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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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National Development Key to People's Socioeconomic Well-being

Terrorism has hindered the effective implementation of development efforts, resulting in significant losses and hardship for the State and its citizens.

President U Min Aung Hlaing chairs the eighth meeting of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The government needs to create employment opportunities for the people, while the most important requirement is a genuine willingness to work, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the President recounted that he has paid State Visits to Vietnam and Cambodia and shared his experiences of visits with all attendees, urging them to take lessons from Vietnam's endeavours for its development through the Doi Moi economic reform policy and its plans to achieve the goal of becoming a developing country

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President at the Union government meeting

1. Agriculture and livestock breeding tasks must be carried out through systematic plans to ensure food security of the people as well as to produce finished products for export purposes.
2. Local farmers in Myanmar should emphasize cultivation of pepper to be exported to earn foreign exchange in addition to growing sunflower and sesame on vast areas.
3. Solar power generation projects, as a form of renewable energy, need to be implemented across the regions and states.

Falam MEB installs B2B Satellite Terminal

A B2B satellite terminal provided by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has been installed at a branch of Myanma Economic Bank in Falam Township, Chin State, to enhance banking services.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, accompanied by the Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the terminal, solar power system and completed renovation works at the bank yesterday.

SEE PAGE 3

Centenary Plaque to Honour Hsipaw Haw

THE historic Hsipaw Haw in Hsipaw, Shan State (North), has been officially designated as an ancient building more than 100 years old, and a centenary commemorative plaque will be unveiled as part of concerted efforts to preserve the ancient heritage, according to Pyithu Hluttaw Representative for the Hsipaw Constituency U Sai Kaung Thet San.

The Hsipaw Haw was officially designated by the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism as an ancient building that is 100 years old or more under an order dated 23 July this year.

Built in 1924 in a Western architectural style by Saopha-to-be Sao Ohn Kya during the reign of Saopha Sir Sao Che. The palace was once the residence of Saopha Sao Kya Seng and his family.

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This photo features officials inspecting Hsipaw Haw in Hsipaw, Shan State (North).

OPINION

Reintegrating trafficked victims into society

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NSPNC, RCSS to deepen cooperation in peace processes

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Myeik holds coord meeting on regional development activities

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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following individuals on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Daw Aye Thida Myo	Director-General International Organization and Economic Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Thet Win	Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(3) U Hlaing Win Maung	Director-General Department of Historical Research and National Library Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism

Tourist interest surges at Thekso Hill in Bagan Archaeological Zone

A growing number of tourists are visiting Thekso Taung (Thekso Hill) in the Bagan Archaeological Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, according to the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Tourists visiting Bagan have been exploring the rock pool on Thekso Taung, located south of Tuyin Hill, as part of nature-based hiking trips.

This image captures travellers exploring Thekso Hill.

The rocky pool can be easily reached by two routes: one from the monastery on Tuyin Hill and the other leading to Tooth Relic Pagoda.

"Thekso Taung is home to various birds and animals, including peacocks, doves, rabbits, cats, owls, blue rock thrushes, kingfishers and mynas. The area is quite scenic and offers good opportunities for birdwatching," said a nature enthusiast who recently visited the mountain.

Visitors to the top of Thekso Taung can enjoy panoramic views of Myawady Lake to the east, the ancient pagodas of Bagan, the Ayeyawady River and Tantkyi Taung (Tantkyi Hill) to the west. — TWA/KZL

Tourist Spotlight Falls on Hlaingka Waterfall

A field investigation being carried out at Hlaingka Waterfall.

A waterfall located at Hlaingka village in Kayin State's Hpa-an Township is being developed into a new tourist destination for the state.

A field investigation was carried out by a team that included the state tourism committee's vice chair, the state minister U Nyi Nyi Zaw for planning, economy and finance, the director of the state department of hotels and tourism, forestry officials, the township/village administrators and community leaders.

Hpa-an, which is rich in nature, has been popular among local tourists in recent years; in particular, visitors are now able to explore natural scenery like Mount Zwegabin, Sadan Cave and Kawgun Cave, leading to a continual rise in tourist arrivals. In addition, its peaceful environment and beautiful landscapes have proved that it is worth a visit for vacationers. — MT/ZS

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday, 15 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the Northern Myanmar areas. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds over the Northwest Bay and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 16 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bago Regions, scattered Magway Regions and Chin and southern Shan States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the 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: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likehood of increase in rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 September 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

National Development Key to People's Socioeconomic Well-being

FROM PAGE 1

with modern industries and an upper-middle-income economy by 2030, and a high-income developed country by 2045.

The President stated that Vietnam is pursuing national economic development with a focus on industrial, agricultural and livestock production, while Cambodia is also a country that places emphasis on agriculture and livestock farming. It has been observed that Cambodia cultivates rice for export and also produces pepper and cashew nuts commercially for export. Forging domestic peace has enabled the country to make considerable progress in its economic and national development activities.

He noted that Myanmar is rebuilding the infrastructure and restoring the human resources due to destructive acts of terrorists. Hence, terrorism has hindered the effective implementation of development efforts, resulting in significant losses and hardship for the State and its citizens.

The President pointed out that as national development is essential for improving the socioeconomic well-being of citizens, all national brethren living together in the country must make concerted efforts with a sense of responsibility to achieve stability, peace and development.

The President called for carrying out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks through systematic plans in order to ensure food security of the people as well as to produce finished products for export purposes.

Like efforts of Vietnam, he urged that local farmers in Myanmar should emphasize cultivation of pepper to be exported to earn foreign exchange, in addition to growing sunflower and sesame on vast areas.

The President outlined that the government needs to create employment opportunities for the people, while the most important requirement is a genuine willingness to work.

Union ministers presented their reports in respective sectors.

The President continued his guidance that students need to genuinely master the subjects taught at each grade level in basic education schools in the education sector, while also being taught and trained to broaden their general knowledge and social awareness and that relevant ministries as well as regional and state governments need to systematically supervise educational activities to ensure that students genuinely acquire literacy and learning.

He stressed the need to comprehensively develop government schools while encouraging the private schools in accord with the prescribed policies.

With regard to healthcare, the President underscored that as the State is also encouraging and supporting the development of the private healthcare sector, human resources should be systematically planned and developed on an annual basis to ensure adequate medical and healthcare personnel at hospitals at different levels.

He stated that climate change is currently occurring worldwide. With regard to El Niño, early warnings have also been issued, and it is necessary to pay close attention and take preparations and measures.

In the electricity sector, the President underlined that solar power generation projects, as a form of renewable energy, need to be implemented across the regions and states.

He instructed that existing sports grounds and stadiums should also be systematically renovated, maintained and utilized across the regions and states.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials, together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

NSPNC, RCSS to deepen cooperation in peace processes

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) met yesterday morning at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting followed an invitation issued by the Central Committee for prerequisite-free peace talks aimed at resolving political issues through political means.

The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Restoration Council of Shan State takes place in Nay Pyi Taw, 15 September 2026.

The event was attended by key leadership from both sides, including NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, and RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngin, Central Executive Committee member Sao Aung Tein and Sao Lan Taing, Central Steering Committee members, and other relevant officials.

Speaking at the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said peace is essential for promoting economic development and national stability. He noted that all ethnic armed organizations had been invited to participate in peace talks without preconditions and stressed the importance of continued dialogue, implementation of previous agreements and building mutual trust through regular communication.

RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngin welcomed the government's invitation for peace talks. He said trust is crucial to the peace process and called for continued efforts to enable displaced people to return home and support rehabilitation, education, healthcare, transport and regional development. He also expressed the RCSS's willingness to cooperate in combating illicit drugs and online scams.

The two sides also discussed the future peace process, RCSS organizational matters, resolving political issues through political means, the return and rehabilitation of displaced persons, regional development and stability, administrative matters, trust-building measures, and cooperation in combating drug trafficking and online fraud.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing explained the plans of the government for the opening of vocational training schools in different regions and states.

The event concluded with both parties signing a formal record of the discussions and exchanging commemorative gifts. — MNA/KTZH

Falam MEB installs B2B Satellite Terminal

FROM PAGE 1

The deputy minister also inspected the renovation of departmental offices, staff housing, Basic Education High School No 2, the Independence Monument and viewpoint, as well as police and Fire Services Department facilities. He also met local companies and departmental officials involved in regional renovation and construction works.

Under the supervision of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, 121 local companies are renovating 208 departmental buildings in Falam District that were severely destroyed by terrorists. — MNA/MKKS

Officials inspect the installation of the B2B Satellite Terminal in Falam.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Self reading power system on trial for non-smart meter users

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy announced yesterday that it will soon pilot a digital system that lets consumers who cannot yet connect to the smart meter system self-read their meters and pay their electricity bills.

