Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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APTERR Tier 3 Rice handed over to AR

A total of 1,309.339 metric tonnes of rice donated by the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China under the APTERR Tier 3 Programme 2025 was handed over to the Ayeyawady Region government through the Department of Agriculture yesterday at Meeting Hall 1 of the regional government to support the flood-affected people in the region.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw expressed gratitude to APTERR officials and representatives of China for their assistance to flood victims.

APTERR Secretariat General Manager Dr Choomjet Karnjanakesorn and First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar Mr Wang Xianzhong explained the donation before handing over the rice to the chief minister, who presented certificates of appreciation and local gifts in return.

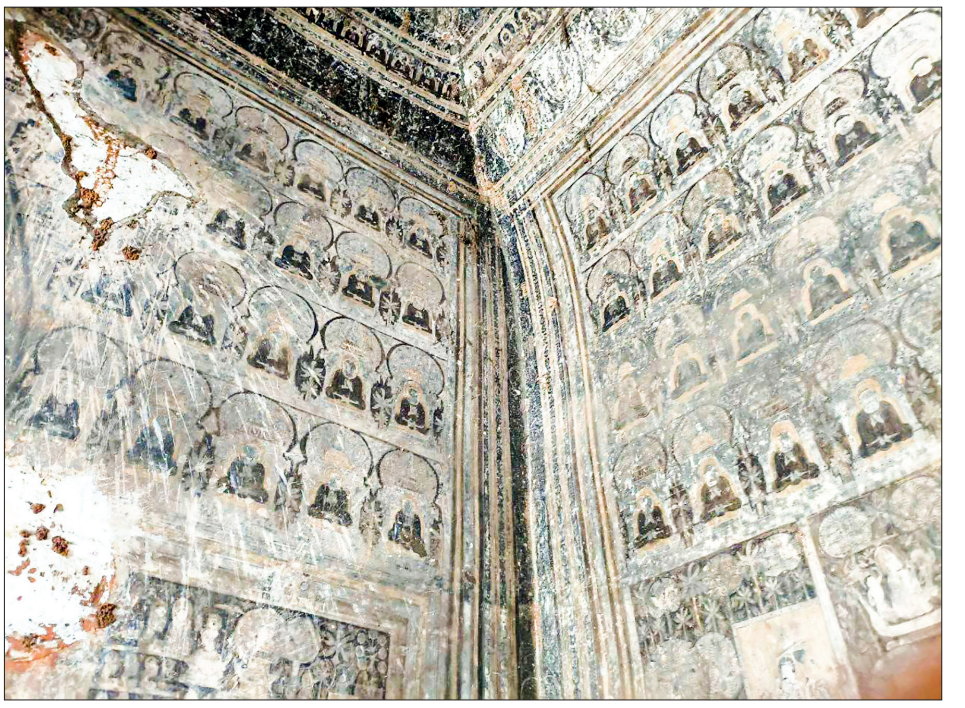
SEE PAGE 3



South Korea and China donated rice for flood-affected communities in Ayeyawady Region presented to the chief minister.

Myanmar, Korean Experts Eye Conservation Restart at Phayathonzu, NyaungU

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism is in discussions with a team of Korean experts to resume repair and conservation work at the Phayathonzu (Three interconnected shrines) in Minnanthu Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.



The ancient Phayathonzu temple featuring mural paintings in Minnanthu Village.

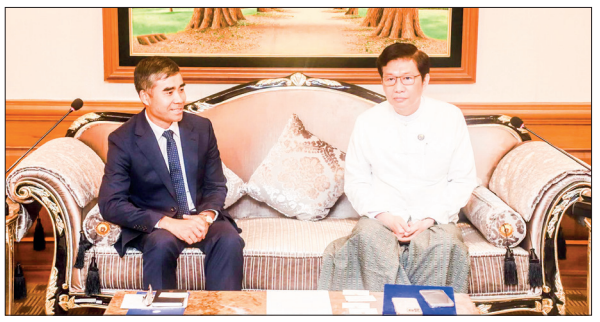
At present, conservation work and research on ancient pagodas in the Bagan ancient cultural zone are being undertaken, in cooperation with expert teams from India and China. Plans are also underway to continue collaborating with Korean experts on conservation and research at Bagan's ancient monuments.

Preserving mural painting works, structural conservation and geophysical surveys of ancient structures in the surrounding area have been carried out at Phayathonzu in Minnanthu village. Discussions are ongoing to continue such work in the upcoming open season," said an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The Korean expert team previously worked in cooperation with department experts from 2017 to 2020. Engineers from the department are currently carrying out conservation and repair work on ancient structures in Bagan. In preparation for the upcoming tourist peak season, they are meeting with local business operators, conducting awareness sessions, clearing weeds that have grown during the rainy season, and carrying out environmental beautification work. — ASH/KK

Myanmar, Vietnam discuss boosting investment, tackling economic challenges

MYANMAR and Vietnam held discussions on increasing bilateral investment and jointly addressing economic challenges, according to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).



UMFCCI President receives Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Nguyen Anh Duc.

The meeting took place on 29 September at the UMFCCI office, where UMFCCI President U Aye Win received Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nguyen Anh Duc and his delegation.

The discussions followed the Vietnam Myanmar Business Forum 2026 held on 6 September at the Melia Hotel in Hanoi. Both sides explored opportunities for future economic cooperation, plans to organize a follow up seminar, and ways to overcome shared economic challenges through joint efforts. Attendees included UMFCCI President U Aye Win, Vice President Dr Win Si Thu, Counsellor Mr Le Dinh An from the Vietnamese Embassy, UMFCCI Secretary General Daw Khine Khine Nwe and Joint Secretaries U Myo Thant, U Ye Myint Maung, and Daw Nan Kalaya Win. — NN/KK

56 container vessel arrivals set for Oct

YANGON Port will handle 56 container vessels in October 2026, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

Eleven container vessels each run by M/S Cosco Shipping Line, eight by M/S SITC Shipping Line, six each by M/S One Line and M/S Maersk A/S Line, five by M/S CMA CGM Line, four each by M/S MSC Line and M/S RCL Line, three each by M/S Evergreen Asia Line and M/S Ti2 Container Line and two each by M/S Samudra Shipping Line and M/S BLPL Shipping Line and one each by M/S Land and Sea and M/S BAY Line are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port in October.

Myanma Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, to bolster exports, and to improve port capacity for significant ship arrivals. Myanma Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules promptly upon schedule. Yangon Port handled 61 container vessels in September, 55 each in August, July and June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in January 2026.

SEE PAGE 4



NATIONAL PAGE 5

500+ vehicles equipped with RFID TollPass on YGN-MDY Expressway



NATIONAL PAGE 7

Aunglan concludes carpentry training course

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/ Director-General

THE Union Government has assigned Professor Dr Ye Myint, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Health, to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General.

Myanmar's Miss Multicultural World 2026 honoured



Miss Multicultural World 2026 winner Soe Myintzu Lwin, also known as Helen, receives an award at a ceremony held to honour her victory.

A ceremony honouring Myanmar beauty queen Soe Myintzu Lwin, who won the top title at the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant in Vietnam, was held at Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, on 29 September. Soe Myintzu Lwin, also known as Helen, won the prestigious Winner Crown at the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant, which was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 20 to 28 June.

"We did our best in the competition. We had her trained by relevant professionals for the Talent and National Costume categories. She won this major title through her hard work and dedication. She can endure a lot of hardship and works very hard. We are truly proud that, as a Myanmar national, she has brought home the winner's title from an international stage," said U Kaung Myat Aung, National Director of Miss Multicultural World Myanmar.

At the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant, the 1st Runner-up title went to the contestant representing Honduras, the 2nd Runner-up title to the contestant representing Vietnam, the 3rd Runner-up title to the contestant representing the Philippines, and the 4th Runner-up title to the contestant representing the USA.

Contestants representing Myanmar, India, the USA, Honduras, the Philippines, Vietnam, Russia, Thailand, China, Mongolia and Morocco participated in the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant. — ASH/MKKS

Super El Niño Seen in Late 2026; Preparedness Urged

SUPER El Niño is expected in late 2926 so people should stay on alert, and preparedness is necessary, according to different sectors, said the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

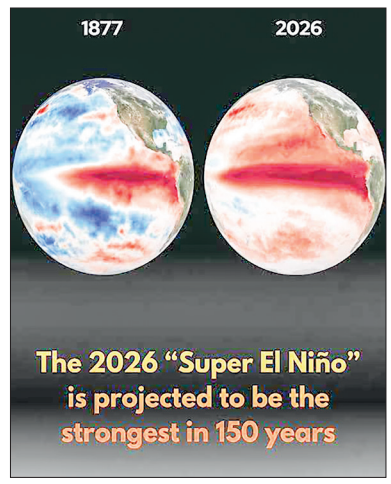
According to forecasts based on new updates from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and international meteorological agencies, El Niño is firmly established and will intensify into a very strong event in the coming months, with big impacts on rainfall and temperature patterns and associated risks of floods, drought and extreme heat.

Due to this impact, abnormal rainfall and storms, drought, extreme heat, drinking water shortages, and extreme weather conditions are forecast in Myanmar, so the public are advised to pay special attention to DMH's announcements for preparedness, said DMH director U Hla Tun.

