

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

Yangon power supply to get 500 MW boost from Thanlyin, Thakayta plants

The LNG Floating Storage Unit docked at Thilawa Port, together with the regasification unit and the Thanlyin 200-MW power plant, supports initially generating 150 MW to meet rising regional demand, with ongoing efforts to ramp up output to 500 MW.



This image shows the Floating Storage Unit, an LNG carrier vessel, docking at Thilawa Port to support power generation and distribution in Yangon Region.

THANLYIN and Thakayta Power Plant projects are aiming for increased power output of 500 megawatts to meet the Yangon Region's electricity demand, according to the Electricity and Energy Development Commission.

The Floating Storage Unit (FSU) for liquefied natural gas (LNG) docked at Thilawa Port, the regasification unit, and Thanlyin 200-MW power plant are

initially producing 150 MW to meet growing demand in the region, and efforts are being exerted to generate more power output up to 500 MW.

Moreover, efforts are being made to minimize wastage as LNG is a high-cost energy resource, ensure the continuous operation of power generators and maintain the efficiency of the machine. Thanlyin 200-MW power plant is generating an initial output of 150

MW. FSU, an LNG carrier vessel, has docked for LNG supply, and the regasification unit has completed trial operation and started generating the trial output of 40 MW. Power generation has increased to 150 MW starting from 17 December. Those projects will generate increased power output to meet the electricity needs of the public and industrial zones. — ASH/KK

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2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission



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

Four National Objectives for 78th Independence Day 2025

1. To safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty by all citizens, as they are the most essential and suitable national objectives and national duties
2. To strive forward for national unity and Union peace to implement sustainable and balanced development
3. To establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system completely by exercising the freedom and justice in accordance with the laws and regulations
4. To advance other economic sectors and promote MSMEs based on regional products



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 37 samples from 8 pm on 14 December 2025 to 8 pm on 21 December 2025, and no new cases were detected. Therefore, no new casualties were reported.

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

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

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

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department,
Ministry of Health



Preventive Measures Against Seasonal Flu

22 December 2025

1. According to the Global Influenza Report released by the World Health Organization on 10 December 2025, the transmission of seasonal influenza has been increasing worldwide, including in Asia and other regions of the world, since the start of the cold season in September 2025. However, the level of transmission has not exceeded that of seasonal influenza outbreaks. This year, the Influenza A (H3N2) has been identified as the predominant circulating influenza virus in many parts of the world, and infections caused by the Influenza A (H3N2) Subclade K virus have been detected in 34 countries over the past six months. These viruses can be prevented by the currently administered influenza vaccines, and severe cases can be treated with medicines currently in use.
2. The Ministry of Health is continuously monitoring the occurrence of influenza and other respiratory infectious diseases. Based on disease surveillance data, Influenza A (H3N2) viruses have been detected in Myanmar in previous years and have remained the predominant influenza virus type since September of this year. Although laboratory tests have not yet detected Influenza A (H3N2) Subclade K in Myanmar, it is assessed that the general population possesses a moderate level of immunity against Influenza A (H3N2). The currently available influenza vaccines and preventive medicines are effective for prevention and treatment; therefore, there is no need for the public to be concerned.
3. Seasonal influenza can affect people of all ages. However, infection may lead to more severe illness in children, the elderly, individuals with weakened immune systems, people with underlying chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory diseases, cancer, and neurological disorders, and pregnant women. Seasonal influenza is transmitted through respiratory droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes (droplet transmission), through close contact such as touching or handshaking with an infected person, or by touching the mouth, nose, or eyes after contact with contaminated objects and surfaces.
4. Therefore, to prevent infection with seasonal influenza and other respiratory diseases, people are strongly urged to cooperate by following the preventive measures as follows: -
 - (a) Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
 - (b) Maintain physical distance from infected persons or suspected cases.
 - (c) Individuals with suspected symptoms such as fever, coughing, or sneezing should wear a mask.

Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

For a nation to achieve development and stability, it is essential that every citizen be fully equipped with knowledge, skills and critical thinking. In particular, for a country like Myanmar undergoing a democratic transition, it is crucial for all of our national brethren to think critically, discern right from wrong and work together for the benefit of the nation.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Dawei City Hall held on 18 September 2025)



Public Notice for Voter Lists Display

1. The Union Election Commission has released the second round of voter lists for 14 days for the multi-party democracy general election to be held phase by phase on 28 December 2025. The final lists will be displayed at the relevant ward and village-tract subcommission offices starting 23 December 2025, after the necessary corrections, additions, and verification are made in order to ensure that the voter lists are complete and accurate.
2. The lists for the townships in Phase 1 will be displayed from 23 to 25 December 2025 at the relevant wards and village-tract subcommission offices, and at the relevant poll stations from 26 December 2025 until the completion of election day on 28 December 2025.
3. For townships not included among the 102 townships participating in Phase 1 of the election [excluding the 56 townships where elections have

been announced not to be held], will be from 23 December 2025 to 5 January 2026 for 14 days. If voters are aware of and remember their voter list serial numbers, they will be able to complete the voter list verification process at polling stations on Election Day without delay. Therefore, voters are urged to check the voter lists in advance for their serial numbers.

Union Election Commission

Microfinance Supervisory Committee Meeting 2/2025 held

THE Microfinance Supervisory Committee Meeting 2/2025 was held yesterday at the Internal Revenue Department, Office 46 of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, and attended and delivered a speech by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, who is also Chairman of the Microfinance Supervisory Committee.

The Meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Han Win Aung, members of the Microfinance Supervisory Committee, officials from the Financial Regulatory Department in states and regions, representatives and officials of the Myanmar Microfinance Association.

The Union minister first highlighted that microfinance companies are providing microfinance services to 2.842 million members in townships, wards, and villages in 15 states and regions as of October 2025. Although the volume of business activity has declined somewhat since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, it has recovered since March and April 2025. He emphasized that Microfinance is a socially based business that



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presides over the meeting 2/2025 of the Microfinance Supervisory Committee yesterday.

aims to promote rural development and poverty reduction. However, when reviewing business expenses and income, it is necessary to consider the loan amount to be provided to members because the interest rate charged is slightly higher compared to neighbouring countries. He also noted that the gradual increase in operating costs needs to be addressed; the costs, including capital and operating costs, are considered somewhat high. Therefore, the interest rate charged on loans to members will be reduced to a reasonable

rate. On the other hand, he noticed that reports indicate that low-income people in rural areas, MSMEs, and agricultural and livestock businesses still have limited access to financial services from banks, and such restrictions need to be met by microfinance companies. Moreover, they should focus on preventing the resurgence of illegal money lenders. He emphasized that, according to the Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council, focusing on the development of agriculture, livestock, basic industries, and

manufacturing through MSMEs, it is necessary to focus on ensuring that microfinance services are provided to meet the needs of members. Moreover, he highlighted that microfinance companies and members must comply with rules and regulations of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), and it is necessary to pay attention to security issues, including cybersecurity, and to prevent misuse of online scams. Being microfinance services used for socioeconomic development of members, agri-

culture, livestock, MSME sector, rural development and poverty alleviation, he guided that the activities should be sincere and serious about providing kind assistance to the members.