To reduce electricity losses, the ministry has been replacing underperforming meters and those that have been in use for over 20 years. In addition, a system allowing direct application for the meters via a website has been implemented since 15 August.

This image shows a household digital meter.

While transitioning to the smart meter system, a digital system is simultaneously being implemented—allowing users to self-read and pay bills for analogue meters not yet connected to the smart system, while enabling monitoring from control centres—which will be pilot-tested soon, according to reports.

Furthermore, the ministry is taking action against staff involved in electricity theft, including making business owners pay fines under the Electricity Law, suspending utility rights, and even revoking business licenses.

The ministry has urged the public to cooperate by systematically using electricity, and If any fraudulent activities are found, reports can be made to the following numbers: headquarters: 067 3410460; YESC: 1717; MESC: 02 4039330, 02 4073666, 02 4072618, or (Hotline) – 1616; other regions and states: 09 682232600, 09 665432575, or 067 3410407. — TWA/ZN

Popular Cherry YPS cards back to counters

A Cherry YPS card.

AMONG YPS cards used to pay for Yangon's public transport, the popular Cherry YPS cards are available again at YPS counters.

In addition to being easy to use, they are beautifully designed and suitable for personal use or as a gift. Now, Cherry YPS cards are available again at all YPS counters, in limited numbers.

At present, YPS has about 500,000 users. YPS cards, the cashless payment system, can help reduce the banknote problem for paying bus fare. For more information about the YPS card, customers can call the YPS call centre number 09 772 666 699 from Monday to Friday, between 9 am and 5 pm. — MT/ZS

106th Myanmar Motion Pictures Day, 49th Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony set for 13 Oct

THE 106th Myanmar Film Day and 49th Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony will be held at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, on 13 October, according to the MMPO.

The 49th Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony will honour 160 veteran film artists.

"The Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony is held every year on Myanmar Film Day. It will be held on 13 October as usual this year, with donations from artists and film stars. A total of 160 veteran film artists will be honoured this year. As the venue has limited space, it will be difficult to accommodate all of them. The day after the ceremony, we will visit the homes of some of the remaining veteran film artists," said Director Academy Kyi Soe Tun.

At the 105th Myanmar Film Day and 48th Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony, held on 13 October 2025, 140 veteran film artists were honoured with cash and food items. — MNA/MKKS

This photo depicts the 105th Myanmar Film Day and the 48th Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony in progress in the previous year.

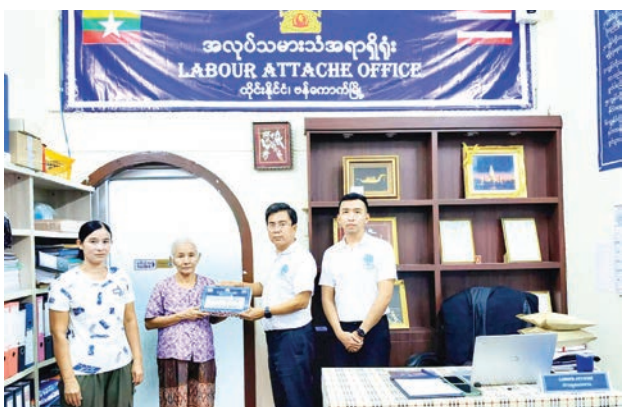
Mother of deceased Myanmar migrant receives insurance

THE insurance cover worth 1.5 million baht for a Myanmar migrant worker who passed away in a traffic accident in Thailand was transferred to his mother, said the Myanmar Labour Attaché Office.

The worker, U Kyaw Thet Aung from Ayeyawady Region's Myanaung Township, died in an accident on 21 May. The office helped the victim's family in obtaining access to the benefits of the insurance from a private insurer.

The insurance payout was transferred to the worker's mother, Daw Khin Than, on 14 September at noon at the office.

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: 020030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 06 1810845, Labour Officer (Bangkok): 06 52206952, Labour Attaché (Maesot): 06 52206953. Labour Officer (Chang Mai): 09 45866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong): 06 34818121. — MT/ZS



Insurance payout of 1.5 million baht transferred to the worker's mother.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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NATIONAL

VDP project introduced; committee formed in Aunglan

An orientation and committee formation ceremony in progress in Aunglan Township, Magway Region, on 15 Septermber 2026.

THE Village Development Plan (VDP) Project introduction, briefing and committee formation ceremony was held at the monastery in Kyaukpadaung Village, Aunglan Township, Magway Region, yesterday.

The event was organized by the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development to identify the actual needs of the village and formulate development plans based on the priorities of residents.

Township Head Daw Htar Htar Yi of the Department of Rural Development explained the objectives and benefits of the Village Development Plan Project, implementation procedures, requirements to be followed in selecting committee members as stipulated in the project manual, duties and responsibilities of committee members, and eligible project subcomponents.

Local village communities attending the event raised questions regarding the implementation of village development activities. The township head provided answers and further explanations. With the consensus of the villagers, a nine-member Village Development Committee was then elected and formed.

Infrastructure development activities will be implemented in the village using K1.5 million in VDP project support funds, together with contributions from residents, according to the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Development. — Moe Moe (DRD)

MSY small-scale businesses inspected in Chauk

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection of small-scale businesses being operated under the Mya Sein Yaung MSY Village Project in Pokpakan Village of Chauk Township on 14 September.

U Aung Kyi Myint, Township DRD Head, together with project staff and members of the MSY Village Project committee, inspected the implementation of small-scale agricultural and livestock businesses being carried out with revolving funds provided under the project. They also reviewed the project's financial records and relevant registers. The township DRD officer met project members and residents and discussed the requirements and provided necessary coordination and guidance to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

Officials inspect a rural development project in Chauk Township.

According to the Chauk Township DRD, a total of 208 project members in Pokpakan Village have received a total of K71 million in low-interest loans under the MSY Village Project. Of them, 197 members engaged in agricultural activities received K65.85 million, five members involved in livestock businesses received K1.8 million, and six members engaged in trading businesses received K 3.35 million.

The loans have enabled residents to operate and sustain their small-scale businesses effectively, contributing to improved livelihoods and economic activities in the village. — Myo Myo (DRD)

Public awareness talk held at model village in Yaksawk

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in cooperation with township-level departments, conducted a public awareness talk at Sanyayoo Model Village, Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

An awareness-raising talk is underway in Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State.

Yaksawk Township Department of Rural Development Head U Ye Min Aung explained the purpose of the public awareness talk. Department of Public Health Officer Daw Htet Htet Tun gave an awareness talk on the proper use of fly-proof latrines and preventive measures against rabies and dengue fever. Deputy Township Legal Officer U Sai Thu also explained legal matters that members of the public should be aware of and follow.

Afterwards, the township head and responsible officials distributed educational pamphlets to village elders and residents attending the event. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

MSY project implementation inspected in Papun

THE Papun Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted an on-site inspection on 14 September regarding the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Kamamaung Ward 4 Village in Kayin State.

U Pyae Oo Ko Ko, Head of the Papun Township Department of Rural Development, Staff Officer (Technical) Daw Su Myat Chel, and project staff met members of the MSY Village Project Committee. They inspected the execution of project activities in Kamamaung Ward 4 Village, verified whether financial accounting forms were systematically completed, checked compliance with instructions in the project manual, and provided necessary guidance.

According to the Papun Township Department of Rural Development, a total of K46 million has been disbursed under the MSY Village Project at an interest rate of 0.5 per cent (50 Pyas) to 79 members in Kamamaung Ward 4 Village: 11 engaged in agriculture, 38 in livestock breeding, and 30 in trade. — Phoo Lay (Rural)

Officials oversee the implementation of Emerald Green village projects in Papun Township.

NATIONAL

4 foreign nationals transferred over telecom fraud links

Immigration officials processing the repatriation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

FOUR foreign nationals-two from the Philippines and two from Bangladesh-who illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting through neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and became involved in illegal online gambling, online scams and other offences in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State were handed over to their respective countries via Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in accordance with legal procedures and in accordance with humanitarian principles and bilateral friendship.

To ensure the systematic and smooth execution of the deportation process, responsible officials coordinated the necessary measures.

During the handover, the district head of the Department of Immigration and Population, officials from the Embassy of the Philippines in Thailand, officials from the Embassy of Bangladesh in Thailand, and officials from the Immigration Department of Tak Province, Thailand, were present. Myanmar officials systematically handed over the relevant deportation and transfer documents to officials of the respective countries.

From 30 January 2025 to 15 September 2026, a total of 15,263 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township were detained, all of whom were investigated. Of them, 13,926 have been systematically deported to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures.

Of the remaining 1,337 foreign nationals awaiting transfer, 640 have faced legal action and been punished under Section 3(1)/13(1) of the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act and the Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Consequently, the remaining 697 foreign nationals are ready to be transferred to their respective countries and are being provided with proper care and accommodation.

