

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

**NCA Talks to Convene Peace Conference, Official Meetings**

A state is not the domain of a single ethnic group, but the common inheritance of all peoples who dwell within it.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who chairs the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, delivers an opening address through a video message at the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which falls on 15 October 2026. The full text of the translated video message is as follows:

**Esteemed national brethren of the Union,**

Today is an auspicious day marking the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between the Government and ethnic armed organizations. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my greetings and heartfelt wishes for good health, happiness and the fulfilment of all good aspirations to the ethnic leaders from the various ethnic armed organizations who participated in the initial signing of the agreement, international witnesses, domestic witnesses, and all our national brethren across the Union.

**SEE PAGE 3**

**Opportune Moment to Launch Peace Process**

Efforts to initiate the peace process would focus on working with those willing to cooperate, while exploring ways and means to engage those with whom cooperation was more difficult.



Kayin national leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe, leaders and representatives from ethnic armed organizations pay a courtesy call on President U Min Aung Hlaing yesterday.

Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe and leaders and representatives from ethnic armed organizations participating in signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) who attended the ceremony to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCA paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing

at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. The President cordially greeted Kayin national leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe and leaders and representatives from ethnic armed organizations. On the occasion, the President expressed his pleasure to welcome the leaders and representatives of the ethnic armed

organizations attending the ceremony to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). They have all maintained close relations since his previous tenure as Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and they began holding meetings and discussions from that time onward. He stated that the 43 agreements reached

through discussions among the ethnic armed organizations that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), the Tatmadaw and political groups would continue to be discussed and pursued in the Hluttaw. He stated that the Union Accord Parts I, II and III, which had been discussed and agreed upon at the Union Peace

**SEE PAGE 5**

**UNDP's ENCORE Reaches 54 Villages, 96 Camps in Kachin State**

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is providing support to 54 villages and 96 camps in Kachin State through its ENCORE programme. learn how the ENCORE programme supports internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict-affected communities. With more than US\$2 million in funding from Switzerland, the ENCORE programme is helping people rebuild their livelihoods, access emergency assistance, and restore essential services and infrastructure. — ASH/KNN

During a visit to Myitkyina, Mr Daniel Derzic, Head of the Swiss Embassy in Myanmar, and colleagues from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) met with the UNDP to



This photo captures a field visit to villages in Kachin State.

**OPINION**

Avoiding democratic oppression of others

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# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 84/2026

4<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1388ME  
15 October 2026

### Appointment and Assignment of Duties to Deputy Minister

PURSUANT to Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 17 of the Union Government Law, Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) is hereby appointed and assigned as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Objectives of 27<sup>th</sup> Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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



၂၀၂၆ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့စားနပ်ရိက္ခာနေ့  
World Food Day 2026  
"ယနေ့တီထွင်ဆန်းသစ်မှ အာဟာရဖြည့်ဝ အနာဂတ်လှ"  
(Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.)  
အောက်တိုဘာလ ၁၆ ရက်နေ့





## Yunnan Province donates solar panels to Insein BEHS No 6

A solar power system has been installed at the No 6 Basic Education High School in Insein Township, Yangon Region, under the Connected Hearts of Yunnan Province Programme, People's Republic of China.

The handover ceremony for the solar-powered electricity supply project was held at the Pyanya Takhon Hall of the school yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Director-General U Myo Win Aung of the Yangon Region Education Office under the Department of Basic Education, Deputy Director-General Yang Sheng of the Yunnan Provincial People's Asso-



A handover ceremony for the solar power system in progress yesterday.

ciation for Friendship with Foreign Countries, which donated the system, and Economic and Commercial Counsellor Ou Yang Daobing of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar delivered

speeches. Headteacher U Than Tun of the No 6 Basic Education High School in Insein Township then spoke words of appreciation.

Deputy Director-General Yang Sheng, Counsellor Ou Yang Daobing and MENG FEI (aka) Daw Kyi

Lin of Sunshine Energy Technology Co Ltd handed over the documents related to the completion of the solar power system project to the headmaster, who presented certificates of appreciation in return.

The donation was mainly supported and provided by the Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Foreign Affairs Office of the Qujing Municipal People's Government. The donated system consists of 54 solar panels, three inverters and six batteries, and is capable of generating 96.25 kilowatts of electricity per day. — MNA/KTZH

## 412 jade lots sold on 8<sup>th</sup> day of Gems Emporium



This image captures gem merchants exploring and evaluating gemstones at the Gems Emporium.

THE eighth day of the 61<sup>st</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026 continued at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attracting large numbers of local and foreign gem merchants.

Since the morning, local gem merchants have inspected jade lots displayed under Group C to support and promote MSME entrepreneurs.

At the event, officials examined price offers for

jade lots numbered 1101 to 1605 under Groups A and B and announced the sale of 412 lots.

In the afternoon, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo, patron of the Central Committee for the Myanmar Gems Emporium, inspected jade lots displayed in designated areas of Maniradana Jade Hall, local merchants submitting tender forms for Group C jade lots and the announcement of successful tender results. He also gave necessary instructions to officials.

On the ninth day, Group C jade lots num-

bered 1606 to 2355 will be offered through an open tender system, and the results will be announced. The 61<sup>st</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026 will continue until 17 October.

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

## 10,000 oil lamps to illuminate Mandalay Hill on Thadingyut Full Moon Day

THE Mandalay Hill Trustees stated that Mandalay Hill will host a 10,000 oil lamps ceremony on Thadingyut Full Moon Day.

The oil lamps ceremony is held on Thadingyut Full Moon Day every year,

and this year, it will be held with great enthusiasm.

"The 10,000 oil lamps ceremony has been held every year for the past 15 years. This year, the 10,000 oil lamps ceremony is scheduled to be held

on the full moon day of Thadingyut from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Those who wish to attend the 10,000 oil lamps ceremony can register in advance at the Mandalay Hill Trustees' office," said an official

from the Mandalay Hill Trustees' Office.

The 10,000 oil lamps and offering ceremonies are held not only at Mandalay Hill but also at other pagodas in Mandalay such as Mahamuni Buddha Image, Mandalay Tooth Relic Pagoda, and Jade Pagoda. — ASH/MKKS



This picture shows an aerial drone view of Mandalay Hill and its surroundings.

# NATIONAL

## NCA Talks to Convene Peace Conference, Official Meetings

**FROM PAGE 1**

Today's NCA 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an important historical milestone for the future path towards peace for the State and the entire people. On 15 October 2015, the Government, the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations overcame numerous difficulties and challenges to begin signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). **The NCA is not merely a ceasefire agreement; it is also a historic political commitment to seek political solutions through political means to the internal armed conflicts that have persisted for more than 70 years.**

Past experiences have shown that internal armed conflicts have brought nothing but losses and suffering to the State and ethnic communities, while also undermining regional development, education, healthcare and socioeconomic livelihoods. Therefore, peace is an essential foundation for the development of the nation. A review of the country's history also reveals that the lack of national unity has been a major challenge to the stability and peace of the nation.

At present, despite difficulties and challenges, the State has made efforts to hold elections in accordance with the people's wishes and to return to the path of democracy. Going forward, all stakeholders need to work together to achieve ethnic unity and lasting, sustainable peace.

**Esteemed national brethren,**

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is a historic agreement that reflects compromise, magnanimity, patience, tolerance and a shared desire for peace between the State and ethnic armed organizations. The agreement serves as a

foundation for the peace process and also provides an important political framework for building a Union based on democracy and a federal system.

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was not drafted by any single individual or group. Rather, it was jointly negotiated and agreed upon through repeated discussions among the Government, the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations, based on the initial proposals put forward by the ethnic armed organizations. **It was also the outcome of more than 5,000 meetings and negotiation sessions held over a period of 1,450 days, from the day peace talks were first initiated until the NCA was achieved.**

On 15 October 2015, eight ethnic armed organizations, namely the KNU, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, CNF, PNLO, ABSDF, ALP and RCSS, initially signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). **The signing ceremony was held in the presence of diplomats from the United Nations, the European Union, China, India, Japan and Thailand, as well as domestic witnesses. The agreement was also approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.** On 13 February 2018, the LDU and NMSP subsequently signed the agreement, bringing the total number of signatories to the NCA to 10 ethnic armed organizations.

The essence of the NCA is to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system, upholding Our Three Main National Causes and founded on freedom, equality and justice, while guaranteeing democracy, national equality and the right to self-determination, in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogue. Therefore, all relevant stakeholders need



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

to respect and honour their existing commitments and work together cooperatively.

**The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is not merely a ceasefire agreement; it also provides a framework for seeking political solutions to end armed conflicts, hold political dialogues and build a federal Union.** Therefore, it is necessary to continue implementing the NCA process without deviating from the existing agreements under the NCA. No matter how serious the problems may be, conflicts can be reduced if solutions are sought through meetings, dialogue and negotiations. Even when differences of opinion, doubts and mistrust exist, I believe that national unity and peace can be achieved if all parties accept and practise dialogue and negotiation as democratic approaches to resolving differences.

**Esteemed national brethren,**

To implement the peace process comprehensively, we have reorganized the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, the Working Committee and the Negotiation Committee, and are also implementing six peace principles.

