stated that there are two categories among the ‘law major freshers’. The first category was those whose first choice was law. Yours truly was among them. The second category was those whose first choice was not law but other disciplines, but since they did not get into Universities and majors where they applied as their first, second, third preferences or did not get into those Universities and subject specializations so law was their second, third or even fourth choice. The writer’s law classmate, who rose to be the chief attorney of Sagaing Division, applied first for the Institute of Dental Medicine (in Rangoon), second choice was Rangoon Institute of Technology, and the third choice was Law major at RASU. All the specializations he applied for were then only based in Rangoon. He missed Dental Medicine and Engineering by a few marks and got into law.

Dr Khin Maung Win (Philosophy), in his welcome speech, talked about ‘intellectual courage’ (he said the phrase in English) where persons are enjoined to study new subjects or fields of study which are unfamiliar or even strange and that a philosophical attitude is necessary both in studies and in life.

Professor Dr Daw Thin Kyi, the first Burmese woman to obtain a doctorate in any discipline at a Western University stated that ‘if you get into medical college you will become (mere) doctors, if you apply for engineering course you will get become (mere) engineers but those who will rule the country one day have arrived

here). Naturally, inevitably, Professor Thin Kyi’s speech got the loudest applaud from the freshers.

(In Burma, since the mid-1960s to now, Universities offering Medicine, Engineering, and Dentistry require the most marks from the matriculates.)

Taking the wrong bus was one unforgettable event in my University’s first year

On or about 22 June 1971, there was a final exam for the compulsory subject of English. In the first year of law in our days, all the subjects were compulsory: Burmese, English, Fundamentals of Law, Logic, Economics (Socialism and Analysis), History (world history) in the first-year law course. All subjects were taught in the Burmese language. Even in English, the teachers use Burmese words to explain. From my firm memory, the compulsory essay in the English paper was ‘Two unforgettable events in my first year at the University’. As the first unforgettable event, I wrote about the fresher welcome ceremony and also how I took the bus when I returned to the Khabaung student hostel. I took the wrong bus from a bus stop near the University, and instead of going to Thamaing, where the Khabaung hostel is located, it went to Insein township. Only after about 30 minutes on the bus and not seeing the hostel, I enquired from the bus conductor. He told me I was on the wrong bus and I would have to go back towards RASU and then take the particular bus that goes to the halls of residence from there. So, I have to take another bus from across the road, go back to near the RASU bus stop and take yet another bus to Khabaung hostel. I took three different buses to reach the Khabaung hostel from RASU. Inci-

dentally, a single bus trip in those days cost about a maximum of 25 pyas, perhaps as low as 10 pyas. There are 100 pyas to the Kyat at the basic currency of Burma then. In 2025, at a minimum, one bus trip costs 200 kyats. Most trips cost 400 kyats. Hence, in 55 years, the costs (is it price to pay) increased at the very least a thousand-fold and more probably up to four thousand times!

My second most unforgettable event, which I wrote for the English essay question, was the funeral of a first-year philosophy major who also resided in Khabaung Hall. It miffed me a bit that I only got a Grade 4 (Credit) out of Grade 5 for the first-year Law English paper. The essay question of the 1st year Law English paper was harder than the Matric exam English paper, where out of three essay topics of ‘My Town’, ‘My Teacher’ and ‘My Ambition’, Candidates had to choose one topic and write the essay. I chose and wrote about ‘My Town’. After all these decades, I recall what I wrote in the last sentence of my distinction-winning essay: ‘ ... the reader is invited to visit my home town of Mandalay. Only then will he realize how miserably I have failed in describing the beauties of my home town’. I had prepared the topics ‘My Town’ and ‘My Teacher’, but somehow, I chose ‘My Town’ as an essay question. In retrospect, I think I should have chosen ‘My Teacher’.

My English language teachers at No 6 State High School, Mandalay, were the late Daw Saw Myint, who had studied or visited both at University of Sydney in Australia and the University of Michigan in the United States. I am an alumnus (LLM, 1982 of the University of Michigan. I did meet Sayamagyi Daw Saw Myint at least once in Sagaing (where she hailed from and where she resided

after her retirement), but I do not recall whether or not I told her that I graduated from the University of Michigan, too.

‘Tears at the fingertips’ short essay as a comprehension question in the first year law exam question

Apart from the first-year law English essay question, I clearly recall that there was a comprehension question (a few passages were given in English and students had to answer them) which produced excerpts from the essay ‘Tears at the fingertips’ written by D A Delafield. A quick search of the World Wide Web (in 2018), I found the essay September 1983 of Adventist View. It must have been reproduced not only pre-1983, in fact pre-1971 publications.