The State is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries, as well as international organizations, to uncover, arrest and take effective and severe legal action against foreigners involved in or behind online scam centre operations. It is also efficiently coordinating the prompt repatriation of foreigners stranded or trafficked for various reasons to their respective countries. — MNA/TH

Heavy rain and strong winds uproot trees in Yangon

ON 15 September at 9:30 am, a tree fell inside the MRTV Housing compound on Nanattaw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, due to heavy rain and strong winds, crushing a staff housing block.

According to the Fire Services Department, township firefighters went to the scene to carry out clearance operations.

Similarly, heavy rain and strong winds on the afternoon of 14 September caused large trees to fall, crushing motor vehicles in Kamayut and Kyimyindine – the first incident occurred at around 2:30 pm on University Avenue and another tree fell at around 2:45 pm on Zaygyi Road, Kyimyindine Township, crushing a vehicle and causing difficulties for pedestrians.

Upon receiving reports of the tree falls, the respective fire service personnel immediately went to the scenes to carry out timely rescue operations, including cutting and clearing fallen trees and branches, and removing road blockages. — TWA/ZN

A fallen tree seen crushing a motor vehicle in Kyimyindine Township.

13 offenders involved in online gambling arrested in Hsipaw

This image reveals the arrest of online gambling scammers in Hsipaw Township, northern Shan State.

AUTHORITIES arrested 13 people involved in online scam and gambling activities in Namkham Village, Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North), along with weapons and equipment used in the gambling activities, yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off from residents, the officials conducted a search near Namkham Village. At about 5:45 am yesterday, they arrested eight Chinese men and one Chinese woman, one Myanmar man and three Myanmar women, from a house in the area.

The authorities seized one Type-81 rifle with 60 rounds of ammunition and four magazines, 22 mobile phones, one laptop, four Starlink sets, one 12V battery, two solar batteries, six solar (620W) panels, one solar (420W) panel, one brick-walled, corrugated iron-roofed building measuring 50 feet by 30 feet, two corrugated iron-sheet buildings measuring 30 feet by 20 feet each, and other equipment related to the operation.

The offenders will face action under the existing law after proper examination, and the seized materials will be managed in accordance with the procedures. — MNA/KTZH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Man Held in Schoolgirl Murder, Gold Theft

SAN Naing, 55, has been arrested for allegedly killing an 11-year-old schoolgirl and stealing her gold earrings in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region.

An arrestee for murder and theft.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of 13 September, when Ma Saung Hnin Phyu, 11, a Grade 5 student from Pantaw Village, Maubin Township, went to her teacher's house for tuition but failed to return home. When her family members searched for her, they found her body under a bamboo tree beside a road in Pantaw Village, with a cloth tied around her neck. Her father filed a complaint with Talabaw Police Station, calling for the perpetrator to be identified and legal action to be taken.

Following the complaint, security forces arrested San Naing, 55, of Pantaw Village, at his home on the morning of 14 September.

According to the investigation, San Naing encountered Ma Saung Hnin Phyu on the road in front of his house at about 6 pm on 13 September as she was returning from tuition. When he attempted to remove the gold earrings she was wearing, she screamed and struggled. He then grabbed her by both ears and twisted them, causing her death. He subsequently tied a cloth around her neck, placed her body under a bamboo tree beside the road and took the gold earrings. The gold earrings were seized from his house, and legal action is being taken against him. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

CTD offers Digital Tourism Marketing course in Oct

THE Centre for Tourism Development under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism will conduct the Digital Tourism Marketing Batch 1 training course from 5 to 16 October in Yangon, organized under the supervision of the Yangon Region Tourism Committee.

Applicants must hold a university degree and must currently be employed in the hotel and tourism sector.

The training will run between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm from 5 to 16 October, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, at 40/42, CTD on Bosunpat Road, Yangon. The class size is limited to 50 trainees.

Participants will be selected via Google Form based on qualifications. The course is free of charge. A deposit of K100,000 is required, which will be fully refunded upon successful completion of the course. Trainees must attend all sessions without absence. — NN/KK

MoC calls for 2nd tender for Yadana Theinkha Bridge repair materials, machinery

THE Ministry of Construction has invited a second open tender for the procurement, transport, and rental of construction materials and machinery for the repair and reconstruction of the Yadana Theinkha Bridge across the Ayeyawady River.

The project, managed by the Bridge Special Task Force 5 of the Bridges Department's Construction Task Force 2, covers the 2,480-foot bridge on the Shwebo (Minkyaung)-Singu road in Mandalay Region, under the 2026 2027 Union budget.

The tender includes the purchase of construction materials and equipment valued both above and below K200 million, machinery and vehicle rentals and delivery to the worksite.

Tender forms will be available from 16 September at the Deputy Director (Civil) Office, Yadana Theinkha Bridge worksite (briefing hall), Singu Township, Mandalay Region. The submission deadline is 4:30 pm on 9 October.

Bids will be opened at 9:30 am on 13 October at the same location. Individuals can enquire for further details through the Bridge Special Task Force 5 via 09 402526563 or 09 699599840. — NN/KK

Centenary Plaque to Honour Hsipaw Haw

FROM PAGE 1

The Hsipaw Haw, which has been designated as an ancient building, will be preserved as a cultural museum and opened to tourists during designated hours. To ensure that the palace's original craftsmanship and structure are not compromised, no other buildings will be constructed within a 120-foot radius of the Haw, according to reports. — ASH/TH

Satellite monitoring on REZ, technology transfer, fund disbursement under discussion

A meeting between key farmers involved in the Rice Export Zone (REZ) project, implementing companies, and officials from the Agriculture Department and Myanmar Rice Federation took place on 12 September at the UMFCCI Mingala Hall in Yangon, emphasizing the objectives of the REZ, fund disbursement, technology transfer and satellite monitoring in project areas.

The REZ initiative is being implemented jointly by the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and exporter companies that are members of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), to boost paddy yields and farmer incomes, improve the quality of export rice, and systematically expand annual export volumes. The programme is currently being implemented across more than 300,000 acres in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region, and Yangon Region.

MRF President U Ye Min Aung outlined the objectives of the REZ zones, the status of companies disbursing K200,000 per acre in cultivation costs, the measures farmers need to follow, and plans at the meeting.

U Myo Zaw, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, discussed efforts to provide K250,000 per acre through the State Economic Promotion Fund, the dissemination of technical knowledge to farmers, and ways to streamline contract signing and fund disbursement.

Afterwards, Professor Dr Aye Moe San of Agricultural University explained baseline and follow-up surveys on farmer development; Dr Khin Khin Mar Lar Myint of the Crop Protection Division discussed pest and disease prevention in paddy; and expert Daw Wint Wint Soe from the Seed Division and expert Daw May Thet Hlaing from the Land Utilization Division covered technical practices for farmers.

Moreover, a project consortium presented a satellite-based monitoring service for REZ zones, which will initially cover 100,000 acres to track cultivation, crop conditions, and harvest progress.

Later, farmers participated in 30 roundtable discussions, answering a 10-point questionnaire and offering recommendations. Representatives then presented their views in a panel discussion format, followed by an open Q&A. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 15 September 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,650.00~3671.00	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	12,155,756.73	4,199,755.11	4,449,312.17	-

Transport & Logistics Sector Development Workshop highlights implementation of GMS CBTA

A Transport and Logistics Sector Development Workshop was held on 14 September at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

The workshop was moderated by Dr Myo Nyein Aye, Director-General of the Transport Planning Department. Attendees included officials from relevant government departments and representatives from the Myanmar Transport and Logistics Federation (MTLF) and affiliated associations.

The workshop addressed cooperation between the Transport Planning Department and MTLF affiliated associations for logistics sector development, implementation of the GMS CBTA (Greater Mekong Subregion Cross Border Transport Agreement) and Myanmar China bilateral cooperation, issuance of Logistics Service Provider (LSP) licences under the Multimodal Transport Law, public private collaboration to improve Myanmar's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) and formulation of future work plans and way forward.

Participants posing for a group commemorative photo at the Transport and Logistics Sector Development Workshop.

The workshop was described as a productive event that strengthened public private cooperation, identified challenges within the sector, and created a future course of action. Organizers said they will continue working with relevant departments to advance the sector's development. — TWA/KK

OPINION

Reintegrating trafficked victims into society

Human trafficking is one of the gravest forms of human rights violation and constitutes a transnational crime being combated by countries around the world, as it severely undermines and destroys the development of humanity as a whole and human dignity.

Under the supervision of the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, harmonious efforts must be made across the four operational pillars of Myanmar's Fourth Five-Year National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2022-2026), which comprise: 23 action items under the Policy and Cooperation sector, 16 action items under the Prevention sector, 20 action items under the Prosecution sector, and 25 action items under the Protection sector.

As such, cases of trafficking in persons for forced marriage to neighbouring countries, forced prostitution, forced labour, other forms of sexual exploitation, and the removal of human organs, among others, have been uncovered, and perpetrators have been arrested.