In addition, **Announcement 1/2026 of the Central Committee was issued on 21 April 2026, inviting all parties to participate in dialogue without preconditions in the interests of national development, stability and peace.** Both NCA signatories and non-signatories have been invited to engage in dialogue. In particular, **I would like to reiterate the invitation to the KNU, CNF and ABSDF, which have not held dialogue over the past five years, to participate in peace talks.**

Similarly, **I would like to urge groups identifying themselves as People's Defence Force (PDF) groups to act in the interests of the country and its people and return to the legal fold.** If democracy is what they seek, it must be pursued through disciplined democratic practices and non-violent means. I urge them to think carefully before taking action. Development activities cannot be carried out effectively without stability and peace in the country. If destructive activities continue while development projects are being implemented, our goals will not be achieved, much like the saying, "While one is raising deer, tigers are feeding

on them." Therefore, rather than insisting solely on what they want in relation to peace, **I urge all parties to work together by meeting, engaging in dialogue and seeking solutions based on what is appropriate and feasible.**

In the past, NCA anniversary ceremonies, peace dialogues, peace forums, and youth peace forums were held, leading to meetings, negotiations, and agreements with some ethnic armed organizations and political parties. In addition to the 43 points proposed for constitutional amendment, there are also Parts I, II, and III of the Union Accord, which were negotiated and agreed upon at the Union Peace Conference under the previous two administrations. These agreements will be discussed and approved in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and implemented in phases.

Invitations and negotiations will also continue to encourage ethnic armed organizations that have not yet signed the NCA to join and sign the agreement. It is essential for all ethnic nationalities to fully enjoy democratic rights and to walk the path of peace together.

**Esteemed national brethren,**

Our government will continue working towards strengthening a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democracy and a federal system. **In a democracy, while the will of the majority must be respected, it is also essential to give due regard to the desires and rights of minorities.** Treating those with differing views as enemies, discriminating against them, or ostracizing them from society is incompatible with democratic principles. We must avoid personality cults and discrimination, and safeguard our national unity.

**Federalism is the division and exercise of executive, legislative, and judicial powers in accordance with the constitution within a union composed of diverse regions, states, and ethnic groups.** Through such division of power, regions and states will be able to exercise self-administration, self-legislation, and self-adjudication.

Diverse ethnicities and nationalities live intermingled across the regions and states of our country. For instance, it is stated that in Shan State—named as such—the Shan ethnic group makes up only just over 35 per cent of the population, and in Kachin State, the Kachin people account for only 39 per cent. Therefore, **it is important to emphasize the principle that a state does not belong to a single ethnic group alone, but is the shared possession of all ethnic peoples residing in that area. Regarding the designation of state names that can represent all local inhabitants, I would also like to urge everyone to consider and seek solutions collectively, with national unity in mind.**

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# NATIONAL

## NCA Talks to Convene Peace Conference, Official Meetings

### FROM PAGE 3

**Our government will effectively implement the federal provisions contained in the 2008 Constitution. To build a Union based on democracy and a federal system, it is necessary for political parties, ethnic nationalities, and all organizations to participate and collaborate for mutual benefit. Esteemed national brethren,**

In the current peace process, dialogues have been divided into four parts, and negotiations are continuing accordingly. Both informal and formal talks will be held as necessary, and **bilateral talks will continue to**

**be conducted to consolidate the ceasefire. Furthermore, negotiations aim to convene official meetings under the NCA and ultimately hold the Peace Conference.**

The essential processes required for national unity and peace are: building a Union based on democracy and a federal system; **practising a democratic culture of dialogue and negotiation to find solutions; laying down national unity strategies; carrying out rehabilitation and development alongside peace; and researching as well as preventing factors that cause division within society.**

In implementing these processes, the Working Committee will lay down the necessary timelines and strategies, while the Negotiation Committee will carry out the practical implementation. Because peace and development are directly linked, it is also essential to carry them out in a balanced manner.

**Esteemed national brethren,**

During the first 100-day process of our new government, we prioritized peace processes. We extended invitations for talks to NCA-signatory groups, signatory groups with whom dialogues have not yet taken place, and

non-signatory groups alike. The relevant committees also met with ethnic armed organizations and negotiated based on peace, regional development, and on-the-ground needs.

Our peace efforts are not merely for the short term. We are carrying them out as a national duty to pass down an enduring legacy to future generations of youth to ensure a stable future, a thriving society, and a world-class nation.

**Esteemed national brethren,**

In conclusion, I would like to say that the future of our nation is the future of all ethnic peoples.

Taking lessons from past events, **everyone bears the responsibility to pass down a legacy of stability, peace, development, and a firmly rooted multiparty democratic system for future generations.**

I would like to urge ethnic armed organizations, political parties, civil society organizations, and **all citizens to resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation in the interest of the nation and its people, rather than resorting to armed conflict.** Only by distinguishing between what we desire and what ought to be, and by working together on what is achievable,

will we be able to move forward.

If all work together in unity and solidarity, we will be able to build a peaceful, stable, and developed nation. Therefore, I warmly invite peace-desiring ethnic armed organizations, political parties, civil society organizations, and the entire public to participate and join in the government's peace efforts.

Starting from this 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NCA, I conclude my video message with best wishes that enduring peace may prevail across the nation and that we may firmly build a Union founded on democracy and a federal system.

### DIPLOMACY

## Vice-President U Nyo Saw receives Vietnamese Ambassador

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw received Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nguyen Anh Duc at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am yesterday.

Both sides discussed President U Min Aung Hlaing's official visit to Vietnam, at the invitation of the Vietnamese President, which marked a new chapter in bilateral relations, and the establishment of a Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership between the two countries. They also discussed Myanmar's political developments; efforts to achieve national stability, development and peace; continued cooper-



Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Nguyen Anh Duc pays a courtesy call on Vice-President U Nyo Saw yesterday.

ation with neighbouring countries in various political, economic and social sectors; areas of economic, trade and investment cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam; and the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on

investment promotion between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister at the President's Office U Khin Latt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw and officials. — MNA/MKKS

## Vice-President addresses Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee meeting

THE world is undergoing development and transformation alongside emerging technologies, and so it is necessary to provide the younger generation with comprehensive and well-rounded training and education in all aspects so that they can keep pace with these changes, said Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye.

The Vice-President, who is also chairperson of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee, made remarks at the committee meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

She said it is also nec-



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye chairs the meeting of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

essary to work together to foster young people's spirit of inquiry, creativity, and ability to think critically, and to nurture their patriotism and love for their country and nation.

She also stressed the

need to guide and educate young people to understand, respect and abide by the laws promulgated by the State; develop good character and discipline; uphold ethical and

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### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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

# NATIONAL

## Opportune Moment to Launch Peace Process

### FROM PAGE 1

Conference during the term of the second democratic government, would continue to be discussed in the Hluttaw. He expressed his heartfelt pleasure that the meeting to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) had been successfully held that day. He emphasized that genuine peace was essential for the country, as it would pave the way for national development and progress.

He stated that since assuming the responsibilities of the President, he had paid state-level visits to nine countries, including India, China, Russia and Belarus, at the invitation of their respective leaders. During these visits, he had observed the peace, stability and development of those countries. He noted that Vietnam and Cambodia had previously experienced internal armed conflicts but had managed to bring those conflicts to an end and, despite facing difficulties, had worked hard to achieve national development. As a result, both countries had now become peaceful, stable and developing nations, offering valuable lessons for Myanmar. He expressed his desire to see Myanmar achieve peace, stability and development as well. He added that by learning from and emulating the efforts made by these countries to achieve peace, stability and development, Myanmar could undoubtedly attain similar progress.

He underlined that peace talks had been held during the term of the first democratic government in Myanmar and that, from the day invitations were first extended to initiate peace negotiations until the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), more than 5,000 meetings and con-



Images show President U Min Aung Hlaing presenting commemorative gifts to leaders and representatives of ethnic armed organizations.

sultations had taken place over a period of more than four years. He said that he had already told the Hluttaw that efforts would be made to achieve internal peace during the five-year term of his government. He explained that cooperation to initiate a peace process would be pursued with those willing to work together, while ways and means would also be sought to engage with those with whom cooperation was difficult. He added that he had previously emphasized the need to discuss what was possible and what should be done, rather than merely expressing what one wished to happen.

Following this, the leaders of the delegations of ethnic armed organizations who attended the meeting expressed their gratitude and pleasure at meeting the President on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). They discussed their continued cooperation in achieving internal peace along the path initiated by the signing of the NCA, emphasizing that peace was an essential requirement for the country and that development could only be achieved through peace. They also noted that the public was gradually becoming more aware of and recognizing that some groups were us-

ing peace as a pretext to take up arms and engage in acts of violence, and that ethnic communities no longer supported the armed struggle. They further discussed the current government's efforts to achieve internal peace by taking the lead in seeking solutions through meetings and dialogue. They emphasized that armed groups genuinely wishing for peace should come forward to engage in dialogue and negotiations. They also pointed out that communities in ethnic areas were divided between those who wanted peace and those who sought to instigate armed conflict. They stressed the need to continue working together with the people who genuinely desired peace and wished to live and earn their livelihoods in a peaceful environment in order to achieve internal peace.

Furthermore, the President stated that his government had set and was implementing two political objectives: strengthening the multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democracy and a federal system. He emphasized that all ethnic nationalities of the Union must participate in these efforts and that they should seek what is appropriate and achievable rather than simply demanding what

they wish for.

