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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. XIII, No. 170, 10th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Instability and Sabotage Stall Economic Growth

President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the meeting with Union ministers , the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, and regional and state chief ministers.

State GDP grows by nearly three per cent, bolstering the national economy, yet lags behind regional peers.

If ethnic businesspeople invest in agriculture and livestock farming activities, production industries based on agriculture and livestock farms will develop, contributing significantly to the development of the State economy, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, and regional and state chief ministers yesterday.

At the meeting, which took place at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw, the President gave guidance on the efforts to develop the State economy.

In his speech, the President revealed that the statistics showed the State's GDP rose about three per cent, contributing to the national economy. Still, its development is slower than that of the regional countries. As such, it is necessary to prioritize local investors while inviting foreign investments.

SEE PAGE 4

Local and foreign tourists arriving at the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Bagan Lodgings Overflow Amid Thadingyut Festivities

AS of 24 October, 88 hotels, motels, and guesthouses in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, have been fully booked, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Bagan branch.

Many people planning pilgrimage trips to Bagan during the Thadingyut holidays, which take place from 24 to 26 October, made online reservations as early as the first week of October.

SEE PAGE 6

OPINION

Emphasizing the development of value chain in the agricultural sector

PAGE 8

Yangon Circular Railway Welcomes First Women Train Drivers

This image displays the first five women train drivers joining Myanma Railways.

FOR the first time in the history of Myanma Railways, the Operating Department of Myanma Railways is making arrangements to assign female locomotive drivers to trains running on the Yangon Circular Railway line.

Currently, five women who hold AGTI diplomas from the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College have been trained and produced as train drivers.

SEE PAGE 6

Yangon Port handles 518 container vessels in Jan-Sept

MYANMA Port Authority's statistics showed arrivals of a total of 518 container vessels at Yangon Port in the past nine months (January-September) of 2026.

Yangon Port handled arrivals of 61 container vessels in September, 55 each in August, July and June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in January 2026. Moreover, 56 vessels are scheduled to arrive at the port in October.

Yangon Port operated 728 container vessels in 2025, 633 in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2024.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th 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

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Botahtaung Pagoda to host 9,000 oil lights on Thadingyut full moon

ACCORDING to U Thein Su, a member of the board of trustees of the Botahtaung Pagoda, a 9,000-oil-light offering ceremony will be held at the pagoda in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, on the night of the Thadingyut full moon.

At 5:30 am on the morning of 26 October, the full moon day of Thadingyut, Buddha statues at the pagoda will be offered flowers, water, and light. From 7 am, there will be a recitation of the Abhidhamma and charity meditation in the NanU prayer hall to mark the Abhidhamma Day.

"Meals will be offered at dawn, and from 5:30 pm, oil lamps will be lit in the pagoda's square," U Thein Su explained. Beginning on the evening of 26 October, a total of 9,000 oil lights will be lit in the extended square of the Botahtaung Pagoda to celebrate the Thadingyut full moon. — ASH/MKKS

This photo depicts the 9,000 oil lights festival held in the previous year at the Botahtaung Pagoda.

Whale skeleton among features added to Kandawgyi Aquarium

VARIOUS international-standard displays, including a whale skeleton display, are currently being incorporated into the aquarium under construction inside Kandawgyi Park in Yangon, according to the Yangon Region Government.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu inspected the progress of the aquarium's construction inside Kandawgyi Park on 30 September.

Officials inspect the construction site of the aquarium inside Kandawgyi Park.

The large-scale aquarium will feature displays of wild fish species, freshwater fish species, deep-freshwater fish species, river and marine habitats, diverse ornamental fish, a whale skeleton and digital marine showcase, mangrove biodiversity, coral reefs with colourful ornamental fish, a tropical underwater world, exotic jellyfish, interactive touch pools for aquatic life, an Underwater World display, and retail shops.

Once construction is complete, it will become a high-standard, world-class aquarium in Yangon. — TWA/ZN

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Monday, 5 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea, South Bay, Westcentral Bay and Northwest Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and a few clouds elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 6 October 2026: Weather will be partly cloudy in the Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in (southern and eastern) Shan State, scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Southern Myanmar area.

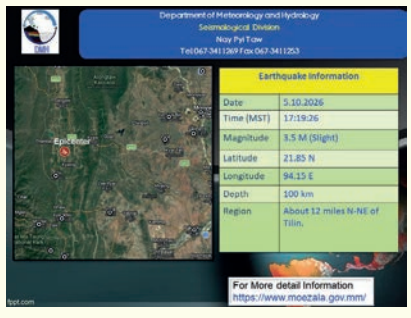
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 October 2026: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.5 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 12 miles north-northeast of Tilin), latitude 21.85 °N, longitude 94.15 °E, with a depth of 100 kilometres, about 64 miles southeast of the Haka Seismological Observatory was recorded at 17 hours 19 minutes 26 seconds MST on 5 October 2026. — DMH



NATIONAL

Ministries Urged to Spend Wisely, Prevent Budget Waste, and Collect Target Revenues

The Financial Commission approved the 2026-2027 Supplementary Budget Estimates for submission to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Financial Commission held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw, with Commission Chairman and President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivering the opening and closing addresses.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye (Vice-Chairpersons of the Financial Commission), Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw (Commission Secretary), invited Union Ministers, Union Auditor-General Daw Naing Thet Oo, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, and Deputy Ministers. Chief Ministers of Regions and States joined via videoconferencing.

President U Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Financial Commission meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening address, President U Min Aung Hlaing stated that the meeting was convened to approve supplementary budget allocation requests for the Union and Regions/States for the 2026-2027 financial year, and to endorse the 2026-2027 Supplementary Appropriation Bill for transmission to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

He clarified that supplementary grants are strictly vetted to cover essential, unavoidable ongoing expenditures and projects where original allocations fell short, internal budget transfers were unfeasible, and General Reserve Funds (GRF) could not be utilized. These requests primarily targeted boosting production and the national economy, funding external loans and aid obligations, financing under-budgeted projects under the 2026–2027 National Planning Law, and executing priority directives. He reminded departments that supplementary funds can only be spent after legislative passage, leaving roughly four months to execute works before the fiscal year ends.

Highlighting economic priorities, the President underscored agriculture and livestock as the bedrock of Myanmar's food security, rural development, and GDP growth. He urged transforming the recommendations from the recent national workshop on agricultural development into actionable policies to expand agro-based industries, value-added products, and export reach. He also reaffirmed state funding commitments to education (noting the KG+9 baseline policy), nationwide healthcare, power and energy, industrial development, and the timely rehabilitation of transport infrastructure damaged by natural disasters and conflict. He urged relevant authorities to ensure full and accurate collection of projected tax revenues rather than raising tax rates.

Following this, Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye reported on the constitutional review of capital and recurrent supplementary allocations across Union-level entities, regions, and states, as well as adjustments to Union subsidies.

SEE PAGE 4

2026 World Teachers' Day celebrated at University of Yangon

THE 2026 World Teachers' Day ceremony was held yesterday at the Convocation Hall of the University of Yangon.

At the event, Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein read out the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing.

A joint message from the heads of four UN agencies was also read by Dr May San Yi, Rector of the Yangon University of Foreign Languages.

Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein presents an outstanding award at yesterday's event.

Honours and certificates were presented to distinguished and outstanding teachers, as well as winners of essay, poem and article competitions held to mark World Teachers' Day. A total of 66 teachers and students, including 10 distinguished teachers and five outstanding teachers, received awards.

In the afternoon, the Union minister attended and opened the Area Studies Centre at the Centre for Research and Innovation (CRI), University of Yangon, and the China Studies Conference 2026. She also inspected the centre together with the Indian ambassador to Myanmar, representatives from the Chinese and Korean embassies, senior officials and university rectors.

She also inspected the Department of Myanmar Examinations (Yangon), where she reviewed the implementation of the online booking system for the systematic issuance of mark sheets and certificates, the preservation of examination records, and gave necessary instructions. — MNA/KTZH

DCA Issues Alert on Ticket Scams, Price Gouging

THE Department of Civil Aviation of Myanmar stated that passengers who have purchased airline tickets at prices higher than the prescribed fares or through fake accounts can report the matter directly to the relevant airlines.

They should provide details such as the passenger's name, date of purchase, travel details, booking PNR or ticket number, price paid and proof of payment.

It also warned that those found selling airline tickets through fake accounts or at prices higher than the prescribed fares will face severe legal action. — MNA/MKKS

Gold Market Rate as of 5 October 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,100,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Public Services, Puts Domestic Bank Consolidation Motion on Record

THE 11th-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw took place yesterday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and MPs. During the session, deputy ministers answered six questions concerning telecommunications and healthcare infrastructure, and the parliament debated and recorded one motion regarding the domestic banking sector.

