

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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.

Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to pay an official working visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in Moscow, the Russian Federation, at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin, will pay an official working visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan soon at the invitation of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. During the visit, the Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will hold meetings with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and officials, and tour factories, industries and landmarks. Moreover, he will discuss friendly relations between the two countries and the promotion of cooperation. — MNA/TTA

Science, technology development must be national milestone

Trainees were encouraged to continually pursue knowledge in science and technology, as the nation’s future will depend on the efforts of well-trained and knowledgeable human resources.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to strive to apply AI technology in education, healthcare and transport sectors in Myanmar.

SEE PAGE 3



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the Science Workshop on Youth and Future Myanmar Science & Technology in Moscow, the Russian Federation, yesterday.

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.



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နေပြည်တော်

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 117/2025

4th Waxing of Thadingyut 1387 ME
25 September 2025

Radio and TV Air Electoral Campaigns for Political Parties

- The Union Election Commission conducted the establishment of political parties and registration processes, and has already announced that the multiparty democratic general election for different Hluttaws will be organized on 28 December 2025, with Announcement 55/2025 on 18 August 2025.
- The UEC arranges to allow the political parties to broadcast their policies, stances and procedures as an electoral campaign through the state-owned radio and television between 28 October 2025 and 26 December 2025.
- If the political parties want to broadcast on the state-owned radio and television, the relevant parties’ chairperson or secretary is required to ask for a permit by submitting the manuscripts and the name, rank and phone number of a person who will deliver the speech to the UEC not later than 15 October 2025. The manuscript shall be in Pyidaungsu Font size 13 and not more than seven pages (A4). If they wish to broadcast their parties’ songs (music video), they are required to send two CDs and also the lyrics. Those who do not wish to conduct election campaigns shall submit a letter stating their decision.
- The UEC, in negotiating with the relevant departments and organizations, will set and assign the dates and time schedules for each political party to deliver their speeches, so that the parties that have applied to speak on state-owned radio and television can present their messages accordingly in turn.
- The Union Election Commission will review the speech manuscripts to be presented and
 - will issue permission or allow to revise before granting permission
 - designated date and time in accordance with the schedule that UEC has set, along with the approved time slot and the name of the person permitted to deliver the speech, will be expressed in the approval order
 - Before the scheduled date, applicants will be notified of the reasons for revising the manuscripts.
- A political party shall be allowed
 - 15 minutes to deliver a speech
 - to broadcast the songs of the party within the permitted 15-minute timeframe
 - The election campaign will be allowed either in Myanmar or in ethnic languages, and the scripts shall be submitted in the Myanmar language if they wish to use ethnic languages.
- Political parties shall not break any of the following: -
 - delivering speeches that affect the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of the national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty
 - making speeches that could undermine security, the rule of law, or peace and stability
 - making speeches that fail to respect the Constitution and existing laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 - speeches that defame the State and affect the dignity of the country
 - speeches that attempt to break Tatmadaw or defame Tatmadaw’s dignity
 - making speeches or inciting gatherings that could cause conflict related to ethnicity or religion, an individual or group, or damage reputation and moral conduct
 - a campaign misusing religion for a political purpose
 - speeches that incite violence and disrupt peaceful learning
 - speeches that incite government employees to fail in performing their duties properly or to protest against the government
- The political parties must conduct their election campaigns and deliver speeches in line with their policies, focusing on how to promote and implement their policies to help build a modern, prosperous, and peaceful Union of Myanmar in accordance with the law.
- Therefore, in order to ensure a free and fair general election in holding multiparty democratic general election phase by phase on 28 December 2025, the political parties must broadcast their policies, stances and procedures through the state-owned radio and television as per this announcement.

Sd./ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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)

Science, technology development must be national milestone

FROM PAGE 1

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the Science Workshop with the title: Youth and Future Myanmar “Science and Technology” at the Conference Hall of the Radisson Collection Hotel in Moscow, the Russian Federation, yesterday morning.

The workshop was also attended by Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, Commission Member and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Ministers U Nyan Tun, U Ko Ko Lwin, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and Dr Thet Khaing Win, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Thit Linn Ohn, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Soe Oo, deputy ministers, and trainees learning at civilian universities in the Russian Federation.

The Senior General and the party interestingly observed the booths in relevant sectors decorated with posters depicting science and technological assessments, opportunities to utilize the advancement of technologies in all sectors aligned with the situations and challenges, and asked the officials about some points.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that Myanmar requires a large number of experts and scholars in the science and technology, energy, industrial, agriculture, livestock and production technological arenas.

He noted that although the proportion of the working-age population in the country is high, there remains a demand for human resources in the industrial, agricultural, and production sectors.

Hence, he stressed that conferences and workshops must be held continuously to nurture the youth to have critical thinking, analysis, problem-solving, and collaborative efforts, enhancement of innovative and critical thinking skills, rationality, and patriotic spirit.

The Senior General explained that the government allocates the increased amount of budget for the education sector. As such, all citizens have to identify the youth as the State’s future leaders with the aim of turning them out as scholars and experts and well-versed human resources with physical and mental capabilities in order to enhance their capacity and actually develop human resources.

Nowadays, he added that the majority of countries are striving to develop themselves by applying information in all sectors. Hence, it is necessary to carry out the measures benefiting the State and operate information science technology and information science research processes.

The Senior General stressed the need to strive to apply AI technology in education, healthcare and transport sectors in Myanmar. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, efforts must be made to apply AI technology in the agriculture sector on a wider scale.

He underscored that emphasis must be placed on efficiently applying AI technology, initiating a firm AI technological ecosystem and producing qualified human resources. Applying AI technology development measures must contribute to the development of the country and the improvement of the socioeconomy effectively.

With regard to the nuclear energy sector, the Senior General underlined that Myanmar has to develop nuclear technology and peacefully utilize nuclear energy. So, the country will require skilful human resources to establish the nuclear infrastructure in order to efficiently utilize the

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Science Workshop

- 1. There remains a demand for human resources in the industrial, agricultural, and production sectors in Myanmar.
- 2. Emphasis must be placed on efficiently applying AI technology, initiating a firm AI technological ecosystem and producing qualified human resources.
- 3. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, efforts must be made to apply AI technology in the agriculture sector on a wider scale.
- 4. Myanmar has to develop nuclear technology to be peacefully utilized for nuclear energy.

nuclear and radiological technology in the energy sector, in addition to health, agriculture, livestock, industrial and natural environmental conservation sectors.

He emphasized it is important that such a project is not merely routine tasks, but rather efforts carried out with the aim of creating a significant step and a milestone for the nation, making it important to set clear goals and put them into action.

He urged all to steadfastly pursue the advancement of science and technology while applying experiences in the research field, benefiting the State. Moreover, they have to shoulder the assigned duties for the State’s interests so as to effectively utilize the modern technologies they learned. Trainee representatives learning at the civilian universities in the Russian Federation discussed their observations and studies on science and technology under the relevant titles.

The Senior General, Union ministers and officials asked about some topics and gave necessary advice and suggestions in the question and answer session.

In his concluding remarks, the Senior General said that the research process needs a large amount of investment and requires many human resources capable of learning at universities.

He highlighted that youth have to conduct research as well as serve the

interests of relevant regions and the State by applying experiences accumulated in their studies.

As weaknesses still exist in Myanmar’s education sector, reforms must be carried out and efforts made to promote the education sector.

He recounted that he discussed with the Union Minister for Education and the Union Minister for Science and Technology, and allowed the establishment of Polytechnic Universities and institutes, as well as industrial, agriculture and livestock basic education high schools for youths to learn subjects as they wish.

