

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

DENKO and MCIA Sign MoA to Supply Fuel for Corn Industry

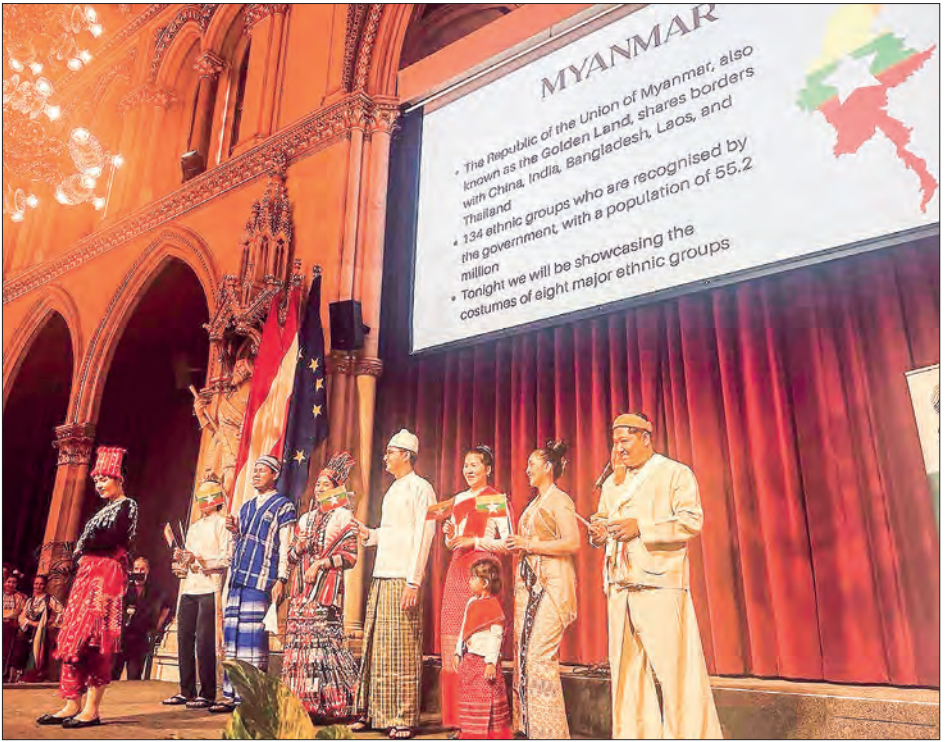
DENKO Trading Co Ltd, a company that specializes in importing, storing, transporting, and distributing fuel, has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association

(MCIA) to supply fuel for agricultural machinery used in corn farming operations. The MoA was signed on 25 September, with the goal of enhancing bilateral cooperation to provide corn growers and agricultural enterprises

with smoother and easier access to fuel. Through this partnership, both parties aim to effectively meet the fuel requirements of corn farmers. Additionally, both organizations are committed to building mutual trust and cooperation through this MoA, focusing on ongoing collaboration to advance the growth and development of Myanmar's corn industry. The signing ceremony was attended by officials from Denko Trading and the MCIA, representatives from related companies and organizations, and other invitees. — MT/ZN



This image captures the MoA signing ceremony between DENKO and MCIA.



This photo showcases Myanmar participating in the Costumes of the World Show held in Vienna, Austria.

Myanmar Joins Vienna's Global Costume Showcase

Myanmar participated in the Costumes of the World Show held at the Festsaal Rathaus in Vienna, Austria, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The International Cultural Diversity Organization (ICDO), based in Vienna, hosted the event. Staff of

the Myanmar Embassy in Vienna and their family members joined by donning traditional costumes representing eight ethnic nationalities — Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan — and performing the song “Forever Faithful”. Vienna City Council member and State Parlia-

ment representative Mr Omar Al Rawi, University of Vienna cultural studies professor Dr Hermann Muckler, and ICDO President Ms Josipa Palac delivered the opening remarks. The show featured traditional costumes and cultural dance performances from 31 countries, including Myanmar. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL PAGE 2



China's PLA warships depart Myanmar

NATIONAL PAGE 10



Relentless rains flood Taninthayi, submerging over 40 villages

Myanmar, Bangladesh Eye Trade Boost, Fair Exchanges

DISCUSSIONS on enhancing cooperation between the governments and business institutions of Myanmar and Bangladesh and exchanging invitations to trade fairs and forums were held in Chittagong, Bangladesh, in the third week of September, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ambassador met a delegation led by Md Amirul Haque, President of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at the World Trade Centre; attended a



Myanmar's Ambassador to Bangladesh holds discussions with business organizations based in Chittagong, Bangladesh. working lunch hosted by the Chittagong Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) at Hotel Agrabad; met a dele-

gation led by President Mr Khalilur Rahman at the Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry headquar-

Yetagun Shuts 10 Idle Gas Wells; Min Ye Thu to Start Output in 2028

THE Taninthayi Region government announced it will permanently plug and abandon 10 idle gas wells in offshore blocks M-12, M-13, and M-14 of the Yetagun Project.

SEE PAGE 3



This image shows the meeting held concerning offshore blocks M-12, M-13 and M-14 of the Yetagun Project.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 67/2026

2nd Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
28 September 2026

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Judge for Mandalay Region High Court

UNDER Clause (iv) of Section 308 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 82 (d) of the Union Government Law, Section 45 of the Union Judiciary Law and Section 18 (d) of the Region or State Government Law, U Htay Aung was appointed and assigned duties as a Judge of the Mandalay Region High Court.

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

4 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 1 special criminal appeal case, 3 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of U Tha Htay, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Thaung Naing, U Win Myint, Daw Soe Khet Khet and Daw Thin Thin Cho was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw and passed judgements for four special civil appeal cases – Nos 23/2026 (Mandalay), 25/2026 (Mon), 26/2026 (Shan) and 30/2026 (Yangon). Additionally, four special appeal cases – one special criminal appeal case – No 7/2026 (Yangon) and three special civil appeal cases – Nos 28/2026 (Yangon), 31/2026 (Yangon) and 32/2026 (Mandalay) were heard. — MNA/YHT

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

China's PLA warships depart Myanmar

THE Chinese navy's 48th Escort Task Group, destroyer Tang Shan, the frigate Da Qing and the replenishment warship Tai Hu, left Yangon's Thilawa port yesterday afternoon, seen off by Tatmadaw personnel and officials from the Chinese Embassy and Military Attaché Office.

When the Chinese military officers were in Myanmar, they visited famous sites in Yangon



Tatmadaw (Navy) officials and personnel bid farewell to departing China's PLA warships.



and the Navy Training Command Headquarters, participated in bilateral friendly sports competitions, visited

the warships of the two countries, and held mutual dinners.

During the return journey of the warships,

the PASSEX sailing and greeting exercise was conducted with the warships of the Tatmadaw (Navy). — MNA/MKKS

Weather

Deep Depression Warning No 3, 2026

Issued at 7 pm MST on 28 September 2026

Deep Depression Condition

According to observations at 6:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coastal has moved north-northwestwards and is crossing from the south of Kyaukto, Mon State, near the mouth of the Sittoung River in Myanmar. It is centred at about 35 nautical miles east-northeast of Thongwa, 35 nautical miles east-southeast of Bago and 90 nautical miles south-southeast of Pyu, Myanmar.

Its present state of Deep Depression is coded as brown stage, it could cross from the south of Kyaukto, Mon State, near the mouth of the Sittoung River in Myanmar.

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

The Deep Depression is located at Latitude 17.1 degree North and Longitude 97.0 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 1,000 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour at 6:30 pm MST today.

Next 48 hours forecast

It is likely to move north-northwestwards and continue to cross Bago, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Magway and Mandalay Regions during the next 48 hours.

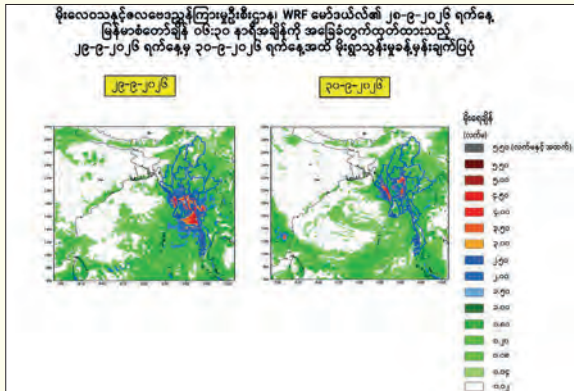
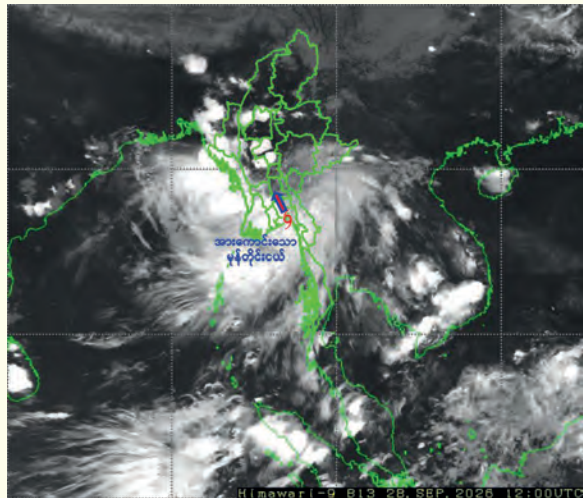
General caution

Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread

in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and Southern Shan States with a likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls from today noon to 30 September 2026. Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strikes, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, coastal area and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH



NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker welcomes observers



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met yesterday afternoon with representatives of the All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central), Nay Pyi Taw Association for Persons with Disabilities of Myanmar Federation of

Persons with Disabilities, who visited on the sixth day of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, at the Hluttaw Complex. The Speaker expressed his appreciation for their interest in observing the parliamentary proceedings. He explained that the visit would provide them with knowledge of parliamentary functions, including questioning, submitting proposals and legislation. He also highlighted the three branches after democratic general elections, its bicameral parliamentary system and the role of parliamentary committees in supporting legislative work. He encouraged the visitors to communicate their regional needs through relevant parliamentary committees and Hluttaw representatives from their constituencies. The attendees then raised questions, which the Speaker answered, and representatives of the organizations expressed their gratitude. — MNA/KTZH

57 Firms Give K400M+ to Laymyethna Flood Victims



Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepted the donation at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, expressed his gratitude, and presented a certificate of honour to the donors in return. — MNA/YHT

Yetagun Shuts 10 Idle Gas Wells; Min Ye Thu ...