Professors at the RASU Fresher Welcome Ceremony that I had met, and belatedly offering my respects

Among the Professors at RASU who I only had the chance to meet briefly with Dr Khin Maung Win (Philosophy) and U Hla Aung (Law). I was not their student formally. Professor U Hla Aung was appointed as Attorney-General by General Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002). In our second year, I, together with others, contributed about two or three kyats for the farewell ceremony from the Law Department held at the Recreation Centre at RASU in late September 1971. U Hla Aung thanked General Ne Win and stated he will serve in his post unswervingly. (တာဝန်ကိုဦးလည်မသုန်ထမ်းဆောင်ပါ့မည်)

The late Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) (24 January 1940-28 January 2025) was the sole distinction holder in the Burmese paper in the Matriculation year of 1959. The late Professor U E Maung (1905-1985) had to approve the distinction-winning paper of then matriculate Maung Khin Aye, I understand.

Saya Maung Khin Min specialized in Burmese and was a pupil of Sayagyi U E Maung (Myanmar Sar). As I did not specialize in Burmese or English majors, I did not formally become the pupil of either Burmese Professor U Maung Maung Gyi or English Professor Daw Thein Nyunt at the Institute of Education. I understand that those language professors had to read the distinction-winning papers and had to approve them. I regret that in my five years at RASU doing law, I never had the chance to meet Sayagyi U Maung Maung Gyi and Sayamagyi Daw Thein Nyunt, and very belatedly, I record my thanks and respect to them.

■

SCI/TECH:
WORLD

China's AI industry thrives with over 5,300 enterprises

Over 5,300 AI companies as of September, representing 15 per cent of the global total.



Visitors interact with a home service robot during the World Smart Industry Expo 2025 in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, 6 September 2025. PHOTO: CHEN CHENG/XINHUA

CHINA'S artificial intelligence (AI) sector has seen robust growth, with the number of enterprises exceeding 5,300 as of September, accounting for 15 per cent of the global total, according to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology. The industry's scale exceeded 900 billion yuan (about US\$126.7 billion) in 2024, a year-on-year increase of 24 per cent, the data showed.

The country's AI sector has established a complete industrial chain spanning the foundational infrastructure, model architecture and industry applications. In 2024, the revenue of these three segments increased 54 per cent, 18 per cent and 13 per cent year on year, respectively, according to the academy. — Xinhua

Astronomers detect early Universe heating ahead of star formation

ASTRONOMERS in Australia have found early Universe was warm before stars formed, according to a study published recently.



Researchers from the International Centre of Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) are investigating the "Epoch of Reionization". PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ICRAR

Researchers at the International Centre of Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) were searching for the elusive "Epoch of Reionization", a period early in the Universe's history that is predicted by theory but is yet to be detected using radio telescopes, according to a statement released recently by Australia's Curtin University, which led the research.

The Epoch of Reionization signifies the end of the Cosmic Dark Ages, roughly a billion years after the Big Bang, when the gas between galaxies shifted from opaque to transparent, allowing light from the first stars and galaxies to travel throughout the Universe, it said.

The team used the Murchison Widefield Array telescope (MWA) located at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization's Murchison Radio-Astronomy Observatory on Wajarri Yamaji Country in the state of Western Australia. — Xinhua

Study: Ultra-processed foods' harm to your body

ULTRA-PROCESSED foods (UPFs) — industrially formulated items like sodas, snacks, and processed meats — are laden with additives and depleted of nutrients, comprising nearly 60 per cent of US adults' and 70 per cent of children's diets. These products, featuring hundreds of novel ingredients, account for about 60 per cent of daily calories, promoting overconsumption while extending shelf life and diminishing nutritional value. High UPF intake is associated with elevated risks of obesity, cancer, metabolic and cardiovascular diseases, mental health disorders, and premature death.

A new study from Florida Atlantic University, published in The American Journal of Medicine, analyzed nationally representative US data, revealing a strong link between UPF consumption and high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP), a key inflammation marker and cardiovascular disease predictor.

Participants' median UPF intake was 35 per cent of calories. After adjusting for confounders like age, gender, smoking, and activity, the highest consumers (60-79 per cent calories) faced an 11 per cent greater likelihood of elevated hs-CRP versus the lowest (0-19 per cent). Moderate intake (40-59 per cent) showed a 14 per cent increase, while 20-39 per cent had a nonsignificant seven per cent rise.