He urged the trainee individuals to constantly strive to learn science and technology, as the future of the State will be shaped with the endeavours of the well-versed human resources.

Later, the Senior General and party cordially greeted the trainees.

The workshop aimed to find solutions to future science and technology challenges and needs that may arise in Myanmar, encourage young people to actively participate in scientific and technological development activities with enthusiasm, nurture modern, innovative, and creative youth with strong analytical skills, promote the development of the science and technology sector, and enhance and support the potential of young people. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Winners in 2024-25 matric exam, outstanding students, and staff honoured

A ceremony to honour the offspring of service personnel from the Ministry of National Planning who passed the matriculation examination in the 2024-25 academic year, outstanding award-winning students and outstanding staff in training courses took place in conjunction with the stipend-providing ceremony for 2025-26 AY at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw said that as today's youth will shoulder the State duties in the future, it is important for them to acquire a broader scope of knowledge and

achieve mental and intellectual development.

He continued that he honoured the staff who secured outstanding awards in the trainees conducted by the State. A developed country must be built on the strength of outstanding youth. Hence, youth need to strive for the development of the digital economic building of the State through their experiences and knowledge based on research.

He urged all to analyze fake news and misinformation through their wisdom, knowledge and experiences, not to fade out Myanmar's traditional culture and customs, as social networks



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw presents the outstanding award at yesterday's event.

and media are booming day by day. Moreover, the Prime Minister stressed that youth have to avoid narcotic drugs while taking physical exercises to ensure better health and fitness.

The Prime Minister and his wife presented individual medals, certificates and cash awards to

three five-distinction winners and four four-distinction winners in addition to six three-distinction winners.

The deputy minister and officials handed individual medals, certificates and cash awards to outstanding award-winning students, the triple outstanding

award-winning student and outstanding staff, respectively.

The Prime Minister treated the outstanding students, parents and staff with a tea party.

Also present at the ceremony were directors-general, deputy directors-general and guests. — MNA/TTA

MIFER Union Minister receives CHECL and Yunnan BHI Group

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung separately received a delegation led by Mr Xu Huajiang, Vice-President of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd, and another delegation led by Mr Duan Zhikui, Chairman of Yunnan Baoshan Hengyi Industrial Group Co Ltd, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon at Office 1 of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

They held an open and frank discussion on the potential for China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd to cooperate with the Chinese government in the reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025.

Subsequently, the Union



Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung holds talks with Chinese business delegation yesterday.

minister met he delegation from Yunnan Baoshan Hengyi Industrial Group Co Ltd. At the meeting, Chairman Mr Duan Zhikui openly discussed matters related to potential investments in Myanmar in the sectors of energy, international production and logistics, culture, tourism and healthcare, agriculture and fisheries, and supply chain and

e-commerce.

The meetings were attended by the director-general of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, other senior officials from the ministry, and responsible officials from the respective companies. — MIFER



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NATIONAL

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)



Child soldier prevention committee holds 2nd coord meeting

THE Committee on the Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers convened its 2/2025 meeting yesterday, presided over by Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union minister, who is also chairman of the committee, highlighted the formation of the committee with three objectives: signing of the Plan of Action between the government and Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on 27 June 2012, and the ending of collaboration between the committee and CTFMR on 27 December 2014.

He added that the Tatmadaw conducts recruitment in accordance with the approved stipulations of the committee and CTFMR, laws, and regula-



The second coordination meeting of the Committee on the Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers in progress yesterday, chaired by Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye.

tions, and works together with the concerned ministries for educational programmes. The committee’s meetings are also

held regularly, and the decisions made at the meetings are reported to CTFMR.

After that collaboration,

1,152 underage soldiers who were mistakenly recruited were allowed to be withdrawn from Tatmadaw and sent back to their

parents between 2012 and 2025.

The People’s Military Services was adopted on 10 February 2024, the eligible people were summoned, and those mistakenly summoned were allowed to return and those who mistakenly summoned the underage people were charged.

Tatmadaw’s senior officers conducted 2,720 talks to prevent the recruitment of underage soldiers from 2021 to August 2025.

The committee members and representatives discussed the progress in preventing children from serving in Tatmadaw and clarified the status of previous decisions and conditions for implementation across relevant sectors.

The Union minister gave proper instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar attends 15th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, attended the 15th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference held in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the People’s Republic of China, from 22 to 24 September.

The Conference was held under the theme “Combating Money Laundering and Corruption and Recovering Assets in the Technology Era.”

The Union minister and Union Attorney-General remarked that the conference serves as an important platform for promoting international legal cooperation and addressing transnational criminal issues. She noted that

legal cooperation is necessary not only among ASEAN Member States but also between China and ASEAN Member States to implement the conference’s theme.

She stated that the government works with international and regional anti-corruption organizations to fight against transnational money laundering and anti-corruption, and implements the National Strategy for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (2024-2028), and also organized the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The government tackled the transnational financial fraud and online scam through close col-



Union Minister Dr Thida Oo and Myanmar delegates are pictured at the 15th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference in Hong Kong SAR.

laboration with China, Laos and Thailand, and fully participated in primary steps of ASLOM such as AET and ACCPCJ.

She signed the Joint Declaration of the 15th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference together with the Prose-

cutors-General.

The Myanmar delegation also met with Chinese Prosecutor-General Mr Ying Yong and discussed further cooperation in legal affairs.

By signing the joint statement of the 15th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference, ASEAN member countries can enhance cooperation in the use of technology to combat money laundering and corruption, strengthen mutual trust and friendship among ASEAN member states, improve collaboration between the offices of prosecutors-general in China and ASEAN countries, and promote friendly relations with China. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

World Maritime Day 2025 commemorated in Yangon



The commemorative event of World Maritime Day 2025 in progress yesterday in Yangon, addressed by Deputy Minister for Transport & Communications U Aung Kyaw Htun.



THE 2025 World Maritime Day was held yesterday morning at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, National Defence and Security Council central advisory body member U Saw Htun Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Htun, regional ministers, and other officials. The deputy minister highlighted the day's theme, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity," emphasizing the vital role of

oceans for all living beings and Myanmar's responsibility to protect and preserve them. He noted that over 80 per cent of global trade relies on maritime transport, and Myanmar, with its extensive coastlines along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, considers maritime resources central to the country's economy and future development. To promote sustainable development in the maritime sector and safeguard the marine environment, Myanmar has established a Coastal Resource

Management Central Committee and work committees, facilitating cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies. The country fully complies with IMO conventions, including MARPOL for pollution prevention, the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, and the Anti-Fouling Systems (AFS) Convention, ensuring coastal and foreign vessels adhere to international standards. Myanmar has also implemented a national contingency plan to respond to oil spills and hazardous material

accidents and is drafting related legislation. In line with the 2023 IMO strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from shipping, Myanmar continues to collect technical data from vessels along its coastline to improve ship design, engines, and propeller technology. Green maritime technology training programmes and advanced maritime education are being implemented to provide more employment opportunities for seafarers. Officials urged all maritime sector leaders, experts,

and stakeholders to cooperate to maintain maritime safety, secure the sector, and ensure long-term sustainability and innovation. During the event, a video message from the IMO Secretary-General was shown, and Director-General Dr Ko Ko Naing of the Department of Maritime Administration delivered a presentation on the significance of World Maritime Day 2025. The ceremony included recognition of three SRPS companies for providing seafarers with maximum employment opportunities in 2024 and a presentation of Myanmar's maritime achievements in line with the day's theme. Students from the Uniteam Training Centre performed a musical and theatrical programme celebrating the occasion. After the formal proceedings, regional ministers and officials toured exhibition booths showcasing maritime achievements. In the evening, Yangon's DMA office, port authority, international jetties, and moored vessels were illuminated with blue lights to mark World Maritime Day 2025. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