The eleventh-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Responding to a query on mobile internet connectivity in Taungdwingyi Township, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Thet Win Aung stated that 158 mobile stations and five FTTH internet service providers currently serve the township. He added that the ministry will conduct field inspections to expand fibre services and plans to repair damaged telecom towers, mobile equipment, and generators as soon as local security conditions permit.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun answered questions regarding healthcare facilities across several townships. For Mindon Township Hospital, essential building repairs will be funded under the 2026-2027 financial year's recurrent budget, with a new two-storey extension scheduled for the 2027-2028 financial year. In Bogale Township, a replacement 100 mA digital X-ray machine was installed at Kadonkani Station Hospital on 24 September 2026 and began operations on 29 September. At Sahmaw Station Hospital in Mogaung Township, coordination is underway with the Kachin State government to reassign a medical doctor within two months following restored regional stability.

Dr Aye Tun also reported that construction of the three-storey extension at Nyaungdon Township Hospital is proceeding under the Ministry of Construction, with patient treatment wards set for completion in the 2026-2027 financial year, auxiliary works and lift installations planned for 2027-2028, and medical services slated to commence in 2028. Regarding Mongshu Township Hospital, he noted that an assistant surgeon will be appointed within 2026, modern diagnostic laboratory equipment will be supplied this fiscal year to accompany an already delivered digital X-ray unit, and upgrading bed capacity from 25 to 50 will be considered in line with service developments.

Following the question-and-answer session, MPs debated a motion submitted by U Aye Chan from the Hlinethaya (East) Constituency urging the government to reduce the number of domestic banks to foster stronger, higher-calibre institutions. Supporting lawmakers argued that larger, globally competitive banks would enhance lending to MSMEs and strengthen economic development. Other MPs cautioned that market forces rather than arbitrary reductions should drive consolidation, emphasizing that safeguarding individual bank stability, public deposits, and regular financial operations must take precedence over reducing numbers, particularly to avoid rattling public trust during a stable financial period.

Instability and Sabotage Stall Economic Growth

FROM PAGE 1

He pointed out that political instability and destructive acts undermine the State's security measures and hinder the growth of production, services, and industries.

The President stated that due to the destruction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure caused by the acts of armed terrorists, the State has had to allocate additional financial resources, manpower and time for reconstruction and rehabilitation, making it difficult to implement the originally planned development projects at the intended pace.

In areas where territorial instability is ensuing, natural resources above and below ground are being illegally extracted and used for personal gain and exported to foreign countries through illicit channels, resulting in significant losses and adverse impacts on the country, he added.

Regarding the high prices of commodities, the President underlined that efforts must be made to increase production and ensure sufficiency of consumption. He noted that the unbalanced production and consumption, in addition to the high production cost, cause high commodity prices.

The President outlined that it is necessary to strive to raise the production of oil crops, rubber, cotton and kitchen crops as well as meat production.

The President instructed that instead of directly exporting broken rice abroad along with rice production, upgrading broken rice into higher-quality value-added products could generate increased income. Economic attachés assigned to different countries should also actively seek markets and promote the export of products from Myanmar to foreign countries.

The President urged that it is necessary to utilize the respective strengths of relevant regions and states in efforts to meet the targets and work diligently to achieve them successfully.

In addition to the economic measures, the President noted that it is necessary to make preparations and take measures to cope with the hot weather caused by the El Niño phenomenon until the onset of the monsoon season by conserving and efficiently using drinking water and irrigation water, opening cooling shelters, storing and conserving water in dams and reservoirs, taking measures to prevent unnecessary water losses, stockpiling fruits and food supplies that can be stored and consumed for extended periods, cultivating late-monsoon crops to achieve the targeted production goals, and ensuring the continuity of livestock farming operations.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, State dignitaries and deputy ministers, together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Ministries Urged to Spend ...

FROM PAGE 3

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presented vetted budget estimates, revised accounts, the state foreign exchange position, and the draft Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Further inputs were offered by Union Minister for Legal Affairs Dr Thida Oo and Union Auditor-General Daw Naing Thet Oo regarding future financial compliance and audit findings.

In his concluding remarks, President U Min Aung Hlaing announced the commission's approval of the supplementary lists, state and regional subsidies, and the draft bill for submission to parliament. He urged ministries and regional governments to implement planned projects systematically and with full accountability, prevent financial waste, avert excessive year-end budget surrenders, and undergo strict audit oversight. — MNA/ST

Yangon Port handles 518 ...

FROM PAGE 1

The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port has handled. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Deputy Ministers respond to questions raised by lawmakers

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued the seventh-day meeting at its meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu replied to the queries raised by MP U Kyaw Win Oo from the Bago Region Constituency 6, saying that Myanmar has been progressively strengthening its search and rescue capabilities based on the experiences and lessons learned from its cooperation with international search and rescue teams during the Mandalay earthquake. Efforts are being beefed up to further enhance the existing search and rescue capabilities in accordance with international standards, establish fully qualified INSARAG-certified Medium Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Teams, and undertake training, equipment provision, and international-level assessment and certification.

For the question raised by MP U Zaw Win Thant from the Yangon Region Constituency 4, The deputy minister also responded that although parts of plots 526(A) and 525(B), which are part of Yesutaung Ward in Htaukkyant, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, are located within Hmawby Township, since the establishment of Htaukkyant under Mingaladon Township, matters concerning administration, security measures, household registration and birth registration, regional development, payment of taxes and fees, education, healthcare and other social affairs have been managed under the administration of Mingaladon Township. Therefore, all administrative matters concerning the people residing in the said portions of land will continue to be managed by Mingaladon Township, while land management will be handled by Hmawby Township.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint replied to queries raised by MP U Khin Maung Than from the Magway Region Constituency 6, MP U Thein Zaw from the Bago Region Constituency 8, MP U Kyaw Tint from the Mandalay Region Constituency 12, MP U Nyan Tun from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 9 and MP U Hein Min Oo from the Mandalay Region Constituency 3.

The seventh-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw in progress yesterday, chaired by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

He explained that the Union budget and the regional fund will be managed to complete the construction project, including the approach roads of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) project in the 2028-29 financial year. He said that the damaged parts on Panswe-Taungnyo road in Thonze of Thayawady Township will be repaired and maintained in 2027-28 FY, and the upgrading tasks for the road will be prioritized in yearly.

The deputy minister also explained that the fund of the Mandalay Region government will be allocated to pave asphalt on the four-furlong section of the No 2 inter-district road linking Kume and Thazi townships in 2027-28 FY, and more budget allocation will be made yearly for upgrading the remaining gravel section of the road.

He also revealed the plan to allocate annual funding to continue the construction of a 12-foot-wide concrete road in Kyunsu Township. In addition, plans will be made to replace the existing 100-foot-long and 12-foot-wide old wooden bridge on the Tawkha–Mawkhaungton road section with a new reinforced concrete bridge.

Moreover, he replied that the Union budget will be allocated to construct the 100-foot-long RC two-lane bridge, withstanding 60 tonnes of load, in place of Bridge 1/68 on the Mandalay-Mogok-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Htigyaing-Bhamo-Myitkyina road in 2027-28 FY.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the plan to form the inter-parliamentary friendship association with Malaysia and Indonesia, and the Hluttaw approved the chairs, secretaries and members of these associations.

The Speaker informed the Hluttaw about the approval of the Pyithu Hluttaw for the seventh amendments to the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bill and the Region or State Hluttaw Bill without amendments. Hluttaw representatives discussed the seventh amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bill. The Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee will hear the discussions of the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives on the bill.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its eighth-day meeting on 9 October. — MNA/TTA

Deputy C-in-C visits training schools in Taikkyi, Indaing, and Yemon stations

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin visited the local training depots in the Taikkyi station area yesterday morning and delivered an address to instructor officers, other ranks, and trainees.

The meeting was attended by the General, together with senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of Yangon Command, responsible officials, instructor officers, other ranks, and trainees from the training school.

First, the General delivered remarks stating that the Tatmadaw is carrying out national defence duties under the leadership and guidance of the State Government. He emphasized that national development can only be achieved when there is peace and stability; therefore, the Tatmadaw is taking responsibility for security operations to ensure peace and stability. To carry out these security duties successfully, the Tatmadaw must remain robust, strong, and highly capable.

Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin meets instructor officers, other ranks and trainees from the local training school.

He noted that collective training is conducted in this manner so that service personnel can become proficient in fully utilizing the combat capabilities and modern weapon technologies provided by the State and the Tatmadaw.

SEE PAGE 6

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Public Services, ...