Risks were amplified in subgroups: adults aged 50-59 had 26 per cent higher odds than those 18-29; obese individuals 80 per cent more than healthy-weight peers; and current smokers 17 per cent more than never-smokers. Notably, physical inactivity did not significantly elevate risk compared to active individuals. — ANI



Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are industrially altered products - like soda, snacks and processed meats - packed with additives and stripped of nutrients. ILLUSTRATION: WORLDOBESITY.ORG

Anthropic launches new AI model, touting coding supremacy

US startup Anthropic has announced the launch of its new generative artificial intelligence model, Claude Sonnet 4.5, which it says is the world's best for computer programming.

Anthropic was created in early 2021 by former OpenAI staff who felt their employer, led by CEO Sam Altman, was not doing enough to control and prevent the potentially harmful effects of its models.

Backed by Amazon, it quickly joined the major players in generative AI that embarked on a frantic race after the arrival of ChatGPT from OpenAI in November 2022, with new models being released at a furious pace with ever-expanding capabilities. — AFP

Young pianists vie for global glory in Poland’s Chopin contest

1970 victor Garrick Ohlsson leads the jury evaluating 84 competitors from 20 nations, chosen from over 600 applications.

THE prestigious Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition kicks off in Warsaw, Poland, drawing the world’s top young pianists aged 16-30 for a shot at classical music stardom.

Held every five years in the composer’s homeland since 1927, it promises winners global tours, record deals, and acclaim — past victors include Maurizio Pollini, Martha Argerich, and Krystian Zimerman.

American pianist Garrick Ohlsson, the 1970 champion, chairs the jury judging 84 con-

testants from 20 countries, selected from a record 600+ applications.

China leads with 28 participants, followed by Poland and Japan (13 each).

Tickets sold out in minutes last October — finals in two — but last-minute spots may arise at Warsaw’s National Philharmonic. All stages, culminating 20 October, are livestreamed.

The top prize: €60,000 (\$70,500) plus a multi-continent concert tour. The 2021 winner was Canadian Bruce Xiaoyu Liu. — AFP



A woman checks tickets for the Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition in front of the Chopin’s Institute in Warsaw. **PHOTO: AFP**



Peter Dinklage is an American actor best known for his role as Tyrion Lannister on HBO’s Game of Thrones, a performance that earned him a record four Primetime Emmy Awards. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

‘Games of Thrones’ star Peter Dinklage to be seen in ‘Wicker’

ACTOR Peter Dinklage, best known for his role in ‘Game of Thrones’, will be seen in a twisted romance titled ‘Wicker’.

‘Wicker’ also features Olivia Colman, Alexander Skarsgard, and Elizabeth Debicki.

‘Wicker’, which has now wrapped, has been directed by Alex Huston Fischer and Eleanor Wilson from a script they adapted from Ursula Wills-Jones’ short story ‘The Wicker Husband’. It was shot by Oscar-winning cin-

ematographer Lol Crawley, as per Variety. Billed as a “twisted, unconventional romance”, the story follows Colman as a “smelly, single and perpetually ridiculed” fisherwoman living on the outskirts of a village by the sea. One day, fed up with her stuffy, small-minded neighbours, she commissions the local basket-maker to build her a husband entirely from wicker, with their relationship sparking “outrage, jealousy and chaos.” — ANI

Hitmaker Max Martin back with Taylor Swift for ‘Showgirl’

TAYLOR Swift’s new album, The Life of a Showgirl, marks a reunion with Swedish producer Max Martin, known for revolutionizing modern pop with his formula of catchy hooks, simple lyrics, and technology-driven production.

Martin, who began his career in metal and hard rock bands in the 1980s, transitioned to songwriting

and producing in the 1990s, creating hits for groups like Ace of Base and the Backstreet Boys.