AI Technology practical training launched

THE opening ceremony of the AI Technology Practical Training, jointly organized by the Myanmar Arts and Culture Development Association (Central) and Dehong Chamber of Commerce Myanmar Representative Office and Taek-hong Vocational Education College, was held at the Myawady Media Centre on Moegaung Road, Yankin Township, yesterday morning. Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee U Bo Htay, Minister for Social Affairs of Yangon Region U Htay Aung, the Cultural Attaché of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, Chairman of the Myanmar Arts and Culture Development Association Daw Aye Thinzar Thu, Chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Company Limited Dr Ni Ni, Chairman of the Myanmar Arts and Culture Development Association Director Pachi Moe, the Chairman of the Myanmar Representatives Office of Dehong Chamber of Commerce (Mandalay), Chairman of the Buddhist Youth Welfare As-



The inauguration of the AI Technology Practical Training underway yesterday in Yangon.

sociation (YMBA) U Ye Tun, and officials cut the ribbon to open the training. Then, Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee U Bo Htay and officials from the Myanmar Arts and Culture Development Association delivered speeches and presented certificates of appreciation to the donors. Then, the Myanmar Traditional Artists Association, the Myanmar

Arts and Culture Development Association, and the Local Youth Friendship Association signed an MoU to exchange arts. The training will be held at the Myawady Media Centre for four days from 25 to 28 September to provide practical applications in the fields of business, education, and research. A total of 50 participants are expected to attend. — MNA/MKKS

17 foreigners arrested for telecom fraud in Myawady

AUTHORITIES have arrested seven Nepali nationals, five Indonesians, four Chinese, and one Russian who illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting some neighbouring countries. They were apprehended yesterday in the KK Park area in Myawady Township, Kayin State, where they had been engaged in online gambling, online fraud, and other criminal activities. Departmental teams, working in collaboration, are now compiling personal information and records of the detainees so that they can be repatriated to their respective countries as soon as possible. The inspection process is being overseen by Deputy Director U Myint Bhone of the Ministry of Immigration and Population (Kayin State), together with responsible officials. From 30 January to 25 September 2025, a total of 9,421 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar have been arrested. Among them, 9,313 have already been repatriated in accordance with legal procedures through Thailand to their respective countries. The remaining 108 are being securely held and are ready for handover. The government continues to actively cooperate with relevant countries to promptly identify, arrest, and systematically repatriate foreign nationals engaged in online fraud, online gambling, and other criminal offences in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar coffee producers showcase speciality brews at SCAJ 2025

MYANMAR coffee producers are participating in the four-day SCAJ 2025 World Speciality Coffee Conference & Exhibition that is being held from 24 to 27 September 2025 at the Tokyo International Exhibition Centre in Japan, under the theme of “Belong Together in Coffee!”, bringing insights into Speciality coffee, according to Myanmar’s Economic Attache in Japan.

Organized by the Speciality Coffee Association of Japan, this B2B exhibition has been held annually since 2005, featuring speciality coffee in Asia and gath-

ering producing countries and regions and related industries and products all together.

Myanmar’s Ambassador to Japan, chair Mr Yoshihito Kato of the Speciality Coffee Association of Japan, officials of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors of the coffee-producing countries and representatives of the embassies attended the opening ceremony.

Over 450 companies from 70 countries are exhibiting their products with 650 booths, attracting over 70,000 visitors.

Myanmar exhibitors show

speciality coffee products and brewing demonstrations, with a view to boosting exports of Myanmar’s speciality coffee to Japan and the international market, fostering global connections, developing networking opportunities, gaining international exhibition experiences and observing innovation and production situations to enhance Myanmar’s coffee sector.

Myanmar’s booth was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar’s Embassy to Japan in Tokyo and ASEAN-Japan Centre. — NN/KK



PyinOoLwin Township produces 500 metric tonnes of coffee per year while 700 metric tonnes are produced in Ywangan in Shan State being a top producer. **PHOTOS: KANU**

CBM sells US\$470K to support fuel oil and edible oil imports



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$300,000 to edible oil-importing companies and \$170,000 to fuel oil importing companies on 24 September.

CBM announced on 23 September that it would pump \$22 million into the fuel oil sector.

Moreover, CBM sold \$800,000 to edible oil importing companies and over \$99,000 to fuel oil importing companies in addition to an injection of over 8,500 yuan into the market on that day.

CBM injected over \$1.7 million into edible oil and fuel oil importing companies on 22 September, selling over \$1.29 million to edible oil importing companies and over \$452,500 to fuel oil importing companies.

CBM pumped 758,400 yuan and over \$500,000 into the financial market on 19 September.

Those US dollar injections went to edible oil importing companies (over \$368,100), fuel oil importing companies (over \$79,000) and those who made non-

trade payments (over \$58,000).

CBM sold over \$1.15 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$540,056 to fuel oil-importing companies on 18 September.

CBM sold over \$1 million, 11 million yuan and four million baht in August. Furthermore, CBM also pumped over \$32 million, purchased from the companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis, into the financial market. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM’s notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Fertilizer Committee reports over 7,600 active registrations

A total of 7,623 active fertilizer registrations are actively operating on the ground, according to the Fertilizer Committee. The committee held its 45th meeting on 18 September at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation instructed officials concerned to facilitate the distribution of fertilizer during the monsoon season under the agriculture project implemented under the State Economic Promotion Fund in the current financial year 2024-2025. He also asked respective officials to carry out lab tests to ensure quality fertilizer for growers.

While retreating farmland with essential agricultural inputs in the damaged farmlands due to various reasons, the region and state task forces are asked to conduct inspections and determine fertilizer ratio depending on soil test,

in addition to the mixed use of organic fertilizer and chemical fertilizer and raising awareness to systematically add agricultural inputs to boost productivity and ensure food security.

Officials concerned are also going on a field trip to ensure good yield and soil health, and growers are also required to strictly adhere to plant nutrient management methods to effectively utilize fertilizer.

The fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting and grants permits for fertilizer production and imports under the Fertilizer Law to enhance agricultural outputs and ensure food security.

A total of 12,741 registrations have been granted so far as of the 44th meeting. Yet, some were voluntarily cancelled according to individuals’ consent, and some were revoked due to the expiration of their validity. Thus, only 7,623 registrations are active so far. — NN/KK

YRIC greenlights 5 firms to invest in manufacturing, hotels, tourism

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one domestic enterprise in the hotels and tourism sector, one domestic enterprise, one foreign enterprise and two joint ventures in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$4.69 million and K6.47 billion, at the meeting held on 24 September.

Those enterprises will execute hotel service, milling of various pulses and ses-

ame seeds, rice milling and processing, manufacturing of mattresses and foam and manufacturing of the wearing apparel on a Cut, Make and Packasis. They are to create over 1,400 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members inspected sample products of the investors and discussed capital expansion matters of two companies and general reports of 24 companies. — NN/KK

Disarm nuclear weapons for the sake of people worldwide

EVERYONE worries about losing their lives in incidents, so they try their best to protect themselves. All clashes and fighting inevitably result in loss of life and injury for those involved. While equal strength and weapons on both sides may not always matter, when one side has overwhelming superiority, the circumstances become unequal. As a consequence, the weaker side suffers greater loss of life.