Deputy Minister U Han Win Aung then discussed the progress of microfinance companies, the effective supervisory process and coordination of providing services to meet the needs of microfinance companies, and prioritizing capital augmentation issues for microfinance companies that need to replenish additional capital. **SEE PAGE 4**

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Electoral public awareness campaign held in PyinOoLwin



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks at the electoral public awareness campaign in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

THE Ministry of Information initiated a nationwide public awareness campaign for the 2025 multiparty democratic election by cooperating with the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the region and state governments.

Yesterday, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presided over a campaign together with the artistes, including singers and the band of MRTV, at the city hall of PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Region.

At the event, the staff of IPRD distributed election pamphlets to the departmental staff, town elders, social welfare organizations, students and locals of PyinOoLwin district and townships.

Speaking at the occasion,

the Union minister said the locals of PyinOoLwin will know more about the important role of stability, peace and rule of law for the development of the region regarding certain issues, and the voters should voluntarily cast votes for those who can make efforts for the region in the coming multiparty democracy election to be held on 28 December.

He handed over 30 MRTV DTH receivers and 20 DVB-T2 set-top boxes to the PyinOoLwin District administrator for the district.

Artistes, students and singers performed, and the staff, students and locals happily participated in it.

Mandalay Region government and PyinOoLwin District

administrative officials presented cash prizes to the artistes.

The Union minister and party visited the National Kandawgyi Gardens in the same morning. The PyinOoLwin botanical garden stretches 436.36 acres, including over 70 acres of water, and it boasts natural trees, flora, resident flower species, Petrified Wood Museum, bridges along a mud forest, natural bird garden and butterfly museum.

The flower festival is held in the cold season yearly, and this year, the 18th flower festival is being held from 4 December 2025 to 6 January 2026. The festival features music concerts, and there are about 40,000 visitors on weekends and public holidays. — MNA/KTZH

Microfinance Supervisory Committee Meeting ...

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The Secretary of the Microfinance Supervisory Committee explained the progress of microfinance sector and the matters relating to approve the issuance of licences to two companies that have applied for a microfinance business license, to approve the granting of operating licences to microfinance companies to obtain domestic and foreign loans for the approval of the business expansion of microfinance companies, capital contributions, share contributions, and changes in the Board of Directors.

Afterwards, the committee explained that conducting quality building courses for

the development of the microfinance sector, difficulties encountered in collaboration with development partners and implementing microfinance activities, and the matters relating to meeting the needs of microfinance companies.

Finally, the committee discussed and recorded the decisions to allow one local company licensed to operate a microfinance business, one foreign company, two companies licensed to accept deposits, three companies granted permission to increase capital, two corporate life insurance agent permits, and four companies have been granted permission to expand their businesses. — MoFR

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Education Department of Higher Education

Announcement for enrolment registration of distance education courses

THE enrolment registration dates for first-year distance education courses at universities and degree colleges of the Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education will be from 29 December 2025 to 31 March 2026, whereas registration for all second-year and above courses will be from 4 February 2026 to 15 May 2026.

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education

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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

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



Agricultural Machinery Exhibition opens in Nay Pyi Taw to promote mechanized farming

THE opening ceremony of the Agricultural Machinery Exhibition, jointly organized by the Agricultural Mechanization Department and the Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Entrepreneurs Association, was held yesterday morning at the Agriculture and Livestock Institute (Pynmana) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Wah Wah Maung, U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Ko Ko Lwin and Dr Charlie Than, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Tun Oo, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, permanent secretaries, directors-general, agricultural machinery entrepreneurs, farmers, and other responsible personnel.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Director-General of Agricultural Mechanization Department U Kyaw Tun Aye and Chairman of the Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Entrepreneurs Association U Naing Oo officially opened the Agricultural Machinery Exhibition by cutting the ribbon.

The ceremony then continued, and Union Minister U Min Naung stated that approximately 70 per cent of Myanmar’s population lives in rural areas and is engaged, in one way or another, in agricultural activities. Therefore, to promote socioeconomic development for rural communities, the National Defence and Security Council has set out four key objectives, one of which is “to persistently strive for pro-



Union Ministers inspect agricultural machinery and farming equipment at yesterday’s Agricultural Machinery Exhibition opening.

moting the socioeconomic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector; the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State”.

He further explained that, in promoting the development of the agricultural sector, the State is prioritizing efforts to achieve target crop yields, enhance cropping intensity, ensure the correct application of seeds, soil, water and technology, systematically improve soil fertility, manage irrigation water efficiently, and develop post-harvest technologies. In this regard, the adoption of mechanized farming systems plays a vital role.

As the State continues to encourage and support the increased use of machinery in the agricultural sector, statistics indicate that, as of the

end of November 2025, farmers owned a total of 43,939 tractors, 462,627 power-tillers, 158 rice transplanters, 610 manual rice transplanters, 37,467 hand-held seeders, 13,211 combine harvesters, and 2,110 rice dryers.

Although Myanmar has already made reasonable use of machinery for land preparation and rice harvesting and threshing, the use of machinery in other stages of agricultural operations — such as crop planting, crop management, harvesting and threshing of crops other than rice, and crop drying — remains at an early stage. It is evident that, in order to achieve full mechanization, a substantial number of agricultural machines will still be required at every stage of farming operations.

The Agricultural Machinery Exhibition is being jointly

organized by the Agricultural Mechanization Department and the Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Entrepreneurs Association. The exhibition showcases a wide range of agricultural machinery used in farming activities, including tractors, combine harvesters, rice transplanters, seeders, bean harvesters, power-tillers, hand-held seeders, grass cutters, sprayers, engines, rice mills, solar-powered pumps, crop dryers, trailers, and tractor-mounted implements. Farmers will have the opportunity to study the machinery of their interest in detail. In addition, machinery demonstrations will be conducted, and services such as sales at affordable prices and instalment-based purchase options will also be provided for farmers, he said.

Thereafter, Director-General U Kyaw Tun Aye of the Ag-

ricultural Mechanization Department, and Chairman of the Association U Naing Oo gave briefings on the organization of the exhibition and ongoing activities.

Farmers Choice Tractor Co Ltd first donated two Sonalika tractors along with two trailers, Myanmar Empire Co Ltd donated one Belarus-manufactured tractor with one trailer, and Mandalay Shwe Thiha Co Ltd donated a Sonalika 90 HP tractor together with one locally manufactured front dozer to the Union minister. Certificates of honour were presented in return.

After the opening ceremony, Union ministers and responsible officials toured the exhibition halls showcasing agricultural machinery and observed live demonstrations of practical ploughing and cultivation using the equipment on display.

At the exhibition, more than 300 types of machinery, including various large tractors for land preparation, trailers, rice transplanters, seeders, weeders, sprayers, combine harvesters, straw balers, rice dryers, potato planters, potato harvesters, cassava planters, and maize harvesters, are being displayed and offered for sale through 30 exhibition booths operated by 22 companies from 22 to 24 December. Live demonstrations of operating, ploughing and cultivating with agricultural machinery will be conducted during the exhibition period. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Yangon Speciality Hospital performs 38th and 39th liver transplant surgeries

THE 38th liver transplant surgery was performed on a 49-year-old male patient suffering from liver disease and his 39-year-old sister donor, at the Speciality Hospital (500-bed) in Yangon on 20 December 2025. This was followed by the 39th liver transplant surgery on 21 December, involving a 58-year-old female liver patient and her 25-year-old son, who served as the donor.

