Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

'Healing in Colour' art show opens at Chatrium Yangon

All proceeds from the exhibition's painting sales will be donated, in partnership with the Saviour Foundation, to support mental health hospitals and departments in need.

Photos capture the paintings displayed at the exhibition, being held from 15 October to 15 November.

The Anawrahta Art Gallery is holding an art exhibition titled 'Healing in Colour' at the Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon in Yangon from 15 October to 15 November.

"We would like to invite you to the 'Healing in Colour' exhibition at the 'Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon' to appreciate the magnificent artworks and encourage those suffering from mental health issues," said one of the exhibition organizers from Anawrahta Art Gallery. "Art is a force that can heal our minds, and as World Mental Health Day falls within this month, we decided to name this event 'Healing in Colour'. For this exhibition, Anawrahta Art Gallery will be showcasing twenty-five magnificent paintings throughout the Lobby Area of the Chatrium Hotel for anyone to view. Furthermore, all profits from the sale of the paintings at the exhibition will be donated, in collaboration with the Saviour Foundation, to where it is needed in mental health hospital and mental health departments."

The "Healing in Colour" exhibition, which is being organized and presented by the Anawrahta Art Gallery, is showcasing a total of twenty-five paintings executed in various mediums, including watercolour, oil, and acrylic, in the Lobby Area of the Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon. The paintings on display come in a variety of sizes, such as 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. – ASH/MKKS

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Miracle in Yangon: 4-year-old girl survives 8-storey fall in Yegyaw

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Yangon palm oil reference price remains unchanged for 3 weeks

Article

Analyzing Methods and Indices for Defining Monsoon Onset and Withdrawal

By Dr Kyaw (Meteorology School)

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NATIONAL

2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission

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

2024 Population and Housing Census

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

Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 32 samples from 8 pm on 12 October 2025 to 8 pm on 19 October 2025, and no approved case was detected. During the period no new casualties were reported.

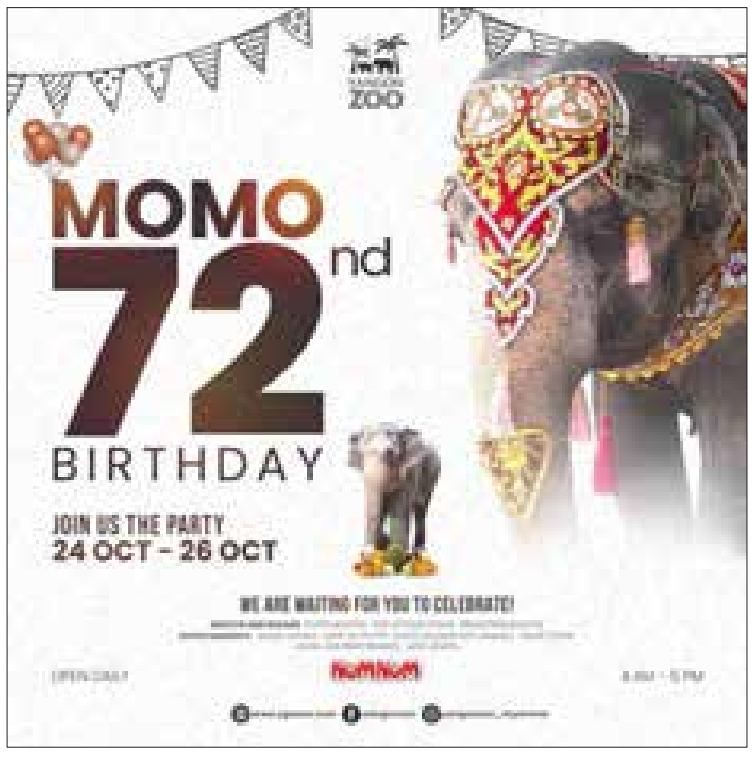
Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

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

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

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department,
Ministry of Health

Yangon Zoo to host 3-day celebration for Mo Mo's 72nd birthday



A billboard poster bears a celebration for the 72nd birthday of the people's favourite, Elephant Mo Mo.

THE beloved elephant Mo Mo will celebrate her 72nd birthday party with a three-day festival at the zoo, according to the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

It will be held from 24 to 26 October and the zoo has extended an open invitation to the public to join the celebrations.

"The celebration of the 72nd birthday of female elephant Mo Mo, the beloved public figure, is coming soon. It will take place from 24 to 26 October at the Yangon Zoo. So, we would like to invite Mo Mo's fans to come and enjoy with great enthusiasm," the Yangon Zoo stated.

Her 71st birthday party last year includes donations, a fruit cake cutting, photo opportunities, keeper talks, live performance, magic show, games and fun fair at the Yangon Zoo.

She was born in 1953 and donated to the zoo in February 1961 when she was seven years old. She was named Mo Mo in honour of her keeper U Khun Sanda's wife Naw Mo Mo.

Elephant Mo Mo has entertained zoo visitors for over 50 years, and she can dance and reply if her name "Mo Mo" is called. Since Mo Mo's 60th birthday in October 2016, her birthday has been celebrated annually in the Yangon Zoo, which is open from 8 am to 5 pm every day. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

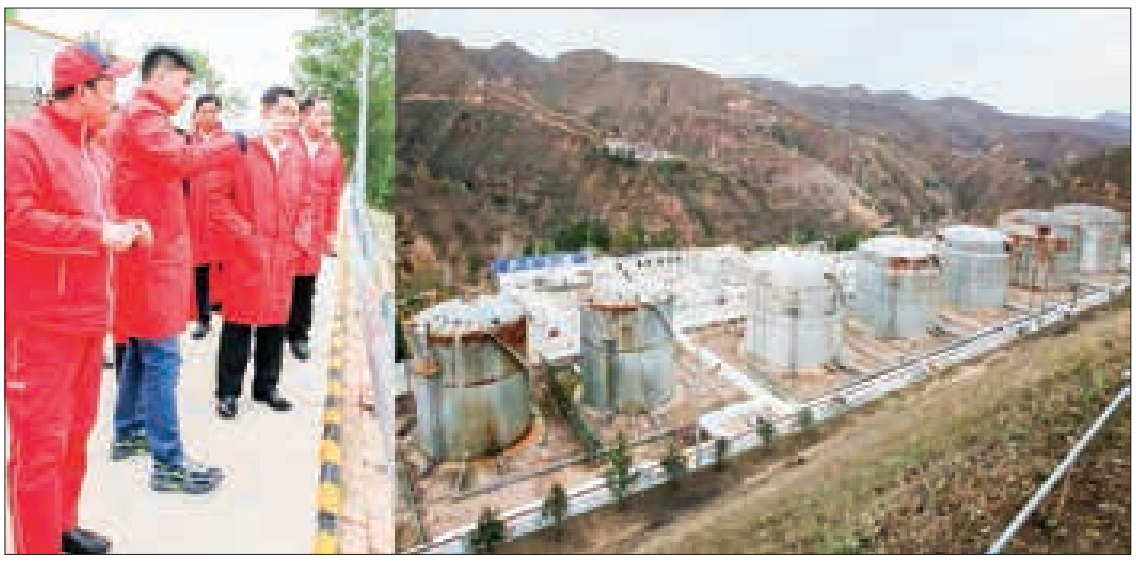
(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Myanmar delegation visit China's oil fields, 3D seismic equipment factory

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, currently in China to attend 2025 International Forum on Energy Transition and promote Myanmar-China cooperation in energy sector, visited the age-old oil fields in Yulin Province, on 18 October.

The team led by the Chairman of the state-owned Yan Chang Company explained in detail regarding their use of advanced technologies to increase oil production, the maintenance of oil deposits, the purification of water injected into oil wells, the full digital control of the entire production process, and the measures being taken to protect the environment from harmful actions.

On 19 October, the Union minister and party heard the presentation made by the chairman-led team at North Petroleum & Chemical Corporation meeting hall regarding measures to increase oil production in relevant age-old oil fields, the technologies and procedures that should be applied in Myanmar's old oil fields depending on geological age and soil, the need to manage oil fields using digital technology, and the benefits gained from the application of advanced technologies.



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

The Union minister noted that the oil field visited for this study does not differ in age compared to the onshore oil fields of Myanmar. Although the remaining oil and natural gas quantities are much smaller than those in some of other oil fields of Myanmar, the use of advanced technologies has enabled systematic operations, resulting in a significant increase in production rates. Moreover, it is noteworthy that up to 90 per cent of the recoverable oil and natural gas can be extracted.

He invited to make investment in Myanmar, and expressed willingness to send the staff to oil and gas universities and workplaces of China for practical and lecture, and transfer of advanced technologies in the future.

