

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

Taninthayi marine exports set to rise

In the export sector, *Lates calcarifer* and soft-shell crabs are bred in Myeik and Kyunsu townships, while Grouper fish is found in Dawei, Myeik, and Kawthoung districts, clams are found in Myeik and Kawthoung districts, and kelp in Bokpyin Township.

TANINTHAYI Region earned US\$303.63 million from exporting 285,315 tonnes of fish, prawns, shrimp, and other marine products in the 2024-2025 financial year, and income from marine exports is expected to rise this year, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation. The marine entrepreneurs from Dawei district, Kawthoung district, Myeik district, Yebyu, Kyunsu and Palaw townships breed *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Pacific white shrimp) in 2,217.56 acres as per GAqP by purchasing from Thailand. In the export sector, *Lates calcarifer* (Asian sea bass) and soft-shell crab are bred in Myeik and Kyunsu township, whereas Grouper fish (reef stonefish) is found in Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung districts, clams are found in **SEE PAGE 7**



This panoramic view shows expansive farmed ponds of Pacific white shrimp (saltwater shrimp) in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

Article

Sounding Alarm for the Region - You will Thank Me Later

By U AC

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 3



Central Census Commission holds 6th coord meeting

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



Myanmar team wins Asia Pacific Open at World Robot Olympiad

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission's official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of U Aung Maw, Director-General of the Union Chief Justice's Office of the Supreme Court of the Union, after the one-year probationary period.

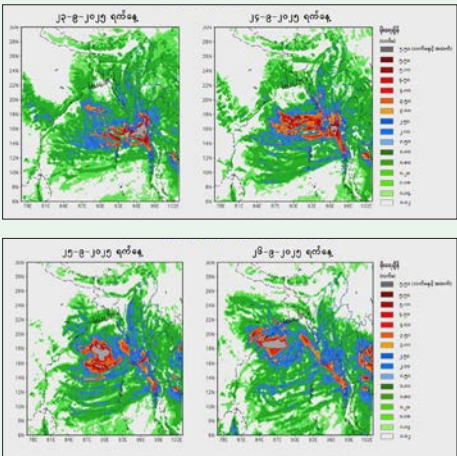
Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 22 September 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the low-pressure area has formed over the Northeast Bay of Bengal and due to the easterly waves, rain or thundershowers will 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, (southern and eastern) Shan States with regionally and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states from tonight to 26 September 2025. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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



Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4 pm Monday 22 September 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the Northern Myanmar areas. According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low pressure area over the Northeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards during the next 24 hours. Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, a Typhoon "RAGASA" over the Philippines sea has moved Westwards and crossing over the Northern Philippines Islands. It is likely continue to move westwards and reach to South China Sea during the next 24 hours.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 23 September 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Kayah and Northern Shan States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Central Census Commission holds 6th coord meeting

THE Central Census Commission held its sixth work coordination meeting on the release of the Union report for the 2024 Nationwide Population and Housing Census at the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Myint Kyaing highlighted the collaboration efforts of the central commission, region, state, district, township, ward and village-tract committees, ministries concerned, security organizations and the public for the successful enumeration of the household census regardless of the difficulties.

He continued that the preliminary census record was released on 31 December 2024, and the ministry continuously strives to carry out activities such as preparing and analyzing statistics and compiling Union reports. The recently completed



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing presides over the sixth coordination meeting of the Central Census Commission yesterday.



Union report includes information on population, internal and foreign migration, education, labour force, births, disability, household matters, deaths, and maternal mortality.

Moreover, arrangements are being made to release the summary and statistical reports along with the Union report to

ensure that data users can easily access and utilize the information. These reports contain population and socioeconomic statistics that must serve as a basis for formulating national development policies and plans. Therefore, preparations are being made to hold a national-level event for the release of the

2024 Census Union Report. The essence of the census lies not only in successfully collecting data but also in ensuring that census information reaches policymakers, planners, and data users; only then can the census be considered a true success.

The Union minister also called for active participation in

holding the national-level event to release the Union report.

Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing, secretary of the central commission, reported on the preparation for the Union report, whereas the attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

China, Myanmar strengthen cooperation through Global Governance Dialogue

THE Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the China Media Group (CMG) jointly organized a China-Myanmar Dialogue on the Implementation of the “Global Governance Initiative: Consultation, Contribution and Shared Benefits” yesterday afternoon at the China Cultural Centre in Ahlon Township, Yangon.

The event was attended by Minister-Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Dr Zheng Zhihong, Deputy Director-General U Zeyar of the Media Development Department under the Ministry of Information, Chairman of the Myanmar Press

Council Dr Tin Tun Oo, senior adviser Dr Naing Swe Oo and member Dr Khin Maung Lwin from the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, representatives of Shwe Myo Pauk Phaw Magazine, and other invited guests.

The ceremony began with the screening of a documentary video on the “Global Governance Initiative”. Minister-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong stated that the initiative, proposed by China, is an important addition following the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Culture Initiative. Looking



The China-Myanmar Dialogue on the implementation of the “Global Governance Initiative: Consultation, Contribution and Shared Benefits” in progress yesterday.

ahead, China will continue to play the role of a responsible major power, supporting re-

forms and improvements to the global governance system by providing methods and re-

sources. He added that China will strengthen exchanges of governance experience with Myanmar, move forward together along the path of modernization, and promote the steady and long-term development of the China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

During the dialogue, attendees discussed, from different perspectives, the essence of the Global Governance Initiative, its significance for today’s world, and the pathways it offers to support Myanmar’s development, highlighting its positive impact on global progress. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Objectives of 26th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2025

- To explore, preserve, and enhance Myanmar’s national prestige, integrity, and distinctive cultural heritage.
- To promote and exemplify the spirit of national solidarity and unity through Myanmar art.
- To transmit traditional performing arts to the younger generation.
- To function as a national cultural and artistic institution contributing to the State’s socioeconomic development.

Myanmar team wins Asia Pacific Open at World Robot Olympiad



The Myanmar team celebrates victory at the World Robot Olympiad in the Philippines on 19-21 September.

THE Myanmar team, We Are Genius Myanmar, won first prize with their AI-powered search and rescue robot vehicle at the World Robot Olympiad Asia Pacific Open Championship, held in the Philippines from 19 to 21 September.

The competition achieved success through the demonstration of a robot vehicle de-

signed to carry out search and rescue operations with an autonomous navigation system, enabling it to enter areas affected by natural disasters where human access is difficult.

Moe Pyae Sone Kyaw, aged 11, Kyaw Bhone Khant Zaw, aged 11, and Nyan Koe, aged 12, members of We Are Genius Myanmar, competed

with the teams of Hong Kong, China, Japan, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Macao, and won the first prize.

The We Are Genius Myanmar, ILBC, and CIY Club representing Myanmar competed in the World Robot Olympiad Asia Pacific Open Championship. — Arkar Lin/KTZH



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 790 samples from 8 pm on 14 September 2025 to 8 pm on 21 September 2025, and no new cases were detected. no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

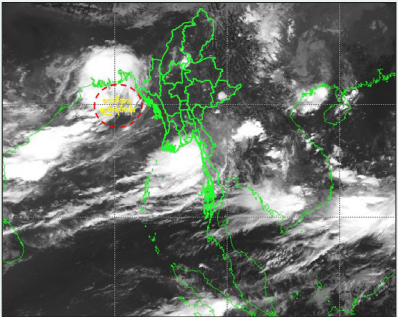
Advertise

with us / Hotline 09 255597511, 09 454237515

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 12 pm MST on 22 September 2025

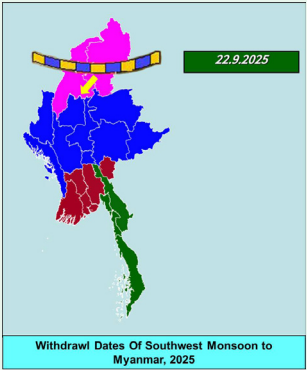
ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area has formed over the Northeast Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards during next 24 hours. — DMH



Condition of Southwest Monsoon Withdrawal

Issued at 22 September 2025

SOUTHWEST monsoon has been withdrawn from the Northern Myanmar areas. — DMH



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.