His signature style combines memorable beats with relatable, repetitive lyrics, producing some of the biggest pop hits over the last 30 years, including Britney Spears’ “...Baby One More Time” and Katy Perry’s “Roar.” — AFP

‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ sells more Paris romantic escapism

THE third series of the global TV hit “The Summer I Turned Pretty” has brought its lead character, Isabel “Belly” Conklin, to Paris, enhancing the city’s image as a hub of romance and escapism. The show, which ranked first in 120 countries on Amazon Prime, follows Belly as she escapes a complicated love triangle and embarks on self-discovery in the French capital, echoing the journey of many American heroines before her. Author Jenny Han chose Paris for the final episodes, inspired by iconic figures like Audrey Hepburn. The series

showcases classic Parisian stereotypes — rude waitstaff, pastries, and picturesque streets

— filmed in affluent neighbourhoods like Saint Germain des Pres and Montmartre. — AFP



Lead actor Lola Tung (C) poses with co-stars Christopher Briney (R) and Gavin Casalegno (L). **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Spain hosts record number of summer tourists

The country, the world's second-most visited, hosted 66.8 million tourists in the first eight months of 2025, a 3.9 per cent rise over 2024's equivalent.



Tourists walk past the Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona on 2 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

SPAIN welcomed a record 22.3 million foreign tourists in the key summer holiday months of July and August as the sector heads for another year of unprecedented numbers, data showed on Thursday.

The National Statistics Institute said 11.3 million international tourists arrived in the world's second most-visited country in August, largely driven by British, French and German holidaymakers.

That was a 2.9-per-cent in-

crease on the same month in 2024 and came after 11 million foreign arrivals in July, a year-on-year rise of 1.6 per cent.

The 22.3 million tourists hosted over the two months smashed the previous high mark of 21.8 million in 2024 — a year that saw a record 94 million foreign visitors flock to Spain.

Almost 66.8 million foreign tourists visited Spain in the first eight months of 2025, another record that surpassed last

year's equivalent figure by 3.9 per cent, the institute said.

Tourism is a key driver of one of the fastest-growing advanced economies, with last year's growth recently revised upwards to 3.5 per cent.

But a growing backlash against overtourism has seen protests in the most popular destinations such as Barcelona, the southern coastal city of Malaga as well as the Balearic and Canary Islands.

— AFP

Uzbekistan's textile exports worth US\$1.7 bln in first 8 months

UZBEKISTAN exported textile products worth about US\$1.7 billion in the first eight months of 2025, the National Statistics Committee said in a statement on Tuesday.

Textiles accounted for 7.3 per cent of total exports, the statement noted.

In the January-August period, Uzbekistan produced textile products worth 58.5 trillion

soums (about \$4.84 billion), an increase of 6.3 per cent year-on-year, it added. The volume of textile production amounted to 8.9 per cent of the country's total industrial output.

According to the National Statistics Committee, Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover reached \$51.4 billion in the first eight months of 2025, up 19.8 per cent year-on-year. — Xinhua

Cambodia approves investment projects worth US\$7.8 bln in first 9 months of 2025

CAMBODIA attracted fixed-asset investment of US\$7.8 billion in the first nine months of 2025, a year-on-year rise of 47 per cent, said a Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC)'s report released on Thursday.

The Southeast Asian country approved 546 investment projects during the January-September period this year, up 73 per cent from 315 projects over the same period last year, creating approximately 376,000 jobs, the CDC said.

Those investment projects

have been mainly focused on the areas of garment and non-garment manufacturing industries, infrastructure, agriculture and agro-industry, and tourism, the report said.

China remained the top foreign investor in the kingdom, accounting for 52.96 per cent of the total investment amount, the CDC said, adding that other foreign investors were from Singapore, Vietnam, the British Virgin Islands, Britain, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, the United States, and Samoa, among others. — Xinhua

Thousands protest in Greece over 13-hour workday plans

THOUSANDS of Greek workers prompted large-scale disruption during a 24-hour general strike on Wednesday, protesting against the conservative government's plans to introduce a 13-hour work day.

The strike has disrupted transport in the capital Athens and the second-largest city Thessaloniki, trains and ferry services, while teachers, hospital staff and civil servants are also taking part.

Police said over 8,000 peo-

ple in Athens and Thessaloniki were protesting against reforms proposed by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's conservative government. Other major cities also saw demonstrations.

"With this law, workers will no longer have a private life and for what? To satisfy employers and increase their profits!" Notis Skouras, a member of the hairdressers' union, told AFP in the capital.

The main private sector

union GSEE, which is leading the walkout alongside public sector union ADEDY, has said the reform "endangers the health and safety of workers and destroys the balance between professional and personal life".

Pro-communist union PAME has accused the government of seeking to introduce "modern slavery" for workers and force them to endure "inhumane hours and miserable wages". — AFP



Over 8,000 people in Athens and Thessaloniki have turned up to protest the conservative government's reforms, with demonstrations in other major cities too. PHOTO: AFP

South Korea posts record semiconductor exports in September

SOUTH Korea recorded its highest ever semiconductor exports in September, official data showed Wednesday, despite growing pressure from US tariffs and other restrictions on the crucial sector.