Following the operations, the patients and the donors were placed in the intensive care unit, where the necessary post-operative care is being continuously provided by professors, specialists and experienced nursing staff.

The liver transplant surgeries were carried out through the collective efforts of multiple specialist teams: the team led by Professor Dr Min Zaw Oo, Head of Department (Clinical);



This photo captures a liver transplant surgery at Yangon's 500-bed Speciality Hospital.

the liver surgery team led by Professor Dr Sai Aung Nyunt Oo; the hepatology team led by Professor Dr Win Win Swe; the anaesthesiology team led

by Professor Dr Mu Mu Naing; the cardiothoracic and vascular surgery team led by Professor Dr Win Win Kyaw; the diagnostic services team led by Deputy

Director-General (Laboratory) Dr Swe Sett; the radiology team led by Professor Dr Aung Cho Htun; the blood and blood products support team led by Depu-

ty Director-General (National Blood Centre) Dr L Htoo Phay; as well as Dr Ei Thandar Htwe, the medical superintendent of the Speciality Hospital (500-bed) in Yangon, together with nursing teams, skilled personnel and support staff. In addition, Professor Kwang Woong Lee from Seoul National University Hospital of the Republic of Korea collaborated in the procedures.

Domestic liver transplant surgeries enable the public to access essential treatment more readily, reduce the financial burden of seeking treatment abroad, improve service delivery in public hospitals, and lower out-of-pocket health-care expenses for individuals.

Arrangements are also being made to ensure that liver transplant procedures can continue to be carried out regularly. — MNA/MKKS

FSD conducts high-rise emergency response drill in Yangon Region

INTENDING to enable swift, real-time responses to natural disasters and fires in high-rise buildings within Yangon Region, the Fire Services Department, in collaboration with Mandalay Golden Wing Construction Limited, conducted a simulated emergency response drill at the Diamond Inya Palace on U Htun Nye-in Road, Ward 10, Mayangon Township, at 1.30 pm on 22 December.

The drill was carried out under the guidance of the Director-General of the Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and led by Director U Min San Aye from the Yangon Region Fire Services Department. A total of 116 members of fire-fighting and search-and-rescue teams took part, deploying modern, advanced vehicles manufactured in Poland for high-rise fire-fighting and rescue operations. These included two 48-metre hydraulic platform vehicles, two medium



Fire Services Department personnel are seen participating in the simulated emergency response drill on 22 December 2025.

fire-fighting and rescue vehicles, two water bowsers, two ambulances, two LUF 60 units and two LUF NANO units.

During the exercise, fire-fighting and search-and-rescue personnel entered a simulated fire-affected room in a high-rise building using a fireman's lift. Fire suppression was carried out with the use

of a 48-metre hydraulic platform vehicle, while individuals trapped inside the building were rescued and evacuated to safety. Casualties were given first aid by the Fire Services Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team and subsequently transported by ambulance to nearby hospitals and clinics. — Bala/MKKS

MCEF to hold blood donation ceremonies to mark Pearl Jubilee

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) will organize a blood donation ceremony in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw on the Independence Day that falls on 4 January 2026, in commemoration of its 30th anniversary.

Founded in 1996, the MCEF said the blood donation in commemoration of the Pearl Jubilee has been scheduled at the MCEF head office in Yangon from 8 am to 1 pm and at the 1,000-bed hospital in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 am to 2 pm.

It has called on members, engineers, construction material traders and the public to participate in the blood donation.

Those who wish to donate blood can contact the phone numbers of the Yangon MCEF head office located at the corner of Thanthuma Road and Waizayanta Road in Thingangyun Township, 09 893217109 and 09 66028200, Viber 09 893217109, and the Nay Pyi Taw branch, 09 254454656. — MT/ZS



This image captures the MCEF's blood donation ceremony in its commemoration of the Pearl Jubilee.

Union based on democracy and federalism must reflect political dialogue outcomes

❖ “The essence of the NCA is to prioritize Our Three Main National Causes and, in accordance with the union spirit based on freedom, equality, and justice, to build a democratic and federal union that fully guarantees democracy, national equality, and the rights of self-determination, in line with the outcomes of political dialogue.”

(An excerpt from the opening speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2025)

Yangon palm oil reference price set four-week low

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market showed a steady decline of K230 per viss in the past four weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The palm oil reference prices were K6,280 per viss recorded from 5 to 11 December, K6,140 for 12 to 18 December, K6,115 for 19-25 December and K6,050 for 19 to 25 December.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely monitoring the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high.



Imported palm oil jerry cans are seen in stacks for distribution.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of

lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers

not to buy palm oil at high prices. The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to at-

tempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. Complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported annually from Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

MyanTrade seeks avocado export protocol with China

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade) has been exerting efforts to sign an avocado export protocol with China.

MyanTrade aims to commence avocado export to China in accordance with the import standards of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) in the 2026-2027 financial year.

As avocado is still not listed on those 18 groups that require GACC registration, exporters can directly seek a permit by accessing the China International Trade Single Window with their own accounts.

The Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported



This image captures high-grade avocados that are designated for exportation.

grains (unroasted coffee bean, cocoa beans, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, plant seasonings (plant spices), edible grain, dried beans, oil seeds (oil plant) and herbal animal products and plants for their origins. GACC does not allow companies and business entities to register those agricultural items, and only the authori-

ties concerned are entitled to apply for it. Products must not exceed the maximum residue limit to comply with the rules of the importing companies. Myanmar shipped only 3,000 tonnes of avocado to foreign trade partners, mainly to Thailand. This year's avocado export target swells to 5,000 tonnes. — ASH/KK

Myanmar developers invited for repair of post-quake buildings in 5 areas

MYANMAR developers are invited to submit an open tender for major repair of the schools, office buildings and staff housing in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Bago Region, Shan State (South) and Nay Pyi Taw that are damaged by the Mandalay Earthquake with the use of capital fund allocated for the 2025-2026 financial year,

according to the Tender Accepting and Evaluating Committee.

The tender form is available at the Ministry of Education (Office 13) in Nay Pyi Taw by 30 December. Individuals can enquire about details of the tender through contact numbers 067 3407687, 067 3407694, and 067 3407115. — NN/KK

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OPINION

Provide reliable healthcare to people with traditional medicines

TRADITIONAL Myanmar medicine has flourished through successive eras. It was a system of medicine that various ethnic groups living within Myanmar relied on and trusted. Similarly, in countries around the world, traditional medicines and healing practices – developed according to their local water, soil, climate, and cultural customs – also represent the cultural heritage of each ethnic group.

The refined and profound traditional medicine practices, treatments, invaluable medical texts, and highly effective medicines that have developed over many years on Myanmar's land and waters must be collected and preserved. Through the combined efforts of traditional medicine practitioners, these resources should be nurtured and maintained as a national heritage of medicine, ensuring that

Myanmar's traditional medical knowledge continues to thrive.

To preserve and promote Myanmar's traditional medicine and medicines and to provide the public with better healthcare through traditional medicine, the Traditional Medicine University has been producing new generations of traditional medicine practitioners annually. Currently, to develop traditional medicine in line with modern times and to produce more highly skilled traditional medicine specialists, the first-ever doctoral programme in traditional medicine was launched in the 2025 academic year.