The President noted that those lacking rational judgment are resorting to armed terrorism and committing terror acts, thereby destroying the development of their own regions and people. As they have also destroyed educational infrastructure vital to the nation's future, schools in some areas have been forced to close. Since regional socioeconomic development can only be achieved when there is an abundance of educated individuals, it is essential to work toward increasing the number of educated people in every locality.

He said that they were resolutely implementing the building of a Union based on democracy and federalism. He added that it was essential to emphasize the principle that a state did not belong to a single ethnic group, but to all ethnic peoples residing in that region, and to cultivate a true Union spirit. Furthermore, he noted that he genuinely desired peace for the nation and that, likewise, he wanted the Tatmadaw to be an armed force protecting the nation and its citizens, rather than one forced to fight against fellow ethnic brothers born of the same Union.

He continued that the current period was one in which the Govern-

ment, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw were working together in unity and solidarity to build a developed nation, making it an opportune time to implement the peace process. Therefore, he urged all parties involved in discussions and efforts to achieve internal peace to work together for the interests of the Union rather than focusing solely on their own wishes and aspirations.

He stated that he had previously made it clear that, once ethnic armed organizations had achieved peace, they could participate in politics by establishing political parties in accordance with the law; engage in lawful business activities if they wished to pursue economic ventures; serve in border guard forces in cooperation with the Tatmadaw if they wished to undertake defence duties; or live peacefully and securely under the protection of the law as ordinary civilians if they so desired.

He underscored that armed groups must remain free from involvement in online scams and gambling, as well as drug-related activities. He added that the State would have zero tolerance for online scams, gambling and drug-related offences within the country and would take firm action to combat them in accordance with the law.

After the meeting, the President presented commemorative gifts to leaders and representatives of ethnic armed organizations and cordially greeted them.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Defence and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, those who attended the ceremony to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCA and participated in signing the NCA including Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Chair of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Saw Mra Raza Lin, Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) Chief of Staff Saw Shwe Wa, Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Kya Solomon, New Mon State Party (NMSP) Central Executive Committee member Nai Aung Mangae, Restoration Council of Shan State Secretary Sao Sai Ngin, Kayin National Union/Kayin National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) First Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Shan State Progressive Party Central Committee member Sao Naw Leik, and Shanni Nationalities Unity Council Chair Sao Say Khun Aung. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL

## DIPLOMACY

### Myanmar, Vietnam to deepen cooperation between Parliaments

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nguyen Anh Duc in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Speaker warmly welcomed the ambassador and his delegation and expressed his pleasure at the ambassador's appointment to Myanmar, noting his extensive diplomatic experience. He said that diplomatic relations between the two countries, established in 1975, entered their 51<sup>st</sup> year. As members of the ASEAN family, Myanmar and Vietnam had maintained longstanding friendly diplomatic relations and continued to cooperate closely in various sectors, including the economy, technology and culture.

He explained that Myanmar practices a bicameral parliamentary system and that the Pyithu Hluttaw comprises representatives elected on the basis of population and constituencies. To strengthen relations with international parliaments, parliamentary friendship groups had been formed, including



Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Nguyen Anh Duc calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi yesterday.

the Myanmar-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group.

He expressed his desire to further strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two Hluttaws through exchanges between parliamentary speakers and members, and cooperation between parliamentary committees and in the fields of youth, women and technology.

He added that the meeting marked an initial step towards enhancing relations between the Pyithu Hluttaw and the National Assembly of Vietnam. He also highlighted the need to further discuss the Doi

Moi Plan 2.0, which plays a key role in Vietnam's development. He expressed confidence that friendly cooperation between the two countries' governments, Hluttaws and peoples would continue to grow during the ambassador's tenure.

In response, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Nguyen Anh Duc thanked the Speaker for receiving him. He congratulated the Speaker on his re-election as Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party. He also expressed his appreciation for the new government's efforts over the past six

months to promote social and economic development and national reconciliation.

The ambassador noted that Myanmar and Vietnam had long been friendly countries with close ties maintained by successive national leaders. He reaffirmed Vietnam's commitment to friendly cooperation with Myanmar and pledged full support for legislative cooperation and collaboration between committees of the two parliaments. He also vowed to work towards further strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries during his tenure. — MNA/KTZH

### Vice-President addresses Myanmar Youth Affairs ...

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moral standards; maintain a proper balance between personal and collective interests; and fulfil their social responsibilities.

She continued that youth development involves not only youth-related activities, including arts and sports, but also the establishment of youth centres, which play a fundamental role in providing opportunities for young people to interact with, communicate with and learn from one another. Therefore, she urged efforts to establish and operate youth centres in the respective regions and states. She also called for existing youth centres in some regions and states to move beyond routine activities and systematically provide training courses and vocational skills that directly benefit young people and can be applied in the workplace, ensuring that these facilities are used effectively and productively.

She added that today's young people would be responsible for continuing to preserve, protect and safeguard the nation

in the future in accordance with the Our Three Main National Causes. Therefore, youth development must be promoted and strengthened. It is necessary to continuously train and nurture young people, who represent the nation's future, so that they can become valuable human resources with high capabilities and a mature, capable workforce. She urged the participants at the meeting to discuss, review and recommend effective approaches for implementing youth development programmes in their respective sectors to systematically nurture the younger generation of the country.

Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin, who is also vice-chair of the committee, Deputy Minister U Sitt Naing, who is secretary of the committee, and other participants reported on the formation of the central committee, working committee, talks and dialogues on awareness for youths, vocational training, ongoing work plans and other youth development measures. — MNA/KTZH

## DIPLOMACY

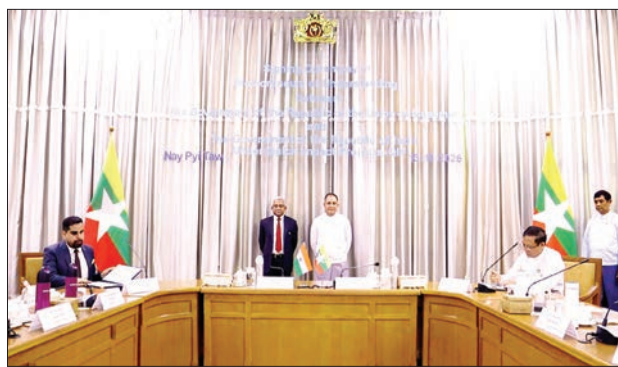
### Myanmar and India sign MoUs on QIP implementation

THE signing ceremony for five Memoranda of Understanding on implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) for the 2026-2027 financial year between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of India was held at the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Union Minister for

National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, deputy ministers from relevant ministries, senior officials and Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr Amit Shreeansh, First Secretary and the representatives from the Embassy of India.

The ceremony featured the signing of five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) by representatives from the relevant ministries,



An MoUs signing ceremony is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

namely the "Memorandum of Understanding for Upgrading the Village Ring Road at the National Races Village (Yangon) to

Facilitate Public Recreation and Observation" by the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, the "Memorandum of Understanding

for WASH Support for Earthquake-Affected Schools in Myanmar" by the Ministry of Education, the "Memorandum of Understanding for Upgrading the Boiler Operator Training Centre" by the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development, the "Memorandum of Understanding for Construction of a Futsal Stadium at Patheingyi Boys' Training School, Mandalay" by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the "Memorandum of Understanding for Pur-

chasing CaseWare IDEA-Data Analytics Software" by the Office of the Union Auditor-General, respectively. The MOUs were signed by Mr Amit Shreeansh, First Secretary, Embassy of India, on behalf of the Government of India.

The total value of the projects is US\$247,502.47, and the Government of India has provided a total of 10 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Myanmar for the financial year 2026-2027, including the five QIPs for which MoUs were signed yesterday. — MNPIFER

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw approves motion on outstanding student awards, addresses key questions

THE 17<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw took place yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn in attendance alongside parliamentary representatives.

During the session, representatives raised five starred questions covering watershed conservation, migrant worker remittances, border trade levies, and school infrastructure. The parliament also debated and approved a proposal urging the Union Government to revive and expand the training programme for outstanding arts and science students under Section 368 of the Constitution.

Responding to a question by Dr Nanda Hla Myint (Kalaw constituency) regarding land rights and watershed preservation in Kalaw Township's Aungban area, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and

Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo explained that the ministry has issued Land Use Certificates (Form 7) for 37.89 acres of farmland. He noted that dispute settlements are pending for 9.66 acres, while legal actions are proceeding against 17 encroachers occupying over three acres in the Aungban reserve. The ministry has also planted 7,717 acres of watershed, conservation, and greening plantations across 10 townships in Shan State to protect local water sources.

Union Minister for Labour U Maung Myint answered an enquiry from U Tint Wai (North Dagon constituency) concerning illegal migrant labour and remittance systems. The minister stated that official bilateral MoUs and agency monitoring safeguard documented workers abroad. To facilitate official remittances, the Central Bank of Myanmar has permitted



The 17<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

16 Authorized Dealer (AD) banks and 18 remittance companies to partner with international money transfer operators, allowing expatriate workers to transfer earnings through the state-owned Myanma Economic Bank, private banks, and licensed agencies.

Addressing an inquiry from U Aung Zaw Moe (Muse constituency) on border cargo levies, Depu-

ty Minister for Commerce U Win Myint Khaing clarified that the government cannot currently permit a three-per-cent tax scheme or allow individuals to carry K5 million worth of regional cargo across checkpoints. He explained that 146 previously permitted import items now require Non-Automatic Import Licences via Myanmar TradeNet 2.0 to curb trade discrep-

ancies and manage foreign exchange.