FROM PAGE 4

Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Zaw Myint Naing clarified that supervisory focus rests on bank solvency, asset quality, risk management, and technological resilience rather than merely capping the number of institutions. He pointed out that private banks currently comply with official financial soundness ratios and that discussions with the Myanmar Banks Association indicated premature consolidation could disrupt ongoing stability. He noted that Section 48 of the Financial Institutions Law already provides legal procedures for mergers when appropriate market conditions arise.

Following the discussion, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the motion was formally placed on record with the parliament's agreement, and the meeting adjourned until 6 October (today). — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

Deputy C-in-C visits training schools in Taikkyi, Indaing, ...

FROM PAGE 5

Therefore, to become physically fit and robust personnel capable of skillfully applying the military arts taught to them, they must continually train in accordance with the motto: "Study, Practise, Comply." He added that personnel must constantly study evolving military sciences and military hardware to apply them practically on the battlefield. Furthermore, ongoing practice is essential to master the operation and maintenance of issued equipment. Personnel must keep abreast of modern military tactics and weaponry, adhering to tactical doctrines suited to their nation.

He highlighted that the Tatmadaw is a Union patriotic armed force composed of all national races. All units across the Tatmadaw – without distinction between infantry and supporting corps – must continuously train to remain in a state of combat readiness. Service personnel must uphold the quality and high standard of the Tatmadaw by carrying out their duties conscientiously and fully.

As members of the armed forces, they must strictly follow issued orders, directives, and legal rules and regulations. Strict discipline and oversight must be maintained to prevent any involvement with illicit drugs, promiscuity, or gambling.

He continued that national defence is an unavoidable duty for every citizen. Consequently, People's Military Service training courses are conducted systematically and up to standard. The conscientious graduates serving in battalions and units are carrying out their assigned duties brilliantly alongside their senior Tatmadaw comrades. Regular service personnel must serve as role models by abiding by the Tatmadaw's rules and regulations, becoming trustworthy and respected figures who guide national service members with fraternal spirit. He emphasized that esprit de corps means mutual loving-kindness, attachment, and loyalty among comrades—sharing fortunes and hardships alike, through life and death. Because Tatmadaw members take the Four Oaths of Allegiance, loyalty and integrity are essential.

He stated that each individual must train to maintain physical fitness to perform national defence and security duties, noting that each individual must regularly train by properly carrying out their daily routine tasks and duties.

Following the address, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief and party cordially greeted the instructor officers, other ranks, and trainees present.

Afterwards, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief and party had lunch together with trainees at the local training depot's mess hall and greeted them warmly.

Later, the General and party inspected the trainees' barracks, mess halls, and kitchens at local training depots in the Taikkyi and Indaing stations areas to ensure orderliness, and coordinated and fulfilled requirements based on presentations by responsible officials. They then observed and encouraged People's Military Service trainees undergoing training sessions.

Continuing their tour, General Kyaw Swa Lin and party arrived at the Defence Services Self-Defence and Sports Institute in the Indaing garrison area. They inspected the trainees' barracks, mess hall, and sports facilities, observed training underway across various disciplines, encouraged the trainees, and coordinated necessary support with officials.

Next, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited the local Defence Services Youth Education Training School (Yemon). They observed and encouraged students attending Grades 10, 11, and 12, presenting supplies and cash awards to students and teachers. They then inspected the school's mess hall and kitchen facilities, providing necessary instructions and guidance to responsible officials. — 100

HRPS to generate 8 MW for national grid once completed

ONCE the installation of the Heat Recovery Power Station (HRPS) is complete and operational, it will be capable of generating 40 megawatts of electricity. Of this, 32 megawatts will be reused within the factory, and the surplus 8 megawatts will be transmitted to the national grid.

The deputy minister inspecting installation work for the HRPS plant.

This was stated to the staff by U Thwin Aung, deputy minister for Industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, during his inspection on 2 October. The installation was jointly conducted by experts from Russia's Tyazhpromexport Co Ltd (TPE) and factory staff.

During the inspection, the deputy minister emphasized that the No 2 Steel Mill Project (Pangpet) is a vital national initiative, urging staff to cooperate with full capacity. He also directed them to prepare in advance for the requirements of subsequent processes once the HRPS plant is installed and running, and to cooperate to solve the challenges they meet.

Efforts continue to swiftly install and operate the remaining HRPS and the Romelt Shop, aiming for full production across the entire factory.

According to the ministry, of the 22 workshops in the Pangpet Project, 20 have already been installed and test-run. — TWA/ZN

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 5 October 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.50~3669.00	557.00~557.90	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,302, 956.14	7,694,453.20	31,584,667.60	-

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Bagan Lodgings Overflow Amid Thadingyut Festivities

FROM PAGE 1

"Pilgrims typically visit Bagan during Thadingyut, and as of 24 October, all 88 hotels, motels, and guesthouses are fully booked," stated U Myo Min Aung, the deputy director of the department. During Thadingyut, the number of visitors usually reaches around 150,000 per day, with the majority being day-trippers.

In Bagan, visitors can embark on pilgrimage tours of historically significant temples and pagodas, explore cultural heritage including ancient wall paintings, and capture stunning portraits with picturesque landscapes. They can also hire e-bikes for sightseeing around the ancient cultural zone. — TWA/ZS

Yangon Circular Railway Welcomes First Women Train Drivers

FROM PAGE 1

These five women completed theoretical and practical locomotive driving courses at the Central Transport and Communications School in Meiktila. During their 29-week training period, they successfully passed practical shunt-driving operations, track observation, trial driving, practical driving examinations, and interviews. They are currently undergoing practical training as assistant locomotive drivers.

Five women locomotive drivers are set to take charge of DEMU and RBE trains on the Yangon Circular Line in the coming days. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

87 offenders involved in online scams & gambling arrested in Hopong

THE government places special emphasis on identifying, preventing and taking action against perpetrators of online scams and online gambling, who illegally enter Myanmar across the border and pose a serious threat not only to local communities but also to the social and economic well-being of people around the world, as a national task. It also closely coordinates with the governments of neighbouring countries to effectively identify, arrest and take action against such offenders. As part of these intensified efforts, offenders engaged in online scams and online gambling were identified and arrested together with their operational equipment in Hopong Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

This image reveals telecom fraudsters detained in Hopong Township, southern Shan State.

Based on information provided by responsible locals that people involved in online scams and online gambling in Hopong Township established temporary living tents and were hiding and conducting their activities there, the combined teams, including security personnel conducting area security operations, conducted investigations and security operations. At about 7 am yesterday, near Nalon Village, about 21 kilometres southwest of Mongpun in Hopong Township, a total of 87 individuals involved in online scams and online gambling were arrested. They comprised 75 Chinese nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar across the border and 12 Myanmar nationals.

The authorities also seized two temporary tarpaulin tents measuring 60 feet long and 20 feet wide, used as combined living quarters and workplaces; one temporary tarpaulin tent measuring 40 feet long and 20 feet wide, used as a kitchen; one temporary tarpaulin tent measuring 40 feet long and 20 feet wide that was under construction; four Starlink sets; 17 all-in-one computers; two laptops; and 524 mobile phones.

Effective legal action will be taken against the offenders in accordance with existing laws after the necessary investigations into those arrested for engaging in online scams and online gambling are completed. The seized illegal buildings and huts will be demolished systematically. Intensified efforts to completely eradicate online scams and online gambling will continue to be carried out to prevent such activities from becoming established and to eliminate them. — 100/KTZH

Dala's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Thekkaegwin Village, Dala Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Dala Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw San Chaw Chaw Khin explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as enabling them to implement village development activities with increased revolving funds. Officials handed over K38.7 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

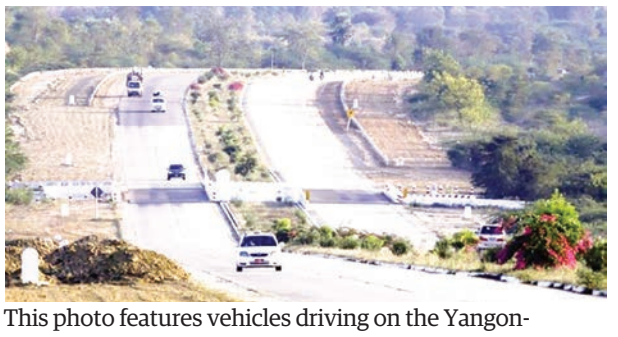
Thekkaegwin Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K38.7 million from the MSY Village Project. The fourth round of revolving loans at low interest rates were disbursed directly to 53 members from the village engaged in agricultural, livestock, trading and livelihood activities. — Karan (Rural)

An Emerald Green project fund disbursement ceremony in progress yesterday in Dala Township.

3 drivers charged for speeding on YGN-MDY expressway

THREE passenger express bus drivers have been charged under the Expressway Law for speeding on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway according to the Expressway Maintenance, Repair and Supervision Team.