In line with the theme for the 14th Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 2026, "Trapped behind the scam", everyone needs to collectively participate in combating human trafficking and build a safe, secure environment, thereby reducing trafficking in persons in Myanmar by remaining Watchful against deceptive offers and traps, verifying information thoroughly to prevent becoming victims of human trafficking, and protecting the families and communities through awareness.

Effective and prompt investigations were conducted to expose perpetrators of human trafficking and impose appropriate legal penalties in accordance with the law. From January 2026 to date, 235 offenders involved in 83 exposed cases have been prosecuted under the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons Law, leading to the rescue of 143 trafficked victims.

Legal action has been taken against the brokers of illegal labour recruitment operations under the 1999 Law Relating to Overseas Employment, and appropriate assistance has been provided to the victims in accordance with the law. From January 2026 to date, 23 cases have been prosecuted under the Law Relating to Overseas Employment, leading to legal action taken against a total of 73 offenders, comprising 34 males and 39 females.

As fraudulent recruitment for illegal online gambling dens and online scam operations in border areas is increasingly carried out through organized crime networks, joint efforts with relevant ministries have been intensified to prevent illegal entry and human trafficking. Inspection and educational activities are being actively conducted at city checkpoints, bilateral border crossings, and international airports to raise awareness, intercept individuals, and facilitate their safe return home.

In line with the theme for the 14th Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 2026, "Trapped behind the scam", everyone needs to collectively participate in combating human trafficking and build a safe, secure environment, thereby reducing trafficking in persons in Myanmar by remaining Watchful against deceptive offers and traps, verifying information thoroughly to prevent becoming victims of human trafficking, and protecting the families and communities through awareness.

ARTICLE
POEM

Living Through a Changing Climate: How Nations Are Building Resilience for a Hotter World

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

The climate challenge is no longer a distant warning. It is a test of how nations prepare, adapt and protect their people. Climate change is moving faster than many governments once anticipated. Rising temperatures, increasingly severe storms, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels and changing rainfall patterns are already reshaping communities and economies around the world.

The figures are sobering. Billions of people are now exposed to hazardous weather conditions, while climate-related economic losses are mounting each year. Without much stronger adaptation efforts, climate pressures could force hundreds of millions of people to move by the middle of this century. But these numbers should not be viewed only as warnings. They also point to a new reality of national planning.

In a warming and increasingly unpredictable world, survival cannot depend solely on responding to disasters after they occur. Countries must prepare before the crisis arrives. They must redesign infrastructure, protect ecosystems, strengthen communities and use technology to anticipate risks.

The emerging lesson is clear: climate adaptation is no longer optional. It is becoming a central element of national security and long-term development.

From Disaster Response to Climate Resilience

For decades, disaster management largely focused on responding to floods, cyclones, droughts and other emergencies after they happened. That approach is becoming increasingly inadequate. Climate adaptation means preparing societies for the impacts that are already occurring or are expected to intensify. Climate mitigation, meanwhile, addresses the underlying causes by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

The two approaches must work together. Even if global emissions decline rapidly, some degree of climate change is already locked in. Communities therefore need stronger protection against heat, floods, storms, water shortages and other consequences. The countries making the greatest progress are increasingly treating resilience as a long-term investment rather than an emergency expense.

Bangladesh: Turning Vulnerability into Resilience

Few countries illustrate this transformation more clearly than Bangladesh. A densely populated, low-lying country exposed to cyclones and flooding, Bangladesh has spent decades developing community-based disaster preparedness.

It has built more than 12,000 cyclone shelters and trained tens of thousands of volunteers to support early warning and evacuation. Elevated homes and floating agricultural practices have also emerged as local responses to rising water levels.

The results have been remarkable. Improved warning systems, shelters and community preparedness have contributed to a dramatic reduction in cyclone-related deaths compared with the catastrophic toll experienced in previous decades.

Bangladesh offers an important lesson for other developing countries: sophisticated technology is valuable, but community participation can be equally powerful.

Climate resilience does not always require the most expensive solution. Sometimes it begins with an informed community, an effective warning system and a safe place to go.

Nature as a First Line of Defence

Another increasingly important approach is the use of nature-based solutions. Mangrove forests, wetlands, restored watersheds and reforested slopes can provide natural protection against floods, storms, erosion and drought while supporting biodiversity and local livelihoods.

In parts of Latin America, ecosystem-based adaptation has become part of broader climate strategies. Restored wetlands can absorb excess water, while reforested hillsides can reduce erosion and improve water retention.

Such measures demonstrate that environmental protection and economic development do not necessarily have to be competing objectives. A healthy ecosystem can itself become a form of infrastructure.

Planning for Climate Risk Before Disaster Strikes

Successful adaptation also requires governments to move beyond individual projects and establish national strategies. National Adaptation Plans and related frameworks allow governments to assess vulnerabilities and incorporate climate risks into agriculture, healthcare, transportation, housing, water management and economic planning.

This changes the fundamental question facing policymakers. Instead of asking, "How do we recover after a disaster?" governments can ask, "How can we reduce the damage before it happens? "That shift from reaction to prevention can save lives and reduce economic losses.

Climate-resilient zoning, early-warning systems, strategic water management, drought-resistant agriculture and coastal protection can all become part of a comprehensive national resilience strategy.

Infrastructure for a More Dangerous Climate

Infrastructure is another critical front. Roads, bridges, ports, power networks, water systems and housing were often designed according to historical climate conditions. But the climate of the future may not resemble the climate of the past.

Governments therefore need to design infrastructure for more intense rainfall, higher temperatures, stronger storms and rising seas. Flood barriers, storm-surge protection, resilient transport networks, water storage and modern irrigation systems can protect both people and economic activity.

For small island states, the challenge is even more urgent. Tuvalu, for example, faces existential pressures from rising sea levels. Its response combines land development, coastal protection, ecosystem restoration and its innovative efforts to preserve aspects of national identity in digital form. Tuvalu demonstrates that climate adaptation can raise profound questions about territory, sovereignty and the future of nationhood itself.

China: Combining Technology with Scale

China offers another important example of large-scale climate adaptation. With enormous cities, extensive agricultural regions and diverse climate risks, China has pursued a combination of infrastructure, environmental restoration and technology.

China seeks to enable urban areas to absorb, store and reuse rainwater rather than allowing heavy rainfall to overwhelm drainage systems. Large-scale afforestation and ecological restoration programmes are also being used to combat desertification and protect vulnerable landscapes.

At the same time, China's rapid expansion of renewable energy is changing the country's energy system and helping reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The Chinese experience demonstrates how scale, investment, technology and long-term planning can be combined to address climate risks across a large economy.

Singapore: Engineering Resilience in a Small Space

Singapore provides a very different model. As a densely populated city-state with limited land and a vulnerable coastline, Singapore has made climate resilience a central component of urban planning.

Its strategy includes extensive coastal protection, urban greenery, rooftop gardens, advanced water management and the use of digital technologies. Artificial intelligence, sensors and data systems can help monitor water networks and detect potential problems more quickly.

Singapore has also invested heavily in desalination and water recycling, reducing its vulnerability to water shortages. The country's experience offers an important lesson for rapidly growing cities: climate adaptation can be integrated into urban development rather than treated as a separate environmental programme.

Rwanda: Restoring Nature, Protecting Livelihoods

Rwanda illustrates how developing countries can use nature-based solutions to strengthen resilience. Wetland restoration around Kigali has helped reduce flood risks while improving ecological conditions. In rural areas, terraced agriculture can reduce soil erosion, conserve water and strengthen food security.

The lesson is particularly relevant to lower-income countries. Climate resilience does not always depend on expensive infrastructure. Restoring ecosystems, improving agricultural practices and empowering communities can produce significant benefits with relatively modest resources.

Adaptation Is Also an Economic Strategy

Climate resilience should not be viewed simply as a cost. Investment in adaptation can protect economic growth by preventing roads, factories, farms, homes and public services from being repeatedly destroyed by extreme weather.

Research by the Global Commission on Adaptation has highlighted the potentially high economic returns from resilience investment. The logic is straightforward: spending money before a disaster can be considerably cheaper than rebuilding after it.

Resilient infrastructure can also attract investment because businesses are more likely to operate in places where transport, electricity, water and communications systems can withstand climate shocks. Climate adaptation is therefore increasingly becoming part of economic policy.

Climate Resilience and National Security

The security implications are equally important. Climate shocks can contribute to food insecurity, water shortages, displacement and social instability. In vulnerable regions, these pressures can intensify existing economic and political difficulties.

For this reason, climate resilience should increasingly be considered alongside traditional national-security planning. Protecting food systems, securing water supplies, strengthening infrastructure and preparing communities for displacement are not simply environmental policies. They are investments in social stability.

