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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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President U Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to remains of Chanmyay Yeiktha Sayadaw

Chanmyay Yeiktha Sayadaw established monastery branches in major cities in Myanmar and meditation centres in Thailand, South Africa and the United States of America.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to the remains of the venerable Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa in Yangon yesterday.

Presiding Patron of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery from Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, State Ovadacariya, Maha Nayaka of Shwegyin Nikaya, Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika, Aggamaha Kammathanacariya, Pali Pativisodhaka of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, Sakkyasiha and Government's Siripavara Dhammacariya Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa, aged 99 and 79 vasa, passed away at 11:03 am on 19 September.

The remains of the venerable Sayadaw are being kept at Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery. President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Yangon Command and officials paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw yesterday morning.

The President and party also paid obeisance to members of the Sangha led by Presiding Patron of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery Bhaddanta Sobhita Bhivamsa.

SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar Consul-General attends 11th Belt and Road Summit

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar participated in the 11th Belt and Road Summit.

The 11th Belt and Road Summit was held in the first week of September at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Myanmar Consul-General attended the summit, and an exhibition booth was featured within the ASEAN Zone inside the Global Investment Zone.



This photo captures exhibition booth of Myanmar at the 11th Belt and Road Summit.

Attendees of the 11th Belt and Road Summit visited the exhibition booths in the ASEAN Zone, where they met with representatives from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's (HKTDC) regional offices in ASEAN, ASEAN consulates-general and associations to explore new business partnership opportunities.

At the Myanmar Consulate-General booth within the ASEAN Zone, brochures on investment opportunities in Myanmar supported by the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations were displayed, and promotional videos inviting investment in the power generation sector supported by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy were screened. Furthermore, the Economic Attaché addressed inquiries and held discussions with visitors, as reported. — ASH/TH

40-million-year-old fossilized molar of new mammal species preserved in Nay Pyi Taw

A fossilized molar of an extinct hoofed mammal that lived about 40 million years ago is being systematically preserved at the Pondaung Fossil Collection of the Ministry Culture, Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw, according to statements issued by Native Species Conservation & Identification (NSCI) on 19 September.

SEE PAGE 2

60 acres of highland farmland developed in Naga Self-Administered Zone

THE Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs has completed a project on the development of 60 acres of highland farmland in Sanpya Village, Gahong Village-tract, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, under the Union budget for border area development for the 2026-2027 financial year.



Crops are thriving in highland farmland in Naga Self-Administered Zone.

The highland farmland development project is expected to significantly contribute to the socioeconomic development of two villages, comprising a population of 579 from 82 households, according to reports. — MNA/KNN

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

Low-Pressure Area Conditions

Issued at 4 pm MST on 20 September 2026

Low-Pressure Area Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Low-Pressure Area over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Andaman Sea (Near the offshore area of the Deltaic, Myanmar) still persists.

Next 72 hours forecast

It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and intensify gradually into a Depression over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal, during next 24 hours and into a Deep Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours. Continuing to move West-Northwestwards and it is likely to reach Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal near South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh, India during next 72 hours.

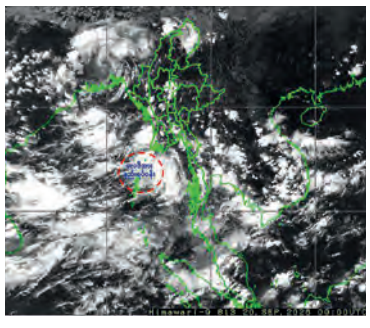
General caution

Due to the Low-Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states from today evening to 24 September 2026.

The occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 9-11 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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



U Aye Min Htwe appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Republic of India

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aye Min Htwe, Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India. — MNA

Gold Market Rate as of 20 September 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,150,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issues Statement 9/2026

1. Peace is a fundamental foundation for the full enjoyment of human rights, while respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights is an essential basis for building sustainable peace. With the aim of promoting peace among nations and raising awareness of the value of peace among humanity, the United Nations General Assembly designated 21 September as the International Day of Peace every year.
2. The importance of peace is highlighted in the Charter of the United Nations. Likewise, the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "recognition of the inherent rights of all human beings is the foundation for freedom, justice, and peace in the world", demonstrating sustainable peace can only be achieved through respect for the value and dignity of every individual.
3. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the building of a society in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be practically enjoyed. Therefore, in line with this year's theme for the International Day of Peace, "Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday," we must strive to foster peace for everyone, everywhere, and everyday.
4. In order to implement the nation's development and stability through achieving sustainable peace in Myanmar, the "National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee", has been formed under the leadership of the President of the State, and tasks have been laid down and carried out. Therefore, in honoring and welcoming the International Day of Peace, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission solemnly urges all stakeholders to actively cooperate and participate in the national solidarity and peacemaking processes.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 21 September 2026

40-million-year-old fossilized molar of new mammal species preserved in Nay Pyi Taw

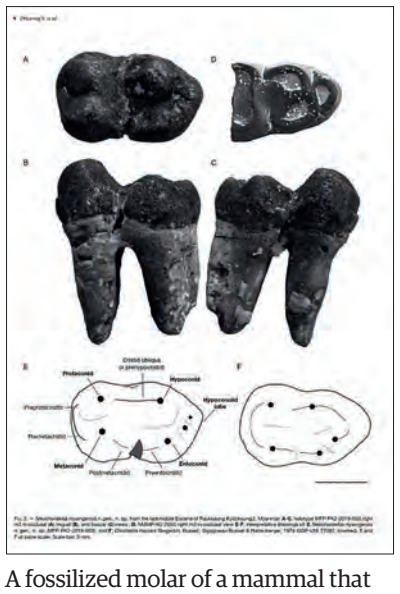
FROM PAGE 1

The fossilized tooth was discovered during a field survey conducted in 2022 in the Pondaung Formation in Myaing Township, Magway Region. The fossil is a lower last molar measuring approximately 14.8 millimetres in length and 9.2 millimetres in width.

A similar tooth was discovered in 2000, but it was broken and damaged. The latest specimen, however, was found intact and in a more complete condition. Based on this discovery, a team of Myanmar and international researchers, including Stéphane Ducrocq, Aung Naing Soe, Chit Sein, Yaowalak Chaimanee, Olivier Chavasseau and Jean-Jacques Jaeger, conducted research and published a paper identifying it as a new species.

According to the researchers' estimates, the tooth dates from the Middle Eocene and belonged to an animal that became extinct about 40 million years ago. The hoofed mammal has been named Neochorlakkia myaingensis. It belonged to the extinct family Dichobunidae and the group Mammalia/Cetartiodactyla.

Most ancient fossils of extinct species found in Myanmar are usually discovered in amber, making the discovery of a well-preserved fossil in the ground, as in this case, extremely rare. The fossilized molar is currently recorded as Specimen No MFP-PK2-2019-003 and is being preserved and displayed at the Pondaung Fossil Collection of the Ministry of Culture in Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/KNN



A fossilized molar of a mammal that became extinct about 40 million years ago, preserved in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla ...

FROM PAGE 1

Administrator of Tipitaka Maha Withokdayon Monastery from Bahan Township Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirikiccana explained the plans to hold the final rites of the late Sayadaw.

In supplicating the religious measures, the President said that a plan is underway to hold the late Sayadaw's final cremation ceremony with due grandeur and dignity at the State level. Systematic arrangements will also be made to ensure the smooth travel of monks and nuns, male and female devotees from within the country and abroad who will come to pay homage to the remains of the late Sayadaw, as well as to provide convenient arrangements for meals, refreshments, accommodation and other necessities. Committees will be systematically formed and responsibilities assigned to ensure that the late Sayadaw's final rites ceremony is held successfully in a grand and dignified manner. The President also supplicated the propagation of Buddhism.

The President gave necessary guidance to Union ministers and the Yangon Region chief minister in order to successfully hold the State-level final rites for the late Sayadaw on a grand scale.

The President and his wife donated K50 million to the fund to hold the final rites to an official, who returned a certificate of appreciation.

Moreover, the President and his wife offered alms to Presiding Patron of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita Bhivamsa, who returned the Buddhist Literature books compiled by the late State Ovadacariya Chanmyay Yeiktha Sayadaw.