FROM PAGE 1

Before closing the wells, Thai-owned oil company Gulf Petroleum Myanmar will conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the planned operations. On 25 September, Unique Environment Myanmar (UEM) Limited, the environmental consultant for the Yeta-

gun Offshore Gas Project, briefed Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo on plans to conduct an EIA study for the project. Gulf Petroleum Myanmar became the operator of the offshore project after taking over shares formerly held by Malaysia-based Petronas, which withdrew from the

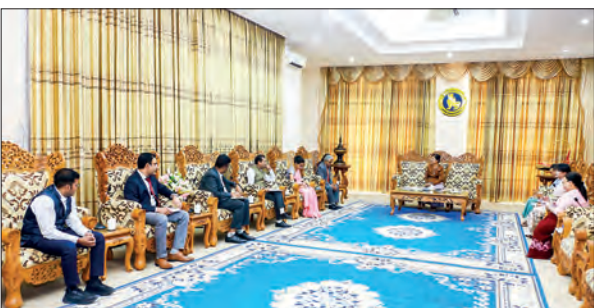
Yetagun Project, in partnership with the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). Gulf Petroleum Myanmar has also been awarded the right to operate Block M-10, known as the Min Ye Thu Project, in the Gulf of Mottama. The company has been urged to work towards achieving the project's target of

producing its first natural gas in 2028. Myanmar currently has four major offshore oil and gas projects – Yadana, Yetagun, Zawtika and Shwe – involved in exploration, drilling and production. Two additional offshore projects are being developed for further exploration, drilling and production. — TWA/KNN

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, India Weigh Currency Swap to Boost Trade

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo received Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur at the Central Bank of Myanmar meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The Indian ambassador to Myanmar discussed the draft Currency Swap Arrangement being prepared between the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Reserve Bank of India. He explained that the draft amendment would allow Myanmar banks to open Indian rupee accounts with Indian banks and Myanmar kyat accounts



with domestic banks. He also highlighted the importance of the Currency Swap Arrangement in facilitating bilateral trade, as foreign correspondent banks can open Vostro accounts with domestic banks, while domestic banks can open Nostro accounts with foreign correspondent banks. Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo discussed the continued review of the terms and conditions of the Currency Swap Arrangement and the prioritization of the use of the two countries' currencies

in bilateral trade. He also said that the Central Bank of Myanmar is opening a rupee Nostro account with Punjab National Bank, while Punjab National Bank is working to open Myanmar kyat accounts with local banks in Myanmar. In addition, the Central Bank of Myanmar is working with Sberbank's India branch to facilitate the use of all three currencies — the Indian rupee, Myanmar kyat and Russian rouble. Deputy-Governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar and departmental officials also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

Yangon General Hospital Performs Successful Finger Replant



A 23-year-old woman from Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region, whose left index finger was severed in an accident involving a cloth-cutting machine at a garment factory on 11 August, underwent successful replantation surgery at Yangon General Hospital. She arrived at the hospital's Emergency Department at 7:15 pm and received initial treatment from the orthopaedic specialist and medical staff. Replantation surgery began at 8:30 pm in the emergency operating theatre and was completed at 1 am on 12 August. The surgery was carried out through the joint efforts of hand surgeons, anesthesiologists, senior nurses and junior nurses, and laboratory, radiology and other skilled staff. The replanted finger recovered well and regained normal movement. The patient was discharged on 9 September and continues to undergo the necessary rehabilitation exercises. Yangon General Hospital has performed replantation surgeries on seven patients since 2022, including replantation surgeries for the forearm, arm, thumb, palm and index finger. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Addresses Education, Transport, Power and Health Queries

The third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw held its sixth-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and parliamentarians. During the sitting, deputy ministers answered 12 questions spanning basic education, vehicle regulations, power grid expansion, and public healthcare infrastructure.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing reported that inter-agency surveys have brought 144,384 out-of-school primary and middle school students up to age 15 years and three months back into the formal school system via special placement tests for the 2026-2027 academic year. He noted that age limits for non-formal equivalency tests are being relaxed in border and conflict-affected regions, where local administrative and medical documentation is accepted in place of lost academic records. Older youths are being directed to continuous non-formal equivalency programmes.

Addressing transport concerns, Deputy Minis-



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

ter for Transport U Aung Myaing affirmed that the Road Transport Administration Department registers only legally imported or locally assembled vehicles with full customs clearance and documentation. Because previous amnesties covering 6,226 vehicles failed to deter illicit imports, no tax-and-fine registration scheme will be offered for unlicensed vehicles. He added that makeshift motorbike sidecars assembled in local workshops fail road safety standards and pose severe public hazards; consequently, no temporary permits will be granted, nor will the state co-fund three-wheelers under a cost-sharing scheme.

On energy, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw explained that power restoration to Kyain-Seikkya

town awaits security clearance to repair war-damaged transmission lines in Mon and Kayin states. He outlined ongoing phased upgrades to a 66-kV system covering Pyapon, Bogale, and Mawlamyinegyun, and stated that line extensions for Htantabin Township wards will be submitted for regional funding. Regarding a proposed 1,800-2,000 kW small-scale hydropower plant on the Kasan Creek in Nawngmun Township, Kachin State, he noted that although the output exceeds local demand, construction remains suspended due to security and logistical constraints.

Responding to healthcare queries, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun disclosed that legal proceedings have been initiated against Ample Power Com-

pany for abandoning the final stages of a staff housing contract in Thabaung Township, with remaining funds slated for an upcoming budget. He stated that Yedashe Township Hospital does not currently require a 50-bed expansion due to an 82 per cent occupancy rate and its proximity to major facilities in Toungoo and Nay Pyi Taw. Land ownership transfers (Form 105/106) are underway to upgrade a sub-rural health centre in Taikkya and build a new sub-centre in Hmawby Township. In Mongyai Township, Mammon Station Hospital has recently been reinforced with three nurses and an assistant surgeon transferred from Lashio General Hospital.

Later in the session, the Hluttaw approved for discussion a motion tabled by U Aye Chan of Hline-thaya (East) urging the government to consolidate domestic banks into stronger, higher-quality financial institutions. The Bill Committee also presented findings on the Seventh Bill amending both the Amyotha Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw Election Laws. The meeting adjourned until 29 September. — MNA/ST

Taunggyi holds public awareness talk in Hamsi Model Village

THE Department of Rural Development, in cooperation with relevant township-level departments, staged a public awareness talk at Hamsi Model Village in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win explained measures to reduce smoke and haze, dispose of waste systematically, and prevent communicable diseases arising from environmental and indoor air pollution, along with preventive measures.



A public awareness talk in progress in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State.

Officials from the Department of Public Health, Department of Environmental Conservation, Township Police Force and Township Fire Services Department gave lectures on dengue fever and malaria prevention, including water container sanitation and larvicide application, environmental protection, traffic safety regulations, licensing and the risks of unlicensed vehicles, fire prevention techniques, oil-fire handling and extinguisher maintenance.

During the event, officials distributed informational pamphlets on fire prevention and environmental conservation to 82 local elders and residents in attendance. — Karan (Rural)



Yangon University of Education.

July JLPT results available as of 5 Oct

RESULTS of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in July 2026 will be available at designated places as of 5 October, said the JLPT organizing committee.

The original test voucher is required, and if it is lost or damaged, a copy of an ID

card on which the seat number is written is acceptable, it said.

Language schools and individuals who represent test takers for 10 persons and above will have to bring the seat number and test takers list, and their original test vouchers and ID card

copies.

Test takers from Yangon can collect their results at the learning hub of the Yangon University of Education in Kamayut Township, between 9 am and 3 pm from 5 to 12 October and at the JLPT Centre in Thingangyun Township be-

tween 9 am and 4 pm from 12 October onwards.

Test takers from Mandalay can collect their results at the MAJA Mandalay branch in Chanayethazan Township.

For more details, enquiries can be made via 01 7571015 for Yangon and 09 255162533 for Mandalay. — MT/ZS

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

NATIONAL

Educational supplies
donated to youth
development training
centre



Schoolchildren queue up to receive donated educational supplies.

AN Apple Authorized Reseller, XtraSure, donated educational supplies and medicines for 167 children and youth at a youth development training centre called ‘The Home for youths longing for loving arms’ in Bago Region on 15 September.

The donation is a part of XtraSure’s CRS programme, Towards the Good Days and with its initial funding of K1 million and contributions by the staff and customers’ sure benefits points, educational supplies worth more than K12.2 million were provided.

“We initiated this campaign to turn every customer purchase into a meaningful social impact through our CRS programme, Towards the Good Days. I’m very happy that the contributions of our customers and the prayers they wrote themselves have made this donation warmer and more meaningful, and I’m very delighted that it has created opportunities for children’s education,” said XtraSure’s spokesperson Ko Htun Myint Zaw.

Established in 2019, the youth development training centre teaches vocational skills such as computer, sewing, singing, dancing, cooking and handicrafts, in addition to formal education. — MT/ZS

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HLUTTAW

Questions answered on construction,
finance and revenue measures

The Amyotha Hluttaw continued its fourth-day meeting of the third regular session at its hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint replied to questions raised by MP U Khin Maung Myint from the Shan State Constituency 7, MP Daw Marlar Hsan from the Shan State Constituency 2 and MP Daw Mie Mie Kyaw Tun from the Kachin State Constituency 4. He stated that of the 15-mile and two-furlong road section from the Bahtoo Road junction to Yebyu Village, the remaining two miles and four furlongs of earth road that needs to be upgraded in Yaksawk Township to a gravel road will be included in the budget allocation of the Shan State Government for the 2027-2028 financial year. In order to upgrade the gravel-road sections to asphalt roads, annual plans will be made in coordination and cooperation with the Shan State Government.