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand
Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority”.

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



City Mart to hire university students for holiday
full-time jobs

UNIVERSITY students can apply for a full-time job at CMHL Co, Ltd for two months during the holiday, according to CMHL Career.

This employment opportunity is especially suited for those interested in providing customer service in supermarkets and convenience stores who have limited time available, such as university students.

Vacant positions include sales and cashier, store, and service crew roles. Those looking for new work experience and able to work in a team are welcome to apply.

In response to a question about the recruitment, “Full-time means a work

contract for two months. We are providing the opportunity for university day students to work during the two months of school closure”, CMHL Career replied.

A walk-in interview will be held on 24 September at the CMHL in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, and applicants must bring their original national IDs.

“It’s a great opportunity for university students, so please join it. During the holiday, you can earn, gain experience, and skills in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving,” suggested a comment.

The CMHL also announced to recruit part-time workers for four hours a day, inviting students, pensioners, retirees and housewives. — MT/ZN



This image shows employees at the City Mart Holding.

ID and test voucher required for
TOPIK exam entry

CANDIDATES for the 102nd TOPIK in October won’t be allowed to sit the exam if they don’t have an ID and a test voucher, announced by the TOPIK centre in Myanmar.

TOPIK candidates must bring ID and test voucher; it is reminded.

The exam has been scheduled on 19 October at the University of Yangon (Hlaing Campus).

Passport, driving license or household list is eligible if they don’t have an ID, and student identity card and employee identity card are ineligible. They won’t be allowed to enter the exam room if the scheduled exam time passes.

It further stated that during the exam, handphones and digital watches have to be turned off and given to the exam administrator. If gadgets sound, it means it is a violation of the exam rule, and the



This image shows the TOPIK in progress in the previous year.

candidate must leave the exam room.

Only a pen and a correction pen are allowed, and a preliminary check with a test voucher is required to avoid complications in the exam room.

If the test voucher gets lost, a new one can be requested at the TOPIK centre before 18 October, it said. — MT/ZS

Wave Money warns of AI-fake
transfer receipts

CUSTOMERS should be aware of fake money transfer receipts using AI tools, said Wave Money.

Scams are using fake transaction screenshots, it warned.

“Scammers use fake transfer receipts with the help of AI tools and don’t believe in such transaction receipts and screenshots at all,” it said.

Customers should check their transaction history every time they receive a money transfer to know whether it is a real transfer or not, and it is the best method to avoid scams and protect their money, it said.

If there is any doubt of money fraud, customers can report to the respective banks or mobile money service centres, it said. If customers encoun-

ter any threat of a money scam, Wave Money urges them to call its call centre number 09 790009000 or dial 900 for Atom phone numbers. — MT/ZS



This image captures Wave Money warning against scams.

NATIONAL



The opening ceremony of the Buddhist Festival of Offerings at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda held on the full moon day of Thadingyut in the Myanmar Era 1385.

Kyaiktiyo Festival to run seven months from Thadingyut to Kason

THE Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Festival will be celebrated for seven months, starting from the full moon day of Thadingyut until the full moon day of Kason, according to U Soe Hla, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

He said, “The festival will begin on the full moon day of Thadingyut. Arrangements are being made to provide accommodation and meals for pilgrims throughout the festival period. To facilitate smooth transportation for visitors, more than 150 mountain vehicles will be operating from 1 October. During the last festival season, over 1,240,000 pilgrims from both home and

abroad came to worship at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.”

Clean food stalls and souvenir shops will be opened at the Kinmon camp, while similar stalls will be allowed to open on the platform area in line with rules and regulations issued by the Board of Trustees, ensuring that they are hygienic.

Although it is currently the rainy season, pilgrims from across the country continue to visit the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda daily. About 15 mountain vehicles run each day up the mountain, while hotels, guesthouses, free lodgings, and food stalls have been arranged for pilgrims’ convenience. — ASH/KNN

Singer-actor to hold solo concert ‘Special Night’

SINGER-ACTOR Ye Lay will hold his solo concert, Special Night with Ye Lay, at the Par Gyi-Thakayta Bar in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, at 7:00 pm on 26 September.

“Let’s sing together and bid farewell to the rainy season as it comes to an end. We invite you to share wonderful moments with us at Par Gyi-Thakayta Bar,” said singer-actor Ye Lay.

The Hi Bird Band will provide musical support for Ye Lay’s solo concert, Special Night with Ye Lay. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows Ye Lay’s solo concert poster titled ‘Special Night with Ye Lay’.

Romcom ‘Chit Sagalay Kalukalu’ to release in Oct

THE drama ‘Chit Sagalay Kalukalu’ will be released in HD quality in early October, according to actor Nyi Htut Khaung, who stars in the production.

The story and screenplay were written by Pwint Theingi Zaw, who also directed the drama. It is a single-episode production.

“This drama is a complete one episode only. It also includes some humour and conveys lessons on family life, so I believe the audience will enjoy

it. In the past, Mahar mostly showed old stories, whether they were films or series. Now, however, many new dramas are being produced. I’d like to tell audiences to look forward to watching them,” said Nyi Htut Khaung.

The film includes a cast of prominent artistes, such as Nyi Htut Khaung, Academy Melody, Wai Phyo, Yoon Wint Hlwar Aung and many other supporting actors and actresses. — ASH/MKKS

GCM to offer International Culinary Courses in Oct

THE Golden Chef Myanmar Training Centre (GCM) will open International Culinary Courses in October.

GCM’s courses feature programmes designed by world-class chefs and educators, providing hands-on training and industry experience to become professional chefs.

The courses will offer professional training in the culinary arts, teaching a range of skills from basic food preparation to kitchen hygiene and food safety, preparing international cuisines, management skills, A La Carte menu plan-

ning, selling price formula and mastering knife skills (how to hold a knife properly for meat and seafood).

These courses are tailored to those who want to explore a career in the hospitality industry, who want to open a restaurant, who have a passion for cooking and who want to work on cruise ships. GCM also helps the trainees connect with the shipping companies to work on cruise ships and cargo ships.

The International European Cuisine Course will be opened starting from 7 October

(2-5 pm) during weekdays for a month. The International Chinese Cuisine Course will start on 7 October from 9 am to noon on weekdays for a month. International Asian Cuisine Course (Thai, Malay, Singapore, Japan, Korea) will be opened on weekends from 9 am to 4 pm starting from 5 October.

Those interested can register through the Golden Chef Myanmar Training Centre’s contact numbers at 09 269000899 and 09 443336605, KPay at 09 796208776, address: 337, Banyadala Road, Kyaukmyaung, Yangon. — NN/KK



This photo captures the cast from the movie scene.

Only then can citizens of Myanmar decide on Myanmar affairs

❖ The affairs of Myanmar must be decided solely by the citizens of Myanmar.
(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the National Defence and Security Council Meeting 1/2025 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 January 2025)

Taninthayi marine exports set to rise

FROM PAGE 1
Myeik and Kawthoung districts and kelp is found in Bokpyin Township.
“The export of marine products from Taninthayi region earns foreign income, especially from saltwater and fish farming, and the capture from the sea also earns foreign income. The Vannamei is exported to China and Japan, and the marine products are exported to Thailand. Until March of 2024-2025, the marine export earned US\$303.628 million, and \$725 million nationwide, and almost half of the exports are from the Taninthayi region. We estimate that the foreign income from marine product exports will be higher in 2025-2026 than before,” said U Thet Soe, secretary of the federation.



A bustling scene at the fish market in Taninthayi Region.