The President, his wife and party viewed the remains of the late Sayadaw and observed the Buddhism books compiled by the late Sayadaw.

The baby to be Chanmyae Sayadaw was born to parents U Phyu Min and Daw Shwe Yi in Pyinma Village of Taungdwingyi Township on Tuesday, 8th Waxing of Wagoung, 1290 ME. The boy entered the Buddhist order as a novice on 5th Waxing of Tagu, 1305 ME and was ordained on Tazaungmone full moon in 1309 ME.

The Sayadaw secured Pariyatti Sasanahita Dhammacariya and Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya titles. The Sayadaw gave lectures on Pariyatti literature to student monks and novices in Tawya Beikman Buddhism Learning Centre in Taungdwingyi. He served as a Pali Pativisodhaka at the 6th Buddhist Synod. He established Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery and served the lecturing on the Buddhism and the ways of meditation. The Sayadaw compiled 34 books on Buddhism in Myanmar version and 10 in English. He also established branches of the monastery in Hinthada, PyinOoLwin, Hmawby, Aungban, Taunggyi, Lewe and Tamu in the country and meditation centres in Bangkok of Thailand, Durban of South Africa and Springfield of the United States of America. Moreover, he delivered meditation teachings at overseas universities, including the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, and the University of Illinois, the University of Hawaii, the University of Vancouver and the Oberlin University in the United States. The Sayadaw served as a State Ovadacariya fthe rom 2019 to date.

The Government offered Aggamaha Kammathanacariya title to the Sayadaw in 1995 and Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika title in 2009.

In accord with the guidance of the President, arrangements are being made to successfully hold the State-level final rites of the late Sayadaw on a grand scale. — MNA/TTA

Vice-President-led Myanmar delegation returns from China

ACCOMPANIED by members of the Myanmar delegation, Vice-President U Nyo Saw attended the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo and the 23rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China. He departed Guangzhou, China, by air yesterday afternoon and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.



Vice-President U Nyo Saw is pictured being welcomed back after attending the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo and the 23rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Nanning, China.

The delegation led by the Vice-President was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than, Deputy Minister at the Office of the President U Khin Latt, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

On the evening of 18 September, the Vice-President met Myanmar and Chinese businesspeople at the Myanmar Trade Representative Office in Nanning, where they discussed the further enhancement of bilateral business cooperation. During the visit, the Vice-President also visited XPENG and GAC automobile manufacturing companies to observe their vehicles and production processes. During the visits, company officials conducted the Vice-President round the auto manufacturing processes. — MNA/TH

uab Bank backs long-term clean water solution for flood-hit Laymyethna


Staff of uab participate in supply of drinking water to flood victims in Laymyethna.

A clean water initiative supported by uab Bank and ASEAN CARE partners Humanity Matters and Capital Diamond Star Group (CDSG) has been introduced in Sayaykwin Village, Laymyethna Township, to help communities affected by recent flooding regain access to safe drinking water.

Flooding in Laymyethna Township affected more than 14,000 people, disrupting daily life and creating challenges in accessing essential needs, including safe drinking water and maintaining proper hygiene during the recovery period.

SEE PAGE 6

Myanmar Defence Minister Attends 13th Beijing Xiangshan Forum



Union Minister General Tun Aung attends the welcome dinner of 13th Beijing Xiangshan Forum.

UNION Minister for Defence General Tun Aung led a delegation to the 13th Beijing Xiangshan Forum, held in Beijing from 15 to 17 September 2026, at the invitation of Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dungjun. During the visit, Admiral Dungjun welcomed General Tun Aung with a guard of honour at the Beijing International Convention Centre (BICC). The two sides discussed Myanmar-China defence cooperation and peace and stability along their shared border.

The Myanmar delegation attended the forum's opening dinner hosted by the People's Liberation Army, plenary sessions on 16 and 17 September, and informal bilateral meetings with defence ministers from regional and neighbouring countries. On 17 September, General Tun Aung participated in discussions on "Challenges and the Role of Developing Countries" and responded to questions from participants. The 13th Beijing Xiangshan Forum brought together defence ministers, senior security officials and international security and defence scholars from more than 100 countries.

During the visit, the delegation also toured military technology companies in Beijing and met with officials, military personnel, family members and trainees at the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office in Beijing. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

USDP holds 4th Party Congress in Nay Pyi Taw

THE fourth Party Congress of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) was held at the party headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 and 20 September and successfully concluded yesterday.

At the opening ceremony, USDP Chairman U Khin Yi urged party members to place the interests of the country above those of the party and their personal interests when carrying out their duties.

During the congress, five papers jointly prepared by various groups were presented. The congress also approved the formation of party committees at different levels in the regions and states, lists of district and township party committees yet to be formed, and lists of Central Committee members and reserved Central Committee members.

The Supervisory Central Committee and the Election Commission selected U Khin Yi as Chairman of the Central Committee, U Myat Hein and U Thaung Aye as Vice-Chairmen, U Tin Aung Chit as General Secretary, U Aung Soe as Joint General Secretary, and 46 members of the Central Executive Committee.

The congress was attended by the party chairman, vice-chairmen, general secretary, central consultants, Central Executive Committee members, Central Committee members, reserved Central Committee members, delegates representing party committees from regions, states, districts and townships, invited guests and members of the media.

A press conference followed the congress, at which members of the Central Executive Committee responded to questions from media representatives concerning the holding of the fourth Party Congress. — MNA/KZL

Large rockfall damages building and two vehicles in Taunggyi



This photo records a large rock that rolled down from the hillside.

SEE PAGE 6

Myanmar Delegation Observes Russian State Duma Elections in Moscow

DEPUTY Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Maung Maung Ohn and his delegation, who were in Russia as international election observers, visited five polling stations in Moscow during the State Duma elections.

The polling stations were located in a theatre in Arbat District, a science centre in Khamovniki District, a government one-stop service office in Yakimanka District, a shopping and leisure centre in Ochakovo District, and a government one-stop service office at Yevropeysky Shopping Centre in Dorogomilovo District.

The delegation learned that the polling stations they visited had voter lists ranging from more than 3,000 to over 8,000 voters. Voters could cast their ballots through several methods, including paper ballots and electronic voting at polling stations, online voting via the Gosuslugi application, and home voting using mobile ballot boxes or electronic voting machines for elderly and sick voters unable to travel to polling stations.

Most voters reportedly cast their ballots through the online application, while many who visited polling stations used electronic voting machines. Paper ballots were mainly used by elderly voters, although queues of people preferring paper ballots were observed at some polling stations.



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn observes polling stations in Moscow during the State Duma elections.

Elderly and sick voters unable to visit polling stations could request home voting by telephone. In such cases, election officials accompanied by observers representing political parties or candidates travelled to voters' homes with mobile ballot boxes or voting machines.

The delegation also observed international visitors, party and candidate observers, and voters at the polling stations. Most locations were not crowded, which polling station officials attributed to the extended voting period, online voting options and the availability of sufficient electronic voting machines. — MNA/ST

29,109 insured workers in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

THERE are 29,109 insured workers in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, who receive healthcare services through three township social security clinics, five fee-for-service clinics, four departmental clinics and a mobile medical unit, according to the Ministry of Labour.

On 19 September, a mobile medical team comprising specialists from workers' hospitals provided medical treatment, laboratory tests, ECG examinations and necessary medicines to 308 insured workers at the Pyinmana Sugar Mill and 135 insured workers at the Moe Thiri Garment Factory in Pyinmana Township.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe visits the workplaces of Moe Thiri Garment Factory in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 September 2026.

Union Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Than, inspected the mobile medical services provided to workers at the Pyinmana Sugar Mill and met with factory officials, workplace safety and health committee members, labour-management coordination committee members and workers. He discussed measures to effectively address workers' needs in line with government guidance.

The Union Minister also inspected healthcare services being provided to insured workers at the Moe Thiri Garment Factory and held discussions with factory officials and relevant committees.

