

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo features the Bago Region pavilion at the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo 2026.

Bago Region pavilion wins 2 awards at China-ASEAN Expo 2026

THE Bago Region pavilion successfully won two prestigious awards – the best exhibition organizer award and the best national pavilion award – at the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo 2026 (CAEXPO 2026), held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China, from 17 to 21 September.

During the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo 2026, Bago, the capital city of Bago Region, was featured and introduced under the “City of Charm” programme; young women from Bago Region performed Pyu cultural dances, free-style poem dances, traditional Myanmar Thingyan water festival dances, and Myanmar Thanaka cultural dances.

Additionally, to secure broader markets in China and ASEAN member countries for Bago Region’s agricultural products, promote regional tourism, and attract foreign investment to increase the production of value-added goods, Bago Region set up 10 local product exhibition booths alongside 71 booths from other states and regions, totalling 81 booths, successfully establishing connections to secure overseas markets, as reported. — ASH/TH

Mushroom cultivation training opens in Yangon

SEE PAGE 7



Mushroom cultivation carried out systematically in Myanmar.

Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Public Services, Conscription, and Infrastructure on Day 4

THE fourth day of the third regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw convened yesterday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi and parliamentary representatives. The meeting addressed 15 starred questions covering public administration, digital transformation, military service enforcement, infrastructure development, and flood mitigation, alongside one parliamentary motion.

Addressing administrative expansion, Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing explained that strict requirements for land, capital expenditure, and staffing currently prevent the opening of new Road Transport Administration Department offices in district towns, though mobile renewal teams continue to assist rural motorists.

Regarding digital governance, Deputy Minister for Digital Development



The fourth-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw’s third regular session is underway, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

and Telecommunications U Min Zeyar Hlaing stated that the national digital transformation strategy focuses on long-term socioeconomic benefits rather than short-term financial returns, measured through structured performance indicators.

On national defence, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant clarified that military conscription applies strictly to eligible men aged 18 to

35, drawn proportionately from an estimated pool of 6.2 million eligible citizens based on local stability, transport access, and training school capacities.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaug Naing Oo outlined ongoing conservation targets under the Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Master Plan running through the 2026-2027

financial year.

Educational and regional infrastructure projects were also reviewed. Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing detailed plans to demolish deteriorating single-storey school buildings and construct modern reinforced concrete facilities in Salin, Pathein, and Kyaunggon townships, subject to upcoming regional capital budgets.

SEE PAGE 3

Yangon lights up in blue marking World Maritime Day

BLUE lights were lit yesterday evening at the offices of the Department of Marine Administration, Myanmar Port Authority, Inland Water Transport, Myanmar Maritime University, Myanmar Mercantile Marine College, Myanmar Five Star Line, and at international jetties and vessels in Yangon to mark World Maritime Day.

World Maritime Day is observed annually on the last Thursday of September worldwide. The 2026 World Maritime Day ceremony was held yesterday morning at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Transport U



Blue lights illuminate Yangon’s maritime offices, colleges, and universities to mark World Maritime Day 2026.

Htun Lu presented awards to three Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services (SRPS) companies that provided the highest number of job opportunities for Myanmar seafarers in 2025.

He said the Interna-

tional Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence” as the theme for World Maritime Day in 2026 and 2027. The theme highlights the maritime sector’s contribution to the UN

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through expanded trade, improved connectivity, decent job creation and protection of the marine environment.

Director-General of the Department of Marine Administration Dr Ko Ko Naing also outlined future activities to be carried out in line with the 2026 theme.

The ceremony also included discussions on digital transformation in the maritime sector, a workshop on Collective Bargaining Agreements for coastal vessels, and measures to expand employment opportunities for seafarers.

— MNA/KTZH

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

Bank Holiday

ALL Banks will be closed on 1st (Thursday) October 2026, "BANKHOLIDAY" under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

MRCS wins Distinguished Friend of Singapore Red Cross Award

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society was presented with the "Distinguished Friend of Singapore Red Cross Award" by the Singapore Red Cross Society at the Singapore Red Cross awards ceremony held on 22 September in Singapore.

The award was presented by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Singapore and Pa-

tron of the Singapore Red Cross Society, and was received by Myanmar Red Cross Society President Dr Myo Nyunt.

The award recognizes the long-standing partnership, mutual support and humanitarian cooperation between the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the Singapore Red Cross Society. — MNA/MKKS



MRCS President Dr Myo Nyunt receives the award on 22 September 2026.

Paungde hosts 129th Buddha Tooth Relic Pujaniya Festival

PAUNGDE held the 129th Buddha Tooth Relic Pujaniya Festival in western Bago Region on the 13th waxing of Tawthalin (24 September), touring the township.

The sacred Buddha Tooth Relic, enshrined in a glass casket within the Gandakuti Chamber in Paungde Township, was opened at 4 am on the first day of the festival (24 September), with the Ovadacariya Sayadaws from Shwekyau-ggyi Monastery consecrating it by reciting. Afterwards, at 8 am, the Buddha Tooth Relic was carried from the Gandakuti Shwekyau-ggyi hall and at



The 129th Buddha Tooth Relic is being carried around the city with elephants to be offered at 1 pm on 24 September. (PHOTO: NGWE LAMIN STORE)

1 pm, the Buddha Tooth Relic was taken around to downtown wards for the public to pay homage. Then, at 8 pm, the Buddha Tooth Relic was returned to the Gandakuti.

On 25 September, the

Buddha Tooth Relic will be opened in a diamond casket and offered to the public from 8 am to 8 pm. On 26 September, the full moon day of the Tawthalin, the Buddha Tooth Relic will be offered to the

public from 8 am to 8 pm on the Golden Throne. At 8 pm, the Buddha Tooth Relic will be taken back to the Gandakuti, where it resides annually, and the festival will be closed.

During the festival, people from near and far come to pay homage, along with stalls selling various goods, entertainment programmes, children's playgrounds, and a Ferris wheel, according to residents.

The enshrined Buddha Tooth Relic in Paungde is also a revered relic that was once jointly venerated with another sacred tooth relic of the Gotama Buddha from the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). — TWA/MKKS

Deep Depression News, No 10, 2026

Issued at noon MST on 24 September 2026

ACCORDING to observations at 10:30 am MST today, the Deep Depression which crossed North Andhra Pradesh and adjoining South Odisha Coasts between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur close to the southwest of Kalingapatnam (India) has moved west-northwestwards and may crossing interior regions of India and then weaken gradually. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 81

Issued at 8 pm MST on 24 September 2026

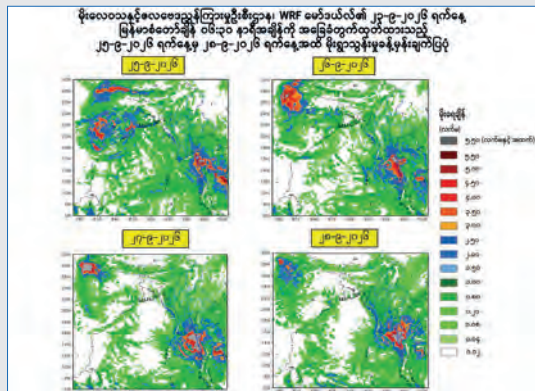
ACCORDING to observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the monsoon strong and unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, and northern Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States from today morning to 28 September 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at time in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coast. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthy Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave

height will be about 8-10 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthy Coast.

Advisory

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



Advertise
with us / Hotline

09 454237515,
09 255597511

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Questions raised in healthcare sector at Amyotha Hluttaw

AMYOTHA Hluttaw representatives raised questions related to healthcare facilities at the second-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

MP U Kyaw Kyaw Lin from the Mon State Constituency 2, MP Daw Marlar Hsan from the Shan State Constituency 2, MP U Aung Chit Lwin from the Sagaing Region Constituency 2, MP Daw Yin Min Htaik from the Mon State Constituency 1, and MP U Khin Maung Myint from the Shan State Constituency 7 raised questions to fulfil the needs of healthcare facilities in their respective constituencies.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun responded that a 100MA Digital X-Ray Machine has been provided for

Hpa-auk station hospital of Mawlamyine Township, with a plan to prepare an X-ray room at the hospital in 2026-27 financial year.

He added that the Ministry of Health will co-ordinate with the Ministry of Construction and Shan State government to finish the construction of Myink-yadoe station hospital and its staff housing in Ywangan Township of Shan State in 2027-28 FY.

The deputy minister replied that price quotations will be invited and the necessary procedures will be carried out in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures for revision during the 2026-2027 financial year to operate the oxygen plant at Hkamti People's Hospital of Sagaing Region. Moreover, a medical superintendent, orthopaedics, surgical, anaesthetics



The second-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session in progress yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

and radiological specialists have been appointed at Homalin Hospital (100-bed).

Furthermore, he answered that Kyaikto People's Hospital has an average of 33 inpatients per day based on the three-year average. As the hospital needs to meet the required bed occupancy rate for its

approved beds in accordance with the prescribed procedures, there is currently no plan to upgrade it to a 100-bed public hospital.