Governments that can protect citizens during climate emergencies are also more likely to maintain public confidence and national cohesion.

The Global South Needs Greater Support

Despite encouraging examples, many developing countries still face a major adaptation-finance gap. The countries most vulnerable to climate change are often those with the fewest financial resources to build resilient infrastructure.

International climate finance therefore remains essential. Financial assistance should support not only infrastructure but also technology transfer, skills development, early-warning systems, local institutions and community participation.

Public-private partnerships can also help mobilize additional investment. The principle should be straightforward: countries should have the opportunity to build resilience before disaster strikes, rather than receiving assistance only after devastation has occurred.

The Technology-Nature Partnership

The most promising climate strategies increasingly combine technology with nature. Artificial intelligence can improve weather forecasting and early-warning systems. Satellite data can monitor droughts, forests and coastal changes. Sensors can improve water management. Renewable energy can strengthen energy security.

At the same time, mangroves, wetlands, forests and healthy agricultural landscapes can provide natural protection. The future is therefore unlikely to belong exclusively to either high technology or traditional environmental conservation.

It will belong to the combination of the two.

What Successful Countries Have in Common

The experiences of Bangladesh, China, Singapore, Rwanda, Tuvalu and other countries differ greatly, but several common principles emerge.

First, successful adaptation requires long-term planning. Second, resilience must be treated as an investment, not simply an expense. Third, scientific knowledge and reliable information must guide decision-making. Fourth, local communities need to participate in designing solutions. Fifth, climate adaptation should be integrated into economic, agricultural, health and infrastructure policies. And finally, international cooperation is essential because climate risks do not respect national borders.

A New Measure of National Leadership

Climate change is becoming a test of national leadership. The countries that respond effectively will not necessarily be those with the greatest wealth. They will be those capable of anticipating risks, investing early, mobilizing communities and turning innovation into practical solutions.

Bangladesh demonstrates the power of community resilience. Singapore shows how technology and urban planning can work together. China demonstrates the potential of large-scale investment and infrastructure. Rwanda illustrates the value of restoring ecosystems. Tuvalu reminds the world that climate change can challenge the very meaning of territory and sovereignty.

Together, these examples point toward a new understanding of development.

A successful nation in the climate era will not simply pursue economic growth. It will build the capacity to protect that growth against future shocks.

Conclusion

Climate change is no longer a distant projection about the future. It is already influencing economies, societies, ecosystems and national policies. The central challenge is therefore not whether climate change will affect countries, but how effectively they will prepare for it.

The most forward-looking nations are beginning to understand that adaptation is about more than surviving the next cyclone, flood or heatwave. It is about building stronger economies, safer communities, healthier ecosystems and more resilient institutions.

The climate era will reward countries that plan ahead. The real measure of leadership will be whether governments can protect their citizens, preserve their natural environment and turn climate risks into opportunities for innovation and renewal.

The message from the world's resilience leaders is increasingly clear: the nations that prepare today will be better positioned not merely to survive a changing climate, but to thrive in it.

Nightmare of These Days

By Moon Cherry K

The world feels sick beneath a restless sky,
As catastrophic earthquakes and floods pass by.
They sweep away lives, leaving hearts in pain,
And sorrow falls like an endless rain.
Let us be considerate, let compassion increase—
For we have had enough of suffering.
We beg the world: Please, let there be peace.

NATIONAL

Myeik holds coord meeting on regional development activities

A coordination meeting on the implementation of regional development activities is underway.

A coordination meeting on the implementation of regional development activities, carried out by departments under the supervision of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, was held at the meeting hall of the Myeik District Department of Rural Development on 14 September.

Officials from relevant district and township departments under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development presented updates on the implementation of rural development projects in Myeik Township for the 2026-2027 financial year in pursuit of the policies, strategies and objectives of the Ministry.

They also reported on the progress of cooperative activities and short-, medium- and long-term plans for regional development projects.

The meeting was attended by Hluttaw representatives, district and township heads of departments under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, and officials from relevant government departments, according to the Myeik District Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

Mahamuni Board Alerts Public to Fake AI TikTok Videos

This photo shows the public notice regarding fake AI-generated videos on TikTok.

THE Mahamuni Buddha Image Board of Trustees has issued a public statement regarding a TikTok account featuring AI-generated inappropriate content related to religion, with the Mahamuni Pagoda used as a backdrop.

The Board of Trustees has previously announced prohibitions against holding such inappropriate spirit dance ceremonies within the temple precincts, pagodas, monasteries, and pavilions under their protection and care, and that no organization or individual has ever been granted permission to do so.

The public is also informed that to enable daily devotion and worship of the pagoda, 24-hour broadcasts are available on the Mahamuni Pagoda YouTube Channel.

The Mahamuni Pagoda is a prominent religious and cultural heritage site in Mandalay, highly revered as a sacred destination visited by pilgrims from both home and abroad.

Additionally, ongoing restoration and maintenance work is being carried out on religious buildings within the Mahamuni Buddha Image precinct that were damaged by the earthquake. — MT/ZN

Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 76

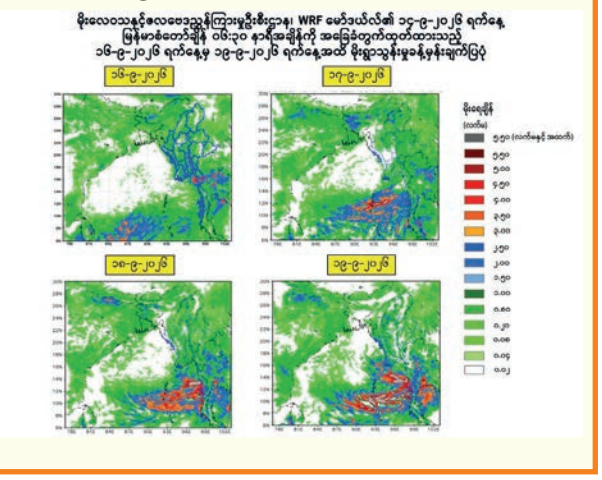
Issued at 8 pm MST on 15 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the monsoon will be moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Magway and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States from today morning to 17 September 2026.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the monsoon will be moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



Tenders for sale of various fabrics invited

THE Ministry of Industry and MSME Development has invited tender proposals for the sale of various types of fabrics.

The fabrics will be offered in four lots: Lot 1 including 195,400 yards of 150D-by-150D dyed multi colour fabric, Lot 2 with 86,400 yards of 300D-by-300D dyed multi colour fabric, Lot 3 with 100,000 yards of Bullock dyed/printed assorted fabric and Lot 4 with 39,400 yards of 2/80 by 2/32 Ceylon green fabric for school and 31,000 pieces of 2/80 by 2/32 Ceylon green longyi (men/women). A minimum purchase of 30,000 yards per lot is required.

Tender forms have been available at the Sales and Distribution Department, with submissions closing on 28 September. Individuals can enquire about further details through the Sales and Distribution Department at 067 408157, 067 408203, or 067 408362. – NN/KK

Pantanaw distributes urea fertilizers to farmers

FARMERS are reportedly benefiting from the distribution of urea fertilizers under a crop-payment system for the 2026-2027 monsoon paddy season, organized by the Pantanaw Township Fertilizer Trading and Distribution Committee.

According to Daw Aye Aye Hlaing, Township Head of the Pantanaw Township Department of Rural Development, the distribution began in the first week of this month, providing 2,000 bags of urea fertilizer for 2,000 acres of farmland belonging to 300 farmers across 60 villages in the township.

Local farmers stated that the distributed urea fertilizers are being effectively utilized during the critical monsoon paddy cultivation period, ensuring smoother and more convenient agricultural operations. — Nyein Thu(Rural)

A farmer receives a fertilizer bag at the distribution ceremony.

LIFE&SOCIAL
WORLD

Australia's social isolation nearly doubles over two decades: study

AUSTRALIANS are becoming increasingly lonely and socially isolated, according to new research, which found rates of social isolation nearly doubled over the past 23 years. Loneliness rates also increased over time, though more gradually than social isolation, with the sharpest impacts observed among vulnerable populations, according to a statement released Tuesday by Australia's University of Sydney (USYD).

The study examined 23 years of nationally representative data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, which provides some of the country's first long-term national evidence on trends in loneliness and social isolation. It found the rate of episodic social isolation, defined as experiencing social isolation in at least one survey wave, rose from 16.9 per cent in 2001 to 29.9 per cent in 2023. Chronic social isolation, recorded across at least two consecutive survey waves, approximately doubled from 10.3 per cent in 2002 to 20.5 per cent in 2023. — Xinhua

Hiro Murai becomes 1st Asian to win Emmy for comedy directing

JAPANESE-BORN filmmaker Hiro Murai won an Emmy Award on Monday for directing the comedy series "Widow's Bay", becoming the first Asian director to win in the category, the Television Academy said.