Humans in different regions and countries have fought their enemies in various ways since time immemorial. To secure victory, they developed a range of weapons and equipment for combat. Over time, increasingly powerful weapons have emerged. In this

regard, these weapons are not only useful in fighting but also in exerting threats on others. Driven by the desire to dominate, all countries, especially powerful ones, depending on their financial capacity, have developed nuclear weapons for use in wars as well as to intimidate and coerce smaller, weaker nations. Although nuclear technology can be employed in ways that benefit society, powerful countries often use nuclear weapons to pressure nations they do not favour. Therefore, it is essential to emphasize nuclear disarmament worldwide. The United Nations has been at the forefront of many major diplomatic efforts to advance nuclear disarmament since. In 1959, the UN General Assembly endorsed the objective of general and complete disarmament. In 1978, the first Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament further recognized that nuclear disarmament

should be the priority objective in the field of disarmament. Every United Nations Secretary-General has actively promoted this goal.

The United Nations stated that achieving global nuclear disarmament is the highest ambition of its kind. For the sake of the entire people across the world, a mandate for specific proposals was adopted for the control of nuclear energy and the elimination of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction. The General Assembly commemorates 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons to provide an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

Yet, today, around 12,241 nuclear weapons remain. The purpose of the International Day is to further the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination. These activities will help to mobilize new international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

From Warnings to Plain Packs: Myanmar's Decisive Victory in Tobacco Control

By Dr Aung Tun

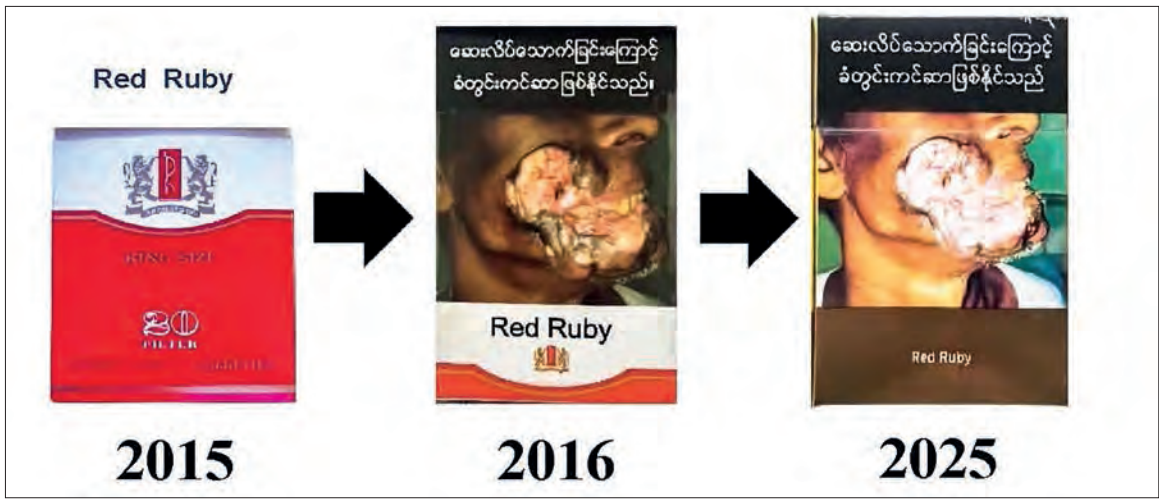


Figure 1: Evolution of health warning labelling in Myanmar

tobacco products.

The Rise of Pictorial Health Warnings Worldwide and in Myanmar

Globally, pictorial health warnings (PHWs) have become one of the most powerful and cost-effective measures to inform the public about the dangers of tobacco use. Countries such as Nepal (90 per cent), Thailand (85 per cent), and India (85 per cent) mandate that large portions of cigarette packs be covered with

graphic warnings showing the harms of smoking. Australia pioneered plain packaging with PHWs in 2012, setting a benchmark for the world.

Myanmar joined this global trend on 26 February 2016, when the Ministry of Health announced the adoption of pictorial health warnings covering 75 per cent of the front and back of tobacco packages. By September 2016, this regulation came into force. A national survey conducted in 2014 had already shown that pictorial

warnings were far more effective than text warnings, with nearly 80 per cent of smokers reporting that they were motivated to quit after seeing the images.

The Journey of Plain Packaging: Global and Myanmar Experience

Plain packaging, also known as standardized packaging, removes all logos, brand images, colours, and promotional elements from tobacco packs. Only the brand name in a standard font and

size is allowed, while packs must feature dull colours and large rotating pictorial health warnings.

Australia was the first country in the world to introduce plain packaging in 2012, followed by several countries, including the UK, France, and Ireland. In Asia, Thailand and Singapore implemented plain packaging in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Myanmar, after several delays, finally implemented plain packaging in September 2025, making it the third Asian country to do so. This move requires all tobacco products to be sold in a standardised drab brown pack with pictorial health warnings covering 75 per cent of the surface.

Myanmar's Efforts in Tobacco Control

Myanmar has demonstrated a consistent commitment to tobacco control, even in the face of strong industry opposition. After signing and ratifying the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in the early 2000s, the government introduced the Control of Smoking and Con-

sumption of Tobacco Product Law in 2006.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Health advanced measures step by step, first mandating large PHWs in 2016, then pushing forward plain packaging despite repeated delays between 2022 and 2025 due to lobbying pressures. By 2025, with support from organizations, such as the WHO and, South East Asian Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA). The Union/Vital Strategies and People's Health Foundation (PHF) Myanmar reached a historic milestone in public health.

Effectiveness of Plain Packaging and Expected Impact in Myanmar

Evidence from other countries demonstrates that plain packaging is effective in:

- Reducing the attractiveness of tobacco products.
 - Eliminating the advertising effects of packaging.
 - Increasing the visibility and salience of health warnings.
 - Encouraging smokers to quit and discouraging youth from starting.
- In Australia, smoking prevalence dropped significantly after plain packaging was introduced, while Quitline calls increased by nearly 80 per cent during the implementation phase. In Thailand and Singapore, studies confirmed that standardized packs made cigarettes less appealing and health warnings more powerful.

For Myanmar, these effects are expected to translate into fewer young people starting to smoke, more existing smokers attempting to quit, and a long-term decline

in tobacco-related diseases and deaths.

A new chapter in the country's fight against tobacco

The successful implementation of standardized tobacco packaging in Myanmar stands as a testament to the country's strong commitment to public health. It is not only a milestone in tobacco control but also a clear demonstration of Myanmar's dedication to upholding its WHO FCTC obligations and protecting the health rights of its citizens.

With the full implementation of plain packaging in 2025, Myanmar has joined the ranks of global leaders in tobacco control. This bold step, combined with strong pictorial health warnings, marks a new chapter in the country's fight against tobacco. Continued monitoring, enforcement, and public awareness are essential to sustain this achievement.

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Protect Your Life with Wisdom

By Min Zan

DID you know that every year, cancer claims more lives than wars, natural disasters, and accidents combined? Cancer is one of the most feared diseases of modern times. It does not discriminate by age, gender, or background, and it continues to claim millions of lives each year across the globe. Among the many types of cancer, lung cancer stands out as particularly deadly. In fact, only lung cancer kills more people in a single year than all criminal and accidental deaths combined. This statistic is shocking and sobering, yet there is also some good news. Thanks to decades of medical research, health

campaigns, and public awareness efforts, many people are now informed about the risks associated with lung cancer. They know that their chances of developing this terrible disease decrease dramatically if they stop smoking or avoid smoking altogether. Antismoking campaigns are everywhere – on television, the radio, billboards, and social media – and they have

can often be cured with medicine, cancer is difficult to treat once it appears. Prevention, therefore, is the best protection. By eating a healthier diet, exercising regularly, protecting themselves from harmful sunlight, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle, people can significantly reduce their risks of several common cancers.