The Union minister visited the factory producing equipment used in 3D seismic surveying operations, the factory officials demonstrated the production of each component, the assembly of parts after production, and the testing of the final products. They demonstrated the use of advanced wireless 3D seismic equipment.

As the Ministry of Energy has so far only been able to carry out Wireline 2D seismic, the use of wireless 3D seismic equipment would bring several benefits, including the ability to discover and confirm new oil and natural gas deposits, accurately estimate the recoverable quantities, and, by conducting additional surveys in areas already measured with Wireline 2D seismic, it can provide precise and comprehensive geological data for drilling operations. — MNA/KTZH

MoE UM inspects seawater-to-freshwater project for farm and livestock use

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint and relevant officials, visited the Innovative Biophysics Lab at the Centre for Research and Innovation, University of Yangon, yesterday morning to observe the ongoing research project on an energy system using green hydrogen fuel cell technology for electricity generation.

During the observation, lecturer Dr Saw Lin Oo of the Department of Physics at the University of Yangon, explained the research project being conducted on producing 100 litres of fresh and potable water per hour from seawater for agricultural and livestock use. Then, the Union minister coordinated to provide support for the project.

Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein and officials are seen during their inspection tours in Yangon.

The Union minister attended the opening ceremony of 2024-2025 Higher Education Inter-University (Men's, Women's) Zone football tournament at the stadium, Thaton road, Kamayut township, Yangon in the same afternoon.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister highlighted the holding of inter-university and colleges football tournament across the nation since 2009, and the intentions of the competition such as to promote the sports level of universities and degree colleges, produce national athletes through the universities' competitions, to enhance friendship, patience, unity, team work among players and so on.

She then presented cash prize to the school band of Practising High School.

The football tournament will take place from 20 to 26 October, there will be four zones for lower Myanmar and another four zones for upper Myanmar, and there will be a total of 272 university students, coaches and supervisors. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Triangle Region Command Commander inspects Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) construction

Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Hlaing and officials are seen inspecting the construction of the Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan).

COMMANDER of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Soe Hlaing, and relevant officials, inspected the construction site of new Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) in Mongton township, Mongton District, Shan State (East), yesterday.

On arrival at the construction site, the Commander and party heard the report made by an official of Bridges Department regarding the strength of the old bridge, new bridge project, completion in respective financial years and finalization processes.

The Commander instructed the need to complete the project in time, meet the standards and ensure the occupational safety.

They observed the construction processes.

The old Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan), a suspension bridge connects Langkho district in Shan State (South) and Mongton district Shan State (East) on Namhsan-Mongnai-Mongton-Monghsat road section. As it was no longer fully usable for aging infrastructure, a new 876-foot long RC concrete bridge was constructed in February 2019 using the Union fund, and it is expected to complete in December. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw and residents unite to restore Hsipaw after counter-terrorism operation

Cleaning activities in progress in Hsipaw.

IN order to ensure the peaceful livelihood of the public, Tatmadaw has been conducting counter-terrorism operations, and upon regaining full control of Hsipaw in Shan State (North), it has been working intensively and in a timely manner on rehabilitation activities. These efforts include the restoration of administrative mechanisms, resumption of educational services for children, and provision of healthcare for locals.

To prevent disruption to the education of students in Hsipaw and surrounding areas, the Tatmadaw is working to reopen schools as soon as possible. Similarly, hospitals are being reopened to ensure smooth healthcare services for the public. Today, Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, departmental staff, and local residents jointly carried out cleaning operations at No 1 Basic Education High School in Hsipaw and at the Hsipaw People's Hospital.

In addition, as local residents are returning to the town, security personnel and departmental officials are assisting with reception and resettlement arrangements.

Security forces continue to undertake territorial security and administrative duties to maintain peace, stability, and sustainable development in Hsipaw Township, ensuring that local ethnic residents can live and work peacefully and continue their social and economic activities. — MNA/MKKS

Joint effort restores health, education in Kyaukme amid mine clearance

IN Kyaukme, Shan State (North), a temporary hospital has been opened at the Labha Muni Chinese Temple, where doctors and nurses from the Ministry of Health and Tatmadaw are collaborating to provide healthcare services for the local population. They provided necessary healthcare services to 104 outpatients and seven inpatients yesterday.

In addition, Tatmadaw members, the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade members, departmental staff, and locals collectively carried out cleaning activities at No 3 Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kyaukme.

Furthermore, security force personnel are continuing to carry out mine clearance operations in departmental offices and areas where the general public lives and travels in Kyaukme, to ensure a safe and secure environment free from the danger of mines. — MNA/MKKS

Healthcare services underway in Kyaukme.

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

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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

Heavy winds and rain expected in coming weeks

HEAVY winds and rains are forecast for the coming weeks due to the effects of the remnants of tropical cyclone Fengshen in the South China Sea and the formation of a strong low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal.

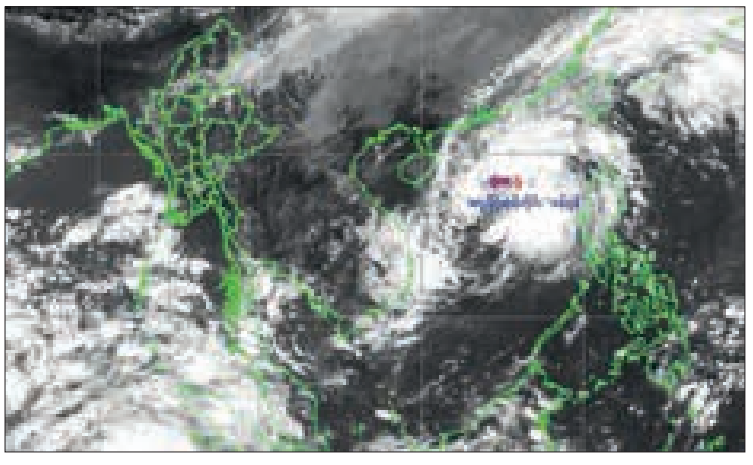
Measurements at 12:30 am Myanmar time on 20 October showed that Fengshen moved west-northwest, and thereby could move westward, and is expected to become a strong storm within the next 15 hours, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said.

Due to a strong low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal over the next seven days (20-26 October), rain is forecast in Taninthayi Region, Mon, and Rakhine states and Magway/Nay Pyi Taw with 7.1 to 8.7 inches, 6.3 to 7.9 inches and 5.1 to 7.1 inches, and 1.6 to 2.8 inches rainfall respectively.

"Overall, there are not many impacts by storms/low pressure zones in the coming weeks. In some areas, heavy rains can be severe, but not for long. People should be aware of sudden strong winds," said meteorologist U Win Naing on 19 October.

On 21 October, rain certainty is 100 per cent in Shan (North), Ayeyawady, Taninthayi, Chin, Shan (South), Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, Kachin and Mon areas, the DMH announced at 2:00 pm on 20 October.

A strong wind and heavy rainfall with cumulonimbus clouds are forecast in Ayeyawady, Taninthayi and Rakhine and the DMH advises to take precautions as there is a possibility of lightning and hailstorms. — Htun Htun/ZN



ICON model of rainfall in Myanmar's regions/states in seven days.

Miracle in Yangon: 4-year-old girl survives 8-storey fall in Yegyaw

A four-year-old girl was rescued after falling from the eighth floor of a building in Yegyaw, Yangon, and being stuck between two buildings on the night of 17 October, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade.

Following the information at around 9:27 pm, Myanmar Fire Brigade despatched one fire engine each from Pazundaung and Kyauktada Township Fire Stations, together with rescue teams.

She was rescued by 9:43 pm, 16 minutes after the fall, and found to be not seriously injured. The child was transported to the Yangon General Hospital by the ambulance of the Piti Myitta Social Welfare Team. An eyewitness, Singer Mae Chit Thet, shared the scene on social media.

"My son and I have just got out of our car, and we heard people's cries. First, we thought it was a fight. Then, we heard the shouts asking for help as a child had fallen and was stuck between two buildings on the third floor. Two security guards who first reached the girl and dragged her out were very brave," she said.

"After some shocked moments, I called Ko Htin Lin Aung from Pale Auxiliary Fire Brigade for help. Then, Piti Myitta Social Welfare team and Ko Pu Too's team, with full equipment, arrived. We thank them all," she continued.

This photo features firefighters saving a child trapped between two buildings after falling from the eighth floor.

Using power unit hydraulic tools, Ko Pu Too's members, firefighters and social volunteers have reportedly managed to rescue the girl. — MT/ZN

Five-digit lottery jackpot raised to K200 mln

AT the 25th opening of the five-digit Aungbarlay online lottery, the jackpot prize has been raised to K200 million.

No winner for jackpot worth K100 million appeared at the 24th opening so it will be doubled at the 25th opening. The online lottery opens on every first day and 16th day of the month.