Regarding educational infrastructure, Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing addressed queries from Dr Htay Win (Ingapu constituency) and Daw Kyu Kyu Maw (Thazi constituency), noting that proposed construction for one-storey and two-storey reinforced concrete buildings at basic education

schools in Ingapu and Thazi townships will be prioritized according to regional capital budget allocations in upcoming Financial years.

The Hluttaw then debated a motion tabled by U Win Myint Maung (Kyaukpadaung constituency) calling on the Union Government to reinstitute special selection and training programmes for outstanding arts and science students. Following discussions by six MPs, Deputy Minister U Nay Myo Hlaing outlined current scholarship schemes at Yangon and Mandalay universities, adding that the programme will expand to Naypyitaw State Academy starting in the 2026-2027 academic year to support outstanding students through postgraduate and doctoral studies.

The parliament decided to keep the motion on official record. The meeting adjourned until its 18<sup>th</sup>-day session on 19 October. — News Team/ST

Yangon Region tightens security measures



Police conduct vehicle checks in Yangon Region.

POLICE members from township police stations across Yangon Region, in cooperation with local administrative bodies, relevant departments and traffic police, continue efforts to maintain law enforcement, reduce crime and prevent criminal activities.

Yesterday, police and traffic police teams of Kyimyindine, Twantay, Hmawby, Taikkyi, Hline, Dagon and Dala conducted surprise vehicle checks,

mobile and fixed patrols, bicycle patrols, and public awareness activities, including distributing pamphlets and educating students and the public on using pedestrian crossings safely.

Similarly, on Wednesday, the police from various townships also conducted mobile, fixed and night patrols, checked guest lists and inspected KTV venues as part of ongoing crime prevention and law enforcement efforts. — Aung Thu/KTZH

Swiss Head of Mission, SDC Team Visit Myitkyina Rehabilitation Centre

MR Daniel Derzic, Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland to Myanmar, and colleagues from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visited the Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre (MPRC), which operates under Myitkyina Peoples's Hospital, under the Ministry of Health, in Myitkyina, Kachin State, according to a statement issued by the embassy.

At the centre, persons with disabilities receive prosthetic and orthotic devices and other assistive equipment, as well as rehabil-

itation services to help them regain mobility and independence. In 2026, 170 people benefited from rehabilitation services, 75 of whom received assistive devices.

Discussions with rehabilitation specialists, Ministry of Health staff and patients highlighted the importance of accessible, comprehensive care, including mental health and psychosocial support, in helping people recover and reintegrate into their communities.

Mr Derzic and the SDC delegation also visited the International Committee of



The photo shows Mr Daniel Derzic, Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland, and the SDC team visiting the Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre (MPRC) in Myitkyina. **PHOTO: THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN MYANMAR**

the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Myitkyina.

As one of Switzerland's key humanitarian partner organizations providing rehabilitation and protection support in Kachin State, the ICRC

has been conducting humanitarian operations there since 2014, supporting conflict-affected populations and responding to humanitarian needs across the region. — Htun Htun/TH

## Avoiding democratic oppression of others

In societies, acts of democratic oppression have sometimes been committed knowingly, while others have occurred unintentionally and by accident. However, past incidents of democratic oppression have caused those who are earnestly working for the country to suffer losses, while also resulting in the loss of valuable time and national interests.

At any given time, the actions being taken may seem correct. In reality, however, the truth may vary depending on the time and circumstances. Apart from the Four Noble Truths taught by the Buddha, there are no actions or beliefs in this world that remain unchangingly correct. Therefore, all actions and undertakings must be carefully examined from every angle to ensure that they are free from democratic oppression.

The essence and practice of democracy in society are highly

To prevent the recurrence of tragic events in human history and the histories of nations resulting from democratic oppression, we must reflect on our own actions and learn from our country's past, then choose and follow the most appropriate path forward. In doing so, the paths taken by individuals and nations may differ because of their respective experiences and the challenges they face. Nevertheless, they must not deviate from the ultimate goal of establishing a democratic system.

doing so, the paths taken by individuals and nations may differ because of their respective experiences and the challenges they face. Nevertheless, they must not deviate from the ultimate goal of establishing a democratic system.

Everyone, in every country, must act with magnanimity whenever they have the opportunity to do so, prioritizing the interests of their country and its people over their own personal interests and those of their political party. They must always bear in mind that everything they do is connected to the country's history and continually reflect on their own actions. Selfless service, personal sacrifice and actions directed towards serving the interests of the nation will enable them to live with a clear conscience and peace of mind throughout their lives.

subtle and worthy of appreciation. Everyone can enjoy the benefits of democracy only when their actions and conduct do not adversely affect the interests of others. Freedom of speech, writing and expression is a highly cherished right among people in countries that practise democracy. An individual's freedom to speak, write and express themselves should not be exercised in ways that harm not only another person but also the interests of their community and country.

Furthermore, the mindset of viewing those who are different from oneself as enemies is fundamentally opposed to democracy. People whose ideas, beliefs and objectives differ from one's own should not be regarded as enemies. However, their views and undertakings must not deviate from the truth.

To prevent the recurrence of tragic events in human history and the histories of nations resulting from democratic oppression, we must reflect on our own actions and learn from our country's past, then choose and follow the most appropriate path forward. In

The article “What Goes Around Comes Around: Understanding the Reality of Kamma”, published in *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on 12 October 2026, offers a thoughtful and meaningful reflection on one of life's most familiar yet frequently misunderstood principles. Rather than presenting Kamma as a system of immediate reward and punishment, the article explains it as a deeper law of cause and effect, shaped by our intentions, thoughts, words, and actions.

What I find especially valuable about the article is its balanced and practical approach. Kamma is not described as a mysterious force that simply waits to punish people for their mistakes. Instead, it is presented as a principle that encourages people to understand the consequences of their behaviour and to take greater responsibility for the lives they are creating. This perspective makes the idea of Kamma relevant not only as a religious concept, but also as a guide for ethical and responsible

# Kamma as a Call to Conscious Living

By Thin Hlaing Hmwe

living.

One of the strongest points in the article is the emphasis on **intention**. Two people may perform a similar action, but their motivations may be completely different. An act that appears kind on the surface may be motivated by pride or personal gain, while a small and unnoticed act may come from genuine compassion. By reminding us that Kamma is connected not only to what we do but also to why we do it, the article encourages deeper self-examination. This is an important lesson in a world where people are often judged by outward appearances alone.

The article's discussion of the “ripple effect” is also highly relevant to modern society. Every thought, word, and action can influence other people. A harsh word may create anger and division, while a kind word may restore confidence and bring people closer together. In the same way, dishonesty and selfishness can gradually create distrust, whereas sincerity and generosity can build strong relationships. Our actions may not always produce immediate results, but they contribute to the kind of personal and social environment in which we live.

Another positive feature is

the article's explanation of why Kamma does not always appear to work instantly. Many people become doubtful when they see unkind individuals enjoying success or hardworking and honest people facing difficulties. The article responds to this doubt by explaining that Kamma is not like a microwave meal that is ready according to a strict timetable. This analogy is simple but effective. It reminds readers that consequences may take time to emerge and that life is influenced by many conditions, including past actions, present choices, and circumstances beyond our immediate control.

The article is particularly encouraging because it does not use Kamma to make people live in fear. Instead, it presents Kamma as a source of hope and personal empowerment. Even if someone has made serious mistakes in the past, the opportunity to change remains. Taking responsibility, apologizing, correcting harmful behaviour, and choosing a better path can help break negative patterns. This message is both compassionate and constructive because it recognizes human imperfection while encouraging moral improvement.

The three practical suggestions at the end of the article provide a clear and useful guide for daily life. Choosing empathy over ego can prevent unnecessary con-



flict. Practising kindness without expecting a reward can make our goodness more sincere. Taking accountability for our mistakes can help us grow and prevent the same harmful patterns from being repeated. These recommendations are not difficult theories; they are simple habits that anyone can practise in family life, at work, in the community, and in public life.

In my view, the greatest strength of this article is that it transforms the idea of Kamma from a passive belief into an active way of living. It asks us not merely to wait for justice to happen, but to

become more thoughtful, honest, compassionate, and responsible people ourselves. It also reminds us that our daily choices matter. A better society is not created only by laws and institutions; it is also created through the attitudes and actions of individuals.

Overall, “What Goes Around Comes Around: Understanding the Reality of Kamma” is a valuable and positive article. It encourages readers to reflect on their inner motivations, consider the consequences of their actions, and believe in the possibility of change. Its message is clear: we cannot control every

event in life, but we can control the intentions we cultivate and the choices we make. By choosing kindness, integrity, empathy, and accountability, we can contribute to a more peaceful life and a more harmonious society.

Kamma, therefore, should not be understood simply as a promise that people will receive what they deserve. It can also be understood as an invitation to live consciously – to recognize that every choice leaves an impression and that the future is shaped, step by step, by what we do today.

In addition, the article reminds us that every day gives us a fresh opportunity to become better human beings. By choosing understanding over anger, honesty over deception, and compassion over selfishness, we can gradually transform both our lives and the world around us. Kamma is therefore not something to fear, but a gentle reminder that our thoughts and actions carry meaning. The goodness we create today can become the foundation of a brighter tomorrow.