The deputy minister explained that well-wishers donated the farmland plots for Kaungboh Station Hospital in Yaksawk Township to expand its buildings. If permission for alternative

mentary associations with Cambodia and Vietnam and chairs, secretaries and members of these associations.

The Speaker sought the approval from the Hluttaw to reconstitute the Bill Committee, the International Relations Committee, the INGO and NGO Committee and the Law Enforcement and Peace and Stability Committee, the Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy Committee, the Myanmar-Kazakh Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association, the Myanmar-India Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association and the Myanmar-Cambodia Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association with new members. The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue for the third day on 25 September. — MNA/TTA

Nepal-funded Mahamuni inscription hall reopens in Mandalay

A renovated inscription hall at the Mahamuni Buddha Image compound in Mandalay was reopened yesterday following restoration funded by the Government of Nepal with a US\$300,000 donation.

The opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and other officials, along with members of Myanmar's Gurkha community and the Mahamuni Buddha Image Board of Trustees.



The reopening ceremony of the renovated inscription hall at the Mahamuni Buddha Image is underway in Mandalay.

The hall was damaged in the Mandalay earthquake. Demolition began on 6 January 2026, and restoration was carried out jointly by the Board of Trustees and the Gurkha communi-

ty after Nepal provided the donation on 14 February.

At the ceremony, the Union minister expressed gratitude to the Government of Nepal and those involved in the restoration,

saying that Myanmar and Nepal would continue to strengthen cooperation in religious affairs.

Following speeches and cultural performances, officials formally reopened the hall and inspected a commemorative stone inscription in three languages.

They later inspected restoration works at earthquake-damaged Sudhamma rest houses north of the Mandalay Palace moat and at religious buildings and inscription halls at Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Aungmyaythazan Township. — MNA/KZL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Public Services, Conscription, and Infrastructure ...

FROM PAGE 1

On power supply, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw reported that full restoration in Myawady depends on rebuilding the damaged primary substation and the Mawlamyine-Myawady transmission line, while phased rural grid extensions proceed across Mahlaing and Lewé townships.

Regarding water management and flood control, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw reported

on ongoing embankment reinforcements and silt dredging across Paung, Hinthada, Monghsu, Kawhmu, and Tanai townships.

The assembly also agreed to discuss a motion tabled by Dr Kyaw Swe of Taungdwingyi and seconded by U Yaw Aye Hla of Nanyun, which urges the Union Government to enact a mechanized agriculture development law to accelerate the transition from traditional farming. The session adjourned until 25 September. — MNA/ST

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma 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

NATIONAL

NSPNC, MNTJP/MNDAA Push for Regional Stability, Development

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party (MNTJP/MNDAA) met and held discussions yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said that it was the first meeting with the MNDAA in Nay Pyi Taw since the President extended an invitation for peace, noting that Kokang Special Region 1 had previously been designated as the Kokang Self-Administered Zone, that mutual trust had existed in the past and that, following the outbreak of conflict in 2009, a shared desire to resolve issues through political means had emerged, while emphasizing the need to pursue political measures, properly implement the Kokang Self-Administered



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party (MNTJP/MNDAA) meet in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Zone for national solidarity, build mutual trust and openly discuss and address the long-term aspirations of the MNDAA to promote mutual understanding, given that the Kokang people are an indigenous ethnic group of Myanmar and have already been granted a self-administered zone.

He noted that trust requires mutual reliance, adding that regional instability causes losses for residents and that regional stability is essential for development, while suggesting that matters difficult to decide immediately could be carried forward

to future discussions to build trust, with both sides seeking solutions together through open and frank discussions grounded in mutual trust.

In response, U Phon Win Naing, MNTJP Politburo member, General Secretary 2 and Head of the Liaison Department, expressed his deep honour and joy at arriving in Nay Pyi Taw and having the opportunity to meet, extended sincere thanks to the NSPNC for its multifaceted efforts to promote peace and facilitate the meeting, welcomed the inclusive, independ-

ent and precondition-free approach to peace, and noted that peace is the common goal of the entire populace and the fundamental foundation for State stability, development and the peaceful livelihoods of all citizens, while observing that prolonged conflicts have caused immense suffering for the people, that history shows how easily disagreements and armed conflicts can arise, and that fostering peace and regional development requires great magnanimity from all stakeholders, stressing the importance of cherishing hard-won peace and regional stability, resolving differences through dialogue, enhancing mutual trust and exploring opportunities for nationwide peace and stability, and expressing hope that dialogue would preserve the current stability and create favourable opportunities for political talks.

SEE PAGE 5

DIPLOMACY

MALI Union Minister receives Nicaraguan Ambassador



The Nicaraguan ambassador calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Nicaraguan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorcia in the Union Minister's reception room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed technology exchange in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, bilaterally sending experts between the two countries, providing training in specific subjects, and research cooperation between Myanmar and Nicaragua. — MNA/MKKS

DIPLOMACY

CBM Governor meets Korean Embassy Chargé d'Affaires



The Korean Embassy charge d'affaires calls on Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo.

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Khin Naing Oo met Korean Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Mr Bae Byeongsoo and his delegation at the Central Bank of Myanmar meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am yesterday.

During the meeting, the Korean Chargé d'Affaires said Korean companies already investing in Myanmar, as well as those interested in investing in the country, could benefit from increased bilateral cooperation and investment.

Dr Khin Naing Oo said

discussions would continue to facilitate direct payments in the currencies of the Republic of Korea and other regional countries, which would help facilitate bilateral trade.

They also discussed banking and foreign exchange matters between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, including the operations of Korean banks with branches and subsidiaries in Myanmar. Deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar and departmental officials also attended the meeting. — MNA/KZL

Mandalay Celebrates 77 Years of PRC Founding

THE 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was celebrated in Mandalay yesterday at the Mingala Mandalay Hotel in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Aung Htay of the Central Command, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Moe, regional ministers and officials, Consul-General of the People's



The 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China celebrated in Mandalay.

Republic of China in Mandalay Ms Gao Ping, Consul-General of the Indian Consulate in Mandalay Mr Sundeep Kaushal, officials from the Consulate-Gener-

al, and invitees.

The ceremony was opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the national anthems

of the People's Republic of China, as Ms Gao Ping, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay, delivered a welcoming speech.

The chief minister of Mandalay Region then delivered a congratulatory speech and wished the People's Republic of China peace and prosperity, and the consul-general of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay hosted a dinner in honour of the event. — MNA/MKKS

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Preschool Reopens in Falam After Violence-Linked Suspension

THE Preschool of the Social Welfare Department, which was temporarily suspended due to violent events, reopened in Falam Township yesterday.

As the ceremony was held at the Preschool of the Social Welfare Department in Falam Township, 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 the Head of the State Social Welfare Department, cut the ribbon to open the school. In addition, the deputy minister and the state minister fed nutritious food to the children of the preschool.

At the ceremony, the deputy minister said that the Social Welfare Department and preschools in



The reopening ceremony for the Preschool of the Social Welfare Department is underway in Falam, Chin State.

Haka, Tiddim and Falam Townships in Chin State have now resumed with the support of the State Government; the expansion of Preschools in Chin State and teachers' salaries and teaching aids will be provided for 68 self-reliant preschool in Chin State in the financial year 2026-2027; and relevant departments and residents will support the long-term development of primary preschools. The deputy minister, State

Minister and Secretary from the District Management and Administration Committee presented the teaching aids, necessary equipment and donations from the public.

In line with the instructions of the Head of State, the rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Chin State is being carried out at a rapid pace and the education, health and socioeconomic lives of the returnees in Falam are gradually returning

to normal at present. There were three primary schools in Falam, and two primary schools have resumed operations.

Yesterday, the deputy minister and his team inspected the rehabilitation works in Falam township, such as the renovation of the Rural Road Development Department office building, the renovation of two units of staff housing, the renovation of the Township Cooperative Department staff house and office building, and the renovation of the Planning Department office building. The deputy minister and his team visited the No 3 Basic Education Post-Primary School, encouraged the students about peaceful learning, and inspected the completion of the renovation of the classroom building. — MNA/MKKS

NSPNC, MNTJP/ MNDA A Push for Regional Stability, ...

FROM PAGE 4

U Phon Win Naing affirmed that, firmly anchored in the political stance of non-disintegration of the Union and ethnic equality, the party pursues the establishment of a genuine self-administered special region where all ethnic groups can live together in peace and stability, while making every effort through peaceful means to promote regional stability, development and social welfare, fostering a positive and peaceful environment, noting that communication and exchanges of views between representatives of both sides would consolidate regional stability and mutual trust, expressing full support for State-building projects that benefit the country, and conveying a strong desire to strengthen mutual trust through existing dialogue channels, work jointly towards national stability and promote the stability of the nation and the peaceful coexistence of all citizens.