Murai directed five of the 10 episodes in the series, with the first episode receiving the award.

Born in Tokyo, Murai moved to Los Angeles at the age of 9 and became a filmmaker in the United States. He won a Grammy Award for best music video in 2019 for Childish Gambino's "This Is America."

Japanese director Hiro Murai winner of Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series for "Welcome to Widow's Bay" episode from "Widow's Bay" poses in the press room during the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards at the Peacock Theatre at LA Live in Los Angeles on 14 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

His father, Kunihiko Murai, is a composer known for songs including "Tsubasa wo Kudasai (Please Give Me Wings)."

"Widow's Bay" is an American comedy horror television series set in a fictional town said to be afflicted by a curse. The series won a record 14 awards at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Comedy Series.

British actor Matthew Rhys, who won the Outstanding Lead Actor award for the series, became the first person to win two Emmys for lead performances in the same year after also taking the honour for the Netflix miniseries "The Beast in Me", according to local media. — Kyodo

Jesse Eisenberg channels emotional intensity into 'The Debut'

FOR director and actor Jesse Eisenberg, life unfolds to the rhythm of a musical, making his comedy-drama "The Debut" a natural outlet for his intensity.

"Extreme emotions and musicals for me seem like the correct way to behave, which is everybody's overdramatic ," Eisenberg told reporters Monday at the Toronto International Film Festival. "My inner monologue is a musical".

Jesse Eisenberg attends A24's The Debut TIFF party hosted by Don Julio and Peroni at Beso during the Toronto International Film Festival on 13 September 2026 in Toronto, Ontario. **PHOTO: SONIA RECCHIA / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP**

Starring Julianne Moore and Paul Giamatti, "The Debut" follows Mona, a housewife overlooked by her family, who, despite having no acting experience, auditions for a role in a play.

She lands the part after the actress originally cast in the role drops out of the production.

From there, under the direction of Jerry (Giamatti), Mona gradually disconnects from reality and immerses herself in the play, losing herself in a role that finally puts her in the spotlight.

"It's about an actress, you know, kind of undergoing an existential crisis," Eisenberg said.

Eisenberg, who also wrote the screenplay, said he wanted to tell the story in a dreamlike way, conveying the character's feelings rather than actions.

He drew technical inspiration from "The Double," the 2013 thriller in which he starred under the direction of Richard Ayoade.

"Richard is a real film buff, and him and the cinematographer were just, they were doing such interesting things, lighting, you know, inspired by German Expressionism," Eisenberg explained, referring to a style pioneered in the 1920s and known for dramatic shadows, distorted imagery and a dreamlike atmosphere. "And little things to kind of like shock you" and "create like a feeling of uneasiness."

Eisenberg, who earned an Oscar nomination for his screenplay for the 2024 film "A Real Pain," said he wrote "The Debut" with Moore in mind.

"There's not another human person on this planet in any age, in any language that can do this kind of thing," he said.

Moore returned the compliment, describing Eisenberg's offer as exceptional.

"You never get opportunities like this with this kind of material," said the 65-year-old Oscar-winning actress. "This is really an exquisite piece of writing."

At the film's showing Sunday at the Toronto festival, Moore praised her co-star Paul Giamatti for bringing to life the director who, in trying to draw out what he needs from the budding actress, develops a relationship with her that oscillates between conflict and camaraderie. — AFP

Indonesia seeks US$26-27 bln to transform national health system

INDONESIA is seeking an additional US$26 billion to US$27 billion over the next five years to finance the transformation of its national health system and increase life expectancy, Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said Tuesday.

Speaking at the fourth Indonesia Health Partners Meeting, Sadikin said the government aims to raise life expectancy to 76 years and healthy life expectancy to 65 years, in line with targets set by President Prabowo Subianto.

The health system transformation is estimated to require $223 billion, with about $203 billion already secured from the government and the health system. Of that amount, $177 billion has been allocated to the transformation, leaving a funding gap of 26 billion to $27 billion over the next five years, Sadikin said. — Xinhua

5,000-year-old drainage network, workshop-houses unearthed in W Türkiye

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Türkiye's western Izmir province have unearthed a 5,000-year-old stone drainage network and ancient "workshop-houses", shedding new light on prehistoric urban planning, authorities said Monday.

The findings were uncovered at Liman Tepe in Urla, a 5,300-year-old Bronze Age port city known for hosting both land settlements and Türkiye's first underwater harbour excavations, according to Vasif Sahoglu, head of the excavation team and director of Ankara University's Research Centre for Maritime Archaeology. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japanese convenience store chains to launch AI-developed sweets

SWEETS developed with ideas generated by artificial intelligence will go on sale at Lawson and FamilyMart stores later this month, the operators said Tuesday, marking the first full-scale launch of AI-conceived products by major Japanese convenience store chains.

Supplied photo shows FamilyMart Co's "sweet potato canele with caramel sauce". **PHOTO: KYODO**

The companies used AI technology to analyze trends in past hit products and combine unexpected ingredients for their new creations.

Lawson Inc will launch three products — a dessert, bread and salad — in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures on 29 September. The company asked AI for "never-before-seen combinations and flavours" and "something that tastes good when you try it," among other prompts. The 270-yen ($1.75) "pickle-flavoured lemon tart" is one of the unexpected pairings proposed by AI, with product developers refining the taste, according to the company.

FamilyMart Co will release a "sweet potato canele with caramel sauce" for 285 yen on 22 September. The dessert was generated from trends based on point-of-sale data and other information fed into AI, while developers made the final decisions on texture and flavour.

FamilyMart aims to sell 10 varieties of sweets created using AI by the end of February next year.

AI technology is already used by convenience store operators for product ordering. Seven-Eleven Japan Co introduced AI at all stores in 2023 to improve operational efficiency, using weather, day-of-week patterns and past sales data to forecast demand and calculate appropriate inventory levels. The company said that it has cut time spent on ordering operations by around 40 per cent. — Kyodo

Oil price surge risks wider ASEAN current account deficits: OCBC

A renewed uptrend in oil prices would increase the risk of wider trade and current account deficits in ASEAN, especially if accompanied by slower global demand or weaker export performance, OCBC Group Research said in a note on Tuesday.

The region's current account deficit widened in the first half of 2026 compared with 2025 and is likely to remain under pressure in the second half of the year, OCBC said.

"El Nino-related risks could further compound these pressures through reduced agricultural production, lower export volumes and potentially higher food import requirements in some economies," it said.

According to OCBC, rising energy import costs are directly reflected in trade and current account balances, making this the clearest channel through which the current oil shock is affecting regional economies.

Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam appear particularly exposed given their dependence on imported energy.

For Indonesia and Malaysia, which are net commodity exporters, the terms-of-trade impact depends on price movements for key export commodities such as coal, rubber, crude palm oil and liquefied natural gas. — Xinhua

China's fixed-asset investment shifting towards innovation-driven, high-quality development

CHINA'S investment structure is shifting towards innovation-driven, high-quality development, with continuous improvement in investment quality and efficiency, an official said Tuesday when commenting on the latest fixed-asset investment data.

China's fixed-asset investment totalled around 29.3 trillion yuan (about US$4.33 trillion), down 7.2 per cent year on year in the first eight months of 2026, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed Tuesday.

Excluding the property sector, the country's fixed-asset investment decreased by 4.2 per cent in the first eight months of the year.

By industry, investment in the primary industry fell by 2.4 per cent year on year, that in the secondary industry fell by 2.9 per cent, and that in the tertiary industry fell by 9.9 per cent.

This photo taken on 28 July 2025 shows a view of China Changan Automobile Group's digital and intelligent factory for the new energy vehicle AVATR in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In terms of sectors, the investment in infrastructure declined by four per cent year on year, that in manufacturing was down by 2.3 per cent, and that in real estate development declined by 19.9 per cent.

During the first eight months, private investment dropped by 10.1 per cent year on year. Excluding real estate development, private investment declined 6.4 per cent.

In August alone, China's fixed-asset investment fell 0.5 per cent from the previous month, NBS data showed.

Multiple factors caused the decline in China's fixed-asset investment in the first eight months, according to NBS spokesperson Wang Guanhua. — Xinhua

Aerial photo taken on 29 December 2021 shows the Thai-Chinese Rayong Industrial Zone. The Thai-Chinese Rayong Industrial Zone, which is located at the east coast of Thailand, has attracted more than 170 enterprises. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Thailand's eastern industrial hub eyes deeper economic ties with China to boost sustainable growth

THAILAND'S eastern industrial powerhouse of Rayong is positioning itself alongside neighbouring Chonburi province as the premier destination for Chinese high-tech manufacturing, electric vehicles (EVs), and digital infrastructure within the country's Eastern Economic Corridor. Speaking at a recent investment seminar attended by public officials and business leaders, Rayong Governor Traiphop Wongtrairat framed the current influx of Chinese capital as an extension of centuries-old historical ties, encouraging Chinese enterprises to view the province as a long-term partner for sustainable economic growth. — Xinhua

WTO warns weakened trade rules could leave global GDP up to 10% lower

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) warned Tuesday that failure to modernize the global trading system could leave global GDP as much as 10 per cent lower than under a strengthened multilateral system, as trade policy faces its most serious and sustained disruption in decades.