## Anger Management: A Calm Mind, a Better Choice, a Healthier Life

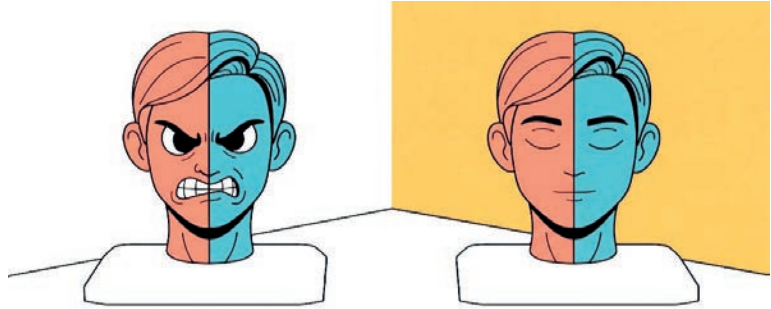
By Moon Cherry K

“What made me angry?” but also, “What am I really feeling underneath this anger?”

### What Happens Inside the Body?

When we become angry, the body may react as though it is

Occasional anger is part of ordinary life, but repeated intense anger and chronic stress can place unnecessary strain on the body. Over time, unhealthy patterns of anger may be associated with cardiovascular problems, sleep difficulties, headaches,



facing a threat. Stress hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol are released. The heart may beat faster, blood pressure may rise, breathing can become quicker, and muscles may become tense.

digestive discomfort and poorer emotional well-being.

Mental health and relationships can suffer too. An angry person may say hurtful things, make impulsive decisions or push

away people who care about them. Suppressing every angry feeling is not necessarily the answer either. A healthier goal is to recognize the emotion and express concerns without aggression.

### When Anger Hurts Children

Adults should be especially careful about how anger is expressed around children. Harsh criticism, humiliation, repeated shouting, teasing and belittling words can affect a child's sense of safety and self-worth. Children are still learning how to understand and regulate emotions, so adults become important models.

Instead of teaching children that anger must lead to shouting or punishment, we can teach them to pause, identify their feelings and communicate them appropriately. Simple techniques such as slow breathing, taking a short

break, drawing, writing or calmly talking to a trusted adult can help children develop emotional awareness.

Technology can also be used creatively. Some therapeutic programmes and games have explored ways of teaching young people to notice physical signs such as an increasing heart rate and practise remaining calm. Such approaches remind us that emotional regulation is a skill that can be learned.

### Anger and Our Relationships

Anger management is also an important part of building strong relationships. We cannot read another person's mind, but we can listen.

Partners, family members, friends and colleagues need emotional safety. Active listening means paying attention not only

to words but also to feelings and changes in behaviour. During disagreements, we should avoid using someone's weaknesses, private experiences or vulnerabilities as weapons.

Winning an argument is not always the same as solving a problem. Sometimes protecting mutual respect is more valuable than proving who is right.

### Healthy Ways to Manage Anger

Managing anger begins with creating a small space between emotion and action. When anger rises, count slowly before responding. Take several deep breaths. If possible, leave the stressful situation for a short time and return when you are calmer.

Walking outdoors, exercising, meditation, taking a shower, listening to peaceful music, watching something humorous, spending time in nature or getting sufficient sleep may help reduce tension. Writing can also be useful. Instead of immediately posting angry words on social media, write privately about what happened, how you feel and what response would produce the best outcome.

For long-term change, iden-

tify the root of repeated anger. Practise assertive but respectful communication, listen actively, reconsider negative thoughts and focus on what you can control. Learn to accept what cannot be changed. When anger becomes frequent, overwhelming or harmful, seeking support from a qualified mental-health professional can be a wise step.

### A Calmer Mind, a Better Life

We cannot prevent every disappointment, disagreement or stressful event. We can, however, learn to choose our response.

Anger may tell us that something needs attention, but it does not have to decide what we do next. Awareness gives us a moment to think; breathing gives us time to settle; calm communication gives us an opportunity to understand; and acceptance helps us move forward.

The next time anger knocks at the door, we do not have to let it take control. Pause. Think. Breathe. Be calm. Then choose your next step wisely. A calmer mind can lead to better choices, stronger relationships and a healthier life.

# NATIONAL

## HLUTTAW

# Amyotha Hluttaw approves MSME Development and Protection Bill

AMYOTHA Hluttaw representatives raised questions on the healthcare, construction and water supply sectors, and the Hluttaw approved the MSME Development and Protection Bill at the 10<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw at its building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Chair MP Daw Nwe Nwe Oo from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 2 read out the report of the committee on the MSME Development and Protection Bill. The Speaker sought the approval of the Hluttaw for the bill.

Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than submitted a proposal to approve the bill, while MP Daw Theingi Win Shwe from the Sagaing Region Constituency 9 seconded it. The Hluttaw approved the bill with amendments.

At the question-and-answer session, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Tin Tun



The 10<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session in progress yesterday, chaired by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

replied to questions submitted by MP Daw Naw Florence Denial from the Kayah State Constituency 10, saying that at Loikaw General Hospital, two physicians have undergone training in mental health, nephrology, cardiology, hepatology, and neurology during their three-year Master of Medical Science programme and are currently providing medical care for patients with urological and renal conditions. Moreover, a

psychiatrist is currently on duty.

The deputy minister also replied to the question raised by MP Daw Yin Min Htaik from the Mon State Constituency 1. He said that a plan has been set to construct a standardized building for Kyuchaung rural health centre in Kyaikto Township in the 2027-28 financial year.

Concerning the questions sent by MP U Nyan Tun from the Taninthayi

Region Constituency 9, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe explained that a plan is underway to construct a four-furlong production road and one box culvert on the Mingok Village production road in Kyunsu Township, but there is no plan to upgrade the 2,500-foot gravel production road to a concrete facility.

He also replied to queries raised by MP U

Aung Tin Myint from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 8, stating that the section of the Kyutan-Hteintabin road requiring repairs will be carried out in Kangyidaunt Township within the limits of the Union Fund during the 2027-2028 financial year. Furthermore, to facilitate students travelling to school, a proposal will be submitted to upgrade the four-furlong-long Hteintabin and Paypin earth road into a macadam road in the 2028-2029 financial year, depending on the budget allocation.

For the question submitted by MP Daw Marlar Hsan from the Shan State Constituency 2, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Win Moe Khaing responded that Expressions of Interest (EOI) were invited from Myanmar national entrepreneurs to execute a 100 per cent investment project aimed at expanding clean drinking water distribution to reach 100 per cent cover-

age in Kalaw and Aungban. ONOP AKH Corporation Limited was selected as the successful bidder; and a draft contract is currently being prepared to finalize the agreement. Upon completion of this water supply expansion project, it will be able to meet the daily water requirements of 130,000 gallons for Kalaw and 325,000 gallons for Aungban.

MP U Soe Kyi from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 11 asked about the plan to upgrade roads in Myoma 1 and Myoma 2 wards of Myeik Township. The Nay Pyi Taw Council member replied that plans to pave the roads with concrete in Myeik Township will be implemented in the 2027-28 FY.

Afterwards, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the formation of the Myanmar-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Association. The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 11<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 20 October. — News Team/TTA

## DIPLOMACY

# MoRA Union Minister meets Saudi Arabian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin received Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mr Maziad Mohammed Maziad M Alhowishan at the Union Minister's guest room in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

The Union minister highlighted the donation of a rest house known as Daung Zayet (Peacock Pavilion) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to accommodate Myanmar Muslim pilgrims performing the Hajj during the reign of King Mindon. He also discussed arrangements being made for Muslims living in Myanmar to trav-



The Saudi Arabian ambassador calls on Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin yesterday.

el to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj pilgrimage.

The Saudi Arabian ambassador expressed his sincere gratitude for the assistance provided to Myanmar Muslims undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage and for the

Ministry of Religious Affairs' efforts to promote interfaith dialogue.

They also discussed cooperation between Myanmar and Saudi Arabia in a friendly and open manner. — MNA/MKKS

# China donates RMB200K to 4 Myanmar sports federations

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar donated a total of 200,000 yuan to four Myanmar sports federations to support sports development in the country at a ceremony held at the Union Hall of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) in Tamway Township yesterday as part of Myanmar-China friendship activities.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia explained the purpose of the donation, followed by a congratulatory address by Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Bo Htay.

The ambassador then presented 50,000 yuan each to the Myanmar Wushu Federation, Myanmar Rowing Federation, Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and Myanmar Football Federation, bringing the total donation to 200,000 yuan. Representatives of the four federations accepted the donations.

On behalf of the Union Minister for



The certificate of appreciation presented to the Chinese ambassador at yesterday's event.

Sports, U Nyan Zaw Oo, Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, presented a certificate of appreciation to the ambassador and expressed gratitude for the donations.

The ceremony concluded with demonstrations of Myanmar traditional Chinlone and wushu, followed by a commemorative group photograph. — Bala/KZL

NATIONAL

NCA 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony held

THE 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held yesterday morning at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, with President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar delivering an opening address via a video message. (The President's opening address is published separately.)

Union Minister for Defence NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered remarks marking the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NCA.

A video clip summarizing the peace efforts of successive governments and ongoing endeavours to achieve sustainable and lasting peace following the signing of the NCA was then screened.