While working to advance traditional medicine, efforts are also being made to explore treatment-related medical fields connected to traditional medicine, so that accurate and effective care can be provided

for public health through practical training. For example, research and development are being conducted to identify effective methods of treating difficult diseases, such as cancer, liver diseases, and other hard-to-treat illnesses, using Myanmar's traditional medicines. To enhance the treatment capabilities of traditional medicine, the physiotherapy courses were conducted in July and August 2025 at each traditional medicine hospital (100-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

Since Myanmar is a member of ASEAN, it participates collaboratively with other member countries across various sectors, including the traditional medicine sector. If Myanmar's traditional medicine production can be developed not only at the domestic industrial level but also regionally and internationally with increased output, high-quality production, and advanced packaging, it can boost the national economy and improve the socioeconomic well-being of the public. Moreover, it is necessary to effectively prevent the dishonest practices harming the reputation and integrity of traditional medicine.

As experts, traditional Myanmar medicine practitioners and specialists from related organizations must continuously strive to develop Myanmar's traditional medicine and medicines so that they can provide the public with effective and reliable healthcare. That is why efforts should be made to introduce powerful traditional medicines and effective treatment methods to the international community.

SPORT is more than a competition; it is a symbol of unity, cultural identity, and national dignity. For every nation, and for every athlete who stands on the field, sports serve as a reflection of discipline, perseverance, and collective spirit. Well-established principles of fairness, respect, and integrity guide international athletic events, ensuring that all nations — large or small — participate on equal footing. As one widely recognized saying reminds us, **"Sportsmanship uplifts the spirit of a nation and preserves its honour."**

In the same spirit, Myanmar's participation in the XXXIII SEA Games, hosted in Thailand, has become an important moment of national pride. Competing on an international stage allows Myanmar not only to display its athletic abilities but also to reinforce the values that define the country — unity, determination, and resilience.

The 33rd SEA Games in Thailand

This year, Thailand organized the 33rd South-East Asia Games across major sports venues in Bangkok and other designated host cities. The grand opening ceremony took place on 9 December in Bangkok's Rajamangala Stadium, marking the beginning of a multi-sport event that lasted until 20 December.

More than 9,300 athletes from Asian nations participated, competing in over 50 sports disciplines, ranging from athletics, swimming, and martial arts to emerging sports and team competitions. All competitors — from renowned champions to young rising athletes — had the chance

Myanmar's Commitment to Sportsmanship and National Pride at the 33rd SEA Games

By Ms Monn



Myanmar athletes are seen during the closing ceremony of the XXXIII South-East Asia Games (SEA Games) at Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok on 20 December 2025.



Fireworks are seen during the closing ceremony of the XXXIII South-East Asia Games (SEA Games) at Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok on 20 December 2025. PHOTO: SEAGAMES2025

to showcase their nations' excellence and commitment to sporting values.

Myanmar actively joined this international event, sending athletes to compete in 38 sports. For the athletes, wearing Myanmar's national colours and competing among thousands of international participants is both an honour and a responsibility. Each discipline demands not only skill but also commitment to represent the country with dignity.

Myanmar's Past Achievements and the Road to Improvement

At the 32nd SEA Games, Myanmar competed in 19 sports and

earned a total of 114 medals, including 21 golds, 25 silvers, and 68 bronzes. These achievements were the result of the hard work of athletes, coaches, and sports organizations across the country. The medal results brought pride to the nation and demonstrated Myanmar's potential in regional competitions.

Although the 33rd SEA Games present challenges far greater than regional events like the SEA Games, Myanmar's participation signals continuous growth. Facing stronger competitors provides opportunities for learning, improving athletic performance, and raising the standards of national sports development.

Every medal earned — whether gold, silver, or bronze — carries significant meaning. It reflects the perseverance of the athletes and the support of millions of citizens cheering from home. Even in events where Myanmar does not secure a medal, participation itself is meaningful, as it contributes to long-term progress and international exposure.

Sports as a Pillar of National Strength

For Myanmar, sports carry deep symbolic value. To many citizens, athletic success represents far more than personal accomplishment; it is viewed as a form of service to the nation. Athletes

who stand on international stages embody the courage, unity, and determination of the Myanmar people.

Participation in the SEA Games is not solely about winning medals; it is about showing the world the strength and spirit of Myanmar's youth. Just as importantly, it reinforces national unity, inspires future athletes, and boosts the morale of citizens across the nation.

Sports also play a role in strengthening Myanmar's international relationships. Through competition, countries build mutual respect and promote peaceful cooperation. In this way, sports function as a form

of diplomacy, allowing nations to connect through shared values and human excellence.

The Spirit of Sportsmanship

Myanmar places great emphasis on the spirit of fair play. True sportsmanship is not measured only by victory but also by how athletes conduct themselves — with humility in winning and dignity in defeat. It is rooted in discipline, teamwork, respect for opponents, and unwavering dedication to improvement.

Myanmar's concept of **"Zwe, Lonela, and Wiriya"** — discipline, perseverance, and noble effort — perfectly aligns with international values of sports-

manship. These qualities guide Myanmar's athletes as they compete, reminding them that every step they take on foreign soil is a step taken on behalf of the entire nation. In this year's SEA Games, Myanmar's delegates demonstrated these values with sincerity and strength. Despite facing countries with larger populations and advanced sports infrastructures, Myanmar's athletes never wavered in their commitment to compete honourably and wholeheartedly.

Opportunities and Future Potential

The 33rd SEA Games presents Myanmar with several growth opportunities. International competition exposes athletes to high-level training methods, advanced sports science, and new strategic approaches used by top athletes worldwide. Learning from these experiences helps Myanmar's sports programs adjust and strengthen for future events.

Moreover, increased participation in international competitions encourages younger generations to pursue sports. When children and teenagers witness Myanmar's athletes representing the country with pride, they are inspired to dream of becoming future competitors. This passion is essential for building a strong, sustainable sports culture.

For the national sports community, each international

event is a chance to reflect on progress and identify areas for improvement — training facilities, coaching programmes, mental preparation, nutrition, and injury prevention. With the right investment and guidance, Myanmar's potential for athletic achievement can grow significantly in the coming years.

A Celebration of National Identity

The SEA Games not only test physical ability but also highlight the identity and unity of participating nations. For Myanmar, the event represents a chance to demonstrate national dignity on an international stage. Every athlete who enters the competition arena carries the trust and pride of the Myanmar people. The participation of Myanmar's athletes in the 33rd SEA Games shows the country's readiness to stand alongside other Asian nations with confidence and determination. It reinforces the belief that Myanmar's youth are capable, courageous, and committed to representing their homeland with honour.

The 33rd SEA Games stand as a powerful reminder of the importance of sports in shaping national pride and international understanding. Myanmar's participation, achievements, and perseverance exemplify the true meaning of sportsmanship.

In brief, through discipline, unity, and unwavering effort, Myanmar continues to build a strong foundation for future athletic success. The athletes who represented the nation at this year's event have not only competed on behalf of Myanmar but also have carried forward the spirit, dignity, and hope of an entire people.



An employee of Air Liquide in front of an electrolyzer at the company's future hydrogen production facility of renewable hydrogen in Oberhausen, Germany, on 2 May. PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER/AFF/FILE

HYDROGEN has long been touted as a possible solution to the climate crisis, but it could also be a small part of the problem, a study warned.