Diet and Cancer

Food is one of the most necessary aspects of life, but it can

also become a silent killer if people make unhealthy choices. Instead of eating foods that nourish the body, many people today consume large amounts of unhealthy items such as hamburgers, French fries, fried chicken, and pizza. These popular fast foods often contain high levels of saturated fat and trans-fat, both of which are considered among the most dangerous types of fat. Diets heavy in such foods do not only contribute to obesity and heart disease; they



also increase the risk of certain cancers, including breast, pancreatic, and colon cancer.

Although light, low-fat, and

fat-free products are constantly being introduced in the market, many consumers still prefer high-fat foods simply because they taste

better or because they are cheaper and more convenient. However, taste and convenience come at a high price — poor long-term health. Nutritionists warn that a continuous diet of fatty foods can make the body more vulnerable to cancer by promoting inflammation and weakening the immune system.

Another major dietary problem today is the lack of fresh fruits and vegetables in the modern diet. People in the past, often without knowing much about nutrition, ate healthier because their meals were based on locally grown, seasonal foods.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

Southeast Asian journalists visit India for observation tours

JOURNALISTS from Southeast Asian countries arrived in India at the invitation of the External Language Media Section, External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. On the morning and afternoon of 25 September, they visited the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to observe and learn about their operations and programmes.

At RIS, officials briefed the visiting journalists on the organization's objectives, current projects, and planned future

activities, while responding to questions from the journalists. At the CDRI headquarters, representatives explained the coalition's background, ongoing initiatives, and future goals, engaging in detailed discussions with the visiting media members. At CII, officials provided further insights on the organization's activities and its role in India's industrial and business sectors.

Following the meetings, the journalists visited the Dilli Haat traditional marketplace in New Delhi, which was established in March 1994 by the Delhi Tourism Department and other institutions. The venue showcases handicrafts, local food, and cultural traditions from across



The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) receives the Southeast Asia journalists in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

India in a single location, and regularly hosts traditional cultural events.

The Southeast Asian journalists, who arrived in India on

23 September, will participate in study tours and discussion sessions until 2 October. A total of 25 editors and reporters from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia,

Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, representing print, broadcast, radio, and digital media, are participating in the programme. — ASH/KZL

Yangon River drug bust nets nearly 1 tonne of meth, 6 arrested

A combined security team operating on the Yangon River in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, seized a motorboat carrying 997 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine), with an estimated value of approximately K29.91 billion, during a patrol on 16 September, according to the Myanmar Police Force. Six individuals involved in the drug trafficking operation, including those transporting the drugs on the vessel, were also arrested.

During the incident, the joint security team stopped the motorboat driven by Khin Maung Lin and Thet Paing Htoo (alias) Thet Paing at about 1:30 am near the triple

confluence in Botahtaung Township. Upon inspection, the authorities seized 997 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine) valued at around K29.91 billion.

Further investigations led to the arrest of Kyaw Soe Min, who was transporting the drugs, at about 11:30 am on 16 September in Thamada Bank Ward, Dala Township. Later the same day, at around 1 pm, Kyaw Thein Oo (aka) Kyaw Gyi, identified as the person who ordered the transportation, was apprehended in Pazundaung Township, while Zaw Min Nang (aka) Zaw Min Lat was arrested in Yankin Township. At about 12:30 pm on 17 Sep-

tember, authorities arrested Myo Naing (aka) Akyee Kaung, who had used a sand-suction boat to carry the drugs to Myetsane Island in Kyimyindine Township, along with another motorboat, in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

Reports confirmed that the seized narcotics were intended to be transported from Myetsane Island in Yangon towards the high seas by motorboat. The arrested suspects are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and further investigations are underway to capture other individuals linked to the trafficking network. — MNA/MKKS



Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs.

Myanmar stereo era pioneer Victor Khin Nyo dies at 80



Singer Victor Khin Nyo.

ONE of the veteran stereo pioneers, Victor Khin Nyo, whose musical career spanned more than 60 years, passed away on the morning of 25 September, according to a family member.

Victor Khin Nyo, who suffered from heart disease and stroke, turned 79 on 20 September.

"He died in his sleep at home this morning. The funeral will be held at 1:30 pm on 27 September at the Yay Way Cemetery," said a member of his family living on Daw Thein Tin Street, Mingala Taungnyunt, Yangon.

Victor Khin Nyo was one of the pioneers in the Local Talents programme of the then Burma

Broadcasting Service (BBS), together with Bo Bo Han, Nwe Yin Win and Tin Moe Khaing.

He entered the music world in 1970 with his first single, 'Ah Kyway Pan Hna Nan Chin Tel' and released more than 20 albums. A December Morning, Just Come with Me, 'Nway' (Summer) and 'Mya Khwanyo' are among his most popular greatest hits.

Being a fan of Elvis Presley and Clinch Woods, his songs often end in a wave style, he once revealed. Most of his songs were composed by his younger brother, Cho Cho, and many of his albums feature duets, group songs and movie themes.

He was also a member of the pre-stereo band Shades, and later became the guitarist and the singer of the LPJ, a band founded by Myanmapyi Thein Tan. In 2014, a multi-artiste concert was held to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Victor Khin Nyo's music career.

Victor Khin Nyo, the eldest son of four siblings, was born on 20 September 1946 to U Khin Nyo and Daw Khin San Yee. He died at the age of 80, leaving behind a wife and three sons. — Htun Htun/ZN

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

Protect Your Life with Wisdom

FROM PAGE 9

They consumed vegetables, whole grains, and fruits in larger quantities, which provided them with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and dietary fibre. In contrast, many people today rely heavily on processed foods. These foods, though convenient, usually lack natural fibre and contain large amounts of sugar, salt, and preservatives. Fibre is essential for digestion and helps prevent colon cancer by moving waste through the intestines more effectively. Without it, harmful substances may stay longer in the body and increase cancer risk. Ironically, people with less information about nutrition in the past often had better diets than the well-informed consumers of today. As a result, they experienced fewer cases of cancer.

Weight, Inactivity, and Cancer

Another growing concern is obesity, which has reached epidemic levels in many parts of the world. Being overweight has been strongly linked not only to heart disease and diabetes but also to several cancers, such as breast cancer in postmenopausal women, oesophageal cancer, and kidney cancer. Excess body

fat can produce hormones and growth factors that encourage the development of cancer cells.

A major reason for widespread obesity today is the sedentary lifestyle associated with modern society. Since television sets became a standard feature in almost every household, people have been spending more time sitting on couches and eating snacks rather than moving their bodies. This phenomenon gave rise to the term “couch potato”. Today, with the addition of computers, smartphones, and video games, people spend even more hours sitting, often snacking mindlessly on chips, candy, or sugary drinks.

In the past, people lived more physically active lives. They walked to work, did more manual labour, and engaged in outdoor activities as part of their daily routine. Today, by contrast, many jobs involve sitting at desks for long hours, commuting by car or bus, and exercising very little. This lack of physical activity not only increases the risk of obesity but also reduces overall health, weakens the immune system, and makes the body less capable of fighting off abnormal cell growth.