The warning came in the WTO's annual flagship publication, World Trade Report 2026: A Critical Juncture for the World Trading System, which examines the achievements of the multilateral trading system over the past 80 years and the challenges it now faces.

"The multilateral trading system has delivered enormous benefits over the past 80 years, helping to create a more integrated and resilient global economy," WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said.

About 72 per cent of global merchandise trade still takes place under the WTO's most-favoured-nation terms, she said.

"The global trading landscape has changed significantly but the founding logic of the system, that all economies are better off cooperating rather than acting unilaterally, remains as relevant today as ever," Okonjo-Iweala said.

She said WTO members are actively discussing reforms and recognize that "the status quo is not an option."

The report models three possible futures for the global trading system.

Under a strengthened multilateral framework, global GDP could rise 2.9 per cent and exports 17.9 per cent by 2050 compared with the baseline trajectory. — Xinhua

Japan's 1st driverless taxi service eyed in Tokyo in 2027

RIDE-HAILING app operator Go Inc, Waymo LLC, the self-driving vehicle unit of Google parent Alphabet Inc, and Nihon Kotsu Co said Tuesday that they aim to launch Japan's first fully driverless taxi service in Tokyo in 2027.

The three companies plan to gradually introduce about 100 autonomous taxis. In Japan, buses and other vehicles with automated driving under certain conditions are already in operation, mostly on fixed routes. A fully driverless taxi hailed via an app in urban areas would mark a major step towards wider adoption.

Waymo LLC's fully driverless taxi is test-driven in September 2026. (Photo courtesy of Go Inc, Waymo LLC and Nihon Kotsu Co) **PHOTO: KYODO**

Go will provide its expertise in taxi-hailing apps, while vehicles equipped with Waymo's self-driving technology will be operated. Japan's major domestic taxi firm Nihon Kotsu will be responsible for operations management and other tasks. After agreeing in 2024 to cooperate on self-driving technology, the three companies have conducted test runs on public roads in seven Tokyo wards since 2025, adapting Waymo's self-driving technology to the city's roads as they prepare to launch the service. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN STAR VOY.NO. (SSL015)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN STAR VOY.NO. (SSL015)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2026** 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 SUPER LIGHT LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2615N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2615N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd. to Shwe Khit Myay Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide manufacture by Apex Agrochem Pte.,Ltd.

Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Borad, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein towonship, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No
1	Larvakin	Emamectin Benzoate 2% + Lambda cyhalothrin 5% EC	P2025-6597
2	Tanker	Imidacloprid 10% WS	P2024-6462
3	Dikill	Niclosamide 70% WP	P2024-6567
4	Aron	Acetochlor 15.5% + Bensulfuron-methyl 4.5% WP	P2025-6650
5	Mixer	Sodium Nitrophenol 1.8% SL	P2024-6521
6	Super Zoe	Azoxystrobin 200g/l + Difenoconazole 125g/l SC	P2026-7107

Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd. Room (609), Myaing Hay Won Condo, Tower-B, 8 miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar. 09-404771266

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Apex Agrochem Co.,Ltd. to Agro Circle Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide manufacture by Apex Agrochem Pte.,Ltd.

Apex Agrochem Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Borad, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein towonship, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No
1	Cinde	Propiconazole 25% EC	P2024-6538
2	Tanco	Propineb 70% WG	P2024-6539
3	G Mag	Gibberellic acid (GA3) 10% TB	P2025-6685
4	Indica	Thiophanate-methyl 70% WP	P2025-6701

Apex Agrochem Co.,Ltd. No (A-5), Room (102), Mindama Condo, Mindama Street, Mayangone, Yangon. 09-406045950

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

UAE scholar highlights BRICS's strengthened role as Global South cooperation platform

THE BRICS group is rapidly strengthening its role as a platform for cooperation among Global South countries, a scholar from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has said.

BRICS has evolved from a grouping of emerging economies into a broader framework, and cooperation among BRICS countries is no longer limited to trade and investment, said Mohamed Binhuwaidin, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the UAE University in an interview with Xinhua. The group "has expanded to areas including technology, digital transformation, energy, the environment and financial cooperation, as well as people-to-people ties", he added.

Media staff work at the media centre at Bharat Mandapam, the main venue of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India, 12 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China, he said, has played a key role in the development of BRICS, particularly through the initiative of the "BRICS Plus" cooperation approach and the expansion of the group's agenda.

"This has helped turn BRICS into a multilateral framework that allows countries of the Global South to expand cooperation and exchange expertise and resources," he said.

Binhuwaidin said BRICS could amplify the voice of the Global South in international institutions by giving developing countries greater space to articulate their interests and participate in international decision-making. — Xinhua

Laos calls for shared humanitarian responsibility to heal wounds of war

LAOS has called for stronger international cooperation to heal the lingering wounds of war, stressing that addressing the threat posed by cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance (UXO) requires shared humanitarian responsibility.

Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone emphasized on Monday that healing the wounds of war requires shared humanitarian responsibility rather than individual state efforts. He made the remarks while speaking at the opening of the third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Lao capital Vientiane, which Laos is hosting from Monday to Friday.

An aerial drone photo taken on 13 September 2026 shows representatives attending the third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions visiting an unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance site in Luang Prabang Province, Laos. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In his opening remarks, Sonexay said Laos has made UXO clearance a national priority by integrating its international commitments into the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goal 18, "Lives Safe from UXO". He said the conference should help turn political commitments into practical results by accelerating clearance, safely returning contaminated land to communities, strengthening assistance for victims and reducing casualties. — Xinhua

Forest fires burn over 48,000 hectares in Indonesia's West Kalimantan

MORE than 48,000 hectares of land have been scorched by forest and land fires in Indonesia's West Kalimantan province since the beginning of the year, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said Tuesday.

According to Berton S P Panjaitan, acting head of the agency's Data, Information and Disaster Communication Centre, satellite observations and field surveys put the total affected area at 48,535 hectares. — Xinhua

US watchdog reports weapons shortfalls, damage from Iran war

A US government watchdog on Monday released its first report on the impact of the Iran war, detailing shortfalls in advanced weapons and damage to US aircraft, military bases and diplomatic facilities in the Middle East, multiple US media outlets reported.

The Pentagon inspector general's report, covering the period from 1 April to 30 June, offered the fullest official accounting so far of the conflict's costs in American lives, taxpayer dollars and physical damage.

The war with Iran "has resulted in strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply" of advanced weapons, said the report.

The report said Iranian strikes damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures at US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Dozens of US aircraft and drones were also damaged or destroyed.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth told Congress in late July that the war had cost US$37.5 billion at that point.

The report also provided previously undisclosed figures on damage to US diplomatic facilities.

US diplomatic posts in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE suffered the most extensive physical damage, with the estimated cost reaching $184 million, according to the report. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia raids 85 online scam sites in Aug, detaining 1,255 suspects

CAMBODIAN authorities cracked down on 85 small-scale online scam sites in August, detaining 1,255 suspects, according to a National Police report released Tuesday.

These operations are crucial to preventing criminals from relocating, as the authorities continue to use an "iron fist" to crush and eradicate these offences, the report said.

Additionally, the General Department of Immigration deported 2,005 foreign nationals in August, including 574 individuals linked to online fraud networks, the report added. – Xinhua

Air quality worsens in more areas across Malaysia

At least 37 areas recorded unhealthy air quality readings on Tuesday, according to data from the country's Air Pollutant Index Management System.

Air quality in parts of the northern Borneo state of Sarawak continues to be the unhealthiest, with the Serian area recording an Air Pollutant Index (API) of 188 as of 10 am local time, while the state capital Kuching recorded 153.

On the peninsula, the area of Johan Setia in Selangor state recorded 183, while in Johor state the districts of Pasir Gudang and Larkin recorded 174 and 169 respectively. – Xinhua

SPORTS

2026 Inter-State/Region Pencak Silat Championship opens

The launch of the 2026 Inter-State & Region Pencak Silat Championship in progress in Yangon yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the 2026 Inter-State and Region Pencak Silat Championship was held at National Indoor Stadium I in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, who is also Patron of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee, delivered the opening remarks, while Deputy Minister for Sports and Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee U Nyi Nyi delivered the speech and officially opened the championships.