Advocates of hydrogen hope it can be produced and used on a large scale in transport and heavy industries in the future, providing a clean alternative to fossil fuels as it only emits water vapours.

But the research published in the journal Nature found that hydrogen has played a part in

Hydrogen plays part in global warming: study

Hydrogen emissions increased from 1990 to 2020, adding about 0.02°C to the 1.5°C rise in average temperatures since pre-industrial times.

rising temperatures by helping methane, a potent greenhouse gas, stay longer in the atmosphere.

Emissions of hydrogen rose between 1990 and 2020, contributing a fraction of a degree — or 0.02C — to the nearly 1.5C in-

crease in average temperatures since the pre-industrial period, the research found.

"We need a deeper understanding of the global hydrogen cycle and its links to global warming to support a climate-safe and sustainable hydrogen economy,"

said Stanford University scientist Rob Jackson, the paper's senior author.

The study, by an international consortium of scientists known as the Global Carbon Project, found that the increase in hydrogen emissions is mostly due to

human activity. Its rise is linked to the increase in methane emitted by fossil fuels, livestock and landfills, the researchers said.

The two molecules are intertwined: methane produces hydrogen when it breaks down in the atmosphere.

While hydrogen itself is not a pollutant, it indirectly contributes to warming by absorbing natural detergents that destroy methane, a potent greenhouse gas that has a shorter lifespan than carbon dioxide.

"More hydrogen means fewer detergents in the atmosphere, causing methane to persist longer and, therefore, warm the climate longer," said the study's lead author, Zutao Ouyang, an assistant professor at Auburn University in Alabama.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw regains Ayeyawady Bridge linking Mandalay's Singu and Sagaing's Kyaukmyaung

TATMADAW has been carrying out counter-terrorism operations aimed at reoccupying towns and villages temporarily controlled by terrorists. It successfully recaptured Singu and the surrounding areas in Mandalay Region on 19 December.

During the period when the PDF terrorists temporarily occupied these areas, they occupied religious buildings, schools, departmental buildings, hospitals, and houses within towns and villages, constructing bunkers and using civilian homes as defensive shields while launching attacks, and they also destroyed the main roads and bridges. On 29 October, they exploded the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinkha), a vital bridge connecting Singu Township in



Tatmadaw troops reoccupy the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinkha), temporarily held and later exploded by PDF terrorists.

Mandalay Region with Kyaukmyaung in Sagaing Region,

which is essential for public transportation and the flow of

goods. Due to the explosion, serious damage occurred be-

tween RP 4 and RP5, and the approach road RP6-A2 of the bridge. Therefore, vehicles and people were no longer able to cross the bridge, and the transportation of goods came to a halt.

Tatmadaw conducted security measures in the vicinity of the bridge to repair the bridge, and regained control over Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinkha) and its vicinity areas yesterday. Once the bridge repairs are completed, transportation and trade within the region are expected to improve, allowing regional development activities to resume. Locals are also satisfied with these measures, and Tatmadaw will continue to carry out necessary security operations. — MNA/KTZH

Myawady demolishes 488 online scam hubs, seals more buildings

THE government continues to conduct joint operations in the Shwe Kokko and the KK Park areas, where suspects commit telecom fraud and online gambling activities. The combined teams comprising security personnel and administrative bodies are involved in these operations, which include entering the areas, dismantling and removing illegal buildings, and taking further action in accordance with the law.

Yesterday, the authorities demolished three four-storey illegal buildings in Section 3 of KK Park, and a total of 488

buildings out of 635 illegal buildings have so far been demolished in the KK Park area.

To destroy the illegal buildings within the KK Park area, these buildings were demolished using machinery and explosive devices starting from 14 December, and as of today, 36 two-storey buildings have been totally destroyed.

The combined team conducted searching operations in Myawady and its vicinity area starting 8 December, and found further 19 illegal buildings used for online gambling, and sealed 12 buildings out of 464 buildings

yesterday.

To prevent future reuse of the materials in online scams and gambling activities in KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas, the seized materials were incinerated systematically.

The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes as a national responsibility and, to ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar, will continue its efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH



Images show the ongoing demolition measures in KK Park Section 3, Myawady.

Compensation paid to family of traffic accident victim in Thailand



Compensation for the victim of the road accident transferred to his wife.

FOR U Htay Than, who passed away in a traffic accident at Songkhla province, Thailand, compensation worth one million baht was transferred to his wife, Daw Yin Yin Aye, on 22 December, according to the Labour Attaché Office in Bangkok.

The office has worked on dealing with labour issues for Myanmar migrant workers, including their difficulties and losses.

Therefore, Myanmar migrant workers are advised to contact the telephone numbers of the Labour Offices during office hours if their rights are

violated. More information can be obtained from its call centre via 020030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok) at 06 18108454, Labour Officer (Bangkok) at 06 52206952, Labour Attaché (Mae Sot): 06 52206953, Labour Officer (Chang Mai) at 09 45866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong) at 06 34818121.

The Ministry of Labour said on 18 December that Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries can ask for help from phone numbers and email addresses of labour attaché offices if they is some difficulty, they faced abroad. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Space Museum (Yangon) crowded with visitors; opening hours extended for weekends, holidays

THE Space Museum (Yangon), located within the People's Park in Dagon Township, Yangon, is bustling with visitors, and the site is so crowded that people have to wait in long queues to purchase tickets, according to the visitors.

The museum was created by upgrading the former planetarium, and since its opening, it has garnered significant public interest, drawing large crowds of students, adults, and youths alike.

One visitor shared her experience: "We have been queuing for tickets since 8 am, and there were many people ahead of us. Since it's a school holiday, many families with children came. There is a lot of interest, and it is very crowded. By 9 am, the ticket line is already very long."

Tickets are sold for 300 people per session, and the admis-



Visitors are pictured at the Space Museum (Yangon) on 21 December.

sion fees are K500 for monks, nuns, and students, K1,500 for adults over 12, K1,000 for children under 12, and K5,000 for foreigners.

Visitors can explore the Go To Analogue Planetarium Projection System established in

1987 under the Myanmar-Japan friendship programme, the Deep Space Exploration gallery, space stations and spacesuits, an astronomy timeline, international rockets and satellites, and rocket launch VR simulations. The Digital Planetarium Projection



System features 'From Earth to the Universe' on Tuesday, 'Big Astronomer' on Wednesday, 'Out There' on Thursday, 'Dark Matter' on Friday, 'Hot Energetic Universe' on Saturday, and 'The Sun, Our Living Star' on Sunday.

Initially, the museum was

open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. Due to the large number of visitors, the hours have been extended for Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays from 8 am to noon and from 1 pm to 5 pm.

— MT/ZN

Light from Fate to hit Myanmar cinemas in Jan 2026



This image showcases a poster for the Myanmar feature film 'Mapyole Naing Thaw Hnalonetharmyar'.

THE Myanmar feature film titled 'Mapyole Naing Thaw Hnalonetharmyar' (Light from Fate), which portrays the lives of people affected by an earthquake and the heroism of rescue workers, will be released in cinemas in early January 2026, according

to Thaw Zin, the film's director.

The story and screenplay of the film were written by Hnyun, with Nick Ryan serving as advisory director and Thant Zin as assistant director. Director Thaw Zin took overall responsibility for the production on behalf of Bellaire Production and Living Myanmar Media Production.