Health experts strongly recommend that people maintain a

healthy weight through a combination of a balanced diet and regular physical exercise. It is not enough to focus on only one of these factors. Cutting back on calories without exercise often leads to temporary weight loss that is quickly regained. Likewise, exercising without adjusting one’s diet may not be enough to counteract the harmful effects of unhealthy eating. True long-term health requires both dietary improvements and consistent physical activity.

Sun Exposure and Skin Cancer

One of the fastest-rising forms of cancer worldwide is skin cancer. Health officials are alarmed by the growing number of cases, especially in countries where a tanned complexion is considered fashionable or attractive. On weekends and holidays, many people rush to the beach or swimming pool and spend long hours under the sun, often without adequate protection. Many of them do not apply sunscreen properly – or fail to use it at all – and the result is frequent sunburns.

Sunburn damages the skin at a cellular level, and repeated damage over the years may eventually lead to skin cancer.

What makes this particularly dangerous is that once the skin has been damaged, the harm cannot be undone. The mutations caused by ultraviolet (UV) radiation remain in the cells and may later develop into cancer. This is why prevention is absolutely essential.

In the past, people did not intentionally lie in the sun for hours just to achieve a tan. As a result, skin cancer was far less common. Today, however, due to changing beauty standards and leisure activities, millions of people are putting themselves at risk. The good news is that awareness about sunscreen use has been increasing. Doctors recommend using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30, wearing protective clothing, and avoiding direct sunlight during peak hours (10 am to 4 pm). Nevertheless, millions of people already carry damage in their skin from years of unprotected exposure, and they may develop cancer later in life.

The Role of Awareness and Education

Cancer has existed since ancient times, but it is only in recent decades that the public has begun to understand the many risk factors involved. Antismoking campaigns have been

particularly effective in saving lives by reducing lung cancer rates. However, lung cancer is only one part of the story. Other preventable cancers, such as colon cancer, breast cancer, and skin cancer, also deserve strong public awareness campaigns.

If governments, schools, and media organizations put as much effort into promoting proper nutrition, physical activity, and sun protection as they do into anti-smoking advertisements, the number of overall cancer cases could decline significantly. Education is one of the most powerful tools for prevention. When people understand the connection between their daily choices and long-term health, they are more likely to make positive changes.

Cancer is a complex disease with many causes, but a significant portion of it is preventable. By adopting healthier diets, maintaining proper weight, exercising regularly, and protecting themselves from harmful sunlight, people can reduce their risks considerably. Society has already seen progress in reducing lung cancer deaths through anti-smoking efforts. Now, the challenge is to extend that success to other lifestyle-related cancers. With greater awareness, collective responsibility, and personal commitment, the number of cancer cases worldwide could be reduced, leading to longer, healthier lives for millions of people.

OpenAI, Oracle, SoftBank announce 5 new AI data centres under Stargate

Total investment projected to exceed US\$400 billion over the next three years.

OPENAI, Oracle and SoftBank on Tuesday announced five new US artificial intelligence (AI) data centre sites under their joint AI infrastructure platform, Stargate.

The combined capacity of these five new sites — together with the flagship facility in Abilene, Texas, and ongoing projects with Corewave — will bring Stargate’s planned capacity to nearly seven gigawatts and push total investment to over

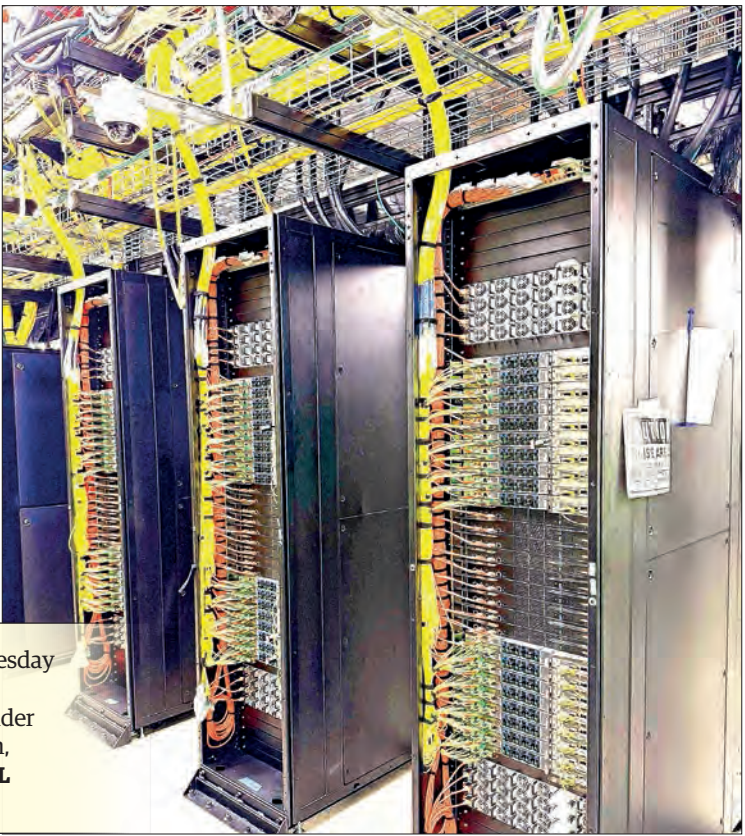
US\$400 billion within the next three years, according to the announcement.

In July, OpenAI and Oracle reached an agreement to develop three of the new sites, located in Texas, New Mexico, and the Midwest. The other two sites will be developed through a partnership between SoftBank and OpenAI, with locations in Ohio and Texas.

The five new projects were selected through a rigorous nationwide process launched in

January. The companies said they reviewed more than 300 proposals from over 30 states, adding that Tuesday’s announcement represents only the first set of sites, with additional US locations to follow. — Xinhua

OpenAI, Oracle and SoftBank on Tuesday announced five new US artificial intelligence (AI) data centre sites under their joint AI infrastructure platform, Stargate. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/OPENAI**



ECONOMY WORLD

Nippon Steel to invest \$300 mln to strengthen US Steel production

Nippon Steel Corp announced a \$300 million investment in two plants of the acquired United States Steel Corp.



A Nippon Steel Corp blast furnace in the Kashima area of Ibaraki Prefecture. **PHOTO: NIPPON STEEL CORP./FILE**

NIPPON Steel Corp said Thursday it will invest \$300 million in two plants run by the recently acquired United States Steel Corp, setting up a new recycling facility and expanding production via the introduction of new product lines in the key US market.

It will be the first investment from the \$11 billion Nip-

pon Steel pledged to pump into US Steel as agreed with President Donald Trump's government under the \$14.1 billion acquisition deal finalized in June.

The Japanese steelmaker said it will spend \$100 million to enable slag recycling at US Steel's Edgar Thomson plant, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylva-

nia, and \$200 million to improve the Gary Works hot strip mill in Gary, Indiana. "We will enhance the competitiveness of US Steel through implementation of specific investment projects and this will eventually lead to jobs being protected," Nippon Steel President Tadashi Imai told reporters. — Kyodo

UN hosts summit to press for financial reform

THE United Nations held its first Biennial Summit for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Global Economy on Wednesday to discuss the reform of the international financial system towards realizing its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The summit, first proposed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his 2021 "Our Common Agenda" report, was held during the High-level Week of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, the United States.

With over a 4-trillion-US-dollar gap in financing the SDGs waiting to be filled, "it offers clear recommendations on international financial re-

form, including giving developing countries a greater say within international financial institutions," said UN General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock at the summit.