Concerning the El Niño impact, Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region, U Aye Kyaw, instructed necessary preparedness in the coordination meeting of the regional natural disaster management committee held on 28 September.

The chief minister instructed that a proper drainage system be ensured and that rainwater be conserved and freshwater resources be protected to prevent water shortages for drinking and irrigated crops in Pyapon and Labutta districts, which are prone to flooding by saltwater.

For fire hazards possibly driven by hot and dry weather, the Chief Minister urged district or township administrators and fire stations to plan fire safety prevention measures and cooling centres, and to cooperate with respective institutions for effective responses. — TWA/ZS



Super El Niño forecast as strongest in 150 years.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday 30 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area which crossed Chin State, Myanmar and adjoining Southeast Bangladesh and Mizoram, India, and moved north-northwestwards and weakened into a Low-Pressure Area over the Southeast Bangladesh and adjoining Mizoram, India. It is likely to continue to move north-northwestwards. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 1 OCTOBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 mile per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundary activities in the Deltaic Myanmar area.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 OCTOBER 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 OCTOBER 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 OCTOBER 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition, No 11, 2026

Issued at 7 pm MST on 30 September 2026

ACCORDING to observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area which crossed Chin State, Myanmar and adjoining Southeast Bangladesh and Mizoram, India, and moved north-northwestwards and weakened into a Low-Pressure Area over the Southeast Bangladesh and adjoining Mizoram, India. It is likely to move north-northwestwards.

It has already crossed Myanmar, so it is coded as green stage.

This is the last news for the Deep Depression. — DMH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Urban Traffic, Infrastructure, and Healthcare on Day Eight

THE eighth-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session was held yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw plenary hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and MPs. During the session, officials addressed 12 parliamentary questions covering urban traffic, storm shelter projects, support for the homeless, civil service promotions, healthcare infrastructure, and rural road upgrades.



The eighth-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session in progress yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing addressed traffic congestion in Yangon, explaining that modern traffic controllers, footbridges with escalators, underpasses, and dedicated bicycle paths have been deployed as part of Smart City initiatives. He noted that the Yangon City Development Committee, in coordination with traffic police and relevant agencies, continues to manage road safety and urban transit through IT-based traffic control systems.

Regarding halted construction on four school-cum-shelters in Labutta Township, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe reported that contracts with non-performing firms had been terminated and eligible contractors blacklisted. He noted that remaining funds were returned to the National Disaster Management Fund, while the Ayeyawady Region government will arrange to resume unfinished sites using local rate tenders. Addressing homeless welfare, he highlighted rehabilitation programmes offering vocational and basic education, job placement with private enterprises, and ongoing legal action against organized begging rings.

On healthcare and staffing, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun affirmed that civil service promotion exams for subordinate staff are held annually, with 253 staff promoted between 2021 and 2026 and the next round set for October. He also detailed ongoing maintenance at Magyipin Station Hospital in Ngaputaw Township, adding that a new operation theatre is slated for the 2027-2028 financial year. Regarding Tamu District Hospital, he said an emergency surgeon will be posted in October 2026, while essential cold-chain supplies and vaccines continue to be delivered via Kalewa and Tatmadaw helicopter support. He added that additional medical personnel will be assigned to Gangaw People's Hospital once regional security conditions allow.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thike Soe responded to five queries on rural road developments across Danubyu, Zigon, Lewe, Kawhmu, and Shwebo townships. He outlined timelines for road-widening and macadam surfacing funded under Union capital and maintenance budgets for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years, while clarifying that upgrades in certain sectors, such as Khuntaunggyi Village in Shwebo, remain deferred pending on-ground safety assessments.

The Pyithu Hluttaw session adjourned for the day and will resume for its ninth day on 1 October. — MNA/ST

61st Myanma Gems & Jewellery Expo set for 8-17 Oct

THE 61st Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Exhibition will be held for ten days from 8 to 17 October, according to the second central committee meeting of the Myanma Gems Emporium held at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.



Union Minister U Hsan Oo presides over the second Central Committee meeting of the Myanma Gems Emporium.

The exhibition will feature 700 pearls, 160 gemstones and 3,073 jades, including 1,255 Group B jades and 1,468 Group C jades, while the Group A items will comprise 700 pearls, 160 gemstones and 350 jades. The items will be sold through a tender system on specified dates.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo said gem traders would be allowed to pay security deposits in the value of gems in US dollars or other foreign currencies accepted by the Central Bank of Myanmar, or the equivalent amounts in Myanmar kyat, as at previous exhibitions.

He added that, for pearls, local and foreign gem traders would be allowed to make payments based on the exchange rate equivalent to the US dollar. For gemstones and jades, the applicable exchange rate would be the highest rate among those published by the Central Bank of Myanmar and private banks. The rates published on 8 October, the exhibition opening day, will be used to ensure the State does not suffer losses and that local and foreign gem traders can purchase gems at competitive prices.

Members of the central committee of the Myanma Gems Emporium and the chairman and members of the Myanmar Gem and Jewellery entrepreneurs Association discussed matters related to the exhibition and clarified the work of respective committees. — MNA/MKKS

APTERR Tier 3 Rice handed over to AR

FROM PAGE 1

APTERR is a regional programme involving the 10 ASEAN member states and the Plus Three countries to provide emergency rice assistance to areas affected by natural disasters and other emergencies.

Similarly, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) and regional, state and township music associations donated K120 million and medicines, clothing and consumer goods worth about K100 million for flood relief efforts in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District. The Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Services Association (MHFTSA) also donated K15 million.

Moreover, donations were made by officers and families of Defence Services Academy Intake 22, Golden Land Group, Royal Sky Co Ltd, Dagon Golf City staff families, U Maung Maung Kyaw (CEO, Dagon Golf Club), Ko Baw Baw family and U Bo Bo Htet.

The chief minister also inspected the clearing of garbage and sediment from drainage channels and waterways in Pathein as part of preventive measures to improve water flow and reduce the risk of flooding in Ayeyawady Region. — IPRD/KTZH

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NATIONAL

NSPNC, NCA-S EAOs hold second-day meeting

THE second-day meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the negotiation team of the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA-S EAOs) was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Yangon.



A commemorative group photo session follows the negotiation between the NSPNC and the NCA-Signatory EAOs.

Subsequently, NSPNC Member Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retired) explained and discussed the framework for reconnecting diverse stakeholders within the peace process.

Continuing discussions on the remaining agenda items from the first day, both sides discussed the implementation of the peace process based on the essence of the NCA, defining a common political framework to accommodate the differing objectives and aspirations of EAOs in implementing a single peace process and building national reconciliation, connecting local communities, civil society organizations, youth and women with the peace process, and strengthening confidence-building through credible and mutually accepted linkages to improve relations among diverse stakeholders.

Following this, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed attendees on the NSPNC's efforts to promote national solidarity and peace, and discussed the continued implementation of consolidated positions emerging from the two-day discussions, as well as the holding of more effective meetings to reach concrete agreements.

The two-day negotiations were then formally concluded, with both sides signing and documenting mutual agreements and common positions on the following points: modalities for future engagements between the NSPNC and NCA-S EAOs, the formation of committees to carry out regional peace, stability and development tasks, the participation and cooperation of respective NCA-S EAO groups in holding public discussions and forums across regions and states, encouraging all ethnic armed organizations to rejoin the peace process, continuously implementing the peace process based on the essence of the NCA, stepping up confidence-building measures, and matters concerning humanitarian assistance.

Finally, NCA-S EAO negotiation team leader and RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngeng and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered closing remarks, and the meeting was successfully concluded, according to reports. — MNA/TH

Strategic Town Hall Meeting and Credit Analysis Training held



CHID Bank's Credit Analysis Training in session.

WITH the objectives of improving operational efficiency, strengthening inter-departmental and branch collaboration, and enhancing employee capabilities, Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development (CHID) Bank held a Strategic Town Hall Meeting and Credit Analysis Training at its head office in September.

It was attended by CHID Bank's Vice-Chairman 2, C-Level executives, heads of departments, and branch managers. During the meeting, future strategic guidelines were shared and discussed. Participants engaged in an open exchange regarding the current operational status of branches and departments, workplace challenges, and key approaches needed to foster smoother collaboration.

In addition, CHID Bank conducted Credit Analysis Training on 25 and 26 September. The training emphasized the systematic evaluation of loan applicants' financial data, cash flow, repayment capacity, and business prospects, highlighting the importance of data-driven decision-making in credit management.

Through this training, CHID Bank aims to continuously upgrade branch leadership, credit expertise, and customer service quality while steadily fostering the people skills, knowledge, and leadership of its employees. — MT/ZN

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 30 September 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.20~3670.00	557.80~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	5,702, 132.23	6,042,072.69	85,560,879.10	-

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

56 container vessel ...