The Ministry of Labour provided on-site medical services to 136,130 insured workers during the 2025-2026 financial year and to 58,285 insured workers from April to August 2026. — MNA/KTZH

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

NATIONAL

Union Chief Justice attends 20th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and Pacific ROK



Attendees of the 20th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific including the Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay pose for documentary group photo in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

THE Chief Justice of the Union, U Tha Htay, attended the 20th Conference of Asia and Pacific which was held from 16 to 19 September in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, invited by The Hon Jo Heede, the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Republic of Korea.

The Conference has been held to foster mutual understanding by bringing together heads of judiciaries from the Asia-Pacific region to exchange views on their respective judicial systems and developments in the judiciary, contributing to the maintenance of regional peace and identifying practical methods for judicial cooperation among countries in the region.

Since its inaugural meeting in Penang, Malaysia, in 1985, it has played a significant role as a solid foundation for judicial cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region.

Having previously successfully hosted the 8th meeting in 1999 and the 14th meeting in 2011, the Supreme Court of Korea has once again hosted this major international conference, by doing so, Seoul has become the first city to host the event three times, marking a new milestone in the history of these international meetings.

The 20th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific was organized by the Supreme Court of Republic of Korea and Judicial Section of LAWASIA, held from 16 to 19 September at the Grand Hyatt Seoul Hotel. Approximately 250 representatives including Chief Justices from over 40 jurisdictions and 13 international organizations attended the meeting.

Then, Chief Justices of the Asia-Pacific Region and the heads of delegates discussed on a variety of topics in the Conference sessions. Since Myanmar's judicial reform process takes in the cooperation of Asia and Pacific countries, so by attending the Conference, Chief Justices and Heads of the Judiciary of the Asia-Pacific Region exchanged views with regard to use of AI in the judiciary, the importance of judicial education, engagement with the media, promoting public confidence in the judiciary, fighting judicial corruption and defending judicial independence, and discussed their respective issues.

In addition to these programmes, the meeting schedule included a conference commemorating the 60th anniversary of UNCITRAL, and a LAWASIA plenary session on 16 September 2026, an OECD Breakfast Dialogue, an afternoon session hosted by SIFOCC and the SIFOCC Support Group Afternoon Session, and a networking breakfast commemorating the UNIDROIT Centenary Breakfast on 18 September 2026.

During the conference, the Chief Justice of Myanmar visited the Supreme Court IT Department of the Republic of Korea and the War Memorial of Korea, a site of historical significance. — MNA

Emergency Repairs Underway Along Eroding Toe River Embankment in Nyaungdon



Machinery being operated in repairing Toe River embankment in Nyaungdon Township.

AUTHORITIES are carrying out emergency bank protection works in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, following severe riverbank erosion along the Toe River between late August and mid-September.

The Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management has deployed personnel and heavy machinery to critical points of the Nyaungdonkyun Embankment (between miles 11/5-11/7 and 12/2-12/3). Crews are installing wooden post barriers, laying sandbags to reinforce the embankment base, and constructing temporary secondary dykes.

Concurrently, the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is implementing river-training measures, including steel wire deflector groynes, geotextile sheets, floating units, and dredging to divert the main current away from the eroded banks.

Dredging operations began on 6 September to carve a diversion channel through a sandbar, relieving hydraulic pressure on the vulnerable bank. Five backhoes have been mobilized to expedite the diversion work, alongside long-term dredging plans.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw inspected the sites to review operations and coordinate technical requirements. Authorities noted that joint efforts among technologically skilled employees from relevant departments, regional authorities, security personnel, firefighters, and local residents have stabilized the situation, confirming there is currently no imminent flood risk. — MNA/ST

Welcoming concert held in Falam for returning residents

A welcoming and celebratory concert for residents returning to Falam, Chin State, was held on the afternoon of 19 September at the gymnasium in Cinmual Ward, Falam.

During the concert, renowned vocalist Htoo L Lin and local singers performed songs, while the traditional cultural troupes and young female students performed traditional and modern dances. A large number of local residents from Falam and nearby villages enjoyed the performances.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin said that 79.71 per cent of the total population of Falam Township had now returned home. He noted that, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee had settled them in Falam to carry out rehabilitation works in Tonzang, Tiddim and Falam. He added that the President had formulated policies under the theme "Ensuring National Stability and State Development" to promote peace and prosperity in the country.

SEE PAGE 6



A welcoming and celebratory concert for residents returning to Falam in progress in Falam on 19 September.

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

NATIONAL

Yangon's Historic Bogyoke Aung San Market to Celebrate Centenary in October



The press conference underway ahead of the historic Bogyoke Aung San Market centenary celebration.

YANGON'S historic Bogyoke Aung San Market will mark its 100th anniversary with a five-day festival from 7 to 11 October, open daily from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, organizer Ma Chaw Su Htwe announced at a press briefing yesterday.

Aiming to showcase the landmark's colonial-era architecture to younger generations, bridge different age groups, and connect local MSMEs, the festival has been in preparation for four months and is roughly 80 per cent complete.

Key highlights include a live five-day creation of a 20-by-10-foot painting, handicraft workshops, historical fashion shows spanning three eras, ethnic costume photo booths, design competitions, and a rare display of Myanmar's vintage fortune-telling weighing scale. The festival will host 111 retail stalls offering traditional silk, cotton, tea, regional specialties, and religious items, along with 32 healthy food stalls. Organizers expect tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of daily visitors, with live entertainment planned for families, youth, and foreign tourists. — MT/ST

Person handing over Pyu-era gold cane ball receives cash reward and certificate

A person who handed over a small Pyu-era gold cane ball discovered in Pyay Township, Bago Region, was presented with a cash reward of more than K500,000 and a certificate of appreciation by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, according to reports.

The certificate of appreciation and a cash reward of K549,525 were formally presented by the Sri Ksetra Branch Office under the Division of World Heritage Sites of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum to U Htein Lin Oo, a resident of Linywa Village, Hmawza Village-tract, Pyay Township, Bago Region, who had conscientiously handed over the artifact.

The Bago Region Government and the department conduct public awareness talks, and citizens who responsibly hand over gold ornaments and other antiquities as state-owned property are designated as beneficiaries and appropriately rewarded based on the market value of the items, together with an additional supplementary valuation, according to reports.



U Htein Lin Oo is seen receiving a cash reward and a certificate of appreciation for responsibly handing over a Pyu-era gold cane ball.

Antiquities are important evidence for understanding the nation's history and culture and must be preserved to prevent their loss. Destroying or illegally selling ancient artifacts is also subject to legal action in accordance with the Protection and Preservation of Ancient Artifacts Law and Rules issued by the State. — ASH/TH

Welcoming concert held in Falam for ...

FROM PAGE 5

THE concert was jointly organized by the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee led by the deputy minister, the Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and officials. The entertainment programme demonstrates the restoration of territorial security and provides returning residents with a greater sense of security and peace of mind.

In the morning, the deputy minister observed and encouraged departments participating in a joint community clean-up drive to keep Falam clean and orderly. — MNA/TH

uab Bank backs long-term clean water solution for flood-hit Laymyethna

FROM PAGE 3

In Sayaykwin Village, a Lotus Saver water purification system is being installed to provide purified drinking water for residents and people from neighbouring villages.

The project is making use of an existing local water source made available by a farmer in the area. The arrangement allows an available community resource to be developed into a more reliable source of drinking water through the purification system.

The initiative also includes reusable water containers and guidance on their proper use and maintenance. The measures are intended to support safer storage and transport of drinking water while reducing dependence on single-use plastic bottles.

The initiative reflects a collaborative response to the needs of flood-affected communities, with uab Bank and Humanity Matters working alongside local communities to establish a practical water resource that can continue to serve the community as recovery progresses.

Rather than focusing solely on immediate relief, the project is designed to provide a water solution that remains useful beyond the initial emergency response. The system is expected to serve residents of Sayaykwin Village as well as people from neighbouring communities.

As Laymyethna communities continue to rebuild their homes, livelihoods and daily routines following the floods, access to safe drinking water remains an important part of the recovery process. The initiative aims to provide a reliable source of clean water while supporting the community's longer-term recovery. — Sources from uab Bank

Large rockfall damages building and two vehicles in Taunggyi

FROM PAGE 4

A large rock that fell from a hillside damaged a building and two vehicles at the Shan State Mining Department office compound near a BOC fuel station in Thittaw Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State, at about 10:30 pm on 19 September.