He also responded that after conducting a feasibility study for the Aungban de-tour project in Kalaw Township aimed at minimizing impacts on farmland, the state government will continue to submit the matter to the Union Government for further action.

He also replied that road maintenance works



The fourth-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw’s third regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

will be carried out using the maintenance and repair fund for the 2026-2027 financial year on the 10 miles and one furlong section of the 13-mile road connecting with the Mongkhun Village-tract in Tanai Township that remains to be paved with concrete. The upgrading process for road sections will be carried out in the coming financial years.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung also answered the questions raised by MP Daw Mie Mie Kyaw Tun from the Kachin State Constituency 4 and MP U Kyaw Kyaw Latt from the Yangon Region Constituency 10, saying that there is no plan to establish the Township Internal Revenue Department Office in Tanai Township due to the number of taxpayers. He also replied that as the due diligence process for life insurance policyholders is currently being carried out, approximately 90 per cent of the policyholders have been assessed. To ensure that the insurance rights of the public who purchased

ing an Insurance Guarantee Fund and a policy transfer protection mechanism so that insured citizens do not lose their rights when insurance businesses suspend operations or withdraw from Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung explained that regarding the proposal’s call for the enactment of a law and rules on the establishment of an Insurance Protection Fund and a Transfer Protection System, although relevant provisions have already been prescribed under the Insurance Business Law and its rules, further measures will be taken to amend and add provisions to the rules in line with current circumstances, as well as to issue the necessary directives.

He continued that after conducting the necessary study and assessment, coordination will be made with the Myanmar Insurance Association to establish a Fund for the Protection of Life Assurance Policyholders in accordance with the Insurance Business Law and its rules, to protect the rights and entitlements of insured members of the public and ensure that they do not suffer any loss.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal. The third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 5th-day meeting on 1 October. — MNA/TTA

Yamethin inspects village road gravel surfacing work

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review progress on gravel surfacing work on a village road implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Bhomma Village, Yamethin Township, during the 2026-2027 financial year.

Yamethin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Win, engineering staff, and members of the Village Development Project Committee inspected the gravel surfacing work on the village road, measuring 1,300 feet long, 12 feet wide,

and nine inches thick. She met village elders and local communities, discussing the need to complete the works within the stipulated period and in accordance with prescribed standards and specifications.

The gravel surfacing work is being executed by residents with technical assistance and close supervision from DRD staff, using K15 million in VDP support funds and K4.63 million contributed by local communities, totalling K19.63 million. Work commenced in the first week of September this year, with approximately 76 per cent of overall work now completed. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials oversee the implementation status of the road construction project in Yamethin Township.

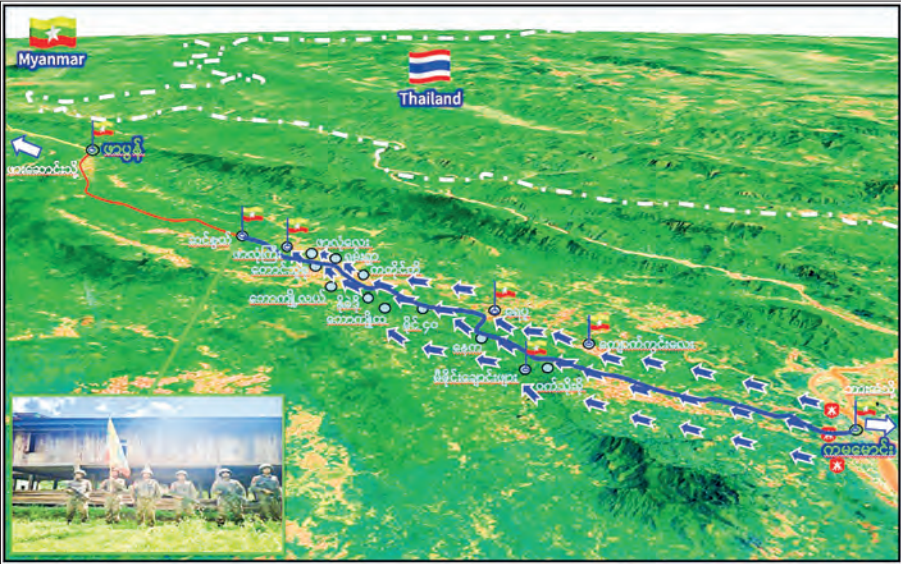
NATIONAL

Tatmadaw Columns Retake Sinswe Village Along Kamamaung-Papun Route

TATMADAW columns have retaken control of Sinswe Village along the Kamamaung-Papun route after security operations against combined KNU, KNLA and PDF forces, according to a report.

The columns began operations to reopen the route on 5 May 2026, after the joint forces had temporarily controlled sections of the corridor. They progressively regained control of several villages, most recently Hpalongyi Village on 7 September, before retaking Sinswe Village on the evening of 27 September.

According to the report, the security forces engaged in 65 clashes during the operations and seized 11 temporary outposts, 13 bodies, 15 firearms, 24 FPV drones,



This map, including an inset, shows Tatmadaw columns retaking control of Sinswe Village along the Kamamaung-Papun Road.

mines, walkie-talkies and other equipment. Some security personnel were also killed in the fighting.

The report accused the joint forces of using civilian buildings as defensive positions, extorting and looting residents and vehicles, destroying roads and bridges with mines, and restricting travel and trade along the route.

Security columns, working with residents, will continue operations to reopen the remaining sections of the Kamamaung-Papun route. Authorities also plan to repair damaged infrastructure, clear mines and rehabilitate schools, health facilities, religious buildings and homes. — MNA/ST

Illegal hand-dug oil wells of PDFs seized in Pakokku

SECURITY forces, in pursuit of government directives, are taking measures in cooperation with relevant departments to prevent and combat the illegal extraction and production of natural resources above and below ground and on land and in water.

Following reports from locals that armed terrorits were illegally extracting and smuggling valuable

natural resources, collecting extortion fees, and using the proceeds to purchase weapons and ammunition, security forces conducted inspections in Pakokku Township, Magway Region.

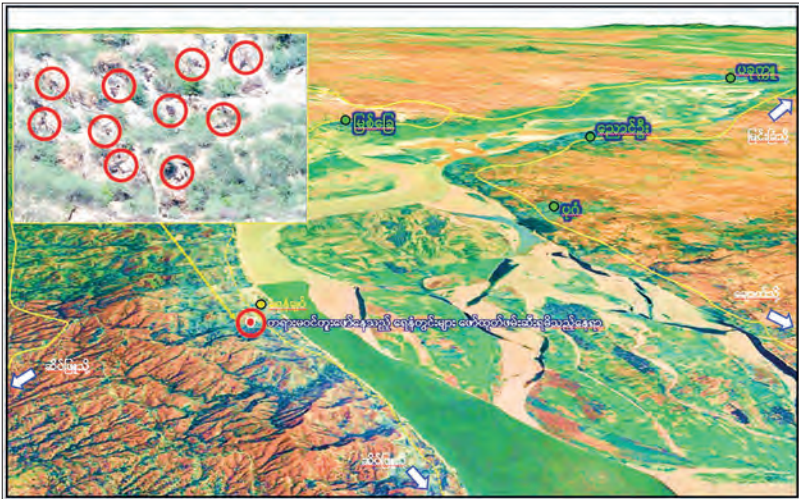
The inspections uncovered 735 sites where illegal hand-dug oil wells were being operated near Yenanchat Village – 39 sites on 18 September, 35 on 19 September, 44

on 20 September, 176 on 21 September, 184 on 22 September, 138 on 23 September, 68 on 24 September, 25 on 25 September, 18 on 26 September and eight on 27 September.

Equipment used for oil processing was seized, and 509 temporary huts used by PDFs were destroyed.

Authorities are systematically destroying the illegal oil well sites and equipment by fire in line with procedures. Necessary security operations will continue in the area to prevent further illegal oil extraction.

PDF terrorist groups had allegedly been exploiting local communities, operating illegal oil wells themselves and collecting extortion fees from local oil workers, with the proceeds used to purchase weapons and ammunition. The security operations were conducted based on information provided by locals, and counter-terrorism and area security operations would continue in cooperation with local communities to maintain stability in Magway Region. — MNA/KTZH



This map and inset show the seizure of illegal hand-dug oil wells in Pakokku Township, Magway Region.

Authorities seize illegal oil extraction sites in Myaing

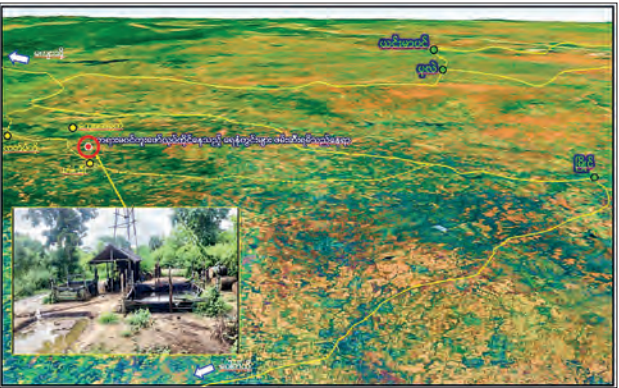
THE terrorist insurgents have been illegally extracting the country’s valuable natural resources for their own interests and using the proceeds to purchase weapons and ammunition, strengthen their forces, and carry out destructive activities. Therefore, based on accurate information provided by the residents, Tatmadaw columns conducted security operations against locations near Taegyvi Village in the Letpan Toe-Kyauk Khwet oilfield area of Myaing Township, where PDF-affiliated terrorist insurgents were illegally extracting oil and exercising control over residents. The security forces also carried out operations to destroy the illegal oil extraction sites by fire.

The insurgent groups were operating oil wells in Myaing Township and collecting extortion fees from locals engaged in traditional hand-dug oil extraction;

security forces began necessary search and inspection operations.

From 31 August to 27 September, a total of 131 illegal oil extraction sites were uncovered- one site on 31 August, two on 3 September, one on 4 September, two on 5 September, three each on 6, 7 and 8 September, five each on 9, 11, 12, 13 September, six each on 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 September, seven on 15 September, and eight each on 26 and 27 September. Equipment used for oil processing was seized, along with 246 temporary huts used as shelters by the insurgent groups.