FROM PAGE 1

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) for accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. Afterwards, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June 2024, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port has handled. — NN/KK

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

MNHRC Statement 10/2026 on Commemoration of International Day of Older Persons

1. In recognition of the growing number of older persons worldwide as a result of the increasing average life expectancy of human beings, the United Nations designated 1 October of every year as the International Day of Older Persons. In 1991, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, setting out fundamental principles relating to the rights of older persons.
2. In accordance with these principles, promoting and protecting the rights of older persons to live independently and make their own decisions, to participate in society, to receive care and support, to have opportunities to realize their full potential, and to live with dignity free from discrimination will not only enhance their quality of life but also enable their capabilities, knowledge and experiences to generate invaluable benefits for society as a whole.
3. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that older persons, like all other persons, have the right to life, the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including necessary social services, and the right to security. Older persons account for approximately 12 per cent of the population of Myanmar. In order to protect and safeguard their rights, the Law Relating to Older Persons and its Rules have been enacted, and the Myanmar National Committee for Older Persons has been established and is carrying out relevant activities. In addition, committees concerning the rights of youth, women, children and older persons were formed in the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw to give due attention to and support the well-being, development and advancement of older persons.
4. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) recognizes the inherent human dignity of older persons and undertakes various activities to promote and protect their rights. These include conducting training courses, workshops and awareness-raising talks; incorporating the rights of older persons into training courses for caregivers of older persons; and conducting inspection visits to homes for the aged to observe matters concerning their fundamental human rights, including access to healthcare services, adequate food and nutrition, and clean drinking water, as well as arrangements enabling older persons to meet with their family members and friends. The Commission also makes recommendations to the relevant authorities with a view to addressing and fulfilling the needs of older persons.
5. The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2026 is "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives." In line with this theme, it is hereby emphasized that all countries and societies should give due attention and take appropriate measures to develop new ways of living and rethink existing systems and approaches to life, to create an environment in which all older persons around the world can enjoy longer, healthier and fulfilling lives with dignity.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Laikha's MSY village project loans disbursed



A village representative receives the MSY project fund in Laikha Township.

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Honawngaum Village, Laikha Township, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Laikha Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Naing Win first explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as enabling them to implement village development activities with increased revolving funds. Officials then handed over K69.7 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Honawngaum Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K69.7 million from the MSY Village Project. The 11th round of revolving loans at low interest rates was disbursed to 69 members from the village, including 25 members engaged in agriculture receiving K25.7 million, 16 in livestock breeding receiving K16 million, and 28 in trading businesses receiving K28 million. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

500+ vehicles equipped with RFID TollPass on YGN-MDY Expressway

FIVE hundred and sixty-seven (567) vehicles have been fitted with the automatic TollPass RFID system on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway between 17 and 25 September.

The prepaid system allows for quick and easy passage through toll gates, according to the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Maintenance Committee under the Ministry of Construction.



A toll gate on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway with the TollPass RFID system.

Currently, TollPass RFID tags are being sold and installed daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at Toll Pass Counters across three locations: 0 Miles, 201 Miles and 352 Miles.

The system was transitioned to the more modern, easy, fast, and secure RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology because the previous Ez Go ETC system had become outdated with ageing equipment.

To register, users must install a smartphone application and input vehicle information. The required costs include initial installation (K20,000) and a minimum purchase of K50,000. Users can check their vehicle's expressway usage history, passing gate, timestamp, and deducted toll fees via the MyTollPass Application. Vehicles equipped with TollPass must pass through designated TollPass Lanes. Drivers are required to slow down to 20 kilometres per hour at toll gates to allow time for the system to operate. As the system is currently in its trial phase, the technical team is fixing minor technical errors. Users experiencing issues may inform the on-duty staff. — TWA/ZN

Mohnyin implements garment businesses with MSY project funds

OFFICIALS from the Mohnyin Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection on the morning of 28 September to monitor the progress of garment businesses implemented by graduates of vocational sewing training courses in Thayagon Village. The initiative links vocational training provided to rural residents with the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project to expand employment opportunities and develop local livelihoods. During the inspection, Head of the Mohnyin District Department of Rural Development U Mya Thein Win, along with Township Head U Htay Myint and project managers, met the Thayagon Village MSY Project Committee members. They inspected the implementation of garment businesses carried out by the sewing course graduates using project revolving funds, verifying that operations strictly followed the guidelines set out in the project handbook. The district head encouraged the local entrepreneurs to expand their garment production from basic levels to advanced operational standards. To facilitate these livelihood activities for sewing course graduates in Thayagon Village, the Mohnyin Township Department of Rural Development supervised the issuance of low-interest loans from the MSY project funds through the village project committee, according to U Mya Thein Win, Head of the Mohnyin District Department of Rural Development. — Chit Oo Ko (DRD)



Officials oversee the implementation status of a garment business in Mohnyin Township.

NATIONAL

Cleanup efforts conducted in Ayeyawady Region


Community cleanup efforts are underway in Ayeyawady Region.

THE cleanup activities are continuing in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, after heavy rainfall and river erosion caused a section of the Ngawun River embankment to collapse on the night of 30 July. The breach led to flooding in five urban wards of Laymyethna, major roads in the town area and five urban wards of Hinthada, Yekyi, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships and surrounding villages.

Yesterday, the water level of the Ngawun River in Laymyethna reached seven feet seven inches, whereas eight feet one inch in Yekyi, nine feet three inches in Ngathaingchaung, six feet seven inches in Kyonpyaw and six feet four inches in Kyaunggon townships.

In towns, villages and wards where floodwaters have receded, local Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, social welfare and charity organizations, together with locals, are clearing mud and debris from monasteries, schools, hospitals, clinics, roads and bridges. They are also delivering food to flood victims at relief camps, providing timely emergency medical care, and continuing rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

Officials from the South-West Command and relevant officials observed the processes. — MNA/KTZH

Undocumented Indonesian detained



Immigration officials process the deportation of an Indonesian national.

AUTHORITIES detained one Indonesian, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State, yesterday.

The relevant officials conducted personal data collection processes to deport that undocumented foreigner as quickly as possible.

Among the remaining 1,282 individuals to be deported, there are 578 who were charged under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 704 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

Concrete paving of village access road inspected in Minbu


Officials inspect the concrete paving work in Minbu Township, Magway Region.

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the progress of concrete paving along the access road to Kywete Village, carried out with the Regional (Capital) Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year by the Minbu Township Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Minbu District, Magway Region.

Director (Civil) U Win Moe Htike from the Magway Region Department of Rural Road Development, Staff Officer (Civil) Daw Shwe Sin Oo from the Minbu Township Department of Rural Road Development, and responsible officials inspected the progress of the concrete paving work. The director (Civil) met company officials and instructed them to execute the work in compliance with prescribed quality standards and complete it on time.

The concrete paving along the three-furlong-long, 14-foot-wide, and seven-inch-thick access road to Kywete Village is being undertaken by Htar Po Company with K350 million from the Regional (Capital) Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year. The work commenced in the second week of July, and progress has now been 65 per cent complete approximately. — Set Lu

Myanmar rice varieties showcased at 23rd China-ASEAN Expo; 5 MOUs signed


The Myanmar Vice-President views exhibits on display at the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo(CAEXPO).

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and six member companies participated in the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) held in Nanning from 17 to 21 September, showcasing approximately 30 rice varieties, including Pawsan rice, Aemahta rice, Ngasein and value-added products.

Six-member companies (Shwe Wah Yaung Agriculture Production Co Ltd, Good Brothers' Co Ltd, Wilmar Myanmar Riceland Limited, Aung Naing Thit Sar Co Ltd, Vivo Group, and Benchmark Marine & Agro Exports Co Ltd) joined the Myanmar Pavilion Rice exhibition. During the expo, three-member companies signed five MOUs in their respective sectors, according to the MRF announcement.

A delegation including the Myanmar Vice-President, the Union minister for Commerce, and the deputy minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, accompanied by officials concerned, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) president and vice-presidents and representatives of affiliated associations visited the exhibition on 17 September. The MRF president and company officials welcomed the delegation and provided briefings.

The exhibition booths attracted daily visits from Chinese rice traders, companies, and researchers. MRF officials outlined the quality and pricing of Myanmar rice, highlighted the varieties most imported by China, and detailed valueadded products derived from rice. — NN/KK

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NATIONAL

Applications open for 1-year postgraduate arts diplomas

THE National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) is now accepting applications for its one-year postgraduate diploma programmes for the 2026-2027 academic year, with the application deadline set for 9 October.

The university will offer the following postgraduate diploma courses in Music, Performing Arts, Painting, Sculpture, Filmmaking and Theatre.

Civil service personnel must apply with permission from their respective departmental head. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from any university, must have an interest in the arts and basic knowledge of the chosen subject and must be able to attend the fulltime one-year programme.

Interviews will be held on 13 October, and the course begins in the first week of November 2026.

Application forms are available at the NUAC located on Shwe Sar Yan Pagoda Road, Ohn Chaw Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

Individuals can enquire about further details from the Department of Academic Affairs via 09 256380533 or the Archives Officer at 09 402675295, according to Nyein Chan Soe, Registrar of the university. — NN/KK

Concrete pavement work on village farm-to-market road inspected in Myeik

OFFICIALS inspected the progress of concrete pavement work on a rural farm-to-market road being implemented with Taninthayi Region funds in Kywegu Village, Sandawut Village-Tract, Myeik Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, yesterday.

District Head Daw Tin Tin Soe of the Myeik District Department of Rural Development, Township Head Daw Khin Aye of the Myeik Township Department of Rural Development, and officials, together with members of the Village Farm-to-Market Road Development Committee, inspected the ongoing concrete pavement work. The district head instructed relevant officials from the tender-winning company to carry out the work in compliance with prescribed specifications and standards and complete it on schedule. Necessary coordination was also made.