In Taninthayi Region, up to March of the 2024-2025 financial year, the country earned \$1.318 million from 538.900 tonnes of fish export, \$30.562 million from 8,784.970 tonnes of prawn export, \$2.005 million from 638.127 tonnes of soft-shell crab export, \$0.151million from 77.850 tonnes of clams, \$0.092 million from 187.759 tonnes of kelp, totalling \$34.128 million from 10,227.606 tonnes of marine product export. The sea capture and saltwater farming export earned \$303.628 million from 285,314.714 tonnes of exports. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Domestic oil mills to host Thadingyut Market Fair

MYANMAR Edible Oil Millers Association stated that domestic oil mills will inaugurate the Thadingyut market fair on Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township and Yannshin Street, Yankin Township, Yangon, from 1 to 3 October 2025.
The Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force has been offering K50 billion loans allocated from the State Economic Promotion Fund to oil millers.
A workshop on setting up the MSME Fund, loan application status and disbursement process for rice mills and oil mills was held on 17 September at the meeting hall of Dekkhinathiri Industrial Zone Management Office. Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin for Finance and Revenue, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, MSME Fund Management

Task Force’s Secretary, Financial Regulatory Department’s director-general, MSME Loan Task Force chairman, the Managing Director of the Myanmar Economic Bank, MSMEs and officials were present at the workshop.
The deputy minister remarked that the State set up a K170 billion fund to enhance MSMEs, in which K20 billion is designated for the development of MSMEs and K150 billion for loan disbursement. Rules and regulations regarding MSME loans have been announced. MSMEs are entitled to seek loans through Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Agricultural Development Fund and 16 private banks.
The task force was formed to reduce edible oil imports, achieve self-sufficiency, expand, upgrade, and develop necessary

equipment and new mills. The State Economic Promotion Fund allocated K50 billion loans for oil mill development. Oil millers who meet loan standards are receiving loans for now, she added. Afterwards, Nay Pyi Taw Council members asked MSMEs to comprehend MSMEs’ loan procedures, comply with banking rules and inspections, and apply for loans in line with loan eligibility criteria. The MSME Fund Management Task Force’s Secretary presented the MSME fund establishment, loan procedure and loan disbursement process. The MSME Loan Task Force’s chairman also explained the screening process for MSME loan applications and loan disbursement activities. Authorities concerned also responded to questions raised by the MSME oil millers and rice millers. — NN/KK

47,448 private industries registered with DISI by end of August

A total of 47,448 private industries have been registered with the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection as of August 2025, the Ministry of Industry’s data indicated.
Yangon Region, a commercial hub of Myanmar, is home to the private industries with 8,252 registered businesses, followed by Mandalay Region with 6,935 and Ayeyawady Region with 5,910.
The registered private industries grew to 47,609 in the previous financial year 2023-2024 from 45,015 registered in the 2022-2023 FY. A total of 206 industries were officially listed in the past FY 2024-2025 (April-March), reaching a total of 47,815 private industries. In the past five months of the current FY, some were deregistered, and the number of private industries registered with the DISI dropped.
Almost 50 per cent of the registered private industries are engaged in the food group. The lists of registered private industries are classified into 24 business groups; food, tobacco, clothing, wood and finished wood slabs, printing, chemical, rubber and plastic, basic mineral, computer and electronic device, unclassified machine, beverage, fabric, leather, paper and paper products, charcoal fuel, pharmaceuticals, non-metallic minerals, metal refining equipment, electronics, vehicle and trailer, furniture and machines and equipment repair and installation.— KK

Yangon palm oil reference price remains unchanged

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market this week, ending 28 September, stayed the same at K6,610 per viss, like that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.
The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.
The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.
The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

OPINION

ARTICLE

Sustain good relations
between Myanmar and
the EU

THERE is a Myanmar proverb that says, “Don’t let a wet hand dry, and don’t let a dry hand get wet.” This proverb is highly relevant to diplomacy. In dealing with the international community, everyone must always strive to establish lasting and friendly relations with all, looking toward the future with mutual trust and goodwill.

One must always remember and be grateful for the kindness once shown by another. By nature, when there is a group larger than one individual, differences in thoughts and opinions are inevitable. When such differences arise, unexpected minor issues should be resolved easily based on friendship and goodwill, and this should be regarded with pride as a success of genuine friendship. This is an important principle that everyone involved in international relations must uphold. Efforts should always focus on strengthening

Thanks to GSP’s EBA of the European Union, Myanmar’s employees, especially in the garment and foodstuff processing industries, can improve their socioeconomic life. Enhancing friendship between the government of Myanmar and the EU helps Myanmar’s employees and industries improve their livelihoods. As such, it is necessary to maintain good relations between both Myanmar and the EU for the sake of the public interests.

friendships by never forgetting the valuable cooperation that friends have extended in the past.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar expressed his remarks in the Handbook “The Guidance on the EU Generalized Scheme of Preferences and its Rules of Origin: For Government Authorities and Private Sector Stakeholders in Myanmar”, issued in 2017. He said that few countries in the world are blessed with such potential: an abundance of resources below and above ground, a strategic location, a resourceful population and plenty of goodwill from the international community. Myanmar has the potential to become a major player in its region.

He continued that as partners in Myanmar’s transition, the EU is doing its share in many ways, also on trade policy: since 2013, Myanmar exporters can take full advantage of preferential market access to the EU deriving from the

EU Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP), the most generous unilateral trade preferential system the EU can offer to its partners.

Till today, Myanmar’s garment, apparel and foodstuff products benefit from the EU GSP’s Everything But Arms (EBA) arrangement, which grants duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market. Garment production in Myanmar is primarily through the CMP process; however, the EU closely monitors Myanmar’s adherence to fundamental human and labour rights, which are conditions for GSP benefits.

Thanks to GSP’s EBA of the European Union, Myanmar’s employees, especially in the garment and foodstuff processing industries, can improve their socioeconomic life. Enhancing friendship between the government of Myanmar and the EU helps Myanmar’s employees and industries improve their livelihoods. As such, it is necessary to maintain good relations between both Myanmar and the EU for the sake of the public interests.

Sounding Alarm for the Region - You will Thank Me Later

By U AC

THE scam centres along the Myanmar eastern borders were definitely one of the most newsworthy issues of 2025. But with the Myanmar government cleaning these up at rocket speed and EAOs caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, the supply of scams could become more decentralized over the next few years. Their operations have become more mobile and agile. The number of staff involved also became akin to terror cells, staffed with just a few people with lots of technologies and AI. The supply of scams might not drop, but it would definitely become more distributed, with scammers being stationed in various cities and towns within the poorer ASEAN countries.

Regardless of supply, the demand is on the side of the righteous. With more and more people becoming aware of scams of various kinds and major news networks doing investigative work along the Mae Sot-Myawady border, the chances of the general public getting conned are now significantly lower than they were a

couple of years ago. Word of mouth is also contributing towards the fight against scams. Furthermore, how many times could you possibly scam one person? Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me! Or, that person has already run out of lifelong savings to be scammed upon. Hence, the demand for scams is undoubtedly going south as we write this, and eventually, it will not occupy the top spot in crime charts even as the scammers devise new ways to dupe people using technology and AI.

So, the crimes of swindling will dwindle as we straddle a quarter of this century.

It’s great news for everyone, then, isn’t it?

Based on our forecast of the times ahead, there might be more serious issues brewing around the corner.

The reasoning is simple... Even though the scam centres are nearly gone, the governance and law and order misalignment in the border areas has not been addressed at all. These regions,

Wa, Koh Kant, some parts of Shan, Kayin, Kachin, Chin, Nagaland, are totally not under the control of the Myanmar government or military (Tatmadaw). The EAOs operating there are more interested in enriching themselves whichever way possible, rather than building infrastructure for the inhabitants of the land. The drug lords, crime lords, warlords, etc., are still thriving over there by currying favours with the barbarian leaders of EAOs. Hence, the ecosystem is so oriented towards these regions to become the epicentre of the next tsunami of global transgression.

Drugs are openly sold along the streets of Phakant in Kachin State. Average youths in the city of Mogok, near northern Shan, are addicted to one kind of drug or another. The border town of Tachileik, being the major town in the Golden Triangle, is also flooded with drugs of various kinds that the residents there could not even address the defences against the regularity of major floods that inundate the ground floors of almost all houses in the city (happened 3x

this year alone). In another checkpoint city of Myawaddy, clashes between Tatmadaw and EAOs or between EAOs have become so common that people are only interested in making quick money, i.e., via engaging in an abundance of vice. Further down south along the Three Pagoda pass, the sole trade across the border seems to be in synthetic drugs. We do not know which way the drugs are heading from there, but stats actually reveal some trends.