Seoul logged more than \$16.6 billion in exports of semiconductors last

month, up by more than a fifth from September 2024, according to data from the country's industry ministry.

The surge was driven by high demand for high-value memory such as HBM chips used in AI servers, the industry ministry said.

Cars, the country's

other key export, also performed strongly, with auto shipments climbing to \$6.4 billion, the highest ever recorded for the month of September.

Driven by these strong figures, overall exports reached \$65.9 billion, — the highest in more than 42 months. — AFP



A staff member is seen at the Inter-university Semiconductor Research Centre at Seoul National University in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UK supermarket Tesco lifts profit outlook on competitive prices

BRITAIN'S largest retailer Tesco on Thursday raised its 2025/2026 profit guidance as the supermarket chain won cus-

tomers with competitive prices.

Group adjusted operating profit is now expected to reach between

£2.9 billion (\$3.9 billion) and £3.1 billion, up from a previous forecast of £2.7 billion to £3 billion, Tesco said in a statement.

Increased competition in the UK market had led Tesco in April to lower its profit guidance.

"Competitive intensity remains elevated," the company said.

However, it added "a better-than-expected customer response to our actions and the benefit of an extended period of good weather have helped offset the cost of our investments."

Tesco uses lower price offers to attract customers in the face of competition, such as matching prices of German-owned discounter Aldi.

"The steps we have taken to keep prices down for customers have improved our price position relative to the market," said chief executive Ken Murphy.

Net profit fell more than nine per cent in its first half to £950 million from the same period a year earlier, while revenue grew 3.6 per cent to around £36 billion. — AFP



Tesco uses lower price offers to attract customers in the face of competition. **PHOTO: AFP**

Afghan capital hosts agricultural, livestock, handicrafts fair to boost local economy

A four-day exhibition showcasing agricultural, livestock, and handicrafts products opened in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on Wednesday, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock announced Thursday.

The fair aims to promote local production and expand market opportunities, according to a statement from the ministry.

It features 263 booths, including 56 dedicated to women, where farmers, livestock owners, and local businesspeople display their goods to support the development of these vital sectors, it said.

Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Ataullah Omari described the fair as a testament to Afghanistan's progress in agriculture and livestock, emphasizing that the Afghan government's efforts have boosted production and moved the country closer to food self-sufficiency, the statement said. — Xinhua

Amazon adds AI muscle to connected home lineup

AMAZON on Tuesday unveiled the latest generation of connected products, featuring enhanced artificial intelligence capabilities designed to make interactions with AI more frequent and natural.

Nearly 20 years after the launch of the Kindle e-reader, the Seattle-based online retail giant now offers a family of connected devices, from the Echo

smart speaker to the Ring doorbell and Fire TV.

Amazon now aims to multiply their capabilities through AI, but wants to use it "without getting in the way", said Panos Panay, head of devices and services, during a New York presentation.

The company had already made a major move into AI enhancements with the February launch

of Alexa+, an upgraded version of the Alexa voice assistant. Amazon's ambition, like that of competitors Google, LG and Samsung, is to become the connected home nerve center. But the sector has struggled to deliver on the promise of a fully connected home, with consumers forced to choose from competing ecosystems or left struggling with technology

that fails to deliver on expectations.

"Alexa, what happened around the house today?" a user asks in a demonstration video. The smart assistant explains that the children walked the dog, a package was delivered and raccoons rummaged through the trash — using images captured by Ring or Blink cameras. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACTIVE VOY.NO. (806N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACTIVE VOY.NO. (806N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2025** 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 EVERGEEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Trump threatens mass firings and project cuts



Approximately 13,300 US air traffic controllers and thousands of other essential aviation safety officials are required to work without pay due to a federal government shutdown that began on Wednesday, 1 October 2025. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Approximately 750,000 federal employees are facing daily furloughs due to the ongoing shutdown.

THE US president declared that he is “allowed to cut things that should have never been approved” and that he will likely do so, targeting federal workers and Democrats’ “favourite projects” amid federal government shutdown.

While 750,000 federal employees are facing daily furloughs due to the ongoing government shutdown, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the total cost of halted compensation is reaching about \$400 million per day.

The US Senate adjourned for Yom Kippur, which means that voting won’t resume until Friday, which will mark the fourth attempt to pass the same failed stopgap bills.