Officials oversee the concrete pavement work in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region.

The concrete pavement project covers a rural farm-to-market road measuring 0.61 furlong in length, 15 feet in width and seven inches in thickness, with a budget of K72.847 million from Taninthayi Region funds. The project is being implemented by Htoo Htoo Htet Co Ltd and commenced on 20 August. The project has so far been 50 per cent complete.

Upon completion, the road is expected to enable agricultural produce from 1,848 acres of farmland in Kywegu Village to be transported to markets more quickly, according to the Myeik District Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

Tachilek's VDP project introduced; committee formed



An orientation and committee formation ceremony in progress yesterday in Tachilek Township.

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

Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Thin met village elders and villagers and explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). Project staff also explained rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and forming the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be carried out by the village. The villagers formed a seven-member Village Development Committee to effectively carry out village development activities.

In the village, villagers will undertake village development activities for the 2026-2027 financial year using K15 million in support funds from the Village Development Project (VDP) and contributions from residents, with technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Department of Rural Development. — Thandar (DRD)

Aunglan concludes carpentry training course



The concluding ceremony for the carpentry training course underway in Aunglan Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a closing ceremony for a vocational carpentry training course in Sinchitaing Village, Aunglan Township, Magway Region, yesterday.

Aunglan District Department of Rural Development Head U Win Naing first delivered a speech explaining the benefits of the training and encouraging trainees to apply the skills acquired in practical work to increase family income. Responsible officials then presented awards to outstanding trainees and handed over completion certificates, which were accepted by a trainee representative on behalf of the class.

A total of 20 trainees from Sinchitaing and Yonseik villages attended the 15-day course learning theoretical and practical carpentry skills. Arrangements will also be coordinated to provide Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project loans to outstanding trainees who intend to establish their own businesses. — Thaw Zin Htoo (Rural)

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

OPINION

Quality aged care promotes longer, healthier lives

The growing number of long-lived older people worldwide is a positive development for society as a whole. Improvements in healthcare systems, employment opportunities, social protection, education, housing and public policies contribute much to ensuring people have a longer life expectancy.

In line with the era of longer and healthier lives, relevant organizations and authorities need to explore, develop and implement modern and innovative systems and measures to enable older persons to live longer, healthier and happier lives, ensure their full participation in society, and strengthen cooperation to promote the rights of older persons. Accordingly, the theme for the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP), observed on 1 October 2026, is "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives", calling for renewed efforts to address the needs of an ageing population.

According to Myanmar traditions and customs, Myanmar people accept the concept that having senior citizens in a household is considered a source of dignity and respect. Therefore, while preserving and upholding Myanmar's cherished traditions, Myanmar people should strive to ensure that the remaining years of older persons in their communities are filled with happiness and dignity, and pass these valuable traditions and good values on to future generations.

Currently, the average life expectancy in most countries around the world ranges from 60 to 85 years. Women generally have a longer life expectancy than men. Life expectancy varies among countries, regions and ethnic groups depending on factors such as political, economic, educational and healthcare conditions, as well as lifestyles. Myanmar's total life expectancy at birth is 67.1 years, based on recent data from 2024. Female life expectancy is 70.38 years, compared with 63.99 years for males.

In Myanmar, care for older persons through the establishment of homes for the aged began more than 100 years ago. Such activities are fine traditions of Myanmar to now. There are now 96 homes for the aged that have been officially permitted by the Department of Social Welfare. During the 2026-2027 financial year, K366.591 million will be provided to support 3,102 older persons residing under the care of these homes for the aged.

In addition, the "Social Pension Programme for Older Persons", one of the programmes under the National Social Protection Strategic Plan of Myanmar, has been implemented since the 2017-2018 financial year. This year, social pension payments equivalent to six months were provided to older persons aged 85 and above in the 2026-2027 financial year, with payments made in two quarterly instalments, either directly to the beneficiaries or through their representatives.

According to Myanmar traditions and customs, Myanmar people accept the concept that having senior citizens in a household is considered a source of dignity and respect. Therefore, while preserving and upholding Myanmar's cherished traditions, Myanmar people should strive to ensure that the remaining years of older persons in their communities are filled with happiness and dignity, and pass these valuable traditions and good values on to future generations.

ARTICLE

From Biomass Waste to Clean Electricity: Turning Waste into an Energy Opportunity

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)



As the world searches for cleaner and more sustainable sources of electricity, an important opportunity is emerging from an often-overlooked resource: biomass waste.

Agricultural residues, forestry by-products, food waste, animal manure and other organic materials are increasingly being viewed not simply as waste, but as potential sources of useful energy. With appropriate technologies, these materials can be converted into electricity, heat, biogas, transport fuels and other valuable products.

Instead of allowing organic waste to be openly burned, dumped or left to decompose and release greenhouse gases, modern bioenergy systems can collect and process it under controlled conditions. In this way, waste can become part of a cleaner and more circular energy system.

The US Department of Energy explains that bioenergy technologies can convert biomass and waste streams into electricity, heat, transportation fuels and other useful products. This creates an important connection between waste management and energy production.

Turning Waste into Electricity

Biomass is renewable energy derived from organic materials that can be replenished. These resources include agricultural residues such as rice husks and straw, forestry residues, wood-processing waste, animal manure, food waste and other organic materials.

Modern biomass power plants can use these resources to generate electricity. Organic waste can also be processed through anaerobic digestion to produce biogas, which can then be used to generate electricity.

This approach creates a valuable link between two major challenges: managing waste and meeting growing energy demand. Rather than treating waste simply as something that must be disposed of, communities can recognize certain waste streams as locally available energy resources.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has highlighted the potential of biogas produced from organic waste as a sustainable and relatively low-emission fuel that can contribute to electricity generation. Its July 2026 assessment also points to significant global potential for producing sustainable biogas from existing organic waste streams.

An Environmental Opportunity

One of the most important advantages of properly managed biomass energy is its potential contribution to environmental protection. Poorly managed agricultural and organic waste can create serious environmental problems. Open burning can contribute to air pollution, while uncontrolled decomposition of organic waste can release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Converting suitable waste into energy provides an alternative. Instead of allowing valuable organic material to become a source of pollution, it can be collected, processed and used in controlled energy facilities.

The environmental benefits, however, depend heavily on the type and source of biomass. Waste and residues can offer particular advantages because they do not necessarily require additional land to grow energy crops. They can also reduce the need for open burning and improve waste-management practices.

For this reason, responsible biomass development should focus strongly on genuine waste streams and residues while protecting forests, biodiversity, agricultural production and food security.

Supporting the Circular Economy

Biomass energy also fits naturally into the concept of a circular economy. In a traditional linear economic model, resources are extracted, used and eventually discarded. A circular economy seeks to keep materials and resources productive for as long as possible and to minimize waste.

Biomass-to-energy systems can contribute to this approach. Agricultural residues can become fuel. Animal waste can produce biogas. Food waste can generate electricity. Some processing systems can also produce useful by-products, including organic fertilizers.

The result is a system in which the residue from one economic activity becomes an input for another. This can be particularly valuable in agricultural economies. Farmers may gain additional economic opportunities from residues that previously had little value, while local communities can benefit from electricity generated from locally available resources.

Rural Development and Energy Security

Biomass resources are often located close to rural communities and agricultural production areas. As a result, properly designed biomass projects can create economic activity throughout the supply chain, including collection, transportation, processing, plant operation and maintenance.

The IEA has identified potential benefits of sustainable bioenergy beyond emissions reduction, including employment opportunities, rural development and improved waste management. Local electricity generation can also contribute to energy security. Countries that depend heavily on imported fossil fuels may reduce part of their exposure to international fuel-price fluctuations by making better use of domestic agricultural and organic resources.

For developing economies, biomass can therefore become one component of a broader renewable-energy strategy that connects clean electricity, rural employment, waste management and local economic development.

Biomass Must Be Sustainable

Biomass should not automatically be considered clean simply because it is renewable. Its environmental performance depends on what material is used, where it comes from, how it is produced and how far it must be transported. Unsustainable harvesting of forests can contribute to deforestation and biodiversity loss. Some biomass supply chains can also generate significant lifecycle emissions.

This is why sustainability standards, monitoring, certification and lifecycle assessment are essential. The most environmentally responsible biomass projects should prioritize waste and residues rather than creating incentives for deforestation or converting valuable ecosystems into energy plantations.

A responsible biomass strategy should maximize the use of genuine waste materials while protecting forests, biodiversity, agricultural production and food security.

A Complement to Solar and Wind

Biomass does not necessarily have to compete with solar and wind power. It can complement them. Solar and wind generation varies according to weather conditions, time of day and season. Under suitable conditions, biomass and biogas power plants can provide more controllable electricity generation.

The IEA's analysis of bioenergy power highlights the potential role of biomass in providing low-emissions flexibility alongside variable renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

A diversified renewable-energy system can therefore combine solar, wind, hydropower, biomass and biogas, depending on a country's natural resources, electricity demand and infrastructure.

