

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

Thanlyin Refinery to Launch as Thanbayakan Upgrades



This photo features Thanlyin Oil Refinery, Yangon Region.

AS Phase I of the project, a modular refinery with an annual processing capacity of 500,000 tonnes, depending on the type and volume of available raw materials, is currently being implemented at the Thanlyin Oil Refinery in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

Raw materials have already been procured from abroad and will be delivered to a designated port before being transported to the factory through a pipeline system to enable phased production to begin by the end of September.

In addition, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy announced that the Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayakan) Oil Refinery, located near Thanbayakan Village in Upper Minhla Township, Magway Region, will also be upgraded simultaneously.

“The Thanlyin Oil Refinery is set to begin operations, processing 500,000 tonnes of crude oil per year. A variety of products will be produced. Crude oil tankers will dock at Thilawa, and the oil will then be transported to the Thanlyin plant through

pipelines. The company will handle the crude oil operations and procure crude oil from available sources under a joint venture between the government and the company,” said an official from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Following the completion of Phase I, Phase II will be implemented. Upon completion of Phase II, the refineries are expected to produce and distribute 60 per cent of the nation’s petrol requirements and 50 per cent of its diesel requirements. — ASH/TH

Dawei Airport Upgrade Nears Finish Line at 75%

ACCORDING to officials, upgrade works at Dawei Airport are about 75 per cent complete.

The existing runway is 12,000 feet long and 100 feet wide. As part of the upgrade, it is being widened by 25 feet on each side along its entire length, with additional pavement layers being laid.

Construction, which is currently suspended due to the monsoon season, is expected to resume around the end of October. The airport is expected to accommodate large cargo aircraft by the end of this year.

Once fully upgraded, the airport is expected to



Dawei Airport is shown in the photo.

bring significant benefits to the Dawei region, particularly in connection with the proposed Dawei Special Economic Zone.

From 2021 to 2025, upgrade projects were carried out at Dawei, Patheingyi, Lashio, Kengtung, Tachilek, Mong Hsat, Nyaung-U and Myeik airports. The upgrades aim to boost tourism, trade and investment through international air services. — ASH/KZL

Yangon Port handles 457 container vessels in Jan-Aug

A total of 457 container vessels arrived at Yangon Port in the past eight months (January-August) of 2026, Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Yangon Port handled arrivals of 55 container vessels each in August, July and June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in

January 2026. Moreover, 61 vessels are scheduled to arrive at the port in September.

Yangon Port operated 728 container vessels in 2025, 633 in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according

to the Myanmar Port Authority’s statement on 22 June 2024.

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

SEE PAGE 4

CMG, ELBC launch science programme for Myanmar youth

CHINA Media Group (CMG) and Eastern Private High School (ELBC) in Yangon launched the “Science Club” activities and the “Deep Blue Resonance” creative collection programme for Myanmar youth in September’s first week.

The joint initiative

aims to encourage greater interest in science and technology among young people.

The “Deep Blue Resonance” programme, jointly organised by CMG and the China Science and Technology Museum, was also introduced in Myanmar.

SEE PAGE 4



This image captures the launch of the Science Club activities and the Deep Blue Resonance creative collection programme for Myanmar youth.

NATIONAL **PAGE 3**



Training delivers services for victims of gender-based violence

NATIONAL **PAGE 6**

56 offenders linked to online gambling scams arrested in Tachilek

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

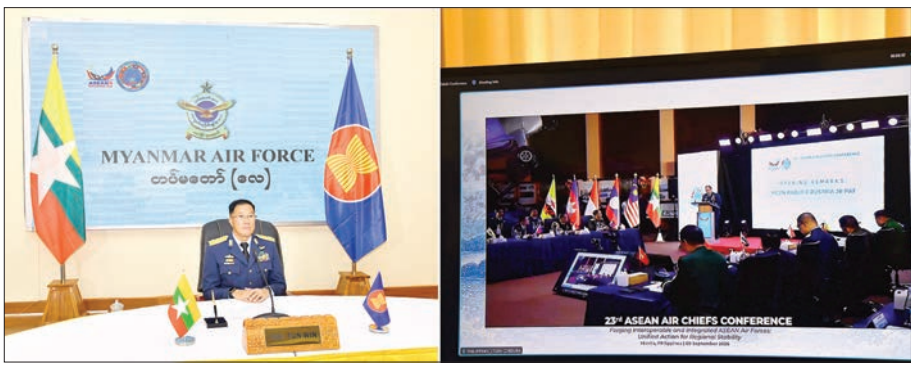
- (a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people
- (b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation
- (c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts
- (d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

Public Notice

1. Due to military conflicts in the Middle East region arising from the global political situation, announcements were issued on 3 and 4 March 3 2026, informing the public that, to conserve fuel and ensure adequate fuel supplies, vehicles with licence plates ending in even numbers would be allowed to operate on “even” days, while vehicles with licence plates ending in odd numbers would be allowed to operate on “odd” days, in compliance with the prescribed regulations.
2. At present, fuel consumption has returned to a stable and normal situation. Therefore, to facilitate public transport and ensure uninterrupted business operations, the aforementioned announcements are hereby revoked effective 9 September 2026.
3. Vehicles may resume normal operations without being restricted according to “even” and “odd” days. However, for energy security, the system for the distribution and sale of fuel shall continue to be implemented in line with the “even/odd” day QR Code system currently being exercised by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Information Team
President’s Office

ASEAN Air Chiefs Hold 23rd Meeting via Video Teleconference



The 23rd ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference is underway via video teleconference.

THE 23rd ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference (23rd AACC), hosted by the Philippines, was held via video teleconference (VTC) yesterday morning, with air chiefs from ASEAN member states attending.

Myanmar was represented by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Win. Other participants included the air

chiefs of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by Maj-Gen Pablo Rustria Jr, Vice-Commander of the Philippine Air Force. A video highlighting cooperation among ASEAN air forces and regional collaboration

was also screened.

Maj-Gen Alvin M Hate, Chief of Staff of the Philippine Air Force, then presented the outcomes of the 13th ASEAN Air Forces Education and Training Working Group meeting.

The participating air chiefs exchanged views on the conference theme, “Towards Multilaterally Interconnected ASE-

AN Air Forces: Acting Together for Regional Stability”.

The meeting subsequently reviewed and approved the conference decisions and the AACC Joint Statement, which were signed by the ASEAN air chiefs.

At the conclusion, the Philippines handed over the AACC commemorative item to the Malaysian Defence Attaché in the Philippines on behalf of General Dato Sri Haji Muhamad Norazlan Bin Aris, who will chair the 24th AACC. The Malaysian air chief then delivered remarks of appreciation.

The meeting concluded with a group photograph of the ASEAN air chiefs. — MNA/ST

Thailand’s CRMA Centre gifts drones to Archaeology Dept

THAILAND’S Cultural Relationship of Mainland South-East Asia (CRMA) Research Centre held a handover and donation ceremony for Thermo Drones and Mavic-2 Zoom Drones, intended for Myanmar’s ancient heritage preservation and conservation work, on 7 September at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin, Director-General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Dr Surat, director of Thailand’s CRMA Research Centre, and other responsible officials.

During the ceremony, the director general

delivered a welcoming speech expressing his appreciation, stating that the high-tech drones will greatly assist in protecting, monitoring, and researching ancient buildings and historical sites throughout Myanmar.

Following this, Dr Surat explained the objectives of donating the drones and presented detailed technical information and the application of LIDAR Scanner technology in archaeological operations.

Next, the CRMA team handed over the high-tech drones, and the department presented a certificate of appreciation in return. — TWA/ZN



This image displays the ceremony of Thailand’s CRMA Research Centre donating high-tech drones.



Ambassador U Min Thein (L) is pictured during the presentation of Credentials ceremony on 8 September.

U Min Thein presents Credentials to Amir of State of Kuwait

U Min Thein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Kuwait, presented his Credentials to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait on 8 September 2026 at the Bayan Palace in Kuwait. — MNA

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NATIONAL

Myanmar parliamentary delegation meets Indian leaders

A Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by Dr Pwint San, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee, and U Chit Swe, Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, held separate meetings with Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and Deputy Minister of External Affairs Shri Pabitra Margherita during a capacity development programme in India.