National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said the White House hopes that the shutdown is as short as possible.

He added that cabinet secretaries can use this as an opportunity for reductions in force. — SPUTNIK

China’s longest international passenger air route linking Shenzhen, Mexico City handles 50,000 trips

THE direct passenger flight between Shenzhen and Mexico City, which has been in operation for over a year, has completed 348 trips (including both outbound and inbound ones) and has received more than 50,000 passenger visits as of 21 September according to China Southern Airlines’ Shenzhen branch on Thursday.

Stretching over 14,000 kilometres, the outbound flight from Shenzhen to Mexico City is currently the longest non-stop international route operated in China’s civil aviation industry. The inbound flight includes a stop in Tijuana, Mexico.

Among the 50,000 passenger trips, 27,000 departed from Shenzhen to Mexico City, while 23,000 were return journeys. The route has also facilitated 1,700 tonnes of cargo transport, according to the branch.

Launched on 11 May 2024, the route is serviced by Airbus A350 aircraft, with three round-trip flights per week.

Yuan Jintao, general manager of China Southern Airlines Shenzhen Branch, said the route helps Chinese enterprises explore the Mexican market, and improve trade efficiency between the two countries. — Xinhua

Israeli navy intercepts Gaza-bound aid flotilla

SEVERAL vessels of the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) have been stopped in the Mediterranean Sea as they approached Gaza shores, and their passengers are being transferred to an Israeli port, according to a statement issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry on Wednesday night.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in the statement that Israel has offered and continues to offer the flotilla a way to deliver any aid they might have to Gaza “peacefully”.

“The flotilla refused because they are not interested in aid, but in provocation,” the statement reads. It added that the Israeli navy has reached out to the flotilla and asked them to change course. “Israel has informed the flotilla that it is approaching an active combat zone and violating a lawful naval blockade,” the ministry said. — Xinhua



The flotilla of around 45 vessels carrying activists and politicians departed Spain in September. **PHOTO: AFP**

Saudi Arabia investment conference unveils cultural projects worth billions

A series of new cultural investment projects were announced at the two-day Cultural Investment Conference, which concluded in Riyadh on Tuesday, including partnerships between Saudi and Chinese companies.

The event, organized by the Saudi Ministry of Culture, saw the signing of 89 agreements worth an estimated five billion Saudi riyals (US\$1.33 billion), a move expected to boost the kingdom’s cultural and creative economy, according to Saudi officials.

Among the agreements, the Saudi Cultural Development Fund announced the launch of the kingdom’s second private investment fund in the film sector, with a capital of 375 million riyals, in partnership with BSF Capital.

Cultural Assets Group announced the launch of the Osoul Private Investment Fund, valued at 850 million riyals. Its CEO Abdulaziz Musaed Al-Sulaim said the fund will focus on visual arts, fashion, cultural retail, digital content, interactive media, and modern technologies. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Over 200 athletes compete in Inter-State and Region Billiards & Snooker Tournament

THE opening ceremony of the 2025 Inter-State and Region Billiards and Snooker Tournament was held at 9 am yesterday at the Padetha gymnasium, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, together with Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Htein Lin, officially opened the tournament and greeted the athletes. Afterwards, the chief minister, the

deputy minister, and regional ministers watched and encouraged the first-day matches of the individual billiards and snooker events.

The tournament features both individual and doubles events in billiards and snooker, with more than 270 athletes from states and regions taking part. The competition will continue until 8 October. — Arkar Linn/KZL



A men's snooker 15-Red individual match is in progress.



Erling Haaland scored twice in Man City's 2-2 draw at Monaco. PHOTO: AFP

Man City 'not good enough' for frustrated Haaland

ERLING Haaland said Manchester City must show more energy to end their miserable run on the road in the Champions League after twice blowing the lead in a 2-2 draw at Monaco.

Haaland scored both the visitors' goals at the Stade Louis II to take his tally for the season to 17 in just 10 appearances for club and country.

Monaco rallied to level through a wonder strike by

Jordan Teze and Eric Dier's late penalty secured a point for the Ligue 1 side.

"I'm pissed off, I think everyone should be," Haaland told the BBC. "It's not good enough."

City have failed to win away from home in Europe for a year, although a point did at least snap a run of four consecutive Champions League defeats on the road. Pep Guardiola's men were dumped out before the last-16 stage last season for the first time since the 2012/13 campaign.