The Spin and Win promotion will give a chance to have a spin for buy three tickets and rewards are iPhone 17 Pro Max, air cooler, fan, five-digit Aungbarlay lottery tickets and loyalty points.

Tickets can be bought at Aungbarlay application, as well as by dialling or sending SMS to *117# by Mytel SIM or by any preferable mobile wallet. — MT/ZS

Myanmar Embassy Tokyo releases list of 89 unclaimed passports

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan released the list of 89 Myanmar passport with no recipient after extension.

The embassy issues and sends back passports to their holders by post after extension.

The embassy provides consular services for application submitted either in person or by post, and this is the list of 89 passports arrived back to the embassy due to being no recipient.

Among the list, PV, PJ and PE passport types are included. The embassy has urged the passport holders to come to accept during the office hours. — MT/ZS

The Myanmar Embassy to Japan.

NATIONAL

Cash and gifts delivered to over 100 senior artistes unable to attend annual tribute ceremony

Officials from the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization visit the homes of veteran artistes to present donations and pay respect.

ACCORDING to Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), monetary donations and offering items are currently being presented to veteran film artistes who were unable to attend the 48th Respect-Paying Ceremony for film industry elders due to health reasons.

At the ceremony held on 13 October to commemorate the 105th Myanmar Motion Pictures Day and the 48th Respect-Paying Ceremony for film industry elders, only about 40 veteran artistes were able to attend because of venue limitations and health conditions, while over 100 veterans could not be present.

"Due to space constraints, and because many elderly artistes can't sit for long periods or need to use wheelchairs, only around forty of them were able to attend the respect-paying ceremony. Therefore, starting from 14 October, the organization has been distributing offertory cash and gifts to the remaining veteran artistes. For those who are bedridden or too unwell to travel, our teams have been personally visiting their homes to pay respects since 19 October," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

This year, a total of 150 veteran artistes were honoured. Each recipient received over K400,000 in offertory cash and around 40 types of medical supplies donated through the programme. — ASH/KNN

Film actress marks 30th birthday with donation at Yangon General Hospital

Actress Saung Wutyi May donates rice and meals to patients at YGH for her 30th birthday.

ACTRESS Saung Wutyi May celebrated her 30th birthday on 17 October by providing a donation of rice and curries for 500 patients undergoing treatment at the Yangon General Hospital.

As a birthday act of merit, she donated a lunch for 500 individuals receiving medical treatment at the YGH, which consisted of rice, chicken curry, fried beans and bamboo shoot curry, and mixed-vegetable sour soup.

The actress said, "I have never made a donation at the Yangon General Hospital before, so I decided to do it for my birthday merit today. It was a donation for 500 people. I'd also like to say that this is, in a way, a donation from my fans. Because of my fans' support, I have been able to work in the industry, so I want to say this donation belongs to my fans as well."

It is also known that she has plans to make more donations to other areas in need. — ASH/KNN

Suspense-comedy '2 Nights 3 Days' to hit cinemas late Oct

This photo shows the poster for the film '2 Nights 3 Days'.

THE major Myanmar film, titled '2 Nights 3 Days', has finished shooting and will be screened in cinemas in the final week of October, according to the film's director, Aung Chan Lu.

The director of the film, Aung Chan Lu, wrote the story and is responsible for directing and producing it for 3 H Arts Production.

"It's a story that blends thriller and romance," said Director Aung Chan Lu. "It's a feature film where you'll see a tattoo artist and his two friends get into all sorts of trouble on a seaside trip while searching for a treasure map. It will be a laugh-out-loud, gripping watch. You will see Academy Award winner Kyaw Ye Aung as the tattoo artist 'U Ko Naing'. '2 Nights 3 Days' is a combination of suspense and comedy. It's 60 per cent suspense and 40 per cent comedy. It leans towards a treasure hunting (Chinese box or nesting box) style. The 40% of comedy includes a sort of buddy comedy between Wai Phyo Maung and Chit Loon Maung, and it's a slapstick comedy type with a slight dark element blended in. What is certain is that it will not contain any disparaging, insulting, uncultured, or lewd humour, or any attempts at mistaken identity gags. You will find yourself smiling as you watch the film. You'll occasionally burst into laughter. You'll laugh when an idea strikes you. You'll have to think about it before you laugh. It features a blend of some double plot twists."

The cast of '2 Nights 3 Days' includes Academy Kyaw Ye Aung, Academy Aye Chan Maung, Khin Hlaing, Wai Phyo, Ye Htut Min Khaung, Nay Thit Aye Aung, beauty pageant winner Ei Ei Aung Tun (Mee Mee), and many supporting actors and extras. — ASH/MKKS

New TV series 'Wuthmon Tazet Ei Ahtokpatti' to air on Fortune TV on 22 Oct

THE Myanmar television series titled 'Wuthmon Tazet Ei Ahtokpatti' (The Biography of a Piece of Pollen) will begin airing on the Fortune TV channel from 22 October, according to actor Shin Mwe La, who stars in the series.

The Myanmar television drama is an adaptation of a novel by writer Tayar Min Wai, with a screenplay written and directed by Academy Zaw Myint Oo for Shwe Sandar Min Production.

"In this series, I play the role of Thit Min Lu, a university teacher. I portray a teacher who lives a happy, carefree life, joking around and passing through life peacefully. Since we were filming while the universities were open, it reminded me of my own student days, and it was a great help for my role. The storyline itself is light, joyful, and heartwarming. I loved this story, and I gave it my best performance," said Shin Mwe La.

The series features performances by Shin Mwe La, Phone Shein Khant, Kaung Hein, Kaung San, Phone Thiri Kyaw, Pyi Kaung Su Thant, Shin Min Set, Moh, Eaint Kyar Phyu, and many supporting actors. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Educated and uneducated approaches impact future political stability

- It has been observed that the level of education—whether educated or uneducated — has an impact on political stability in future politics.
- We must not neglect those who are academically weak; instead, we should support them through non-formal education by establishing libraries tailored to each region, promoting library services, organizing reading societies, and encouraging various forms of informal learning.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the State Administration Council meeting held on 25 March 2025)

Yangon palm oil reference price remains unchanged for 3 weeks

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market has stayed the same at K6,585 per viss for three consecutive weeks until 23 October, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Oil mill workers are organizing cooking oil jerry cans for distribution and sale.

DICA: 400 companies fail to file AR in Aug

A total of 400 companies were struck off the register in August 2025 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA report showed failure of 1,500 companies each in January and February, 900 in March to submit AR. No company lack to file AR in April. Some 400 companies in May, 600 in June, and 1,000 in July did not file AR.

The DICA notified those companies which failed to file its AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the date of directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 19,000 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2024. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totaling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

YCDC seeks contractors for four public restrooms under BOT

THE Tender Accepting and Evaluating Committee of the Urban Environmental Conservation and Cleansing Department under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) invited pre-qualified suppliers to submit a closed tender for building and operating the four public restrooms under a Build-Operate-Transfer system.

Those public restrooms will be located near Kyimyindine fish market bus stop in Kyimyindine Township, near Zaykway in the corner of Min Nanda and Zingama streets in Thakayta Township, near FAW car terminal in the corner of Min Nanda Street and Yamonna Street in Dawbon Township and in the corner of No 3 Highway and Khayaybin Street in Mingaladon Township.

Tender rules and forms can be purchased at the department on the second floor of the 12-storey building of the YCDC. Individuals can enquire about details through contact numbers of the department at 09 254017105 and 09 250283877.

Tender form can be purchased at 1 pm from 5 to 13 November. The deadline of the payment order is 17 November 2025. Tender opening will be held at 10 am on 25 November at the meeting hall of the second floor of the YCDC office. — NN/KK

OPINION

Strive for industrial growth to uplift people's socioeconomic life

MYANMAR is endowed with abundant natural resources and a vibrant, young workforce. Its fertile soil, plentiful water resources, and extensive agricultural lands have allowed generations of people to engage in farming, ensuring the nation's food security. However, as the global economy evolves rapidly, Myanmar must move beyond producing raw agricultural commodities and focus on creating value-added agricultural products. Developing such industries is essential for strengthening the economy and increasing competitiveness in international markets.

Manufacturing forms the backbone of national development, and Myanmar has consistently worked to enhance production capacity and grow its industrial sector. In line with one of the four objectives of the National Defence and Security Council – To persistently strive for promoting the socioeconomic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State – the country has been actively developing industrial zones, which play a central role in this strategy.

> While developing new industrial zones systematically, it is equally important to maintain and improve existing ones. All responsible parties must ensure that standards and quality do not decline. Regional and State governments are tasked with guiding underperforming zones to achieve higher standards. With these concerted efforts, industrial growth can be sustained, ultimately enhancing the socioeconomic well-being and living standards of the people.