The delegation, comprising representatives from the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Tatmadaw representatives and supporting staff, attended the programme organized under the Indian Parliament's Parliamentary Research Information for Democracy programme from 1 to 8 September.

The delegation met Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla at Parliament House on 2 September and Deputy Minister of External Affairs Shri Pabi-

tra Margherita on 7 September.

Discussions covered the role and functions of India's Parliament, legislation, the committee system, financial accountability, constituency management, parliamentary privileges, the Constitution, the budget process, foreign policy and parliamentary leadership. The delegation also discussed parliamentary cooperation and the participation of South-East Asian National Societies in relevant governance processes.

The delegation visited UNESCO World Heritage sites and the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya museum during the programme.

The programme is expected to strengthen the capacity of Myanmar's parliamentarians and contribute to greater parliamentary cooperation and friendship between Myanmar and India. — MNA/KZL



A meeting between the Myanmar parliamentary delegation and Indian counterparts is underway in India.

Training delivers services for victims of gender-based violence

UNION Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin attended the opening ceremony of the "Training Course on Providing Services for Victims of Gender-Based Violence" in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The three-day training aims to strengthen the prevention of violence against women, improve services for survivors, and protect the safety and dignity of women and girls.

The Union minister said gender-based



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Zin opens the training course on providing services for victims of gender-based violence.

violence requires coordinated responses from the police, health, legal,

administrative, social welfare and women's affairs sectors. The trainees will

have a deep understanding of legal matters, support services for human trafficking victims, basic concepts regarding gender-based violence, and the fundamental principles and procedures required of service providers addressing gender-based violence.

The training is being attended by a total of 50 trainees from five ministries and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, and will run for three days. — MNA/KTZH

UNICEF Myanmar installs new solar water supply system in Banda Village

UNICEF Myanmar has installed a new solar-powered water supply system in Banda Village, Mandalay Region.

The installation of this water supply system has brought about a significant change in the daily lives of locals. In addition to enabling access to clean drinking water, private latrines and personal hygiene supplies were also provided for families.

Reports say improved WASH services have helped children stay healthy, adopt safe hygiene habits, and ease the daily struggle for clean water.

Through UNICEF Myanmar's support, it is helping children and families gain better access to the basic water and sanitation services necessary for health, education, and social development. — TWA/ZN



A child happily using UNICEF's solar water supply in Banda Village (Photo: United Nations Myanmar).

YR police step up ongoing crime prevention operations

POLICE personnel from township police stations across Yangon Region conducted operations in cooperation with traffic police and local administrative officials to strengthen the rule of law and prevent crime.

As part of the operations yesterday, the Insein Township police officer, together with relevant departmental officials and personnel from North Okkalapa and Hlinethaya (East) Myoma Police Stations and members of the

Kamayut Township Traffic Police Unit, conducted daytime patrols, bicycle patrols and crime-prevention awareness activities. They also arrested pickpockets and educated pedestrians about using designated pedestrian crossings.

On the evening of 7 September, township police officers in Thongwa, Dagon Myothit (North), North Okkalapa, Hlinethaya (West), Kyimyindine and Sanchaung townships inspected



Police personnel are pictured inspecting the household guest-registration record.

household guest-registration records and conducted vehicle checks,

late-night patrols and bicycle patrols. — Aung Thu/MKKS

Flood Warning

(Issued at 8 pm MST on 9 September 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha is observed as about one foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 36 hours.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada is observed as about one foot eight inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun is observed as about one foot and seven inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada, Zalun Townships and Seiktha, to take precaution measure and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

NATIONAL

Labour affairs discussed

A meeting of the Leading Committee on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on Myanmar was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour.

At the meeting, committee members discussed the measures being taken to ensure that workers enjoy the rights and benefits provided under labour laws in line with the recommendations of the CoI, arrangements for allowing workers' organizations to be freely formed and operated, the resolution of complaints through the National Complaint Mechanism (NCM) for cases of forced labour, and Myanmar's cooperation with the ILO on administrative matters as a member state. The discussions also focused on incorporating these developments into Myanmar's progress report to be submitted to the 358th Session of the ILO Governing Body, scheduled to be held in November 2026.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe presides over the meeting of the Leading Committee on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on Myanmar.

Union Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe said that Myanmar has been continuously implementing the recommendations and suggestions contained in the ILO Commission of Inquiry report.

He said that, despite Myanmar's constructive cooperation as an ILO member state, measures have been taken against Myanmar based on one-sided accusations and misinformation, including the establishment of a secret monitoring mechanism concerning Myanmar and the convening of special sessions on Myanmar to adopt pressure-oriented decisions.

He added that during the 29th ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting held in Thailand on 26 August 2026, he met with the ILO Director-General and discussed the decision taken against Myanmar under Article 33. He explained that cooperation between the ILO and ASEAN could contribute to positive developments for Myanmar and discussed the need for full support from ASEAN member states to enable Myanmar to resume participation in ILO meetings as a member state.

The participants coordinated the discussion and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

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

CMG, ELBC launch science programme ...

FROM PAGE 1

It will collect young people's paintings and other creative works about the deep-sea world, as well as science-related questions. Selected works will be displayed at the museum, and their creators will receive prizes, while relevant experts will answer selected questions.

More than 500 teachers and students attended the event, where they watched educational videos about rocket launches and the deep-sea exploration activities of Haidou-1. — ASH/KNN

Yangon Port handles 457 ...

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FROM PAGE 1

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Writer, film director and legal expert Aung Soe Oo passes away at 78

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AUNG Soe Oo (U Aung Soe) – writer, screenwriter, film director and legal expert behind the immensely successful and enduring classic film 'Thingyan Moe', which remains etched in audiences' hearts to this day – passed away at 7:23 pm on 8 September.



Aung Soe Oo (U Aung Soe)

He was a prominent figure who made significant contributions to Myanmar's literary, cinematic and legal fields. He was a prolific writer of short stories, novels and articles associated with the postmodern literary and artistic movement, and regularly wrote music criticism under the pen name Ko Alinka. He was also a feature film and video film director. Notably, he sold his house to finance and direct the film 'Naw Yin Mwe', which earned Soe Myat Thu Za the Best Actress award at the 1994 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards.

Additionally, he served as secretary of the Myanmar Literature Lovers Association. Beyond his artistic work, he was known as an expert in jurisprudence and served as a legal adviser to committees dedicated to protecting artists' copyrights. He also actively participated in discussions and educational initiatives concerning online media and telecommunications laws.

Writer, director and legal expert Aung Soe Oo passed away at the age of 78, leaving behind his wife, Daw Mya Mya Hein, three children and a grandchild. His remains will be cremated at the Yayway Cemetery in Yangon at 10 am on 10 September. — TWA/TH

23rd South-East Asian RCRC Leaders Meeting continues in Yangon

THE second day session of the 23rd South-East Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting, hosted by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), continued yesterday morning at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon.

The meeting discussed the next steps for Southeast Asian National Societies to promote humanitarian diplomacy and strengthen understanding of the auxiliary role of the State in humanitarian affairs. It also covered the outcomes of the 5th Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth Forum and young people's views shared with the leaders, the potential contribution of humanitarian work to peace, and closer cooperation among Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in South-East Asia as a unified movement.



The meeting was attended by Myanmar Red Cross Society President Dr Myo Nyunt, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay, executive officers, leaders and officials from South-East Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, regional officials from the IFRC and ICRC, and representatives of other invited partner organizations. PHOTO:KANU

The leaders also discussed matters with regional officials from the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), progress in implementing the Hanoi Call for Action, women's leadership in Southeast Asia, and the participation of Southeast Asian National Societies in the IFRC's good governance process.

The Yangon Statement, issued by the host country, was approved, and responsibility for hosting the upcoming 24th South-East Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Leaders' Meeting was handed over to the Philippine Red Cross. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Monghsat's VDP project oriented; committee formed

A ceremony to conduct an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and form a project committee took place in Mahonlwe Village, Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), yesterday.

Monghsat District Department of Rural Development Head U Thet Naung Htwe met village elders and villagers in the village and explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). Monghsat Township Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Htay explained the rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and

forming the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be carried out by the village. Villagers formed a seven-member Village Development Committee by consensus to effectively carry out village development activities.

Villagers will undertake village development activities selected by local communities using K15 million in support funds from the Village Development Project (VDP) and contributions from residents, with technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Department of Rural Development. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for village development projects is underway in Monghsat Township.