City scraped into the play-off round despite winning just three of their eight league phase games before a 6-3 humbling by Real Madrid over two legs. Haaland was frustrated by his side's approach as they tried to protect their slender lead in the second half in Monaco rather than seeking to kill the game off. — AFP

Mateta handed France call-up for World Cup qualifiers

JEAN-PHILIPPE Mateta was rewarded for his excellent form with Crystal Palace by being called up to the France squad named Thursday for World Cup qualifying matches against Azerbaijan and Iceland this month.

The 28-year-old has four goals in 10 games in all competitions this season for a Palace side who are unbeaten so far in the Premier League and lie third in the table.

Mateta scored 17 goals in all competitions last season for the south London club and has netted 32 times in the Premier League since the start of the 2023/24 campaign.

He represented

France at Under-21 level and then starred for Thierry Henry's side at the 2024 Paris Olympics, scoring five goals in six matches as they took the silver medal -- but he has never been called up by coach Didier Deschamps to the senior team until now.

Mateta benefits, along with recalled AC Milan forward Christopher Nkunku, from the absences due to injury of Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele and his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Desire Doue.

Manchester City's Rayan Cherki, who made his France debut in June, is also missing having been sidelined in recent weeks. — AFP



Jean-Philippe Mateta has been handed a first call-up to France's senior squad after impressing in the Premier League for Crystal Palace. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Gauff says more Slam money 'important' for future of tennis

TWO-TIME major champion Coco Gauff said Thursday that more money for all players from the four Grand Slams would be for the long-term benefit of tennis.

A group of elite players including world number three Gauff are pushing for a greater share of revenue, more benefits and a bigger say in how the

Slams are run.

Twenty players signed a letter sent to the four Grand Slam heads in March demanding an increase in prize money and to be consulted on decisions that impacted them.

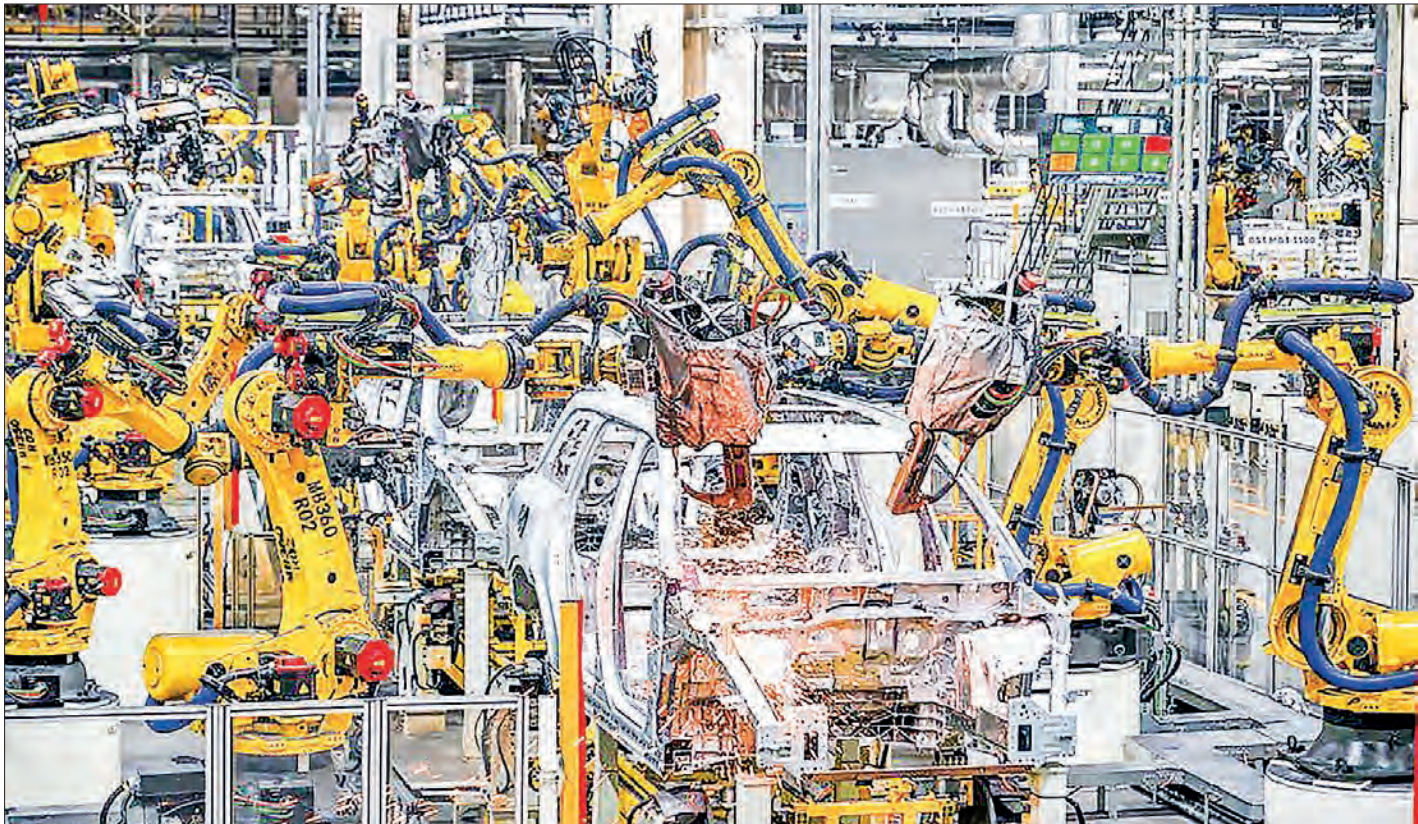
The group — reportedly excluding Novak Djokovic — signed a second letter during the summer underlining their