Heavy rains softened the soil, causing the large rock to roll down from the hillock of Shwemuttaw Pagoda. It struck a small structure between two buildings, crossed the road and came to rest in an open plot near the BOC fuel station.

A one-storey office building, a Nissan X-Trail and a Honda Fit parked inside the compound were damaged. No people or animals were injured.

Officials cleared the road during the night, restoring traffic at about 1:30 am. Further work is underway to clear blocked roadside drains, inspect the hillside and remove the fallen rock using machinery.

Similar rockfalls occurred in the area during the major Mandalay earthquake in March 2025. — TWA/KZL

NATIONAL

Thongwa's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Thagara Village, Thongwa Township, on 19 September.

Thongwa Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Hnin Nu Wai explained that the revolving funds were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials handed over K32.5 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Thagara Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K32.5 million from the MSY Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the second round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 91 members from the village, including 41 people engaged in agricultural activities and 50 in livestock breeding. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



A fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Thongwa Township, on 19 September 2026.

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Expand Your Global Business Footprint to link overseas economic networks

ACCORDING to the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA), the "Expand Your Global Business Footprint" event, jointly organized by UMTA and AIMS, will be held in Yangon.

It aims to enable Myanmar business owners to expand their operations into foreign markets, build international networks, and explore investment opportunities.

This event presents a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs to learn about international business environments, business opportunities, and investment information all in one place. During the event, the CEO and Managing Director of a company operating in Myanmar with Singaporean investment will discuss and share Myanmar's business opportunities and potentials, as well as operational experiences in Myanmar.

The event will be held from 2 pm to 6 pm on 23 September at the Mingala Hall, UMFCCI, Yangon. Admission is free of charge and UMTA members and interested business owners are welcome to attend.



Promotional poster for the event.

Since seats are limited, advance registration is required and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more details, interested individuals can contact the UMTA Office at 09-2005648, 09-254430824, 09-954423550, 09-770545905, or register via email at office@umtanet.org. — MT/ZN

Returning workers must show family remittance and income tax records

MYANMAR workers returning from overseas leave must present proof that they have remitted 25 per cent of their earnings to their families and paid two per cent income tax when applying for permission to leave the country again, according to the Ministry of Labour.

Applicants must submit 10 documents, including a passport, valid Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC), valid work permit or visa, immigration stamps, air ticket, employer's leave approval, detailed records of legally remitted 25 per cent of their earnings to their families, proof of payment of two per cent income tax, an endorsement from the relevant embassy and an arrival report form.

For the 25 per cent family remittance requirement, workers must provide detailed records of transfers made since 8 August 2024, when the relevant notification was issued. — ASH/KZL



Workers are carrying out procedures for overseas departure at an immigration office.

Doh Eain opens application for Young City Shapers programme

FOR the 22nd cohort of Young City Shapers programme which will begin in October, applications are open, said Doh Eain.

It will be organized under the title "Community Wellbeing and Inclusion II", designed to equip young people with the knowledge of social realities and practical skills to promote inclusive and people-centred urban communities.

This cohort will explore topics such as introduction to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), understanding inequalities, healthy masculinities for inclusive communities, disability inclusion, advocating and building inclusivity in the community and youth and community engagement.

It is a three-month programme from October to December and includes hands-on projects. After four-week in-person class for academic lessons from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on every Saturday and Sunday, participants will have to do group projects and modules and details are included in application form.

Only 32 persons will be called for this time and transportation support is included. Youths under 35 years old are eligible and application form can be available at https://youngcityshapers.com/courses/a2bdf9e5-43a9-4108-bf3f-53f1485d649a.

Interview will be called online and replied by email to the shortlist only. After the programme ends, certificate will be presented to participants. Details about the programme are available at youngcityshapers.com or can request to ycs@doheain.com. — MT/ZS



The poster of Community Wellbeing and Inclusion II

OPINION

Investing in peace for everyone, everywhere, everyday

Peace is important to every individual and is a fundamental necessity for all people. Peace does not simply mean the absence of conflict; it also encompasses mutual respect, equality and equal opportunities.

Peace plays a vital role in ensuring human well-being and a better quality of life. In peaceful countries, people can engage in economic activities with confidence, while social stability is strengthened. Progress and development can also be achieved in the education and healthcare sectors. Furthermore, peace promotes greater cultural understanding among people. Societies cannot thrive without mutual respect, love and care.

Peace serves as a fundamental foundation for people to work together toward the development of the world. Therefore, everyone has a responsibility to maintain peace. To promote peace, every individual must begin by communicating without hostility and showing mutual respect. Only by bringing together the aspirations for peace of people from all walks of life can we transform the world into a truly valuable place for everyone. It is important to recognize that peace is essential to every individual and is a value that must be preserved.

Nevertheless, the Government and the Tatmadaw have consistently kept their doors open and extended invitations for all parties to participate in efforts to achieve internal stability and peace. Therefore, all relevant stakeholders should work for the success of peace talks by considering the interests of the country, seeking what is possible and negotiating on what is not possible.

In countries where peace is absent, it is evident that children are unable to receive an education, women and older people face poor health, and economic decline and poverty occur. In today's world, political disputes, conflicts and armed attacks continue to undermine peace. Nevertheless, the majority of people are making concerted efforts with a strong commitment to achieving peace.

Since gaining independence, successive governments of Myanmar have made efforts to end internal armed conflicts and achieve stability and peace. However, terrorists have continued to disrupt and destroy, through various means over successive periods, the human resources, national economy and infrastructure essential for the country's development. As a result, efforts to promote national development have repeatedly faced setbacks in the course of nation-building, creating a major historical lesson for the country.

Nevertheless, the Government and the Tatmadaw have consistently kept their doors open and extended invitations for all parties to participate in efforts to achieve internal stability and peace. Therefore, all relevant stakeholders should work for the success of peace talks by considering the interests of the country, seeking what is possible and negotiating on what is not possible.

To successfully implement the theme of the 2026 International Day of Peace, "Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day", which calls on us all to do our part for peace, everyone needs to work together to ensure that people around the world enjoy the fruits of peace.

ARTICLE

Public Urged to Join Wider Fight Against Online Scams and Gambling

By Junior Thin



The State Government has called on the public to cooperate actively in efforts to detect, expose and suppress online scams and illegal online gambling, warning that the crimes are no longer isolated offences but cross-border threats with consequences for national security, public safety and the wider economy.

In an appeal issued to the public, the government said criminal groups operating online had entered Myanmar illegally across border areas and established activities that could harm communities inside the country while also targeting victims in other countries. The statement described online scams and online gambling as organised criminal activities that have caused serious problems in many parts of the world.

The appeal comes as authorities continue to investigate reports about groups using houses and other compounds as bases for internet-based fraud and gambling operations. According to the statement, members of the public provided information that individuals suspected of involvement in such activities were staying near Naik Hkwan Village, close to the border of Thibaw Township in northern Shan State.

A joint team of security personnel then travelled to the area, conducted inquiries and searched a house. On 15 September, the team arrested 13 people who were allegedly involved in online scam and gambling activities, the statement said. Equipment believed to be connected with the operation was seized and will be handled in accordance with established procedures. Legal action will be taken after the necessary investigations have been completed.

The statement did not describe the full scale of the alleged operation or identify all of the people arrested. Such details are expected to depend on the outcome of the investigation. The use of the term "alleged" is important because the suspects remain subject to the legal process and any charges must be established through evidence and the courts.

Online scams can take many forms. Criminal networks may create fake investment opportunities, send messages pretending to be banks or government agencies, or use social-media accounts to build trust before requesting money. Some victims are promised high-paying jobs and later discover that their personal information, bank accounts, or digital devices have been used for illegal purposes. Others are deceived through fake online shops, false loan offers or messages claiming that a relative is in urgent need of assistance.

Online gambling creates a different but related risk. Illegal gambling platforms often attract users with small prizes, promotional bonuses and promises of quick income. Once users deposit money, however, they may face hidden charges, manipulated games or the loss of their entire savings. Families can also suffer when a household member borrows money, sells property or uses wages to continue gambling. Young people who encounter gambling advertisements on social-media platforms may be especially vulnerable because they may not understand the long-term financial and psychological consequences.