MRCS provides flood relief in Yekyi, Ayeyawady Region

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society is providing humanitarian assistance to flood-stricken households in townships across Ayeyawady Region.

On 7 and 8 Septem-

ber, Red Cross volunteers delivered essential household items and basic food supplies to flood-hit households in five villages in Yekyi Township. — TWA/MKKS



This photo depicts the Myanmar Red Cross Society assisting flood-affected local communities in Ayeyawady Region.

Houses, departmental offices damaged by violence in Tonzang rebuilt

WITH rehabilitation and reconstruction work underway in Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang townships in Chin State, which were damaged by the violence, residential houses and departmental offices damaged by fire in Tonzang township are being repaired.

Yesterday, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, along with Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Win Zaw Oo and members from the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Committee, inspected the land conditions of private houses and the condition of buildings damaged by violence.

In addition, the deputy minister met construction companies that won the tender to renovate the departmental buildings and staff housing at the meeting room of the General Administration Department and coordinated with relevant officials to resolve the challenges presented by the entrepreneurs.

Afterwards, the deputy minister visited the Guest House of the Highway Department and the



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin oversees recovery works underway in Chin State.

Myanmar Radio and Television retransmission Sub-station, which are under renovation, and inspected the reconstruction of the Byelkyin Bridge on the Tiddim-Tonzang road, which was damaged by a mine blast by terrorists.

The deputy minister instructed officials at all levels to strictly monitor the strength and load-bearing capacity of the bridge and ensure that the weight of vehicles passing through does not exceed the specified limits. — MNA/MKKS

Free basic sewing training opens in Pindaya

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in cooperation with the Department of Small Industries, launched a free basic sewing training course in Theingon Village, Pindaya Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Daw Marlar San delivered an opening address. Pindaya

Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw explained that livelihood training courses are provided after assessing local products, market demands and vocational needs. Department of Small Industries Regional Head Daw Aye Aye Thant detailed the curriculum by subject area, and officials provided training materials to trainees.

The course aims to support rural women in



The launch of the basic sewing training course is underway in Pindaya Township.

developing livelihoods, creating job opportunities and producing skilled workers during the 2026-2027 financial year. A total of 20 female trainees from Theingon, Gonsaung

and Ohnat villages are attending the 45-day course, where skilled instructors will provide theoretical and practical training in basic sewing techniques. — Karan (Rural)

Patheingyi's VDP project introduction and committee formation event held

THE Patheingyi Township Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Amarapura District, Mandalay Region, held a VDP project introduction and committee formation ceremony in Alaung Village yesterday to implement the Village Development Project (VDP) in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Township Head U Aung Ko Ko of the Rural Development Department of Patheingyi Township first gave an introductory talk on committee formation for the Village Development Project (VDP), project objectives, benefits, and project processes.

The project staff then explained the rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and forming

the committee members, as well as the responsibilities and rights of the committee members for each sector. Township head U Aung Ko Ko and the responsible villagers elected and formed the seven development committee members in line with consensus.

In the village, the Village Development Project (VDP) fund (K15 million) in the 2026-2027

financial year will be used to implement the village development projects with the contribution of the villagers' labour and money, and with the close supervision of the technical support of the Township Rural Development Department staff, according to the Township Head U Aung Ko Ko from the Patheingyi Township Rural Development Department. — Aung Ye

NATIONAL

56 offenders linked to online gambling scams arrested in Tachilek



This image reveals arrestees alongside confiscated scam-related materials.
A total of 56 individuals scam and gambling operations were arrested involved in illegal online

along with a large quantity of equipment during a security operation in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, the authorities arrested 56 suspects, comprising five Chinese men, 25 Myanmar men and 26 Myanmar women, and seized 60 computers, five WIFI devices, 14 tables, 51 chairs, two unlicensed vehicles, and other materials. The offenders will face action under the existing law after proper examination, and the seized materials will be managed in accordance with the procedures. — MNA/KTZH

Loikaw inspects water purification plant, water tank construction project



Officials inspect the ongoing water purification plant and water tank construction projects in Loikaw Township.
THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of ongoing water purification plant and water tank construction projects in Pankan Village and Saikkwin 3 Village,

Loikaw Township. Kayah State Department of Rural Development Head U Myint, Loikaw District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Ei Ei Khin and engineering staff inspected ongoing construction works. In Pankan Village, the project is being executed with K60.710 million in state funds for the 2026-2027 financial year, including a water purification plant measuring 10 feet by 13 feet by 19 feet, installation of purification equipment, and a 2,000-gallon brick water tank measuring 12 feet by six feet by five feet. In Saikkwin 3 Village, a water purification plant measuring 10 feet by 13 feet by 19 feet and purification equipment installation are underway with K56.500 million in state funds. They met representatives of the tender-winning company, urging them to complete the project on schedule in line with prescribed standards, specifications and quality assurance, while providing necessary coordination for issues raised by residents. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Highway Report: 98 Accidents Result in 62 Fatalities Over 8 Months

BETWEEN 1 January and 3 September 2026, there were 98 accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, resulting in 62 deaths and 150 injuries, according to the expressway maintenance and repair supervisory team. The primary cause of these accidents has been identified as drowsy driving. Drivers are strongly advised to avoid driving while tired and to take breaks after every two hours of driving. To help prevent accidents, authorities urge drivers to perform vehicle checks before starting their journeys, adhere to the prescribed speed limits, avoid overtaking, refrain from driving against traffic, signal properly, and use their horns when motorcycles, cars, or pedestrians are nearby. Additionally, drivers should remain vigilant and reduce their speed during rainy conditions or at night, always being aware of pedestrians, motorcycles, and animals on the road. It is crucial for drivers to avoid driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, as well as to refrain from distractions such as drinking water; turning around to speak to backseat passengers, using a cellphone, or spitting betel nut while driving. All passengers, including the driver, must wear seatbelts at all times. The speed limits for various vehicle types are as follows: 100 kilometres per hour (km/h) for small vehicles, 90 kilometres per hour for express passenger buses, and 60 kilometres per hour for light trucks and pickups. — MT/ZN



This photo shows an accident on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw highway that occurred on 2 September.

Myaungmya's MSY 2,400-gallon capacity water supply works for enough drinking water inspected

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection yesterday of the ongoing construction of a 2,400-gallon elevated water tank in Thahtaygon Village, Kyetnwechaung Village-Tract, Myaungmya Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Region. The project is being implemented to ensure that rural residents have adequate access to clean drinking water. District Head U Kyaw Thu Ko Ko of the Department of Rural Development, Myaungmya District, together with the Myaungmya Township head and responsible officials, inspected the ongoing construction works alongside members of the Village Drinking Water Supply

Committee and local elders. The district head instructed the responsible personnel to complete all works on time and in compliance with the prescribed standards and specifications. He also coordinated the necessary measures for the smooth implementation of the project. The construction of the 2,400-gallon elevated water tank in Thahtaygon Village is being implemented by the Myaungmya Township Department of Rural Development with a budget of K34.38 million from the Union Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year. Construction began on 1 June and has now reached approximately 85 per cent completion. Upon completion, the project will provide an adequate supply of drinking water for residents and livestock



Officials oversee the progress of an elevated water tank in Myaungmya Township.
in Thahtaygon Village. It is also expected to help alleviate water shortages faced by the community during the summer season, according to the Department of Rural Development, Myaungmya District. — Moe Moe (DRD)

NATIONAL

Cooperative University
to conduct Agribusiness
Management Course on 1 Oct

THE University of Cooperatives and Management (Thanlyin) will offer a Certificate Course in Agribusiness Management (CABM) Batch 2 on 1 October, under the Human Resource Development Committee programme.

The six month online course is open to applicants who have completed the matriculation examination (Grade 12 or equivalent).

Classes will be held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The course fee is K150,000.

Application forms are available via the university's website at www.ucmt.edu.mm, with registration open until 20 September. Interested individuals can make further enquiries by dialling 09 961530668 or 09 455058911. — NN/KK

Weather
Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 9 September 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kachin, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing Regions and northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon, southern Shan States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 SEPTEMBER 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 SEPTEMBER 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 SEPTEMBER 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

MTE to auction over 6,200 tonnes
of teak, hardwood

OPEN tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 15 September at Tawwin Hall, Myanma Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon. Logs and sawn timbers are sourced from mills operated by the Export Marketing and Milling Department and by the Wood-based Industry Department, southern Shan State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw and Taninthayi Region.