The attendees subsequently discussed matters concerning the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, the building of a democratic and federal Union, achieving peace through inclusive, independent and precondition-free dialogue,

self-administered zones, the political legitimacy of the MNDA A, ethnic equality, the reopening of border trade gates, the implementation of cross-border projects, cooperation to combat on-line scams and narcotics, collaboration on national security and development, strengthening mutual trust and the prospect of establishing a political party to contest elections.

Following the discussions, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing provided explanations and clarifications on the political resolution of political problems through dialogue, regional development and stability initiatives, the guidance of the President and the continuation of political negotiations through trust-building measures based on State stability, while also responding to points raised by the MNDA A.

After the records of the bilateral discussions were finalized, both sides signed and endorsed the official meeting record. U Phon Win Naing expressed his thanks, while NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered the closing remarks, concluding the meeting. Also present at the meeting were NSPNC members and officials from the MNTJP/MNDA A. — MNA/TH

Earthwork expansion, laterite surfacing work inspected in Aunglan

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 23 September to monitor the progress of earthwork embankment widening and red laterite road surfacing along the Kanhnasint-Yenangyi inter-village road, carried out with the Union Capital Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year by the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Road Development, Magway

Region.

Executive Engineer (Civil) U Soe Min Naing and responsible officials from the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Road Development inspected the implementation of the red laterite road surfacing and gave necessary instructions to ensure the work meets prescribed quality standards and is completed on



Officials oversee the road construction in Aunglan Township.

schedule.

The project involves widening the embankment and laying an 18-foot-wide, eight-inch-thick red laterite surface along the two-mile and four-furlong Kanhnasint-Yenangyi inter-village road. Funded with K360 million from

the Union Capital Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year, the construction work was started by the Department of Rural Road Development in the first week of July this year, and progress has now reached 85 per cent completion. — Set Lu (DRD)

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Thazi

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 21 September regarding the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Chanthagyi Village, Thazi Township. The project is be-

ing carried out by the Thazi Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in Mandalay Region, with the aim of creating employment

opportunities and increasing family income for rural residents, thereby reducing poverty.

Township Head Daw Mya Thet Win, Staff Officer Daw Toe Toe Sein, and

project staff from the Thazi Township Department of Rural Development examined the agricultural activities implemented using the project's fund of K55.1 million. Township Officer Daw

Mya Thet Win of the Thazi Township Department of Rural Development inspected the status of livestock and trading operations as well as the completeness of the required monthly record forms, and coordinated necessary actions.

According to Daw Mya

Thet Win, the loans totaling K55.1 million have been disbursed to 182 borrowers in Chanthagyi Village, comprising 48 individuals in agriculture (K14.5 million), 89 in livestock farming (K26.95 million), and 45 in trading (K13.65 million). — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaiing)

Advertise
with us/ Hotline:
092555597511 , 09454237515

NATIONAL

Chinese naval escort task group arrives in Myanmar for goodwill visit



PLA Navy's 48th Escort Task Group – Tang Shan, Da Qing, and Tai Hu – receives a warm welcome on arrival at Yangon Port.

THE 48th escort task group of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, Tang Shan, Da Qing and Tai Hu, arrived at Yangon Port on Thursday afternoon, starting a goodwill visit to Myanmar. Senior officials from the Tatmadaw (Navy), staff members from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, and relevant officials welcomed the fleets. Led by Senior Captain Xu Fang, the task group comprises officers and personnel of the PLA Navy. During the visit, the delegation will tour notable sites in Yangon and participate in friendship sports activities with Myanmar counterparts. — MNA/KTZH

Kyaukpadaung inspects completed village concrete road

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a village concrete road construction project implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Thayetaw Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region.

Kyaukpadaung Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Aye Thet and engineering staff, along with members of the Village De-



Officials oversee the village concrete road construction project in Kyaukpadaung Township.

velopment Project Committee, inspected the 100-per cent completed concrete road measuring 356 feet in length, 12 feet in width and six inches in thickness. She also met village elders and local communities, in-

structing them to carry out maintenance and related activities in compliance with prescribed standards and specifications to ensure the long-term durability of the road.

The concrete road was constructed using K15 million in VDP support funds along with contributions from residents, who have been carrying out the construction work themselves since the second week of September under the technical assistance and close supervision of department staff. — Poe Thakhin (Rural)

Rural development activities inspected in Chaungzon

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development inspected the ongoing construction of a 2,400-gallon-capacity elevated water tank, the installation of a power line and the laying of water pipelines in Kulato Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State, yesterday.

Township Head Daw San San Maw of the Department of Rural Development in Chaungzon Township and responsible officials, along with members of the Village Water Supply Committee and local elders, inspected the ongoing construction of the elevated water tank, installation of the power line and laying of water pipelines in Kulato Village. The township head instructed those re-

sponsible to complete all work on time in line with the prescribed standards and coordinated necessary measures for the smooth implementation of the project.

The construction of the 2,400-gallon elevated water tank and related works in Kulato Village commenced on 13 August under the responsibility of Ngwe Zin Hein Company, with Union funds of K63.28 million allocated during the 2026-2027 financial year. The project has now reached 65 per cent completion.

Upon completion of all work, residents and livestock in Kulato Village will have adequate access to water, helping alleviate water shortages during the summer season, according to the Chaungzon Township Department of Rural Development. — Moe Moe (DRD)



Officials inspect rural development activities in Chaungzon Township.

Tour group issues safety guidelines for domestic pilgrims

THE Domestic Pilgrimage and Tour Service Association issued a notice urging passengers traveling on domestic pilgrimage vehicles to ensure their phones do not contain photos or videos that violate the law.

The association released the advisory outlining guidelines and re-

strictions to follow during trips to ensure pilgrimage vehicles depart safely.

The notice includes the following points: passengers must carry a Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC) or a travel recommendation letter issued by the police station; tour guides must communicate and cooperate well

with checkpoint personnel along the route; all business operators must obtain a licence issued by their respective region using recommendations from the Hotels and Tourism Directorate and DPTOA; any unusual incidents during the trip must be communicated among member express

terminals and reported via text in the DPTOA Member Group; and copies of membership cards and business licenses must be carried aboard departing vehicles.

Additionally, the association advised that passengers refrain from keeping illegal photos and videos on their mo-

bile phones. Departures must be scheduled starting from 5 am onwards, with itineraries planned so that vehicles return to the gathering point between 8 pm and 10 pm at the latest. Tour guides are instructed to arrange taxis (such as Grab), log vehicle numbers, request that guests call their guide upon arriving home safely, and follow up with guests. — TWA/ZN

Advertise

with us /
Hotline



09 454237515

09 255597511

NATIONAL

Tender dates revised for smart garden project in Hmawby

THE Department of Agriculture has revised the tender acceptance dates for the lease of a 556.75 acre plot in the Hla Padar farm area in Hmawby Township, Yangon Region, to operate a smart garden project. The project was originally advertised in the Myanmar Alinn newspaper on 12 September and the Mirror newspaper on 13 September, inviting interested Myanmar citizen entrepreneurs and registered private companies to lease and operate the land under the ministry's tender regulations.

The revision was made to incorporate additional technical requirements. According to the revised tender schedule, tender forms will be available from 1 to 9 October at the Coffee and Seasonal Crops Division, Department of Agriculture, Office 50 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Tender submissions will be accepted at the Supply and Logistics Division of the Department of Agriculture, Office 43 in Nay Pyi Taw by 1 pm on 12 October.

Interested individuals can make further enquiries through the Agriculture Department at Office 50, Nay Pyi Taw, in person during office hours, or dial 067 3431207 or 09 256455587, according to the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee. — NN/KK

Local fertilizer output covers only 3% of needs

DOMESTIC fertilizer factories can produce and distribute only about three per cent of Myanmar's total fertilizer demand, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Kyaw Naing Win said.

The deputy minister made the remarks in response to a question from U San Maung, Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Bogaie Constituency, at the second-day meeting of the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 September.

Of the five fertilizer factories under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, only No 4 Fertilizer Factory (Myaungtika) and No 5 Fertilizer Factory (Kangyidaunt) are currently operational. Due to limited natural gas supplies, the two factories produce and distribute about 10,000



Production from the operating fertilizer factory.

tonnes of urea fertilizer a month.

U Kyaw Naing Win said the resumption of operations at suspended fertilizer factories and the construction of new ones depended on the availability of natural gas and the expansion of gas pipelines. Natural gas production is currently used mainly for electricity generation and transport. If gas production increases and pipeline networks are expanded, fertilizer production can be increased in line with market demand.

U San Maung said increasing domestic fertilizer production and distribution would benefit farmers, noting that a 50-kilogramme bag of urea fertilizer produced domestically costs about K45,000, compared with about K120,000 for imported fertilizer. — TWA/MKKS

Real Estate Transactions Plunge

THE real estate market in Myanmar has sharply decreased, and transactions are much fewer.