At about 5:10 pm on 4 October, Shwe Pyi Hein passenger express driver Nay Myo Lin, Moe Thauk Yaung Ni passenger express driver Thein Myint and Shwe Pyi Hein passenger express driver Aung Zaw Lin were travelling from Yangon to Mandalay when they were found driving at speeds well above the 90 km/h speed limit between mileposts 140/0 and 158/0. The Expressway Maintenance, Repair and Supervision Team investigated the three drivers for exceeding the speed limit, and action has been taken against them in accordance with the existing laws and procedures. — TWA/MKKS


This photo features vehicles driving on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

KBZPay warns of new types of fraud

WITH the help of technology, fraudsters have tried to cheat by preying on adults' sexual interests by using18+ movies, websites, game links and unreliable links, so users will need to beware of these activities, said KBZPay.

Scammers disguise themselves as girls or young men and send invitations to watch 18+ movies and websites or download links for games that include 18+ characters.

By taking advantage of the VPN requirement, they attract people with fake proxy software to download unknown links. If a user enters fake links, their phone is under full control, and their personal information leaks to scammers, and they can get their money from their mobile wallet and mobile banking account at any time.

Thus, KBZPay urges customers not to enter unfamiliar links or easily fall for unofficial websites, movie sites, game download links, VPN links and App download links. — TWA/ZS

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
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OPINION

Emphasizing the development of value chain in the agricultural sector

The agricultural sector is one of the most fundamental sectors for Myanmar's food security, the socioeconomic well-being of its people, rural development, and national economic development. The agricultural sector is not only responsible for producing food but also serves as a source of raw materials required by various industries.

The development of the agricultural sector is not solely responsible for increasing agricultural production. Efforts to develop the agricultural sector contribute to the development of the entire value chain, from the production of raw materials and processing of those raw materials into value-added products to the development of industries, domestic consumption, and exports. Therefore, in implementing agricultural sector development, efforts must be made to promote the development of the entire value chain.

> What is important is that having natural advantages alone does not automatically lead to economic development. These advantages will benefit the national economy only when they can be transformed into productivity, quality, technology, value-added production, and market competitiveness.

Only through such efforts will farmers' incomes increase, employment opportunities in the agricultural sector expand, domestic manufacturing be strengthened through the use of agricultural products, and exports increase. These developments will, in turn, contribute to the growth of national output and the national economy. Myanmar must make effective use of its advantages arising from its geographical location and natural conditions, while placing emphasis not only on achieving domestic food security but also on producing high-quality agricultural products and gaining access to regional and global markets.

What is important is that having natural advantages alone does not automatically lead to economic development. These advantages will benefit the national economy only when they can be transformed into productivity, quality, technology, value-added production, and market competitiveness.

It is necessary to transform the agricultural sector from traditional production systems into modern, efficient, and sustainable production systems. As the agricultural sector develops, value-added products, industrial and service sectors will also grow, creating more employment opportunities, increasing people's incomes, and contributing to higher GDP. Therefore, promoting the agricultural sector is an important first step towards efforts for national economic development and poverty reduction.

In implementing measures to develop the agricultural sector, it is necessary to consider not only crop cultivation but also the livestock sector in an integrated manner. Alongside agricultural activities, efforts should be made to improve production systems, feed costs, livestock breeding technologies, quality breeds, and market linkages in poultry, pig, goat, cattle, fishery, and other livestock enterprises. Such efforts should aim to achieve sufficient and surplus food supplies for domestic consumption and to produce quality products for export to foreign markets, thereby generating income of foreign exchange.

ARTICLE

National Interest, Culture and Tourism

By Hnin Myat Thu (Culture)

Introduction

National interest is an important fundamental concept in international affairs that shapes the policies, strategies, and actions of states. Each country pursues various approaches in the political, economic, security, and foreign relations fields to protect and promote its national interests and to achieve its long-term objectives.

Therefore, National Interest is one of the most fundamental concepts in International Relations and Public Policy. National Interest refers to the fundamental objectives, policy orientations, and collective interests of a nation aimed at protecting, preserving, and promoting its sovereignty, security, economic development, culture, the social well-being of its citizens, and future development. It represents the guiding principles and priorities that shape a country's decisions and actions in safeguarding and advancing its overall interests.

Although the concept has evolved, national interest remains the primary basis upon which governments formulate domestic and foreign policies. Regardless of differences in political systems, economic structures, and cultural traditions, all states pursue policies that they believe will safeguard their sovereignty, security, prosperity, culture and the well-being of their people.

In the era of deepening globalization, where interdependence and connectivity among nations have become increasingly significant, the meaning and scope of National Interest have expanded beyond the traditional focus on military and political security. In the contemporary world, national interest has evolved into a broader and more comprehensive concept encompassing various dimensions of national development and security. Modern states, in safeguarding and promoting their national interests, are not only concerned with protecting sovereignty and national security but also with improving the quality of life of their citizens, ensuring sustainable development, and enhancing their competitiveness within the international community.

With the expansion of the concept of national interest, economic development has become one of its essential components. Economic stability, the promotion of investment, the strengthening of trade relations, the creation of employment opportunities, and the improvement of citizens' socioeconomic well-being are now regarded as fundamental elements in achieving and advancing national interests.

Furthermore, scientific and technological advancement and cybersecurity have emerged as critical dimensions of contemporary national security. With the increasing reliance on digital technologies, ensuring information security, protecting critical infrastructure, and maintaining technological sovereignty have become important priorities for states in safeguarding their national interests.

Similarly, public health has become a significant component of national interest and is directly linked to national security. Global pandemics and health-related challenges can have profound impacts on a country's economy, society, and national stability. Therefore, strengthening healthcare systems and ensuring the health security of citizens have become essential priorities in protecting national interests.

In addition, environmental protection, addressing climate change, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources have become key elements of modern national interest. Climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation can have long-term impacts on national economies and social development. Therefore, countries have increasingly incorporated sustainable development into their national strategies and policies.

Moreover, the preservation of cultural heritage represents an important aspect of national interest as it contributes to a nation's identity, historical continuity, and international reputation. Protecting and promoting cultural heritage, traditions, and historical values not only strengthens national pride among citizens but also enhances a country's image and soft power in the international arena.

At the same time, regional and international cooperation has become an indispensable component of contemporary national interest. In today's interconnected world, many challenges cannot be effectively addressed by individual countries alone. Therefore, states increasingly engage with regional and international organizations to promote peace, stability, sustainable development, and mutual benefits through cooperation and collective efforts.

In the modern context, National Interest does not merely refer to the protection of a country's territory, sovereignty, and security. Rather, it represents a comprehensive and multidimensional concept that integrates economic, technological, social, health, environmental, cultural, and international cooperation aspects, reflecting a nation's long-term objectives, priorities, and collective aspirations.

Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of National Interest is crucial for policymakers, researchers, and citizens, as it provides the foundation for developing effective policies, making informed decisions, and promoting the long-term interests and sustainable development of the nation.

Definition of National Interest

National interest refers to the objectives and interests that a state seeks to pursue, protect, and promote in order to ensure the survival and continuity of the nation, safeguard its sovereignty, maintain national security, foster economic development, and improve the well-being and quality of life of its people. In this regard, various scholars have defined and explained the concept of national interest as follows:

Hans J Morgenthau, one of the founders of classical realism, argued that national interest is defined primarily in terms of power. According to this perspective, states have strengthened their political, economic, and military capabilities in order to ensure their survival and security.

According to the British scholar of International Relations, Joseph Frankel, national interest is defined as "the general, long-term, and continuing purpose which the state, the nation, and the government all see themselves as pursuing." Based on this definition, national interest extends beyond the short-term policies of a government. Rather, it serves as a fundamental objective that guides a nation's long-term development, security, prosperity, and position in the international community.

Charles O Lerche and Abdul A Said are prominent scholars in the fields of International Relations and Foreign Policy studies who made significant contributions to the understanding of national interest, power politics, and international conflict and cooperation. They conceptualized national interest as a fundamental concept that guides a state's foreign policy and international behaviour.

In practical terms, national interest can be understood as the combination of political, economic, security, social, cultural and environmental objectives that contribute to the long-term survival and prosperity of a nation.

The Relationship between National Interest and the Culture and Tourism Sectors

As stated above, national Interest is one of the most fundamental concepts in international relations and public policy, and it encompasses the long-term goals, priorities, and aspirations that guide a state's domestic and foreign policies in protecting its sovereignty, ensuring national security, promoting economic prosperity, preserving its cultural identity, improving the well-being of its citizens, and achieving sustainable national development. While the traditional understanding of national interest primarily focused on military strength, territorial integrity, and political security, the concept has evolved significantly in response to globalization, technological advancement, and increasing international interdependence. Today, culture and tourism are widely recognized as strategic sectors that contribute directly to the realization of a nation's national interests.