Interested individuals can observe details of the open tender through



A stacked display of Myanmar's exquisite teak.

the official website of the Myanma Timber Enterprise www.mte.gov.mm or by dialling

gov.mm or by dialling 09 5166930, 01 377885, 01 372445, 09 795700439, and

09 402705515, according to the Open Tender Organizing Committee. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 9 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,649~3671	557~558.7	125.3~125.7	43.6
Trading amount in the market	7,238,216.00	12,577,730.75	87,798,087.21	-

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 71

Issued at 8 pm MST on 9 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Mon States from today morning to 13 September 2026.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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

Gold Market Rate as of 9 September 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,150,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



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Preserve and promote traditional Myanmar performing arts

Myanmar is a country that has preserved its ancient cultural traditions for thousands of years. Among the various forms of cultural heritage, traditional Myanmar performing arts, including songs, dances, music and theatrical arts, constitute valuable intangible cultural heritage that reflects the spirit, thoughts, culture and way of life of the Myanmar people.

In the modern era, with the advancement of technology, global cultural exchanges and interactions have become increasingly rapid. As a result, younger generations are becoming more interested in Myanmar’s cultural heritage. To ensure the preservation and transmission of these traditions, the State systematically organizes traditional Myanmar performing arts.

Therefore, as the State is holding the Performing Arts Competition to ensure the continued preservation and development of Myanmar’s cultural heritage, promote the development of artists, and enable Myanmar national culture to be proudly showcased on the international stage, all relevant officials, contestants and members of the public are urged to regard this as a national responsibility and actively participate and cooperate in carrying out their respective duties.

tion; to explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts; and to function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building.

Likewise, the 19th Tatmadaw Traditional Performing Arts Competition, featuring singing, dancing, music, stage performances, plays and comedy, is being held in Nay Pyi Taw starting from 26 August under the supervision of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, to preserve and safeguard traditional Myanmar performing arts so that they do not disappear or deteriorate. This is a welcome development for the promotion and advancement of cultural heritage.

Therefore, as the State is holding the Performing Arts Competition to ensure the continued preservation and development of Myanmar’s cultural heritage, promote the development of artists, and enable Myanmar national culture to be proudly showcased on the international stage, all relevant officials, contestants and members of the public are urged to regard this as a national responsibility and actively participate and cooperate in carrying out their respective duties.

Traditional Myanmar performing arts are of great importance in preserving Myanmar’s traditional cultural heritage, passing it on to younger generations, and further promoting and developing national culture. Such competitions are not merely aimed at determining winners and losers. They are also important national cultural events that provide opportunities to discover and nurture new generations of artistes, promote the continued development of traditional arts, foster a spirit of appreciation and pride in national culture, and strengthen the national identity and patriotic spirit of the State.

The 27th Performing Arts Competition will be held this year with four main objectives: to enhance national prestige and integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people; to preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation;

Human history was not written with swords or blood, but with letters. While time may wear down stone monuments, it cannot erase the breath of literature. Just as “light” stands against darkness, “literature” stands against ignorance. Though the sun gives light to our eyes, only knowledge can give light to the human heart.

International Literacy Day: A Call to Consciousness

8 September marks International Literacy Day. This is more than a date on the calendar; it is a bell ringing to awaken human intellect, reminding us all of the importance of knowledge for dignity, freedom, and equality.

Myanmar’s Literary Heritage – A Proud Milestone in History

Myanmar is a land that cherishes literature. In the days of ancient kings, monastic schools were not only places of religious learning. They served as village libraries, moral education centres, and spaces where the light of life was shared. The soft voices of children sitting on wooden school floors, reciting “Ka, Kha, Ga”, learned not only letters but also the value of being human. Each letter was a seed of love, a brick of discipline, and a root of national culture. These small voices helped preserve the culture of an entire nation.

The Myanmar saying, “Education is the only lasting wealth,” captures deep wisdom in a few words. It shows that education is priceless wealth that never loses value, supporting personal growth and future success in any

situation or time. Thus, treating knowledge as a treasure and pursuing continuous learning builds not only individual success but also the long-term progress of families, communities, and the nation.

The “Three Rs” (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic) campaign launched in 1964 was more than a teaching programme; it was a nationwide awakening of knowledge. During summer holidays, university students and teachers travelled to rural areas, teaching under grey thatched roofs. Teaching went beyond showing letters; when a teacher guided a learner’s hand to write a letter, it was not just fingers moving, but hope awakening. The joyful cry, “I can read now,” was not an ordinary sentence; it was the sound of human dignity reborn. Through such efforts, millions became literate.

This spirit of service was recognised beyond national borders. UNESCO awarded Myanmar the Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Prize in 1971 and the Noma Literacy Prize in 1983, honouring the country’s literacy efforts in global education history. These prizes were not only metal tokens but

An Article Commemorating International Literacy Day

Let the Light of Literature Illuminate Humanity’s Future

By Dr Zaw (Sli)



real opportunities. Learning begun today can rewrite tomorrow’s destiny. One of the most beautiful things in the world is when the belief “I can learn too” blossoms in a person’s heart. Illiteracy is not shameful; giving up learning is the true loss.

Many people still suffer injustice and oppression due to illiteracy and lack of knowledge. Education is the best shield and

sword to overcome such difficulties. Even those who missed formal schooling can return to the regular education system through Community Learning Centres (CLC) and Non-Formal Primary and Middle Education (NFPE & NFME) pathways, rebuilding their right to education. Learning can begin again at any age, and hope can be rebuilt in any situation.

The Tears and Hopes of the Illiterate

Human tears taste the same, but their causes differ. Some cry from poverty, some from pain, and some from illiteracy. Looking closely at these tears, behind not knowing letters, we see lost opportunities, weakened confidence, and unfulfilled dreams.

For an illiterate person, the deeper pain is not being unable to read a sentence, but being unable to write their own name. When a fingerprint replaces a signature, it is no longer just a drop of ink but a silent mark of a life’s sorrow. Moments of having to ask others to read words on paper quietly hurt human dignity. What such people need is not pitying looks, but a hand of knowledge to lead them forward.

The Digital Age and the New Meaning of Knowledge

Today’s world gathers on screens the size of a palm. News can travel across the globe in seconds. Yet in this speed, a question arises: Are we people who can read news, or people who can read truth? In our time, literacy means more than reading and writing; it includes digital knowl-

edge, the ability to critically judge information, and the ethical use of technology.

A literate person today is not a fast reader but a deep thinker; not a quick sharer of news but one who can verify truth. Using devices correctly with wise knowledge matters more than simply knowing how to use them.

Everyone’s Duty – One Book, One Knowledge, One Future

Literacy is not only a government duty but a social responsibility for all. On this International Literacy Day, respect and gratitude are offered to teachers, volunteers, librarians, and all who pass knowledge to new generations around the world.

To those still unable to read, to children outside school, and to youth far from educational rights: You are not left behind; you are waiting for hope. Life may have kept some far from school gates, but a person’s life is not defined only by the past. Learning begun today can rewrite tomorrow’s fate. One of the most beautiful things is not a flower blooming, but the belief “I can learn too” blossoming in a person’s heart. There is no “too late” in learning.

As a flower blooming in the morning is beautiful, so is one blooming in the evening. What matters is that it blooms. Likewise, as long as a person can accept knowledge at any time in life, their future remains alive.

Let parents pass on the love of reading to new generations. Let communities create more libraries, reading clubs, and learning opportunities. Giving a book is giving knowledge, and giving knowledge is building a future.

Passing On the Light of Knowledge Forever

Time waits for no one. Seasons change, and so do eras. Yet one thing remains unchanged in every time, place, and people: the value of knowledge. Literacy is not only reading letters; it is a key to opening the human mind, courage to face life’s difficulties, and wisdom to tell right from wrong.

Sharing a book, reading to a child, teaching a letter to someone who cannot read; these may seem small acts, but they are seeds that can change humanity’s future. Literacy is not only an education programme; it is humanity’s eternal pillar of light. Literature lifts the person, education lifts the nation, knowledge brings peace to the world. One person can change a community, a community can lift a nation, and the combined knowledge of nations can build a peaceful and just world.