The effects are not limited to individual victims. Scam proceeds may be moved through multiple accounts, digital wallets, and informal money-transfer channels. This makes it harder to trace criminal income and creates risks for people whose accounts are misused as part of the process. Businesses may also suffer when customers lose confidence in online payments or when legitimate companies are impersonated by fraudsters.

The government said it was taking effective and severe action under existing laws against people found to be operating online scam and gambling businesses. It also said Myanmar was cooperating with neighbouring countries, other regional states and international organisations to identify criminal networks, arrest those involved and prevent such activities from becoming established in the country.

Cross-border cooperation is particularly important because the people who organize an online scam may be in one country, the workers forced to operate the scheme may be moved through another country, and the victims may live thousands of kilometres away. Information sharing, joint investigations and the safe return of foreign nationals are therefore necessary parts of the response.

The appeal also referred to foreign nationals who had entered Myanmar illegally, as well as people who had encountered difficulties for various reasons and victims of human trafficking. Authorities said arrangements were being made to repatriate such individuals to their respective countries as soon as possible. This distinction is significant because people found inside a scam compound may not all have the same role. Some may be organizers or operators, while others may have been recruited through deception, threatened with violence or prevented from leaving.

Community cooperation can help authorities respond more quickly. Residents who notice unusual movements, heavily guarded buildings, large numbers of people working at night or repeated deliveries of communication equipment can report their concerns through appropriate official channels. Members of the public should avoid confronting suspected criminal groups directly, since doing so could create additional danger or interfere with an investigation.

People can also reduce their own risk by refusing to share one-time passwords, identity documents, bank details or digital-wallet information with unknown callers and online contacts. Job seekers should verify recruitment companies, contracts and travel arrangements before accepting overseas employment. Anyone who loses money or suspects that an account has been used for fraud should preserve messages, payment records and account information and report the matter promptly.

Authorities, technology companies and financial institutions also have responsibilities. Public warnings should be clear and accessible, suspicious accounts should be reviewed quickly, and victims should be treated as people in need of assistance rather than simply as sources of information. Effective enforcement must be accompanied by measures that protect personal data, support trafficking victims and ensure that investigations are conducted lawfully.

The government's appeal ultimately places public participation at the centre of the campaign. Online crime cannot be eliminated by arrests alone. It also requires public awareness, responsible digital behaviour, reliable reporting systems and cooperation between countries. The 15 September operation near Naik Hkwan Village demonstrates the value of information supplied by members of the public, while the wider challenge shows why sustained cooperation is needed.

As online services become more deeply connected to everyday life, preventing scams and illegal gambling will require constant vigilance. By checking information before sending money, reporting suspicious activity and supporting people who have been trafficked or deceived, the public can help prevent criminal networks from expanding and protect both local communities and internet users around the world.

Ultimately, combatting online scams and illegal gambling requires the cooperation of both authorities and the public. Strong law enforcement, public awareness, and international cooperation are essential to prevent criminal networks from expanding. By staying alert, reporting suspicious activities, and using online services responsibly, people can help protect themselves, their communities, and others from the growing threat of online crime.

Reference: Yadanabon Daily (18 September 2026)

Leadership Qualities for the Community

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

A COMMUNITY leader, whether he is a school principal or whatever, tends to take a significant role in his community, perceived to represent the community's interests, including protecting them. Some community leaders do it only to get paid, but others do it voluntarily. However, community leaders have possessed a variety of roles ranging from mobilizing communities for a good cause to designing any course of action for overcoming common challenges. Unless the locomotive of a train derails, its following train carriages will go straight like clockwork for sure. In other words, a great community leader seems to be a figure of authority or a public figure to a certain degree.

The following are the ten most important qualities or character features of community leaders in accordance with their leadership roles.

Personality traits: Self-awareness, Empathy, Honesty and Integrity, Forward-thinking, Intelligence

Any leader should be aware of himself or herself first of all, which means that leaders must be knowledgeable about their strengths and weaknesses. Nobody can do anything, we know. Seeing one's strengths or weaknesses will enable one to exploit one's abilities better while asking for help from others in weak areas. Self-acceptance allows the selection of one's best-fit roles and share of responsibilities with others. Secondly, a community leader must learn to listen to others, appreciating their suggestions and changing courses of action if necessary, which automatically leads to mutual respect between community members. Thirdly, a leader has to be so trustworthy to the community and other leaders that this honesty and integrity facilitates the production of discussions and desired social changes. Not only that, leaders need to be visionary as community leaders; that is, they are required to dream for their community, effectively share the dream, think of the future and set sustainable goals by improving their own critical thinking skills and involving younger generations. At last, a competent leader likes to have intelligence or grey matter that is beyond being smart to resolve the tough stuff which may happen to him or her and the community, with higher levels of both emotional and social intelligence in particular.

Personal Manners: Eagerness to learn and adapt, Interpersonal Skills

A leader can never refuse to accept how his or her community has recognized him or her, whether he or she should be the real leader of a community. Only if community leaders are always in their members' shoes will they be able to imagine diverse points of view from the community and understand its feelings, thus increasing their credibility in the community. Also, a community leader has the ability to interact with other members of the community; to be said better, good communication and collaboration skills in negotiating, mediating and articulating arguments and working with community members in and outside of the community.



Efficient and Effective Actions: Dedication, Service, Motivation

In fact, the well-mannered society of a nation has not appeared in a few days. It often takes time, especially years, sometimes dozens or even hundreds of years, to build up a well-developed society. Therefore, community leaders usually dedicate their time, energy, material and even life to give birth to well-behaved citizens. And involving oneself in general community services for community members legitimizes one's role in the community. Finally, a great leader ought to be an inspirational person to create desirable potential for the community, as well as he can do this in various ways and must always remember to include others in his thought process.

Anybody may be a community leader sometime and also has a chance of being so. But if a person is not born with leadership skills for the community at all, he or she does not deserve to be a community leader in any way. Every and each community leader must have accepted responsibility and accountability for whatever he or she does in the community. Above all, the most essential quality of a community leader is nothing but the trust of the public. Once trust is broken, respect is diminished, and productivity is eliminated. Hence, the best community leader will have to build trust with all individuals in the whole society.

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Ngwe Htamin and Shwe Htamin

NGWE Htamin and Shwe Htamin are two distinctive traditional Myanmar delicacies that are closely associated with traditional donation ceremonies, auspicious occasions and receptions.

These two delicacies fully embody the essence of Myanmar's traditional food culture. Each has its own distinctive, rich, fragrant, and creamy flavour, and they can be enjoyed at home with family over a cup of traditional Myanmar green tea or served to guests as refreshments. So, let us begin with the recipe for Ngwe Htamin.



Ngwe Htamin (also known as Kaukknyin Shwekyi)

Ngwe Htamin is a traditional delicacy made from white glutinous rice cooked with coconut milk and sugar, and then baked slowly, much like Shwekyi. It develops a golden-brown surface while remaining soft, tender and white inside.

The rich taste of coconut milk and mellow sweetness of sugar blend harmoniously with the glutinous rice grains. The lightly baked top layer adds a delightful aroma, while the rich, mellow taste of poppy seeds gives the delicacy its distinctive sweet, creamy and chewy texture.

Ingredients

1. White glutinous rice – 50 Kyattha (about 800 grammes)
2. Thick coconut milk – about 2 condensed-milk tins
3. Sugar – 30 Kyattha (about 480 grammes), adjustable according to taste
4. Salt – about ½ teaspoon
5. Butter or oil – 3 tablespoons
6. Poppy seeds or cashew nuts – a small amount, for sprinkling

Method

Preparing the rice

- Wash the glutinous rice thoroughly and soak it in water for at least 3-4 hours. Drain and steam until tender.

Preparing the sweet coconut mixture

- Put the coconut milk, sugar and salt into a thick-bottomed pan and cook over medium heat until the sugar dissolves and the mixture comes to a boil.

Cooking the mixture

- Add the steamed glutinous rice to the coconut milk mixture and stir well. Continue stirring over low heat with a wooden spatula until the mixture becomes cohesive and starts to pull away from the sides of the pan.