Compared with the period before 2020, real estate prices have surged enormously; however, transactions have become fewer at present despite incredibly high prices. At present, owners want to sell their properties at current prices; on the other hand, buyers prefer negotiable prices, and most transactions are happening like this, said an estate agent.

Expensive estates are taking longer to sell, and due to this factor, the market has been pretty slow. In addition, taxes on property transactions and other expenses are another factor to take into consideration for both buyers and sellers.

However, it doesn't mean a complete standstill, but it shows a relative slowdown when compared to previous years. Currently, most transactions are seen between those who really need to buy and those who want to sell urgently. — MT/ZS

Digital Tourism Marketing course to launch in Oct



This image displays an advert for UMTA's tourism digital marketing basic online course.

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF), in collaboration with the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, will offer a free Digital Tourism Marketing course in October to enhance digital marketing capacity among tourism businesses.

The federation announced it during its fifth online webinar, "Digital Marketing for Tourism MSMEs", held on 17 September.

The webinar was attended by the Member Affairs Committee chairman, committee members, executives, and other interested participants. MTF Vice-Chairman delivered the opening remarks, while Dr Su Myat Sandi Oo, an MTF executive and ASEAN National Trainer & Certified Digital Trainer, led the main presentation on "Digital Marketing for Tourism & Hospitality MSMEs".

The webinar covered the shift of 90 per cent of global travellers towards online platforms, using the SOSTAC Strategic Planning Framework to develop marketing strategies, tourism destination promotion through social media Facebook, TikTok, Viber, and Telegram and the importance of Local SEO and Google Business Profile optimization. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 24 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,665.30~3670.00	558.10~558.70	125.60~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	13,972,449.25	11,273,122.30	55,059,945.95	1,044,450.00

Mushroom cultivation training opens in Yangon

FROM PAGE 1

THE Coffee and Seasonal Crops Division under the Department of Agriculture launched a training course on mushroom cultivation and produc-

tion on 22 September at the Mushroom Research and Technology Development Farm in Mayangon Township.

Yangon Region Minister Dr Htoo Maung for Ag-

riculture, Livestock and Irrigation, officials from the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture, and trainees attended the training course. A total of 30 trainees are participat-

ing in the course, which runs from 22 to 24 September.

Dr Htoo Maung gave opening remarks, saying the training aims to disseminate modern tech-

nology and practical skills in mushroom cultivation among farmers and rural communities. The course is designed to help participants use agricultural byproducts to generate family income, launch smallscale businesses that can produce and sell within a short timeframe, and contribute to local food security through the production of nutritious food.

Officials concerned and attendees toured a display of basic agricultural raw materials at the training hall. — NN/KK

OPINION

Forging unity to ensure national development

The Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan ethnic peoples and ethnic groups residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have lived together in various regions and areas across the country, sharing the same future through kinship, and have remained united and lived together since time immemorial to this day.

The continuous development of a country, the strengthening of its sovereignty and the well-being of its people's social and economic lives largely depend on the unity and sense of responsibility of its citizens, which serve as key driving forces. Myanmar has stood with dignity and pride among the nations of the world for many years as an independent and sovereign country with its own culture, traditions and monarchy. It is therefore the responsibility of all ethnic nationalities, through the strength of unity, to preserve and safeguard these fine traditions and heritage.

The government and the people have to join hands to emphasize that they need to safeguard the nation and its sovereignty while protecting the whole nation, whether or not there are those who seek to harm the country. At the same time, they all have to forge national unity, whether or not there are those who seek to divide the country and its people; efforts must always be made to promote and maintain national unity among all ethnic nationalities.

Such achievements are evidence of the strength of unity. Unity is a key factor in facing and overcoming all challenges and difficulties. When people work together with mutual respect, a spirit of solidarity, and a sense of responsibility and accountability, they can overcome all obstacles and achieve success.

The government and the people have to join hands to emphasize that they need to safeguard the nation and its sovereignty while protecting the whole nation, whether or not there are those who seek to harm the country. At the same time, they all have to forge national unity, whether or not there are those who seek to divide the country and its people; efforts must always be made to promote and maintain national unity among all ethnic nationalities.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is often discussed through a single question: How much investment is coming into the country? For policymakers, however, the more important questions are what the investment numbers reveal, where the investment is coming from, which sectors are receiving capital, and whether current trends point towards opportunities or policy gaps. For Myanmar, examining FDI through a statistical and evidence-based perspective can help strengthen investment promotion and support better policy decisions.

The latest international data provide an important starting point. According to the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2026, global FDI increased by six per cent to approximately US\$1.6 trillion in 2025. Developing Asia remained the largest recipient region, attracting approximately US\$644 billion. This demonstrates that Asia continues to be at the centre of global investment activity despite continuing uncertainty in the international economic environment.

Within this regional environment, ASEAN continues to demonstrate strong investment performance. According to the latest ASEAN investment information based on UNCTAD data, ASEAN attracted US\$243.9 billion in FDI in 2025, an increase of 9.7 per cent from US\$222.3 billion in 2024. ASEAN therefore continued to strengthen its position as one of the world's most important destinations for foreign investment. The region accounted for approximately 15 per cent of global FDI inflows in 2025.

The ASEAN figures are particularly relevant for Myanmar. In 2025, Singapore attracted approximately US\$150.9 billion, Indonesia US\$21.4 billion, Viet Nam US\$20.4 billion, Thailand US\$19.1 billion and Malaysia US\$15.4 billion. Lao PDR attracted approximately US\$1.4 billion, while Myanmar recorded approximately US\$1.1 billion in FDI inflows. Myanmar's 2025 inflow was about US\$1.067 billion, compared with US\$1.095 billion in 2024, representing a decline of approximately 2.6 per cent.

These numbers should not simply be interpreted as a ranking of countries. They provide a useful statistical signal. Myanmar is operating within a region

The Numbers Behind Myanmar's FDI and What They Mean for Policy

where FDI is expanding, while its own inflows remain relatively modest. This means that the central policy question is not whether international capital is available. It clearly is. The more important question is how Myanmar can strengthen its competitiveness and attract a larger share of investment that is consistent with national development priorities.

At this point, an important statistical distinction must be made. Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) publishes statistics on foreign investment approved under the country's investment framework, while international organizations such as ASEAN and UNCTAD publish FDI inflow statistics based on internationally recognized balance-of-payments concepts. These measures are related but are not identical. An approved investment represents an investment that has received approval, whereas an FDI inflow measures capital actually flowing into the economy under the relevant statistical framework. Therefore, policymakers and readers should not treat the two figures as interchangeable.

This distinction is not merely technical. It has direct implications for investment policy. If Myanmar reports a large amount of approved investment but actual inflows remain lower, policymakers need to understand why projects are not being implemented at the expected scale. Possible explanations may include financing constraints, infrastructure limitations, changes in market conditions, foreign-exchange issues, administrative procedures or delays in project implementation. Better statistical monitoring can help identify these gaps.

DICA maintains separate statistical series for foreign investment by country, foreign investment by sector and actual FDI inflows. These datasets provide an important foundation for developing a more detailed understanding of Myanmar's investment landscape.

The country distribution of investment provides another

important policy signal. DICA's recent investment information shows that Singapore, China and Thailand remain among the most prominent investors in Myanmar, while investment has come from a much broader group of countries. In January 2026, DICA reported that investors from 53 countries had invested in Myanmar, with Singapore, China and Thailand identified as the leading investors.

This pattern suggests both strength and opportunity. Existing major investors are important because they provide established commercial relationships, capital, technology and market connections. At the same time, reliance on a limited number of major investment partners can create concentration. Myanmar can therefore benefit from expanding investment promotion towards a wider range of countries while continuing to strengthen relations with existing investors.

The sectoral composition of FDI is equally important. Investment figures should not be evaluated only according to their monetary value. Policymakers should also examine which industries receive investment and what economic outcomes those investments generate. Manufacturing, energy, transport and communications, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, logistics, digital services and other productive sectors can have different effects on employment, exports, technology transfer and domestic business development.

Manufacturing deserves particular attention because it can connect FDI with domestic production and employment. Manufacturing investment can create demand for local raw materials, packaging, logistics, maintenance, professional services and other inputs. If foreign-invested manufacturers are connected effectively with Myanmar enterprises, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, the benefits of FDI can extend beyond the individual investment project.

The ASEAN experience

provides a useful comparison. The ASEAN Investment Report 2025 found that FDI inflows into ASEAN increased by 8 percent to US\$226 billion in 2024 despite an 11 per cent decline in global FDI. Manufacturing and services were major targets for greenfield investment, while investment was increasingly associated with supply-chain restructuring and industries such as electronics, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals and the digital economy.

The latest 2025 data reinforce this trend. ASEAN attracted US\$243.9 billion in FDI, while announced greenfield investment remained significant in communications, semiconductors, electronics, renewable energy and digital infrastructure. These sectors reflect the direction of modern global investment: investors are increasingly looking for locations that can participate in technology-intensive production, regional supply chains and the digital economy.