To achieve higher production standards, the use of modern technology must be encouraged, and domestic products should meet international quality benchmarks. Support for quality control, research, and innovation is vital to strengthen the industrial base. At the same time, human resource development is crucial. Vocational education systems should be enhanced, skill development training programs established, and workplace safety, along with fair wages, guaranteed. These measures improve workers' productivity, morale, and overall contribution to national development.

Currently, Myanmar has 28 industrial zones and five industrial wards, with two more industrial zone projects under construction. Upgrading existing zones is necessary to further strengthen the industrial sector. Government authorities and relevant organizations must also implement policies, create investment opportunities, and establish market linkages that encourage production growth and industrial expansion.

Environmental sustainability must remain a priority in establishing and expanding industrial zones. Greenery, proper waste management, and pollution prevention are essential. Industrial zones and enterprises are expected to comply strictly with laws, regulations, and directives to prevent environmental damage. Special attention should be given to minimizing pollution from industrial waste and wastewater while promoting the development of surrounding areas.

While developing new industrial zones systematically, it is equally important to maintain and improve existing ones. All responsible parties must ensure that standards and quality do not decline. Regional and State governments are tasked with guiding underperforming zones to achieve higher standards. With these concerted efforts, industrial growth can be sustained, ultimately enhancing the socioeconomic well-being and living standards of the people.

ARTICLE

Analyzing Methods and Indices for Defining Monsoon Onset and Withdrawal

By Dr Kyaw (Meteorology School)

THE monsoon system is one of the most significant climate phenomena on Earth, directly impacting the lives of billions across Asia, Africa, and the Americas. We commonly understand the monsoon as a seasonal reversal of winds that brings life-giving rains, replenishing parched rivers and nurturing crops. However, the scientific methods used to precisely define the "start" and "end" dates of a monsoon season are less widely known.

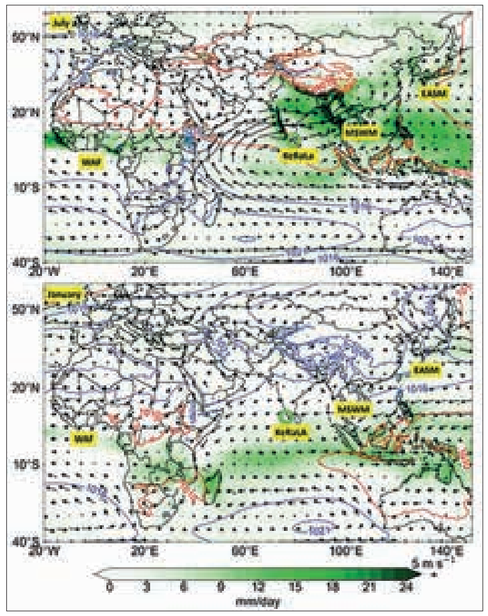


Figure 1. The Monsoon System in July and January. This map contrasts the intense rainfall (green shading) and southwesterly surface winds (dark arrows) of the summer monsoon with the drier conditions and reversed northeasterly winds of the winter season. The blue and red contour lines represent sea level pressure, illustrating the dramatic shift in atmospheric circulation. Source: Dr Kyaw's research works.

Why is it Difficult to Define?

A monsoon is not merely a period of heavy rain. It is a large-scale weather system driven by a seasonally reversed circulation, a massive shift in wind patterns caused by temperature differences between land and ocean. This system is a magnificent natural mechanism for redistributing energy across the globe.

Consequently, pinpointing the monsoon's onset and withdrawal requires more than just measuring rainfall. It demands an understanding of the complex interplay between wind direction, atmospheric humidity, air pressure, sea surface temperature, and kinetic energy. Due to this complexity, meteorologists have developed increasingly sophisticated indices to define these transitions with ever greater precision.

The Evolution of Indices: From Traditional to Modern Science

The history of monsoon indices reflects our growing understanding of climate. Early agrarian communities relied on natural signs — like trees shedding leaves, birds nesting, or wind shifts to predict the monsoon. With the establishment of meteorological departments, indices based on precise rainfall measurements, such as India's Kerala-based index, were introduced.

Following the 1960s, the advent of computer models and satellite data allowed scientists to incorporate global variables like wind flow, moisture transport, and atmospheric energy. Modern indices, such as the Webster & Yang Index, became more complex but also more accurate.

Accurately determining the onset and withdrawal of the monsoon is crucial for regional economic planning, agriculture, and water management. However, declaring a specific "monsoon onset" or "withdrawal" day is inherently complex, as it involves analyzing a multi-layered physical process. Therefore, meteorologists increasingly rely on indices that encapsulate these various physical perspectives, a culmination of decades of scientific debate and refinement.

This article will summarize the development, methodology, strengths, and weaknesses of key indices, tracing their evolution from early rainfall-based measures to modern indices incorporating complex physics.

Definition of Key Monsoon Indices

(1) The Kerala-Based Index

- Historical Development: Since the late 1960s, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has used the "Monsoon Onset over Kerala" (MOK) definition. This index represents an early approach that formalized rainfall observations with mathematical criteria.
- Methodology: The onset is declared when predefined stations in Kerala report rainfall exceeding a specific threshold (e.g., 2.5 millimetres) for two consecutive days, alongside a sustained shift in wind direction to south-westerlies.
- Strengths: It is simple, intuitive, and directly relevant for agricultural planning.
- Weaknesses: It can be triggered by pre-monsoon thunderstorms, leading to false starts. As a regional measure, it poorly represents the dynamics of the broader monsoon system (e.g., it cannot predict the onset over Myanmar).

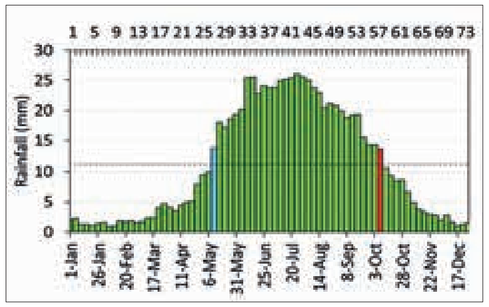


Figure 2. Determining Onset and Withdrawal using the Masumoto Method. The chart shows how the five-day (pentad) average rainfall is used to define the monsoon period. The onset date (blue marker) is identified when values cross and sustain above a climatological threshold (dashed line). The withdrawal date (red marker) is identified when values fall back below it. Source: Dr Kyaw's research work.

(2) The Webster & Yang Index (W&Y Index)

- To overcome the limitations of rainfall-only indices, scientists developed indices like the W&Y Index, which uses wind and energy variables to better capture the global nature of the monsoon.
- **Historical Development:** Introduced in 1992 by meteorologists Peter Webster (UK) and Yang Song (China), this index defines monsoon transitions by analyzing the pronounced shift in wind speed and direction between upper and lower atmospheric levels over a broad Asian region (Webster & Yang, 1992).
- **Methodology:** The index is calculated as the difference in zonal wind between the lower (850 hPa) and upper (200 hPa) troposphere: W&Y Index = U (850 hPa) - U (200 hPa). A significant change in this value marks the onset or withdrawal.
- **Significance:** It is a dynamic precursor that measures the core characteristic of the monsoon: the seasonal wind reversal.

(3) The Masumoto Index

- **Historical Development:** Japanese meteorologist Masumoto proposed this index in 1997 for the Southeast Asian region, utilizing 5-day averaged (pentad) rainfall data. Notably, historical records indicate a Myanmar meteorologist contributed to this project (Masumoto et al., 1997).
- **Methodology:** The onset is defined when the area's average pentad rainfall exceeds the annual mean (e.g., 11 mm) and persists for a specified number of consecutive pentads. The middle day of the first qualifying pentad is designated the onset date.
- **Significance:** While rainfall-based, it introduces the concept of persistence, helping to distinguish the genuine monsoon season from short-lived storm events. Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology currently uses this index as a primary tool.

(4) The Myanmar-Indochina Southwest Monsoon (MSWM) Index

Post-2000, with rapid advancements in climate science, researchers began focusing on physically coherent variables, such as moisture transport, tailored to specific regions.

- **Historical Development:** Around 2020, our research team proposed the MSWM Index for the Indochina Peninsula. It combines data on moisture, rainfall, pressure gradients, and cloudiness, using a Change Point Index (CPI) based on Vertically Integrated Moisture Transport (VIMT) (Kyaw et al., 2020).
- **Methodology:** It identifies the date of a sudden change (a "change point") in the VIMT over the region. A shift from negative to positive values indicates onset, while the reverse marks withdrawal.
- **Significance:** Though computationally complex, VIMT is a physically robust variable. The MSWM Index is well-suited for modern climate modelling and computer-based calculations.