Even in cities such as Maw La Myine, the capital of Mon State, the only profitable businesses to do seem to be synthetic drugs, gambling and smuggling of various stuff, including human beings. We personally heard the direct account from the youth and businessmen over there, who would regularly go to ‘Hi’ rooms once a week at least, as long as they got money in their pockets.

Out of our motherland, the latest statistics in Malaysia show a 32.5 per cent increase in reported drug users and addicts from 2023 to 2024. Its DPM said, “Drug

abuse in Malaysia has reached a ‘critical level’ and threatens public safety, economic stability, and social structures”. Australia has reported A\$450 million more drug seizures in 2024 compared to the previous year. Thailand also reported a nearly 50 per cent increase in drug-related cases in 2024.

In Myanmar, too, the value of drug seizures has gone up significantly. Gone were the days when the carriers were caught with a hundred thousand dollars or so worth of drugs. Recent synthetic drug seizures were each in excess of \$1million for each capture.

In its 2024 Annual Report, the International Narcotics Control Board finds that,

Illicit synthetic drugs are spreading, and consumption is increasing

More coordinated action by Governments and others is needed to tackle the problem

Synthetic drugs could overtake some plant-based drugs in

the near future

The total and individual value of drug busts have gone up, even though the costs of production of synthetic drugs have gone down, which undoubtedly leads to the conclusion that the volume of drugs shipped or transported must have gone up exponentially.

Synthetic drugs are easily manufactured with little technical or scientific knowledge, and there is a reduced need for labour or land for cultivation, unlike for plant-based drugs such as Cocaine or Heroin. The manufacturing station can be located anywhere, and the same equipment can be used for different synthetic outputs. Traffickers can shift manufacturing, movement and marketing tactics to keep operating costs down and profit margins up, as well as to reduce risks of interdiction.

As synthetic drugs are more potent (some even inducing zombie-like conditions), traffickers can send smaller consignments, which are easier to conceal and some-

times use drones and other new trafficking techniques. Although global demand for plant-based drugs is still higher than the current supply of synthetic drugs, seizures of synthetic substances have already begun to outpace seizures of some plant-based drugs.

Along the border regions of Myanmar, as long as the EAOs turned a blind eye, every household compound or basement could be a synthetic drug lab, churning out thousands of tablets per day. And if they can turn a blind eye to the scams that cheat the poor and gullible without an ounce of conscience, why would they bother interfering when they are producing and exporting some drugs! After all, they have been one of the world’s top exporters of Heroin before.

I have personally spoken to one prominent business person from Kengtung in eastern Shan.

He said the largest factories that supply the world with synthetics were located around the centre of Shan State, under the control of the Wa and Shan State Armies.

The individual labs of ‘aspiring’ entrepreneurs are in empty land plots just on the outskirts of major towns and cities in these self-administered regions.

The difference between synthetics and scams is such that the latter is not additive. The demand for scams is diminishing while the demand for synthetics is growing exponentially, as the supply has exploded and prices have dropped. Combined with the addiction factor, we are looking at a worldwide disaster within a relatively short number of years.

Just like scam centres, lack of jurisdiction alignment would come into play, resulting in years of inaction, blame game and finger pointing, while the world youth succumbs to the synthetic enslavement and loss of productivity and economic output.

We need to start working together now; ASEAN, RCEP, Interpol, INCB, etc., to ensure that the problem is nib in the bud. We don’t want another déjà vu cataclysm like the scam centres, do we??

How Culture and Buddhism Shape Psychological Development in Burmese Children

By Khin Maung Myint

Introduction

WHILE Western psychology often emphasizes individualism and self-actualization, a different narrative unfolds in Myanmar. Here, psychological development is inextricably linked to the tenets of Theravada Buddhism. This article explores how Burmese culture, infused with Buddhist thought, shapes the emotional and cognitive growth of children

The Burmese approach to growing up demonstrates that psychology is not a one-size-fits-all science. By weaving Buddhist principles into their cultural fabric, they have created a model of psychological development that prioritizes responsibility, compassion, discipline, and resilience. This alternative perspective offers valuable insights for a world increasingly grappling with the mental health challenges of the younger generation.

from early childhood through adolescence, offering a unique perspective on the universal challenges of growing up.

Early Childhood (Ages 1-5): Building a Foundation of Karma

In the West, early childhood development is often framed around attachment theory and emotional regulation. In Myanmar, a child’s first lessons in psychology are rooted in the concept of karma. Parents and caregivers act as a child’s first teachers of this principle, where every thought, word, and action has a consequence. This isn’t taught as a harsh, punitive system but as a foundational truth about the universe. Psychologically, this instills a deep sense of personal responsibility. Rather than acting out of fear of punishment, children learn that good deeds, like sharing toys or being kind, accumulate merit

and contribute to a positive future. This framework can foster a strong, intrinsic moral compass that is not dependent on external validation.

Middle Childhood (Ages 6-10): The Social Self and the Shinbyu Ceremony

As children enter school age, their world expands from the family to the community. At this stage, the Buddhist principle of metta (loving-kindness) becomes central to their social development. Children are encouraged to extend compassion beyond themselves, fostering empathy and a sense of collective well-being. This can mitigate the intense social pressures and focus on self-worth that are common in Western youth. The most significant rite of passage in this period is the Shinbyu ceremony, a temporary ordination for boys.

This ceremony has profound psychological effects:

- * Detachment from the Ego: By temporarily renouncing their families and worldly possessions, boys are symbolically introduced to the Buddhist concept of anatta (non-self). This experience can help them psychologically detach from the ego, reducing self-centeredness.
- * Discipline and Humility: The boys learn to live a life of strict monastic discipline, wearing simple robes and relying on alms. This process instills humility, a key virtue in Buddhism, and provides a powerful lesson in self-control.

Adolescence (Ages 11-16): Navigating Identity with Impermanence.

Adolescence is a time of immense psychological turmoil, marked by the

search for identity and a heightened emotional state. In Myanmar, Buddhist philosophy offers a unique lens through which to navigate these challenges.

Rather than viewing stress and emotional pain as problems to be fixed, the concept of dukkha (suffering) helps adolescents understand that these feelings are a natural part of existence. Crucially, the belief in anicca (impermanence) teaches them that these difficult feelings are temporary and will pass.

The practice of Vipassana (insight) meditation, which is highly valued, provides a practical tool for emotional regulation. Adolescents learn to observe their thoughts and feelings without judgment, creating a psychological distance that prevents them from being overwhelmed.



ARTICLE

ENVIRON: WORLD

How Culture and Buddhism Shape...

FROM PAGE 9

This differs from a Western approach that might focus on expressing or talking through emotions. Here, the emphasis is on mindful observation.

While Western adolescents often seek a unique, individual identity, Burmese culture, influenced by Buddhism, emphasizes interconnectedness. Identity is not found in a separate self, but within a web of relationships and a collective moral ecosystem. This can provide a powerful buffer against feelings of isolation and a sense of purpose rooted in community and shared values.

The Dilemma of Sex Education in Myanmar: A Taboo Culture and Evolving Norms

The introduction of sex education in Myanmar faces a significant dilemma due to deeply ingrained cultural and religious taboos that view discussions of sexuality as inappropriate and shameful until adulthood. This cultural silence, combined with a lack of formal education, leaves young people vulnerable

and creates significant public health challenges.

Cultural Taboos and Traditional Beliefs.

In Burmese culture, which is predominantly Theravada Buddhist, a strong emphasis on purity and modesty has historically governed discussions of sex. For young women, especially, the expectation of premarital virginity is a powerful social norm. Discussing sex is often seen as a sign of promiscuity or an encouragement of premarital activity. This silence often leads to a “don’t ask, don’t tell” dynamic between parents and children, where even basic biological facts like menstruation are not openly discussed.

For many, formal education is seen as a way to “corrupt” or “immortalize” society, leading to strong resistance from conservative parents and religious leaders. This cultural barrier means that even when sex education is included in a school’s curriculum, teachers often feel too embarrassed or unprepared to teach it, or they simply skip

the content.