Shaping and preparing for baking

- Grease a baking tray with oil or butter and spread the glutinous rice mixture evenly over it.
- Smooth and press the surface, then brush lightly with butter and sprinkle with poppy seeds.

Baking

- Bake in an oven at 180°C for about 20 minutes, or use traditional top-and-bottom heat, until the surface turns golden brown.
- Allow it to cool before cutting into pieces.

Once cooled, Ngwe Htamin can be cut into diamond-shaped or square pieces and enjoyed as a dessert. It goes particularly well with traditional Myanmar green tea or strong black tea.

From a nutritional perspective, Ngwe Htamin provides carbohydrates from glutinous rice, while coconut milk provides fat and can supply energy. However, as it contains considerable amounts of coconut milk and sugar and is relatively high in calories, people with diabetes and those trying to manage their weight should enjoy it in moderation.

Shwe Htamin

Shwe Htamin is a traditional Myanmar delicacy commonly served at donation ceremonies and auspicious occasions. Its golden colour is traditionally associated with auspiciousness and is believed to bring good fortune.

Its distinctive flavour comes from the naturally fragrant and sweet taste of palm jaggery, which permeates the glutinous rice grains. The combination of fragrant roasted sesame seeds and rich fried coconut gives it a wonderfully sweet, creamy and aromatic flavour.

Ingredients

1. White glutinous rice – 50 Kyattha (about 800 grammes)
2. Pure palm jaggery, dark brown or black – 30–35 Kyattha (about 480–560 grammes)
3. Oil – about 5 tablespoons
4. Salt – ½ teaspoon
5. Roasted white sesame seeds – 2 tablespoons
6. Coconut pieces or fried grated coconut – as desired

Method

Steaming the glutinous rice

- Wash the glutinous rice thoroughly and soak it in water for about four hours. Drain and steam until soft, sticky and tender.

SEE PAGE 11

Weekly News Quiz

(for 14 September 2026)

THE FOLLOWING QUIZ IS BASED ON THREE NATIONAL NEWS STORIES AND TWO INTERNATIONAL NEWS STORIES PUBLISHED IN MONDAY'S NEWSPAPER (14 SEPTEMBER 2026).

National News Quiz

1. Despite Taninthayi Region expanding its oil palm plantation area to over 400,000 acres, crude palm oil must still be shipped to Yangon for processing, leaving the region's local edible oil self-sufficiency at what percentage?
   A. 0.47 per cent
   B. 1.25 per cent
   C. 2.30 per cent
   D. 3.50 per cent
2. The Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction invited tenders from Myanmar national entrepreneurs to construct how many total housing blocks across three projects in Yangon Region (Kyansit Min Phase II, Yuzana Phase III, and Inwa)?
   A. 21 blocks
   B. 26 blocks
   C. 31 blocks
   D. 36 blocks
3. Under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Programme, China donated how many tonnes of emergency rice to flood-affected residents in Sagaing Region?
   A. 70 tonnes
   B. 85 tonnes
   C. 95 tonnes
   D. 110 tonnes

Global News Quiz

4. Which 120-year-old landmark Japanese ryokan inn, severely damaged during the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, announced plans to reopen by the end of the 2028 financial year with a new seven-storey building designed by Kengo Kuma?
   A. Nishiyama Onsen
   B. Kagaya
   C. Tawaraya
   D. Hoshinoya
5. Argentine President Javier Milei ordered priority funding in the 2027 national budget to revive the construction of an Integrated Naval Base in which southern city along the Beagle Channel?
   A. Río Gallegos
   B. Ushuaia
   C. Mar del Plata
   D. Puerto Deseado

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

NATIONAL

RASB training conducted in PyinOoLwin



This photo catches a scene of risk awareness and safer behaviour training.

RISK awareness and safer behaviour (RASB) training has been still in progress in PyinOoLwin. It is being jointly organized by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), from 15 to 18 September.

A total of 20 volunteers from Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions joined the training. The opening ceremony was held on the morning of 15 September and attended by MRCS's EC members including Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee chair Dr Thein Tun Hsaung and secretary U Kyaw Kyaw, officials from ICRC Mandalay branch and officials from MRCS's Disaster Management Department.

At the opening ceremony of the training course, Dr Thein Tun Hsaung, chairman of the Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee, delivered the opening speech, and U Sithu Toe Nyunt, deputy director of the Disaster Management Department of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, extended greetings. — MT/ZS

Myitkyina's RBF project introduced; committee formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, formed a project committee in Palana 5 Thazinmyaing Village, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, on 19 September.

Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nay Thura Sein Hla explained the objectives, benefits, project procedures and rules and regulations stipulated in the project manual. Project officials explained in detail the rules for selecting and forming the committee, the duties and responsibilities of members, and implementation procedures.

The township officials formed a five-member Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project Committee to effectively carry out project activities in the village. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for model village projects is in progress in Myitkyina Township.

Traditional Myanmar Delicacy

FROM PAGE 10

Preparing the palm jaggery syrup

- Add a little water to the palm jaggery and dissolve it over heat. Strain the liquid through a piece of muslin cloth to remove any dirt or sand.

Cooking the mixture

- Put the strained palm jaggery syrup, oil and salt into a large pan and cook over medium heat until the mixture thickens.
- Add the steamed glutinous rice and stir continuously so that the palm jaggery syrup is evenly absorbed into the rice.

Finishing the mixture

- Once the glutinous rice mixture becomes firm and cohesive, and the oil begins to separate, turn off the heat.

Shaping

- Grease a tray with oil and transfer the mixture into it. Press and level it evenly using a wooden board or the flat bottom of a glass.
- Sprinkle roasted sesame seeds and coconut pieces or fried grated coconut over the top, and leave it to cool completely.
- Once fully cooled, cut it into pieces as desired.

Shwe Htamin is usually cut into square or diamond-shaped pieces and garnished with coconut and roasted sesame seeds before serving. It is commonly enjoyed with traditional Myanmar green tea, either for breakfast or during afternoon tea gatherings.

From a nutritional perspective, Shwe Htamin uses natural palm jaggery instead of refined white sugar. Palm jaggery contains iron, potassium and other minerals, while sesame seeds provide calcium. However, because the dish combines glutinous rice with palm jaggery, it may have a relatively high glycaemic index. People who need to control their blood sugar levels should therefore avoid consuming it in excessive amounts.

With that gentle reminder, we come to the end of this week's traditional food feature. Enjoy these two beloved Myanmar delicacies in moderation and savour their distinctive traditional flavours. — MOON

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 20 September 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Low-Pressure Area over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Andaman Sea (Near the offshore area of the Deltaic, Myanmar) still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and intensify gradually into a Depression over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal, during next 24 hours and into a Deep Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal, during next 48 hours. Continuing to move West-Northwestwards and it is likely to reach Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal near South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh, India during next 72 hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 21 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago and upper Sagaing regions and Kachin and (Northern and Eastern) Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Ayeyawady Region and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon 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 and (Northern) Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 9-12 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: The likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

ECONOMY
WORLD

Growing competitiveness drives Chinese NEVs into spotlight at Sydney EV show

Chinese brands displayed a range of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) at the show.

THE three-day Everything Electric Sydney 2026 opened at Sydney Olympic Park on Friday, bringing together the latest electrified products from automakers around the world.

A number of Chinese new energy vehicle (NEV) makers showcased new models at the event, drawing strong interest from visitors. Their growing competitiveness and ability to adapt to local market needs are adding momentum to their expansion in Australia.



Visitors view a vehicle from Zeekr at Everything Electric Sydney, a home energy and electric vehicle show, in Sydney, Australia, 18 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Chinese brands including Chery, GAC, MG, GWM, Zeekr and BYD displayed a range of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) at the show, drawing local visitors to their stands for enquiries and test-drive bookings.

Executives from several Chinese automakers told Xinhua that as Australia's electric vehicle market continues to grow, they are introducing more products while expanding their presence through technological innovation and greater localization.

Dan Caesar, CEO of Everything Electric, told Xinhua that Australia's EV market has grown markedly this year, as rising attention to vehicle running costs has prompted more consumers to consider the practical benefits of electric cars. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

France's debt climbs to highest since 1978: ministry

FRANCE'S debt mountain is growing and will this year be at its highest level since 1978 because of a soaring deficit, the country's finance ministry said Saturday.