(5) The East Asian Summer Monsoon (EASM) Index

The East Asian monsoon, vital for China, Japan, and Korea, is another complex system discussed extensively by experts.

- **Historical Development:** Among several indices, one proposed by Chinese meteorologist William K.-M. Lau in 2000, which uses Zonal Wind Shear, is widely used for its accuracy (Lau, 2000).
- **Methodology:** Similar to the W&Y Index, it calculates the wind shear (difference) between U (850 hPa) and U (200 hPa) over a defined East Asian region.
- **Significance:** It directly correlates with regional weather systems like China's Meiyu, Korea's Changma, and Japan's Baiu frontal systems, allowing for precise tracking of the East Asian monsoon.

(6) The West African Monsoon (WAM) Index

- **Historical Development:** The West African Monsoon is linked to the movement of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). In 2003, Webster and other experts developed a tailored index for this region: the Hydrological Onset and Withdrawal Index (HOWI) (Webster et al., 2003).
- **Methodology:** HOWI defines onset when atmospheric moisture content and precipitable water values gradually rise and cross a regionally defined mean threshold. Withdrawal is defined when they fall back below it.
- **Significance:** HOWI is a useful forecasting tool as it focuses on the broader hydrological cycle and incorporates seasonal total rainfall.

Conclusion

The endeavour to precisely define monsoon transitions began with simple rainfall measurement but has evolved into a sophisticated discipline reflecting the complexities of modern climate science. This journey of innovation also represents significant progress in humanity's understanding of natural environmental systems. While the simplicity of early rainfall-based indices remains useful for some applications and local forecasts, their limitations highlight the need for more scientific indices in the weather prediction process.

Experts recognize that understanding how monsoon cycles may be altered by global climate change is paramount for improving seasonal forecasting. Therefore, future efforts must focus on refining these indices to better encapsulate the monsoon's inherent nature, enabling us to predict how its schedule may shift in our changing world. ■

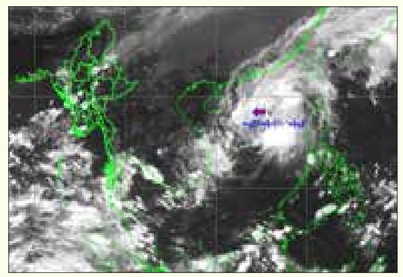
Weather

Tropical Storm "FENGSHEN" News, No 1, 2025

Issued at 4 pm MST on 20 October 2025

Tropical Storm "FENGSHEN" Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Tropical Storm "FENGSHEN" over the South China Sea has moved west-northwestwards. Thereafter, it likely to move westwards and intensify into a Severe Tropical Storm "FENGSHEN" during next 12 hours. — DMH



Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 9:30 am MST on 20 October 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 8:30 am MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal on 21 October 2025. — DMH

SCI/TECH: WORLD

Study finds lower greenhouse gas emissions from tropical waters

TROPICAL inland waters emit far less greenhouse gases than previously estimated, according to an international study led by Australia's Charles Darwin University (CDU).

The study aimed to better understand greenhouse gas emissions in tropical rivers, lakes and reservoirs by collating the growing number of observations from across the world's tropics, including many systems that were previously less represented in global datasets, a CDU statement said on Monday.

The results, published in Nature Water, found while these waters still produce significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, it is 29 to 79 per cent less than previously thought. Greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, trap heat in the atmosphere and are naturally released from inland waters, but human activities greatly increase these emissions, the statement said.

Tropical flowing waters such as streams and rivers contributed to an estimated 46 per cent of emissions from global inland waters, and tropical standing waters such as lakes, reservoirs and ponds, about eight per cent, it said. — Xinhua

WHO says DRC could declare end of Ebola outbreak by Dec

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said Sunday that health authorities could declare the end of the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in early December if no new cases are detected before then.

The announcement came in a statement from the WHO Regional Office for Africa after the last Ebola patient was discharged from a treatment centre following full recovery, a milestone in the country's battle against the deadly virus.

"This discharge marks the start of a 42-day countdown, after which the outbreak can be officially declared over, provided that no new cases are identified," the statement said.

Since the outbreak was declared on 4 September in Bulape, a health zone in the central province of Kasai, a total of 64 cases have been reported, including 53 confirmed and 11 probable. Nineteen patients have recovered, and no new cases have been reported since 25 September according to the WHO.

Mohamed Janabi, WHO regional director for Africa, hailed the progress made so far. "The recovery of the last patient, only six weeks after the outbreak was declared, is a remarkable achievement. It reflects the strength of partnerships, national expertise, and collective determination to overcome challenges and save lives," he said.

A staff member of the World Health Organization (WHO) walks through an Ebola treatment centre in the Bulape health zone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 16 October 2025. **PHOTO: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

The DRC previously declared the end of its 15th Ebola outbreak in September 2022, which had emerged in the eastern province of North Kivu.

Ebola is a highly contagious hemorrhagic fever that causes a range of symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain, and malaise, and in many cases, internal and external bleeding, according to the WHO. — Xinhua

Thailand Space Expo boosts China-Thailand cooperation in space sector

THE Thailand Space Expo 2025 kicked off here on Thursday, bringing together space agencies, enterprises and experts from around the world to showcase the latest achievements in space and geoinformation technologies. One of the highlights of this year's event is the cooperation between China and Thailand in the space sector.

In his opening remarks, Pakorn Apaphant, executive director of Geo-informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), emphasized that the expo has become an important platform to promote international space cooperation, focusing on introducing advanced technologies and experiences from world-leading space nations, and promoting growth of the space industry in the aspects of economy, policy, and innovation.

This photo taken on 8 April 2025 shows the exhibition hall of Geo-informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) in Sriracha, Chonburi Province, Thailand. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A workshop on "Bridging Horizons of Satellite Remote Sensing Applications: China Southeast Asia Collaboration" was held at ICONSIAM in Bangkok on Friday. Li Deren, an academician of both the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) from Wuhan University, delivered a keynote speech on the topic of "Aero Spatio-temporal Intelligence for Sustainable Development Goals." He shared China's latest progress in communication satellites, optical and radar remote sensing satellites, and the application of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.

In an interview with Xinhua, Li said China's fast-growing commercial space industry has made major contributions in urban management, land monitoring and disaster warning, helping Thailand and neighbouring countries enhance disaster prevention and mitigation capacity.

Phee Choosri, deputy executive director of GISTDA, told Xinhua that China and Thailand have cooperated in the space field for many years and will further deepen collaboration in intelligent remote sensing, satellite engineering and talent cultivation to advance regional space development.

GalaxySpace, a Chinese commercial space firm, is a regular participant in the Thailand Space Expo. Huang Heping, general manager of international business development at the company, said that more Thai clients are seeking closer cooperation with Chinese space enterprises, especially in satellite communication services and satellite internet.

Earlier this year, GalaxySpace signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with True Corporation, a major Thai telecommunications operator, to advance satellite network projects. It tested a broadband communication network in Thailand based on a low-Earth-orbit satellite internet constellation named "Little Spider Web" in mid-2024. — Xinhua

Japan's first Deaflympics and push for sign language

Organizers commended Japan's new laws that promote sign language in education and everyday life, highlighting progress in accessibility for the deaf community.

AS Japan prepares to host the Deaflympics for the first time on 15-26 November in Tokyo, Adam Kosa, president of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, sees it as a pivotal moment for greater acceptance of sign language and the deaf community.

In an exclusive Kyodo News interview, Kosa, a deaf former Hungarian European Parliament member, hopes the event will drive positive changes, leading to official recognition of Japanese Sign Language.

With about 3,000 athletes from 80 countries participating — making it Asia's second Deaflympics after Chinese Taipei in 2009 — he praised Japan's recent legislation promoting sign language in education and daily life. Kosa highlighted historical suppression of sign language in Japan. He emphasized sign language as the deaf community's primary tongue and noted that International Sign will facilitate communication at the games. — Kyodo

A sign language class is held at the Tokyo metropolitan government building in the Japanese capital on 9 July 2025 in preparation for the Deaflympics. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Bollywood's favourite romance still going strong after 30 years

"DILWALE Dulhania Le Jayenge" (DDLJ), India's longest-running film, celebrates 30 years of daily screenings at Mumbai's Maratha Mandir theatre since its 1995 debut.

The Bollywood romance, starring Shah Rukh Khan, explores young love defying tradition, pitting liberal second-generation Indian values against conservative parental norms.

Its iconic climax — where the heroine leaps into her lover's arms from a moving train — still elicits cheers and applause. Fans, from college students to tourists, flock for nostalgia, with some attending over 30 times.