Representatives of China, India and Thailand who witnessed the original signing of the NCA subsequently delivered commemorative messages via video.

Commemorative remarks were also delivered by peace process contributors and NCA witnesses, including Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe, retired Union Minister and former Vice-Chairman of the Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC) U Aung Min, who heads the NSPNC Advisory Group, and retired Union Minister and former UPWC Vice-Chairman U Thein Zaw, a member of the NSPNC Advisory Group.

Leaders of NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations, including the ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, NMSP and RCSS, subsequently delivered commemorative speeches marking the anniversary.

Following the speeches, commemorative gifts marking the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NCA were presented to individuals who had contributed to the signing of the agreement, its original signatories, key supporters of the



The 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

peace process and leaders of ethnic armed organizations. The ceremony concluded with a group photo session, followed by an official luncheon.

In the afternoon, the workshop themed “From Peace and Social Harmony to Development”, held to commemorate the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), continued.

In his remarks, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the two-day workshop was being held

under the theme “From Peace and Social Harmony to Development” to facilitate substantive discussions on political issues. He explained that the first day's discussions would focus on “Reviewing Experiences, Achievements and Challenges of the NCA to Identify Approaches for Future Peace Processes”. On the second day, participants would be divided into two groups. Group 1 would discuss “Identifying and Studying Practical Ways to Collaborate for Peace,

Stability and Social Harmony in Conflict-Affected Areas,” while Group 2 would discuss “Identifying Interconnected Approaches Between Peace, Regional Economic Development and Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities, and Effectively Delivering Humanitarian Assistance and Addressing Needs”. He encouraged participants to engage in open, broad-based and informal discussions by sharing implementation experiences, achievements, lessons

learned and different perspectives. He emphasized that social harmony must be fostered in the Union, where diverse ethnic groups, languages, faiths and cultural traditions co-exist, to overcome suspicion, which he identified as a primary cause of conflict. He added that peace stakeholders needed to remain mindful of existing challenges and potential future threats while strengthening mutual trust and co-operation.

Afterwards, peace process contributors, representatives of ethnic armed organizations, delegates from the political parties' working group and other invitees attended a session on “Reviewing Experiences, Achievements and Challenges of the NCA to Identify Approaches for Future Peace Processes.” The session was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, with retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe and Sao Sai Ngin of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) serving as lead discussants.

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Myanmar attends ASEAN COSTI 90<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Related Meetings

THE 90<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90) and related Subcommittees meetings were held in Da Nang, Vietnam, from 13 to 15 October 2026.

A Myanmar delegation led by Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology and National Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (National COSTI Chair), attended the meetings, together with representatives from ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Dialogue Partners.



The commemorative group photo session of the 90<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90) in Da Nang, Vietnam.

During the meetings, participants discussed and considered the outcomes and decisions of the meetings of the Subcommittees under the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation, as well as the implementation of projects in collaboration with COSTI's partner or-

ganizations.

The discussions also focused on identifying priority areas for joint efforts to implement and advance the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation APASTI (2026-2035). These areas included infectious diseases, climate change and extreme heat, energy security, food security, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, mobility, and water management.

In addition, participants held frank and constructive discussions on priority initiatives and opportunities to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN Member States and development partners in advancing science, technology and innovation across the region.

During the visit, the delegation led by the Permanent Secretary also held bilateral discussions with the Malaysia COSTI Chair on cooperation in science, technology and innovation between the two countries. — MoST

Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown continues scam-hub demolition



This map shows the systematic demolition of scam-related buildings in the Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown.

THE government attaches great importance to combating online scams and online gambling as a matter of national responsibility. To prevent these activities from resuming in illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko, where they were previously carried out on a large scale, systematic efforts are being made to demolish the buildings.

In this regard, demolition work has continued on a five-storey building in Shwe Kokko Phase II that was used for online scam and gambling activities. As of today, 96 per cent of the demolition work on the building has been completed using heavy machinery. Demolition of another five-storey building is also 50 per cent complete. Meanwhile, preparations are underway to place explosive charges in a 13-storey building.

SEE PAGE 12

# NATIONAL

## NCA 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ...

FROM PAGE 11

During the session, participants openly exchanged views on lessons learned from implementing the peace process in accordance with the NCA, preserving the agreement's essence and fundamental principles while conducting negotiations in line with current conditions, building trust through reliable and mutually accepted

channels to foster good relationships among diverse stakeholders, and conducting political dialogue to rebuild trust.

Following the discussions, the workshop chairman delivered a concluding review, bringing the first day's proceedings to a close. The second day of the workshop is scheduled to continue on 16 October. — MNA/TH

## Shwe Kokko Phase II crackdown continues ...

FROM PAGE 11

Of the 63 buildings designated for demolition in Shwe Kokko Phase II, 25 are to be demolished using heavy machinery, four using explosives, and 34 manually, floor by floor, because they are located close to residential buildings. Demolition work is being carried out systematically according to these classifications. Of the four buildings designated for demolition using explosives, three have already been demolished.

The remaining buildings are also to be demolished systematically.

The government is placing special emphasis on eliminating online scams and online gambling, which have emerged as threats to global socioeconomic stability and national security. According to reports, it is working with neighbouring and regional countries to crack down on these activities with the aim of eradicating them completely and permanently. — 100/KZL

## FDA Orders Recall of 7 Food Products

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration has warned that seven food products sold in the market are being recalled after testing found excessive additives or contaminants.

The affected products are DD orange-flavoured yoghurt drink, VeVe strawberry-flavoured milk, Nantwinthu green chilli powder, Aurora plum candy, Nagani Ponyegyí (fermented bean paste), Kin Mon soy sauce and Kyanaga Myeik fish sauce.

Tests found sodium

benzoate, sodium cyclamate, benzoic acid and aflatoxin B1 at levels above permitted limits in six products, while Kyar Nagar Myeik fish sauce contained only 3.7 g/l (grammes per litre) of nitrogen, below the required minimum of 10 g/l.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the FDA has been monitoring the market systematically to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of food, drugs, medical devices and cosmetics. — NN/KK

## MAI promotes Myanmar-Malaysia tourism in Penang

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) held a roadshow at Cititel Hotel in Penang, Malaysia, on 14 October to promote tourism between Myanmar and Malaysia.

The event aimed to promote Penang as a travel destination for Myanmar tourists and attract more Malaysian visitors to Myanmar.



MAI holds a roadshow in Penang, Malaysia, to promote tourism between Myanmar and Malaysia.

MAI introduced its flight services and routes at the event. Business-matching sessions between Myanmar and Malaysian tourism operators also provided opportunities to discuss bilateral tourism cooperation and explore new business opportunities.

MAI CEO Mr Tanes Kumar said the airline had expanded its Yangon-Kuala Lumpur service in 2022 and currently operates 14 flights a week, with two flights a day. The airlines

launched direct flights between Yangon and Penang in April 2025 and currently operates three flights a week, on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Attendees included YB Wong Hon Wai, Penang State EXCO for Tourism and Creative Economy; Mr Ooi Chok Yen, CEO of Penang Global Tourism (PGT); officials; more than 40 Malaysian travel agents, hoteliers and tourism operators; Myanmar tourism operators; and MAI representatives. — ASH/KZL

## Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 15 October 2026

|                              | US\$              | Chinese yuan  | Thai baht      | Indian rupee |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Exchange rates               | 3,663.00~3,666.50 | 558.00~558.10 | 125.50~125.60  | 43.60        |
| Trading amount in the market | 18, 271, 653.86   | 47,755,383.70 | 56, 427,403.33 | -            |

## Basic course on ASEAN cooperation set for 7 Nov in Yangon

THE Centre for Regional and South-East Asian Studies, Myanmar, will open a basic course to study the politics, economy, and regional cooperation of ASEAN countries starting on 7 November. The course will be held in the Training Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Main Building at the Secretariat (former Ministers' Office), Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

The "Foundation Course in ASEAN Studies", designed to explore regional cooperation alongside the political,



A previous training course conducted by the Centre.

economic, social, and cultural opportunities of ASEAN member states, will cover the following topics: ASEAN's Organizational Structure and Cooperation Mechanisms; Political and Security Cooperation; Political Economy of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation; and Relations with External Countries.

Additionally, the curriculum will include Myanmar-ASEAN relations, ASEAN's opportunities, challenges, and prospects, as well as topics related to the China-ASEAN Expo, trade, and investment.

The lectures will be delivered by retired Ambassador U Kyaw Zeya, Dr Tin Maung Maung Ohn, Dr Thuta Aung, Dr Khaing Khaing Win, U Kyaw De Wa, and Daw Khaing Su Yi Zaw. The course will also feature a mock ASEAN meeting simulation, group presentations and discussions, and a graduation ceremony. — TWA/ZN

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise



# Thailand, Switzerland push to fast-track EFTA trade deal

THAILAND and Switzerland on Thursday pushed to bring a new free trade agreement into force as quickly as possible, as Swiss President Guy Parmelin made the first official visit to Thailand by a Swiss president in 22 years.

The deal between Thailand and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), whose members are Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, has already been approved by the Thai parliament.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said after talks with Parmelin in Bangkok that the agreement would widen trade and investment opportu-



Pharmaceuticals are one of Switzerland's top exports to Thailand, representing a major pillar of their non-precious metal trade. Novartis is the Swiss pharmaceutical giant. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

nities and make businesses in both countries more competitive.