"The truth is without a deep reform of financial institutions, and unless we solve the vicious debt trap, we will never deliver on the SDGs," Baerbock said.

In his opening remarks, Guterres envisioned the summit as a platform to bring coherence, ambition and inclusive induction to the global financing conversation. "We also understand that today's international financial architecture needs reform to respond to the world of today and the scale and complexity of its challenges." — Xinhua

Swiss central bank keeps zero-rate as tariffs take their toll

SWITZERLAND'S central bank kept its policy rate at zero per cent on Thursday, warning that massive US tariffs are weighing on the country's export-dependent economy.

The Swiss National Bank maintained its economic growth forecast at between one and 1.5 per cent for this year, but revised it to "just under" one per cent for 2026 due to the tariffs and uncertainty.

"The economic outlook for Switzerland has deteriorated

due to significantly higher US tariffs," the SNB said in a statement.

"The tariffs are likely to dampen exports and investment especially. Companies in the machinery and watchmaking industries are particularly affected," it added.

US President Donald Trump shocked Switzerland last month when he announced 39 per cent duties on imports of goods from the country, among the highest in his global tariff blitz. — AFP

HSBC upgraded India to 'Overweight' from 'Neutral', Sensex to touch 94,000 by end 2026

GLOBAL brokerage HSBC has upgraded India to "overweight" from "neutral", citing improving macroeconomic conditions, attractive valuations and policy support that could boost consumption and corporate earnings.

According to HSBC's Asia Equity Insights Quarterly Strat-

egy Report released on Wednesday 24 September, Indian equities have lagged emerging market peers over the past year due to a domestic slowdown and concerns over high US tariffs, but now looks attractive.

"India now appears attractive on a regional basis: we move

to overweight from neutral," noted the report. HSBC now sees India as offering better value relative to other Asian markets and expects the Sensex to touch 85,130 by end 2025 and 94,000 by end-2026, implying a potential upside of 13.2 per cent from current levels. — ANI



HSBC views India as offering better value than other Asian markets. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Online sales account for over 15% of retail in Russia

MORE than 15 per cent of all retail sales in Russia are conducted online, with online market platforms making up the majority of e-commerce, said Russian Economy Minister Maxim Reshetnikov.

“Today, more than 15 per cent of all retail sales in Russia take place online. Marketplaces account for the majority of e-commerce, representing 57 per cent of the market,” Reshetnikov was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying on Thursday. Russia’s e-commerce sector has grown rapidly in recent years, driven by the expansion of major domestic platforms such as Wildberries and Ozon. — Xinhua

Pakistan focuses on strengthening pharmaceutical industry

PAKISTAN’S Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan said that the country has been focusing on strengthening the pharmaceutical industry to secure a prominent place in the global healthcare market. “The industrial policy and regulatory reforms form the foundation of Pakistan’s economic future and through appropriate reforms and following global best practices, the country can consolidate its pharmaceutical sector and promote economic prosperity,” the official said during an event on Wednesday. — Xinhua

EU opens antitrust probe into German software giant SAP

THE European Commission launched an antitrust probe into German software giant SAP Thursday over fears the company’s practices may have distorted competition.

SAP, which offers both traditional software and cloud-based computing services, can now offer commitments to address the commission’s concerns, the EU executive said.

“We are concerned that SAP may have restricted competition... by making it harder for rivals to compete, leaving European customers with fewer choices and higher costs,” EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera said in a statement. The software giant said it believed its actions were “fully in line” with competition rules.

“However, we take the issues raised seriously and we are working closely with the EU Commission to resolve them,” SAP said, hoping for a “quick and fair conclusion” to the probe. — AFP



Software giant SAP said it believed its actions were ‘fully in line’ with competition rules. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Osaka expo to allow unused tickets to be swapped for same-day noon entry

UNUSED tickets without admission reservations for the World Exposition in Osaka can be exchanged at the venue from Saturday through 12 October for same-day entry valid from noon, organizers said Thursday, with more than one million tickets remaining unused with less than a month to go before the event ends.

With visiting time slots almost fully booked through the final day on 13 October, some unreserved ticket holders may otherwise not be able to attend the event.

The number of same-day tickets available for exchange will be limited



The World Exposition in Osaka is crowded with visitors on 25 September 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

to several hundred per day, and any ticket that cannot be exchanged will not be refunded, according to the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition.

Official online ticket sales for the World Exposition in Osaka will conclude at the end of this month, while sales of same-day tickets at the venue will end Friday, the association said. — Kyodo

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PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Tonghua Pesticide Chemical Industry Stock Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “Friends’ Helper Co.,Ltd”, to new distributor name “Noble King Co.,Ltd”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Noble King Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	TH-Arr Pay 10 EC	Bifenthrin 10% EC	P2020-5074
2.	TH-Duwon 20 SC	Bispyribac-sodium 5% + Cyhalofop-butyl 15% SC	P2023-5128
3.	TH-Chan Thar 47 WP	Copper Oxychloride 45% + Kasugamycin 2% WP	P2023-4667

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (207N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (207N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-9-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (152N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (152N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-9-2025 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

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Xi attends grand gathering in celebration of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's 70th founding anniversary

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday attended a grand gathering in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in Urumqi, capital of this region in northwest China. Xi, also general secretary

Grand gathering in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, marking its 70th founding anniversary.

of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined

local officials and members of the public from all ethnic groups and all walks of life at the event.

Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and head of the central delegation, attended this event and delivered a speech. Cai Qi, director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, was also present at the gathering. Both Wang and Cai are members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The gathering commenced at around 10:30 am. All participants stood up and sang the national anthem. — Xinhua



A gala entitled "Beautiful Xinjiang" is held to mark the 70th founding anniversary of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in Urumqi, the regional capital, 24 September, 2025. PHOTO: DING LIN/XINHUA

7th Future Food Forum 2025 opened in Dubai

THE 7th Future Food Forum 2025 opened in Dubai, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and academics to explore pathways for advancing food security, trade, and innovation across the Global South.

The discussions focused on building resilient food ecosystems through technology, sustainable practices, and cross-border partnerships. One of the key themes was how Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) are opening new opportunities in food manufacturing, logistics, and exports, while also enabling small and medium enterprises to integrate into global supply chains.

The UAE set out targets to grow its food sector contribution from \$8.1 billion to \$10.9 billion, but the forum's emphasis extended well beyond national ambitions. Panels highlighted global best practices in consumer trends, sustainable proteins, and agri-tech, underscoring the importance of collaboration across regions. — ANI

Iran will never seek to build a nuclear bomb: President Masoud Pezeshkian at UNGA

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian, in his address at the United Nations General Assembly, has said that Iran has "never sought and will never seek to build a nuclear bomb".

"I hereby declare once more before this assembly that Iran has never sought and will never seek to build a nuclear bomb," he said. He also voiced strong criticism of Israel's actions, particularly over its occupation of Palestinian territories and rhetoric around the creation of a "greater Israel". "After nearly two years of genocide, mass starvation, the perpetuation of apartheid within the occupied territories and aggression against its neighbours, the ludicrous and delusional scheme of a 'greater Israel' is being proclaimed with brazenness by the highest echelons of that regime," he stated.

Pezeshkian accused Israel of abandoning diplomacy in favour of force. "Israel and its sponsors no longer even content themselves with normalization through political means. Rather, they impose their presence through naked force, and have styled it peace through strength," he added. — ANI

France's Sarkozy given 5-year sentence, must go to prison

A Paris court on Thursday sentenced former French president Nicolas Sarkozy to five years in prison after finding him guilty of criminal conspiracy in his trial into accusations the late Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi helped fund his victorious 2007 presidential run.