A ministry source told reporters the public debt would reach 119.3 per cent of GDP in 2026 and 121.7 per cent in 2027 — more than double the 60-per-cent-of-GDP reference limit EU member countries are required to aim for. Those figures are unprecedented since 1978, according to France's statistics institute Insee. — AFP

Ethiopia launches training base to promote smart building technology

THE Ethiopia Luban Workshop smart building technology training base was launched in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, on Saturday to promote smart building technologies and practical engineering expertise.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Liu Xiaoguang, minister counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia, said the establishment of the training base is a concrete step to advance the objectives of the 2026 China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges and deepen China-Ethiopia cooperation in vocational education.

According to Zheng Qingchun, president of Tianjin University of Technology and Education, the Luban Workshop in Ethiopia was inaugurated in 2021 in collaboration with the Ethiopian Technical and Vocational Training Institute (TVTI), focusing on key areas such as industrial sensors, mechatronics and industrial robotics while cultivating a large pool of skilled technical professionals for Ethiopia's industrialization. – Xinhua

India needs up to Rs172 tln infrastructure investment by FY31

INDIA requires Rs168-172 trillion of infrastructure investment through FY31, with Rs78-80 trillion yet to translate into an announced project pipeline, according to a joint report by the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG).



Report highlights massive infrastructure investments needed for India by 2031. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

The report, titled 'Channelizing Domestic and Global Capital for Infrastructure Financing', stated that out of the total requirement through FY31, Rs38-40 trillion has been financed, Rs31-32 trillion awaits financial close, and Rs21-22 trillion remains classified as stalled. Financing the country's long-term infrastructure demand of Rs680-770 trillion through 2047 depends on building bankable projects and matching them with appropriate capital pools.

The report pointed out that only 34-36 per cent of the FY26-47 investment requirement sits in sectors with proven, bankable financing models. Sectors accounting for 55-57 per cent of the requirement, such as metro rail, water supply, irrigation, and new rail lines, lack standalone financial viability despite delivering wide socioeconomic gains. — ANI

Iran says conveyed conditions to US for reopening Hormuz

IRAN'S top negotiator said Sunday that Tehran had conveyed to Washington through mediators its conditions for reopening the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which it has blockaded throughout the Middle East war.


Iranian tanks shown during a military drill in Makran beach on the Gulf of Oman, near the Hormuz Strait in December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The two foes are locked in a stalemate months into the conflict that began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

Tehran has since maintained a stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route for the world's oil and gas, while Washington is pushing a campaign to choke the Islamic republic's ports and economy. "Our messages and the explanation of our conditions have been clearly conveyed to the other party through mediators," said Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who has acted as chief negotiator in talks to end the war.

"As long as the conditions are not met... and the US commitments are not honoured, it will be impossible to return to the situation from before the negotiations and to an open strait," he added, according to state television. — AFP

Crab-themed complex aims to be new central Japan landmark, tourist hub

AN interactive, crab-themed complex in Fukui Prefecture, central Japan, hopes to become a new landmark and attraction for visitors eager to learn more about the crustaceans.

Designed to showcase the "fun, flavor, and fascination" of crabs, the Kani Factory is located in Tsuruga, which is famous for its prized winter delicacy, the "Echizen crab". In addition to enjoying crab dishes, visitors can observe the processing of crabs and try their hand at shelling them.

Denshoku Co, the operator of the complex, which opened in mid-July and has free admission, hopes to draw 500,000 visitors annually. The area includes a seafood processing plant, a tourist attraction and a retail space.

Making crabs a more common menu for Japanese homes is another goal for Denshoku, a Tsuruga-based company engaged in the sale and processing of crab and other marine products.

Visitors can watch workers process snow crabs through the glass, participate in hands-on activities and enjoy a mini theater. The facility also features a children's play area, and guests can sample seafood dishes at the food court and restaurant. — Kyodo



Photo shows a crab monument in front of Kani Factory in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, central Japan, on 16 July 2026.
PHOTO: KYODO

India semiconductor market projected to reach new heights

INDIA'S semiconductor market is projected to reach $200 billion by 2035 from around $64 billion in 2026, as the country moves beyond building manufacturing capacity towards developing an integrated semiconductor ecosystem, according to a report by EY and the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA).

The report said India's semiconductor market has grown from approximately $27 billion in 2021 to around $64 billion in 2026. The expansion, coupled with global supply-chain realignment and growing demand for semiconductors across AI, digital infrastructure, mobility and advanced manufacturing, is creating an opportunity for India to deepen its participation in global semiconductor value chains.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0, launched with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, has resulted in the approval of 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects, involving cumulative investments of approximately Rs 1.64 lakh crore. These include one silicon fab, two compound semiconductor fabs and nine packaging facilities. — ANI

China-ASEAN Expo debuts AI marketplace to boost digital cooperation

THE 23rd China-ASEAN Expo, now underway in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has unveiled a first-of-its-kind AI marketplace, a move aimed at boosting digital economy cooperation by connecting Chinese AI solutions with ASEAN needs.

This year's expo, held from 17 to 21 September, is breaking new ground in its AI section with both a main venue and a sub-venue, each offering a distinct focus, according to event organizers.



People visit the sales area of AI-related products during the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 18 September 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

The main venue showcases cutting-edge technologies such as large language models and AI chips, while the sub-venue features more than 400 products from 60 companies tailored to the ASEAN market, including AI glasses, smart robots, and rehabilitation and nursing-care devices. Both visitors and buyers can try out these products on site and place orders directly. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC ZHI VOY.NO. (2618S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHI VOY. NO. (2618S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2613N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2613N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2026** 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: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT009)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT009)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (037)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (037)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Iran says US and Israel could push Tehran towards NPT exit

Iran may reconsider NPT participation due to US and Israeli actions.

IRAN could reconsider its participation in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if US and Israeli actions continue, Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei said while stressing that no decision has been made yet.

Rezaei said Iran remains in contact with Qatari and Pakistani mediators over possible negotiations with Washington, adding that Tehran has presented conditions including an end to the war, the release of frozen funds, and the lifting of the naval blockade.

He also said Iran's nuclear doctrine has not changed and that Tehran remains committed to the late Supreme Leader's religious ruling against nuclear weapons but warned that "we do not know what will happen in the future." — SPUTNIK



Bushehr nuclear station, pictured here on 1 January 2025, has been hit several times since the war began. **PHOTO: SATELLITE IMAGE ©2021 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AFP**

Chile's Bachelet quits race to be next UN chief

MICHELLE Bachelet, the former president of Chile, withdrew her candidacy for the position of United Nations secretary-general on Saturday, weeks after a straw poll showed her in second to last place among eight candidates.

"Today I announced that I have decided not to continue with my candidacy for the position of secretary-general of the United Nations," Bachelet, who served as Chile's first female leader, said in a video posted on her social media accounts.

"Some may believe that the time was not right for a candidacy like the one I sought to represent. I do not regret having taken on this great challenge," she said.


Chile President Jose Antonio Kast's leftist predecessor had backed former president Michelle Bachelet (L) to become the first woman to head the United Nations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Bachelet stressed that by running for the top UN post, she had helped spark debate "that the next secretary-general should be a woman from Latin America". Chile's government said in a statement that it had withdrawn its support for Bachelet's candidacy in March. Since then, it has not backed any of the candidates in the running.

The government also "reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and to reform of the United Nations." — AFP

ASEAN ministers gather in Philippines to discuss economic issues

THE 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings on Saturday convened in Metro Manila, the Philippines, and will run through Tuesday.

The meetings will focus on topics including advancing trade and investment, digital transformation, micro, small and medium enterprises development, innovation and sustainable growth, according to the chair, Philippines' Trade Secretary Cristina Roque.