Switzerland is Thailand's largest European trading partner and has

remained so through the first nine months of 2026, reflecting the strength of bilateral economic relations, Anutin told a joint press conference. — Xinhua

# JAL, All Nippon Airways to raise fuel surcharges amid Middle East tensions

JAPAN'S top two airlines said Thursday they will raise fuel surcharges on international flights for tickets to be issued in November and December, as fuel prices remain high amid uncertainty surrounding the conflict in the Middle East.

Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co will, for example, raise the surcharges for a one-way ticket to North America and Europe to 62,000 yen (\$393), the second-highest level on record and up 12,000 yen and 7,000 yen, respectively, from those in September and October.

Amid the Middle East tensions, the surcharge for one-way tickets to the two regions issued in July and August rose to a record

65,000 yen.

But the surcharges for tickets issued in September and October fell, reflecting a decline in fuel prices after the United States and Iran signed a preliminary deal in mid-June to end their war.

For flights to China

and Taiwan, ANA's fuel surcharge will rise by 800 yen to 15,100 yen, while JAL's will increase by 3,600 yen to 16,000 yen.

ANA will raise the extra charge by 600 yen and JAL by 1,200 yen, both to 7,100 yen, for flights to South Korea. — Kyodo



Amid the Middle East tensions, the surcharge for one-way tickets to the two regions issued in July and August rose to a record 65,000 yen. PHOTO: ISTOCK/GA161076

# Airlines sign codeshare boosting China-Africa connectivity

ETHIOPIAN Airlines and China Southern Airlines have signed a codeshare agreement to deepen cooperation and expand connectivity across Africa, China and beyond.

Ethiopian Airlines, the largest airline in Africa and one of the fastest-growing airline brands globally, said in a statement issued Wednesday that the new agreement aims to deepen cooperation between the two carriers on direct services between China and Ethiopia, alongside extended regional air markets.

By leveraging the networks of both airlines, the codeshare partnership is expected to offer passengers seamless transfers to destinations across Africa and China, according to the Ethiopian flag carrier.

The agreement comes as China Southern Airlines officially launched a new twice-weekly passenger

service on Tuesday, connecting Guangzhou in southern China with Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, via Changsha in central China.

Israel signs US deal for 12 advanced Apache helicopters

Israel's Defense Ministry said in a statement Wednesday that it had signed an agreement with the Pentagon to buy 12 advanced Apache attack helicopters made by US aerospace company Boeing.

The statement did not disclose the deal amount, but Israeli media reports put the cost at around US\$1 billion.

The helicopters will be the AH-64E Apache Guardian, also known as the Echo model, the latest version of the Apache attack helicopter. Deliveries are expected to begin early in the next decade. — Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
(32/2026-2027)

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|--------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (1)    | MOGE-OS-002<br>(2026-2027) | 24" Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline<br>Freespan Rectification Services | MMK    |

**Tender Closing Date and Time: 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2026 (13:00 Hrs)**  
Tender Documents shall be available during Office Hours commencing from 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2026 at the Finance Department (HQ), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Office No. (44), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.  
Tender Documents shall be submitted in person to the Yadana Hall, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. (6), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar before tender closing date and time.  

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (179N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**  

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

  
Agent For:  
**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V LINN LATT VOY.NO. (LLT007)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LINN LATT VOY.NO. (LLT007)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2026** 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 KAN LINN THU TRADING & LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## California puts first US billionaire tax to the vote

*Advocates aim for a local policy change to establish a nationwide precedent amid growing public outrage over US wealth inequality.*

WHEN Americans vote in next month's midterm elections, one question on the ballot in California could echo far beyond the state: should the ultra-wealthy pay a special tax on their fortunes?

The proposal would require California's roughly 200 billionaires to hand over five percent of their net worth that will mostly be used to fund the public healthcare system gutted by President Donald Trump, and on which around half of Californians depend. Advocates hope the move would set a precedent for other parts of the country at a time of rising anger over surging inequality in the United States, as the fortunes of tech titans like Elon Musk reach eye-watering levels.

Loren Fierman, a



Left-wing Senator Bernie Sanders urged voters at a rally in Los Angeles to support the measure. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

retired graphic designer who relies on Medicare — the public programme that provides healthcare for retirees and the disabled — said the money would barely register for the mega-rich. “It’s like a

drop in their bucket,” she told AFP. “It means very little to them, but it means everything to people that need healthcare.”

Opponents of the ballot measure, including Google co-founder Sergey

Brin, have stumped up more than \$205 million to defeat so-called Proposition 40, arguing it will push the wealthy to leave California, reducing the amount of tax the state can raise. — AFP

## Venezuela may hike oil output by 200,000 barrels per day in one year

VENEZUELA may increase oil production by up to 200,000 barrels per day over the coming year under favourable conditions, former Chilean Energy Minister Ricardo Raineri told Sputnik.

“The additional growth of approximately 100,000-200,000 barrels per day over the coming six to 12 months seems likely to me under the current favourable conditions,” Raineri said.

According to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Venezuela produces about 1.1-1.2 million barrels of oil per day. Raineri's forecast projects production



A petroleum drilling rig operated by Maraven SA located in Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela. **PHOTO: BRITANNICA**

growth of 10-20 per cent.

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, estimated at about 303 billion barrels, however, the output is far lower than historic records. It needs to invest in reserve devel-

opment, pipeline construction, power supply and other infrastructure facilities to step up production.

The United States and Venezuela have agreed to expand the US's participation in the

South American nation's oil sector, which includes attracting investment to revive production and modernizing the infrastructure facilities. The US has been easing restrictions on Venezuela's oil sector to allow for the return of US energy companies.

In late September, Colombian company Geo Park announced its plans to invest about \$7 billion in the development of the Bare oil reserve in the Orinoco Belt. The company expects to increase output from its current level of 11,000 barrels to 90,000 barrels per day in the long run. — SPUTNIK

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ecuador strengthens grid before El Niño

ECUADOR is set to shore up its electric system to ensure service during the critical months of the El Nino weather phenomenon, forecast to run from late November through February, President Daniel Noboa said Wednesday.

“We are facing a very harsh weather situation, especially along the coast, though highland areas are also being affected,” Noboa said in an interview with Radio Centro in the central city of Ambato. According to Noboa, adverse weather conditions have led to an increase in disruptions in electricity, with incidents climbing from an average of “20-odd” times per day in a normal year to between 60 and 70 currently. — Xinhua

#### Tanker reportedly hit by drone off Romania

A Comoros-flagged commercial tanker was reportedly struck by a drone on Wednesday evening in Romanian territorial waters in the Black Sea, causing a fire on board that was later brought under control.

According to local media, no injuries were reported among the crew members, said Adrian Mihalcioiu, chairman of Romania's Free Seafarers' Union.

The vessel, identified as the YARA J, was reportedly hit about 8 to 10 nautical miles southeast of the port of Sulina. It has a 17-member crew consisting of nationals from Syria, India and Iran. — Xinhua

#### Tajikistan expresses concern over attacks on Saudi Arabia

TAJIKISTAN'S Foreign Ministry on Wednesday expressed “deep concern” over recent attacks targeting airports and energy infrastructure facilities in Saudi Arabia. Such actions, which resulted in the deaths and injuries of innocent civilians, escalate tensions and hinder efforts to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry called on all parties involved in the conflict to end the hostilities as soon as possible and resolve their differences through negotiations. — Xinhua

## Preliminary survey for possible nuclear waste site near Tokyo begins

A preliminary survey of a city near Tokyo to gauge its suitability as a potential disposal site for highly radioactive waste began Thursday, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Japan said.

The preliminary survey, involving checking land erosion and other conditions based on published geological sources such as

maps and academic papers, is being carried out for the first time for a city on Japan's main island of Honshu. The economy minister approved a revision to the project plan required for the survey the same day. The city of Hitachiomiya in Ibaraki Prefecture will receive up to two billion yen (\$12.7 million) in central government grants. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr hit with four-match ban for hair-pulling red card

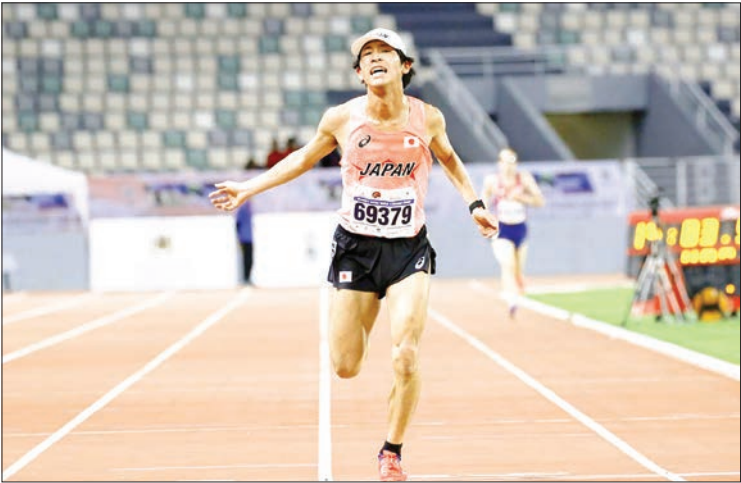
REAL Madrid forward Vinicius Jr has been banned for four matches by the Disciplinary Committee of the Spanish Football Federation following the red card he received in his side's 1-0 home win over Villarreal on Saturday.