For Myanmar, this suggests that future investment promotion should increasingly focus on sectors connected to regional and global value chains. Traditional sectors will continue to have an important role, but investment promotion can also target higher-value manufacturing, agricultural processing, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, renewable energy, logistics, digital services and technology-related industries.

Agriculture provides another strong opportunity. Myanmar has significant agricultural production, but greater economic value can be generated by moving further into processing, packaging, cold-chain systems, quality certification and international marketing. FDI can support this transition by providing capital, technology, management expertise and access to international distribution networks. Therefore, investment promotion should focus not only on agricultural production but also on the complete agricultural value chain.

Energy is equally important. Reliable electricity is a basic requirement for industrial devel-

opment. Investment promotion cannot be separated from infrastructure policy because investors consider the availability, reliability and cost of electricity when selecting investment locations. If Myanmar wants to attract more manufacturing and technology-oriented investment, strengthening energy infrastructure must therefore remain a central investment-policy priority.

Myanmar's geographical position also creates an important statistical and policy opportunity. The country is situated between South Asia, China and mainland Southeast Asia and has access to the Indian Ocean. This provides potential for investment in ports, logistics, transport, warehousing, industrial zones and cross-border trade infrastructure. However, geographical advantage alone does not guarantee investment. The data should be used to identify which infrastructure constraints are preventing the country from converting its geographical position into actual investment opportunities.

Another important lesson from the numbers is that investment promotion should become more targeted. Instead of simply promoting Myanmar as a destination for all types of investment, policymakers can use data to identify specific investor groups and sectors. If the statistics show strong interest from a particular country in manufacturing, for example, investment promotion activities can focus on that country's manufacturing companies. If investors are increasingly interested in renewable energy or digital services, relevant projects and investment opportunities can be developed and promoted accordingly.

This approach can make investment promotion more efficient. Investment authorities can move from general promotion towards evidence-based targeting. Country-level data can identify potential investment partners, sector-level data can identify promising industries, and project-level data can identify implementation barriers. Together, these forms of information can

create a much more precise investment-promotion strategy.

Better FDI data are also necessary for evaluating policy effectiveness. Suppose Myanmar introduces an investment incentive for a particular sector. It is not enough to know how many projects were approved after the incentive was introduced. Policymakers should also examine whether actual capital inflows increased, whether projects became operational, how many jobs were created, whether exports increased and whether domestic enterprises became involved in the supply chain.

This means that future FDI statistics should increasingly measure outcomes rather than approvals alone. Important indicators could include actual capital inflows, project implementation rates, employment created, exports generated, reinvestment by existing investors, domestic procurement, technology transfer, training provided and linkages with Myanmar enterprises.

Project implementation is particularly important. An approved investment project and an operational investment project are two different stages of the investment lifecycle. Tracking the movement from approval to implementation can help policymakers identify where projects face difficulties. Such information can then be used to improve investor facilitation and aftercare.

Reinvestment is another indicator that deserves greater attention. When existing foreign investors expand their operations or reinvest their earnings, this can provide an important signal of investor confidence. A country should therefore monitor not only new investors entering the market but also existing investors choosing to expand.

Investment statistics can also help identify regional disparities. If investment is concentrated heavily in a limited number of locations, policymakers can examine whether infrastructure, utilities, transport connections, workforce availability or other factors are limiting investment in other areas. This does not mean

By Khant Ko Ko Aung (Statistics)

that every region should receive the same level of FDI. Rather, investment should be encouraged where there are genuine economic advantages and where infrastructure and local conditions can support commercially viable projects.

Digitalization provides an opportunity to strengthen the entire investment information system. Investment authorities could increasingly connect investment approval information with company registration, trade, employment and other relevant administrative datasets, subject to appropriate legal and data-protection safeguards. Such an integrated system could allow policymakers to monitor investment projects throughout their lifecycle and produce more timely information for decision-making.

Statistical coordination is also important. DICA, the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Central Statistical Organization, relevant ministries and other institutions hold different types of information related to investment and economic activity. Greater coordination can improve data consistency, reduce duplication and provide a more complete picture of FDI performance.

International comparability should remain another priority. ASEAN and UNCTAD use internationally recognized statistical frameworks that allow countries to compare FDI trends across economies. Myanmar can use these international datasets together with its domestic administrative statistics to assess its position within the ASEAN investment environment. The purpose is not simply to compare rankings but to identify the structural reasons why some economies attract substantially more investment.

The regional evidence is particularly instructive. ASEAN attracted US\$243.9 billion in FDI in 2025, while Myanmar attracted approximately US\$1.067 billion. The difference demonstrates the scale of the competitive environment in which Myanmar operates. At the same time, it also demonstrates the size of the

potential market for investment promotion. Even a relatively small increase in Myanmar's share of regional investment could generate significant economic value if that investment is directed towards productive and sustainable sectors.

The objective, however, should not simply be to maximize the volume of FDI. The quality of investment matters. A large investment with limited domestic economic linkages may produce fewer long-term benefits than a smaller investment that creates substantial employment, develops local suppliers, transfers technology and expands exports. Investment policy should therefore consider both the quantity and quality of FDI.

This is where statistical analysis can contribute directly to policymaking. Statistics can help identify not only where investment is coming from but also what investment is doing within the economy. By combining investment data with employment, trade, production and enterprise information, policymakers can evaluate the broader economic contribution of FDI.

The policy implications are therefore clear. First, Myanmar should strengthen the quality and timeliness of FDI statistics. Second, approved investment and actual FDI inflows should be clearly distinguished in public reporting. Third, investment promotion should be increasingly targeted towards sectors and investor groups identified through evidence. Fourth, project implementation and investor aftercare should be monitored systematically. Fifth, FDI statistics should increasingly measure economic outcomes such as employment, exports, technology transfer and domestic linkages.

Myanmar should also use its international economic relationships strategically. Established investors from Singapore, China and Thailand remain important, while broader engagement with India, Japan, Korea, ASEAN partners, Russia, Belarus and other potential investors can contribute to diversification. Recent international engagements can support these efforts, but investment promotion must ultimately be supported by commercially attractive projects and a predictable investment environment.

NATIONAL

Toungoo bypass railway set for completion in Mar 2027

TRACK-LAYING work on the new Toungoo bypass railway is set for completion in March 2027, according to the Ministry of Transport.

A 4.89-mile bypass railway is under construction at present, with earth embankment work underway and 16 bridges being built along the route.

A 40.5-acre site has been designated for a station yard measuring 4,200 feet by 420 feet and a new two-storey station building measuring 146.5 feet by 50 feet.

Earth embankment and bridge construction works are scheduled for completion by the end of December, while track laying and construction of staff housing are expected to be completed in March 2027.

Measures will also be taken to maintain proper water flow at the Khaboung Bridge. In addition, a new 40-foot bridge will be built near Kanyoe Village, where



Officials inspect track-laying work on the new Toungoo bypass railway in Toungoo.

the new railway connects line on the Mandalay side. — ASH/KZL

Yaksawk holds public awareness talk

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in cooperation with the Township Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary and the Department of Public Health, held a public awareness talk yesterday in Kyauktaw Model Village in Yaksawk Township.

Yaksawk Township Department of Rural Development Head U Ye Min Aung delivered the opening remarks. Dr Paing Soe Moe of the Department



This image depicts the public awareness talk in Yaksawk Township.

of Public Health provided health education on seasonal influenza-like illnesses, mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria, the

The head of the Township Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Services then explained prevention and control measures for infectious animal diseases, techniques for systematically breeding high-quality livestock, and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP).

A total of 170 village elders and residents attended the event, where officials distributed educational pamphlets on livestock raising and public health. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

MSY Village Project funds disbursed in Sinbaungwe

THE Sinbaungwe Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) revolving funds in Inngya Village yesterday, aiming at enabling rural residents to undertake small-scale agricultural and livestock breeding businesses.

Acting Township Head Daw Ei Ei Mon of the Sinbaungwe Township Department of Rural Development explained the objectives and benefits of the Mya Sein Yaung village project, the rules and regulations outlined in the project manual, interest rates and loan terms, and the regulations to be followed when issuing loans.

Subsequently, under the close supervision of the personnel from the Township Department of Rural Development, members of the MSY Village Project Committee disbursed a total of K60 million to 121 members, comprising K40 million for 70 agricultural workers and K20 million for 51 livestock breeders in Inngya Village, directly into their hands within a single day at a low interest rate, as reported by Daw Ei Ei Mon, Acting Township Head of the Sinbaungwe Township Department of Rural Development. — Nyein Thu (Rural)



A village representative receives the MSY Village Project fund in Sinbaungwe Township.

ME Tokyo announces requirements for consular services

ON 24 September, the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced that copies of the household list and the Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC) are essential for applying for consular services.

Applications submitted without these documents will not be accepted. Myanmar nationals in Japan can obtain consular services by visiting the embassy in person or by mail; however, applicants must ensure that the required documents are included with their applications.