Therefore, let us pass on the light that begins with opening a book from generation to generation. Let us work together so that the lamps of knowledge never go out but shine forever.

Healthy Screen Time for Your Children

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

licate.

Ages two to five: Limit screens to a maximum of one hour per day of high-quality, slow-paced educational content. Parents should co-view alongside children to explain what they see, helping them process visual information and preventing sensory overload.

Ages six to 12: Cap non-home-work screen time at 1 to 1.5 hours

on school days. Focus on guiding kids away from passive video streaming toward active digital tools, like digital art, coding, or problem-solving games, ensuring tech doesn’t displace exercise, sleep, and face-to-face social time.

Teens (13+): Shift focus from strict hourly limits to teaching self-regulation and digital boundaries. Enforce key rules like keeping screens out of bedrooms over-

night and maintaining screen-free mealtimes to protect sleep quality, focus, and mental well-being.

Physical & Vision Health: Protecting Growing Eyes

The 20-20-20 Rule for Kids: For every 20 minutes of screen use, have them look at an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds. You can turn this into a game (e.g., “Find something green out the window!”).

Maintain Viewing Distance: Ensure screens are kept at

least 12 to 18 inches away from their eyes. Holding phones or tablets too close accelerates eye fatigue and increases the risk of early myopia (nearsightedness).

Daily Outdoor Time: Encourage at least one to two hours of outdoor play daily. Natural sunlight and distant viewing are scientifically proven to help reduce the onset of nearsightedness in children.

Transitioning from Passive Viewing to Active Creation



Not all screen time is created equal. Help children move from being passive consumers to creative users:

Passive (Limit): Auto-playing short-form videos, endless algorithmic feeds, and fast-paced cartoons with high-frequency frame

cuts (which can cause sensory overload).

Active (Encourage): Digital drawing/painting, building structures in games like Minecraft, learning a musical instrument online, language-learning apps, or making simple digital crafts.

Practical Rules for the Home

1. Keep Bedrooms Screen-Free: Never place TVs, gaming consoles, or smartphones in a child’s bedroom overnight. Charge all household devices in a central station (like the kitchen or living room) after a specific cutoff time.

SEE PAGE 10

ARTICLE/SCI/TECH
WORLD

FAST telescope’s new discovery reshapes understanding of early universe

Galactic identity cards advance frontier fields including cosmic structure and dark matter.

CHINA’S Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) has detected 156,411 neutral hydrogen sources across nearly half the sky, marking a major breakthrough in radio astronomy.

The findings, published as a cover story in the journal Science China Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy, position FAST as the new global reference in hydrogen survey research.

The 156,411 galactic “identity cards” are expected to advance multi-



Chinese giant radio telescope detects neutral hydrogen across the sky. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ple frontier fields, including galaxy formation and evolution, dark matter distribution and large-scale cosmic structures, said

Zhang Chuanpeng, lead author of the study and associate researcher at the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese

Academy of Sciences. Neutral hydrogen, the most abundant element in the universe, formed about 13.8 billion years ago when the post-Big Bang universe cooled enough for protons and electrons to combine. It serves as the raw material for stars and galaxies and carries critical information about the universe’s transition from darkness to light. The element emits a distinct 21-centimetre spectral line that penetrates interstellar dust and travels billions of light-years to Earth. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Apple CEO faces foldable test

APPLE is expected to unveil a slew of new and updated devices, including a long-rumoured foldable iPhone, when it holds its annual late-summer hardware event on Wednesday in Cupertino, California. It will also be the first major event under new chief executive John Ternus, who took over from outgoing CEO Tim Cook on 1 September.

Ternus, 51, joined Apple’s design team in 2001 and worked his way up to leading the engineering teams behind Apple’s entire product lineup, including the iPhones that generate most of the company’s revenue. — AFP

Tech firms partner on chips

CHIPMAKER Qualcomm and Amazon will jointly develop multiple generations of customised chips for Amazon Web Services’ (AWS) growing artificial intelligence data centre infrastructure, with the companies focusing on chips used for AI inference. According to a Qualcomm press release issued on Tuesday, the multi-generation collaboration will support large-scale AI data centres and will also cover high-speed optical connectivity used within Amazon’s data centre networks. — ANI

Researcher quits over AI risks

AN artificial intelligence researcher who left OpenAI to join Anthropic has decided to leave the industry, accusing both US companies of “playing with our lives” in the race to develop AI models capable of self-improvement.

Jacob Coxon, 27, spent the past three years pre-training AI models, first at OpenAI and then, this year, at its rival Anthropic, which he considered more cautious in its approach. Pretraining is the



Young artificial intelligence expert leaves firm warning about human extinction. **PHOTO: AFP**

stage where AI models absorb vast quantities of data. “Neither company is

acting responsibly. They are racing straight to self-improving superintel-

ligence and gambling with our lives,” Coxon said on Tuesday. “The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade,” he said in a post on X. “This is not a marketing stunt,” he added. Superintelligence is the theoretical point when AI’s capabilities exceed human intelligence. Anthropic safety executive Evan Hubinger backed up Coxon on X. — AFP

Google to invest 13 bln euros in AI infrastructure in Finland

GOOGLE said Wednesday that it would invest at least 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in digital infrastructure, including data centres to power artificial intelligence models, in Finland over the next two years. “This is Google’s largest single investment in Europe and a testament to Finland’s leadership in responsibly building AI infrastructure,” the compa-

ny said in a statement, adding that the investments included “clean energy projects”. The investment includes data centres and supporting infrastructure as well as partnerships in the municipalities of Hamina, Kajaani, Muhos and Vaala. The infrastructure would power several of the tech giant’s services, including its AI chatbot Gemini. — AFP



Tech giant Google will invest fifteen billion dollars across Finland. **PHOTO: AFP**

Healthy Screen Time for Your Children

FROM PAGE 9

2. No Screens During Meals: Keep family mealtimes tech-free to encourage real-world conversation and healthy eating habits.
3. Establish a 1-Hour

- Pre-Bedtime Buffer: Turn off all screens 60 minutes before sleep. Blue light suppresses melatonin, making it harder for children to fall into deep, restorative sleep.
4. Model Good Behaviour: Children mirror

adult habits. When parents demonstrate intentional screen use and step away from phones during family time, kids naturally adopt similar habits. Technology is neither an inherent good nor a digital villain – it is sim-

ply an amplifier of human intention. Whether for an adult navigating a remote career or a child discovering the world, the true goal of healthy screen time is not to eliminate devices, but to ensure they serve us rather than control us.

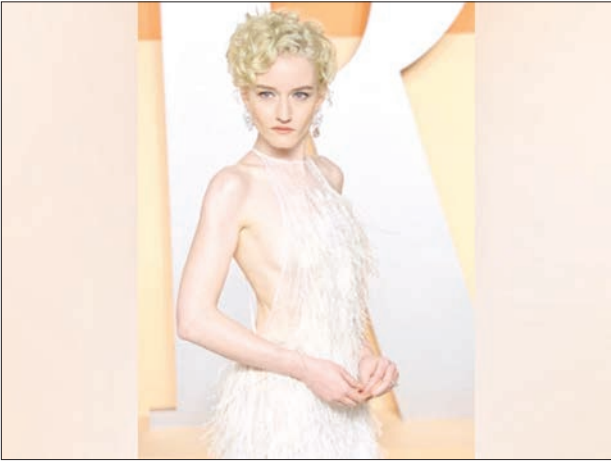
Julia Garner talks Madonna biopic

ACTRESS Julia Garner has said she still believes the long-shelved Madonna biopic could eventually make it to the screen, insisting that “the movie has to get made” despite the project’s uncertain future, according to People. The 32-year-old actress opened up about the biopic, which she was set to headline as Madonna.

“I think the movie has to get made,” Garner said. “But we’ll see...” The project has had a long and complicated journey. Universal Pictures stopped developing Madonna’s planned biopic in 2023, after the film went through multiple drafts, including scripts by Diablo Cody and Erin Cressida Wilson. Madonna had also been attached to direct the project.

Madonna later explained that bringing her life story to the screen on the scale she envisioned required a substantial budget.

“I’ve had an extraordinary life. I’ve had a huge life, so I needed a big budget. You know what I mean?” Madonna told Interview in June 2026. — ANI



Young actress Julia Garner expresses optimism about delayed Madonna biographical project. **PHOTO: ANI**

Sweden immigration restrictions spark healthcare concerns

Specialist doctor Davood Javid explains foreign staff maintain vital hospital operations.

