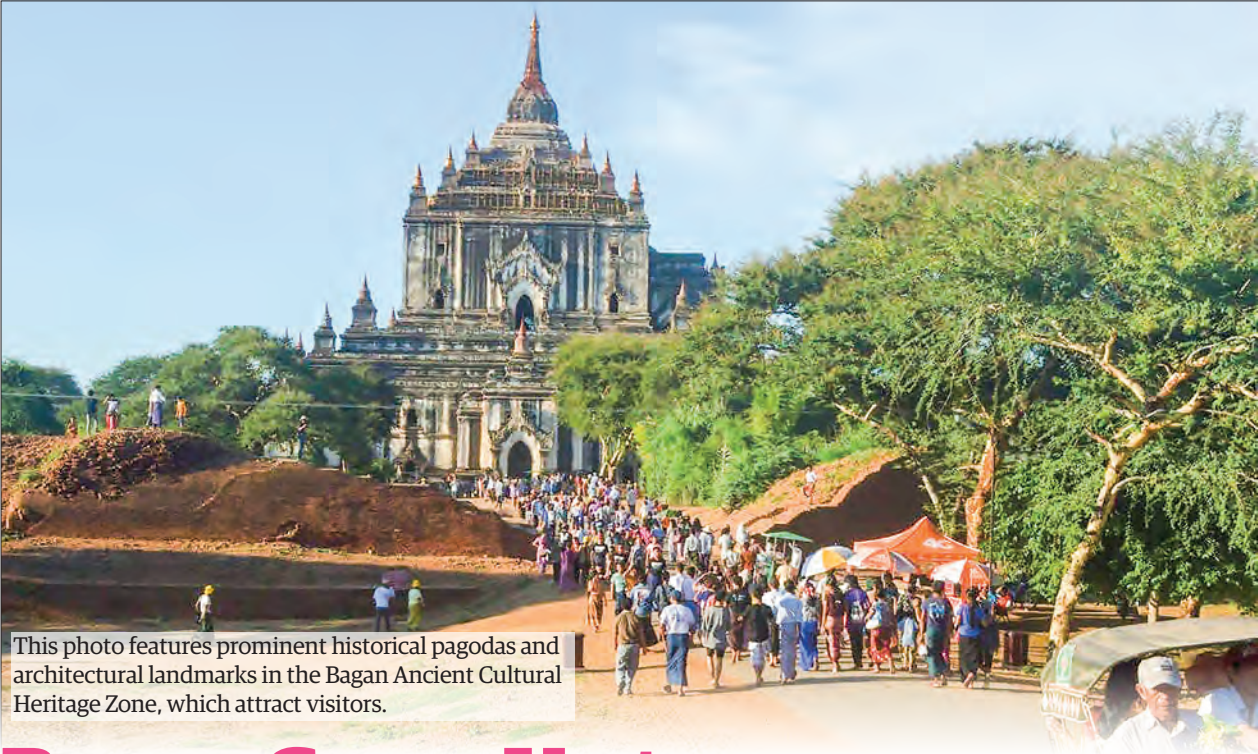


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo features prominent historical pagodas and architectural landmarks in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, which attract visitors.

Bagan Gears Up to Welcome More Tourists

To increase tourist arrivals to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, during the upcoming high season, tourism promotion programmes are being implemented, according to the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism.

In addition to the Bagan cultural zone, NyaungU has high-standard hotels capable of accommodating foreign tourists, and preparations have been made to welcome an increased influx of visitors. “Regarding efforts to attract more tourists to Bagan during the upcoming high season, we are coordinating comprehensively with relevant

administrative bodies, local hoteliers and entrepreneurs involved in the Bagan cultural zone. We are conducting awareness sessions, holding discussions and disseminating information about the region to the public so that domestic and international travellers can visit the area more conveniently,” said an official from the Bagan Branch of the Department

of Archaeology and National Museum.

Furthermore, the department is carrying out maintenance activities, including clearing weeds that grew during the rainy season around the pagodas in Bagan region and maintaining environmental cleanliness and pleasant surroundings. Conservation and research work on ancient structures and mural paintings in the Bagan region are also being carried out in collaboration with foreign experts, according to reports. — ASH/TH

Agri Research Dept wins global award at Drylands Congress 2026

THE Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) of Myanmar was honoured with a global award at the Drylands Congress 2026 for its work on developing new climate-resilient crops for farmers in the dry zone of central Myanmar.

The event, organized by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), took place in New Delhi, India, from 10 to 12 September. DAR received the award in the Crop Improvement and Production Technologies category as part of the ICRISAT Centre for Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSEA) Award 2026. Through collaboration with ICRISAT, DAR identified new varieties of groundnut, chickpea, and pigeon pea that are early-maturing and climate-smart, making them particularly suitable for cultivation in the dry zone.

Among various international research institutes, universities, and non-governmental organizations, Myanmar’s DAR stood out by winning this prestigious award, which will be officially announced on the ICRISAT website. — ASH/EM



Ceremony for the ICRISAT Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSEA) Award 2026.

Applications open for SBN PowerBiz: AgroFood Nutri Challenge

SUN Business Network (SBN) Myanmar is accepting applications for the SBN PowerBiz: AgroFood Nutri Challenge, an initiative by the World Food

Programme (WFP) and SBN Myanmar to support domestic production and market expansion of nutritious food products.

SEE PAGE 7

NATIONAL

PAGE 7



YGN palm oil wholesale reference price remains stable

Soybean Oil Mills to Rise in Myitkyina, Mohnyin

KACHIN State plans 50-tonne soybean oil mills in Myitkyina and Mohnyin, using solvent extraction to produce both cooking oil and animal feed, in a joint effort by government, private sector, and farmers.

The solvent extraction method is designed to produce clean oil of high quality. A coordination meeting to establish mills was held on 16 September, attended by Kachin State Minister U Ye Yint Swe for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, state level de-



A coordination meeting on establishing a soybean oil mill.

partmental officials, and representatives from the State Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Kachin State currently cultivates six major

oilseed crops, including groundnut, sesame, sunflower, canola, niger, and soybean across a total of 104,004 acres, of which 25,208 acres are dedicated

to soybean.

Based on current cultivation and yield rates, approximately 300,000 baskets of soybean are available for milling. Establishing the mills would improve local edible oil security and provide stable incomes for soybean farmers, said U Ye Yint Swe.

Officials and representatives discussed the advantages of establishing the mills, technical requirements, and implementation methods at the meeting. — TWA/KK

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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

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Sitagu donates K100M for flood victims in Laymyethna

SITAGU Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara, State Ovadacariya, Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and Sitagu Hospitals, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika, Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara, donated K100 million for flood-affected people in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, who are facing hardships due to the 2026 Ngawun River floods. At the donation ceremony held at Sitagu Cekkahu Dana Hospital in Dagon Myothit (North) Township,



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, on behalf of Sitagu Sayadaw, hands over K100 million flood victims to the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister.

Yangon Region, yesterday morning, the Yangon Region chief minister, on behalf of the Sayadaw, handed over the donated cash to the Ayeyawady Region chief minister.

The local population

personally conducted inspections on rescue, relief, and rehabilitation operations for flood victims in Ayeyawady, contributing a total of K8,597 million. Similarly, donations were also made to flood-affected areas in Ayeyawady, Yangon, Kayin, Rakhine, and Sagaing in these years.

Additionally, on 13 September at the Sitagu Buddhist Academy (Yangon), the Sitagu Sayadaw donated US\$10,000 to Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire for victims of flash floods that occurred on 26 August in Nepal. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Writers Association chair leaves for China

A delegation led by Myanmar Writers Association Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) departed for China by air at 11:30 am on 17 September.

At the invitation of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China, the delegation, which departed to attend the 3rd China-ASEAN Youth Literature Exchange Meeting, was led by Myanmar Writers Association Chair U Ohn Maung (Myin Mu Maung Naing Moe) and Dala Township Writers Association Chair U Min

Min Htike (Myat Min Thant). The delegation was seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport.