The Consequences of the Information Gap

This lack of comprehensive sex education has serious consequences. Studies have found that many young people in Myanmar have a limited understanding of sexual and reproductive health. This knowledge gap contributes to a high prevalence of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS. With limited access to accurate, factual information, many teenagers turn to unreliable sources like social media, which often provide misinformation. This leaves them ill-equipped to make safe and informed decisions about their bodies and relationships.

Sexual Orientation and Identification

The challenges are even more pronounced for individuals grappling with their sexual orientation and gender identity. In Myanmar, a colonial-era law, Section 377 of the Penal Code,

criminalizes same-sex sexual activity, creating a legal and social environment of discrimination. This legal framework, combined with deep-seated social stigma, makes it difficult for LGBTQ+ individuals to live openly and safely.

While some transgender people may find a degree of societal acceptance in traditional roles like nat kadaw (spirit mediums), a lack of legal protection means that LGBTQ+ individuals are often subjected to harassment, blackmail, and even violence. The absence of conversations around sexual orientation and gender identity in education further marginalizes these individuals, leaving them without the psychological and social support needed to navigate their identities. This can lead to severe mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, and self-harm.

A Path Forward

Despite these significant challenges, there is growing recognition of the need for change. Organizations and activists are

working to introduce culturally sensitive, comprehensive sexuality education that focuses on human rights, bodily autonomy, and respectful relationships, not just on the mechanics of reproduction. The rise of social media has also provided a new platform for younger generations to seek information and connect with others. While the path to reform is long, it is a crucial step towards ensuring that all young people in Myanmar, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation, have the knowledge and tools to live healthy and safe lives.

Conclusion

The Burmese approach to growing up demonstrates that psychology is not a one-size-fits-all science. By weaving Buddhist principles into their cultural fabric, they have created a model of psychological development that prioritizes responsibility, compassion, discipline, and resilience. This alternative perspective offers valuable insights for a world increasingly grappling with the mental health challenges of the younger generation.

Eight Swedish glaciers disappeared in 2024: expert

EIGHT of Sweden’s 277 glaciers melted completely during 2024 and are now extinct due to global warming, the head of the Tarfala Research Station in northern Sweden told AFP on Monday.

Another 30 glaciers are at risk, glaciology professor Nina Kirchner said.

The extinct glaciers “won’t come back in our lifetime and not if global warming continues”, she told AFP.

Kirchner and her colleagues at the Tarfala Research Station, near Sweden’s highest peak Kebnekaise in the far north, study satellite images of the country’s glaciers every year to track their development.

“At the beginning of 2025, when we sat down to do our 2024 update to see when the glaciers were at their smallest, we couldn’t find eight of the glaciers on the satellite images.”

“At first we thought we had done something wrong or missed something,” she said.

The group double-checked their data and concluded that “the eight are gone”.

Among the eight was Sweden’s northernmost glacier, Cunujokeln in the Vadretjakka national park.

The biggest of the eight was about the size of six football pitches.

“2024 was an extremely warm year. The heat has eaten away at these glaciers and made them disappear,” Kirchner said.

They are the first glaciers to disappear entirely in Sweden, at least since high-resolution satellite images were introduced around the year 2000, she explained. — AFP

Climate goals and fossil fuel plans don’t add up, experts say



This aerial photograph shows piles of mining equipment scattered around the stockyard of the closed “Raspotocje” coal mine, near the town of Zenica in central Bosnia, on 21 November 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

COUNTRIES are still planning to increase production of fossil fuels to levels incompatible with global commitments on climate change, according to new research published on Monday.

The report compiled by more than 50 international researchers compares fossil fuel expansion against the goals of the Paris climate accord, and found a chasm between prom-

ises and reality.

Countries are “now collectively planning even more fossil fuel production than two years ago”, concluded the latest “Production Gap” report.

“There continues to be a disconnect between climate ambitions and what countries are actually planning to do with fossil fuel production,” study co-author Derik Broekhoff, from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), told reporters.

Under the Paris accord, nations have agreed to hold global temperature rises to well below 2C compared to preindustrial times, and to strive for a safer limit of 1.5C.

The projected 2030 production of coal, oil and gas exceeds levels consistent with achieving the 1.5C target by more than 120 per cent, the report found.

It overshoots even the 2C target by 77 per cent, said the report by SEI, Climate Analytics and the International Institute for Sustainable Development that involved dozens of researchers.

The gap has widened since the last report in 2023, the same year nations pledged at the UN COP28 summit in Dubai to “transition away” from fossil fuels. — AFP

Japan city passes ordinance to cap smartphone use at 2 hours per day

THE assembly of a central Japan city on Monday passed an ordinance that recommends all residents limit their use of smartphones, video game consoles and other digital devices to two hours a day outside of work and school, though there will be no penalties.

The ordinance enacted in Toyoake in Aichi Prefecture comes amid concerns over the impact of excessive technology exposure and is believed to be the first of its kind in Japan. It is slated to come into effect on 1 October.

While recognizing the necessity of smartphones, tablets and other digital devices, the

ordinance warns that overuse of video streaming could have harmful effects, including sleep deprivation and reduced family interaction.

The ordinance called for elementary school children to refrain from using smartphones after 9 pm and junior high school students and older to do so after 10 pm, stating that “sufficient sleep is essential for physical and mental growth” for all children under 18. The ordinance urged guardians to set household rules for device use, with the city promising to establish a system in which it receives consultations from parents. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 22 September 2025 shows a city assembly meeting in Toyoake, Aichi Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO



Russia's Shaman (Yaroslav Dronov), Vietnam's Duc Phuc, winner of the Intervision 2025, Belarus' Nastya Kravchenko and Saudi Arabia's Zena Emad celebrate during the awarding ceremony following the Intervision International Song Contest at the Live Arena Concert Hall in Moscow, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIKA

Vietnamese singer Duc Phuc wins Intervision Song Contest 2025

VIETNAMESE singer Duc Phuc wins the Intervision International Music Contest, said Russian jury member Igor Matvienko.

“Duc Phuc, Vietnam, won,” Matvienko said, announcing the results.

Kyrgyzstan and Qatar took second and third place.

The jury did not rate Rus-

sia's Yaroslav Dronov (Shaman) at his request, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

Intervision finale ended with Million Voices performed by all participants. Each contestant performed lines of the song in their native language.

Million Voices was originally sung by Polina Gagarina, who

represented Russia at Eurovision 2015 and took second place.

Intervision is taking place at Moscow's Live Arena. Russia is represented by singer Shaman. Composer and producer Igor Matvienko represents Russia on the contest's judges panel. Sputnik is the song contest's information partner. — SPUTNIK

Milan Fashion Week to mourn Armani, welcome new stars

MILAN Fashion Week opens Tuesday, a feast of Italian style set to be dominated by the late Giorgio Armani's final collections and new faces at Gucci and Versace.

Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Max Mara, Fendi, Roberto Cavalli, Ferragamo and Bottega Veneta are among those showcasing their Spring/Summer 2026 women's collections throughout the week.

But the event will be overshadowed by the death this month of Armani, the legendary 91-year-old head of a multi-billion-euro empire who helped put Milan on the fashion map.

Sunday's Giorgio Armani show was already going to be a grand affair, the culmination of celebrations marking 50 years of the label beloved by the Hollywood A-list.

Staged at Milan's prestigious



(FILES) Italian designer Giorgio Armani and Roberta Armani stand on the runway at the end of the Emporio Armani collection show at Milan's Fashion Week Womenswear Spring / Summer 2025, on 19 September 2024 in Milan. PHOTO: AFP

Pinacoteca di Brera art museum, the show is now expected to act as a final tribute.

For four months from 24 September, the museum is also hosting an anniversary exhibition

of Armani's top 150 creations, a project long in the making on which the designer worked “until the last minute”, according to the group.

“We celebrate Milan Fashion

Week in memory of one of its founders: Giorgio Armani,” the head of Italy's chamber of fashion, Carlo Capasa, said earlier this month. He said Armani offered “creative, entrepreneurial, and human lessons” to the industry at a time of transformation, “in which vision, quality, and consistency represent essential values.”