The film depicts the struggle between the adversities of fate that destroyed lives painstakingly built and the unbreakable human spirit that refuses to collapse. It portrays the lives of people who experienced the earthquake and the heroism of rescue workers," said director Thaw Zin.

The film stars Phyo Ngwe Soe, Nay Min, Academy Min Oo, Yadana Bo, Academy Cho Pyone, Zaw Win Naing (Mann), Ko Hein, and child actors Nyein Su Wai, Shin Pyone Khin and Thar Chaw, along with many other artistes. — ASH/MKKS

Affordable express buses to ply Yangon-Muse route from Jan 2026

ACCORDING to U Soe Hla Myint of the Htaik Thu Pan low-cost express bus service, low-cost express bus routes connecting Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Taunggyi-Lashio-Muse will begin operating from January 2026.

Under the Htaik Thu Pan low-cost express bus service, operations will commence around 20 January 2026 with ten express buses,



Express buses operated by the Htaik Thu Pan low-cost express bus service.

each capable of carrying 45 long-distance passengers. The number of express buses will be increased in line with passenger demand.

"Through the Htaik Thu Pan traditional medicine enterprise, we have, for more than five years, been actively engaged in charitable activities in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. These include providing daily meals and

free food offerings to underprivileged households facing difficulties, opening free clinics and providing medical treatment, offering free vocational training to help people gain employment opportunities, and donating school supplies to students at the start of the school year. In addition, profits generated from the Htaik Thu Pan traditional medicine business have been reinvested in charitable works, and likewise, a portion of the profits to be earned from the operation of this low-cost express bus service will also be allocated to charitable activities," said U Soe Hla Myint of the low-cost express bus service.

Passengers will be able to purchase bus tickets easily at relevant terminals, as well as online at any time, as arrangements have been made to facilitate this. — ASH/KNN

ECONOMY WORLD

New Zealand says agreed free trade deal with India

NEW Zealand said Monday it had agreed a wide-ranging free-trade deal with India that eliminates tariffs on 95 per cent of the Pacific country's exports, but the government's coalition partner labelled it a bad agreement.

Trade and investment minister Todd McClay said the deal, which comes into effect in the first half of next year, gave unprecedented access to India's 1.4 billion consumers.

"This once-in-a-generation agreement creates opportunities New Zealand exporters have never had in India," McClay said, adding that it "will deliver thousands of jobs and billions in additional exports".

New Zealand's conservative National Party-led coalition government made a promise in 2024 that it would negotiate a deal with India, after the previous, left-leaning Labour administra-



In this handout photograph taken on 17 March 2025 and released by the Indian Press Information Bureau (PIB), India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (front L) walks alongside his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon during their visit to the Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in New Delhi. **PHOTO: PIB / AFP**

tion was unable to get one across the line.

However, Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters, the leader of coalition partner New Zealand First, warned the pact was "neither free nor fair".

"Regrettably, this is a bad deal for New Zealand. It gives too much away, especially on immigration, and does not get enough in return for New Zealanders, including on dairy."

The deal simplifies entry to New Zealand for some Indian workers, including 1,667 temporary work visas each year for the information and communications technology sector, engineering and some health services.

It also includes a working holiday scheme allowing up to 1,000 people aged 18-30, and allows Indian students to work for up to 20 hours a week. — AFP

McDonald's expands presence to all provincial regions of Chinese mainland

FAST-FOOD giant McDonald's opened its first restaurants in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province this weekend, extending the brand's presence to all provincial-level regions of the Chinese mainland.

On Saturday, McDonald's announced its entry into Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia, with the opening of three restaurants in the city's core

business districts. The first McDonald's store in Qinghai opened on Sunday in the Haihu New District of Xining, the provincial capital. The drive-through restaurant spans a total floor area of over 700 square metres and has more than 200 seats.

McDonald's officially entered the Chinese mainland market in October 1990, opening its first restaurant

in Shenzhen in the southern Guangdong Province. In 2017, the company entered a strategic partnership with CITIC Limited, CITIC Capital and the Carlyle Group. Data from McDonald's China shows that as of November 2025, McDonald's had opened over 7,500 restaurants in more than 280 prefecture-level cities on the Chinese mainland, employing over 200,000 people. — Xinhua



Customers dine at the first McDonald's restaurant in northwest China's Qinghai Province located in the Haihu New District of Xining, the provincial capital, 21 December 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Vietnam's digital technology industry contributes US\$41 bln to GDP in 2025

VIETNAM'S digital technology industry is estimated to contribute more than 1 quadrillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$41 billion) to the country's gross domestic product in 2025, local daily VnEconomy reported Monday, citing the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The total revenue of the industry this year is projected at US\$198 billion, up 26 per cent

from 2024 and 16 per cent higher than the annual target, the report said.

Exports of hardware and electronic products are estimated at \$178 billion, posting a strong growth of 35 per cent compared with 2024 and fulfilling 112 per cent of the annual plan, maintaining their position as one of the country's key export pillars. — Xinhua

Japan convenience store sales up 2.4% in Nov on Black Friday promotions

CONVENIENCE store sales in Japan rose 2.4 per cent in November from a year earlier, helped by Black Friday promotions even as consumers grappled with rising living costs, an industry body said Monday.

Same-store sales at seven major convenience store operators totalled 950.95 billion yen (\$6 billion), marking a ninth straight

monthly increase, according to the Japan Franchise Association.

Black Friday, which follows Thanksgiving and is known in the United States as the busiest shopping period of the year, has been spreading to Japan, with many convenience stores marketing black-themed foods or offering significant discounts. — Kyodo

Chinese investments support Egypt's industrial localization amid deepening ties

GROWING Chinese investments in Egypt are helping the Arab country reshape its industrial landscape, shifting the focus from trade dependence towards localized, export-oriented manu-

facturing, amid deepening bilateral ties.

In recent years, Chinese investment in Egypt has increasingly taken the form of factory-based projects and industrial expansions, supporting

Cairo's drive to localize production, strengthen value-added industries, and position itself as a regional manufacturing hub amid global trade uncertainties.

Egyptian business

circles view this shift as a key indicator of the growing depth of the Egypt-China comprehensive strategic partnership.

"Egypt seeks localization of industry. Some countries invest in Egypt

by buying factories, which is an ownership transfer, not a real investment, but China comes to build real factories", said Mostafa Ibrahim, vice chairman of the China committee at the Egyptian Business-

men's Association.

Ibrahim added that the expansion of Chinese projects in Egypt reflects the current strength of bilateral economic and political ties, which are "at their best". — Xinhua

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Mac Chem (Asia) Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Reg. Type	Reg. Number
1	Mega Bishop	Shwe Myae Luu	Thiophanate-methyl 50% + Thiram 30% WP	Full	F 2021-3061

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: **Mega Grow International Co., Ltd.** No. 216/222, 9 - FLOOR, B8-C8, Maharbandula Road and 49 street corner, Bo Myat Tun Housing, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region. PH: 01-3551203.