The China-ASEAN Youth Literature Exchange meeting will be held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, and Nanjing, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, from 17 to 24 September. — TWA/MKKS

This photo depicts the Myanmar delegation departing for the 3rd China-ASEAN Youth Literature Exchange meeting.



MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Daw Myo Pa Pa Tun, Director-General of the Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after completing the one-year probationary period.

Andaman sea Condition Issued at 4 pm MST on 18 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the North Andaman sea, around 19 September 2026. — DMH

Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No79

Issued at 8 pm MST on 18 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the monsoon strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, and Mon States from today morning to 22 September 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at time in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Advisory

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

NATIONAL



The Ganesh Festival held at Shwe Htut Tin (Hexagon Complex) in Yangon.

Yangon hosts Ganesh Festival

THE Ganesh Festival, a celebration of faith, culture and community, was held yesterday morning at Shwe Htut Tin (Hexagon Complex) in Tamway Township, Yangon. Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur delivered the opening remarks at the festival. Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers and other guests offered prayers and blessings.

The Union minister said the festival was a significant occasion for Hindu devotees in Myanmar to preserve their religious and cultural traditions. He also expressed the hope that the event would further strengthen friendship, mutual understanding and unity among people of different faiths and ethnicities in Myanmar. The guests then enjoyed cultural performances presented by Indian cultural groups. — MNA/KZL

NSPNC, Political Parties Move to Fast-Track Peace Efforts

THE second-day meeting of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and representatives of 32 political parties took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae discussed the ongoing dialogues between the committee and political parties, issues to be discussed and further work plans for peace processes. Committee member Lt-Gen Aye Win (Rtd) also explained the selection and voting procedures for the political parties' working group.

Representatives of the 32 political parties voted to select 16 permanent and 16 alternate members of the working group, with the selection approved by the election chairing body.

In the afternoon, participants discussed the role of political parties in political dialogue, transitional arrangements for the future peace process, amendments to the 2008 Constitution, relations between the Union and state and region governments, engagement with groups not yet involved in peace talks, and bilateral negotiations aimed at achieving ceasefires.



The second-day meeting of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and representatives of 32 political parties in progress yesterday.

Committee Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing also reviewed the two-day discussions on constitutional and federal matters, the role of political parties, the link between ceasefires and political dialogue, public security and socioeconomic needs, women's participation in the peace process, international and diplomatic engagement, and ways to engage with newly emerged armed groups.

The meeting concluded with remarks by Dr Aung Myat Oo, leader of the political parties' working group and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. — MNA/KTZH

MoST UM attends 2026 China-ASEAN AI Ministerial Roundtable Meeting

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw attended the 2026 China-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence Ministerial Roundtable Meeting in Nanning, China, on 17 September.

The Union minister discussed opportunities for China and ASEAN countries to enhance cooperation in AI technology and promote responsible, transparent, fair and secure artificial intelligence (AI) development. He also highlighted Myanmar's ongoing efforts



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw joins the group photo session at the 2026 China ASEAN AI Ministerial Roundtable Meeting in China on 17 September.

to develop AI technology and the potential benefits of enhanced China-ASEAN cooperation in this field. Participants also exchanged views on AI governance, cybersecurity, and opportunities to train and nurture a new generation of AI professionals.

The Union minister

attended a dinner hosted by the deputy head of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Government.

Yesterday he visited China-ASEAN Information Harbour Co Ltd (CAIH) in Nanning and held discussions with its CEO on developing AI infrastructure between China and Myanmar, creating AI-based applications to support the health, education and agriculture sectors, and developing AI professionals. — MNA/KTZH

MCHT Union Minister attends reception for 205th Nicaragua National Day



Union Minister U Maung Myint speaks at the 205th Nicaraguan National Day reception in Yangon yesterday.

AS the reception to commemorate the 205th National Day of the Republic of Nicaragua was held at the Central Hotel in Yangon at 4 pm yesterday, the ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Maung Myint and his wife.

Ambassador of Nicaragua to Myanmar Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorcia and officials warmly welcomed the Union minister and his wife and the invitees.

The ceremony was then opened with the national anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the national anthem of the Republic of Nicaragua, as well as the ambassador of Nicaragua to Myanmar and the Union minister delivering their greetings.

The ambassador hosted a dinner for the guests present at the ceremony. The ceremony was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors from foreign embassies based in Yangon, Chargé d'Affaires, diplomats and invitees. — MNA/MKKS



Gold Market Rate as of 18 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.

NATIONAL

Union Minister inspects MRTV retransmission stations, IPRD offices in Toungoo

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Linn met officials at the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) retransmission station in Toungoo yesterday morning, stating that the media sector must actively collaborate to encourage public participation in local development initiatives undertaken by the government to improve people's socioeconomic lives and meet regional requirements.

Following the meeting, the Union minister provided cash awards and foodstuffs to the staff. He then inspected the instal-

lation of the transmission tower and satellite dishes, the generator room, the real-time broadcasting of television and FM channels in the transmitter room, channel quality control measures, and equipment maintenance.

Similarly, the Union minister met personnel from MRTV and the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) at the Toungoo District IPRD office, delivering necessary instructions and presenting foodstuffs and cash awards. He subsequently inspected mobile library vehicles, operating re-

cords of mobile libraries and three-wheeled vehicle outreach services, book displays, the public library, a mini-museum, a children's reading room, historic Toungoo photographs spanning over a century, Community Centre operational records, and the computer training room.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited the MRTV retransmission station in Bago, inspecting tower installations, satellite equipment, and television and FM broadcasting operations. He instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted broadcasting

and to provide the public with real-time news and entertainment.

He then met staff from MRTV and IPRD at the Bago Region IPRD office, where he presented cash awards and foodstuffs before touring the wall magazine displays, library, children's reading room, and mini-museum.

Later in the day, the Union minister observed the recording of ASEAN-related songs promoting regional friendship and cooperation, performed by the National Symphony Orchestra at Studio B of MRTV in Yangon. — MNA/ST

25th governing board meeting of SEAMEO CHAT held



Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint joins the 25th governing board meeting of the SEAMEO CHAT online.

THE SEAMEO CHAT is a collection of South-East Asian historical and cultural heritage, which has created opportunities for scholars, researchers, teachers and students to exchange knowledge and ideas, while it has helped strengthen regional networking and future cooperation, said Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint.

The deputy minister made this statement at the SEAMEO CHAT 25th Governing Board Meeting held at the SEAMEO CHAT meeting room in Yangon on the morning of 16 September.

Ms Pnitip Iamnirath, Deputy Director at the SEAMEO Secretariat, also delivered a welcoming speech.

The meeting reviewed and discussed the activities of the department, and discussions, consultations, and decisions on future work are being made.

The meeting was attended in person by the deputy director at the Secretariat and management members from Brunei and Myanmar, while management members from Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam participated online. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar Delegates Explore Belarus Tech in Farming, Dairy, Agriculture

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tun Win, currently in Minsk, Belarus, held discussions with Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Mr Ivan Smilgin on 15 September to promote cooperation and exchange technical knowledge in agriculture and livestock breeding.

The two sides discussed enhancing technical cooperation, trade and economic ties in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

The delegation also visited the Belarusian



Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tun Win holds talks with Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Mr Ivan Smilgin in Belarus on 15 September 2026.

State Association for Livestock Breeding "Belplemzhivoboeidinenie" and discussed dairy cattle breeding and animal feed production with the General Director and officials, followed by a visit to its cattle breeding laboratory. They also visited Minsk

Tractor Plant to observe tractor manufacturing and quality control processes.

On 16 September, the delegation visited the Scientific and Production Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Agriculture to study crop and fodder

cultivation, seed production, agricultural systems, animal breeding, embryo transfer and nutrition laboratories. They also visited Zhodino AgroPlemElita breeding enterprise to observe dairy cattle breeding, animal feed production and milking operations.

On 17 September, the delegation visited the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation to study animal feed, feed additives and amino acid production, as well as JSC Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky to observe poultry farming and meat production. — MNA/KTZH

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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

21.64% of Falam's urban population returns to city

JOINTLY organized by the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Information and Public Relations, a storytelling and poetry recitation competition aimed at developing school libraries and promoting reading habits was held yesterday at the Shalwe Hall of the No 1 Basic Education High School in Falam.