Demna's Gucci attitude

Even as the Milan fashion world mourns its king, this week will also see several hotly anticipated debuts, notably Georgian designer Demna at Gucci.

After a decade at Balenciaga, Demna is now charged with reversing a slump in sales at the Italian brand owned by French giant Kering — arguably one of the toughest jobs in the luxury industry.

Demna's first full fashion

show will not be until February, but he will offer a glimpse of his vision in a film shown to a private audience on Tuesday evening.

A look book published online Monday introduced the characters of “La Famiglia” who will feature in the short film “The Tiger”, directed by acclaimed filmmakers Spike Jonze and Halina Reijn.

They include the red-coated woman dubbed “Incazzata” — a colloquial way to say very angry — “La Diva” in electric blue mock fur and “Cocco di mamma” (mother's boy) in an oversized Prince of Wales coat.

From low-key to red carpet, the looks are all infused with the idea of “sprezzatura”, the Italian term for a casual elegance. “It's a laid-back ease and studied nonchalance,” Demna said in an interview published Monday with fashion outlet WWD. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

Over 500 economic, trade deals inked at China-ASEAN Expo

THE 22nd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit concluded Sunday in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with more than 500 economic and trade agreements signed at the event.

Wei Zhaohui, secretary-general of CAEXPO Secretariat, told a press briefing Sunday afternoon that this year's expo saw the signing of 155 investment projects, with 74 focused on processing and manufacturing, accounting for 88 per cent of total investment.

The manufacturing projects cover sectors such as mechanical equipment, petrochemicals and chemical engineering, non-ferrous metals, new materials, light industry and textiles, and information technology, according to Wei.

The five-day event spanned an exhibition area of 160,000 square meters and attracted 3,260 enterprises from 60 countries. Enterprises from ASEAN countries totalled 627.

For the first time, the expo



People visit the Vietnam pavilion during the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 20 September 2025. The expo opened to the public on Saturday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

featured a pavilion dedicated to artificial intelligence (AI), showcasing about 1,200 products, including about 20 large language models and 60 intelligent robots. The 23rd CAEXPO is tentatively scheduled for 17 to 21 September 2026, with the Philippines as the country of honour. — Xinhua

Stocks mixed ahead of week's key US inflation data

STOCK markets fluctuated Monday as investors looked ahead to key US inflation data later in the week for clues on next interest-rate move by the Federal Reserve.

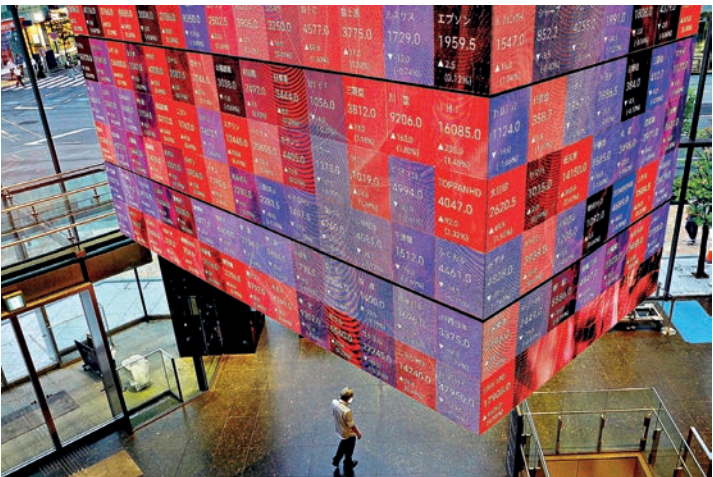
Frankfurt and Paris indices dropped in early afternoon deals, while London traded flat.

In Asia, Shanghai and Tokyo closed higher and Hong Kong dropped.

Elsewhere, the dollar fell against major rivals and the price of gold hit a fresh high.

"The big market moving announcement is likely to be the US PCE inflation report" Friday, noted AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

The personal consumption expenditures price index is the Fed's preferred measure of inflation.



An electronic quotation board displays the Nikkei 225 stock prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 11 September 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

On the heels of recent economic reports showing weaker US jobs growth, the Fed last week lowered borrowing costs by 25 basis points, its first reduction this year. Global equities have enjoyed a healthy run-up in recent months on optimism that the US central bank will lower borrowing costs several times before the end of 2025 as worries over a softening labour market trump stubbornly high inflation. — AFP

Pfizer to acquire obesity-drug maker Metsera for \$4.9 bln

US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer will acquire Metsera, a maker of drugs for obesity and heart disease, for \$4.9 billion, the companies said Monday.

With the purchase Pfizer aims to expand its portfolio by entering the huge and growing market for medicines to treat obesity.

"Obesity is a large and growing space with over 200 health conditions associated with it," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said in the statement.

"The proposed acquisition of Metsera aligns with our focus on directing our investments to the most impactful opportunities and propels Pfizer into this key therapeutic area," he said.

Pfizer will acquire all outstanding shares of Metsera common stock for \$47.50 per share, in a deal expected to close in the final quarter of this year.

Pharmaceutical companies are eager to get into the obesity and diabetes medicine business following the success of Danish firm Novo Nordisk's Ozempic and Wegovy drugs, and US giant Eli Lilly's Zepbound.

Pfizer was one of the first companies to develop a Covid vaccine in a hugely profitable breakthrough, but its stock has fallen since the pandemic ended, from \$58 a share in December 2021 to \$24 a share at Friday's close in New York.

In electronic trading before the opening of Wall Street on Monday, Pfizer was up 1.6 per cent while Metsera soared by 60 per cent. — AFP

Indonesia extends VAT exemption on property purchases to 2026

THE Indonesian government has extended its value-added tax (VAT) exemption for property purchases until 2026, the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs announced on Monday.

The incentive covers purchases of new homes priced up to two billion rupiah (around US\$121,000). For homes valued between two billion and five billion rupiah (\$121,000-302,000), the exemption applies only to the first two billion rupiah, while the remaining amount is subject to VAT.

"This government-borne VAT will remain in effect until 2026," Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto said.

The measure forms part of the government's 2025-2026 economic stimulus package aimed at bolstering the construction and real estate sectors. — Xinhua

UK approves plans for new runway at Gatwick Airport

BRITAIN’S transport department Sunday approved a £2.2-billion (\$2.96-billion) plan for a new runway at London’s Gatwick Airport, months after Heathrow unveiled plans for a third runway, according to a government document.

Such expansions are rare in Europe, where countries are split between efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the needs of the aviation industry, a strategic sector that has seen demand grow.

Gatwick Airport, located south of London, is the UK’s second-busiest international airport after Heathrow, and Europe’s

busiest single-runway air hub, with more than 43 million passengers using it last year.

The privately funded plan will involve the airport moving its emergency runway 12 metres (yards) north to allow it to be fully functional, according to a Department of Transport document.

This will allow it to be used by around 100,000 more flights a year. Last year, the airport handled around 261,000 flights.

UK media reported the department thought the plan was a “no-brainer for growth” and that capacity constraints were “holding back business,



An Easyjet passenger jet taxis after landing at Gatwick Airport, south of London on 27 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP

trade and tourism”, citing government sources.

Flights could take off from the new runway by 2029, media reported.

“After a lengthy and rigorous planning process, we welcome the government’s approval of plans to bring our Northern Run-

way into routine use, ahead of the expected deadline,” said Stewart Wingate, UK managing director of VINCI Airports, which owns

Gatwick. He said the plan would create thousands of jobs and “unlock significant growth, tourism and trade benefits for London Gatwick and the UK”.

Heathrow’s £21-billion third runway plan was backed by Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s Labour government in January after years of legal wrangling, with the administration keen to get large infrastructure projects off the ground in hopes of reviving Britain’s stuttering economy. Both airport expansion plans have drawn criticism from environmental groups and residents worried about noise. — AFP

More than 1.3 mln Osaka expo tickets remain unused before Oct end

MORE than 1.3 million admission tickets for the World Exposition in Osaka remain unused, less than a month to go before the event ends on 13 October, according to the organizer’s data released Monday.