The authorities are systematically destroying the seized illegal oil extraction sites and equipment by fire in accordance with procedures. Necessary security operations will continue in the area to prevent further illegal oil extraction activities. — MNA/KTZH



This map, including an inset, shows the locations of illicit oil extraction sites targeted in a crackdown and seizure operation in Myaing Township, Magway Region.

Daily newspapers available online

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NATIONAL

Financial supporters of CRPH, NUG through PRF website arrested

AUTHORITIES have taken legal action against individuals and organizations accused of supporting, encouraging or providing financial assistance to CRPH, NUG and affiliated PDF groups, which have been designated as terrorist organizations.

NUG established the People's Revolution Supply Family (PRF) website <https://form.prfhq.mod-nug.org> to raise funds for its activities and long-term operations through Wave Pay, NUG Pay, SDB Bank, cryptocurrency and foreign-currency payment systems.

Based on information provided by dutiful civilians, authorities



A PRF website.

identified the details of more than 2,700 people who allegedly provided financial support to the PRF website, including around 700 through Wave Pay, 1,000 through NUG Pay and 1,000 through SDB Bank.

Following investigations, 21 individuals accused of transferring funds to the PRF web-

site were identified and arrested. They were from various townships, including Mohnyin, Lashio, Shwe Nyaung, Patheingyi, PyinOoLwin, Pyinmana, Zabuthiri, Hlegu, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (South), Mingaladon, Hline, Kyimyindine, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Pathein,

Dedaye, Maubin and Kyaunggon.

The arrested individuals will face legal action. Further investigations are underway to identify and arrest other individuals allegedly linked to the PRF website. Wave Pay accounts identified in connection with the case will also be closed and confiscated in accordance with the law.

The public is urged not to support or provide financial assistance to CRPH, NUG or other groups designated as terrorist organizations, and officials encouraged people with relevant information to report it confidentially to the authorities. — MNA/KTZH

Terror Mine Rips Bus, Monks and Civilians Slain

CRPH, NUG and their associated PDF terrorist groups, organizations and individuals, aiming to destroy the peace and stability of the country, create fear among the public and undermine the government apparatus, have been unlawfully committing various acts of terrorism, including killing and injuring civilians, loyal civil servants, children and people in places which are not related to military targets, as well as burning down public buildings, laying mines on roadsides used by the public, threatening students who are studying peacefully with weapons, and arresting and torturing them.

Yesterday afternoon, an AD van driven by U Zin Ko Aung, a resident of Linkataw village of Myaing Township, was unexpectedly attacked by PDF terrorists near Milepost 42/5 near the bridge over Hteesau village of Myinmu Township, on the way from Mandalay to Monywa Township.

A passenger in the vehicle, Daw Wai Wai Lwin

from Thakechaung village of Ngaputaw Township, was killed by the mine, while Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silacara and Ma Mie Mie Thant from Deppasey village of Yezagyo Township, and the driver were injured.

The security forces have taken the injured people to the Myinmu Township People's Hospital and are providing them with necessary medical treatment.

The residents strongly condemn the terrorist acts committed by PDF terrorists, who recklessly attacked a travelling vehicle carrying monks and innocent civilians who were carrying out religious activities unrelated to military targets.

The security forces are investigating and cooperating with the responsible residents to take action against those who committed the acts of violence under the law, and are also increasing necessary security activities to maintain regional peace and security and protect people's lives and property. — MNA/MKKS

TTI offers export business startup course in Oct

THE Trade Training Institute (TTI) of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce will offer intensive training on how to start an export business (Batch 26) from 9 am to 4 pm on 12-16 October 2026.

The institute is located at 228/240, the corner of Strand Road and Shwethontha Street in Pabedan

Township, Yangon.

The maximum number of trainees is 50. Trainees can register at the institute by providing an application form, three licensed photos, a bachelor's degree certificate, a matriculation pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card and other related documents.



Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the Institute at 01 8250871, 09 254075848, and 09 250088436. — NN/KK

Highways Dept seeks tenders for restroom services at 4 expressway rest camps

THE Highways Department's Expressway Maintenance, Repair and Supervision Team has invited an open tender for entrepreneurs to operate restroom services at four rest camps on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, according to the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee.

The facilities are located within mileposts 0/0 to 365/3 along the expressway. Interested domestic entrepreneurs are invited to compete under an unrestricted tender system by paying rental fees to the department. The five restrooms are located at Bawnatgyi Rest Camp (outbound

lane) (milepost 39/12-1), Pyu Rest Camp (outbound lane) (Milepost 115/02,- 1), Nay Pyi Taw Rest Camp (outbound/inbound lanes) (Milepost 201/23,- 2) and Theegon Rest Camp (outbound lane) (Milepost 284/45). Tender forms will be available by 4 pm on 12 October. The bid open-

ing date and time will be announced separately. Bids will be opened at Office 11, Nay Pyi Taw. Individuals can enquire about further details through the team at 09250902004, according to the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee. — NN/KK



This image reveals damage to a passenger vehicle in a mine blast by insurgents in Myinmu Township.

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Leveraging efforts to expand oilseed crop acreage

Edible oil is an essential basic food product used in daily cooking and food preparation. It is also closely linked to food security for the people and the economic stability of the country. Therefore, it is important to ensure that domestic demand for edible oil can be adequately met through domestic production.

As Myanmar is an agriculture-based country, it has considerable potential to select and cultivate oilseed crops suitable for local soil and climatic conditions in different regions. Domestic edible oil production can be increased by cultivating groundnut, sesame, sunflower and other oilseed crops using appropriate cultivation methods. In this regard, it is essential to ensure the production of

high-quality oilseed crops with high yields.

Oilseed crops such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower, canola, Niger and so on are planted on more than 3.34 million hectares of croplands across the country. On average, these oilseed crops produce 3.23 million metric tonnes of edible oil per year. In oilseed cultivation, efforts should be made to select and use quality seeds, choose suitable farmland, systematically apply fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water according to soil conditions, and adopt modern cultivation methods. In addition, systematic post-harvest handling is essential to maintain the quality of oilseed crops, including proper storage, transport and oil extraction processes.

If the yield of oilseed crops improves, it will not only ensure sufficient domestic edible oil consumption but also increase the income of oilseed farmers and reduce dependence on imported edible oil. This, in turn, will help reduce foreign exchange expenditure and contribute to the development of domestic production and agriculture-based businesses.

Edible oil sufficiency is essential not only for people's daily food consumption but also for the country's economy and food security. Therefore, relevant departments, under the guidance and direction of the government, are working together with farmers to make effective use of existing agricultural land and expand the cultivation of oilseed crops suited to local conditions, with the aim of producing high-quality crops with good yields.

Therefore, if oilseed crops such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower, soybean and oil palm are systematically expanded in accordance with regional conditions to achieve the highest possible yields, domestically produced edible oil can be fully utilized within the country, thereby improving domestic edible oil sufficiency. Therefore, farmers, agricultural experts, producers and all responsible personnel from relevant sectors should work together and cooperate in expanding the cultivation of oilseed crops.

The Heartbeat You Didn't Hear: Myanmar's Silent Warning Signs of Heart Disease

By Dr Aung Tun

tension among adults over 40, but that study should not be interpreted as a national estimate. More importantly, the nationally representative Myanmar STEPS Survey 2024 found hypertension in 24.4 per cent of adults aged 18-69 years - nearly one in four - demonstrating why routine blood-pressure measurement matters even when a person feels well.

Irregular heartbeat. A fluttering, racing or irregular heartbeat may be harmless in some situations, but persistent or recurrent palpitations - particularly when accompanied by fainting, chest discomfort, marked breathlessness or dizziness - deserve medical assessment. Some abnormal heart rhythms, including atrial fibrillation, can increase the risk of stroke.

Breathlessness and swelling. Increasing shortness of breath during ordinary activity, difficulty breathing when lying flat, unusual fatigue or swelling of the ankles can be warning features of heart failure or other cardiopulmonary conditions. These symptoms are

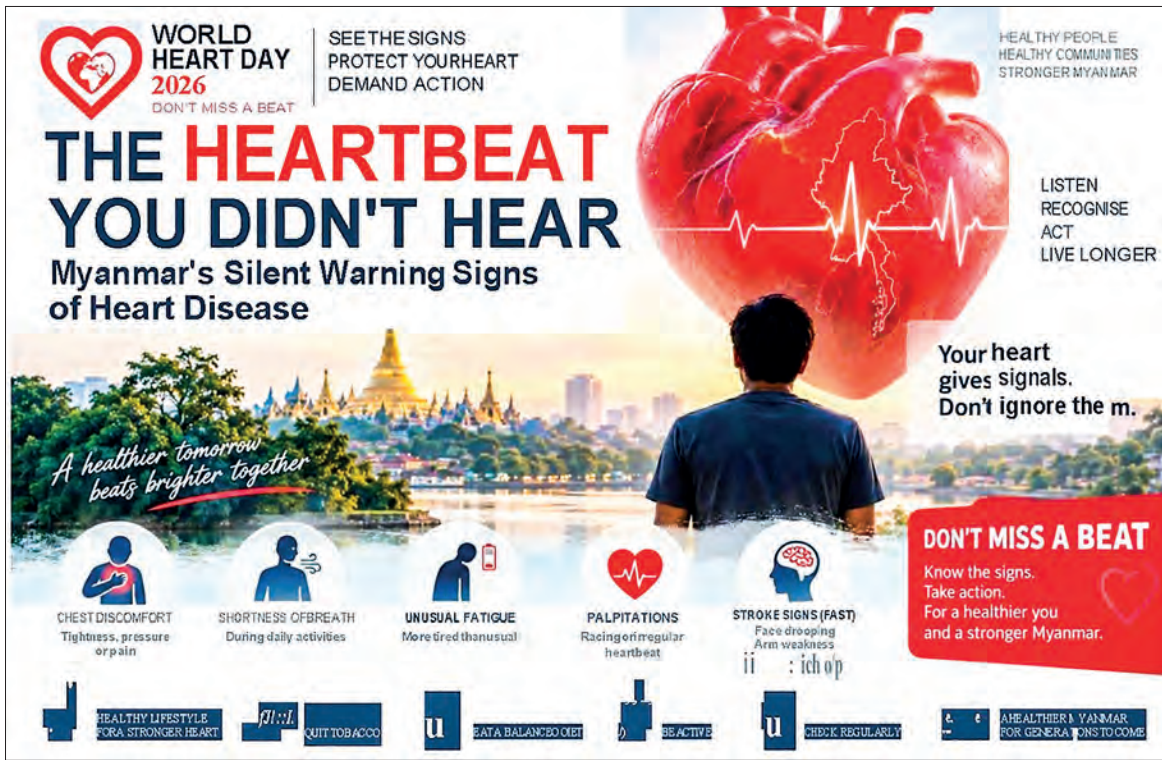
not specific to heart disease, but persistent or worsening symptoms should not simply be accepted as an inevitable part of ageing. **Who May Be Missed?**

Warning signs can be overlooked at any age. Women may experience symptoms that are less

readily recognised as heart-related, and the World Heart Federation's 2026 campaign specifically highlights overlooked symptoms in women. Younger adults may also underestimate risk because cardiovascular disease is commonly associated with older age.