The court ordered that Sarkozy should be placed in custody at a later date, with prosecutors given one month to inform the former head of state when he should go to prison.

Even if Sarkozy, 70, appeals the verdict this measure will remain in force. Should he go to prison, he will be the first president in the history of modern France to be jailed. He was also fined 100,000 euros (\$117,000) and banned from holding public office.

Sarkozy has been convicted already in two separate trials but always avoided jail, in one case serving his sentence with an electronic tag which has now been removed. — AFP



Linked to accusations that late Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi funded Sarkozy's successful 2007 presidential campaign. COPY MESSAGE EXPORT

SPORTS

Ryder Cup captains voice respect but take shots in ceremony

CAPTAINS Luke Donald and Keegan Bradley voiced respect but took their shots on Wednesday in Ryder Cup opening ceremony comments.

The ceremony, advanced from Thursday due to thunderstorms in the forecast on the eve of Friday's opening matches at Bethpage Black, had thousands of supporters cheering each team.

Europe captain Donald took the opportunity to stress that unlike US players who are paid to play, European Ryder Cup stars play for their legacy alone.

US captain Keegan Bradley, meanwhile, played up one of Europe's most bitter Ryder Cup

moments as a galvanizing force for himself and the US team.

Since 1999, each US Ryder Cup player had received \$200,000 for charities of their choice but that was raised this year to \$500,000, \$300,000 for charity and \$200,000 as a personal stipend to use however each liked.

In contrast, Europe players told Donald they did not want to be paid to play in the Ryder Cup, some seeing that as Europe players loving the Cup more than their American counterparts.

"The Ryder Cup means so much to each and every one of us. It's unlike anything else in our sport," Donald said. — AFP



USA captain Keegan Bradley speaks during the opening ceremony for the Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar senior golfers win 39th ASEAN Championship



A group documentary photo of victorious senior golfers underway in Brunei.

THE 39th ASEAN Senior Amateur Championship 2025 was held at the Empire Country Club and the Pantai Mentiri Golf Club in Brunei from 22 to 24 September. Myanmar's senior amateur golf team participated in the tournament and secured notable successes, including the team championship trophy.

In the team-wise scratch event, the Myanmar team comprised U Ko Ko Aye (MGF), U Aik Pan (MGF), U Soe (Mandalay), and U San Lwin (Mandalay), and won the championship. In the individual scratch category, U Aik Pan claimed first place, U Soe (Manda-

lay) finished third, U San Min (Mawlamyine) placed fourth, and U Ko Ko Aye ranked 10th. The tournament featured 256 senior amateur golfers aged 55 and above from six countries, including Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Myanmar.

The Myanmar senior amateur team included key figures from the Myanmar Golf Federation, such as its President U Ko Ko Aye, Vice-Presidents U Zar Ni Win and U Hla Myint Shwe (Chair of the Myanmar Senior Amateur Golf Subcommittee), General Secretary Dr Myint Oo (team captain), Deputy General Secretary U Myint Aung

(deputy team captain), and central executive members U Win Myint Ching, U Aik Pan, U Tin Maung Maung Win and U Soe, along with other players U Zaw Min (aka) Lu Lu, U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Kyaw, U Sai Phillip Ri, U San Oo Hlaing, U San Min, U Soe Hlaing, U Shwe Htun Hlaing, U Kyaw Sein Lin, and U San Lwin.

Myanmar became a member of the ASEAN Senior Amateur Golf Associations in 2023, and this year's participation in the 39th ASEAN Senior Amateur Championship 2025 marked a significant achievement for the country's senior amateur golf team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Red-hot Kane on record course with Bremen in his sights

JUST over two years since moving to Bayern Munich, in-form striker Harry Kane can set yet another record in Friday's home clash with Werder Bremen.

Playing his 104th game for Bayern, Kane needs two goals to become the fastest man to 100 goals with a club in Europe's top-five leagues, breaking the record of 105 matches jointly held by Cristiano Ronaldo and Erling Haaland.

Kane is already the fastest to 50 Bundesliga goals, bringing that mark

up in 43 matches, a record he also took from the Norway striker.

Kane made his Bundesliga debut in August 2023 against Bremen, scoring a goal and setting up another in a 4-0 win, just days after arriving from boyhood club Tottenham.

In four matches against Bremen, Kane has four goals and three assists.

On Saturday, Kane scored his ninth Bundesliga hat-trick — and his second so far this season. The 32-year-old's form is sounding an ominous warning for Bayern's rivals already this campaign. Sitting two clear of perennial chasers Borussia Dortmund on the table, Bayern are the only Bundesliga club to win all four of their matches. — AFP

Bayern Munich forward Harry Kane has hit all 17 of his Bundesliga penalties. PHOTO: AFP

Xi attends grand gathering in celebration of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's 70th founding anniversary

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WORLD

Contributed to furthering economic strength: PM Modi on 11 years of 'Make in India'

Launched 11 years ago on 25 September 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a vision to accelerate India's economic growth and harness the nation's entrepreneurial spirit.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the 'Make in India' initiative launched by the centre 11 years ago has contributed to the growth of the Indian economy, pushing the country towards self-reliance.

"It is gladdening to see how 11 Years Of Make In India has contributed to furthering economic strength and laying the foundation for Aatmanirbharta. It has encouraged innovation and job creation across sectors," PM Modi posted on X.

"11 years ago on this day, the Make in India initiative was launched with a vision to add momentum to India's growth and tap into our nation's entrepreneurial potential," he said, adding, "Make in India has given an impetus to India's entrepreneurs, thus creating a global impact."

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a boost to indigenous production across sectors, and said that the government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the stakeholders, adding that India has to focus heavily on becoming a 'Swadeshi' economy in its upcoming journey.

PM Modi inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show-2025. Addressing a gathering, the Prime Minister said that the government has removed several unnecessary compliances so that businesses can keep thriving in the country. — ANI



PM Modi visits UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida. PHOTO: ANI

Vietnam to implement smart city projects in 6 major cities

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Wednesday requested that six major cities and relevant ministries approve smart city development plans by the end of September and begin implementation in 2025, local daily newspaper

Nhan Dan (People) reported.

Speaking at a meeting of the Government's Steering Committee, Chinh asked ministries and localities to complete their data infrastructure by the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, the State Bank of

Vietnam and commercial banks were instructed to implement a credit package of 500 trillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$20.5 billion) to promote innovation and strategic infrastructure, the report added. — Xinhua



North Hanoi Smart City Development Investment, JSC. (NHSC) is a joint venture company founded in 2018, dedicated to large-scale urban development projects emphasizing smart and sustainable cities across Vietnam. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/NORTH HANOI SMART CITY

Australian think tank report on China-ASEAN ties

CHINA leads the others as the most influential partner to Southeast Asian countries, according to a new data project report published on Thursday by an Australian think tank.

The Southeast Asia Influence Index, which was published by Sydney-based independent think tank the Lowy Institute, measured the relative importance of 10 external partners to 11 countries in Southeast Asia.

China was ranked as the most influential partner to the region overall followed by the United States, Japan and Australia.

It concluded that China is the leading partner for six out of the eleven individual countries — Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The United States was identified as the leading partner for the Philippines and Singapore, but the authors said its influence in the region is likely to erode as a result of the Donald Trump administration's global policies, including tariffs, foreign aid cuts and international student visa restrictions. — Xinhua