One woman has watched it for 20 years, with the theatre waiving her fees.

The film has inspired real-life romances, including weddings, and attracts international viewers who enjoy its music and dance despite language barriers.

Nearly discontinued in 2015, fan uproar preserved its slot. Film critic Baradwaj Rangan calls it a "cultural monument" capturing India's generational tensions, predicting it will run forever. The theatre's vintage charm, near Bombay Central Station, enhances the experience. — AFP

India's longest-running film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (The Brave Hearted Will Take the Bride) celebrates 30 years in the Maratha Mandir theatre in Mumbai. **PHOTO: AFP**

Last member of the first successful Everest expedition dies

THE death of Kanchha Sherpa closes the final chapter of the pioneering 1953 Everest expedition, a landmark in mountaineering that transformed Nepal's Himalayan communities.

The last surviving member of the first mountaineering expedition to successfully reach the summit of Mount Everest died in Kathmandu on Thursday, aged 92, his family said.

Kanchha Sherpa was a teenager when he accompanied the historic 1953 team led by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, who became the first mountaineers to reach the peak of the world's highest mountain.

The cause of Kanchha Sherpa's death early on Thursday morning was not clear. — AFP

'This is the Caribbean, peace and love': Trinidadians on US boat strikes

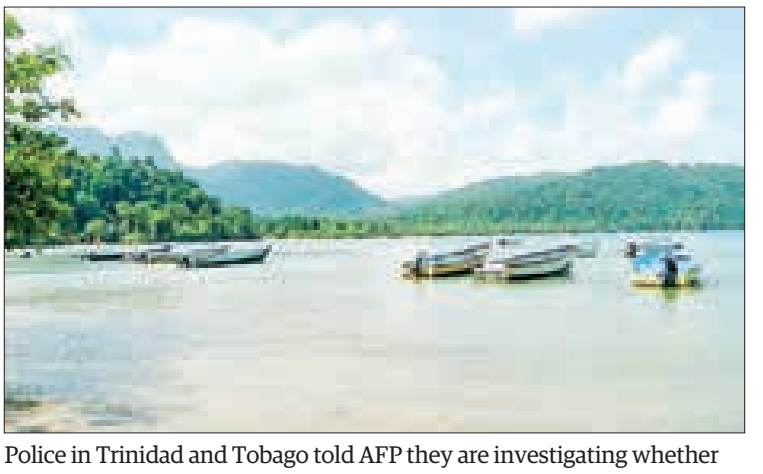
TRINIDAD and Tobago is reeling from the deaths of two locals in a US strike on a suspected Venezuelan drug boat, part of Washington's pressure campaign against President Nicolas Maduro.

Fishermen in Las Cuevas village expressed shock, questioning the violence in a peaceful Caribbean setting. Police are probing reports that Chad Joseph, 26, and Rishi Samaroo were among six "narcoterrorists" killed, as announced by President Donald Trump.

Joseph's mother, Lenore Burnley, confirmed his presence via Venezuelan contacts, while his aunt described him as a loving fisherman who faced troubles there.

Trump deployed warships and hinted at land strikes and CIA operations, accusing Maduro of leading a drug cartel — claims Maduro denies. Critics, including a local fisherman urging arrests over killings and Colombia's President Gustavo Petro calling for a UN probe against Trump, condemned the methods.

As a transhipment hub just 11 kilometres from Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago facilitates global drug routes, with fishing masking illicit activities. Burnley argued the strike violated maritime law by destroying the boat without interception. — AFP



Police in Trinidad and Tobago told AFP they are investigating whether two citizens were among six people killed in a US strike after reports by residents of Las Cuevas village. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

First container ship on China-Europe Arctic route arrives in Gdansk, Poland

AFTER a 26-day voyage, the first container ship operating on the China-Europe Arctic container express route, the Istanbul Bridge, arrived early Sunday morning at the Port of Gdansk in northern Poland.

The vessel began berthing at the Baltic Hub Terminal before 6 am, slightly delayed due to sea conditions, and loading and unloading operations commenced around 7 am, according to port authorities.

Departing from the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in east China's Zhejiang Province on 23 September, the Istanbul Bridge carried about 4,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cargo. It made stops at ports in Britain and Germany before arriving in Poland. After operations in Gdansk, the ship is scheduled to depart for the Netherlands on Sunday night.

This photo taken on 19 October 2025 shows a container being unloaded from the "Istanbul Bridge", the first vessel on the China-Europe Arctic container express route, at the Port of Gdansk, Poland. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The China-Europe Arctic Express Route takes the Arctic's Northeast Passage directly to Europe, significantly reducing travel time compared with traditional routes - about 40 days via the Suez Canal and 50 days via the Cape of Good Hope. The Istanbul Bridge reached its first European stop, Felixstowe in Britain, in just 20 days, comparable to or faster than the China-Europe freight train, which takes around 25 days.

Li Xiaobin, chief operating officer of Sea Legend Line Limited, the route's operator, said sea and temperature conditions along the Arctic route are ideal for transporting temperature-sensitive and time-critical goods. "The low temperatures help preserve certain high-tech components," he said. — Xinhua

"Prime opportunity" for BOJ to raise interest rate: hawkish member Takata

A hawkish Bank of Japan board member on Monday stressed the necessity of resuming interest rate hikes, saying "now is a prime opportunity" to do so, reflecting receding concerns over overseas factors, including higher US tariffs.

Hajime Takata said Japan's economic outlook from this spring was revised downward preemptively in anticipation of a hit from the trade policy under US President Donald Trump since April, likening the tariffs to a "typhoon" and the economic outlook to a "planned suspension" of public transportation to prepare against the disaster.

However, "My assessment is that Japan's economy is now at a stage where it can discontinue its mode of vigilance and lift its 'planned suspension,'" Takada said in a speech in Hiroshima, western Japan, citing a Japan-US tariff deal signed in July.

Takata also said he believes that the BOJ should make a "further gear shift", and engage in communication that the two per cent price stability target has been almost achieved — a prerequisite for further hikes.

Takata's remarks come as market players have been looking for clues of the timing of the BOJ's next policy shift, after leaving its benchmark rate at around 0.5 per cent for the fifth consecutive meeting in September. — Kyodo

Vietnam targets 10% or higher GDP growth in 2026

VIETNAM has set a goal of achieving gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 10 per cent or higher in 2026, according to a government report presented at the ongoing 10th session of the 15th National Assembly.

The government outlined 15 key socioeconomic development targets for next year, including raising per capita GDP to between US$5,400 and US$5,500.

Meanwhile, the government also aims to keep the average consumer price index (CPI) growth at around 4.5 per cent, and boost labour productivity by about eight per cent in 2026.

The 10th session of the 15th National Assembly, which opened on 20 October and will run until 11 December, is scheduled to discuss a wide range of economic, legislative, and social issues, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday. — Xinhua

Malaysian durians reach China in 36 hours

RAUB in Pahang state, Malaysia, is an important durian-producing region. Due to the unique tropical rainforest climate and soil conditions, premium durian varieties such as Musang King Durian from this area are known for their dense flesh and rich flavour.

In past years, a significant portion of Raub durians were supplied to the Chinese market through cold chain logistics. With the continuous increase in air routes between the two countries, durians can now be delivered to Chinese consumers in as fast as 36 hours after harvest.

Durians from Raub have become a sweet bond that connects Chinese and Malaysian food cultures. — Xinhua

A staff member presents a Musang King Durian at a fruit distributor's operating centre in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 17 October 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Amazon's cloud services hit by global outage

A global outage hit Amazon's cloud services on Monday, the subsidiary of the US tech giant said, disrupting many websites and services including Amazon Prime, Perplexity, Fortnite, Alexa, Snapchat and Duolingo.

Messages on the maintenance site for Amazon Web Services (AWS) confirmed "increased error rates" for multiple services and said its engineers were working to restore operations.

Downdetector, a website monitoring internet problems, showed the outage took down many online services. Others included Reddit, various video streaming platforms such as Hulu and Disney+, as well as messaging app Signal and Delta Air Lines.

In Europe, several major mobile phone operators, some UK banks, Whatsapp and Tinder were also affected, Downdetector showed.

AWS's maintenance site said at 0711 GMT it had started detecting disruptions. Some two hours later it said it was starting to see "significant signs of recovery".