Congenital and inherited heart conditions can affect younger people, while tobacco use, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and physical inactivity can increase cardiovascular risk across adulthood.

People living with hypertension face a particular challenge because feeling well does not mean blood pressure is controlled.



Staying prescribed treatment simply because symptoms are absent can allow silent vascular damage to continue. Regular measurement, adherence to prescribed treatment and periodic clinical review are therefore central to prevention.

From Awareness to Action: Don't Miss a Beat 2026

The World Heart Federation's 2026 message can be translated into three practical actions for Myanmar.

See the signs. Learn the warning signs of heart attack and stroke. Know that sudden one-sided weakness or speech difficulty is an emergency. Recognise that persistent chest discomfort, unexplained severe breathlessness, fainting or other concerning symptoms require prompt medical assessment. At the same time, remember that hypertension may give no warning at all - it must be measured.

Protect your heart. Prevention still provides the greatest opportunity. Avoid tobacco, reduce excess salt, eat a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables, remain physically active, maintain a healthy weight, and have blood pressure, blood glucose and other cardiovascular risks checked as appropriate. Myanmar STEPS 2024 reported that 23.3 per cent of adults aged 18-69 currently smoked tobacco, reinforcing the continuing importance of tobacco control.

SEE PAGE 11

The Health Effects of Climate Change in Today's Changing World

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

Climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing the world today. It

refers to long-term changes in temperature, rainfall, weather patterns, and other conditions of the Earth's climate. Human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial pollution have contributed greatly to global warming. While climate change affects the environment, it also has a major impact on human health. As the world continues to change, understanding these health effects is becoming increasingly important.

Climate change is impacting human lives and health in a variety of ways. It threatens the essential ingredients of good health

- clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply and safe shelter - and has the potential to undermine decades of progress in global health.

Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone. The direct damage costs to health are estimated to be between US\$2.4 billion per year by 2030.

Climate change is widely recognized as one of today's defining health challenges, and addressing the interlinked challenges of

climate change and health is a priority for the World Health Organization (WHO). The scale of research on climate change and health has increased in recent years alongside the rapidly expanding engagement of research institutions and health professionals in climate and health work.

Climate change is one of the most urgent public health challenges of our time. It increases the risks of temperature extremes, natural disasters, exposure to climate-sensitive diseases, and the resulting health effects for each person on the planet. The effects of climate change are far-reaching,

putting everyone's immediate and long-term health at risk.

One of the most direct health effects of climate change is extreme heat. Rising temperatures can cause heat exhaustion, dehydration, and heatstroke. Particularly vulnerable people, such as young children, older adults, outdoor workers, and those with certain health conditions, may face greater risks during heat waves. Higher temperatures can also make some existing health problems worse, especially heart and respiratory conditions.

Climate change can also affect the spread of infectious diseases. Changes in temperature and rainfall can create more suitable conditions for mosquito

and other disease-carrying insects. As a result, diseases such as dengue fever and malaria may spread to new areas or become more common in some regions. Warmer temperatures and changing environmental conditions can therefore create additional challenges for public health systems.

Another important health concern is air pollution. Climate change can increase the frequency or severity of conditions that contribute to poor air quality, including wildfires and periods of stagnant air. Breathing polluted air can damage the lungs and increase the risk of respiratory illnesses such as asthma. People living in cities and areas affected

by smoke or pollution may be especially vulnerable.

Climate change can also affect mental health. Floods, storms, droughts, wildfires, and other climate-related disasters can cause people to lose their homes, possessions, or sources of income. Such experiences may lead to stress, anxiety, depression, and other emotional difficulties. Communities that repeatedly experience environmental disasters may face long-term psychological challenges.

Food and water security are also connected to climate change. Changes in rainfall, rising temperatures, droughts, and floods can reduce agricultural production and affect access to safe

drinking water. Lack of nutritious food can lead to malnutrition, while contaminated water can contribute to diseases such as diarrhoea and other infections. These problems can be particularly serious in poorer communities that have fewer resources to adapt to climate change.

However, many of the health effects of climate change can be reduced through effective action. Governments can invest in clean energy, improve public transport, protect forests, strengthen healthcare systems, and develop early-warning systems for extreme weather. Individuals can also contribute by saving energy, reducing waste, using environmentally friendly transportation, and protecting natural resources. International cooperation is important because climate change affects countries

around the world.

In summary, climate change is not only an environmental problem but also a major health issue. Extreme heat, infectious diseases, air pollution, mental health problems, food insecurity, and unsafe water are among its important health effects. Taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and helping communities adapt to changing conditions can protect human health and create a safer future. Everyone has a role to play in building a healthier and more sustainable world.

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NATIONAL

Relentless rains flood Taninthayi, submerging over 40 villages

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced on the afternoon of 28 September that a well-marked low-pressure area over the northern Andaman Sea moved north-northwestwards, intensified, and reached the level of a depression.

Due to this depression, continuous rains caused flooding and landslides across Launglon, Dawei, and Thayetchaung townships in Taninthayi Region. More than 40 villages are currently submerged.

Some rescue workers stated that around 10 residents have died and nearly 20 remain missing. However, the exact data cannot yet be independently verified due to power outages, phone line



This image depicts floodwaters in certain wards in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

disruptions, and damaged transport routes. Because rescue resources are limited, operations are prioritizing the evacuation of trapped flood victims to safe areas.

Residents estimate that tens of thousands of people may be affected by the floods. According to statements from relevant officials, 8,431 flood victims from four wards in Launglon have been relocated and sheltered at Pan Taw Wa Monastery. Additionally, parts of the Myeik-Dawei highway in Thayetchaung are flooded, while paddy fields in numerous villages have suffered extensive damage.

The DMH has warned that heavy rain, lightning, and hail may occur, advising high caution regarding mountain torrents, flash floods, and landslides. — TWA/ZN

Depression Tracks Towards Kyaikto, Gulf of Mottama After Yangon

THE remnants of a depression that had crossed Thailand regained strength as they moved back into the Andaman Sea and developed into a depression over lower Myanmar. The system passed over Yangon yesterday afternoon, causing heavy rain and flooding on roads, and was forecast to pass directly between Kyaikto and the Gulf of Mottama at night, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Heavy rain lasting more than 20 minutes around 3 pm caused flooding on roads and drainage systems across Yangon. The rain temporarily stopped at 3:23 pm, allow-



Vehicles are seen wading through floodwaters in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

ing floodwaters on major roads to recede. Although clouds remained over the city, traffic during school dismissal and office hours continued normally.

“The current depression is now over Yangon. Although the rain stopped in the evening, there are still dark clouds, so more rain is expected. Rainfall could be heavy due to the depression. Tonight, the depression is expected to pass directly between Kyaikto and the Gulf of Mottama. The regional government is overseeing preparations to respond promptly to any incidents that may occur due to the heavy rainfall. Yangon is expected to receive between three and four inches of rainfall within 24 hours,” said Dr May Khin Chaw, director of the department.

Under the supervision of the Yangon Region government, fire services, health officials, the Red Cross and social rescue organizations are on standby to respond to flooding and fallen or damaged trees.

The depression is forecast to move through Bago, Pyu, and Nay Pyi Taw towards Sagaing Region on 29 September, gradually weakening along its path. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Depression over Gulf of Mottama brings heavy rain, strong winds

A depression has formed over the northern Andaman Sea and adjoining areas of the Gulf of Mottama and the Mon-Taninthayi coast, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) at 1 pm on 28 September.

At 12:30 pm, the depression was centred about 50 nautical miles south of Mawlamyine, with maximum winds of about 35 miles per hour and a central pressure of 1,002 hectopascals. It is expected to move north-northwest and may intensify into a deep depression within 12 hours before crossing between Thongwa in Yangon Region and Kyaikto in Mon State.

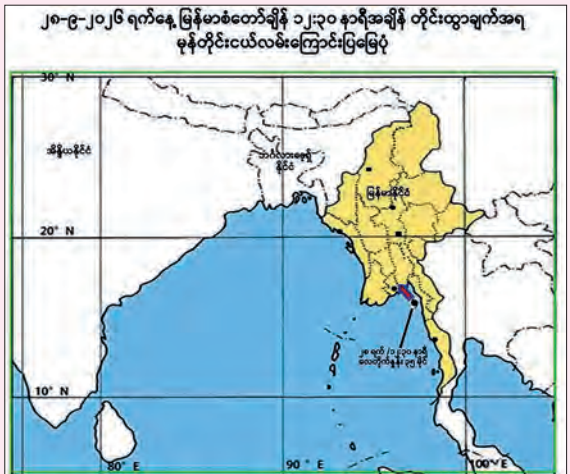
Over the following 36 hours, the system is forecast to continue north-northwest across Yangon, Bago and Magway regions.