Visiting time slots are almost fully booked until the final day, meaning some people may not be able to use their tickets to enter the venue. And the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition said

that it will not refund them in such cases. The association said it had sold 21.86 million tickets by Friday, while the total number of general visitors by Saturday stood at 20.53 million.

As the end nears, the expo site is becoming increasingly crowded. The number of visitors per day hit a record high of 221,576 on Friday, and over 200,000 people visited daily between 12 September and Sunday. — Kyodo

French media giant Canal+ takes over S Africa’s Multichoice

FRENCH media giant Canal+ said Monday it had taken effective control of South African television and streaming company MultiChoice, creating a group present in nearly 70 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia.

The companies said in a joint statement that the combined group will

have a workforce of 17,000 employees and serve more than 40 million subscribers.

The acquisition is “the largest transaction ever undertaken” by Canal+, the statement said.

Canal+, which is already the sector’s leader in French-speaking African countries, now con-

trols what it described as the leader in the continent’s English and Portuguese-speaking regions.

“This acquisition allows us to strengthen our position as a leader in Africa, one of the most dynamic pay-TV markets in the world,” Canal+ chief executive Maxime Saada said in the statement.

The buyout was given a final greenlight by South Africa’s competition authority in late July, more than a year after Canal+ launched its bid. Canal+ offered 125 rand (\$7.2) per share for MultiChoice when it launched its offer last year, valuing the South African firm at around \$3.0 billion. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (091W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (091W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Advertise with us/

Hotline: 09255597511

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following pesticide distributed by **Lucky Leaves Agriculture Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **Lucky Leaves Agriculture Co.,Ltd** Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Max Two Four	Lucky Two Four	2,4-D dimethyl amine salt 72% SL	P2025-6673

NOTICE FOR CHANGING OF PRODUCT TRADE NAME

The following herbicide distributed by **Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co., Ltd** has been registered under Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar. **Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd** is now would like to change its product trade name as mentioned below. Any objection regarding to this trade name changes can notify to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and Number
1.	Paung Thet Super 39% WP	Paung Way Plus	Bispyribac-sodium 16% + Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 15% + Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 8% WP	Provisional P2023-5236

Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd. No-402, U Phoe Hlaing Street, Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone, Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph - 09 970545006

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Campaigning begins in leadership race of Japan's ruling LDP with 5 running

CAMPAIGNING for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's presidential election to choose a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba kicked off Monday, with five lawmakers vying to become Japan's next leader amid political turmoil.

With the LDP-led coalition losing its majorities in both chambers of parliament, the contenders vowed to revive the party, curb inflation and advance foreigner-related policies, from overtourism to stricter immigration rules highlighted in recent elections.

The outcome of the LDP leadership race may hinge on the candidate able to secure votes that previously went to Ishiba, while another central question is how they position themselves regarding possible alliances with opposition parties.

Former internal affairs minister Sanae Takaichi, who aims to become Japan's first female prime minister, and farm minister Shinjiro Koizumi, son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, appear locked in a two-horse race, according to media polls.



(From L) Former economic security minister Takayuki Kobayashi, former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, former internal affairs minister Sanae Takaichi and farm minister Shinjiro Koizumi pose for photos at the Liberal Democratic Party's headquarters in Tokyo on 22 September 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Former economic security minister Takayuki Kobayashi, former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Chief

Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi have also declared their candidacies for the 4 October election. Hayashi is trailing

Koizumi and Takaichi, lawmakers said.

The next chief of the LDP is not assured of becoming prime minister as the ruling coalition with its junior partner, the Komeito party, lost control of the House of Representatives following the general election in October 2024.

Earlier this month, Ishiba announced his intention to step down to take responsibility for the ruling bloc's loss of a majority in the 20 July House of Councillors election, bringing forward the next LDP leadership contest originally scheduled for 2027.

At a party-hosted speech session later Monday, Takaichi, 64, who shares the hawkish security views of slain former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, pledged to build a "strong economy, resilient land and safe society for future generations".

Given that issues involving foreign residents and travellers, such as overstayers and overtourism, have been attracting public attention, Takaichi emphasized she would take resolute measures to "defend Japan's old traditions." — Kyodo

Top economists warn about 'collapse' of public interest media

A group of leading economists including Nobel winners Joseph Stiglitz and Daron Acemoglu warned Monday about the "collapse" of the public interest media sector and called on governments to help quality journalism survive.

The group of 11 economists in leading American and European universities published a joint statement via the "Forum on Information and Democracy", a body formed by the Reporters Without Borders media freedom group and the French state.

After detailing the problems stem-

ming from job losses, falling revenues and the AI threat to journalism, the economists urged governments to play a larger role in "investing in and shaping the media ecosystem".

"Governments around the world are chasing the AI dream, pinning their hopes on these technologies to drive economic prosperity," they wrote. "Yet they are not investing sufficiently in a foundational resource that underpins our 21st century economies — independent, verifiable information." — AFP

Iran, E3 to hold talks in New York next week

IRAN and the three European countries of France, Britain and Germany, collectively known as the E3, will hold talks on Tehran's nuclear issue in New York early next week, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

The negotiations will be held on Monday or Tuesday at the level of the foreign ministers and will be attended by European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, Tasnim quoted an informed

source as saying.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday left Tehran for New York as the head of a diplomatic delegation to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He is also scheduled to hold consultations with his counterparts from different countries on bilateral, regional and international issues on the sidelines of the UNGA session, according to a statement from the foreign ministry. — Xinhua

Super typhoon Ragasa batters northern Philippines



A man walks along a road amid heavy rain due to weather patterns from Super Typhoon Ragasa in Lal-lo town, Cagayan province on 22 September 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUPER Typhoon Ragasa slammed into the northern Philippines on Monday, unleashing torrential rains and strong winds that triggered flooding, toppled trees, and tore roofs off homes.

The intense weather prompted the evacuation of more than 10,000 residents as authorities scrambled to ensure public safety. Roads in many areas became impassable due to rising floodwaters, further complicating relief efforts.

Ragasa, combined with an enhanced southwest monsoon, led to the suspension of work in government offices and classes at all levels in Metro Manila and 29 provinces on Monday.

The Philippines' state weather bureau, PAGASA, said in its latest advisory that Ragasa was moving westward at 25 kilometre per hour, packing winds of 215 kilometre per hour and gusts up to 295 kilometre per hour.

Ragasa is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility by Tuesday morning, said PAGASA.

On average, around 20 typhoons strike the Philippines annually. The archipelago is particularly vulnerable to tropical cyclones, which often bring heavy rains, flooding, and strong winds, resulting in casualties and destruction of crops and properties. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Barca moves second after easy win but Atletico drops more points in La Liga

FC Barcelona climbed to second place in La Liga on Sunday with a 3-0 home win over Getafe.

Playing at the 6,000-capacity Johan Cruyff Stadium for the second time in a week, Hansi Flick's side dominated throughout. Ferran Torres struck twice, set up by Marcus Rashford and Dani Olmo, before Olmo added the third in the 62nd minute from another Rashford assist. Getafe, with only 28 per cent possession, rarely threatened.

Atletico Madrid fell further behind in the title race after a 1-1 draw away to Mallorca, leaving them nine points off leaders Real Madrid and seven behind Barca. Mallorca goalkeeper Leo Roman saved a Julian Alvarez penalty and made several key stops before Conor Gallagher finally broke through in the 79th minute. Atletico, reduced to 10 men after Alexander Sorloth's red card, were denied victory when Vedat Muriqi equalized six minutes from time.

Elsewhere, Rayo Vallecano and Celta Vigo drew 1-1, with Borja Iglesias giving Celta the lead before Jorge de Frutos levelled. Elche continued their strong start after promotion, beating Real Oviedo 1-0 through

an Andre Silva strike that lifted them to fifth place.

On Saturday, Real Madrid made it five wins from five with a 2-0 victory at home to Espanyol. Eder Militao opened with a long-range strike, and Kylian Mbappe doubled the lead early in the second half.