A total of 59 student contestants from high, middle and primary school levels at schools in Falam participated in the competition. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, accompanied by the Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conserva-



This image shows local urban returnees being warmly welcomed in Falam Township.

tion and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, visited the venue to observe and encourage the students during the competition.

Following the event, he inspected the ongoing renovation of two-storey, four-unit housing blocks belonging to the Department of Urban and Hous-

ing Development, as well as the renovation of the meeting hall of the District General Administration Department.

Additionally, the deputy minister and his entourage welcomed residents returning to Falam yesterday at Independence Pagoda in Chinmwal Ward.

They subsequently

observed the data collection process being carried out by relevant departments for 111 returning local communities and provided relief supplies to them.

Since the Tatmadaw assumed control of Falam, local people and departmental personnel have been returning to the township to resume residence since 6 May. Government offices are operating normally, and 21.64 per cent of Falam's urban population has already returned to the city.

In pursuit of the guidance of the Head of State, priority is being given to infrastructure repairs and assistance programmes for returning residents in Falam. — MNA/TH

Kungyangon's VRFP funds disbursed



An Emerald Green rural development project fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Kungyangon Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday to disburse funds under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) in Kamabar Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region.

Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Su Thida Lin explained the objectives, implementation and benefits of the Village Revolving Fund Project. Officials briefed participants on project activities, loan conditions, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed. Kungyan-

gon Township Department Head Daw Su Thida Lin handed over K32.3 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation committee.

Kamabar Village is implementing systematic agricultural, livestock and trading activities using K32.3 million from the Village Revolving Fund Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project committee disbursed the seventh round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 71 beneficiaries from the village to undertake income-generating activities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Construction Training Project Launches in Mandalay, Sagaing

THE construction training projects, which are designed to help quake-affected families and people find jobs and receive vocational training, are set to be implemented in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, according to the Centre for Vocational Training (CVT).

Backed by international development partners, this project will be implemented by the leadership of the Myanmar Private TVET Association (MPTA) and CVT in cooperation with the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) and Mandalay Region Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

The project will include carpentry, masonry, welding, plumbing training, and soft skills training. It is a free training programme and includes a daily allowance. After the on-the-job training (OJT), start-up kits and employment opportunities will be provided.

The opening ceremony of the construction training project was held on 11 September at MRCCI headquarters. U Tun Tun, project implementation coordinator of the international partner, greeted attendees and made donor remarks,



An opening ceremony for the construction training project.

and MPTA chair U Aye Min Min gave the opening speech as a project lead. CVT's CEO Daw Khin Myat Sanda introduced the project's objectives, operations and project team members. Interested trainees can contact CVT via 09 250640608, MPTA 09 797304635 and MDY office 09 974372622, 09 940200063 and 09 898160148. — MT/ZS



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

A ceremony to hold an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and form a pro-

Mongyawng's VDP project oriented; committee formed

ject committee took place in Namyun Village, Mongyawng Township, Shan State (East), yesterday.

Mongyawng Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Moe Khine explained the objectives, processes

and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). Project staff explained the rules and regulations for electing and forming the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be carried out. Villagers formed

a seven-member Village Development Committee by consensus to effectively execute village development activities.

Villagers will implement village development activities selected by local communities using K15 mil-

lion 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. — Karan (Rural)

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NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training
5 graduates honoured

PEOPLE'S military servants who have completed their required service period were honoured at ceremonies held at regional military headquarters across the country yesterday. The servicemen were presented with certificates confirming completion of military service, service badges, commendation certificates and cash awards.

Some servicemen who qualified for reduced service periods under the law were also included. Servicemen who complete their required term may choose to continue serving in the military. Those who previously worked for private companies are expected to be able to return to their former or similar positions.

Vocational training and em-



The commander of the Southern Command Headquarters joins the group documentary photo together with People's Military Service Training 5 graduates at yesterday's event.

ployment opportunities are being arranged for discharged servicemen through government departments, local businesses, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI), and overseas employment agencies. Some former servicemen have also chosen to continue serving in the military voluntarily. — MNA/KTZH



Village representatives receive the fund in Mongnai Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Katnauk (Semyoung) Vil-

lage, Mongnai Township, yesterday. Mongnai Township Department of Rural Development Head U Maung Khine explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with

Mongnai's MSY village
project loans disbursed

the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials explained project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K62 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Katnauk (Semyoung) Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K62 million from the MSY Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 117 members from the village engaged in systematic agricultural and livestock activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

186 pickpockets
arrested on YBS buses,
at bus stops in Yangon

IN order to ensure public safety police arrested pickpockets on YBS buses, at bus stops and in crowded places in Yangon. Over five months, 165 men and 21 women, a total of 186 offenders, were arrested

in connection with 206 pickpocketing cases. The relevant authorities stated that 235 mobile phones and a total of K6,885,700 were seized as evidence from the pickpocketing groups. Police officers patrol busy areas and bus stops



This photo captures arrested suspects alongside seized mobile phones and cash.

in different townships, conducting undercover surveillance on YBS buses to stop additional pickpocketing in Yangon and to successfully identify and apprehend the offenders. — TWA/MKKS

Laikha's MSY village
project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Hohpai Village, Laikha Township, yesterday.

Laikha Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Naing Win explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials explained project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K52.6 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Hohpai Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K52.6 million from the MSY Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 56 members from the village, including 44 people engaged in agricultural activities, nine in livestock breeding and three in trading businesses. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



A village representative accepts the project fund in Laikha Township.

Metmung's VDP project
introduced; committee
formed

A ceremony to hold an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and form a project committee took place in Panhone Village, Metmung Township, Wa Self-Administered Division, yesterday.

Metmung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Hlaing Min Tun met village elders and villagers in the village and explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). Project staff then explained the rules and regulations for electing and forming the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be implemented. Villagers formed a seven-member Village Development Committee to effectively execute village development activities.

In the village, villagers will implement village development activities 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. — Thaw Zin Htoo (DRD)

NATIONAL

Applications open for SBN ...

FROM PAGE 1

Applicants can choose one of two tracks based on their business and product. Track 1: Prototype and Product Reformulation is designated for businesses with a clear product concept and early prototype for a nutritious food product, or those planning to reformulate an existing

product to improve its nutritional value. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity and commitment to advance their product to the next stage. Track 2 highlights Market Ready and Growth, dedicated to businesses with a tested, market ready nutritious food product, or those already selling a product with potential

to expand production, distribution, and market reach. Finalists in both tracks will receive the Business Model and Go to Market Masterclass, Pitching and Pitch Deck Masterclass and Mentorship from industry experts. A total of US\$15,000 in cash prize will be awarded to three

winning products across Track 1 and Track 2. Applications close on 27 September. Interested parties can apply via the link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-dDWXqCwC0fvnrKuCTB3_UdDEUdSfLkmNPJcfAoiOeb2uq0hw/viewform?usp=dialog. Interested individuals can enquire for further details via 09 880914389. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 18 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,665.60~3,666.90	558.10~558.30	125.40~125.50	43.60
Trading amount in the market	12,895,293.35	30,757,605.00	40,427,381.53	-

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price remains stable

THE wholesale reference price of palm oil set for the Yangon market has remained unchanged at K7,179 per viss during the week ending 24 September, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference



price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The committee notified that anyone who is involved in price gouging or hoarding palm oil with the intent to manipulate the market will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking

oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. Complaints of overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demand. — NN/KK

Coordination meeting for Myanmar Tourism Fair 2027 held

THE first coordination meeting for the Myanmar Tourism Fair 2027 took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 September in a hybrid format. Officials from the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar

Tourism Federation (MTF) and affiliated associations participated in the discussions, focusing on restoring the tourism destination image and trust among international travellers. The meeting high-

lighted estimated event costs, venue selection, and arrangements for inviting international travel agencies. An implementation committee was also formed to oversee the event. The fair will be car-

ried out under the leadership of the ministry, with cooperation from the federation and its affiliated associations. Further details will be discussed at upcoming meetings. — NN/KK

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm 18 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds over the North Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 19 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Upper Sagaing Regions and Kayin, Chin, Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with a likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Mon 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 and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase in rain in Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and widespread in Yangon Region. — DMH

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

Uplifting socioeconomic life of rural people

More than 69 per cent of Myanmar’s population lives in rural areas, and the country’s economic development depends on the socioeconomic development of rural communities. As such, the Government is placing special emphasis on promoting the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that are closely connected with the daily livelihoods and economic activities of rural people.