Heavy rain and thunderstorms are expected from this afternoon through 30 September in Nay Pyi Taw and several regions and states, including Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi, Mon, Kayin, Kayah, Rakhine and Shan (South).

Squalls and rough seas are expected in the Ayeyawady Delta, the Gulf of Mottama and along the Mon-Taninthayi coast, with winds of 35-40 miles per hour and waves of up to 10-12 feet. Along the Rakhine coast, winds may reach 25-30 miles per hour, with waves of up to 8-10 feet.

The DMH has warned of possible heavy rain, strong winds, flash floods and landslides, and advised residents in affected areas, domestic airlines and coastal and offshore vessels to take precautions.

– Htun Htun/MKKS



This photo displays the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's storm-related information release.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 28 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,665.00~3665.80	557.00~557.60	125.50~125.70	-
Trading amount in the market	7,981,909.41	5,192,940.20	26,484,246.66	-

Offshore Wind Farms Could Create Radar Blind Spots and ‘Ghost’ Targets — Chinese Study

AS China rapidly expands its wind projects near coastal areas, researchers find the turbines can complicate marine vessel detection at sea, the SCMP reports.

Researchers found that at just five-kilometre range, effective radar coverage fell by 6.9 per cent while blind spots grew by 14.9 per cent.

The issue stems from the turbines themselves — massive metal structures that reflect radar signals, creating false returns and weakening coverage behind them.

The research — published last month in the peer-reviewed Chinese journal *Radio Engineering* — was conducted by Professor Liu Zunnian and his team from Qingdao Technological University.

China now holds ~52 per cent of global offshore wind capacity — 48.4 GW installed by end-2025, with 6.6 GW added last year alone. The study’s authors say the fix isn’t distance alone, but careful site selection, better radar algorithms, and supplementary radars where gaps can’t be avoided. — SPUTNIK



A drone photo taken on 13 January 2026 shows the construction site of a 20-megawatt offshore wind turbine unit in the coastal waters of southeast China’s Fujian Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China’s deep-sea drilling capacity reaches 5,000-metre level



An aerial drone photo taken on 28 July 2026 shows China’s ocean drilling vessel Mengxiang conducting an operation at night. China’s Mengxiang ocean drilling vessel has set a national record for deep-sea drilling, elevating its capability to the 5,000-metre level, after obtaining basalt samples from the South China Sea basin, the Ministry of Natural Resources said on Monday. This marks China’s entry into international advanced ranks in deep-sea drilling operation capacity, according to the ministry. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA’S Mengxiang, meaning Dream, ocean drilling vessel has set a national record for deep-sea drilling, elevating its capability to the 5,000-metre level, after obtaining basalt samples from the South China Sea basin, the Ministry of Natural Resources said on Monday.

This marks China’s entry into international advanced ranks in deep-sea drilling operation capacity, according to the

ministry.

A 4.27-metre basalt sample was extracted during the voyage via a self-developed drill, which made China the third country after the United States and Japan to obtain hard rock samples from a deep ocean basin using drilling vessels.

The research team conducted a long-term and high-intensity operation of shipborne remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), deploying

two ROVs to operate for over 358 hours in total at a depth of 4,000 metres, with a single continuous operation lasting up to 103 hours, reaching internationally advanced levels, said Sun Zhen, a researcher at the Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey (GMGS) in south China.

Following the standards of the International Ocean Discovery Programme for the first time, researchers also

completed on-site multi-parameter processing and analysis of the samples, including cataloging, cutting, scanning, testing and storage, thereby mastering full-process operational capabilities for ultra-deep water ocean scientific drilling.

The samples and data obtained during the voyage provide crucial empirical evidence for addressing core scientific issues such as the expansion of the South China Sea. They are also of great significance for studying the evolution of the ancient marine environment in the sea and for the exploration and development of ultra-deep water energy resources, researchers noted.

A total of 170 researchers from nine institutions participated in the voyage, which was organized by the China Geological Survey and implemented by the GMGS. China’s first domestically-built ocean drilling vessel, Mengxiang, was officially commissioned in 2024. — Xinhua

The Heartbeat You Didn’t Hear: Myanmar’s Silent ...

FROM PAGE 9

Demand action. Heart health cannot rest on individuals alone. Communities need accessible blood pressure screening, reliable referral pathways and health workers equipped to recognise cardiovascular risk and urgent symptoms. Public communication should make stroke and heart-attack warning signs as familiar as messages about diet, tobacco and exercise.

Strengthening the Front Line

Basic health staff and community-based health workers can play an im-

portant role in prevention and early recognition, particularly where specialist services are distant. Integrating simple cardiovascular risk assessment, blood-pressure measurement, symptom recognition and referral guidance into existing NCD services can help identify people who need further care.

Health education should also distinguish between prevention and emergency recognition. A person can follow a healthy lifestyle and still need to know the signs of a stroke or heart attack. Conversely, waiting for symptoms is not

a safe strategy for detecting hypertension, diabetes or high cholesterol. Both messages belong together: prevent what can be prevented, measure what can be silent, and act quickly when warning signs appear.

A National Promise to Listen

World Heart Day 2026 is an opportunity to listen more carefully to the body’s signals without creating unnecessary fear. Not every episode of tiredness, indigestion or palpitation is heart disease, but persistent, severe or sudden symptoms deserve appropriate assessment. Sud-

den chest discomfort with breathlessness or sweating, or FAST symptoms of stroke, require urgent medical attention.

For Myanmar, where hypertension affects nearly one in four adults aged 18-69 in the 2024 STEPS Survey, the message is particularly clear: knowing your numbers and knowing the warning signs are two sides of the same prevention strategy. A blood-pressure check can uncover a silent risk; recognizing FAST can save precious time after a stroke begins.

“Don’t Miss a Beat” is more than a campaign slo-

gan. It is a reminder to see the signs, protect the heart through everyday choices, and strengthen systems so that timely care is within reach. Every heartbeat matters - and awareness, prevention and prompt action can help more of those heartbeats continue.

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ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan soy sauce shipments in 2025
hit 75-yr low amid westernized diet



This photo shows a soy sauce aisle in a grocery store in Nagoya on 25 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SHIPMENTS of domestic soy sauce fell to 670,159 kilolitres in 2025, the lowest level in 75 years and roughly half of the peak in 1973, due to the westernization of the Japanese diet, a soy sauce industry association said Monday.

Other ready-to-use condiments that contain soy sauce as a base, such

as “tsuyu” soup base and “tare” sauces, have also become more common, further reducing demand for soy sauce as a raw ingredient in home cooking.

“People recently have been prioritizing convenience and efficiency,” a spokesperson from food manufacturer Yamamori Inc., known for its tsuyu

products, said regarding a growing tendency to avoid creating condiments at home from scratch.

While total shipments slipped 1.6 per cent from the previous year, exports of soy sauce have been on the rise, climbing 9.6 per cent in 2025 from a year earlier to around 52,000 kilolitres, according to Japanese soy sauce association Nihon Shoyu Kyokai, which has been holding seminars to advise small and medium-sized businesses about shipping abroad. “We plan to strengthen our framework for supporting exports,” said Yasumasa Tajima, managing director of the group. Domestically, “we must focus on appealing especially to younger generations in the mid- to long-term.” — Kyodo

Nissan to expand hybrid lineup in US,
raise US output ratio to 80%

NISSAN Motor Co said Monday it plans to expand its lineup of hybrid gasoline-electric cars in the US market as a rise in pump prices boosts demand for such models, starting with the launch of a new sport utility vehicle in November.

At a media roundtable at Nissan’s headquarters in Yokohama, Christian Meunier, who oversees operations across North and South America, also noted the Japanese automaker’s goal of raising the share of vehicles it sells in the United States that are produced there to 80 per cent from the current 65 per cent by the end of 2030 in response to aggressive US tariff policies.

Acknowledging the growing demand for hybrid vehicles in one of

the world’s largest auto markets, Meunier said, “I think the hybrid is going to be coming by 2030, probably the primary powertrain in North America.”

Nissan is seen as lagging other automakers in introducing hybrid vehicles. But the company plans to introduce a new Rogue Hybrid model in the US market in November,

as well as hybrid versions of larger SUVs and pickup trucks. The new model, equipped with Nissan’s third-generation e-Power hybrid system, will initially be produced at a plant operated by a subsidiary in Fukuoka Prefecture in southwestern Japan, with Meunier saying US production could come in 2028. — Kyodo



People walk past a showroom of Japanese automaker Nissan Motor in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture, on 11 February 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Energy markets rally after
Trump rejects Iran truce offer

OIL futures surged more than four per cent on Monday, alongside gains for natural gas and diesel prices, after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran’s offer of a seven-day truce.

High inflation concerns lifted government bond yields as markets bet on the US Federal Reserve hiking interest rates in October after already tightening this month, supporting the dollar.

European stock

markets steadied in mid-day deals after a mixed showing across Asia, with markets also reacting to Washington and Beijing extending their trade truce at the end of last week.

“There was renewed strength in oil prices after comments from President Trump that he had rejected Iran’s latest proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz,” noted AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould. — AFP



A man refuels at a petrol station, on 24 September 2026 in Rome. **PHOTO: AFP**

Laos reviews draft 2026-2035 master plan to grow
e-commerce, digital economy

THE Lao government is stepping up efforts to strengthen the e-commerce sector and accelerate digital economic growth.

According to Lao Economic Daily on Monday, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce held a meeting on 25 September to review the draft Master Plan for E-Commerce Management and Development in Laos (2026-2035), bringing together representatives from the

public and private sectors to provide feedback on the plan.

E-commerce has expanded rapidly in Laos, with online shopping, digital platforms, banking services, and e-wallets becoming increasingly integrated into daily life and business operations.

To address emerging challenges and promote a more professional, transparent, and inclusive e-commerce sector, relevant government agen-

cies have worked together to develop the 2026-2035 master plan.

The plan sets out a framework covering development strategies, action plans, regulatory mechanisms, and measures to strengthen the sector. The plan also emphasizes investment in digital infrastructure, logistics, and technology, including 4G and 5G networks, postal and transport services, artificial intelligence, and cyber-

security.