Culture as a Strategic Component of National Interest

Culture is the fundamental pillar of a nation's national identity, representing its history, cultural heritage, language, arts, traditions and customs, beliefs, and way of life. Therefore, preserving, protecting, and promoting cultural heritage has become an essential component of the national interest.

The preservation and safeguarding of ancient cultural heritage, historical cities, historic buildings, museums, traditional arts, literature, languages, religious heritage, and traditional knowledge passed down from generation to generation constitute a significant foundation for strengthening a nation's historical identity, cultural values, and national identity. These cultural heritages represent a nation's historical experiences, the values and beliefs of its people, and their traditional ways of life. Therefore, preserving and promoting such heritage can enhance public awareness, appreciation, patriotism, and national pride toward one's country and cultural identity.

Furthermore, the effective preservation and promotion of cultural heritage not only enable younger generations to better understand their historical roots and cultural identity but also provide an important means of introducing and showcasing the unique cultural characteristics of a nation to the international community. Such cultural preservation efforts play a vital role in strengthening national unity, promoting cultural values within society, and enhancing a country's Soft Power and international image. Moreover, culture is an important source of soft power. Through cultural diplomacy, cultural exchange programs, art exhibitions, cultural festivals, educational cooperation, and creative industries, a nation can introduce its cultural values to the world while enhancing international trust, friendship, and influence. Therefore, the preservation and promotion of culture play a strategic role in advancing a country's foreign policy objectives and safeguarding its national interests.

Furthermore, culture has become an increasingly important instrument of soft power. Unlike military or economic power, soft power enables countries to influence others through attraction rather than coercion.

Cultural diplomacy, international cultural exchanges, art exhibitions, festivals, educational cooperation, and creative industries help improve a country's international image and foster mutual understanding among nations.

Countries with rich cultural heritage often enjoy greater international recognition and are able to strengthen diplomatic relations through cultural cooperation. Consequently, investment in cultural preservation and promotion directly supports a country's foreign policy objectives and enhances its global standing.

The Importance of the Tourism Sector for National Interest

Tourism has become one of the fastest-growing and most significant economic sectors in the global economy today. Beyond its economic contributions, tourism serves as a strategic sector that can play an important role in promoting a nation's national interests. It contributes not only to economic development but also to cultural preservation, social development, diplomacy, and international relations, thereby strengthening a country's overall position in the global community.

From an economic perspective, tourism contributes significantly to national development by generating foreign exchange earnings, stimulating economic activities, increasing government revenue through taxation, attracting domestic and foreign investment, and creating employment opportunities. Furthermore, tourism supports the growth of various related industries, including hotels and accommodation services, restaurants, transportation, handicrafts, local products, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Through these interconnected sectors, tourism creates broader economic benefits and contributes to inclusive economic growth.

In addition, tourism serves as an important source of employment generation. It creates direct employment opportunities in sectors such as hotels, travel services, tour guiding, and hospitality, while also providing indirect employment opportunities in agriculture, handicraft production, transportation, retail, and other supporting industries. In particular, the development of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) enables local communities to actively participate in tourism activities, generate income, improve their socio-economic conditions, and contribute to regional development.

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

FMI, YSH sign agreement to resume Yoma Central construction

FIRST Myanmar Investment Public Co Ltd (FMI) and its partner Yoma Strategic Holdings Limited (YSH) signed an agreement on 3 October to resume construction of the longstalled Yoma Central project in downtown Yangon in a phased manner, according to an announcement from the FMI.

FMI will increase its equity stake in Yoma Central, a landmark mixeduse development in Yangon, from 12 per cent to 20 per cent, while YSH will retain the remaining 80 per cent stake. FMI and YSH will acquire the 40 per cent total shareholding held by existing partners in Meeyahta Development Limited, the project developer, at nominal value. The acquisition includes approximately US$106 million in shareholder loans as of 31 March 2026 and the project's existing commercial loans of $55 million, which is a reduced amount of the loans valued at $61.7 million. Costs and benefits arising from the transaction will be shared between FMI and YSH on a 20:80 basis in line with their respective shareholdings.

FMI Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director U Tun Tun commented on the investment: "We look forward to resuming construction in phases together with our long-term partner Yoma Strategic. Increasing our shareholding in Yoma Central reflects our confidence in the project and the Yoma Group's longterm commitment to Myanmar." — TWA/KK

This image features a section of the stalled Yoma Central construction site in downtown Yangon.

Maubin opens free basic sewing course

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, opened a free basic sewing machine course at Yaygyaw Village in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday to support the livelihoods of rural women, provide employment opportunities and develop skilled workers during the 2026-2027 financial year.

Maubin District Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw Oo delivered the opening address, stating that vocational training courses are conducted after assessing local products, market demand, labour requirements and livelihood opportunities suited to local conditions.

Female instructors then explained the lessons to be taught section by section, after which the district head and the Township General Administration Department deputy township administrator provided the trainees with training materials and equipment.

A total of 20 women from villages in Maubin Township are attending the free 45-day basic sewing course, where skilled female instructors are providing both theoretical and practical lessons in basic sewing techniques. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

The launch of the basic sewing machine training is underway in Maubin Township.

MCDC to lease Mandalay Convention Centre via open tenders

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) will lease the Mandalay Convention Centre through an open tender system.

The convention centre is built on a 2.38 acre plot at Plot (Ta7/B), Myothit Ward 1, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.

Tender forms will be available from 16 to 31 October at the MCDC's Administrative Department. The submission deadline is noon on 3 November.

The tender opening will be held at 2 pm on 9 November at Meeting Hall 3 on the first floor of the MCDC eightstorey building.

Individuals can enquire about further details through the MCDC's Administrative Department via 02 4064750 during office hours, according to the MCDC Tender Committee. — NN/KK

Myanmar footwear makers target global standards

MYANMAR footwear entrepreneurs have begun taking steps to produce footwear that meets international standards, with the aim of developing the domestic footwear manufacturing industry and reducing footwear imports, according to the Myanmar MSME Cluster Footwear Entrepreneurs Federation.

Domestic footwear businesses are spread across various regions and states. In addition to large-scale manufacturers operating factories, there are also small and medium-sized businesses and traditional home-based producers. Although they operate at different scales, weak links among footwear entrepreneurs have limited cooperation, prompting efforts to bring them together and strengthen the industry as a whole.

"We will invite footwear entrepreneurs from across the regions and states, as well as those involved in related industries such as rubber, soles, leather and adhesives, to become members. Our priority will be to bring together footwear businesses that are currently scattered across the country and strengthen the industry through greater cooperation," said U Kyi Thein, Patron of the Footwear Entrepreneurs Federation.

It is also reported that, once the industry has been strengthened, entrepreneurs will be able to produce footwear that meets international standards. They will also work with regional and state governments and ministries to obtain the necessary support. — TWA/KNN

This image captures women's footwear produced by a domestic footwear manufacturer.

MALI to sell machinery from Okkyin gunny bag, flax factories

THE Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invited domestic and foreign companies and business entities to submit Expressions of Interest to procure machinery from the Okkyin Gunny Bag Factory and Flax Processing factories in Yangon Region. Tender forms will be available by 12 October at the Supply and Logistics Division of the Department of Agriculture at Office 43 in Nay Pyi Taw. The submission deadline is 1 pm on 13 October Individuals can make further enquiries at the division in person during office hours, or dial 067 3410210 or 067 3410518, according to the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee. — NN/KK

WORLD

About 360 people tow Pokemon aircraft at Narita airport

ABOUT 360 children and adults joined forces to tow a roughly 133-tonne Boeing 787 aircraft decorated with Pokemon characters at Narita airport near Tokyo, moving it about 80 metres in an event to spur interest in aviation.

A 100-metre rope was attached to the 62.8-metre-long jet so the participants could pull it on the premises of one of Japan's busiest international airports.

People tow an aircraft at Narita airport in Chiba Prefecture on 4 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The All Nippon Airways aircraft slowly moved as participants chanted and pulled together. The plane is mainly used for flights to and from other parts of Asia.

"It was fun moving it. The plane was not heavy," said seven-year-old Ryosuke Yokokura.

The operator of the airport organized the event, giving people a rare chance to tow an airplane and visit a hangar. — Kyodo

Indonesia's National Library receives donation of books from Chinese publishing houses

THE National Library of Indonesia received a donation of 100 books from 11 Chinese publishing houses during a handover ceremony held here on Saturday.

The books, including the English edition of the first volume of "China's Governance Under Xi Jinping's Leadership", have undergone a selection and curation process by the national library in accordance with its collection development principles, the library said in a press release, adding that the curation process took into account users' needs, accessibility, relevance, subject diversity, and suitability as sources of reference.