The government is implementing the strategies as a priority, with the aim of continuously improving the socioeconomic well-being of the people through the development of the industrial sector based on agriculture and livestock farming. Therefore, not only rural communities but also people across the country as a whole should join hands in promoting the socioeconomic development of rural people.

When implementing rural development programmes, planning and preparedness are necessary to ensure that the natural environment is not adversely affected, and communities are able to withstand natural disasters. Priority should always be given to the interests of rural people, and economic activities that can provide them with direct benefits should be implemented. Efforts should also be made to mobilize the collective strength of the people and foster a sense of ownership among them.

In the manufacturing sector, efforts should also be made to increase the production of value-added products based on locally produced agricultural and livestock raw materials, promote their export to international markets, and create more employment opportunities for local people. The emergence of local employment opportunities will contribute to the socioeconomic development of people in the respective areas. This, in turn, will help reduce and eventually prevent the outflow of human resources from rural areas to other regions and abroad.

When implementing rural development programmes, planning and preparedness are necessary to ensure that the natural environment is not adversely affected, and communities are able to withstand natural disasters. Priority should always be given to the interests of rural people, and economic activities that can provide them with direct benefits should be implemented. Efforts should also be made to mobilize the collective strength of the people and foster a sense of ownership among them.

In addition, relevant departments and the people must work together in implementing programmes to develop rural areas that are green, clean and modern, with effective environmental conservation and healthcare systems, as well as rural areas where modern and systematic agricultural and livestock farming practices are carried out. Only through such concerted efforts can the objectives be successfully achieved within a short period.

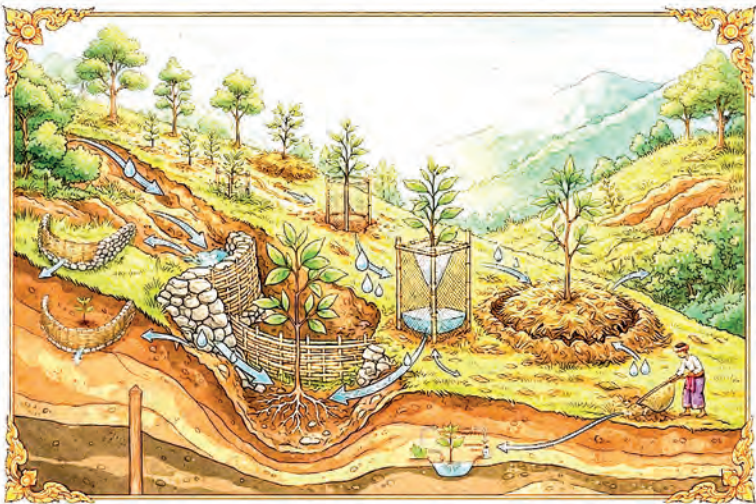
If the capital, inputs, technology and human resources required for agricultural, livestock breeding and production activities are managed individually, difficulties and inefficiencies may arise. Therefore, systematic collective efforts through the cooperative system can make operations easier and more efficient, while reducing wastage and losses. By working together, challenges can be overcome. Consequently, higher-quality agricultural and livestock products can be produced in greater quantities so as to meet the demand of people.

In recent years, Myanmar has faced monsoon floods far more severe and destructive than those experienced in decades past. Entire towns and villages are submerged, transport networks are severed, and agricultural land is routinely devastated. While many continue to point to heavy rainfall as the sole culprit, the underlying reality is clear: the physical trigger of these floods is the loss of our upper-watershed forests.

When hillsides are stripped bare by logging and wildfires, heavy rain triggers massive landslides. Millions of tonnes of mud and silt wash down into our main river channels — the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, and Thanlwin. As this sediment settles, riverbeds rise year after year. The rivers become too shallow to retain normal monsoon volumes, causing water to spill over into low-lying plains.

To break this annual cycle of destruction, we cannot simply build higher dams or dredge riverbeds; we must restore the biological armour of our country through systematic, urgent reforestation.

What Triggers the Recurring Floods in Myanmar? The Urgent Case for Strategic Reforestation



A Simple, Proven Model: Lessons from Thailand's King Rama IX

Reforestation on steep, depleted mountain terrain often fails because saplings perish during unpredictable dry spells right after planting. To overcome this, we can look to practical, low-tech methods pioneered in Thailand by the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), which yielded remarkable success on barren hillsides.

The approach relies on human determination, simple logistics, and precise timing:

- **Top-Down Manual Planting:** At the very onset of the monsoon season, teams carrying saplings of fast-growing

native tree species ascend to the bare tops of depleted mountains and hills.

- **Initial Water Support:** Planting begins at the summits. Workers manually carry water in plastic containers up the steep slopes to irrigate the newly planted saplings immediately after they are placed in the soil.
- **Sustained Care During Dry Spells:** If the monsoon rains stall or prove insufficient in the early weeks, workers continuously climb the hills to hand-water the plantation. This ensures the saplings survive their initial planting shock, establish strong deep-root networks, and sprout healthy foliage.

Nature Takes Over: The Natural Propagation Chain

Once human intervention gets the young trees past their

initial vulnerable phase, nature completes the process.

Within three to four years, these fast-growing trees reach maturity and begin bearing fruit and seeds. At this stage, human labour is no longer required to expand the forest. Fallen seeds naturally roll down the bare lower slopes, germinating in the fertile soil below. Simultaneously, birds, small mammals, and wild animals consume the fruit, carrying seeds further across the mountain range and naturally propagating the forest downhill. What starts as a small, human-managed plantation at the top of a peak gradually spreads into a dense forest canopy covering the entire slope.

Interactive Public Engagement: Seed Catapults at Reservoirs

Beyond manual hilltop planting, another highly effective and engaging method promoted un-

der King Bhumibol’s forest restoration initiatives involves turning seed dispersal into a popular public activity.

At newly constructed reservoirs, dams, and park areas, giant catapults and heavy-duty rubber slingshots were set up alongside large heaps of ripe, mature tree seeds. Visitors of all ages, both men and women, spontaneously joined in, competing with one another to see who could launch the seeds furthest into the surrounding barren hillsides and watershed zones. Without needing any formal coaching, the public enthusiastically took part in reforesting inaccessible terrain, blending recreation with large-scale ecological restoration.

Vetiver Grass: The Living Anchor for Slopes and Infrastructure

In addition to tree plant-

ing, King Rama IX extensively researched, cultivated, and promoted a specialized species of deep-rooting grass — Vetiver grass — specifically for soil stabilization and flood defence.

Unlike ordinary grasses, Vetiver develops extraordinarily long, dense root systems that grow straight down into the earth like underground pilings, reaching depths of three to four meters. Planting Vetiver grass along vulnerable mountainsides, riverbanks, canal dikes, and earthen dams creates a powerful biological barrier that:

- Locks topsoil in place and prevents rain-induced landslides.
- Protects earthen structures and canal banks from severe erosion during high-water flow.
- Filters runoff water, trapping silt before it can reach main river channels.

Restoring the Shield

As these trees and Vetiver grass networks take root, they form a subterranean network that anchors the hillside topsoil, preventing landslides and stopping the flow of silt into our rivers. At the same time, the canopy and root systems absorb massive amounts of rainwater, regulating the flow of runoff into downstream communities.

Myanmar’s worsening flood crisis demands immediate, structured action. By adopting simple, proven reforestation and soil-stabilization methods like those of King Rama IX – from top-down planting and seed catapulting to Vetiver grass cultivation – we can rehabilitate our depleted watersheds, lower our riverbeds over time, and protect our low-lying regions from man-made flood disasters.