SEE PAGE 10

Empathy and the Values of Human Society

By Augustin

Empathy means putting yourself in another person's shoes when they are sad, struggling or facing difficult times, and trying to understand what they may be feeling. True empathy is not only about understanding; it also involves asking with compassion, "How can I help this person?" and taking meaningful action to support them.

All living beings in the universe seek peace and happiness and wish to avoid pain. Recognizing that others experience pain, just as we do, is the foundation of empathy.

Having an empathetic heart can help build a more united and peaceful society. It encourages mutual respect and helps reduce discrimination, while fostering kindness and a willingness to help others. Empathy can also strengthen social unity by encouraging people to care about one another's well-being and work towards a more peaceful world.

By respecting everyone's dignity, we can help reduce inequality. Treating vulnerable people as equals, rather than merely feeling sorry for them, reflects the true meaning of our shared humanity. Protecting human dignity makes the world more compassionate and helps create a brighter future.

One of the best ways to show genuine empathy, love and compassion is by caring for our parents, grandparents and other elderly family members. As they grow weaker with age or face greater challenges, caring for them with love reflects one of the highest values of our shared humanity.

To support older people properly, we should provide physical care by offering nutritious food, necessary medicines, a safe living environment and assistance with daily movement. We should also provide emotional support by spending time with them, listening patiently to their stories and talking with them so they do not feel lonely or insecure. Finally, we should respect their dignity by involving them in family decisions and valuing their wishes, opinions and life experience, helping them feel respected and valued.

Many great teachers and leaders have emphasized the importance of caring for our parents and elders. In the Mangala Sutta, the Buddha identifies supporting one's parents as one of life's highest blessings. Buddhist teachings also emphasize gratitude, kindness and service toward parents, especially in their later years.

Confucius taught in The Analects that caring for parents requires genuine respect, not merely providing them with food and other necessities.

Mother Teresa is often credited with saying that the greatest disease in the modern world is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for. Whether or not we use this quotation, its message is meaningful: caring for our elders with empathy can give our lives deeper meaning and help pass love and compassion on to future generations.

Modern political and social ideas, including liberalism, emphasize human rights, freedom and dignity. A strong society has a shared responsibility to protect vulnerable people and older adults and to ensure that they can live with dignity.

When citizens work together with a sense of social duty, they help build a fairer democracy and a more mature and humane society. Balancing personal freedom with social responsibility allows people to live together in greater harmony and peace.

Real-world examples from around the world show how empathy and care can transform communities. In Japan, the "Restaurant of Mistaken Orders" employs older people living with dementia as servers. Occasional mistakes become opportunities for understanding and kindness while allowing participants to contribute and maintain their dignity.

In the Netherlands, Hogeweyk, often described as a "dementia village", provides a safe, community-style environment in which residents can live as ordinarily and independently as possible rather than in a conventional institutional setting. However, the model has also attracted criticism over concerns about creating an artificial or enclosed version of normal life.

In North America and Europe, intergenerational care programmes bring preschool children and older adults together, creating opportunities for companionship, shared enjoyment and early learning about empathy. Community initiatives in various places also use volunteers and local workers to check on isolated older people, offer practical help and listen to their stories.

Empathy is much more than pity; it is a noble quality rooted in respect, gratitude and a desire to help others. The older people we see today are the ones who once cared for and guided us, and one day we will grow old too. By teaching children and young people to develop empathy, we can help build a more peaceful and compassionate world for everyone.



ARTICLE/SCI/TECH
WORLD

Chinese researchers reconstruct face of 8,000-year-old man from remains

The scientific discovery gives a clear window into China's prehistoric Neolithic inhabitants.

A reconstructed face of a man who lived more than 8,000 years ago was unveiled Tuesday in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, providing insight into the region's prehistoric inhabitants.

The sculpture, based on human remains unearthed at the Jiahu archaeological site in Henan, combined physical anthropology with high-precision 3D facial reconstruction technology, according to researchers from the Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology and Jilin University's bioarchaeology laboratory.



A reconstructed face of a man based on human remains unearthed at the Jiahu archaeological site in central China's Henan Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

This work represents a significant application of scientific methods in archaeology and gives the public a more direct way to visualize the people of Jiahu, said Wang Wei, head of the institute.

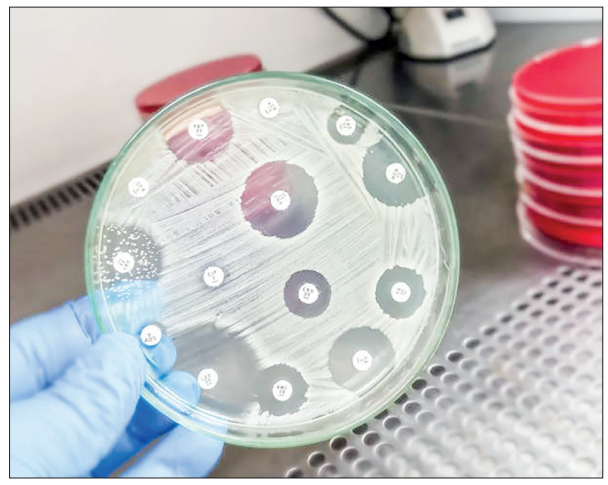
The individual was identified as a man aged between 25 and 30, based on the shape of his pelvis and the wear on his teeth, according to Zhu Hong, a professor at the laboratory.

His skull was regularly oval, with a prominent brow ridge and strong cheekbones, while his face was angular and relatively flat, and his nose was of moderate size, Zhu said. The features reflect physical traits typical of prehistoric people in the Central Plains, he added. — Xinhua

Newly found gene helps gut bacteria resist disinfectants

SCIENTISTS in Australia have identified a key gene that helps dangerous gut bacteria withstand even hospital-grade disinfectants intended to kill them.

New research reveals that the bacteria Clostridioides difficile has picked up the key gene that gives its dormant spores a free pass against antibiotics and cleaning products, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia's Monash University.



The mutation produces tough bacterial spores capable of surviving hospital sterilization procedures. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ISTOCK**

Its spores can remain dormant and later activate in suitable environments such as the human gut, posing a particular risk in hospitals where the bacterium can cause potentially deadly diarrhea, according to the study published in Nature Communications. Researchers found that the antibiotic resistance gene produces a protein that replaces a key spore-building protein, allowing the bacteria to produce tougher spores that can survive hospital-grade cleaning products and high laundry temperatures, potentially making infections harder to control and helping resistant strains spread. — Xinhua

From Biomass Waste to Clean Electricity: ...

FROM PAGE 9

An Opportunity for Agricultural Economies

Countries with substantial agricultural production have a particularly interesting opportunity to develop biomass energy. Rice husks, straw, sugarcane residues, corn residues, coconut residues and other agricultural by-products can become valuable energy resources when appropriate collection, transport and conversion systems are available.

Rather than burning agricultural residues in fields, farmers and local businesses can potentially supply them to biomass facilities. The resulting electricity can support rural industries, communities, agricultural processing and other productive activities.

The key is to establish efficient supply chains. Biomass is generally bulky and can be expensive to transport, meaning that projects work best when facilities are appropriately located near reliable sources of feedstock.

Myanmar's Opportunity: Turning Wood Waste into Electricity

Myanmar also has an opportunity to develop biomass electricity by making better use of wood-processing residues.

Sawmills, furniture factories and other wood-processing businesses generate sawdust, wood chips, bark, off-cuts and other residues. With appropriate collection and processing systems, these materials can be used as feedstock for biomass boilers, gasification systems or other electricity-generation technologies.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has identified forest residues and wood-processing residues as potential feedstocks for bioenergy production. For Myanmar, this approach could create additional economic value from materials that might otherwise be discarded or inefficiently burned.

The environmental dimension is particularly important. Myanmar's biomass strategy should focus on using existing waste and residues rather than cutting additional trees for fuel. Using sawdust and other wood-processing by-products could reduce uncontrolled burning and waste disposal while creating a locally available renewable-energy resource.

This approach could also support small and medium-sized enterprises involved in wood processing, waste collection, transportation and energy production. However, strong sustainability standards are essential. Biomass plants should use verified and responsibly sourced residues and avoid creating incentives for illegal logging, deforestation or unsustainable harvesting.

If properly managed, Myanmar can protect its forests while turning wood-processing waste into useful electricity. This offers a practical example of how environmental protection and economic development can reinforce each other.

Building the Right Policy Framework

The development of biomass energy requires more than simply building power plants. Governments need to establish clear sustainability standards, improve waste-collection systems, encourage responsible private investment and support rural infrastructure.

Research and development can also improve conversion technologies, increase efficiency and reduce emissions. Energy planners should evaluate biomass projects across their entire lifecycle – from collection and transportation to processing, electricity generation and final emissions. Such assessments can help distinguish genuinely sustainable projects from those that merely shift environmental impacts from one stage to another.

Financial incentives and supportive regulations can also help establish markets for agricultural and industrial residues. At the same time, transparent standards can ensure that biomass development does not undermine forests, food production or biodiversity.

Conclusion: Turning Waste into Value

The future of biomass-to-electricity development should be guided by a straightforward principle: turn waste into value without creating new environmental problems.

When properly designed, biomass energy can be more than another source of renewable electricity. It can become part of a wider strategy connecting climate action, waste management, rural development, energy security and local economic activity. From farms to forests, and from communities to power plants, biomass offers a pathway for transforming materials once regarded as waste into useful energy.