demand that Slams pay into a player welfare fund to improve retirement and maternity benefits.

"For the long run of our sport and kind of the whole ecosystem I think that it's really important," Gauff said in Beijing after advancing to the China Open semi-finals. — AFP



WORLD



A drone photo shows the automated production at the Seres Super Factory in Liangjiang New Area, southwest China's Chongqing, 19 September 2025. **PHOTO: WANG QUANCHAO/XINHUA**

Xi leads efforts to build strong China as people's republic turns 76

Amid the activity, under President Xi Jinping's leadership, policymakers are drafting the next five-year development plan, with the Communist Party of China set to review proposals at a key plenum in three weeks.

PEOPLE across the country marked the 76th anniversary of the People's Republic of China on Wednesday with travel, shopping and family reunions as an eight-day holiday began.

Hundreds of millions are on the move, foreign tourist arrivals are rising, and smart factories are running at

full capacity to fill surging global orders.

Beyond the bustle of activity, another task is underway: policymakers are drafting the country's next phase of development.

Under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China is formulating its next five-year plan. In three weeks, the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership will

convene a closely-watched plenum to review its proposals for the plan.

The 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for National Economic and Social Development is the latest in a series of blueprints that, since the 1950s, have guided the country's rise from an impoverished, agrarian nation to the world's second-largest economy. — Xinhua

Philippines releases framework for nuclear energy integration

THE Philippines' Department of Energy (DOE) released a comprehensive framework for integrating nuclear energy into the country's power generation mix on Thursday.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin signed the department circular, which formally establishes the policy foundations for the Philippines' first commercially developed and operated nuclear power plant (NPP), designated as a Pioneer NPP.

"(The framework) is more than just a policy document; it is an investment signal," said Garin.

"By establishing clear rules for nuclear integration, we are giving confidence to investors, partners, and stakeholders that the Philippines is ready to responsibly and strategically adopt nuclear energy as part of its clean energy transition," she added. She said that nuclear will complement renewables by providing reliable, stable baseload capacity, ensuring that the Philippine economy has the energy security it needs to grow while meeting climate goals.

Under the circular, the Pioneer NPP will be treated as a baseload facility and granted priority dispatch in coordination with the DOE, the Independent Market Operator, and the System Operator, regardless of the nuclear technology deployed.

— Xinhua

G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit opens in South Africa with focus on parliamentary diplomacy

THE 11th Group of 20 (G20) Parliamentary Speakers' Summit opened on Wednesday in South Africa's Western Cape Province, placing parliamentary diplomacy at the centre of discussions.

The three-day gathering in the coastal town of Kleinmond, about 100 kilometres east of

Cape Town, marks the first time the summit is being held on the African continent.

Held under the theme "Harnessing Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Realization of Global Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," the summit brings together speakers of parliament

from G20 member states and invited countries.

Opening the meeting, South Africa's National Assembly Speaker Thoko Didiza said the theme underscored the need for collaborative leadership to confront global challenges. — Xinhua



South Africa's National Assembly Speaker Thoko Didiza speaks at the opening ceremony of the 11th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit in Kleinmond, Western Cape Province, South Africa, 1 October 2025. **PHOTO: XABISO MKHABELA/XINHUA**