If an application submitted by mail does not include these documents, the embassy will consider it incomplete and will return it to the applicant.

In a prior announcement on 8 September, the embassy specified that personal information must be provided in the Myanmar language, while other information, such as the residence address and company name and address in Japan, must be filled out in English only. — MT/ZS

Police seize large haul of meth tablets in Kyauktan, Mohnyin



Three arrestees are pictured alongside confiscated drugs.

METHAMPHETAMINE tablets worth K225 million were seized in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, while narcotic drugs worth

been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

At about 6:30 pm, on 21 September, a combined team seized 150,000 methamphetamine tablets, worth K225 million (K1500 per tablet), from Yi Yi Win, Than Naing, and Soe Naing, in Set Hmu Road, Ward 1, Kyauktan Township.

Similarly, at 1 pm, on 23 September, the combined team stopped and searched a three-wheeled motorcycle near Nantseeaung Village, Mohnyin Township, and seized 30 kilogrammes of raw opium worth K36 million (K1.2 million per kilogramme) from Aung Min Khine, and Kyaw Thein Hlaing. In the same afternoon, in Bhamo Township, police seized 1.485 kilogrammes of heroin worth K32.67 million (K22 million per kilogramme) and K500,000 in cash from a motorcycle ridden by Moe Hlaing. The offenders are charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KTZH

New study links evolution to weaker human joints

The researchers examined genetic differences between humans and other great apes, including chimpanzees and gorillas.

AN international team of researchers has found that human evolution may have left people more vulnerable to joint disease, Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science said in a statement on Wednesday. In their new study, published in the journal Nature, the researchers examined genetic differences between humans and other great apes, including chimpanzees and gorillas.



The researchers found that humans produce significantly lower levels of glycosaminoglycans, or GAGs, in their cartilage. **PHOTO: ROTHMAN ORTHOPAEDICS**

found that humans produce significantly lower levels of glycosaminoglycans, or GAGs, in their cartilage. GAGs are sug-

ar molecules that attract water and help cartilage absorb shocks and cushion joints. The team found that human cartilage contains

about one-third as much GAG material as the cartilage of chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos.

The finding may help explain why osteoarthritis and other joint disorders are common in humans but rare in other great apes, even those that reach old age. Osteoarthritis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide and can cause pain, stiffness, and disability. — Xinhua

Asia's longest cave yields record 61 giant panda fossils

FOSSILIZED remains of 61 individual giant pandas have been discovered in Shuanghe Cave, Asia's longest cave, in Suiyang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, making it the site with the largest number of giant panda fossils in the world, according to findings released Wednesday at a press conference on the results of the 25th international cave scientific expedition.

The latest expedition added nine fossilized

giant panda individuals to the total, with most specimens unearthed from newly discovered cave passage. Two sites bearing giant panda claw marks were also discovered, said Wang Deyuan, an associate research fellow at the Guizhou Academy of Sciences' Institute of Mountain Resources.

Wang said the pandas apparently entered the cave, moved more than ten metres inward and then fell into a vertical shaft. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 22 October 2024 shows French and Chinese scientists discussing on the route to the Shuanghe cave network in Suiyang, southwest China's Guizhou Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Egypt launches 1st locally developed industrial robot

EGYPT has launched its first locally developed industrial robot, marking a step towards expanding domestic capabilities in advanced manufacturing, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said Wednesday.

The robot, developed by the Industrial Modernization Centre in cooperation with RaedBots and Qube, is designed for integration into an industrial application, the ministry said.

According to the ministry, the local content currently stands at 80 per cent, with a target to reach 90 per cent in the near future, following the local manufacturing of the motor. Industry Minister

Khaled Hashem said the project marked an important step toward strengthening Egypt's manufacturing capabilities and developing more efficient, competitive factories. — Xinhua

The Numbers Behind Myanmar's FDI and ...

FROM PAGE 9

The central lesson from the numbers is therefore not simply that Myanmar needs more FDI. Myanmar needs the right FDI, supported by better data and better policy decisions. The statistical evidence shows that international capital continues to move strongly towards Asia and ASEAN, while Myanmar's share remains relatively small. This creates a clear policy opportunity.

The next stage should be to build a stronger relationship between statistics and investment policy. Data should identify the trend; statistical analysis should explain the trend; policymakers should re-

spond to the evidence; and new data should then be used to evaluate the results. This creates a continuous cycle of evidence-based investment promotion.

Ultimately, the numbers behind Myanmar's FDI are more than figures in statistical tables. They are indicators of investor confidence, sectoral opportunities, economic competitiveness and policy performance. If Myanmar can strengthen its investment statistics and use them systematically to guide investment promotion, the country can move from simply measuring FDI towards managing it more strategically.

The future of Myanmar's investment policy should therefore be increasingly data-driven. The question is no longer only how much FDI Myanmar can attract, but from where it should come, which sectors should receive priority, where investment can create the greatest economic value, and how policy can convert investment into jobs, exports, technology, stronger domestic enterprises and sustainable economic development. Better statistics can provide the evidence needed to answer these questions, while sound FDI policy can turn that evidence into practical results.

References

1. ASEAN Secretariat. (2025). *ASEAN Investment Report 2025: Foreign direct investment and supply chain development*. ASEAN Secretariat. [ASEAN Investment Report 2025](#)
2. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *ASEAN attracts record FDI in 2025 amid a shifting global investment landscape*. ASEAN Investment. [ASEAN Investment information on 2025 FDI](#)
3. Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. (2026a). *Foreign investment by country*.

- Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. [DICA Investment Statistics Archive](#)
4. Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. (2026b). *FDI actual inflow*. Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. [DICA FDI Actual Inflow](#)
5. Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. (2026c). *Archive for documents*. Ministry of National Planning, In-
- vestment and Foreign Economic Relations, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. [DICA Investment Statistics Archive](#)
6. Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. (2026d, February 26). *MIC approves 17 projects, generating 2,400+ jobs*. Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
7. United Nations Trade and Development. (2026). *World Investment Report 2026: International investment in a turbulent era*. United Nations. [UNCTAD World Investment Report 2026](#)

ECONOMY WORLD

Macron offers French role in ‘defensive’ Hormuz mission

We want a defensive framework to protect transit without confrontation: Macron

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said France was ready to participate in a “defensive” operation in the Strait of Hormuz but would stay clear of confrontation with Iran.

“We are ready to be part of an international operation with a clear framework and a pure defensive framework. I don’t want to engage in a confrontation with any country, but we are ready to be more engaged in order to protect some capacities in order to make this transit possible,” Macron said in an interview with ABC News in New York on Tuesday.

The situation surrounding the strait was likely underestimated,



The Charles de Gaulle and its escorts were transiting through the Suez Canal. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

Macron said, and the problem now needs to be addressed. He added that the main goal of his meeting with US President Donald Trump on Monday was to discuss an agreement needed

to reopen the strait and ease the pressure on fuel prices.

The United States and Israel launched a military operation against Iran in late February. Hostilities led to

a sharp drop in shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which used to handle about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas trade before the conflict. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Impact of mudslide in Nepal to weigh on its economy

THE recent devastating mudslide in Nepal is expected to affect the country’s economy in the current fiscal year 2026-27, with the economy projected to grow by 4.1 per cent, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Wednesday.

In its latest Asian Development Outlook, the ADB said Nepal’s economic growth is expected to moderate in the current financial year compared with its earlier projection, as severe disasters in August damaged transport infrastructure, hydropower facilities and other productive assets. — Xinhua

Libya approves foreign companies’ operations

LIBYA’S Ministry of Economy and Trade, under the internationally recognized Government of National Unity, announced Wednesday the approval of 52 decisions concerning foreign companies and representative offices in the country, aimed at regulating foreign companies’ activities and improving the business and investment environment.

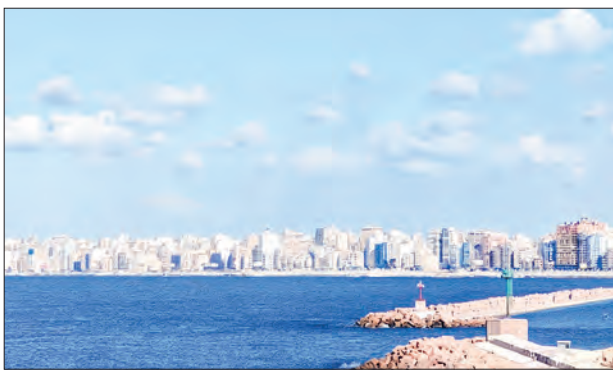
According to the ministry, the decisions included the opening of new branches of foreign companies, the extension and renewal of existing branches, the opening and extension of representative offices, and regulatory amendments in accordance with applicable legislation. — Xinhua

Egypt’s Alexandria seeks to deepen trade ties with China: Governor

“WE hope Chinese companies will establish a manufacturing base here and take advantage of local investment opportunities,” Alexandria Governor Ayman Attia said recently.