For Myanmar and other agricultural economies, the opportunity is particularly relevant. Rice husks, agricultural residues, food waste, animal waste and wood-processing by-products represent resources that can potentially support both cleaner electricity and local economic development.

The challenge is to use these resources responsibly. The objective should not be to burn more biomass, but to manage waste better, recover its energy value and protect the natural resources on which future generations depend.

The transition from biomass waste to clean electricity therefore represents more than a technological change. It is an opportunity to rethink the relationship between waste, energy, the environment and economic development.

The central message is simple: what was once considered waste can, with the right technology and responsible management, become part of the clean-energy future.

Morocco's king appoints El Mansouri as 1st female PM



Fatima Ezzahra El-Mansouri at a press conference at her party headquarters, the PAM, Rabat, 24 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

MOROCCO'S King Mohammed VI on Tuesday appointed Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri, national coordinator of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), as the country's new prime minister, the royal palace said.

El Mansouri becomes Morocco's first female head of government.

The PAM won 97 of 395 seats in the House of Representatives, parliament's lower house, in the parliamentary elections held on 23 September, finishing first.

Under the constitution, the king appoints the prime minister from the party with the most seats, which then forms a government. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Africa announces new measures against gender violence

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday night announced a series of new measures against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), adding to ongoing efforts to combat the crisis. "I address you tonight with the heaviest of hearts. I speak as president of the Republic. I also speak as a man, as a husband and as a father to daughters," Ramaphosa said in a live televised address, calling the violence inflicted upon the women of the country "a source of profound pain and national shame".

The presidential address follows widespread national outrage after the discovery of 11 women's bodies across the city of Ekurhuleni, east of Johannesburg, since July.

A specialized multidisciplinary task team, comprising detectives, Crime Intelligence officers, forensic experts, investigative psychologists, and digital investigators, has already been elevated to national level and deployed to investigate cases of femicide, Ramaphosa said, adding that some suspects have been arrested.

The government has also allocated resources to strengthen the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offenses Units, while more resources will be allocated by the minister of finance, and Sexual Offences Courts are being expanded, he said.— Xinhua

Sri Lanka to appoint committee to pursue return of cultural artefacts held abroad



The image shows an 18th-century Sri Lankan ceremonial sword and scabbard known as a kasthane. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FACEBOOK**

SRI Lanka's cabinet on Tuesday approved the appointment of a committee to advise the government on efforts to secure the return of Sri Lankan cultural artifacts held overseas, including items taken from the country during the colonial era.

The committee is also expected to facilitate further exchanges with its Dutch counterpart on the return of cultural artefacts.

Sri Lanka carried out the first phase of its cultural heritage restitution process in 2023, when six artefacts held by the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, were officially returned to the country.

The government said Articles 7 and 13 of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property provide states with a basis to seek the return of cultural property belonging to them that is held abroad. — Xinhua

Singapore sees rise in youth offending rate in 2025

SINGAPORE'S youth offending rate rose to 5.6 per 1,000 youths in 2025, from 4.8 per 1,000 in 2024, driven mainly by an increase in cheating and related offences, official data showed on Tuesday.

The youth drug offending rate remained relatively stable at about 0.5 per 1,000 youths in both 2024 and 2025, according to the Ministry of Social and Family Development's 2026 Supporting Youth Rehabilitation Trends Report.

Cheating and related offenses remained among the top offense categories for middle and older youths, with most youths involved in such offences linked to scams.

Among younger youths, theft and related offences, and sexual offences remained key offence categories. — Xinhua

Locals in US city Atlanta eager to meet newly arrived giant pandas from China

A pair of Chinese giant pandas landed here for a 10-year stay on Sunday, enabling locals to refresh decades-old bonds after a gap of nearly two years.

"The flight was very, very smooth. And they were comfortable ... they slept a lot and they ate a lot," said Zoo Atlanta's Vice-President of Animal Health Sam Rivera, who travelled with the pair on the chartered flight.

Named Ping Ping and Fu Shuang, the pair are in excellent condition and they are doing well, said Rivera in an interview with Xinhua on Monday.



A chartered FedEx cargo plane carrying a pair of Chinese giant pandas, Ping Ping and Fu Shuang, lands at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta, the United States, 27 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Now it was time for them to adjust to their new surroundings, said Rivera.

The arrival of the giant pandas not only "overjoyed" the staff at Zoo Atlanta but also sparked excitement among local residents and zoo-goers eager to see them.

Zoo Atlanta wasted no time putting up new posters and banners inside and outside the zoo on Sunday.

Meanwhile, as the giant pandas arrived, they were greeted by locals who felt excited for being the first to catch sight of the pair. Tanya Smith, one of the owners of Ollie's Market and Deli located around the corner of Zoo Atlanta, made a chalk drawing on a community board outside the cafe on Sunday morning. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

EV charging costs less than half of diesel fuel costs in Europe

Electric vehicle drivers in Europe pay less than half for charging.

ELECTRIC vehicle (EV) drivers in Europe pay, on average, less than half as much per kilometer to charge as diesel drivers pay to refuel, according to the Brussels-based environmental group Transport & Environment (T&E).

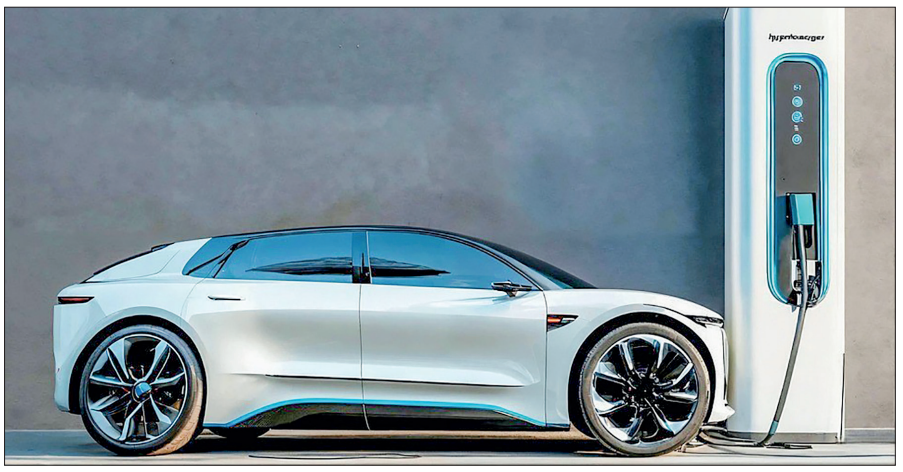
An analysis released Tuesday by T&E called on Europe to accelerate its transition to EVs and opposed across-the-board cuts in fuel duties. It recommended targeted support for low-income households, together with windfall taxes on energy firms to fund public transport and vehicle scrappage schemes.

"We are at a critical moment in the diesel crisis. Prices are already sky high for citizens and businesses and if the US blocks exports of diesel, there is a real risk of a genuine shortage of supply," said Antony Froggatt, senior director at T&E.

"Electrification is the only way to ensure this is the last oil crisis. But we need short-term measures as well," he said.

The analysis showed that diesel drivers now pay 32 euros (US$36.4) more to fill a 50-litre tank than at the start of the year, with about 16 euros of the increase due to higher refinery margins.

Estimates by the European Central Bank (ECB) show that the margin rose from about 0.10 euro per litre in February to 0.41 euro per litre around 14 September. The comparison covers refuelling and recharging costs only. It is based on average consumption of 6.9 litres per 100 kilometres for diesel vehicles and 20.2 kilowatt-hours per 100 kilometres for battery electric vehicles, with electricity priced at 0.343 euro (US$0.39) per kilowatt-hour. — Xinhua



Modern electric vehicle charging station operating at a public station. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/JULIUS H. FROM PIXABAY**

NEWS IN BRIEF

G20 trade officials meet under shadow of tariffs

G20 trade ministers are set to open talks Wednesday in the United States, in meetings strained by President Donald Trump's tariffs as Washington targets partners regarding forced labor and overcapacity.

The gathering of officials from the Group of 20 major economies -- which includes China, India, Russia, Japan, Germany and France -- takes place in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer defended Washington's approach at a Tuesday roundtable in Milwaukee, saying the administration "is not anti-trade."

He added that countries are facing similar challenges with global overcapacity and "non-market policies."

This week, key US trading partners like Canada and the European Union are also expected to push for deeper trade ties outside the United States. — AFP

South Africa's formal sector sheds 123,000 jobs

South Africa's formal sector lost 123,000 jobs in the first half of 2026 while real worker earnings continued to decline, official data showed Tuesday, underscoring persistent economic headwinds.

According to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) Quarterly Employment Statistics, formal non-agricultural employment decreased by 14,000 quarter on quarter to about 10.42 million in the second quarter (Q2), following an upwardly revised loss of 109,000 jobs in Q1. Year on year, the sector shrank by 95,000 positions. — Xinhua

S Korea forecasts record tax revenue in 2026 amid semiconductor boom

SOUTH Korea's finance ministry on Wednesday unveiled a revised financial outlook for 2026, forecasting a record-high tax revenue amid an unprecedented semiconductor boom.