Wang Siping, cultural counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia, said at the event that the donated books cover a wide range of fields, including Chinese culture, history, literature, science and technology, and language learning, representing a carefully selected cultural gift from China's publishing sector.

Wang Siping (L), cultural counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia and Director of the National Library of Indonesia E Aminudin Aziz pose for a photo during a handover ceremony of books from Chinese publishing houses to National Library of Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia, 3 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

As these books take their place in the National Library of Indonesia, they will open a new window for Indonesian readers to learn about China, while adding fresh resources for exchanges between the intellectual and academic communities of the two nations, Wang said.

For his part, Director of the National Library of Indonesia E Aminudin Aziz emphasized that the collection should not be seen merely as an addition to the library's holdings, but also as an effort to broaden the public's access to knowledge. — Xinhua

A taste of Yunnan finds its way into Vietnam's coffee landscape

A staff member makes coffee with Yunnan coffee beans at a coffee shop in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AFTER finishing a 150-gramme box of Yunnan coffee, Nguyen Ngoc Ly cut out the beans' flavour profile to add to her collection, a habit reflecting her fascination with specialty coffee from different origins.

The Hanoi coffee lover told Xinhua that she had ordered the box out of curiosity after members of specialty coffee groups on social media praised the beans from China's southwestern province.

She brewed the coffee using the pour-over method and sometimes served it with cold milk, finding its flavour so lively that it made a latte unlike any she had tasted before.

"The Yunnan beans have a very rich flavour, not the dark chocolate or bitter taste people usually expect from coffee," Ly said, adding that their fruity flavour and cooling qualities make them well suited to iced coffee on hot days.

Hanoi coffee specialist Pham Duy Anh said Yunnan beans are attracting interest among Vietnamese consumers, with many specialty cafes and roasters in the country now selling them.

He attributed their appeal to noticeably improving quality with each harvest and a range of processing methods that suit Vietnamese drinkers looking for new experiences.

"Diverse processing methods like washed, natural, honey and anaerobic have kept the beans from being boxed into a single flavour profile, giving drinkers notes such as mild wine, raisin, guava, tea and watermelon," Anh said, describing this as an advantage in a market that values diversity and personalization in the coffee experience. — Xinhua

Japan remains 12th in global innovation ranking, trails South Korea, China

JAPAN remained in 12th place in an annual innovation report by the World Intellectual Property Organization this year, trailing South Korea, Singapore and China among major regional economies.

The result leaves Japan well short of the government's goal of raising the country's standing to fourth or higher in the Global Innovation Index by 2035 under its intellectual property strategy for 2025.

South Korea placed fourth, the highest in the Asia-Pacific region, followed by Singapore in fifth, with China ranked 10th. The positions of South Korea, Japan and China remained unchanged from last year.

The index used some 80 indicators in evaluating 139 economies on their innovation performance. It placed Switzerland at the top for the 16th straight year, followed by Sweden and the United States.

The report cited Japan's strength in industrial and corporate innovation as among the strongest in the world. It said the Tokyo-Yokohama region's position as the world's second-ranked innovation cluster reflects "the global weight of Japan's patenting, research and venture capital activity."

The Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou region in China retained the top spot in the top innovation clusters ranking.

However, Japan lagged in areas including tertiary education, science and engineering graduates, and knowledge-intensive employment, while a declining youth population weighed on its innovation performance, the report said.

"Japan has one of the most consistent innovation systems in the world," said Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, co-editor of the report. "The depth of Japanese companies-led research, together with close ties to universities and public institutes, keeps Japan among the top innovation economies year after year."

The report also pointed to continued growth in global investment in technological innovation. It estimated that global research and development expenditure grew 3.3 per cent in 2025 from a year earlier in real terms and projected it to expand 3.6 per cent in 2026 to $3.4 trillion. — Kyodo

ECONOMY
WORLD

Winery in former evacuated village in Fukushima drives reconstruction

A winery located in an area of Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan that was briefly evacuated after the 2011 nuclear disaster is hoping to become a driving force for local reconstruction efforts.

Photo shows a vineyard of Kawauchi Winery in Kawauchi, Fukushima Prefecture on 1 July 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Kawauchi Winery in the village of Kawauchi has been expanding its sales channels to other prefectures, with its vineyard and facilities recently garnering attention as a tourist attraction.

"It's grown over the past 10 years, but there's still more to do," said Hideya Kitamura, director of Kawauchi Winery.

The village was one of many in the region that was evacuated in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, which was triggered by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and massive tsunami on 11 March 2011.

Volunteers and residents of the village came together in 2016 to plant around 2,000 vines on a hill located at an elevation of approximately 750 meters. There were 10,000 by 2018. The winery, which opened in 2021, is a joint public-private corporation invested in by the village. It began selling bottles of wine the following year, with stores in Saitama, Chiba and Shizuoka prefectures stocking the brand. — Kyodo

EU suspends Namibian meat imports over FMD

THE European Union (EU) has temporarily suspended the entry of fresh meat and certain processed meat products from Namibia's previously foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)-free zone following an outbreak of the highly contagious livestock disease.

In a statement issued on Monday, EU Ambassador to Namibia Ana Beatriz Martins said the measure covers fresh meat from cattle, sheep and goats, as well as relevant farmed and wild ungulates and certain processed meat products such as biltong and jerky.

The restrictions follow Namibia's confirmation of an FMD outbreak on 23 September on a commercial farm in the Karasburg State Veterinary District in the Kharas Region, which resulted in the World Organization for Animal Health suspending Namibia's FMD-free status, effective 22 September.

Martins said consignments of fresh ungulate meat certified by Namibian authorities before 23 September should be permitted to enter the EU during a 90-day period from that date, subject to decisions by EU member states' border control posts.

Processed meat that has undergone the most stringent risk-mitigating treatment prescribed under EU legislation remains eligible for entry, she said. — Xinhua

Malaysia's financial stability risks from Mideast conflict remain manageable: central bank

MALAYSIA'S financial stability risks from the Middle East conflict remain manageable, with banks, households and domestic financial markets showing resilience, its central bank said on Monday.

This photo shows a general view of construction sites and commercial buildings in George Town on Penang Island, Malaysia, on 8 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said in a report that Malaysia had limited direct financial exposures to the Middle East, with the main spillovers occurring through the real economy and global financial markets. BNM highlighted that business loan quality remained broadly sound, although repayment pressures emerged among some small and medium-sized enterprises in transportation, wholesale and retail trade and primary manufacturing. — Xinhua

Laos food crop output hits 90% of annual target

LAOS produced 2.33 million tonnes of food crops in the first nine months of 2026, reaching 90 per cent of the annual target as the government stepped up efforts to boost domestic production, reduce imports and promote exports.

In the first nine months of 2026, Laos' agricultural and forestry product exports reached US$1.389 billion, or 73.17 per cent of the annual target, according to the local Pasaxon newspaper report on Monday. — Xinhua

China's island province Hainan offers diverse tourism experiences to holidaymakers

CHINA'S southernmost province of Hainan has more to offer than beaches and coconut trees.

During the first National Day holiday since the launch of the island-wide special customs operations at Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), the tropical island has offered visitors from home and abroad a diverse range of experiences -- from duty-free shopping and local food to historic neighbourhoods and the distinctive lifestyle of fishing communities.

In the seaside resort city of Sanya, the Sanya International Duty-Free Shopping Complex has drawn a steady stream of visitors during the holiday. The sprawling mall offers a wide selection of international brands, attractive duty-free prices and convenient pickup services.

"The shopping mall is huge and nice," said Alina, a Russian tourist. "There are many international brands and the prices are good. I enjoy shopping here very much."

Visiting China for the first time, Alina said she had enjoyed her trip to Hainan, where tropical coastal scenery was complemented by a world-class shopping experience.

Since Hainan expanded its duty-free shopping access to departing tourists last November, a growing number of overseas visitors like Alina have been seen at the island's major duty-free shopping centres. — Xinhua

Visitors shop at Sanya International Duty-Free Shopping Complex in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 2 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

OPEC+ to maintain oil output for second consecutive month in Nov

THE Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, known as OPEC+, will keep their oil output level unchanged for the second consecutive month in November, OPEC said in a statement on Sunday.

The decision was made after a virtual meeting of OPEC+ member countries, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman, to review global market conditions and the economic outlook.

"The seven participating countries decided to maintain September 2026 required production for November 2026," the statement noted. — Xinhua

Photo taken on 30 November 2023 shows the headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Rice stink bugs spread across 37 Japan prefectures as damage mounts

RICE stink bugs, a native species in Japan that feeds on rice, are rapidly increasing nationwide and causing widespread damage, with experts and the government warning that their habitat could further expand as global warming enables more of them to survive winter.