It said the problem appeared to originate in a critical AWS infrastructure zone, the US-East-1 region, located in the northern part of the US state of Virginia. — AFP

China's Sept industrial output up 6.5%

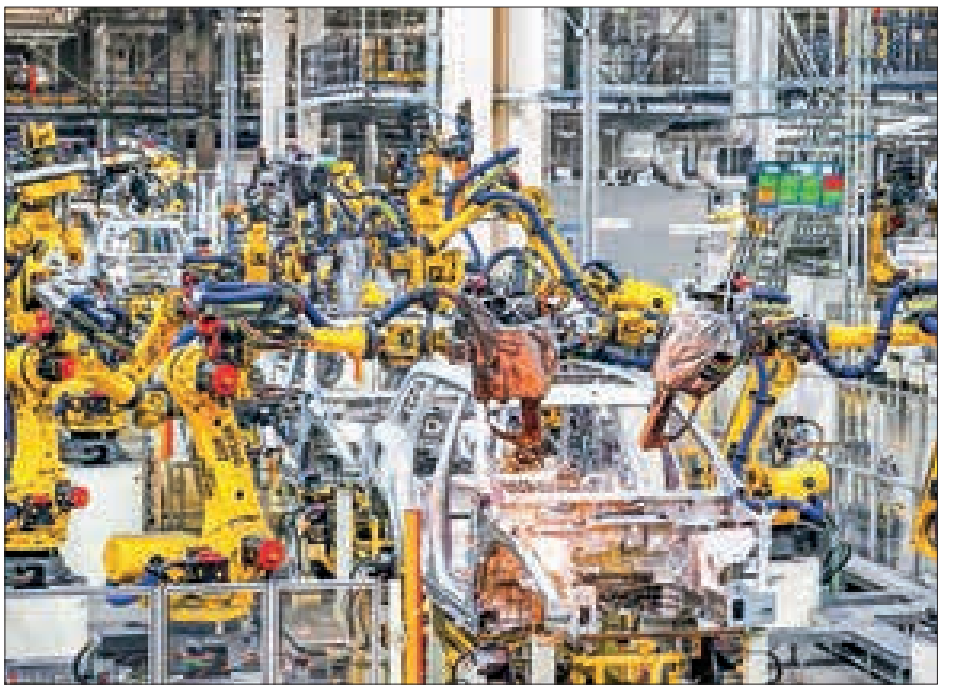
CHINA'S industrial sector maintained upward momentum and saw continuous improvements in the quality of growth in the first three quarters of this year.

The country's value-added industrial output rose by 6.2 per cent year on year from January to September, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday.

In September alone, the industrial output expanded 6.5 per cent year on year, accelerating from a 5.2-per-cent rise in August.

The industrial output is used to measure the activity of large enterprises, each with an annual main business turnover of at least 20 million yuan (about US$2.82 million).

A breakdown of the data showed that the manufacturing sector's value-added output increased by 7.3 per cent year on year last month, while that of mining grew by 6.4 per cent. The value-added output of the electricity, heat, gas, and water production and supply sector rose by 0.6 per cent. — Xinhua



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

ADB, World Bank sign US$3 bln agreement to boost lending capacity in Asia-Pacific

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday said it has signed a US$3-billion sovereign exposure exchange agreement (EEA) with the World Bank to increase the ADB's lending capacity for its developing members.

The agreement is the ADB's first EEA with the World Bank and its sixth EEA with other multilateral development banks (MDBs) since 2020, bringing the cumulative exchanged amount to $9 billion, the Manila-based bank said in a press release.

"In an era of overlapping challenges, strategic collaboration among MDBs has never been more critical," said ADB Vice-President for Finance and Risk Management Roberta Casali.

"Exposure exchanges can be transformative because they will allow us to work together systemically, reduce concentration risk, and expand our reach precisely when our member countries need us the most," said Casali.

"This EEA with ADB demonstrates the World Bank's strong commitment to work hand in hand with other MDBs to utilize every opportunity to expand the overall lending capacity in the MDB sector," said Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Financial Officer Anshula Kant. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC SHEKOU VOY.NO. (2520S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHEKOU VOY.NO. (2520S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HF SPIRIT VOY.NO. (2530E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HF SPIRIT VOY.NO. (2530E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (540W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (540W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (235W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (235W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Toxic haze chokes Indian capital

A vehicle of the Public Works Department (PWD) sprays water using an anti-smog gun to curb air pollution at the Signature Bridge on a smoggy winter morning in New Delhi on 20 December 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA'S capital New Delhi was shrouded in a thick, toxic haze on Monday as air pollution levels soared to more than 16 times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum.

New Delhi and its sprawling metropolitan region — home to more than 30 million people — are regularly ranked among the world's most polluted capitals, with acrid smog blanketing the skyline each winter.

Cooler air traps pollutants close to the ground, creating a deadly mix of emissions from crop burning, factories and heavy traffic.

But pollution has also spiked due to days of fireworks set off to mark Diwali, the major Hindu festival of lights, which culminates on Monday night.

The Supreme Court relaxed this month a blanket ban on fireworks over Diwali to allow the use of the less-polluting "green firecrackers" — designed to emit fewer particulates.

The ban was widely ignored in past years.

On Monday, levels of PM2.5 — cancer-causing microparticles small enough to enter the bloodstream — hit 248 micrograms per cubic metre in parts of the city, according to monitoring organization IQAir.

The government's Commission of Air Quality Management said air quality is expected to further deteriorate in the coming days.

It also implemented a set of measures to curb pollution levels, including asking authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply to reduce the use of diesel generators.

City authorities have also said they will trial cloud seeding by aeroplanes for the first time over Delhi this month, the practice of firing salt or other chemicals into clouds to induce rain to clear the air.

"We've already got everything we need to do the cloud seeding", Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa told reporters this month, saying flight trials and pilot training had been completed.

A study in The Lancet Planetary Health last year estimated 3.8 million deaths in India between 2009 and 2019 were linked to air pollution. — AFP

Japan's LDP, Japan Innovation Party sign coalition agreement

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Japan Innovation Party on Monday formally agreed to form a coalition government, with party leaders Sanae Takaichi and Hirofumi Yoshimura signing a written agreement.

The deal will effectively pave the way for LDP President Sanae Takaichi to secure victory in the upcoming prime ministerial designation vote.

The agreement outlined a wide-ranging policy agenda, including swift implementation of economic relief measures, constitutional reform, and major structural reforms, national broadcaster NHK reported.

Faced with severe conditions both at home and abroad, the two parties have decided to "overcome differences in position and build a stable government to achieve a revival of Japan," said the report.

The two parties also confirmed they will cooperate in the prime ministerial designation vote scheduled for the extraordinary Diet session convening on Tuesday. — Xinhua

Indonesia president says billions lost to illegal tin mining every year

INDONESIA is losing more than two billion dollars every year to illegal tin mining and smuggling, President Prabowo Subianto said Monday.

The Indonesian leader ordered authorities to step up enforcement earlier this month in islands rich in the metal used in everything from electronics to making glass.

"There are still many illegal mines," he told reporters on Monday.

"The losses are quite significant, estimated at 40 trillion rupiah ($2.4 billion) per year, and this has been going on for almost 20 years."

Prabowo said the military was involved in operations to stop illegal tin smuggling from the Bangka-Belitung Islands, a hub for the illicit activity.

"Over 20 years, that's 800 trillion ($48.2 billion). What could we build with that? What kind of country could we build with such resources?" he asked.

Earlier this month, Prabowo visited Bangka-Belitung Islands Province to witness the seizure of assets from tin smelters implicated in a corruption case. — AFP

After war, Israel must 'find a way to help' Palestinians: US envoy

ISRAEL should help the Palestinians "thrive" if it seeks regional integration after the Gaza war is over, said US envoy Jared Kushner, who has been involved in mediation efforts for a ceasefire.

"The biggest message that we've tried to convey to the Israeli leadership now is that now that the war is over, if you want to integrate Israel with the broader Middle East, you have to find a way to help the Palestinian people thrive and do better," Kushner told CBS News in an interview that aired on Sunday.

The interview preceded fresh Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip following Israel's accusation that militant group Hamas had violated the truce by attacking troops.

Kushner, who is also US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, helped broker landmark deals during his first term in office that saw several Arab governments normalize ties with Israel.

In the CBS interview, he said that the situation remained "very difficult," but he was looking for "joint security and economic opportunity" to guarantee that Israelis and Palestinians "can live peacefully side by side in a durable way." — AFP

A boy looks at the rubbles of buildings destroyed in an Israeli strike in Bureij, central Gaza Strip, on October 20, 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Maguire urges Man Utd to build on Liverpool triumph

HARRY Maguire said Manchester United must build on their momentum after a long-awaited win at Liverpool gave manager Ruben Amorim back-to-back Premier League victories for the first time.

The centre-back headed an 84th-minute winner to seal a 2-1 win against the champions on Sunday, meaning United have now won four of their past six matches.