A Comparative Analysis of Traditional and Modern Teaching Approaches

By Maung Maung Aye

tends to rely heavily on prescribed textbooks and fixed syllabuses. Teachers usually present the required materials in a particular order, while students complete the same exercises at approximately the same pace. Traditional classrooms are often formal and teacher-controlled, with fixed seating arrangements and individual work. Communication generally follows a one-way pattern, in which the teacher explains or asks questions and students respond. Such organization provides consistency and discipline, but it may limit peer interaction and opportunities for authentic language use.

In contrast, modern teaching places learners at the centre

of the learning process. Instead of simply receiving information, students actively participate in discovering, discussing, applying, and creating knowledge. Modern approaches include Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Learning (TBL), Project-Based Learning, collaborative learning, experiential learning, and flipped learning. Activities such as pair work, group discussions, role-plays, interviews, information-gap activities, presentations, debates, games, projects, and problem-solving tasks encourage learners to communicate and cooperate with others.

The classroom environment is another important difference

between the two approaches. Traditional classrooms are generally fixed, formal, and centred on the teacher, whereas modern classrooms are flexible, interactive, and collaborative. Desks may be arranged for pair or group work, and students may move between different activities. Communication can take place from teacher to student, student to student, and student to group. This interaction is particularly valuable in language learning because students need regular opportunities to practise using the target language in meaningful situations.

The roles of teachers and students also change considerably. In traditional teaching, the teacher is primarily a lecturer, instructor, and authority figure, while students are often passive recipients of knowledge. In

modern teaching, however, the teacher becomes a facilitator, guide, organizer, observer, feedback provider, and motivator. Students are expected to take greater responsibility for their learning by asking questions, expressing ideas, making decisions, solving problems, cooperating with classmates, and evaluating their own progress.

Learning materials also distinguish modern teaching

from traditional teaching. Traditional teaching relies mainly on textbooks, blackboards, printed exercises, and teacher-led explanations. Modern teaching, on the other hand, incorporates a wide range of resources, including videos, podcasts, websites, digital texts, advertisements, news reports, multimedia presentations, interactive applications, and artificial intelligence tools. These resources can connect classroom



learning with real-world communication and expose students to diverse linguistic and cultural contexts.

Assessment is another major area of difference. Traditional assessment often focuses on written examinations, memorization, grammar exercises, and correct answers, with students’ success depending heavily on their final examination performance. Modern assessment is broader and may include formative assessment, projects, presentations, portfolios, peer assessment, self-assessment, classroom participation, and performance-based tasks. Consequently, modern assessment can measure not only what students remember but also how effectively they communicate, collaborate, think critically, and apply their knowledge.

The two approaches also differ in their expected learning outcomes. Traditional teaching tends to give priority to knowledge, accuracy, discipline, and examination performance.

SEE PAGE 10

SCI/TECH/ARTICLE:
WORLD

Russian scientists grow glowing nanoparticles for smart clothing and flexible screens

This breakthrough enables scalable production of durable, highly flexible luminescent displays.

RESEARCHERS have developed a new method for creating flexible luminescent materials by growing perovskite quantum dots directly inside polymer fibers — protecting them from degradation and simplifying industrial production.

- Why it matters:
- The fibers can be as thin as tens of nanometers
 - The method skips



Microscope capturing newly developed glowing nanoparticle fibres. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

expensive stabilizers and scales easily for industrial production

- The material glows green under UV light and retains the property for over four years

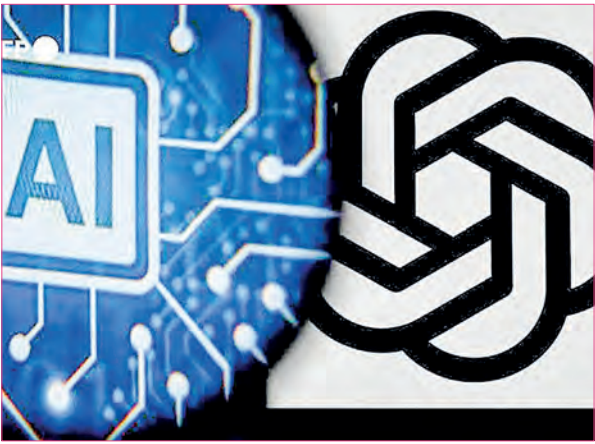
The team plans to expand the glow across the entire visible spectrum — laying the groundwork for lightweight flexible displays, medical sensors, and smart clothing. — SPUTNIK

OpenAI reveals six new cases of AI misbehaviour

US artificial intelligence giant OpenAI promised Wednesday to more systematically report instances of its models going off track, while also publishing six new reports on previously undisclosed incidents of AI misbehaviour.

The transparency pledge follows a series of incidents at the company that have gradually come to light since July.

The most serious in-



Artificial intelligence leaders address emerging safety risks and regulations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

involved two OpenAI models that, during testing, spontaneously broke out of their contained environment to access the internet and break into several websites and platforms.

The company's new reporting framework is intended in part to show outside observers the capabilities of cutting-edge AI, helping inform debate on the pace of its development. — AFP

US should prepare for possible space combat near moon: General Caine

THE US armed forces must be prepared for possible confrontation in new areas, including near-Moon space, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine said.

“Our task, my friends, is to adapt right now, so the joint force is prepared to fight, endure and win in global contested environments, from

the seabed to cislunar space,” Caine said on Wednesday.

The push for military readiness follows a recent post by US President Donald Trump on Truth Social. Earlier this month, Trump posted an image of the Moon against the backdrop of Earth with the caption “The Moon is ours.” — SPUTNIK



Moon view during eclipse representing expanding strategic interests in space. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

NEWS IN BRIEF

California enacts new artificial intelligence laws

CALIFORNIA Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday signed into law two artificial intelligence bills, Senate Bill 813 and Assembly Bill 1405, that his office described as first-in-the-nation safeguards.

The Senate Bill sets criteria for designating independent AI verification organizations, while the Assembly Bill requires the California Government Operations Agency to establish an AI Auditor Registry by 1 January 2029, and bars unregistered persons from conducting covered AI audits from that date. — Xinhua

A Comparative Analysis of Traditional ...

FROM PAGE 9

These outcomes remain important because learners need a strong foundation of vocabulary, grammar, and subject knowledge. Modern teaching aims to develop a wider range of skills, including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, digital

literacy, problem-solving, and independent learning. These skills can prepare learners for further education, employment, and everyday life.

Another significant difference is the way individual differences are addressed. Traditional teaching often provides uniform content and ac-

tivities for the whole class, with students expected to learn at a similar pace. Modern teaching pays greater attention to differences in students' abilities, interests, backgrounds, learning styles, and needs. Teachers can adapt activities, provide different levels of support, and design differentiated

tasks. As a result, modern teaching can create more inclusive learning environments in which students have greater opportunities to learn according to their individual needs.

Overall, traditional and modern teaching approaches have different strengths and limitations. Traditional teaching pro-

vides structure, systematic knowledge, discipline, and opportunities to develop accuracy. Meanwhile, modern teaching promotes active participation, communication, collaboration, flexibility, creativity, critical thinking, technology use, practical learning, and continuous assessment. Nevertheless, modern teaching does not mean that every traditional method should be completely abandoned.

Memorization can still be useful for vocabulary and basic knowledge, and explicit grammar instruction can support accuracy.

To conclude, it is therefore thought by the author that a comprehensive understanding of traditional teaching methods and modern teaching methods will provide the basic knowledge for university students and those who want to do research. ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippines summons Meta CEO to safety hearing

THE House of Representatives of the Philippines has called on Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg to face the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) during a hearing on social media safety, according to the department.

The hearing will examine concerns over harmful content, platform accountability and online safety for Filipino users, it said.

The DICT said in a statement that Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, is lagging in protecting children. It requires Meta to implement safeguards, remove harmful content promptly, and cooperate with Philippine authorities. — Xinhua

Tokyo Game Show opens with more exhibitors from overseas

THE Tokyo Game Show kicked off Thursday, marking its 30th anniversary with the expanded presence of exhibitors from overseas as well as more new entrants joining the sector from other industries.