The total tax revenue was estimated to hit an all-time high of 478.6 trillion won (about US$353.1 billion) in 2026, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

The re-estimation was higher than last year's collection of 373.9 trillion won, surpassing the previous record of 395.9 trillion won set in 2022.

Revenue from corporate income tax was expected to surge 61.2 per cent year-on-year to 136.4 trillion won in 2026, fuelled by soaring corporate earnings, particularly from the country's top two chipmakers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix.

The estimate for the combined operating profit of the two tech giants was set at 638 trillion won in 2026, sharply higher than 91 trillion won in 2025. — Xinhua



South Korean corporate tax revenue will surge significantly in 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Azerbaijan's gold exports up 28.7% in first 8 months

AZERBAIJAN exported gold worth US$271.2 million in January-August period, up 28.7 per cent year on year, according to data released Tuesday by the country's Centre for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication.

Gold export revenue increased by $60.5 million from the same period last year.

Excluding non-monetary gold, Azerbaijan's non-oil exports rose by 17.6 per cent year on year to $2.81 billion in the first eight months of 2026. Among non-oil export products, gold ranked first, followed by copper ores and concentrates at $183.7 million, and tomatoes at $172.2 million.

In August, gold also topped the monthly non-oil export list with $36.8 million, followed by copper ores and concentrates at $31.7 million, and peaches, including nectarines, at $29.4 million. — Xinhua



Azerbaijan significantly increased gold export revenues over eight months. **PHOTO: STEVE BIDMEAD FROM PIXABAY**

Zero tariffs boost South African exports

CHINA'S zero-tariff policy for qualifying South African exports has significantly driven demand for dry bulk commodities moving through South Africa's deep-water Port of Ngqura, including chrome, magnetite, iron ore, and corn, a port official said Tuesday.

Xola Mkontwana, business strategy manager at the Port of Ngqura, said the port has recorded "exponential growth" in commodity throughput destined for the Chinese market since the implementation of the trade policy.

"There was an exponential market in terms of demand from China," Mkontwana told journalists during a media tour of the adjacent Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. — Xinhua

India IPOs set third blockbuster year

INDIA'S initial public offering market is heading for a third consecutive blockbuster year, with a robust pipeline of companies poised to sustain the record-setting momentum into the final quarter.

Companies raised more than $9 billion through IPOs in the July-September quarter, the highest-ever amount for the period, according to Bloomberg data. That took total IPO fundraising in 2026 to more than $13 billion, putting the market on course for one of its strongest years on record. — ANI

Japan to face price hikes on over 3,000 food items in Oct

THE prices of 3,153 food and beverage items in Japan are set to rise next month as higher packaging costs stemming from the Middle East conflict and a weaker yen continue to hit household budgets, a research firm's survey showed Wednesday.

The expected increases in October, extending to dining out and leisure as well as utility bills following the end of government subsidies, will follow price hikes for 4,965 items in September, according to Teikoku Databank Ltd., which described the two months as another "wave of price hikes". — Kyodo



The prices of 3,153 food and beverage items in Japan are set to rise next month as higher packaging costs stemming from the Middle East conflict and a weaker yen continue to hit household budgets.
PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Canadian PM welcomes major LNG expansion to double production for Asia

CANADIAN Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed a major private sector investment on Tuesday as LNG Canada approved its Phase II expansion project, which will elevate the facility to the second-largest of its kind in the world and strengthen Canada's trade ties with Asia.

According to a news release issued by the prime minister's office, LNG Canada's decision builds directly on the success of its Phase I project, which began exporting low-carbon LNG in June 2025, the first time LNG was ever exported from Canada directly to customers. LNG Canada Phase II will double the terminal's capacity to 28 million tonnes annually.



This photo shows a view of the Tilbury liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on Tilbury Island in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, 29 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"The historic investments in LNG Canada are proof that Canada is building big and bold again. This facility ... will export some of the lowest-emitting LNG to new markets in Asia," Carney was cited in the release as saying. "We are building our strength at home, securing new trade partners abroad, and catalyzing unprecedented levels of new investment in our major projects. That is what an energy superpower looks like when it decides to act like one."

LNG Canada is a joint venture company composed of Shell Canada, PETRONAS, PetroChina, Mitsubishi Corporation and KOGAS. — Xinhua

Dangote's $16B Kenya refinery 'new chapter' for Africa

AFRICA'S richest man was set to break ground on a new $16-billion mega-refinery in Kenya on Wednesday, saying it marked a "new chapter in Africa's industrial journey".

Aliko Dangote created Africa's biggest oil refinery in his native Nigeria and the east African version at the port of Lamu will have a capacity of 700,000 barrels per day — larger than any in Europe.

The project, which aims for completion within 30 to 40 months, has already faced a lawsuit from a local community over land rights. A court ruling published on Monday said the ground-breaking could go ahead, but the case will continue. Greenpeace and other environmentalists have also raised objections over its impact. Lamu is a tourist hotspot known for the oldest Swahili settlement founded in the 12th century, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Dangote dismissed the challenges, saying: "We're not really scared of people taking us to court. Anybody who wants to cause trouble, we are ready for his trouble and will give him a headache."

He was joined by Kenyan President William Ruto and regional leaders including Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni for the ceremony. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (181W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (181W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V T-F VOY.NO. (003/2026)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T-F VOY.NO. (003/2026)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S T TWENTY TWO GROUP LOGISTICS CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Putin congratulates nation on Day of Reunification of new regions with Russia

This holiday has become the embodiment of our people's irrepressible aspiration for the restoration of historical unity.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin congratulated Russians on the Day of Reunification of the new regions with Russia.

"I am glad to congratulate you, all citizens of our country, on the Day of Reunification. This holiday has become the embodiment of our people's irrepressible aspiration for the restoration of historical unity," Putin said at the first plenary session of the State Duma of the ninth convocation.



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during the first plenary session of Russia's ninth State Duma, the lower house of parliament, in Moscow, Russia on 30 September. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

On 30 September, Russia marks the Day of Reunification of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Lugansk People's Republic, the Zaporozhye Region, and the Kherson Region with the Russian Federation.

The Russian financial system and economy are feeling confident, Russian President said.

"The Russian economy is feeling confident. The main thing is not to make mistakes", Putin noted.

Other Key Statements

- Residents of the new regions, under the most difficult conditions, took part in the referendum on reunification with Russia in strict accordance with international law
- The choice of residents of the new regions was extremely clear and unambiguous - to reunite with Russia
- The Day of Reunification of the New Regions has become a symbol of the righteous struggle of Russian people across the entire country - and of the residents of Donbass and Novorossiya - for freedom
- The Russian people cannot be broken or intimidated by any one. — SPUTNIK

Israel probes Flydubai cockpit incident after hijack alert

ISRAELI security agencies were investigating an incident aboard a Flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv after the aircraft transmitted an emergency signal and descended sharply before diverting to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

Israel's state-owned Kan TV news, citing an Israeli official, reported that Israeli authorities had not ruled out a possible "terrorist incident" and were examining whether one of the two pilots may have tried to crash the aircraft. It said one of the pilots was injured.



The emergency signals were transmitted after the pilots became involved in a physical altercation. **PHOTO: FACEBOOK**

In a video circulated on social media, an Israeli passenger with blood on his face said, "We are under attack on the plane. We have overpowered the terrorists. We are about to land."

Earlier, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the incident was not believed to have been a hijacking. An Israeli official said that the emergency signals were transmitted after the pilots became involved in a physical altercation.

A flydubai spokesperson confirmed that flight FZ 1073 operating from Dubai International Airport to Ben Gurion International Airport "experienced an incident" while en route. The aircraft later landed in Tabuk Airport in Saudi Arabia and all passengers are "safe and accounted for", according to the spokesperson. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN holds 4th straw poll on S-G candidates

THE UN Security Council on Tuesday held its fourth straw poll on the candidates for the next UN secretary-general.

"The fourth round of straw polls has taken place," said Jerome Bonnafont, the UN ambassador of France, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council for the month of September.

"Each candidate will be informed of the results through the respective permanent representatives of nominating member states. The president of the (UN) General Assembly will also be informed that the straw poll has been conducted," he told reporters after the conclusion of the secret vote.

Security Council straw polls on secretary-general candidates are informal closed-door ballots used to determine the viability of the candidates. Their results are not officially released. – Xinhua

Death toll from capsized ship in Indonesia

THE death toll from a passenger ship that capsized and sank in Indonesia's Java Sea has risen to 78, the country's National Search and Rescue Agency said on Wednesday.

The rescue teams are still looking for 57 missing people, while 108 others have been evacuated safely.

The Virgo Transport 8, with 243 people onboard, departed Surabaya in East Java on 12 September for Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan. It encountered bad weather and lost contact at around 2 am local time on 13 September. Rescuers have since recovered bodies from inside the ship and along the coast of Central Kalimantan province. Indonesia, an archipelagic country with around 17,000 islands, relies heavily on ferries and other forms of sea transport to connect its islands and facilitate travel. Maritime accidents occur from time to time due to factors including weather conditions, sea conditions and vessel safety. – Xinhua

Tunisia hosts intl digital health summit

THE international Telehealth Connect Summit 2026 opened Tuesday in Tunis, bringing together health sector leaders, policymakers, regulators, investors and technical experts from more than 30 countries. The three-day event, running through Thursday under the auspices of the Tunisian Ministry of Health, aims to develop strategies, strengthen partnerships and identify practical solutions to challenges related to governance, cybersecurity and sustainable financing in digital health. Participants are scheduled to attend technical workshops and strategic forums focusing on key issues, including artificial intelligence, medical imaging, teleradiology, cross-border health regulations and data protection.