Vinicius was sent off in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute by referee Isidro Diaz de Mera after appearing to score for his side. However, following a VAR review, the goal was ruled out and Vinicius was shown a red card for pulling the hair of Villarreal midfielder Nathan Saliba in an off-the-ball incident.

The player was given a two-match ban for the foul because the incident was "with the ball not being disputed", with a further two matches imposed for the "aggressive attitude and needing to be held back by his teammates" during his protests to Diaz de Mera.

The sanction means Vinicius will miss next weekend's home match against Sevilla, as well as the first 'Clasico' of the season away to FC Barcelona, followed by away matches against Racing Santander and Valencia.

— Xinhua



Japan's Yudai Shimazu setting a world record in the men's 5,000-metre (T13 visual impairment class) during a meet in Rabat, Morocco, in April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Asian Para Games: Former ekiden standout Shimazu embraces para athletics

FORMER Hakone Ekiden stage winner Yudai Shimazu will run for gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games after an eye disease prompted his move to para athletics.

The 26-year-old, a two-time stage winner in Japan's prestigious university relay race, holds the men's T13 5,000-metre world record for athletes with visual impairments.

Shimazu's field of vision has progressively narrowed since his university days as the result of retinitis pigmentosa, leaving him with limited sight in the

lower and outer areas of his visual field.

Encouraged by para athletics officials, he decided this year to compete in both non-disabled and para events with the 2028 Paralympics in mind.

He made his para debut at an international meet in Morocco in April, clocking a world-record 14 minutes, 3.45 seconds in the T13 5,000 after undergoing international classification.

Shimazu, who has spoken openly about his disability, said he hopes his performances can inspire others.

— Kyodo

PSG 'got lucky' to win Man City thriller, says Luis Enrique



During the UEFA Champions League match on 14 October 2026, at the Etihad Stadium, Paris Saint-Germain defender Willian Pacho executed a sliding tackle against Manchester City striker Erling Haaland. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS Saint-Germain boss Luis Enrique said the European champions rode their luck to beat Manchester City 4-2 and maintain a perfect start to their defence of the Champions League.

The visitors ran riot in the first half of City's first home game since being found guilty of breaking Premier League financial rules as they raced into a 3-0 lead.

Desire Doue, Ousmane Dembele and Vitinha were on target in a near flawless first 45 minutes by the French champions.

But City roared back after the break as Erling Haaland struck twice, while they also hit the woodwork twice and were denied by a brilliant goalline clearance by Nuno Mendes.

— AFP

Germany sweeps men's 25m rapid fire pistol podium at ISSF World Cup

GERMANY swept the podium in the men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol on Wednesday at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, with Oliver Geis winning gold after a close contest with compatriot Florian Peter.

Geis finished with 34 hits, narrowly beating Peter's 33, while Emanuel Mueller completed the all-German podium with 28.

The three occupied the top positions after the sixth five-shot series, when Geis led with 26 hits, Peter followed with 25 and Mueller had 24. Italy's Massimo Spinella was eliminated in fourth place with 23 hits.

Mueller then secured bronze after the seventh series, leaving Geis and Peter to battle for gold in the final series, with Geis holding on for a one-hit victory.

Earlier, Peter had topped the qualification round with 592 points, while Mueller qualified third with 583 and Geis fourth with the same score.

Geis' victory followed his gold medal at the World Cup in Hangzhou, China, in July,

where he equaled the world record with 35 hits.

— Xinhua



Oliver Geis of Germany competes during the men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol final at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, Egypt, on 14 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



# WORLD

## Norway may let wealth fund invest in nuclear weapon makers

NORWAY'S sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest with assets of more than \$2.2 trillion, may once again be allowed to invest in firms that make nuclear weapons under a proposal made Thursday.

Under its current ethical guidelines, the fund excludes 14 companies because they develop or make nuclear weapons or their components, including industry giants Airbus, BAE Systems, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Safran.

The Norwegian government ordered a review of the guidelines following criticism over its investments in groups accused of playing a role in the war in Gaza.

A commission established for that purpose, chaired by former central bank governor Svein

Gjedrem, unveiled its recommendations on Thursday.

The fund could invest only in nuclear arms makers "based in a nuclear-weapon state as defined in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and allied with Norway", the report said.

"This means that several British, French and American arms manufacturers will be brought back into the fund," Gjedrem said as he presented the 434-page document.

Other ethical exclusion criteria — such as the manufacture of biological and chemical arms, landmines and cluster bombs, as well as coal extraction and the production of tobacco or cannabis — would remain unchanged, the commission said. — AFP

## India expected to overtake Japan as world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy in 2027: IMF

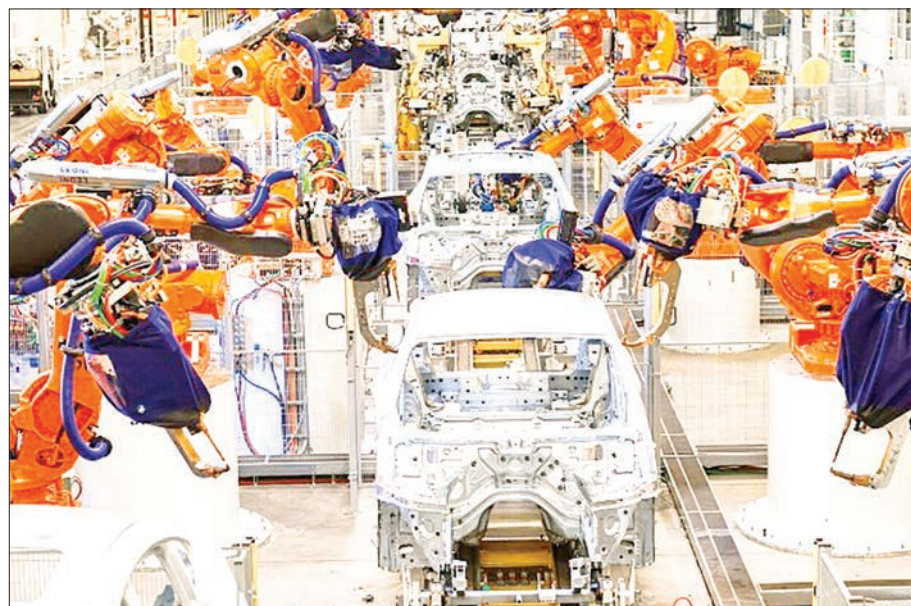
*India is projected to surpass Japan to claim the 4<sup>th</sup>-largest spot, reaching a nominal GDP of \$4.52 trillion.*

INDIA is expected to become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan, according to International Monetary Fund projections that on Thursday laid out the Asian nations' contrasting trajectories.

The IMF said Japan would remain the fourth-largest country by nominal gross domestic product this year, but in 2027 India is set to take its place, with a GDP reaching \$4.52 trillion.

Japan is slated to slip to sixth place that year, falling behind both India and the United Kingdom, the projection showed.

India has shown strong growth in recent



India has shown strong growth in recent years despite global economic headwinds. **PHOTO: ANI**

years despite global economic headwinds, with the IMF this week raising its forecasts for 2026 growth to hit 7.0 per cent.

Japan, by contrast, is plagued by an ageing population and other structural problems that have seen the Asian gi-

ant's growth stagnate.

The United States is the world's largest economy, followed by China and Germany. — AFP

## US mulling "mother of all bombs" strike on Iran

THE US military has developed new strike plans that could involve using the so-called "Mother of All Bombs" (MOAB) to target Iranian energy infrastructure and nuclear sites if President Donald Trump orders a resumption of combat operations, either before or after the midterm elections, CNN reported Thursday, citing multiple US officials familiar with the matter.

"Using the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb or MOAB, the largest non-nuclear bomb in the US arsenal, for the first time in the conflict with Iran would mark a notable escalation, even though there are doubts over how effective it would



New strike plans developed targeting Iranian energy infrastructure and nuclear sites. Natural gas from South Pars is the biggest source of Iran's domestic energy supply. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

be in accomplishing any of Trump's stated strategic objectives or tipping the balance of the war," the report said, citing multiple sources familiar with internal military planning discussions about

potentially deploying the weapon.

The development comes amid continued tensions between Washington and Tehran despite diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. — Xinhua

## US penalizes Spanish ships over port ban

THE US Federal Maritime Commission has proposed introducing a \$200,000 fee for Spanish vessels entering US ports and restricting imports of Spanish goods in re-

sponse to the closure of ports to US-flagged ships.

"In order to address these unfavourable conditions created by Spain, the FMC proposes two sets of remedies: (1) a per-voyage

fee on all Spanish-flagged vessels of \$200,000 and (2) restrictions on the import of certain Spanish goods into the United States," the statement read. — SPUTNIK

## Brazil's Congress approves shorter workweek

BRAZIL'S Senate approved a shorter workweek on Wednesday, a pledge President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is counting on to close the gap with his rival ahead of next week's election runoff.

The measure, which the government has been pushing for months, pro-

vides for two paid days off a week instead of the current one and reduces the maximum workweek from 44 to 40 hours.

The bill targets working-class Brazilians, who have historically formed leftist Lula's electoral base. Millions of Brazilians currently work six days a week, a schedule

known as "6x1". The reduction will be phased in over the next 14 months.

The vote completes the legislative process for the measure, which had already been approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

The constitutional reform passed the Senate with 75 votes in favor and just one against. — AFP