The club, who slumped to a 15th-place finish in the Premier League last season, are up to ninth following their win at Anfield — just two points behind third-placed Bournemouth and Liverpool, in fourth.

But former United captain Maguire says the team need to use the result — their first win at Anfield in nearly a decade — as a springboard.

Manchester United's English defender (5) Harry Maguire scores the team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 19 October 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This club will probably get a few plaudits this week — resilience, fighting spirit," he said.

"But if we don't perform next weekend against Brighton, it will be exactly the same the following week so we need to build on it, we need to build momentum, we need to build positive performances — that's the most important thing.

"Performances breed results in the end. Take the positives, take the confidence but at Old Trafford next week against Brighton, we have to make sure we perform and get the win."

In last season's fixture at Liverpool, Maguire squandered a glorious chance to score a last-gasp winner in a match that ended 2-2 so he was delighted to find the target this time.

The England international may have played for United for the final time at Anfield as his contract expires at the end of the season.

"I've been here seven years now and it's been tough not getting that win, it's been on my mind a little bit to be honest," said the 32-year-old.

"I'm in my last year now so this could be the last time I play at Anfield for this club so it's really important I came here and ticked that one off because it has been playing on my mind." — AFP

Real Madrid beats nine-man Getafe to top La Liga

Real Madrid's French forward (10) Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring his team's first goal during the Spanish league football match between Getafe CF and Real Madrid CF at Coliseum Alfonso Perez Stadium in Getafe on 19 October 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

REAL Madrid remains top of La Liga as Kylian Mbappe scored the only goal of a tough 1-0 win away to Getafe.

Mbappe opened the scoring in the 80th minute with his 10th goal of the season, but Real Madrid's task was made easier by Getafe defender Allan Nyom's red card after a wild challenge on the Frenchman in the 77th minute, only moments after coming on as a substitute.

Getafe's afternoon got worse in the 84th minute when Alex Sancris also received his marching orders after a ridiculous foul on Vinicius Jr.

Earlier on Sunday, Elche and Athletic Club had drawn 0-0, meaning Elche retains its unbeaten home record, although Eder Sarabia's players will be disappointed after creating the better chances only to be denied by Athletic goalkeeper Unai Simon.

Celta Vigo's search for a first league win this season continues after a 1-1 draw with Real Sociedad that leaves them with seven draws from the first nine matches of the campaign.

Pablo Duran put Celta ahead, but Carl Starfelt's red card on the stroke of halftime saw Celta play the entire second half with just 10 players, and Carlos Soler snatched an equalizer for the visitors in the 89th minute.

Jorge de Frutos scored twice against his former club as Rayo Vallecano had a comfortable 3-0 win away to Levante with Alvaro Garcia also on the scoresheet.

On Saturday, Ronald Araujo scored a 93rd-minute winner as FC Barcelona survived a poor first half to win 2-1 at home to Girona.

The Uruguay defender scored from Frenkie de Jong's assist, after Pedri had scored an early goal and Axel Witsel leveled for the visitors, who spurned several good chances in the first half. — Xinhua

Rebuilding Leverkusen wary of world's best PSG

BAYER Leverkusen, who are still rebuilding after a turbulent summer, face perhaps the toughest test in club football when they host European champions Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday.

After the most successful period in the German club's 120-year-old history, which included an unbeaten league and cup double and a run to the Europa League final in 2023/24, Leverkusen lost coach Xabi Alonso and several first teamers in the summer.

Alonso's successor Erik ten Hag was sacked after just two league matches, with Dane Kasper Hjulmand since tasked with bedding in almost a starting XI of new arrivals.

Of those, France defender Loic Bade has quickly made an impression, already calling the shots in central defence.

In an interview with AFP, Paris-born Bade said that Leverkusen needed to be wary of the French giants, calling PSG "the best team in the world right now".

Hometown club

Bade, who came through the junior ranks at Paris FC and then Le Havre, overcame an unhappy loan stint at Nottingham Forest before moving to Sevilla and winning the Europa League.

He was called up to the France squad for the Paris Olympics in 2024, winning silver, and made his full international bow earlier this year.

At Leverkusen, Bade was tasked with replacing Germany centre-back Jonathan Tah, who moved to Bayern Munich.

"I'm playing against my hometown club," Bade said, adding that "of course, this match is a little bit close to my heart.

"I think they're the best in the world right now, even with the injuries they have."

With just a month between being on the losing side in the Club World Cup final and the season kicking off with the UEFA Super Cup, PSG have been hit by a wave of injuries. — AFP

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Iran vows to honour nuclear pledge despite UN resolution termination

THE termination of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 will not affect Tehran's fundamental commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, including its pledge not to pursue nuclear weapons, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said here Monday.

Although both Resolution 2231 and the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), expired Saturday, Iran's rights to uranium enrichment and peaceful nuclear activities will continue, Baghaei told a weekly press conference.

He criticized France, Britain and Germany, collectively known as the E3, for failing to demonstrate credible commitment to negotiations, noting they had triggered the "snapback" mechanism to reinstate sanctions before the resolution's expiration.

Iran had fully honoured its JCPOA obligations until 2019, while other parties had flawed performance from the beginning, he said, adding that the US withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 was particularly damaging, prompting Iran to subsequently scale back its commitments under the deal. — Xinhua

China launches new magnetic resonance platform to support BCI technology

THE world's first magnetic resonance platform customized for brain-computer interface (BCI) technology was recently launched in north China's Tianjin Municipality. The platform has established a neuroimaging magnetic resonance system, providing key support for the research and development of next-generation BCI technology.

As the most complex and sophisticated organ of human, the brain has about 86 billion neurons connected by more than 100 trillion synapses. For such a complex neural network, the question of how to detect and analyze full-brain scalp electroencephalogram (EEG) signals, which contain vast amounts of information but are very weak, has always been a major challenge for the BCI industry.

The Haihe Laboratory of Brain-Computer Interaction and Human-Machine Integration at Tianjin University, Shanghai United Imaging Healthcare, and other research institutions utilized the spatial-temporal resolution capability of magnetic resonance equipment to achieve non-invasive and high spatial-temporal resolution in vivo analysis of the whole brain.

The new platform can simultaneously perform nuclear magnetic imaging and EEG recording, accurately capture subtle changes in brain activity, locate the position of these activities with sub-millimetre accuracy, and capture the timing of brain activities with sub-second speed.

A model of a semi-invasive brain-computer interface is displayed at Zhongguancun International Innovation Centre, venue for the 2025 Zhongguancun Forum (ZGC Forum), in Beijing, capital of China, 26 March 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Additionally, it can precisely regulate the brain using ultrasound and electrical stimulation technology, with the regulation process linked to the imaging system in real time. This enables synchronous coordination of observation and intervention, providing brain researchers with a three-dimensional and dynamic research perspective.

Zhang Qiang, chairman of Shanghai United Imaging Healthcare, said that the platform is expected to facilitate the practical BCI application in the medical and healthcare field, such as mental disease evaluation, severe neurological monitoring and rehabilitation training, and promote BCI technology from "decoding signals" to "understanding the brain". — Xinhua

New BrahMos factory in India makes 1st batch of missiles

INDIAN Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday presented the first batch of missiles manufactured by the Russian-Indian joint venture BrahMos at its new BrahMos Aerospace facility in the Indian city of Lucknow.

"On this auspicious day, four BrahMos missiles were delivered," Singh said at the ceremony, which coincided with the Hindu festival Dhanteras.

The new factory will help the state attract more funds and bring more tax money to the Indian government, the minister said. He estimated that money generated by the production of a single BrahMos missile could pay for many schools, bigger hospitals and projects that directly improve the lives of ordinary people.

The new BrahMos complex in Lucknow was opened in May. It is equipped with modern technology that allows for comprehensive assembly, testing and final quality verification of missiles. The new factory is expected to produce 80 to 100 BrahMos missiles per year.

BrahMos Aerospace, a Russian-Indian joint venture named after the rivers of Brahmaputra and Moskva. The company produces ground-, air-, sea-, and submarine-launched supersonic cruise missiles. — SPUTNIK

Visitors walk past a model of India's Brahmos supersonic cruise missile displayed at the Defence Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar on 18 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia's clean energy share to reach 90% by 2050: deputy PM

RUSSIA'S share of clean energy in its overall energy mix is projected to reach 90 per cent by 2050, according to a top official.

In Russia's current energy generation structure, renewables account for roughly two per cent, nuclear energy 20 per cent, and hydropower 19 per cent, said Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who made the projection on Monday. Natural gas and coal make up 45 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

Russian President Vladimir Putin noted last Thursday that Russia has one of the "greenest" energy mixes globally and holds about 90 per cent of the international market for nuclear power plant construction. — Xinhua