Tunisian health authorities said digital tools, including telemedicine, mobile messaging and chatbots, have significant potential to expand access to healthcare and improve the delivery of health services.

The International Telecommunication Union and the World Health Organization have estimated that digital health interventions could help prevent more than two million deaths over the next decade. – Xinhua

SPORTS

Yangon hit 5, Ayeyawady win in M-League U20

YANGON United thrashed Chinland 5-1, while Ayeyawady United edged Yangon City 1-0 on the second day of Matchweek 17 of the M-League U20 Youth League on 30 September.

At YUSC Stadium, Yangon United maintained the pressure on leaders Sports and Physical Education Institute with a convincing win over Chinland. Zwe Khant Aung scored a hat-trick in 13, 45 and 69 minutes, while La Min Pyae Sone and Khun Cho Htoo added goals in 54 and 70 minutes, respectively. Chinland's lone goal came from Van Dwet Lan Htawng in 20 minutes.



Chinland goalkeeper saves a shot from Yangon United's Zwe Khant Aung, who scored a hat-trick in the match. **PHOTO: ML**

At Bahan Stadium, Ayeyawady United defeated Yangon City 1-0, with Htet Aung Lwin scoring the only goal in 38 minutes.

The third day of Matchweek 17 will continue on 1 October, with Galaxy facing Hanthawady United at Bahan Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Asian Games: Anraku wins on boulder as Kondo siblings get judo golds



Japan's Sorato Anraku competes en route to winning the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games men's boulder final in sport climbing in Nagoya on 30 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S Sorato Anraku won the men's sport climbing boulder title at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Wednesday, while the Kondo siblings of Hayato and Mitsuki triumphed in their respective weight classes in judo.

The 19-year-old Anraku was the only climber to top three of four problems in the eight-man final at Portmesse Nagoya, winning on 74.5 points to add to his gold from 2023 in Hangzhou, China, where he prevailed in an event combining boulder and lead. "I was able to adjust my mentality and movement well during the competition," said Anraku, who won boulder at the world championships for the first time last year.

Lee Do Hyun of South Korea scored 49.7 for silver and Japan's Tomoa Narasaki 44.9 for bronze.

Mitsuki Kondo won her gold by ippon after pinning Abiba Abuzhakynova late in the women's 48-kilogramme division final before Hayato won his 60-kilogramme title by beating another Kazakhstani, Yeldos Smetov, through two yuko.

"I got switched on and was motivated," said the 25-year-old Hayato after seeing Mitsuki's victory, while his 21-year-old sister vowed to "work together and definitely win Olympic golds together". In wrestling, Taizo Yoshida won the men's Greco-Roman 87 kilogramme with an 11-1 final win over Asan Kurbanovich Zhanyshov of Kyrgyzstan. Ami Ishii also won a gold by beating North Korea's Pak Sol Gum 7-2 in the women's 68 kilogramme. — Kyodo

Myanmar reach Mobile Legends final at Asian Games



Myanmar reach Mobile Legends final. PHOTO: MEF

MYANMAR advanced to the final stage of the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang event at the 20th Asian Games after defeating Malaysia 2-0 in the semifinal on 30 September.

Myanmar defeated Uzbekistan and Hong Kong 2-0 in the group stage on 29 September before beating Cambodia 2-1 in the quarterfinal and Malaysia 2-0 in the semifinal.

The Mobile Legends: Bang Bang final will be held on 1 October, with Myanmar facing Indonesia.

Team Zanaka are representing Myanmar in the Asian Games esports competition. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Junior Karate Japan Cup Myanmar 2026 on 26 Oct

THE Junior Karate Japan Cup Myanmar 2026 competition will be held at the Assembly Hall of the Japanese School in Yangon on 26 October, with the aim of promoting karate, a traditional Japanese martial art, and strengthening friendship between Japan and Myanmar, according to the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar.



The "Junior Judo Japan Cup 2025", jointly organized by the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar and Hiranuma Dojo was held at the Japanese School in Yangon on 5 October 2025.

The competition will be jointly organized by the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar and the Myanmar Karate Federation and will run from 8 am to 5:30 pm on 26 October.

About 150 Myanmar karate athletes aged 13 to 18 are expected to compete in the event. The competition aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and techniques among young athletes while promoting their physical fitness, mental development and leadership skills.

Mr Taniyama Takuya, a karate instructor who has worked for more than 30 years to promote karate in Myanmar, will also attend the competition as a special guest. — TWA/KZL

Atlanta confirmed as first US stop of LA28 Olympic torch relay



Torch relay start for the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Winter Games. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ATLANTA has been confirmed as the first stop of the LA28 Olympic torch relay in the United States, with the flame set to travel across all 50 US states before arriving in Los Angeles for the 2028 Olympic Games, organizers announced on Tuesday.

The relay will begin with the traditional lighting of the Olympic flame in Ancient Olympia, Greece, followed by a short relay across the country. The flame will then be handed over at the historic Panathenaic Stadium in Athens before beginning its journey across the United States.

Atlanta, host of the 1996 Olympic Games, was chosen as the first US stop, linking the legacy of the last Summer Olympics held in the United States with LA28.

"Every Olympic Games begin with a single flame, and transporting that flame to Los Angeles is an honor and privilege that we'll share with every corner of the country, as Americans in all 50 states carry the flame on its path to our opening ceremony," said LA28 Chairperson and President Casey Wasserman. — Xinhua

Putin congratulates nation on Day of Reunification of new regions with Russia

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WORLD

British PM keeps options open for rejoining EU

REJOINING the European Union is one option for Britain's future relationship with Europe, said British Prime Minister Andy Burnham in a BBC interview released on Wednesday.

Asked by a BBC host whether he would like to see Britain rejoin the EU, Burnham said, "I would like to see Britain rejoin in my lifetime," but added that he would "look at the different options".

The options included "stay as we are", a customs union, the European single market, or "we could go all the way", Burnham said.

"I am very clear, and I will say this bluntly: Brexit has done more harm than good," he noted.

Britain voted to leave the EU in 2016, ending more than four decades of membership, with successive governments having since dealt with the economic and diplomatic consequences — Xinhua



EU flags are waved beside Big Ben during a "Rejoin the EU" march in central London on 20 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

Xi pays tribute to national heroes on Martyrs' Day

Top leaders presented flower baskets at Tian'anmen Square on Martyrs' Day.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Party and state leaders attended a ceremony to present flower baskets to fallen national heroes at Tian'anmen Square in central Beijing on Wednesday morning.

The event was held to mark Martyrs' Day. Observed on 30 September, one day before National Day, the day commemorates those who gave their lives for national independence and prosperity.

Since Martyrs' Day was established in 2014, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has maintained the tradition of paying homage to fallen heroes on the day.

The other leaders who attended the ceremony on Wednesday included Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng. They were joined by representatives from all walks of life.

At 10 am, all attendees sang the national anthem, followed by a moment of silence in tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the Chinese people and the development of the People's Republic of China. — Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders of the Communist Party of China and the state including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attend a ceremony to present flower baskets to fallen national heroes at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, 30 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Pope's 'heartfelt' plea for talks in Tigray-Ethiopia conflict

POPE Leo XIV called for dialogue Wednesday in Ethiopia after renewed hostilities in the Tigray region have killed or wounded dozens of civilians.

"I extend my heartfelt plea to all parties, to choose the path of dialogue. Armed conflict never solves problems but only worsens them, leaving in its wake a trail of death, destruction and resentment," said the pope following his general audience in Saint Peter's Square."It is my fervent hope that the international community will offer its generous and timely contribution to ensuring that all humanitarian aid be provided to those in need," Leo said. Heavy fighting broke out last week between Ethiopian forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), raising fears of a return to the civil war from 2020 to 2022 that killed an estimated 600,000 people. — AFP

Singapore ranks 5th in Global Innovation Index

SINGAPORE ranked fifth among 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2026 released Tuesday, marking the city-state's fourth consecutive year in the global top five.

Singapore also retained its top ranking for innovation inputs, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization. Published annually, the index assesses economies' innovation capabilities and performance using 79 indicators.

Singapore's strong performance in innovation inputs reflects the country's business and innovation environment, including institutions, access to talent and research capabilities, and an ecosystem supporting investment and the development of new ideas, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore said in a statement on Tuesday. — Xinhua

Japan court protects voices against AI

A Japanese court ruled Wednesday that voices are protected as a publicity right, similar to portrait rights, in the first such ruling in the country.

The Tokyo District Court, however, dismissed the demand by the plaintiff, popular voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda, for the operator of TikTok to take down videos narrated using artificial intelligence with a voice that he claimed was similar to his own, noting the videos had already been deleted since he filed his suit last November.

In handing down the ruling, Presiding Judge Aya Takahashi said, "Human voice, like portrait, symbolizes an individual's character." — Kyodo