In an interview with Xinhua on Tuesday, Attia expressed hope to deepen cooperation with China in industry, trade, logistics, and education, while welcoming more Chinese companies to invest in the governorate.

As a major Egyptian port city, Alexandria has distinctive advantages in economic and trade cooperation with China. Attia said the historic Mediterranean city has extensive economic ties and is well-positioned to handle trade flows from China to Egypt, Africa, and the wider region.



This photo taken by a mobile phone shows a view of Alexandria, Egypt, 22 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Chinese investors are already operating in Alexandria’s industrial sector, the Egyptian official said. “Our relations have deep historical roots and broad prospects for cooperation”.

Attia said Egypt has made significant infrastructure progress under President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, noting that improvements in Alexandria’s roads, energy, and

transportation have created favourable conditions for investment.

In addition to its infrastructure, Alexandria has a well-trained workforce capable of meeting the technological needs of various industries, an important advantage in attracting investment, he added. “We welcome Chinese investors from all sectors with open arms.” — Xinhua

OECD ups inflation outlook for G20 to 3.6% in 2027

THE Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Wednesday raised its inflation outlook for the Group of 20 economies to 3.6 per cent in 2027 amid higher energy costs.

The figure in the latest economic outlook report marks a 0.5 percentage point increase from the previous one in June. Inflation is expected to ease from 4.1 per cent in 2026, but the projection highlights the challenge faced by policymakers in coping with rising cost-of-living pressures.

Japan’s inflation is expected to be 1.8 per cent in 2026, unchanged from the projection. But it is projected to accelerate to 2.6 per cent in 2027, as the Bank of Ja-



People enjoy leisure time under blossoming trees at the bank of the Main River in Frankfurt, Germany. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

pan scrambles to curb rising prices driven by higher energy prices and a weak yen that inflates imports.

“Inflation is projected to increase in the near-term, reflecting commodity price increases, before easing gradually in 2027 as moderating energy

prices and tighter monetary policy help to limit broader price pressures,” the report said.

The Paris-based OECD raised its 2027 inflation forecasts by 0.5 percentage point each for the United States and the euro area to 2.6 per cent and 2.9 per cent, respectively. — Kyodo

European development bank cuts growth outlook

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development cut its growth forecasts Thursday, as the Middle East war drives an energy shock that is hitting Iraq's oil-dependent economy particularly hard.

The EBRD, founded to help former Soviet bloc nations embrace free market economies before extending its reach to the Middle East and Africa, now expects growth across its regions to slow to 2.5 per cent in 2026, down from 3.4 per cent in 2025. The forecast is 0.6 percentage points lower

than the EBRD's previous estimate in June, largely due to a sharp deterioration in Iraq's outlook.

Iraq's economy is projected to contract by 12 per cent this year, with the risk of a deeper downturn if export disruptions persist through the end of the year.

"The problem in Iraq is disruption to exports," EBRD chief economist Beata Javorcik told AFP, as the strategic Strait of Hormuz has been choked off since the outbreak of the US-Iran conflict in late February. — AFP

Slovakia to halve 2nd-class train fares amid rising fuel prices

SLOVAKIA will cut second-class passenger train fares by 50 per cent for one month starting from 1 October Prime Minister Robert Fico announced Wednesday after a government meeting.

The measure, approved on the proposal of the Slovakian Transport Ministry, will initially remain in effect for 30 days. Subsequently, it will be reviewed on a monthly basis, Fico said.

"Slovakia is currently facing a sharp rise in



A train arriving at Main Railway Station in Bratislava, Slovakia. PHOTO: XINHUA

transport are increasing. One of the possible solutions is to shift from private car transport to passenger rail transport," the ministry said in its explanatory report.

The measure is primarily intended for people who use trains regularly to commute to work or school, or for other daily needs. The 50 per cent reduction will apply to all second-class, single-journey tickets, as well as weekly and monthly season tickets.

— Xinhua



Make Every Moment Remarkable

ENQUIRY HOTLINE :
+959 777 773 770

No.7-8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road,
Yankin Township, Yangon,
Myanmar.

www.thecentral.com.mm



ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Bulgaria’s battery boom
pays off as drought hits
power plants

The battery installations absorb surplus power from solar installations and feed it back into the grid when demand rises.



Battery storage blocs operated by ContourGlobal at Maritsa East 3, once Bulgaria’s second-largest coal-fired power plant. **PHOTO: AFP**

AS Eastern Europe’s power sector has taken a hit from a record drought, Bulgaria has benefitted from building out battery storage capacity alongside its rapid solar expansion.

Around a hundred

battery energy storage system (BESS) sites are now operating, most of them built in the past two years. The large-scale projects take advantage of former industrial sites and airfields or are integrated into existing power

stations, including coal-fired plants.

“The scale and speed of storage deployment in Bulgaria is unprecedented in a European context,” Stavros Papathanassiou, a professor at the National Technical University of

Athens, told AFP.

Low administrative hurdles, a receptive market for clean energy and EU funding are among the reasons expert cite for the country’s leading role in the region.

The battery installations absorb surplus power from solar installations and feed it back into the grid when demand rises.

That proved a boon when exceptionally low Danube levels disrupted power generation at nuclear and hydroelectric plants in Eastern Europe, boosting demand for electricity imports.

In July and August, Bulgaria — one of the EU’s poorest countries — recorded net electricity exports of around 830 gigawatt-hours a month, more than twice the average in May and June.

— AFP

Greek PM urges ‘courage’ in talks with
UK over Parthenon Marbles

GREECE’S Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Thursday called for “political will and courage” to resolve the country’s protracted battle with Britain over returning the prized Parthenon Marbles to Athens. The intervention follows years of talks with the British Museum, which has held the ancient friezes for more than two centuries, over easing a dispute that has soured UK-Greek ties.

It also comes just weeks after the London museum began displaying

the Bayeux Tapestry as part of a loan agreement with France, a boost to cross-Channel post-Brexit ties.

“What is needed now is the political will and

courage to take the decisive step, to reunite the sculptures and transform a historic dispute into a unique act of cultural friendship,” Mitsotakis wrote in an opinion piece

in The Guardian newspaper. The Greek leader did not specify exactly who his comments were aimed at, but noted new British Prime Minister Andy Burnham had previously called for the sculptures’ return to Greece with “no strings attached”.

But Burnham, who replaced Keir Starmer in Downing Street in July, adopted the UK government’s longstanding position in August, telling the Financial Times that it was a matter for the British Museum. — AFP



The British Museum has held the ancient friezes for more than two centuries. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

NEWS IN BRIEF

United Cultures Forum serves as critical diplomacy channel

MAINTAINING dialogue between Europe and Russia is vital, and a diplomatic channel such as the United Cultures Forum should never be disrupted, Italian noblewoman, film producer and House of Salviati descendant Donna Maria Oliva Salviati told Sputnik.

Russia, Salviati argues, is part of Europe, and Russian and European cultures are thus intrinsically linked.

While the anti-Russian stance of certain European powers is lamentable, she insists that problems should be resolved through friendship and dialogue rather than through antagonism. — SPUTNIK

Norway begins planning for major rare earths project

THE Norwegian government said Wednesday it had begun work on a state planning process for Fensfeltet, a rare earths deposit in southern Norway that it describes as “the largest documented deposit of its kind in Europe”.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Fisheries will prepare a planning program setting out the areas and issues to be assessed for environmental and other impacts, as well as how the planning process will proceed. The government aims to submit the proposed program for public consultation as early as possible in 2027.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Cecilie Myrseth said the deposit, located in Telemark county, could create jobs and support new industries and supply chains based on Norwegian resources. — Xinhua

North Korea hardens stance over denuclearization

NORTH Korea on Thursday criticized a recent pledge by the foreign ministers of Japan, the United States and South Korea to uphold their commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Attempts to deny North Korea’s right to defend itself would “only prove the validity of our state’s just access to nuclear weapons and give a justification for strengthening them and harden its stand against the US and the enemies,” Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency. — Kyodo

Greenland deal opens Arctic for US bases

THE US security posture in the Arctic still largely rests on the 1951 Defence of Greenland Agreement with Denmark, while the new deal updates it, Kuupik Kleist, Greenland’s ex-PM and member of the Inuit Ataqatigiit party, tells Sputnik. The revised deal will now “take Greenland and Denmark into account”, and could pave the way for deeper discussions on establishing new US military facilities at Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig, Kuupik Kleist notes. The expert reminds that the US previously closed 17 military bases in Greenland as economic constraints forced cuts to its military presence. — SPUTNIK

Myanmar esports teams depart for Asian Games

MYANMAR Esports Federation President Dr Kaung Myat San and two Team Zanaka squads departed from Yangon International Airport for Japan today to compete in the XX Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

Team Zanaka is making its Asian Games debut in esports and will compete against teams from 12 Asian countries, including Japan, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand.