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Reg. Type	Reg. Number
1	Hopper Star	ZaBu	Nitenpyram 15% + Pymetrozine 45% WG	Full	F 2023-2315

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: **Golden Key Co., Ltd.** No. 258/262, 11th FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. PH: 01371629

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V V PEGASUS VOY.NO. (TP2505)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V V PEGASUS VOY.NO. (TP2505)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILSELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. (SCY1193)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1193)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25044)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25044)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (16N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (16N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ITHACA VOY.NO. (0102N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ITHACA VOY. NO. (0102N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MANINA VOY.NO. (010)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MANINA VOY.NO. (010)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILSELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Clashing Cambodia, Thailand agree to border talks after ASEAN meet



This photo shows the venue of the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22 December 2025. The Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to address the Thai-Cambodia conflict was held on Monday in Kuala Lumpur, as the regional grouping seeks to promote de-escalation. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CAMBODIA and Thailand agreed Monday to hold border talks this week, after a regional meeting in Malaysia aimed at halting deadly clashes between the Southeast Asian neighbours.

Renewed fighting this month, which shattered a previous truce, has killed at least 23 people in Thailand and 20 in Cambodia, and displaced more than 900,000 on both sides, officials said.

Thailand's Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow announced the planned bilateral parley after a meeting with his counterparts from

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Cambodia is also a member.

He told reporters in Kuala Lumpur that the discussion would be held Wednesday in southern Thailand's Chanthaburi within the framework of an existing bilateral border committee.

The Thai foreign ministry said in a statement that the committee would be convened for both nations' militaries to "discuss implementation, related steps and verification of the ceasefire in detail".

Cambodia's interior min-

istry, noting preparations for Wednesday's meeting, said it welcomed the regional efforts to sustain a truce and end hostilities.

"We remain optimistic that the Thai side will demonstrate sincerity in fully implementing the ceasefire in line with ASEAN's objectives," it said in a statement.

Thailand's Sihasak, however, cautioned that the upcoming meeting may not immediately produce a truce.

"Our position is a ceasefire does not come with an announcement, but must come from actions," he said. — AFP

Researchers discover protein protecting brain from ageing damage

A team of researchers from Israel, Russia, the Czech Republic and Belgium has discovered how an enzyme protein called SIRT6 protects the brain from damage that occurs with ageing, Israel's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev said in a statement on Sunday.

The study, published in *Nature Communications*, showed that SIRT6 controls the way the brain uses tryptophan, an important substance that helps produce energy and key chemicals like serotonin and melatonin.

Tryptophan is often called a "sleep molecule", but it also plays a role in mood, learning, and brain health. In ageing and certain brain diseases, the balance of tryptophan use is disrupted. This can reduce the production of serotonin and me-

latonin while increasing harmful byproducts that are toxic to nerve cells.

The researchers used models in human cells, mice, and fruit flies to study this process. When SIRT6 levels drop, tryptophan is used more for energy production, creating toxic compounds and leaving the brain without enough protective neurotransmitters.

The study also found a way to reverse this damage. In fruit flies lacking SIRT6, blocking another enzyme called TDO2 reduced the harmful byproducts, protected brain tissue, and improved movement.

These findings suggest new possibilities for treating age-related brain disorders, sleep problems, and mood changes, the researchers said. — Xinhua

Russia tests new engine for Su-57 fighter jet

RUSSIA has begun flight tests of a new aircraft engine, known as "Product 177", installed on its fifth-generation Su-57 fighter jet, Russia's state-owned aviation giant Rostec announced on its Telegram channel Monday.

The first test flight was carried out as planned and in full compliance with the assigned flight mission, it said.

The "Product 177" engine delivers a maximum afterburner thrust of 16,000 kilogramme-force, while featuring reduced fuel consumption across all operating modes and an extended service life.

The Su-57 is a multirole fighter designed to carry out a wide range of combat missions. — Xinhua

Hiroshima urges Japan govt maintain no-nuke policy in written opinion

THE Hiroshima prefectural assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a statement urging the Japanese government to adhere to the country's non-nuclear principles and work towards a nuclear-free world, after a security official recently suggested the country should possess nuclear weapons for its defence.

In the written opinion, the assembly cited local concerns about reviewing the so-called three principles prohibiting the possession, production, or permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party moves to

update the country's key national security documents by the end of next year. "It is our duty, as the only country to have suffered atomic bombings, to continue striving toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons," the statement said. "The disaster brought upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80 years ago should never be repeated." It is the first written opinion by the prefectural or city assemblies of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, both devastated by US atomic bombs towards the end of the war in 1945, regarding the country's reconsideration of the non-nuclear principles. — Kyodo



The Hiroshima prefectural assembly approves a written opinion urging the Japanese government to adhere to its non-nuclear principles in Hiroshima, western Japan on 22 December 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORTS

ASEAN football body to draw lots for ASEAN Cup on 15 Jan 2026

THE ASEAN Cup, the highest-profile event for the Southeast Asian national football teams, will be drawn into groups in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 15 January 2026.

The ASEAN Cup, which began in 1996, will celebrate its 30th anniversary in the upcoming tournament and will be held for the first time with a new sponsor and will be called the ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026.

The ASEAN Football Federation will hold the tournament in a format with five teams par-

ticipating and divided into two groups. According to the ASEAN Football Federation, nine teams – Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam (defending champion) – will play final group matches. The two lowest-ranked teams, namely Brunei and Timor-Leste, have to face each other in the play-off round to compete for the remaining official participation. Each participating team will play four group games: two home matches and two away



ASEAN Football Federation will hold the ASEAN Hyundai Cup. PHOTO: AFF

matches.

The tournament will take place from 24 July to 26 August 2026. The Myanmar team has never reached the final of the tournament and has only

reached the semifinals of the tourney in 2004 and 2016.

The ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 was formerly named the Tiger Cup, ASEAN Championship and ASEAN Suzuki Cup Cham-

ampionship, respectively. Thailand has won the championship title seven times, while Singapore has grabbed the title four times, Vietnam three times and Malaysia once. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Morocco beats Comoros in AFCON 2025 opener



Ayoub El Kaabi (1st L) of Morocco celebrates with teammates after scoring during the opening match of the Africa Cup of Nations 2025 between Morocco and Comoros in Rabat, Morocco, 21 December 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

HOST Morocco opened the Africa Cup of Nations 2025 with a 2-0 win over Comoros at Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium on Sunday.

Second-half goals from Brahim Diaz and Ayoub El Kaabi gave Morocco a controlled start

and sent it top of Group A ahead of the meeting between Mali and Zambia.

The 24-team tournament is being played across nine stadiums in six Moroccan cities: Rabat, Casablanca, Tangier, Agadir, Fes and Marrakech. — Xinhua

Neymar set for knee surgery

NEYMAR will undergo keyhole surgery on Monday to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee, according to widespread media reports.

The 33-year-old Santos forward posted a photo on social media on Sunday in which he is seen lying on a hospital bed in the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte.

Reports said Brazil national

team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar would carry out the procedure, which is expected to require a recovery period of around four weeks.

Earlier this month, Neymar revealed he had played the latter half of the 2025 Brazilian season carrying the injury but decided to play through pain to help Santos avoid relegation. — Xinhua

Amorim fears United captain Fernandes will be out 'a while'

RUBEN Amorim fears Bruno Fernandes will be out for "a while" after the Manchester United captain was injured during Sunday's 2-1 defeat against Aston Villa.