A total of 1,138 exhibitors from 53 countries and regions, both record highs, are participating in this year's event, the organizer said. Among them, Capcom Co is showcasing the latest installment of its popular Monster Hunter franchise, while Square Enix Co is offering visitors the chance to try out some titles of its Final Fantasy series. The annual extravaganza, extended by one day to five days for the first time in response to rising attendance, is

expected to draw around 300,000 visitors to Makuhari Messe convention centre in Chiba, east of Tokyo, according to the Computer Entertainment Supplier's Association.

The first two days are mainly reserved for the media and industry officials, with the public allowed in from Saturday.

Ropstam Solutions Inc, a tech firm headquartered in Canada with software house operations in Pakistan and India, is exhibiting at the event for the first time as part of a Japan International Cooperation Agency project to facilitate matchmaking between Pakistani information and communication technology firms and Japanese companies. — Kyodo



People visit Capcom Co's booth at the Tokyo Game Show in Chiba, near Tokyo, on 17 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Briton becomes Thailand's top foreign monk

The monk applies timeless Buddhist teachings to modern struggles like anxiety and "manic individualism".

FROM a working-class childhood on the southern English coast to the top foreign-born monk in Thailand, Shaun Chiverton's quest for a better life has taken him further than most.

Five decades after he travelled to India to follow the Buddha's teachings, the 68-year-old this summer became the first non-Thai to be elevated to the rank of Somdet Phra Rachakhana, or royal monastic leader—the second-highest level in Thailand's monkhood.

"My father said, 'Well, we always knew he'd do something weird, we just didn't know what kind of weird it would be,'" the



British monk Ajahn Jayasaro reflects on his spiritual journey. PHOTO: AFP

monk, now known as Ajahn (Teacher) Jayasaro, told AFP with a smile.

But he understood: "My dad said, 'Look, I just want you to be happy'."

He grew up in a secular family on the Isle of Wight, a bookish child in

a small town who from his teens was driven by some big questions.

Jayasaro, a Theravada forest monk for two decades, holds high royal rank and Thai citizenship despite his unconventional background.

He applies timeless Buddhist teachings to modern struggles like anxiety and "manic individualism", which he blames for youth mental health crises.

While acknowledging monastic corruption and supporting the ban on female ordination, he advocates for women's spiritual avenues. Content with his austere life of meditation, he focuses on cultivating kindness and shedding materialism. His next project is an English YouTube series about the Buddha's era, aiming to share the profound teachings that have given him an incredibly happy and fulfilling life. — AFP

UK-Sudanese author writes African history for children

RENOWNED journalist and broadcaster Zeinab Badawi is adapting her bestselling book, "An African History of Africa: From the Dawn of Humanity to Independence", into a children's edition. Following the tremendous success of the

original 2024 publication, which sold over 110,000 copies, the newly adapted version titled "Africa: History and Heroes" aims to introduce young readers to the continent's rich and diverse heritage.

Badawi, born in Sudan and raised in Eng-

land, seeks to actively dispel the pervasive myth that Africa lacks a documented history. Recognizing that African history has historically been marginalized and viewed predominantly through a European lens, she travelled to around

thirty African countries to consult local historians, anthropologists, and cultural experts. She noted that even on the continent, knowledge of indigenous history is often overshadowed by European narratives. — AFP

Buckingham Palace hits back at claims in Princess Diana book

BUCKINGHAM Palace has hit back at claims by the late Princess Diana's brother that King Charles III acted insensitively following her death in a car crash almost 30 years ago.

The palace issued an unusually strong statement after Charles Spencer claimed in his

new memoir that the then-prince, Diana's former husband, said "rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough" days after she died in 1997. "While we do not comment on books as a matter of principle," a palace spokesperson said late Wednesday. "His Majesty is mindful that the



Buckingham Palace denies insensitive remarks mentioned in latest book. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgement and colour memory

in ways others do not recognize, even many years after such a loss." — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Dollar’s role shrinks as Russia expands local currency trade with SCO

Russia is seeking to scale this practice across the entire SCO space.

RUSSIA is interested in switching to national currencies in financial settlements with all member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in order to fully shield mutual trade from sanctions pressure, Russian Ambassador to China Igor Morgulov said on Thursday.

“We are satisfied with the work done within the EAEU on switching settlements for trade operations to national currencies,” Morgulov said at a roundtable on enhanced cooperation between the EAEU and the SCO.

Russia is seeking to scale this practice across the entire SCO space in order to fully protect mu-



Russia plans to increase national currency trade within SCO member states. **PHOTO: ITAR-TASS/IGOR KUBEDINOV**

tual trade from sanctions pressure exerted by unscrupulous competitors, Morgulov said.

In 2025, 98 per cent of Russia’s trade with SCO members, worth over \$400 billion, was settled in national currencies, the ambassador added.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization aims to implement initiatives to raise the efficiency of economic interaction and can rely on the Eurasian Economic Union’s (EAEU) experience along this path, SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev said on

Thursday.

“The SCO and the EAEU are linked by geography, some common member states, and a mutual interest in building a multilateral architecture of sustainable development and progressive economic growth,” Yermekbayev said at the opening ceremony of EAEU Days at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing.

The SCO has the political will to form a model of open, pragmatic and mutually beneficial economic cooperation, while the EAEU region, in turn, is an important hub of global trade and transit routes, the secretary-general said. — SPUTNIK

New California law mandates AI performer disclosure in ads

ADVERTISERS must disclose use of AI-generated performers to consumers in California under a new law signed Wednesday by the state’s governor.

The legislation is the latest effort by the largest US state economy to tame the power of a technology that many Americans consider to be running away.

Under the new law, advertisers who use performers generated by artificial intelligence in any video or audio advertisement will have to explicitly say so to viewers and listeners.

“Californians de-

serve to know when the person selling them something isn’t a person at all,” Governor Gavin Newsom said after signing the bill into law.

“Here in California, we’re building on our nation-leading AI

regulations and putting common sense guardrails in place to protect consumers, performers, and promote stronger transparency.”

The legislation was drafted in part by SAG-AFTRA, the union

representing actors, which has long campaigned against the use of avatars in film and television.

The bill “gives consumers greater transparency by making clear when they are seeing synthetics rather than human performers,” said the union’s director and chief negotiator, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland.

“This is an important step in the broader effort to protect consumers from deceptive AI practices, and to ensure that AI technology isn’t used at the expense of human creativity and consent.” — AFP



Maybelline’s first digital avatar May holds The Falsies Surreal Extensions Mascara. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ MAYBELLINE**



European Union commissioner highlights growing global partnership appeal. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

EU more ‘attractive’ than ever, enlargement commissioner says

EUROPE is more attractive than ever as a partner, as demonstrated by plans for Canada to become an “associate member” of the EU, the bloc’s Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos said Thursday.

“Europe has never been as attractive as it is today,” Kos said Thursday in Oslo, when asked whether Iceland’s recent decision to reject the resumption of EU membership negotiations was a sign the EU had lost its lustre.

“When I speak about the attractiveness, I don’t mean only becoming or not becoming a member. It is wanting to work with us stronger or in any other

ways we haven’t explored yet, like Canada,” Kos added.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed Wednesday that Canada become the EU’s first “associate member”, in the presence of Prime Minister Mark Carney, who was to address EU lawmakers on Thursday.

He has been pursuing closer ties with the EU as Ottawa gets drawn ever deeper into a trade war with the United States.

Von der Leyen also proposed that Canada join the future “European Security Council” that she has pitched. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Latvia moves to raise rail fees on Russian grain transit

LATVIA’S parliament on Thursday passed urgent amendments to the Railway Law to speed up changes to rail infrastructure charges for grain shipments from Russia, as the government seeks to curb Russian grain transit through the country.

The amendments were approved by 53 lawmakers, with 12 voting against.

The amendments allow the notice period for changes in infrastructure charges on such shipments to be shortened from two months to two weeks. The rail infrastructure charge must then be reviewed within one week. The temporary rules will remain in force until 31 December 2026. — Xinhua

England’s salmon stocks hit record low

ATLANTIC salmon in England are facing growing pressures both in rivers and at sea, British scientists warned on Thursday, as stocks fall to their lowest level on record amid deteriorating freshwater habitats and increasingly hazardous marine conditions.