Consumer protection is another priority, with proposed mechanisms for handling online complaints and resolving disputes.

The government expects the master plan to provide a coordinated framework for developing e-commerce and strengthening its contribution to the country’s broader digital and economic development. — Xinhua

FAO report urges large-scale forest, landscape
restoration to boost food security

LARGE-SCALE restoration of forests and landscapes is a cost-effective way to address food security, biodiversity and climate challenges, according to a report released Monday by the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The 2026 edition of the FAO’s flagship State of the World’s Forests report, released during the 28th Session of the Com-

mittee on Forestry, calls for greater investment, inclusive governance and sustained political commitment to scale up restoration efforts. Forests cover about 4.14 billion hectares, or 32 per cent of

the world’s land area, and store an estimated 714 gigatonnes of carbon. They also support food security and livelihoods for nearly one-third of the global population, according to the report. — Xinhua

Japanese convenience store enlists Lady Gaga to bolster recruitment

JAPANESE convenience store chain FamilyMart has enlisted Lady Gaga for a recruitment campaign, convincing the pop icon to trade vocal registers for cash registers in an effort to plug staffing shortages at thousands of outlets.

The global star appeared in a stylish black-and-white video for the retail chain's part-time worker recruitment campaign and can be seen performing tasks typically set out for staff working at the franchise.

FamilyMart boasts a network of more than 16,000 stores across Japan, and roughly 30 per cent of them are short-staffed, a company spokesman told AFP on condition of anonymity on Monday.

The spokesman added that featuring one of the world's biggest selling artists would attract and retain recruits at a time when Japanese businesses

are competing to hire new workers.

"When people decide to work at a convenience store, we want FamilyMart to be the place they choose," he said.

"By having Lady Gaga appear in the commercial, we thought we might be able to convey the appeal and excitement of working at FamilyMart."

Relaxed dress codes

Sporting a futuristic leather-textured suit, Lady Gaga can be seen working behind the counter, offering fried chicken to customers and restocking bottled tea in the video clip released on Friday. "Famima de hataraku? (Want to work at FamilyMart?)" she asks in the video. Traditionally, Japanese convenience stores have also required workers to adhere to relatively conservative dress codes, including bans on certain hair dyes and large earrings. — AFP

China's industrial profits retain double-digit growth via high-tech, new growth drivers

CHINA'S industrial profits maintained double-digit growth in the first eight months of 2026, driven by rapid expansion of high-tech manufacturing and new growth drivers, official figures showed on Monday.

Profits of industrial firms above designated size increased 15.7 per cent year on year during the first eight months of 2026, according to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data.

These industrial firms with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (about US\$2.97 million) saw their combined profits reach 5.27 trillion yuan in the January-August period.

In August alone, profits of major industrial firms grew 4.2 per cent year on year, the NBS noted.



Staff members work on a production line at Liugong Excavators Intelligent Factory in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 2 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Yu Weining, an NBS statistician, attributed this relatively fast profit growth to the steady advance of industrial production and a widened increase in industrial product prices.

Earlier data revealed that the country's industrial output rose 5.3 per cent in the first eight months of the year, while the producer price index, which measures costs of goods at the factory gate,

climbed 3.8 per cent year on year in August.

Yu highlighted the electronic sector as the main pillar supporting industrial growth, with profits surging 110 per cent year on year, contributing 62 per cent to the overall profit growth of industrial firms.

"The accelerated expansion of new technology applications, represented by artificial intelligence, has driven the

expansion of demand in related fields, propelling swift profit growth in the electronics industry," Yu said.

Yu noted that rising chip demand driven by emerging scenarios such as new energy vehicles, the Internet of Things and computing power centres had boosted profits in the optoelectronic device manufacturing and semiconductor discrete device manufacturing industries by 72 per cent and 51.8 per cent, respectively.

High-tech manufacturing played a prominent role in driving growth. During the January-August period, profits of high-tech manufacturing firms above designated size soared 54.7 per cent year on year, 39 percentage points higher than the overall growth rate. — Xinhua

IHG to launch newest premium collection brand hotels in Japan for 1st time

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group PLC said Monday it will bring its premium Noted Collection brand to Japan for the first time, opening hotels in Tokyo's Kabukicho entertainment district and upscale Ginza area in the coming years.

The major hotel operator based in Britain plans to accelerate its expansion in Japan, anticipating growing demand from overseas visitors.

The Kabukicho prop-

erty in Shinjuku district will see an existing hotel renovated. It is set to open in 2027, will have 207 rooms and is located near the popular Golden Gai drinking area.

The Ginza hotel, set to open in 2029, will be newly built with 81 rooms, including suites suited to family stays. IHG, which launched the Noted Collection brand in February, also plans to open properties in Britain and Saudi Arabia.

"We look forward to

growing Noted Collection alongside like-minded owners as we continue to expand our premium portfolio across the country," Abhijay Sandilya, managing director of IHG's Japan operations, said in a press release. IHG entered the hotel business in Japan in 1964. It operates 65 hotels in the country, including properties under the ultra-luxury Six Senses as well as InterContinental and Holiday Inn brands. — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows a rendering of a hotel that InterContinental Hotels Group PLC plans to open in Tokyo's Ginza district. PHOTO: KYODO

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2618S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2618S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-9-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD.

Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by Ruili Cheng Shan Import and Export Trade Co.,Ltd and distributed by Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Poe Swam Thar	Pyae Sone	P2024-6476

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.
Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by Shandong Qiaochang Modern International Co.,Ltd and distributed by Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Shwe Dar	Kaung Htet	P2022-6003

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.
Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Pope arrives in French border city to speak on united Europe

POPE Leo on Monday arrived in a French border city to speak on the future of Europe, giving a distinctly political dimension to a landmark visit to France that has sparked scenes of spiritual jubilation.

The leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics wraps up his four-day trip with a visit to Metz, a northeastern city that repeatedly changed hands between France and Germany in past conflicts.

The city is closely associated with Robert Schuman, considered one of the founding fathers of the European Union, who is buried just outside Metz.

The first US pontiff was expected to speak on the "roots of Europe" and the importance of unity on a continent where nationalist movements



Pope Leo XIV (C), President of the Conference of Bishops of France Cardinal Jean-Marc Aveline (R), and France's President Emmanuel Macron (L) stand on stage during a meeting called "At the Roots of Europe: For Peace and Unity" at the Robert Schuman Conference Centre in Metz, northeastern France, on 28 September 2026 on the last day of his visit to France. PHOTO: AFP

are gaining strength and Russia's war against Ukraine, now in its fifth year, shows no sign of abating.

President Emmanuel Macron was also to speak and a handful of European leaders including Prince Albert II

of Monaco and Princess Charlene were set to attend.

Later in the day the pope will ride his open-top popemobile through Metz and celebrate mass in Saint Stephen's Cathedral, a jewel of Gothic architecture. Macron

and his wife Brigitte will attend the religious service. Leo's message will come seven months before French voters choose a successor to Macron, with the eurosceptic, anti-immigration far-right seeking power. — AFP

Iran has no plans for talks with US during delegation's New York visit: media



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi speaks at a press encounter at the UN headquarters in New York, 25 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

IRAN has no plans to hold negotiations with the United States during its delegation's current visit to New York, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported Sunday night.

IRNA cited a source close to the Iranian delegation, which is in New York to attend the 81st session of the

United Nations General Assembly, as rejecting "contradictory" reports about talks between Tehran and Washington.

The source said Iran's considerations and positions were conveyed to the American side "explicitly and clearly" through the Qatari mediator

on 22 September, and that Tehran is awaiting Washington's response.

According to the source, there is no plan for a new round of negotiations with the American side, and Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi will leave New York for Tehran on Tuesday.

On Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry quoted Araghchi as saying that the country had not yet received the US "definitive" views through the mediators on its proposed seven-day plan to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

He added that Iran had conveyed its plan and conditions to the American side through

the mediating countries and had seen US President Donald Trump's initial reaction to the plan, "but nothing has been conveyed to us yet by the mediators".

Araghchi noted, "Of course, the US president has made many contradictory statements, something we unfortunately hear from him quite often. We are waiting for definitive views to be conveyed to us via the mediators, and we will make our decision based on that."

He had earlier said that under Iran's plan, the country would reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days if the United States accepted its conditions. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

8 dead as floods swamp Thailand

THAILAND'S nationwide flooding since 16 September has left eight people dead, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said on Monday.

Twenty-eight provinces, including Bangkok, are still affected by the disaster, mainly in Thailand's central, northern, eastern and northeastern regions.

According to the department, flooding has swept through 42 provinces between 16 and 28 September, affecting 1.8 million people.

On Saturday, Bangkok Governor Chadchart Sittipunt declared the whole of the capital a flood-hit zone after almost 48 hours of relentless rainfall caused widespread inundation and traffic chaos. Thailand's meteorological department said on Monday that downpours in Bangkok and its environs had abated. — Xinhua



Residents walk through heavy rain while navigating floodwater in Bang Kapi district in Bangkok on 28 September 2026. PHOTO: AFP

81 dead as heavy rains, flooding hit India's Uttar Pradesh

AT least 81 people were killed and 62 others injured as heavy rains triggered flooding and widespread damage during the past three days in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, local media reported Monday. "The death toll from incessant monsoon showers across Uttar Pradesh rose to 81 over three days, with 25 more fatalities reported on 27 September after 56 deaths were recorded during 25 and 26 September," a local newspaper Times of India quoted Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner Hrishikesh Bhaskar Yashod as having said. All India Radio (AIR) said on Monday that officials have been instructed to conduct relief operations in the affected areas.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast thunderstorms and rain at many places in the eastern and western districts of the state on Monday. — Xinhua

Heavy rain displaces thousands as floods hit 10 Cambodian provinces

FLASH floods triggered by heavy rainfall have affected 44,889 families across Cambodia, forcing 3,685 families to evacuate to higher ground, a disaster control spokesperson said on Monday.