Fernandes has started every Premier League game this season, but the Portugal midfielder is unlikely to extend that run any further following his injury setback at Villa Park.

The 31-year-old initially played on after pulling up with what appeared to be a hamstring issue just before the break, but he did not return for the second half.

Amorim ruled his influential star out of the Boxing Day clash against Newcastle, with severe doubts about his availability for the rest of the Christmas and New Year schedule.

"It's a soft tissue. I think he's going to lose some games. I don't know for sure, so let's see," Amorim said.

"You never control these things, so we'll see. He is a guy who is always fit so he can recover quite well, but I don't know."

Fernandes' fitness blow compounded Amorim's injury problems, with England midfielder Kobbie Mainoo missing the Villa game due to a calf issue.



Aston Villa's French midfielder (44) Boubacar Kamara (R) fouls Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder (8) Bruno Fernandes (L) during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Manchester United at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on 21 December 2025. PHOTO: AFP

The 20-year-old had dominated the build-up to Sunday's game after his half-brother wore a 'Free Kobbie Mainoo' t-shirt to Monday's 4-4 draw with Bournemouth at Old Trafford.

Mainoo would have been in contention to make his first Premier League start of the season against Newcastle, but instead he is set to miss out.

"I will see what we are going to do," Amorim said. "I think Kobbie Mainoo is out, Bruno is out, so we will see. We are going to find solutions. No excuses.

"We need to win the next game and we will try to win the

next game."

While Casemiro will return from suspension against Newcastle, Bryan Mbeumo, Amad Diallo and Noussair Mazraoui are at the Africa Cup of Nations and Matthijs de Ligt and Harry Maguire are also sidelined.

United's selection crisis has raised questions about the potential for new signings during the January transfer window, but Amorim won't panic.

"We need to deal with that," he said. "What we cannot do is to reach January and try to do everything in urgency and make mistakes and then 'here we go again' with a lot of mistakes. — AFP



THE fragile global legal framework for nuclear weapons control faces further setbacks in 2026, eroding guardrails to avoid a nuclear crisis.

The first half of the year will see two key events: the US-Russia bilateral treaty, New START, expires on 5 February, and in April, New York hosts the Review Conference (RevCon) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – the cornerstone of global nuclear security frameworks.

The RevCon, held every four to five years, is meant to keep the NPT alive. But during the last two sessions, the 191 signatory states failed to agree on a final document, and experts expect the same outcome in April.

“I think this is going to be a difficult RevCon,” said Alexandra Bell, head of US-based global security nonprofit the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, at a UN-hosted online conference in early December.

“In terms of the current state and near future prospects of nuclear arms control architecture, things are bleak,” she added.

Anton Khlopkov, director of Russian think-tank the Centre for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS), took an even starker point of view, saying at the same event that “we are at the point of almost complete dismantlement of arms control architecture”.

“We should be realistic in the current

Global nuclear arms control under pressure in 2026



View of the United Nations logo as the 2022 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons takes place at the United Nations in New York City on 1 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

circumstances. At best, I think we should try to preserve what we have,” he said.

‘Crumbling’ safeguards

From US strikes on Iranian nuclear

sites to Russia’s test of the new Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile and US President Donald Trump’s remarks about possibly resuming nuclear tests – the international nuclear landscape darkened in 2025.

At the same time, “the arms control architecture is crumbling”, Emmanuelle Maitre of France’s Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) told AFP.

A key challenge hinges on a shift in global relations.

Nuclear control had been built over decades around a Moscow-Washington axis, but China’s growing power and rapid technological advances have shifted the international playing field, which is simultaneously increasingly strained.

“The growing interlinkage between nuclear and conventional forces and the emergence of disruptive technologies (such as the US Golden Dome defence system and new hypersonic weapons) have transformed traditional nuclear deterrence into a multi-domain concept, especially in a multipolar world,” said Peking University’s Hua Han. — AFP

Kremlin rejects reports alleging Russia plans to ‘Restore USSR Spheres of Influence’ as untrue

REPORTS that Russia is allegedly planning to revive Soviet spheres of influence are false, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

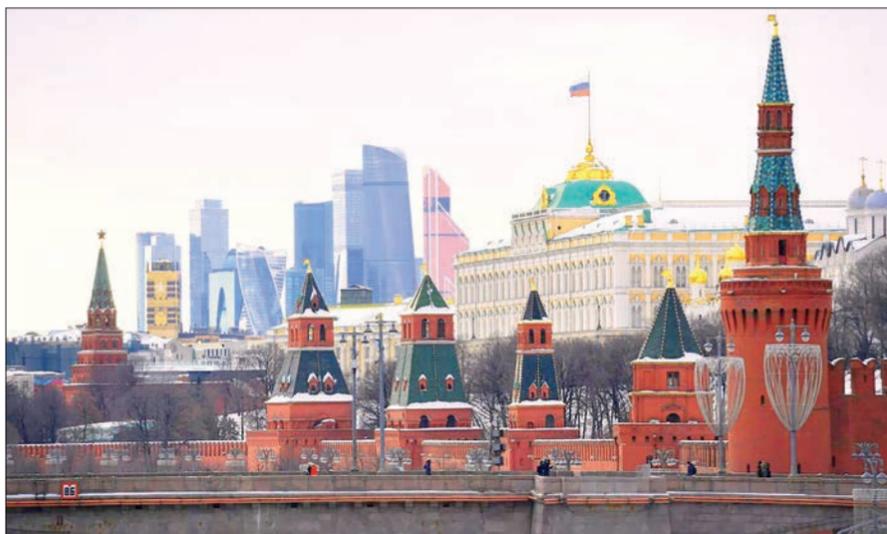
“Well, first of all, we do not know how reliable they are. That is the first thing. We have seen some scattered reports on this matter, but even if they are

true, it is a case of intelligence agencies making erroneous assumptions, studies, and conclusions. This is absolutely untrue,” Peskov told reporters, when asked to comment on these claims.

On Friday, media reported, citing US intelligence sources, that Russian President Vladimir Putin allegedly has plans to restore the Soviet empire, attack Eastern European countries, and revive the Soviet Union’s sphere of influence in Europe.

The decision by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev not to attend the St. Petersburg-hosted informal CIS summit in December comes as no surprise to Moscow, the spokesman said.

“No, it was not,” Peskov told reporters when asked whether it was a surprise that Aliyev would not attend the CIS summit. The Kremlin understands Aliyev’s decision, as heads of state have a busy schedule, the official added. — SPUTNIK



The Moscow Kremlin and Kremlin Embankment. From left: Blagoveshchenskaya, Borovitskaya, Tainitskaya, First Bezymyannaya and Second Bezymyannaya towers. Background: the Moscow City International Business Centre. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

UN says drought affects 4.6 mln people in Somalia

THE drought emergency in Somalia has significantly deepened, with authorities estimating that 4.61 million people have been affected by prolonged dry conditions across the country, the United Nations (UN) relief agency said Monday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the drought emergency follows the poor performance of the two main rainy seasons and is compounded by funding shortfalls for assistance, further worsening Somalia’s already dire humanitarian situation.

The Somali authorities are appealing for urgent assistance to avert a possible collapse of pastoral and farming livelihoods, and preventable loss of lives, the OCHA said in its latest report released in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. The coming four months, the authorities warn, will be decisive because the next rains are not expected until April 2026. — Xinhua