A dramatic tightening of Sweden’s migration policy has sparked concern in a healthcare sector that is ever more dependent on immigrants, professionals warned ahead of a general election on Sunday.

“I’m the only one born in Sweden here today. The rest are born abroad,” said Johanna Bjorkman, a nurse at the NU Hospital Group in the southern city of Trollhattan.

“There wouldn’t have been any operations without them,” she told AFP outside the operating

room in the cardiology department.

Davood Javid, a senior specialist in the depart-

ment, explained that three out of four of the 20 doctors working at the cardiology unit were born abroad.

Nationally, 37 per cent of specialist doctors were born abroad, according to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKR), while over half (53 per cent) of nursing assistants were.

Following a large influx of asylum seekers in Sweden in 2015, successive left- and right-wing governments have tightened asylum and immigration rules. — AFP



An election campaign poster featuring Centre Party leader Elisabeth Thand Ringqvist is displayed in central Stockholm, Sweden, on 7 September, 2026, ahead of Sweden’s general election on 13 September. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canada eyes researchers looking to leave ‘hostile’ US

FED up with the funding restrictions surrounding her research on the links between climate change and health, American epidemiologist Sheryl Magzamen has left the United States for Canada.

The former Universi-

ty of Colorado researcher, now with the University of Montreal, is one of the dozens of scientists to quit US-based posts in recent months for a role in Canada, which is making a push to attract US talent.

Watching academic

freedom decline in the United States was “very hard,” Magzamen told AFP, citing multiple grant withdrawals in a research area that has been derided by President Donald Trump’s administration.

But she said the Uni-

versity of Montreal has offered her “an incredible amount of resources” for long-term research — and she has started learning French to help integrate into Quebec, Canada’s majority-francophone province. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea school violence hits record high

SOUTH Korea’s school violence hit a record high, driven by the deepening digital isolation and the post-COVID-19 pandemic aggression, education ministry data showed Wednesday.

According to a school violence survey of 3.9 million students ranging from fourth grade through high school senior year, the overall victim rate stood at 2.9 per cent in 2026, up 0.4 percentage points from a year earlier.

It marked the highest since the Ministry of Education began tracking the data in 2013, indicating that almost three out of every 100 elementary, middle and high school students experienced school violence.

The online survey, conducted at least twice a year, saw a participation rate of 81.9 per cent, or 3.19 million students, in this year’s first round, down 0.3 percentage points from last year.

The survey tracked school violence experiences from the second semester of 2025 through May 2026. — Xinhua

Teens use varied nicotine products

MORE than 12 per cent of Australian adolescents surveyed had used e-cigarettes in their lifetime, while almost six per cent had used tobacco and 3.5 per cent had used nicotine pouches, new research finds.

The study, published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, surveyed 1,848 students aged 14-18 across the Australian states of New South



Adolescent students experiment with dangerous nicotine pouches and addictive electronic cigarettes. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, and

revealed that Australian high school students have

put their health at risk using a range of different nicotine products, a statement from the journal said on Wednesday.

More than two per cent of respondents had used all three products. Among adolescents who had used nicotine pouches, a newly emerging nicotine product of concern, 82 per cent had also vaped and 71 per cent had smoked cigarettes, the survey showed. — Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD

Japan plans to add aviation sector to new foreign worker programme

Skill development programme encourages foreign workers transitioning status after three years.

THE Japanese government on Wednesday proposed adding the aviation sector to its new foreign-worker training and employment programme set to start in April 2027, as the country seeks to secure labor in industries facing severe worker shortages.

The planned expansion, presented to a panel of experts, would bring the number of industries covered by the program to 18, already including nursing care, agriculture and accommodation. The gov-



Japan prepares expanding worker initiative into aviation sector facing severe shortages. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

ernment hopes to approve the framework at a Cabinet meeting in December.

The Employment for Skill Development program, which will replace the

country's controversial technical intern training program for foreigners, encourages foreign workers to transition to the Specified Skilled Worker status after working for three years in principle, allowing them to work in Japan for longer periods.

The government would allocate 300 of the 4,900 slots available in the aviation sector under the Type I Specified Skilled Worker status to the new program, according to the Immigration Services Agency. — Kyodo

Job growth hits five-month high in South Korea

SOUTH Korea's employment growth hit a five-month high last month, indicating a steady recovery trend despite prolonged downturns in manufacturing, construction and the youth labor market, statistical ministry data showed Wednesday.

The number of employed people aged 15 and older gained 184,000, or 0.6 per cent, from a year earlier to 29,151,000 in August, marking the largest on-year job growth since

March, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.



South Korea's employment growth hit a five-month high last month, indicating a steady recovery trend despite prolonged downturns in manufacturing, construction and the youth labour market. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

After maintaining a steady expansion of 100,000 to 200,000 jobs in

the first quarter, the job growth slowed sharply to 74,000 in April. The number of jobs shrank by 40,000 in May before rebounding in June with a growth of 63,000 and 108,000 in July.

The overall employment rate for those aged 15 and older remained flat at 63.3 percent in August from a year ago, while the OECD-standard hiring rate for those aged 15-64 rose 0.5 percentage points to 70.4 per cent. — Xinhua

EU firms remain bullish on ASEAN

ASEAN remains the top growth market for European Union (EU) companies, with 78 per cent of surveyed business representatives expecting trade and investment in the region to increase over the next five years,

the Singapore-based EU-ASEAN Business Council said on Tuesday.

The proportion rose from 71 percent in 2025, while ASEAN remained the region offering the strongest economic opportunities for a fourth

consecutive year, according to the council's 12th Business Sentiment Survey.

About 78 per cent of respondents plan to expand operations in at least one ASEAN market, with Vietnam and Indone-

sia remaining the top two destinations.

However, uncertainty over US tariff policies remains a key concern, with 81 per cent saying it has weakened business confidence in ASEAN. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia public debt hits high

CAMBODIA'S public debt stock rose 1.95 per cent to US\$13.56 billion in the second quarter (Q2) of 2026, up from the \$13.3 billion recorded at the end of Q1, the Cambodia Public Debt Statistical Bulletin released on Wednesday.

Published by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the bulletin revealed that 95 per cent, or \$12.83 billion, of the total debt was public external debt, while the remaining five per cent, or \$735.7 million, was public domestic debt.

According to the bulletin, the public debt stock comprised 48 per cent in USD, 17 percent in Special Drawing Rights (SDR), 10 per cent each in JPY and CNY, nine per cent in EUR, and the remainder in local and other currencies.

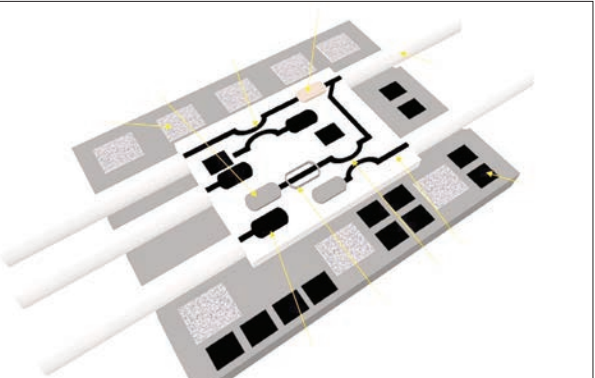
During Q2, the government signed \$368.9 million in new concessional loans with development partners. According to the bulletin, this brought the total new loans signed in the first half (H1) of 2026 to \$460.2 million, representing 15 per cent of the legal borrowing ceiling. — Xinhua

India launches first independent photonics industry body to boost innovation, collaboration

INDIA on Wednesday launched its first independent, ecosystem-led photonics industry body, the India Photonics Association (IPA), to boost innovation, strengthen industry collaboration and fuel the country's capabilities in the rapidly growing sector. The IPA will serve as a neutral platform for collaboration and industry engagement while providing technically rigorous, industry-grounded inputs to support informed policymaking and strengthen India's position

in the global photonics ecosystem. The association was inaugurated in the presence of Sarin Sundar, CTO, India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), along with industry leaders, technology experts, researchers and other key stakeholders, according to a release.