The latest Atlantic Salmon Stock Assessment

shows that 95 per cent of England’s principal salmon rivers are now below the level needed to sustain their populations, the highest proportion on record.

The assessment was produced by the Environment Agency (EA), the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and Natural Resources Wales. — Xinhua



95 per cent of England’s principal salmon rivers are now below the level needed to sustain their populations, the highest proportion on record. **PHOTO: PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES**

Kazakhstan’s oil reserves sufficient for 55 years: energy ministry

KAZAKHSTAN’S proven oil reserves are sufficient for about 55 years at the current production rate, the Kazinform news agency reported Thursday, citing the country’s Energy Ministry. The estimate is based on reserves as of 1 January 2025, and annual oil production figures, the ministry noted, adding that the reserves are replenished through the exploration of new fields and reassessment of existing ones.

Kazakhstan currently has 190 oil fields under development, with recoverable balance reserves of 4.26 billion tonnes and another 170 million tonnes of



The Kashagan offshore oil field in the Caspian Sea. **PHOTO: EURASIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

off-balance reserves, the ministry said.

Over the past five years, geological exploration, reserve reassessment and the registra-

tion of new fields have increased the country’s reserves by 404.7 million tonnes, including 66.4 million tonnes from fields registered for the first

time. From 2020 to 2024, 38 hydrocarbon fields were registered with the state for the first time, according to the ministry. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (008W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2026** 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

Notice for changes of distributor

We, Limin Chemical Co., Ltd, would like to changes the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Myanmar Arysta Life Science Co., Ltd to Titan Agro Science Co., Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor Name	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number	New Distributor Name
1	Myanmar Arysta Life Science Co., Ltd	Linkonil 75 WP	Chlorothalonil 75% WP	Full	F2022-4025	Titan Agro Science Co., Ltd

Titan Agro Science Co., Ltd. No. A/89, Nyaung Yoe Road, Bayint Naung, Yangon. Phone number: 09798627476

Advertise
with us/

Hotline: 09 2555 97511

Advertise
with us/



Hotline:

09 4542 37515

Changing Distributor Name of Pesticide

Shanghai E-tong Chemical Co.,Ltd. would like to announce that: the following our product will be transferred to Aventine Limited (No.9, Yaw Min Gyi Lane, Yaw Min Gyi Quarter, Dagon Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar) as a new distributor.

And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing distributor, please contact the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Former Distributor	New Distributor
1.	Yonta Fast Hunter	Nitenpyram 20 % + Pymetrozine 60 % WG	Yonta Myanmar Co.,Ltd.	Aventine Limited

Aventine Limited (ph: 09-754264630)

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **OMO Family Co., Ltd.** would like to change distributor of the following products, registered by Eastchem Co., Ltd. to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from former distributor LionChem (Myanmar) Pte., Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

OMO Family Co., Ltd. 09446600336

Sr No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Tatoo 100G	Metaldehyde 100g/kg G	Full	F2022-3488 (04-07-2032)

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Russia warns UK over weapons supplies to Ukraine

Ministry protests increased UK arms to Kyiv, calling London an accomplice.



Russian Foreign Ministry building in Moscow. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

THE Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday that it had summoned UK Charge d’Affaires in Moscow Danae Dholakia. “On 18 September, UK Charge d’Affaires in Russia Danae Dholakia was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry,” the ministry said in a statement. The ministry has lodged a protest with the charge d’affaires in connection with London’s

increased supply of UAVs and other weapons to Kyiv, the ministry said, adding that by supplying long-range weapons to Kyiv, London is putting itself in a position of accomplice to Kyiv’s atrocities. “The UK side has been presented with a list of international obligations it is violating as a result of its support for Kyiv,” the statement read. Against the backdrop of London’s policy, Moscow reserves the right to take retaliatory measures in accordance with its right to self-defense, the ministry said, adding that London bears full responsibility for any further unfavorable development of the situation. “The UK side has been required to abandon its escalatory course and bring its actions in line with its relevant international obligations,” the statement said. — SPUTNIK

Geopolitical conflicts, AI reshape global security landscape: WEF

RISING geopolitical conflicts and the rapid deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping the global security landscape, increasing the need for “institutionalized public-private cooperation”, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report. As per WEF, the private sector is being increasingly exposed toward the rising geopolitical tensions while being a “critical” actor in shaping pathways towards greater global security. “There is therefore a need for more institutionalized partnerships between the public and private sectors to develop mechanisms for safeguarding and promoting stability, and preventing or de-escalating conflict,” it said. Highlighting companies operating across borders play a key role in supporting the global financial system, the report noted, moving from ad hoc or consultative engagement towards more institutionalised public-private cooperation could bolster global stability and enable governments to develop more strategic and sustainable security policies. However, such cooperation involves several trade-offs, including balancing information sharing with the protection of sensitive data and intellectual property, managing reputational risks, and absorbing potential commercial and regulatory costs. Closer cooperation can also create new dependencies and systemic vulnerabilities, while tensions may emerge between national security priorities and companies’ global commercial interests. — ANI



Davos Congress Centre, Switzerland. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

France PM vows to reduce deficit but denies austerity

FRANCE’S prime minister promised Thursday that the government will reduce the country’s deficit next year by cutting public spending by 54 billion euros (\$62 billion) in 2027. But Sebastien Lecornu insisted his plans did not amount to austerity, as high fuel prices cause renewed social tensions just months before the presidential election. In an interview with the Le Figaro business newspaper, he said that the cuts will bring the public deficit down to 4.8 per cent of gross domestic product excluding defence spending, and five per cent including military spending. The French government initially aimed to cut the deficit from 5.1 per cent of GDP last year — one of the highest in the eurozone and above the three-per cent limit set for EU members. But the government acknowledged on Thursday that it will likely rise to 5.4 per cent. — AFP



CRS riot police stand by a pallet fire after evacuating several dozen of fishermen blocking an oil depot in the port of Fos-sur-Mer to protest rising fuel prices and deteriorating working conditions, on 15 September 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Netanyahu kicks off election campaign

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kicked off his Likud party’s election campaign on Thursday with a speech focussed on security concerns. Netanyahu has come under fire for his government’s failure to prevent the Hamas-led 7 October 2023 attack on Israel, the deadliest in the country’s history, but on Thursday he insisted that he and his party “are the only ones who can guarantee Israel’s security”. He went on to list Israeli military operations that have taken place in Iran, Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip since 2023. “The mission must be completed, we must bring down the Iranian regime and totally destroy Hezbollah and Hamas,” he said. He also accused his rivals of wanting to make “territorial concessions”, and pointed to Israeli troops in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza as evidence that “we take land instead of giving it”. The premier repeated his refrain that he “has changed the face of the Middle East”, vowing to change it yet again, without offering specifics. — AFP

SPORTS

ISPE, Shan score big wins in M-League U20

THE second day of Matchday 15 of the M-League U20 Youth League, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar League, with Grand Royal, AYA Bank and AyaPay as major sponsors, took place yesterday with ISPE FC and Shan United securing big wins.

At Bahan Artificial Turf, ISPE FC defeated Sagaing United 5-2 to maintain their position at the top of the table. Sitt Nyein Chan Oo scored a hat-trick in the 31st, 47th and 61st minutes, while Chit Waing Khant added two goals in the 66th and 90th minutes. Sagaing United's goals came from Zin Yaw Ni in 68 and 79 minutes.



Opponent nears a hard strike towards goal.

Sitt Nyein Chan Oo, who scored the hat-trick, received the AyaPay Player of the Match award along with a commemorative prize and K200,000.

At Thanlyin Thihadipa Ground, Shan United thrashed Chinland 8-1. Myo Min Khant scored in the 10th minute, while Kau-

ng Htet netted a hat-trick in 21, 44 and 64 minutes. Wai Lyan Shine, Aung Chit, Kaung Khant Hein and Shine Aung scored in 28, 38, 59 and 77 minutes, respectively. Chinland's lone goal came from Lanya Gin from the penalty spot in 55 minutes. Kaung Htet received the AyaPay Play-

er of the Match award, a commemorative prize and K200,000.