Osasuna led at Villarreal through Ante Budimir's penalty despite going down to 10 men when Valentin Rosier was sent off in the 39th minute. Georges Mikautadze equalized before Villarreal claimed victory via a late deflection off Pape Gueye.

Athletic Bilbao's Dani Vivian was sent off in the 60th minute of their defeat at Valencia, where Baptiste Santamaria and Hugo Duro scored for the hosts. Sevilla won 2-1 away to Alaves with goals from Ruben Vargas and Alexis Sanchez, while Levante cruised to a 4-0 win at Girona after the home side had Axel Witsel and Victor Reis dismissed. Etta Eyong, Carlos Alvarez, Ivan Romero and Koyalipou were all on target.

On Friday, Betis defeated Real Sociedad 3-1 thanks to goals from Cucho Hernandez, Pablo Fornals and an Alex Remiro own goal. — Xinhua

Myanmar thrash Maldives 7-3 in AFC Futsal qualifiers



Players of Myanmar and the Maldives seen in action. PHOTO: MFF

THE second day of the 2026 AFC Futsal Asian Cup Qualifiers (Group H) continued at the MFF Futsal Court in Thuwunna Sports Complex in Yangon yesterday, and Myanmar defeated the Maldives by seven goals to three.

In its debut, Myanmar's chances of qualifying have improved as it secured a decisive victory over the Maldives. The Maldives, having lost decisively to Afghanistan in the opening match and now to Myanmar, have already been eliminated from the qualifiers.

The Myanmar team scored five goals in the first half and two more goals in the second half. Despite netting twice in the first half and once in the second half, the Maldives conceded a series

of goals scored by Myanmar players.

Winning goals for the team Myanmar came from Nyein Min Soe, Min Khant Thu, Naing Lin Tun Kyaw and Aung Zin Oo in the first half and from Myo Myint Soe and Aung Zin Oo in the second half.

In Group H, Afghanistan and Myanmar secured three points each in one match, but the Maldives did not have any points in two matches. The qualifiers are being held in eight groups. The top teams from each group and the seven best second-placed teams, totalling 15, will qualify.

Myanmar will play against Afghanistan in the last group match on 24 September. — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA



Maha United and Rakhine United players vie for the ball. PHOTO: MNL

Maha United beat Rakhine United

THE 2025-2026 Myanmar National League (MNL) Match-week IV concluded on 22 September at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, with Maha United defeating Rakhine United 3-2. Neither team had yet to secure a victory this season, and Maha United claimed its first win with an exchange of goals. Rakhine United, now under the guidance of new head coach U Min Tun Lin, has suffered four consecutive

defeats at the start of the season.

Maha United fielded a full-strength squad including Kyaw Swa Min, Kaung Myat Thu, Patrick and Htoo Wai Yan. Rakhine United also played most of their strongest line-ups, including two foreign players. Maha United player Patrick scored the first goal in seven minutes and 21 minutes and added a third just before halftime. The second goal came from Htoo Wai Yan in 21 minutes. Rakhine United's Moustapha scored the first equalizer in 25 minutes of the first half, and Khin Kyaw Win struck another equalizer in 81 minutes of the second half.

In the match played on 21 September, Thitsar Arman defeated Yangon United 2-1. Due to the result of this match, Yangon United was pushed down from the top place in the table.

After Week IV, Hanthawady United and Dagon Star United lead on 10 points each, followed by Yangon United on nine points. Shan United and Yadanabon EC have seven points each, Ayeyawady United got six points, Maha United, ISPE FC and Thitsa Arman have four points each, Dagon Port got three points, Yamanya United got one point, and Rakhine United remain winless. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



WORLD

A COMPLETE rejection of the legacy of the New START (New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) would be a mistake, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

"The New START Treaty expires on 5 February 2026, which means the imminent disappearance of the last international agreement on direct limitations on nuclear missile capabilities. A complete rejection of the legacy of this agreement would be, from many perspectives, a mistaken and short-sighted step," Putin said during a meeting with the permanent members of the Russian Security Council.

A complete abandonment of the treaty would also negatively impact the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the president added.

Russia's START Treaty initiative could contribute to creating an atmosphere for substantive dialogue with the United States in the field of strategic stability, Putin said.

Russia's ideas in the field of strategic security have not received a clear response, Putin added.

Russia will decide on the subsequent maintenance of annual voluntary self-restrictions on the START Treaty based on an analysis of the situation, Putin added.

Russia believes that steps to comply with the restrictions under the New START (New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) will be effective if the United States reciprocates, Vladimir Putin said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a meeting with members of Russia's top leadership, as well as representatives of the government and presidential administration, in preparation for the upcoming Russia-US summit in Alaska, at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**



Russia ready to maintain START Treaty restrictions for one more year - Putin

Additionally, Putin instructed relevant public bodies to monitor US activities related to the strategic offensive arms arsenal, as well as to pay special attention to monitoring plans to build up strategic components in the US missile defence system.

The practical implementation of the

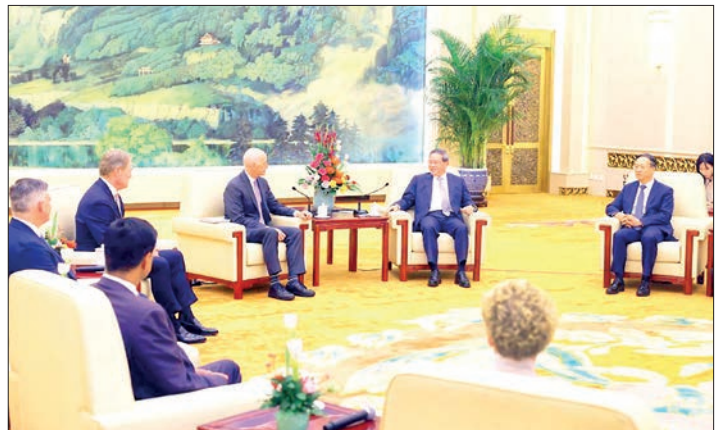
deployment of US missile defence system components in space could undermine Russia's efforts to maintain the status quo, Vladimir Putin said.

Russia is ready to continue to adhere to restrictions in accordance with the New START (New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) for one year after the

agreement expires on 5 February 2026, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"Russia is prepared to continue to adhere to the central quantitative restrictions under the New START Treaty for one year after 5 February 2026," Putin told the permanent members of the Russian Security Council. — SPUTNIK

Chinese premier calls on US Congress to facilitate bilateral exchanges, cooperation



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with a US congressional delegation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 21 September 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang met with a US congressional delegation in Beijing on Sunday, calling on the US Congress to view China and bilateral relations in a correct way,

actively facilitate exchanges and cooperation, and play a constructive role in fostering China-US friendship and common development.

When meeting with the

delegation from the US House of Representatives, Li noted that as China and the United States are major countries with significant global influence, maintaining stable, sound, and sustainable development of bilateral relations serves the common interests of both sides and meets the expectations of the international community.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump have held several phone talks this year and reached consensus that China and the US should enhance dialogue and cooperation, providing strategic guidance for the development of bilateral ties in the next stage, Li said.

— Xinhua

France, others to recognize Palestinian state as UN week gets underway

FRANCE and other countries prepared to recognize a Palestinian state as the UN's centrepiece diplomatic week gets underway Monday, following a rash of Western governments in symbolically endorsing statehood and sparking Israel's wrath.

Recognition by Britain, Canada, Australia and Portugal on Sunday of a Palestinian state piled pressure on Israel as it intensifies its war in Gaza, which has killed tens of thousands, devastated the enclave and drawn vocal rebukes from its allies.

President Emmanuel Macron has indicated France will follow suit Monday as he prepares to host a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Salman on the moribund two-

state solution — Palestinian and Israeli coexistence.

"They want a nation, they want a state, and we should not push them towards Hamas," Macron told CBS News's "Face the Nation" Sunday, adding that the move would help isolate the armed group.

He also said he would make the release of hostages taken by Hamas during its 7 October 2023, attack on Israel a precondition of opening an embassy to the Palestinian state.

Israel's foreign ministry said the recognition moves do not "promote peace, but on the contrary further destabilizes the region and undermines the chances of achieving a peaceful solution in the future." — AFP