"Success of any association and ecosystem driven society is defined by how much tangible value we are able to create by connecting and empowering the members to grow the business opportunities. — ANI



The image shows a conceptual diagram of a silicon-based optoelectronic integrated circuit, often referred to as a silicon photonics "super chip". **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ENCYCOLOPEDIA.PUB**

Vietnam targets high-speed rail construction start

VIETNAM'S Ministry of Construction has set a target to start construction of the North-South high-speed railway in December 2027, Vietnam News Agency reported Wednesday.

Procedures are underway to select consultants for the investment preparation stage, the report said.

To accelerate the project's progress, the ministry has asked project management boards to develop detailed implementation plans with clearly specified work items and timelines. The North-South high-speed railway project will have a total route length of about 1,541 kilometres, passing through 15 provinces and centrally governed cities. The line will start at Ngoc Hoi station in Hanoi and end at Thu Thiem station in the southern hub of Ho Chi Minh City. — Xinhua

Zara owner profits rise strongly

ZARA owner Inditex, one of the world's largest fashion retailers, reported Wednesday higher profits for the first half of its financial year as its brands withstood fierce competition and boosted sales.

The Spanish group notched three billion euros (\$3.5 billion) in profits from February to July, a 6.8 per cent increase on the same period in 2025.

Sales grew 7.6 per cent year-on-year to reach 19.8 billion euros as "the spring/summer collections have been very well received by our customers", Inditex said in a statement. — AFP

NEC discontinues quantum computer development

JAPANESE electronics maker NEC Corp. has withdrawn from developing a quantum computer after determining that the project would require over a decade of further investment before it could be put to practical use and that it would be difficult to monetize, sources familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

Competition to develop quantum computers, which can solve complex calculations at ultra-high speeds, has been intensifying in the United States and China as they are regarded as crucial to economic security, but Japan has struggled to keep up due to its smaller funding pool. — Kyodo



This photo taken on 8 September 2026 in Atsugi, Kanagawa Prefecture, shows a prototype of a quantum computer developed by Fujitsu Ltd. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China's foreign trade gains momentum as overseas demand powers exports

CHINA'S foreign trade maintained swift growth in the first eight months of 2026, with both exports and imports posting solid gains, and import growth continuing to outpace exports, official data showed on Tuesday.

The country's total goods imports and exports rose 17.6 per cent year on year to 34.78 trillion yuan (about US\$5.13 trillion) in the January-August period, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

The growth rate was 0.3 percentage points faster than that recorded in the first seven months of the



A drone photo taken on 25 August 2026 shows container ships berthed at the Qianwan Container Terminal of Qingdao Port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

year. Exports increased 14.6 per cent year on year to 20.17 trillion yuan, while imports expanded by 22 per cent to 14.61 trillion yuan, the data revealed.

In August alone, China's goods trade totalled 4.65 trillion yuan, up 19.8 per cent from a year earlier and remaining above the four-trillion-yuan mark for a sixth consecutive month. — Xinhua

Mongolia tourist numbers increase significantly

MONGOLIA welcomed 705,098 foreign tourists in the first eight months of 2026, an increase of 17.9 per cent from the same period a year earlier, the country's ministry of culture, sports, tourism and youth said Tuesday.

According to the ministry, Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and Kazakhstan were the top source markets for inbound tourists during the period.

The Mongolian government views tourism as a key sector for di-

versifying the country's economy, which has traditionally relied heavily on mining exports. However, Mongolia's tourism industry has long faced seasonal challenges due to its harsh continental climate, characterized by

long, severe winters and relatively short summers.

To address these challenges, the government has been promoting the development of year-round tourism. As part of this effort, it has extended the "Years to Visit Mongolia" campaign through 2028, aiming to attract at least one million foreign visitors annually. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (008N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2026** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2613N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2613N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

81st session of UN General Assembly opens

Entering its ninth decade, the world body faces multiple grave challenges.

THE 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) was declared open by Khalilur Rahman, the new president of the General Assembly, on Tuesday.

In his speech at the opening session at the UN headquarters in New York, Rahman said he is assuming his responsibility at a consequential moment for the United Nations.

As the world body enters its ninth decade, many achievements deserve recognition, he



United Nations headquarters hosts historic opening session of 81st General Assembly. PHOTO: XINHUA

said, noting that, at the same time, the world body faces grave challenges.

The United Nations has often fallen short of the expectations placed on it. Conflicts continue

to inflict immense human suffering. Development gains remain feeble and fragile. Climate impacts are intensifying, he said.

“Together, these challenges have brought trust in multilateralism under tremendous strain. A widening trust deficit is testing confidence in international institutions and collective action -- a deficit that we must close by working together through dialogue, renewed cooperation and delivery,” said Rahman. — Xinhua

Europe gas prices rise further

THE level of gas prices on the stock exchange in Europe has not yet reached its peak, new records will be broken, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

“The current level of gas prices on the exchange is not a record. Records will be set further, and Europeans are well aware of this,” Peskov told reporters.

Europeans them-

selves are damaging their economy by aban-

doning Russian gas and buying it at a signifi-

cantly higher price, the official said, adding that Europeans could benefit from supplies via the Nord Stream pipeline, but political bias in Europe overshadows common sense.

Earlier in the day, exchange gas prices in Europe had exceeded \$950 per thousand cubic meters for the first time since December 23, 2022. — SPUTNIK



Major European gas pipelines face rising fuel market prices across European regions. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

4 Japanese win US Lasker Awards for medicine

JAPANESE sleep scientist Masashi Yanagisawa and three other Japanese known for developing a hemophilia treatment drug at Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. won the Lasker Awards for medicine on Wednesday.

Yanagisawa is a professor at the University of Tsukuba. The other three are Kunihiro Hattori, Tomoyuki Igawa and Takehisa Kitazawa. — Kyodo

Trump widens 50% Canada tariffs

THE United States has expanded the list of Canadian goods subject to 50 per cent tariffs to include cheese, construction materials, furniture, automobiles, lighting fixtures and other items, a proclamation by US President Donald Trump read.

“After considering the information, opinions, and recommendations that have been provided to me by senior executive branch officials, among other relevant information and considerations, I determine that the public interests require modifying the scope of products subject to the additional ad valorem duties,” Trump said in the document, published on the White House website. — SPUTNIK

Iran attacks US vessels and oil tankers

IRAN’S Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Wednesday that it attacked two US vessels and eight oil tankers in the Persian Gulf in retaliation for a US attack on five Iranian tankers, according to Iranian state media reports.

In a statement published by its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said its navy struck the vessels and inflicted heavy damage in retaliation for the “terrorist US Army’s aggression and malicious act of attacking five Iranian oil tankers in the Persian Gulf” on Tuesday night.

It stressed that its naval forces also targeted ten “violating” ships that sought to cross a “prohibited and unsafe zone” in the Strait of Hormuz with the US Army’s support and provocation. — Xinhua

Former HKSAR leader dies at 89

TUNG Chee-hwa, former vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and former chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), died of illness at the age of 89 in Hong Kong at 9:57 pm Tuesday.

Tung is regarded as an

outstanding contributor to “one country, two systems”, a renowned patriot, an outstanding social activist and a close friend of the Communist Party of China.

He served as vice-chairman of the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th National Committees of the CPPCC. He was the first- and second-term chief executive of the HKSAR. — Xinhua

India aids Nepal flood rescue

INDIA has delivered 95 tonnes of emergency relief materials on board seven aircraft to support Nepal during its ongoing flash flood catastrophe, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Tuesday, expressing deep solidarity and sympathy with the people and government of the neighbouring country. Speaking during a week-

ly press briefing, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal affirmed that India, as a close neighbour, responded promptly and will continue to back long-term relief, rescue, and reconstruction efforts.

Beyond material aid, Jaiswal noted that specialised Indian teams are providing critical operational support on the ground. — ANI



Indian rescue personnel provide vital disaster assistance following severe Himalayan flash floods. PHOTO: ANI

SPORTS

MoC wins Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw Championship



Players in action at the final match of the 2026 Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw Championship.

THE Construction Ministry team won the overall championship trophy after securing gold medals in both the men’s three-player and four-player team events at the 2026 Inter-Ministry Men’s Sepak Takraw Championship.

The championship, jointly organised by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Sepak

Takraw Federation, was held at Gymnasium A of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw from 3 to 9 September. A total of 27 teams comprising 264 athletes from various ministries competed.