The participating athletes then recited the four sports oaths. The chief minister and officials cordially greeted the athletes and presented cash awards to the brass band and pom-pom teams in recognition of their participation. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

Myanmar Esports Team Zanaka to compete at XX Asian Games

NATIONAL team Zanaka from Myanmar Esports Federation will compete in the XX Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from 19 September to 4 October, according to a media briefing held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

The team will compete in five events: Honour of Kings (HOK), PUBG Mobile (PUBGM), Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB), eFootball Mobile and eFootball Console. It will face leading teams from countries including host Japan, South Korea, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"Team Zanaka will compete at the Asian Games for the first time. We will face eight of the top teams from 12 Asian countries, particularly China, Japan and Saudi Arabia. We have made thorough preparations and aim to win medals for the country. We ask the public to follow and support us throughout the competition," said Myanmar Esports Federation President Dr Kaung Myat San.

A press conterence is underway in Yangon.. **PHOTO: ZWEMAN**

The eFootball Mobile and eFootball Console teams will leave for Japan on 19 September, followed by the HOK team on 24 September, the PUBG Mobile team on 25 September and the MLBB team on 26 September.

A total of 21 officials, coaches and athletes will take part in the competitions. KBZPay, U9, Lipovitan-D and SINODA will support the team. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

Carrick urges Man Utd to use derby pain as fuel against Brighton

MICHAEL Carrick wants Manchester United to channel the frustration of their derby defeat to Manchester City as they seek to get back on track against Brighton in the League Cup.

United failed to capitalize on Phil Foden's first-half red card at Old Trafford on Sunday and paid the price when Erling Haaland scored a controversial winner in the 60th minute.

The goal was initially disallowed for offside on the field but VAR overturned the decision, even though City's Enzo Fernandez, who was clearly offside, was interfering with play.

Refereeing body Pro Ref acknowledged an "error of judgement", saying that the video assistant referee should have recommended an on-field review.

Carrick said that his team must move on from their costly defeat as they prepare for Wednesday's League Cup third-round match against Brighton.

"I understand it's a new season, it's a fresh season and the points tally right now is not what we want it to be, so I'm not hiding from that," he said.

"But it's more (about) getting winning games, getting that feeling, getting the habit. It's easier said than done, of course it is, but we're capable of it."

United defender Lisandro Martinez called the derby decision an "injustice" — a feeling that Carrick wants his players to use as fuel against inform Brighton. — AFP

China targets Asian Games table tennis sweep, builds towards LA28

CHINA'S table tennis team will head to Japan on Wednesday targeting all seven gold medals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, while also looking to accelerate a generational transition ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics (LA28).

China won six table tennis gold medals at the 2023 Asian Games. Alongside Olympic champions Sun Yingsha, Wang Manyu and Wang Chuqin, this year's squad includes seven Asian Games debutants.

"The three Olympic champions pass on their experience to the seven young players, while the younger ones bring passion and drive to inspire the Olympic medallists," team head coach Qin Zhijian said.

Sun, who has missed several recent international competitions because of injury, said she was excited to return to competition despite having a different training rhythm from her teammates.

"I'm thrilled to be fit enough to compete, to run around on court without any worries," she said.

Lin Shidong, preparing for his Asian Games debut, said training had helped him adapt to the competition venue and match balls as his physical condition continued to improve.

"I'm eager to hit top form at the Asian Games," Lin said.

Host Japan is expected to pose one of China's biggest challenges. Sora Matsushima, Tomokazu Harimoto and Miwa Harimoto are among a generation of Japanese players who have emerged as major contenders on both the men's and women's sides.

China men's head coach Wang Hao described the Asian Games as a midterm test ahead of the Los Angeles Olympics and an important opportunity for established players and younger athletes.

The rivalry has been particularly close in the women's team event. China came from 2-1 down to beat Japan in the women's team final at each of the past two World Table Tennis Championships.

China women's head coach Ma Lin said Japan had completed its own generational transition in recent years.

"We have never underestimated Japan. We have analyzed Japanese players' playing styles and know exactly what we are up against," Ma said. "We need to stay vigilant, treat every ball seriously and hold ourselves to strict standards in training." — Xinhua

Wang Chuqin (L) and Sun Yingsha of China in action during the mixed doubles gold medal match at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 30 September 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

UAE scholar highlights BRICS's strengthened role as Global South cooperation platform

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WORLD

Russia, China Discussing Launch of Cross-Border Routes for Cargo Drones

President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of China Xi Jinping during a ceremony of exchanging documents after Russia-China talks on 8 May 2025. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Russia is actively negotiating with China to launch cross-border routes for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), with a pilot project planned for Blagoveshchensk, Dmitry Yadrov, the head of the Federal Air Transport Agency (Rosaviatsiya), told Sputnik.

In early September, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia was open to cooperation with all partners within the EAEU and other alliances to establish new cross-border routes for unmanned transport vehicles.

He noted that the negotiations were in an active phase and discussions were already underway.

The World Youth Festival is taking place in Yekaterinburg from 11 to 17 September, with 10,000 participants from 191 countries attending. Sputnik is the festival's general media partner. — SPUTNIK

China donates sample from far side of moon to UN in Vienna

A man takes photo of a lunar sample collected from the far side of the Moon by China's Chang'e-6 mission, in Vienna, Austria, 14 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA officially donated a lunar sample collected by the Chang'e-6 mission to the UN at a handover ceremony on Monday at the United Nations in Vienna, marking the first time that a lunar sample from the far side of the moon has been presented to the organization.

The ceremony was jointly held by the China National Space Administration (CNSA), the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). More than 400 guests, including heads of international organizations in Vienna and permanent representatives of various countries, attended the ceremony.

CNSA Administrator Shan Zhongde, the United Nations Office at Vienna Director-General Monica Juma, UNOOSA Director Aarti Holla-Maini, and China's Permanent Representative to the UN and Other International Organizations in Vienna Li Song jointly unveiled the lunar sample, which will be permanently displayed at the UN headquarters in Vienna.

Exploring the vast universe is a shared dream and an enduring pursuit of humanity, Shan said in his remarks, noting that Chinese President Xi Jinping has pointed out that the Chang'e lunar missions belong to both China and all people in the world. — Xinhua

Iranian security official says no talks with US until conditions met

A top Iranian security official said early Tuesday that Iran will not negotiate with the United States unless its conditions are met.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei made the remarks in a post on social media platform X in response to US President Donald Trump's remarks on Monday, in which Trump claimed that Tehran wanted to make a deal "quickly and badly" and that Washington could resume negotiations with it.

"The failing Nation of Iran wants to make a deal, quickly and badly. I will determine whether or not the USA will choose to engage — The concept of which we are open to," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"Don't get distracted by the US president's mixed signals — from 'no negotiations' to 'we're ready to talk.' The stakes around oil and the straits have changed. Damage control won't stop what's coming," Rezaei said.

"No talks until Iran's conditions are met. Period!" he stressed.

On 18 June, the United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war in the region on all fronts, including Lebanon. — Xinhua

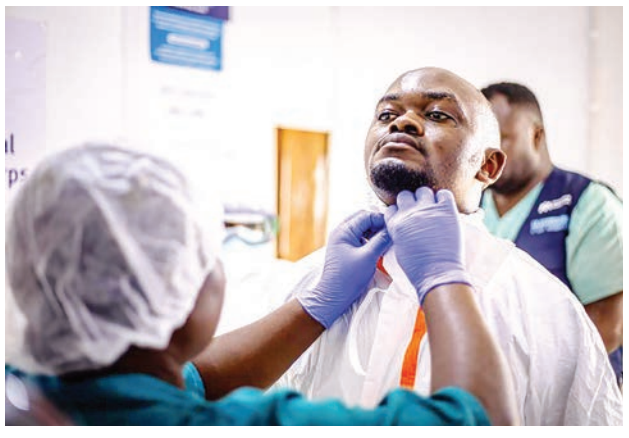
DR Congo reports over 7,200 Ebola cases amid overall downward trend

MORE than 7,200 confirmed Ebola cases have been recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as sustained transmission continues in several provinces despite an overall downward trend of the epidemic, according to governmental data released Tuesday.

A government report covering the epidemiological situation as of Sunday said 7,258 confirmed cases had been recorded in seven provinces, including 3,510 deaths and 1,726 recoveries. A total of 905 patients were in isolation or hospitalized, while the overall fatality rate stood at 48.4 per cent.

The outbreak has affected 62 health zones across seven provinces — Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele, Bas-Uele, Tshopo and Sud-Ubangi. Sustained transmission continued in Ituri, North Kivu and Haut-Uele, while sporadic cases were reported in Tshopo and Bas-Uele.

The overall epidemic curve was trending downward as the peak appeared to have been reached around mid-August, said Dieudonne Mwamba Kazadi, head of the National Institute of Public Health, after a strategic coordination meeting in Kinshasa on Monday. — Xinhua



A medical worker puts on a protective suit at an Ebola treatment centre in Beni, North Kivu Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 16 August 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**