The Japanese government has confirmed the bug's presence in 37 of the nation's 47 prefectures, stretching from the Kyushu region in the southwest to Fukushima Prefecture in the northeast. "I absolutely do not want to suffer that kind of damage again," said Masayuki Watanabe, a 58-year-old rice farmer in Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, as he operated a drone to spray pesticides on a rice paddy in mid-August. In 2024, his harvest plummeted to a third of the usual amount due to damage from rice stink bugs. He was determined not to make the same mistake again.

Rice farmer Masayuki Watanabe talks about an agricultural drone for spraying pesticides, in Tochigi, north of Tokyo, in August 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Damage was widespread across southern Tochigi Prefecture that year, prompting the prefecture to establish a task force in 2025 to tackle the stink bugs. The task force has since been sharing information on the best pesticides and when to use them and updates on the current state of infestations.

With the infestation also spreading this year to central and northern parts of the prefecture, a Tochigi official stressed the importance of spraying pesticide during heading and rotating the types of pesticides to maintain effectiveness.

Rice stink bugs overwinter in woodlands and then invade rice paddies around July when rice plants begin to head. They are believed to hide near the base of the plants during the day and feed on nutrients from rice ears at night.

It is thus recommended to apply the initial round of pesticides earlier than for other stink bugs, and then again when rice grains begin to form. The number of rice stink bugs decreased drastically after the 1960s to the point where they were considered extinct. Amid their recent resurgence, however, a survey by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries confirmed their presence in 37 prefectures as of 2025. — Kyodo

India's largest airline to hike fuel surcharge amid rising jet fuel prices

INDIA'S largest airline IndiGo Monday announced a hike in fuel surcharge for domestic and international flights in the wake of rising Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices.

The new fuel surcharge policy will come into effect from Tuesday.

According to the airline, the latest month-on-month increase in ATF prices was more than 14 per cent, taking fuel costs to among the highest levels seen in the last decade.

The airline said fuel surcharges on domestic routes will increase to between 375 rupees (about US$3.89) and 1,300 rupees, up from the previous range of 275 to 950 rupees.

The hike in surcharge has also been implemented for international flights, the airline said in a statement. — Xinhua

AMRO slightly raises ASEAN+3 2027 growth forecast to 4.1%

THE ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) on Monday raised its 2027 growth forecast for the ASEAN+3 region, comprising ASEAN member states plus China, Japan and South Korea, to 4.1 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point from its previous projection, as stronger artificial intelligence (AI)-related exports and investment support economic activities.

The growth forecast for 2026 was unchanged at 4.1 per cent, AMRO said in a statement.

"The AI investment cycle is supporting a widening range of regional activities, although domestic demand remains uneven," said AMRO Chief Economist Dong He. He also said disruptions to energy supplies and industrial inputs proved less severe than many had feared, limiting the drag on production. — Xinhua

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information about 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026

1. The significant 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held from October 8 to 17, 2026 at Maniradana Emporium Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. The local gems entrepreneurs who got the permit and the local gems merchants who got the license to operate in the finished gemstone making and dealing under the Myanmar Gem Law, will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2026 according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2026, any merchants can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

MYANMA Port Authority
"NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.21 feet to 20.60 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 10th to October 13th, 2026. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT011)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT011)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-10-2026** 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 CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

British PM reopens Brexit debate, but return to EU remains uncertain

BRITISH Prime Minister Andy Burnham has reopened the debate over Britain's relationship with the European Union (EU), putting eventual membership among the options.

His remarks challenge Labour's previous red lines and raise a central question: how far is Britain prepared to go in rebuilding ties with the bloc?

In his first Labour Party conference speech as prime minister on Tuesday, Burnham said "Brexit has done more harm than good", and laid out options for "Britain's long-term relationship with our European partners".

In an interview broadcast by the BBC the next day, he said rejoining the EU was one option. "I would like to see Britain rejoin in my lifetime," he said, but added that he would "look at the different options".

Photo taken on 31 January 2020 shows an image of the text "UK Votes OUT" on a giant screen as pro-Brexit supporters celebrating Brexit at a gathering at Parliament Square, in London, Britain. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Those options range from maintaining the current relationship to joining a customs union, participating in the single market or returning to full EU membership. They involve different degrees of economic integration and political commitment.

The openness to reconsidering those options contrasts with Labour's 2024 election manifesto, which ruled out returning to the single market or customs union and restoring freedom of movement. Burnham had also previously pledged not to reopen "divisive arguments about rejoining the EU", according to the Financial Times. — Xinhua

California heat wave breaks records, raises wildfire and smoke concerns

A prolonged heat wave continued across California over the weekend, breaking daily high-temperature records at multiple locations, while hot and dry conditions and wildfire smoke added to health and fire risks across parts of the state, according to the US National Weather Service (NWS) and state authorities.

A preliminary report from the NWS San Diego office said eight daily high-temperature records were broken and one was tied on 3 October across Orange, San Diego and Riverside counties.

Santa Ana in Orange County reached 41.7 degrees Celsius, about 2.8 degrees above the previous record for 3 October set in 2014, while Vista in San Diego County reached 42.2 degrees, according to the report.

A child stands in the water by a beach in Huntington Beach, Orange County, California, the United States, 4 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

San Diego International Airport reached 40.6 degrees, breaking a daily record that had stood since 1987. The temperature was about 16.1 degrees above normal for the date, according to an NWS climate report.

Farther north, Napa Airport reached 35.6 degrees, breaking its previous 3 October record of 34.4 degrees, according to the NWS San Francisco Bay Area office. In northern Nevada, Winnemucca Airport reached 32.2 degrees, breaking its previous daily record set in 2024, according to the NWS Elko office.

The NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard office described the episode as a major and long-lasting heat wave and said unusually high temperatures were expected to persist through the coming week.

More than 34 million Californians were under heat warnings or advisories. Extreme Heat Warnings remained in effect through Thursday evening in parts of Southern California, including San Diego and the coasts and valleys of Los Angeles and Ventura counties and parts of Santa Barbara County. — Xinhua

Brazil's Lula, Flavio Bolsonaro head to presidential runoff

BRAZIL will hold a presidential runoff on 25 October as official results showed Sunday that no candidate secured a majority of valid votes in the first round.

According to results released by the Superior Electoral Court, with over 99 per cent of the ballots counted, Flavio Bolsonaro, presidential candidate of Brazil's Liberal Party, garnered about 47 per cent of valid votes while incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party came in second with about 45 per cent.

Under Brazil's electoral rules, a presidential candidate must secure more than half of the valid votes to win outright in the first round. Otherwise, the two candidates with the most votes advance to a runoff.

Following the announcement of the first-round results, both candidates made remarks on Sunday night. — Xinhua

Flavio Bolsonaro (C), presidential candidate of Brazil's Liberal Party, speaks after the announcement of the first-round results of the presidential election in Brasilia, Brazil, 4 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Iran reviewing US views on 7-day plan to cease hostilities: senior diplomat

A senior Iranian diplomat said Sunday that Iran is currently reviewing US views on Tehran's recent proposal to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, according to the semi-official Fars news agency.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks in Tehran, saying that the United States has submitted its views on Iran's proposal through mediators.

He stressed that Iran's proposal is the "seven-day plan" that was presented to the other side by Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi in New York late last month.

Gharibabadi said, "The US views are currently being reviewed inside the country through the appropriate channels," adding whenever Iran's final views are ready, the necessary action will be taken through "appropriate channels".

He added that Iran is simultaneously making the necessary preparations for any other scenario as well. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar wins 5 silvers, 4 bronzes in Dragon Boat World Cup & qualifying events

THE Myanmar national dragon boat team returned to Yangon yesterday morning after competing in the Dragon Boat World Cup and qualifying events in Hangzhou from 30 September to 3 October organized by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) in China, winning five silver and four bronze medals.

At the competitions held on 30 September, Russia won first place, Spain second and Myanmar third in the Men's Open 8-paddler 2,000-metre event. In the Mixed Open 10-paddler 500-metre event, Russia took first, Hungary second and Myanmar third. In the Men's Open 10-paddler 2,000-metre event, Russia secured first place, followed by Myanmar in second and Ukraine in third. In the Mixed Open 10-paddler 2,000-metre event, Hungary won first, Myanmar second and Spain third.

Moreover, at the Dragon Boat World Cup organized by the International Canoe Federation in Yuanling, China, from 25 September to 3 October, 24 countries, including leading Asian and Southeast Asian nations, competed. The Myanmar national dragon boat team won three silver and two bronze medals. In the World Cup held in Hangzhou, China, the team also secured two silver and two bronze medals. With these achievements, the Myanmar national dragon boat team won a total of five silver and four bronze medals for Myanmar.