In the four-player event, the Construction Ministry defeated the Religious Affairs Ministry 2-0 in the semifinals and overcame the Home Affairs Ministry 2-1 in the final to win gold. The Border Affairs Ministry beat the Religious Affairs Ministry 2-1 in the third-place match.

In the three-player event, the Construction Ministry also finished first, followed by the Sports Ministry in second and the Transport Ministry in third. The Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry finished fourth.

In the four-player event, the Home Affairs Ministry finished second, followed by the Border Affairs Ministry in third and the Religious Affairs Ministry in fourth.

At the prize-giving ceremony, the overall championship trophy was presented to the Construction Ministry team by Union Minister for Sports and Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee U Ye Myint Tun. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar holds 40km SEA Games qualifier

MYANMAR held the FEI 1 Endurance Qualification 40-kilometre long-distance equestrian qualifying competition on 7 September at the Equestrian Sports Ground in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory, to select athletes eligible to represent Myanmar at the XXXIV SEA Games, which Malaysia will host in 2027, according to the Myanmar Equestrian Federation.

The competition was officially launched with a flag-off by U Nyi Nyi, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Deputy Minister for Sports, while U Pyone Maung Maung, Chairman of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation, rang the bell to signal the start of the event.

A total of eight athletes and eight horses, forming eight athlete-horse combinations, took part in the 40-kilometre endurance qualification. The course was divided into two 20-kilometre sections, with water points established along the route. When the athletes and horses reached the designated water points, the horses were provided with water and cooling treatment.

U Pyone Maung Maung, Chairman of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation, presented qualification certificates to the seven successful athlete-horse combinations before the event was concluded. — TWA/KZL

During the competition, U Pyone Maung Maung explained the purpose of organizing the 40-kilometre endurance qualification and the federation's preparations for the event. The athletes and horses then set off for the second 20 kilometre section at the designated time. After reaching the water points, the horses were again provided with water and cooling treatment before completing the course and crossing the finish line at the designated area of the equestrian sports ground. The horses subsequently underwent a second veterinary examination and entry and exit registration checks by the relevant officials.

Myanmar eFootball players invited to PIEC 2026

FOOTBALL players in Myanmar have been invited to the Perak International Esports Championship (PIEC) 2026 in Malaysia, according to the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation.

It is an international Esports tournament and an opportunity for national eFootball (Mobile) players to meet rivals on the international stage.

The event is set from 18 to 20 September in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia and organized by the Malaysia Esports Federation (MESF). Prizes worth nearly US\$5,000 will be rewarded for winners.

For national player selection, the Myanmar Esports Federation (MESF) will hold national qualifier matches on 12 and 13 September.

Interested young enthusiasts are welcome to attend the qualifier matches after registering. — MT/ZS

Nay Pyi Taw kicks off judo championships



The opening ceremony of the 2026 Inter-Region and State Judo Championships in progress yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the 2026 Inter-Region and State Judo Championships was held at Gymnasium C of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The championships are jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of sports and the Myanmar Judo Federation to promote physical fitness, foster friendship among athletes, develop

young judo talent, identify high-quality athletes for national selection and raise the standard of judo in Myanmar.

Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman and Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun delivered the opening remarks and officially opened the championships. The participating athletes then recited the four Sports Oaths.

The Union minister and other senior officials greeted the participating teams and presented commemorative gifts. A K300,000 cash award was also presented to the brass band of Basic Education High School No. 6 in Zabuthiri Township for its contribution to the event.

Officials then watched the men’s under-38 kg elimination bout between Zin Nyein Nyein of Bago and Than Htet Oo of Nay Pyi Taw, and the women’s under-48-kilogramme bout between Khin Poe Poe Aung of Mandalay and Nan Phyu Thazin Oo of Ayeyawady.

The championships are being held from 8 to 11 September at Gymnasium C, with 238 athletes from 15 men’s teams and 14 women’s teams representing regions and states competing over four days. — MNA/KZL



The FEI 1 Endurance Qualification 40-kilometre long-distance equestrian event in progress.



India PM Modi seeks to expand global reach of UPI retail payment platform

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called on India's fintech industry to strengthen cybersecurity, adopt ethical data-protection standards, deepen regulator-industry innovation and develop a Fintech Consumer Protection Index for transparent company ratings.

Addressing the Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai, Modi said fintech companies should jointly set clear priorities as technologies such as Agentic AI, tokenization and quantum open new possibilities in the financial sector.

"First, we have to make cybersecurity in India top-notch. Second, our industry should have its own ethical data-protection standards. Third, we have to build a strong fintech regulator-industry innovation ecosystem. And fourth, we should have a Fintech Consumer Protection Index, on the basis of which every company can be rated transparently," Modi said. He added that if the sector measured itself against these parameters, India's fintech industry could become "a gateway to countless possibilities". — ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses international delegates at Global Fintech Fest. **PHOTO: GLOBAL FINTECH FEST 2026**

Russia, Vietnam exchange 4 agreements on scientific cooperation at joint forum

Russian and Vietnamese prestigious universities signed strategic bilateral memorandums of understanding.

Russia and Vietnam have exchanged four agreements on cooperation in science and education at a joint scientific and technological forum, a Sputnik correspondent reported on Wednesday.

The Russian-Vietnamese Scientific and Technological Forum "Cooperation in Strategic Technologies" is taking place in Moscow on Wednesday. The forum is timed to the state visit of Vietnamese President To Lam to Moscow, who is expected to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin later in the day.

During the forum, St. Petersburg State University and Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City signed a memorandum of understanding.

Moreover, St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Kaspersky Vietnam and



General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee To Lam (R) and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, 10 May 2025. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

agreed to establish a joint information security laboratory with Vietnamese Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology.

Nuclear University ME-PhI and Hanoi University of Science and Technology exchanged agreements on cooperation in education and personnel training. — SPUTNIK

Japan opposition alliance formalizes split plan failingly

JAPAN'S main opposition party, the Centrist Reform Alliance, formalized its plan to split on Wednesday, with its members to leave based on their prior affiliations with its two founding parties after talks on a full merger collapsed.

The split of the party, which was founded in January as a counter to the conservative ruling coalition under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, is likely to strengthen the governing bloc's hand in parliament, where it has a supermajority in the powerful House of Representatives, and weaken an already fragmented opposition camp. — Kyodo

The CRA will remain in existence with one lawmaker to wind up its affairs after suffering a heavy defeat in the February general election.

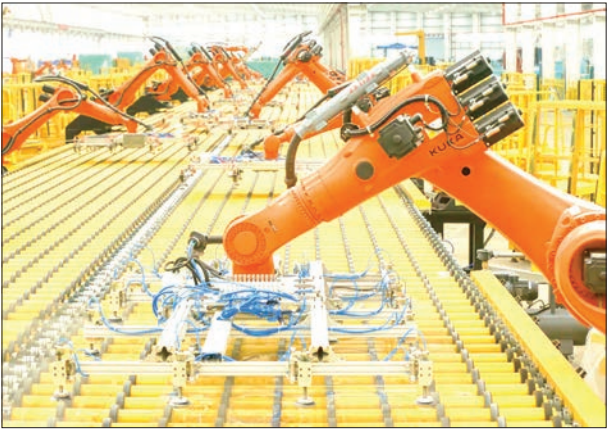
AI could add up to 1 percentage point to Asia's growth annually, offset ageing drag: IMF

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) and related technologies could boost Asia's annual economic growth by 0.2 to 1 percentage point, helping offset the impact of a shrinking population and allowing the region to maintain or even exceed its recent growth rates, according to an article by IMF Asia and Pacific Department Director Krishna Srinivasan.

The article said Asia's declining population could reduce economic growth by around 0.3 percentage point every year by 2050. This makes higher

productivity increasingly important as traditional drivers of growth come under pressure.

"Together, these forces suggest that growth in



The image shows red industrial robotic arms with vacuum-lift attachments operating along an automated roller conveyor line in a manufacturing facility. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Asia could remain close to or even exceed recent historical averages if productivity gains are fully realized," Srinivasan wrote.

Asia is entering a critical period as ageing populations, slower productivity growth and growing trade fragmentation pose challenges to the growth model that has driven the region's economic rise.

Asia currently accounts for nearly 40 per cent of global output and around two-thirds of global growth, compared with about a quarter of global output in the 1990s. — ANI