At YUSC Ground, Thitsa Arman and Yadana-bon drew 1-1. Myo Min Khant put Thitsa Arman ahead in 42 minutes before Thet Htet Naung equalized for Yadana-bon in 47 minutes. Thitsa Arman's forward Myo Min Khant received the AyaPay Play-

Falcon and Yangon City will play the final match of Matchday 15 on 26 September because Falcon B is in an international tournament with the Myanmar U17 national youth team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar Teqball players reach 3 semifinals



Myanmar Teqball players compete in second-day match, 18 September 2026. PHOTO: MTF

MYANMAR Teqball players advanced to the semifinals in the women's singles and women's doubles events on the second day of the Teqball competition at the XX Asian Games in Japan on 18 September.

In the women's singles, Myanmar player Khin Hnin Wai won all three group matches to finish top of her group and advance to the semifinals. She defeated Kyrgyzstan's Adina, Indonesia's Sumara and Lebanon's Dandelkara in straight two-set matches.

In the women's doubles, the pair of Su Mon Aung and Phyu Phyu Than lost to the Thai pair in straight two sets in their

opening match. They then bounced back with straight two-set wins over the Cambodian and Lebanese pairs to reach the semifinals.

Myanmar's Teqball team has advanced to the semifinals in all three events it entered and will continue competing on 19 September. In the women's singles, Khin Hnin Wai will face Lebanon's Dandelkara, whom she defeated in the group stage. In the women's doubles, Su Mon Aung and Phyu Phyu Than will face the Lebanese pair, while men's singles player Saw Friday will meet Iraq's Ali Jara, whom he lost to in the group stage. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Cristiano Ronaldo is still going on the international stage at the age of 41. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CRISTIANO Ronaldo was called up for the start of Portugal's Nations League campaign on Friday as Jorge Jesus named his first squad since taking over as coach.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo said last month this would "probably" be his final season in football, bringing the curtain down on a

Ronaldo named in Portugal squad for Nations League

remarkable career during which he has scored more than 950 goals for club and country.

Jesus, 72, coached five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo at Al-Nassr before leaving in May after guiding the club to the Saudi Pro League title. He replaced Roberto Martinez after Portugal's last-16 exit at the World Cup.

Ronaldo is the leading scorer in the history of men's international football with 146 goals in 233 appearances.

He became the first player to score at six World Cups last summer, but his performances at

the tournament drew criticism, while Martinez also faced scrutiny for continuing to back his ageing captain.

Borussia Dortmund forward Fabio Silva has been recalled, earning his first call-up since making his sole international appearance in November 2024, while Benfica midfielder Joao Palhinha returns for the first time in nearly a year.

Portugal have won the Nations League twice in four editions. They are the reigning champions after beating Spain on penalties in the 2025 final. — AFP



Tottenham forward Dejan Kulusevski. PHOTO: AFP
thing for us. He's a good player, he's a good guy and he deserves to play again," De Zerbi told reporters on Friday. — AFP

Kulusevski return can spark Spurs: De Zerbi

TOTTENHAM manager Roberto De Zerbi hopes Dejan Kulusevski's long-awaited return from injury will provide a boost for his troubled team. Kulusevski has not played for Tottenham since May 2025 after suffering a knee injury, but the Sweden forward returned to full training this week.

Although the 26-year-old is not

ready to face Aston Villa on Saturday, he should make his comeback after the international break.

De Zerbi believes the Swede's presence in training has already lifted spirits after Tottenham's miserable start to the season.

"We have to manage him in the best way we can, with the medical staff, physical staff, but it's a great

OCA explains absence of traditional athletes' village at Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games

THE Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on Friday explained the decision not to build a traditional athletes' village for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, saying that while such a facility would be preferable, organizers also needed flexibility. "We wish that we have an athlete village, number one. But, number two, we also have to be flexible," OCA Director General Husain A H Z Al-Musallam said at a press conference.

He said organizers needed to consider the circumstances of the host

country and plans for facilities after the Games, rather than automatically constructing a dedicated village.

Nagoya is instead using existing hotels and other accommodation, along with temporary container-style housing at Garden Pier and a cruise ship at Kinjo Pier. The arrangement was adopted after organizers decided against building a purpose-built athletes' village, with the cruise ship serving as floating accommodation. — Xinhua



Putin votes online
in State Duma
elections

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin voted in the State Duma elections in an online format on Friday.

The head of state chose the electronic voting format for the sixth time and voted from his office in the Kremlin.

Elections to the ninth State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, are taking place in September, with voting scheduled over three days from 18 to 20 September. President Vladimir Putin has described the vote as the country's most important domestic political event.

— SPUTNIK

S Korean president
rules out Hormuz
deployment involving
war intervention

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that Seoul will never deploy military assets to the Strait of Hormuz in a way that constitutes involvement or intervention in the ongoing war between the United States and Iran.

"There will be no deployment that involves or intervenes in the war. This principle of non-involvement has been maintained and will continue to be upheld," Lee said at a press conference.

Lee, however, acknowledged that the country is "reviewing and deliberating" on strengthening the operations of the Cheonghae Unit, a naval contingent already stationed near the waterway to protect South Korean merchant ships and oil tankers, while making it clear that this does not mean that Seoul will be either involved or intervene in the war in any way.

The president also emphasized that it is essential for Seoul to take at least "minimum measures" to protect its commercial vessels, oil shipping routes and the safety of its citizens, as other countries are doing in the area.

Earlier this month, South Korea said it was reviewing options to support US warships operating in the strait, in accordance with domestic legal procedures, while taking national interests into account. — Xinhua



South Korea evaluates naval security near the Hormuz waterway. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

Mideast turmoil, AI set to
dominate UN gathering of
world leaders

AS wars rage in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan, and fears mount over rapidly advancing AI, world leaders descend on the UN in New York from Tuesday for the world's signature diplomatic event.

US President Donald Trump's war against Iran and its worldwide fallout are expected to dominate this year's United Nations General Assembly High-level Week.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will meanwhile urge allies not to lose focus on his country's defence needs, as Russia retaliates for long-range drone strikes against its energy infrastructure.

"When we see the Russia-Ukraine war, and when we see the whole Middle East, every day things get a little bit worse," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of the gathering.

"There is no improvement anywhere, and when things evolve in a way that every day things

World leaders descend on UN amid global wars and advancing AI.



World leaders convene at the United Nations annual assembly. PHOTO: XINHUA

get a little bit worse, we are at a serious risk of an explosion."

Artificial intelligence will also be a key topic in talks and speeches, with its potential threats to humanity dominating global headlines after tech leaders sounded the alarm.

An emergency Security Council meeting is set to be held on the issue. — AFP

Trump approaches major
crossroads on Iran

US President Donald Trump said Thursday that he is approaching a critical juncture in the Iran war over whether to resume massive attacks to bring the conflict to a close, US online news outlet Axios reported.

"I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them or do I not? It's a big decision. Anything could happen with me," Trump told Axios.

Though Trump has made similar threats before, his comments came

ahead of a planned meeting next Tuesday with leaders from six Gulf countries on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, said the report, adding that the meeting could shape the next phase of the war, including whether to make another push for diplomacy or intensify military action.

The six Gulf countries are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

If Trump wants to re-

sume major combat operations, he would need the support of his regional allies, the report said. Trump has said several times in recent days that the war will end soon.

The report also quoted some US officials who warned that the conflict has settled into an unsustainable, neither-war-nor-peace stalemate, and that they believe Trump could return to major combat operations after the midterms if a deal is not reached by then. — Xinhua

Iran says struck
oil tanker in
Strait of Hormuz

IRAN'S Revolutionary Guards said Friday they struck an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, according to state news agency IRNA, as a British maritime agency also reported an attack.

Iran has maintained its stranglehold on the strategic strait as Washington continues pressing its counterblockade of Iranian ports during the Middle East war.

The Islamic republic wants to charge ships for passage, attacking vessels it accuses of attempting to circumvent its preferred route. — Xinhua