The 21-member delegation, led by Myanmar Rowing Federation President U Thaung Htike Min, officials, coaches and athletes, returned to Yangon by air yesterday morning. They were warmly welcomed by officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the Myanmar Rowing Federation, and the athletes' parents, relatives and supporters. — MNA/KTZH

This photo shows the victorious Myanmar dragon boat team being warmly welcomed.

Myanmar team managers, coaches and athletes attend 20th Asian Games closing ceremony

THE closing ceremony of the 20th Asian Games, held from 19 September to 4 October took place at Mizuho Park Athletics Stadium (Paloma Mizuho Stadium) in Nagoya City, Japan, at 6 pm yesterday.

Team managers, coaches and athletes from the participating Asian countries, including Myanmar, attended the closing ceremony.

A group commemorative photo of the Myanmar sports contingent at the closing ceremony of the 20th Asian Games.

According to the programme, team managers, coaches and athletes from the participating countries marched together, performed traditional Japanese dances and other cultural performances, and sang songs. They also greeted the participating teams before the Asian Games flag and torch were handed over to Qatar, which will host the Games in 2030.

At the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia in 2018, Myanmar won one bronze medal each in pole vault and Wushu. At the 19th Asian Games in China in 2023, Myanmar won one gold medal in pole vault and two bronze medals in rowing.

A total of 43 sports were included in the 20th Asian Games in Japan in 2026. Myanmar competed in five sports – Teqball, esports, Sepak Takraw, gymnastics and women's football — and won two gold, one silver and two bronze medals. Myanmar won one gold medal in esports, one gold and one silver medal in Teqball, and one bronze medal each in Teqball and pole vault. Myanmar finished 24th in the overall medal standings among the 45 participating countries, achieving a better medal haul than at the previous Asian Games and bringing pride to the nation. — MNA/MKKS

Spain eyes UEFA Nations League quarterfinal berth against Croatia

SPAIN could secure a place in the UEFA Nations League quarterfinals on Tuesday with a win over Croatia in Split.

Spain travels to Croatia after three consecutive wins in its opening group games. Another victory would give the world champions 12 points from four matches while leaving Croatia on three.

If England also wins or draws at home to the Czech Republic, neither Croatia nor the Czechs would be able to catch Spain, assuring Luis de la Fuente's side of a top-two finish with two games remaining, at home to England and away to the Czech Republic in November.

While Spain travels with a perfect record, Slaven Bilic's Croatia goes into the match looking to respond to arguably the most humiliating defeat in its history, a 7-0 home loss to England on Saturday.

"Against England, we didn't bring the necessary energy, which affects confidence; confidence affects technical performance, and in the end, it all looks like a question of willpower. Now we have to play a good match, a match for real men, against Spain," Bilic said, suggesting Spain could face a physical contest.

Spain beat Croatia 4-1 in Seville just a week ago and followed that with a 3-1 victory over the Czech Republic on Saturday, although its performance in Oviedo was arguably its least impressive of the three games so far during the international break.

De la Fuente made nine changes from the team that faced Croatia and is expected to continue rotating his squad, particularly after highlighting the limited recovery time available to his players during the international break.

"We will get back to Madrid at 3 am, then we have one day to train on Sunday, before travelling on Monday and playing on Tuesday," said De la Fuente, who has already seen five players leave his squad with injuries over the past two weeks.

Midfielder Fabian Ruiz also left the squad at the weekend for a happier reason, becoming a father for the first time. His absence could see Mikel Merino return to the starting lineup. — Xinhua

Zheng Qinwen advances China Open last 16

CHINA'S Zheng Qinwen battled past 18th seed Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-5 to reach the women's singles round of 16 at the China Open on Monday.

Zheng earned the first break of the match, but Bouzkova responded by converting a break point in the sixth game. The set went to a tiebreak, where Zheng pulled away to win 7-3.

Bouzkova made the stronger start to the second set, taking a 3-0 lead before holding off Zheng's attempts to recover and forcing a decider.

The players traded service holds for much of the final set before Zheng converted her second match point to seal the victory.

"Bouzkova is a very steady player, so I need to be patient, and I need to balance between forced and unforced errors," reflected Zheng right after the match.

Zheng will meet Alina Charaeva of Armenia in the next round. — Xinhua

Zheng Qinwen of China celebrates victory. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

WORLD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

British PM reopens Brexit debate, but return to EU remains uncertain

PAGE 14

Extreme heat putting pregnant women, newborns at risk: UN climate chief

EXTREME heat is putting pregnant mothers and their newborns at increasing risk, United Nations climate chief Simon Stiell will warn on Monday.

Speaking at the "pre-COP" summit in Nadi, Fiji, Stiell will cite a new survey showing more than two thirds of health professionals across five continents had seen complications caused by intense heat in the past five years.

"Rising temperatures mean rising danger in pregnancy," he is expected to say.

"Climate-driven extreme heat during pregnancy is increasingly linked to premature birth, stillbirth, low birth weight, and maternal complications."

"The picture is clear and very disturbing: as extreme heat worsens, pregnancy and birth are now a new faultline in the global climate crisis, and one which is potentially fatal," Stiell will say.

"This faultline must not become another deep chasm of climate-driven suffering, inequality and injustice."

Scientists warn that climate change is making extreme weather events more intense and resulting in heat records tumbling more often.

A family walks past a banner welcoming delegates to the Pacific Pre-COP31 Summit at Nadi International Airport in Nadi on 4 October 2026, ahead of the summit's opening ceremony. **PHOTO: AFP**

Around 33 countries, spanning from western Europe to the Sahel and central America, recorded their hottest July since records began this year, according to AFP analysis of data from the European Union's Copernicus climate observatory.

The survey of 1,000 midwives and doctors in the United Kingdom, Australia, India, Brazil and Zimbabwe was commissioned by charitable foundation Wellcome.

Its chairwoman — Australian former Prime Minister Julia Gillard — said in a statement that mothers and babies are being put at increasing risk as a result of climate change.

"Extreme heat is an invisible killer, but pregnant women must not be invisible. Leaders have the evidence and solutions they need — now they must act," Gillard said. — AFP

Russian cosmonaut Pyotr Dubrov assumes command of International Space Station

RUSSIAN cosmonaut Pyotr Dubrov on Sunday assumed command of the International Space Station (ISS), taking over the role from NASA astronaut Jessica Meir.

In this handout photograph taken and released by NASA on 14 July 2026, the International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 75 crew of NASA astronaut Anil Menon (C) and Roscosmos cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina - wave farewell as they board the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft prior to the launch from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. **PHOTO: BILL INGALLS / NASA / AFP**

"It has a special meaning for me today, because 69 years ago on this day, the first Sputnik was launched," Dubrov said during the change of command ceremony streamed online by NASA.

The cosmonaut called the ISS an excellent symbol of international cooperation.

Meir handed the symbolic key to the ISS to her Russian counterpart.

After the ceremony, the SpaceX Crew-12 will begin preparations for the spacecraft to undock from the station and return to Earth.

On Thursday, SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft with NASA's Crew-13 mission that includes Russian cosmonaut Sergey Teteryatnikov, Jessica Watkins (NASA), Luke Delaney (NASA) and Joshua Kutryk (Canadian Space Agency) successfully docked to the ISS. — SPUTNIK

Trio win Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels, optogenetics

THREE scientists have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel won the prize on Monday for their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics, the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute announced.

According to the institute, optogenetics is a method that shows how nerve cells shape memories, feelings and behaviours in the living brain.

"Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel discovered a remarkable protein, channelrhodopsin, in a single-celled alga. Karl Deisseroth transformed the protein into a light-controlled switch for nerve cells. The laureates have laid the foundation of a new era in neuroscience," the institute said in a press release.

Karl Deisseroth, born in the United States, is a professor at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Stanford University. Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel, both born in Germany, are professors at Humboldt University of Berlin and the University of Würzburg, respectively.

The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is announced in Stockholm, Sweden, 5 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The laureates will share a prize of 12 million Swedish kronor (about US$1.19 million). — Xinhua

Floods kill 31 in Thailand, waters recede in Bangkok

FLOODS across Thailand have killed 31 people and affected about 4.14 million others since 16 September, authorities said on Monday.

According to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, nearly 3.52 million people in 26 provinces and the capital are still facing floods.

Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Monday ordered agencies to speed up drainage, relief, and post-flood recovery as the South-East Asian country braces for a new round of rain and high tides.

Chairing a meeting of the National Disaster Command Headquarters, Anutin said the overall situation was improving, with water levels in upstream areas starting to stabilize and fall.

Anutin instructed operators of full or nearly full reservoirs to release water immediately while protecting communities downstream. He also called for clearing blocked waterways and drains and pumping water out of inundated areas. – Xinhua