The team has made extensive preparations for the competition. Dr Kaung Myat San said Team Zanaka is targeting medals in Honour of Kings and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang after securing second place in MLBB at the recent World Esports Games.

The Asian Games are being held from 19 September to 4 October. Team Zanaka competed in the eFootball group stage against Jordan and Bahrain on 22 September.

The Honour of Kings team departed yesterday morning, while the PUBG Mobile team left yesterday evening. The Mobile Legends: Bang Bang team will depart for Japan in the coming days.

Team Zanaka is supported by KBZPay, U9, Lipovitan-D and SINODA.

— Thitsa (MNA)/KZL



The Myanmar esports teams are pictured prior to departure for Japan. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

Asian Games: Japan beats China to claim men's team table tennis gold



Japan's Sora Matsushima (L) reacts after winning the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games men's team table tennis final in Toyota, Japan, on 24 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN defeated China in the men's team table tennis final Thursday at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, clinching its first gold medal in the event since 1966.

The host nation won three ties to China's two, with Sora Matsushima sealing the title by beating fellow 19-year-old Wen Ruibo 3-1 in the decisive fifth tie at Sky Hall Toyota.

Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto won both of his ties, beating Wen 3-1 and later blanking Wang Chuqin 3-0 to deadlock the match at two apiece.

— Kyodo

Asian Games: Japan's Ohashi sets men's 200-metre breaststroke world record

JAPAN'S Shin Ohashi set a world record of two minutes, 4.83 seconds to win gold in the men's 200-metre breaststroke at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Thursday.

The 17-year-old broke the previous world record of 2:05.48 set by China's Qin Haiyang in July 2023 and claimed his second gold medal of the meet after winning the 100-metre breaststroke.

"I'm really happy to have produced a good result with Japan hosting the games," the Osaka Prefecture native said. At the Japan national championships in March, Ohashi clocked a personal-best 2:06.59 in the 200-metre breaststroke, the second-fastest time ever by a Japanese swimmer, and completed a sweep of the 50-, 100- and 200-metre titles.

However, Ohashi finished third in the 200-metre at the Pan Pacific Championships in August, his first major senior international meet.

"I didn't perform very well this summer and learned how difficult international competition can be. I'm truly grateful to every-



Myanmar forward Hein Htet Aung breaks through the Timor-Leste defence. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar beat Timor-Leste in FIFA-ASEAN Cup opener

MYANMAR secured a 2-0 victory over Timor-Leste on the opening day of the Division 2 group stage of the FIFA-ASEAN Cup 2026 in Hong Kong on 24 September.

In the other opening-day match, Laos beat Brunei 3-1. Myanmar's victory over Timor-Leste improved its chances of reaching the final, but the team must beat Cambodia in its second group match. Myanmar struggled to produce its best form due to several injured players.

Myanmar fielded Zin Nyi Nyi Aung (goalkeeper), Hein Zeyar Lin, Myat Phone Khant, Shine Wunna Aung, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein, Wai Lin Aung, Kyaw Min Oo, Hein Htet Aung, Myat Kaung Khant, Win Naing Tun and Than Paing.

Myanmar took control early and opened the scoring in 19 minutes when Win Naing Tun headed home from a corner. Timor-Leste responded with increased pressure and created several chances. The Timor-Leste side continued to dominate much of the second half but failed to score due to poor finishing.

Myanmar captain Than Paing doubled the lead with a header in 75 minutes, after which Myanmar managed the game to secure the victory. Myanmar will face Cambodia in its second group match on 27 September. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Udinese sign ex-Real Madrid defender Alaba on free transfer

UDINESE sprung a surprise with the high-profile signing of David Alaba, who had been without a club since leaving Real Madrid in the close-season, on Thursday. The Austria defender is a four-time Champions League winner, having lifted the trophy twice with both Bayern Munich and Madrid.

The 34-year-old joins an Udinese side with just four points from their opening five matches of the Serie A season, after finishing 10th in the Italian top flight last term. "I've had so many experiences and won so much throughout my career, but one thing hasn't changed — I want to win again," Alaba said in an Udinese statement after signing a deal until the end of the season. "I want to compete again. And I want to achieve something special once more. That is the mindset I'm bringing to Udinese." — AFP



Japan's Shin Ohashi celebrates after setting a world record in the men's 200-metre breaststroke at the Asian Games in Tokyo on 24 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO



WORLD

Xi kicks off highly-anticipated US visit in grand welcome

Both nations can help each other succeed and benefit the global community.

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived at Joint Base Andrews on Wednesday afternoon for a state visit to the United States at the invitation of US President Donald Trump. Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, received a rare planeside greeting by Trump and his wife, Melania Trump, upon their arrival. After Xi and Peng descended from their plane, the two presidential couples shook hands and exchanged greetings on the tarmac. A red carpet was

rolled out for the Chinese presidential couple, with honour guards lining up on both sides to pay their respects. Two American children presented bouquets of flowers to Xi and Peng. The welcome ceremony also included a 21-gun salute, the playing of the national anthems of both countries and a military flyover. The gesture is notable even by broader diplomatic standards, as the arrangement has been described by US media as a “rare” and “unusual” departure from protocol, as US presidents typically receive visiting foreign leaders at the White House rather than greet them at the airport. — Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives at Joint Base Andrews on 23 September 2026 for a state visit to the United States at the invitation of US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: XINHUA

Israel's newest submarine arrives after delays due to Gaza-linked arms restrictions

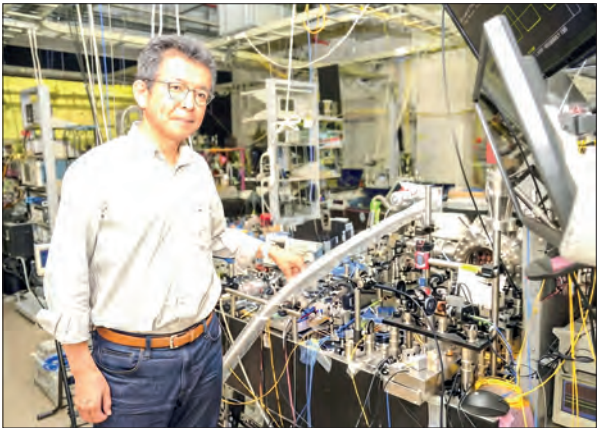
ISRAEL'S newest submarine entered its territorial waters on Wednesday after a 25-day voyage from Germany, following months of delays linked to arms restrictions imposed by several Western countries, amid criticism of Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza, Israeli state-owned Kan TV news reported. The vessel, built by Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and dubbed “Drakon”, is Israel's sixth submarine. It is also the third Israeli Dolphin-class submarine equipped with air-independent propulsion, allowing it to remain submerged for extended periods, according to information previously released by the Israeli military. Its construction and preparations took more than 12 years. Citing senior military officials, Kan reported that Denmark and Norway refused to let the submarine use their ports during sea trials, forcing tests in international waters and delaying delivery by several months. — Xinhua



The vessel, built by Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and dubbed “Drakon”, is Israel's sixth submarine. PHOTO: CC BY-SA 4.0 / WIKIMEDIA

Japanese optical clocks lead second redefinition efforts

OPTICAL lattice clocks developed by a Japanese scientist have emerged as a leading candidate in discussions by an international body to redefine the second. The General Conference on Weights and Measures to be held in France next month will identify remaining issues, with a new definition and implementation schedule to be proposed as early as 2030. Optical lattice clocks trap thousands of atoms individually in an “egg carton” grid formed by intersecting laser beams. The clocks measure the frequency of light absorbed by the atoms, cooled to nearly absolute zero, all at once. The clocks, which use atoms such as strontium and ytterbium, lose or gain only about one second over 30 billion years, far surpassing the precision of cesium atomic clocks currently used to define the second. Hidetoshi Katori, a University of Tokyo professor who developed a strontium optical lattice clock, is widely regarded as a strong potential candidate for the Nobel Prize in Physics. A redefinition of a second could enable more precise experiments and observations in physics and astronomy, including research into dark matter. — Kyodo



Hidetoshi Katori, a professor at the University of Tokyo who developed an optical lattice clock, is pictured in Wako, Saitama Prefecture, on 10 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Iran threatens wider war over US attacks

AN adviser to Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei warned on Thursday that Tehran may expand the Middle East war to the Indian Ocean if the US attacks again. “Since the conflict has spread from the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to the Red Sea, it is possible that, in response to more war, the front will expand even further, reaching the Indian Ocean and perhaps beyond,” said Yahya Rahim Safavi in a video released by Iran's Fars news agency. Yemen's Houthis, fighting Saudi-backed government forces, recently took control of the Red Sea coastline, tightening their grip on the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait, which links Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal. Iran has long provided military support to the Houthis but denies any involvement in the Yemen conflict. The Islamic republic has also locked down the Strait of Hormuz off the Iranian coast, in retaliation for US-Israeli strikes that triggered the Middle East war at the end of February. — AFP