Soth Kim Kolmony, spokesperson for the National Committee for Disaster Management, said that 10 provinces have been hit by the deluge. The rising waters have also impacted 40,384 homes and 49,925 hectares of rice paddies, with Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap identified as the worst-hit provinces. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Thailand's Boonson eyes more records after 2nd sprint gold

THAILAND'S track sensation Puripol Boonson says he can still go faster after completing the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games men's sprint double with another meet record. Two days after winning the 100-metre final in an Asian Games record 9.90 seconds, the 20-year-old on Sunday tied the all-time Asian record as he clinched the 200 in 19.88 seconds at a drizzly Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Nagoya.

He also broke the games record of 20.10 that he set in Saturday's semifinal. "I'm going to aim for more golds and more records," he said after the race. "I can't say how fast it's going to be, but it's going to be more records and faster."

Boonson finished more than half a second clear of silver medallist Huang Youwen of China in 20.45, with Japan's Soshi Mizukubo winning bronze in 20.56. — Kyodo



Puripol Boonson of Thailand celebrates after winning the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games men's 200-metre final in Nagoya on 27 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Myanmar Fight 35 features Lethwei bouts

The 2026 Myanmar Fight 35 new-generation Myanmar Lethwei bouts, jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education, Traditional Myanmar Lethwei Federation and Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG), with Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited as the main sponsor, were held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, yesterday afternoon.

Ten bouts were contested in the event, featuring promising new-generation Lethwei fighters from various clubs.

Zeyar Naing of Bago Club defeated Yaw Ri of Nina Club after Yaw Ri retired in the second round following punches from Zayar Naing. Tiger King stopped Zwe Bo Bo Aung of Nline Club by knockout



Opponents exchange punches and strikes in a Lethwei bout.

in the third round, while Nang Min Hein of Vanguard also secured a third-round knockout victory over Sai San Htoo of MK1.

David Ching of MK1 and Mon Lay of Zarti Myanmar, as well as Phyo Min Than of Bago Club and Tun Lin Aung of Smart Fight, fought through three rounds to draw. Kyaw Zin Naing of Zarti Myanmar won after

Law Sai of MK1 retired in the second round due to injury. Kyaw Min Lwin of Unity Seven knocked out Aung Myint Myat of Vanguard in the third round, while Aung Aung Hein of Smart Fight defeated Toe Maung of Phyuayung Thit by referee stoppage in the second round.

The bouts between Kaung Lin Set of Bago

Club and Hein Htet Aung of Smart Fight, and between Waw Yaw Zet of Yoyar Kyar and Kyar Mann Hein of Smart Fight, went the full distance and ended in draws.

The event featured three-round challenge bouts, with each round lasting three minutes and a two-minute interval between rounds. — Bala/KZL

Boxing: Inoue beats Nasukawa again to defend WBC bantamweight title

TAKUMA Inoue defended his WBC bantamweight belt by beating ex-kickboxer and challenger Tenshin Nasukawa by unanimous decision in their rematch at Toyota Arena Tokyo on Sunday. The pair met last November when Inoue, the younger brother of undisputed super bantamweight world champion Naoya Inoue, also won by unanimous decision to secure the belt. Inoue dominated at Toyota Arena Tokyo before being knocked down by Nasukawa's left



Takuma Inoue (L) throws a punch at Tenshin Nasukawa during the 11th round of the WBC bantamweight world title bout at Toyota Arena Tokyo on 27 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

straight, but managed to avoid further punishment until the final bell. "Tenshin is strong. I felt he's

really growing," Inoue said. "Hence I got fired up and managed to win in the end.

It was my lack of concentration (for the knockdown)." "There is a lot to improve. I'll keep collecting belts."

Earlier in the world title quadrupleheader, Ryusei Matsumoto won the WBO minimumweight interim title by unanimous decision over Mexico's Russell Acosta. Tomoya Tsuboi lost in a split decision to South Africa's Ricardo Malajika in the WBC super flyweight title bout, suffering his first defeat in five professional fights. — Kyodo

Wu wins twice as Zhang reaches tennis quarterfinals

CHINA'S Wu Yibing won in both men's singles and mixed doubles at the 2026 Asian Games on Monday, while veteran compatriot Zhang Shuai cruised into the women's singles quarterfinals. Wu, who received a first-round bye in singles, swept past Iran's Ali Yazdan 6-1, 6-1.

"I was pretty well-prepared. We waited around for half the day because of the rain and had to make a lot of adjustments moving from outdoor to indoor," Wu said. "I think I maintained

a good mindset and stayed positive throughout." Barely 10 minutes after wrapping up his singles match, Wu returned to the court for mixed doubles alongside Guo Hanyu. The Chinese pair swept Mongolia's Maraloo Chogsomjav and Badrakh Munkhbaatar in the opening set and built a 4-0 lead in the second before their opponents rallied to level at 4-4. Wu and Guo recovered to close out a 6-0, 6-4 victory and advance to the second round. — Xinhua



Wu hits a return during the match against Yazdani. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Spain looks to extend unbeaten run to 40 matches against Croatia in Nations League

SPAIN plays its second UEFA Nations League match of the international break on Tuesday night when Croatia visits the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium in Seville.

Spain goes into the match fol-

lowing its 3-2 win over England at Wembley on Saturday night, knowing that another victory would put it firmly on course to qualify for the quarterfinals ahead of Saturday's home match against the Czech

Republic.

Croatia, meanwhile, will look to build on its opening victory in Prague, secured with goals from Luka Modric and Marco Pasalic. — Xinhua



WORLD

Observers say stable China-US ties benefit world, underpin steady global trade

Observers worldwide have said that a stable China-US relationship serves not only the interests of the two countries but also those of the world, providing greater predictability for global trade.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's just-concluded US state visit has led to new progress towards building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability based on respect, fairness and reciprocity.

In his talks with US President Donald Trump at the White House on Thursday, Xi also called for translating the new vision of building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability into action and finding the right



US President Donald Trump holds a welcome ceremony for Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is on a state visit to the United States, at the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, 24 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

way for the two major countries to get along with each other.

"It aligns with the common aspirations of the international community yearning for stability, as stable Sino-US relations will help anchor global peace and stability. It stands to disprove the

inevitability of the Thucydides Trap myth in managing Sino-US relations," said Ong Tee Keat, president of the Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia Pacific.

As reality has time and again dawned upon the two major countries of the world that they have to accommodate each other in the current dynamics, peaceful co-existence is therefore the common denominator they need to cherish, said the Malaysian scholar.

Azmi Hassan, a senior fellow at Malaysian think-tank Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research, concurred, saying a good relationship between China and the United States will not only benefit these two major countries but the world.

"This is not only with in trade but also in geopolitical terms, where both sides, and the whole world, can take advantage," he added.

"I believe it is critically important that the US and China be on a trajectory in a positive direction as partners, and not on a tra-

jectory of the adversaries," said Kenneth Quinn, president emeritus of the World Food Prize Foundation and a former US ambassador to Cambodia.

Quinn, 84, who has led exchanges between the US state of Iowa and China for decades, said his "number one goal" is that the China-US relationship would continue its "constructive strategic stability" and "won't have that volatility, that up and down and huge increases in tariffs and planned tariffs."

"President Xi is absolutely right that stabilizing the China-US relationship is critical. Creating a constructive relationship would be even better," said Bruce McLaughlin, CEO of Sinogie Consulting Group in Australia. — Xinhua

SpaceX aims to put Starship in orbit for the first time

THREE years after its first test flight, SpaceX's Starship rocket will attempt Monday to enter Earth's orbit, a key step in the development of the massive launch vehicle designed for future missions to the Moon and Mars.

On the heels of its high-profile initial public offering in June, Elon Musk's SpaceX plans to shift into high gear with a 14th test flight featuring ambitious goals.

The test, expected to last about 10 hours, will involve the upper stage of the experimental rocket flying into Earth orbit and deploying 26 next-generation Starlink satellites there — if all goes well. — AFP

Radio frequencies vital to Earth observation must be protected: UN

RADIO frequencies needed for weather forecasts, early warning systems, climate monitoring and water management must be safeguarded against the growing threat of interference from emerging technologies, the United Nations said on Monday.

Some sensors measure very weak naturally occurring signals at specific frequencies, making

protection from harmful interference particularly important.

The systems enable observations of the atmosphere, oceans and land, and the transmission of data that supports life-saving early warnings, reliable weather forecasting and long-term climate monitoring.

But the UN telecommunications and weather agencies warned on Mon-

day that increasing use of frequencies by other radio communications services, including wireless and satellite services, was raising the risk of interference affecting the frequency bands required for such systems.

They cautioned that radio frequency interference could disrupt measurements, reduce data quality or availability and thereby compromise the reliability of forecasts and alerts, affecting authorities' ability to prepare for and respond to environmental hazards.

Meeting in Geneva this week for an expert seminar, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) are calling on governments and regulatory authorities to protect access to frequencies vital for meteorology. — AFP

Thai Constitutional Court upholds Feb election result, rules ballot QR codes, barcodes constitutional

THAILAND'S Constitutional Court ruled on Monday that barcodes and QR codes printed on ballots in the February general election did not violate the charter's guarantee of voting secrecy, letting the election result stand.

According to a court statement, the nine-judge panel voted unanimously that the use of QR codes on ballots was constitutional and voted 8-1 that the barcodes on party-list ballots were also constitutional.

The court said the codes were used to control and verify ballots and did not directly reveal how anyone voted, as tracing a vote would require linking the ballot, its counterfoil, and the voter list.

After inspecting



A woman casts her ballot at a polling station in Bangkok, Thailand, 14 May 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

ballot storage sites, the court found that the Election Commission held these documents under sufficiently strict security.

The court also found no evidence that any person or agency had linked the documents to discover how a voter had cast a ballot.

It said the barcodes served legitimate purposes, including preventing counterfeit ballots, controlling ballot numbers, stopping ballots from being used in the wrong constituency, and managing printing within the time frame the constitution sets for holding elections. — Xinhua



A van is seen stuck half-submerged in flood waters during the second day of a rare September nor'easter storm in Sea Isle City, New Jersey, on 27 September 2026. PHOTO: AFP