Roque said ministers discussed issues and direction that will feed into the upcoming leaders' discussions at the 49th ASEAN Summit, set to be held in November. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Türkiye offers Saudis technical strike aid

TÜRKIYE would keep its promise under the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement in response to the recent military strikes on Saudi Arabia and could provide technical assistance, said Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Saturday. Speaking on Turkish broadcaster NTV, Fidan said signatory countries of the Mecca agreement were closely monitoring Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. "We stand united on this issue. The agreement contains relevant provisions, which we will keep our promise to," he said. — Xinhua

Egyptian president, CIA chief discuss regional issues

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi held talks with visiting US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Ratcliffe on Sunday to discuss regional developments in Iran, Gaza and Sudan, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

During the meeting, Sisi reaffirmed Egypt's support for efforts toward "a comprehensive agreement that resolves the Iranian crisis", saying it would help restore regional security and stability and ensure freedom of international navigation, according to the statement. On Gaza, Sisi called for the full implementation of the second phase of the US-proposed plan to consolidate the ceasefire, ensuring protection of civilians and adequate, unhindered humanitarian aid access to the enclave. — Xinhua

Malaysia's transport minister resigns

MALAYSIA'S Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook announced his resignation on Saturday in protest against the conditional pardon granted to former Prime Minister Najib Razak. Loke made the announcement following the party's central executive committee meeting that had been convened to discuss the Democratic Action Party's (DAP) response to the pardon. Loke, who is the secretary-general of the DAP, which is the biggest party in terms of members of parliament in the coalition government, said the other DAP ministers would not be resigning. — Xinhua

DR Congo expands Ebola vaccination

EBOLA vaccination was expanded Saturday to Ituri Province, the epicentre of the outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with more than 3,700 people having received the Ervebo vaccine in the country. The latest phase comes with the launch of a vaccination study known as BRAVO in Bunia, the capital of Ituri, conducted by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in collaboration with Congolese health authorities, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and other scientific partners. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar Teqball Team wins gold, silver and bronze medals

MYANMAR'S teqball team won one gold, one silver and one bronze medals at the XX Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with Khin Hnin Wai securing Myanmar's first gold medal at the Games.

Competing at Nagoya City Higashi Sports Centre from 17 to 20 September, Khin Hnin Wai went unbeaten in the Women's Singles event. She won all three group matches before beating a Lebanese player in the semifinal.

In the final, she lost the first set 10-12 to Indonesia's Sumaya but fought back to win the second set 12-8. She then secured the title by winning the third set 12-9.

In the Men's Singles bronze-medal match, Saw Friday beat the Philippines' Prince Agustin in straight sets to claim the bronze medal.

In the Women's Doubles final, Su Mon Aung and Phyu Phyu Than lost 6-12, 3-12 to Thailand's Suphawadi Wongkham and Jutatip Kuntatong to take the silver medal.

Myanmar's teqball team therefore finished the XX Asian Games with one gold, one silver and one bronze medals.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's women's football team will face Bangladesh at Yanmar Stadium Nagai at 1:30 pm on 21 September in their third group-stage match.— MNA/KZL



Khin Hnin Wai of Myanmar teqball player poses for a photo after winning the gold medal in the women's single event at the 20th Asian Games in Tokyo on 20 September 2026.

Royal-D golden belt finals decided on points

THE 2026 Royal-D Golden Belt Myanmar Lethwei Championship finals, organized by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation under the Ministry of Sports, were held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, at 1 pm yesterday with all six weight-class bouts decided on points.



Kanyaw Khwar (Cement Factory) and Aphoe Thway (Khayyu Wah) compete in the 67-kilogramme class.

In the 51-kilogramme class, Salai Thang Kwi Shein (Kya Manaing) beat Gawbaka (Yoya Swanah) on points. In the 54-kilogramme class, Mya Lone Chaw (Shwe Letthee) defeated Aung Tun Bo (Doh Yoya).

In the 57-kilogramme class, Africa (555 Sports) beat Kyaw Wai Yan Tun (Top One), while Thant Zin (Tawwin Ayeya) defeated Si Toe (Khayyu Wah) in the 60-kilogramme class.

In the 63.5-kilogramme class, Ye Lin Oo (Vanguard) beat Htoo Kanyaw (YKB), while Kanyaw Khwar (Cement Factory) defeated Aphoe Thway (Khayyu Wah) in the 67-kilogramme class. — Bala/KZL



Joshua Van lets out a triumphant shout as he celebrates with the UFC flyweight championship belt after defeating Alexandre Pantoja at UFC 331 in Los Angeles. **PHOTO: UFC**

Joshua Van silences doubters, retains UFC crown

MYANMAR-BORN Joshua Van delivered a statement performance at UFC 331, defeating former champion Alexandre Pantoja by unanimous decision to retain the UFC flyweight title in a five-round thriller at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, the United States, on 19 September (around 10 am on 20 September Myanmar time).

Van won on all three judges' scorecards, 49-46, 48-47 and 50-45, securing his second successful title defence and settling the score with challenger Pantoja after their first meeting ended after just 26 seconds due to the Brazilian's elbow injury.

Pantoja opened aggressively, immediately testing the champion with heavy strikes and takedowns. He secured early control on the ground, but Van repeatedly worked his way back to his feet and gradually began to dictate the fight with sharp boxing, speed and effective takedown defence.

The momentum shifted decisively in the second and third rounds as Van found his range and landed crisp combinations while limiting Pantoja's ability to keep him grounded. Pantoja regained control in the fourth round with another takedown, but Van saved his biggest statement for the final five minutes.

Van landed a powerful right hand in the fifth round that dropped Pantoja, then followed up with further strikes and briefly attempted a kimura before the former champion recovered and survived to the final bell.

The victory gave Van his second win over Pantoja and further established his reign at 125 pounds. The 24-year-old now holds an 11-1 UFC record and has successfully defended the flyweight championship twice.

Pantoja's challenge ended without the belt, but his relentless pressure and ability to absorb Van's best attacks kept the championship fight competitive through all five rounds.

The UFC 331 main event was also named Fight of the Night, with both Van and Pantoja receiving US$100,000 bonuses. — KZL

South Korea break Japan hearts to win Asian Games basketball gold

SOUTH Korea broke Japanese hearts on Sunday when they took Asian Games men's basketball gold with a 67-57 triumph in the final in Nagoya.

Lee Hyun-jun top-scored for the Koreans with 27 points, including five three-pointers, in a scrappy victory helped by some wayward Japan shooting.

"I'm unbelievably happy," Lee said. "More than anything I'm extremely grateful to my teammates."

There was a raucous atmosphere at a packed IG Arena where every Japan score threatened to raise the roof and every South Korean free-throw attempt was barracked, despite a good contingent of away fans. — AFP

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10

Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

A. 0.47 per cent (From the Taninthayi oil palm cultivation and refinery story on Page 1)
C. 31 blocks (From the Yangon Region housing projects tender story on Pages 1 & 2)
C. 95 tonnes (From the APTERR rice donation story on Page 3)
B. Kagaya (From the Noto Peninsula ryokan reconstruction story on Page 13)
B. Ushuaia (From the Argentine South Atlantic naval base story on Page 14)



Iran says US and Israel could push Tehran towards NPT exit
PAGE 14

WORLD

Houthis attack Riyadh, boosting Saudi Arabian tensions

YEMEN'S Houthi group said Saturday that it had launched large-scale attacks targeting the Saudi capital Riyadh and Yanbu, a major industrial and energy hub on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, marking a major escalation in the confrontation between the two sides.

In a statement broadcast by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the operations involved "a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones".

Sarea said the first operation targeted what he described as "sensitive targets" in Riyadh, while the second struck a facility belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco in Yanbu.

"The two operations were successful," Sarea said, claiming that large fires broke out at the targeted sites.

The Houthi statement came after explosions were heard in Riyadh twice on Saturday. Smoke



Photo taken on 28 June 2021 shows the industrial estate of Saudi oil giant Aramco in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA/FILE**

was seen rising near King Khalid International Airport in the northeastern part of the capital following the second incident, while some flights were delayed. Saudi authorities had earlier issued an aerial threat alert for Riyadh before announcing that the danger had passed, reportedly the first such alert for the Saudi capital since tensions between the Houthi group and Saudi Arabia intensified recently.

In a later statement, the Saudi-led coalition said that its air defences intercepted and destroyed a Houthi ballistic missile targeting Riyadh and thwarted attacks on Baish, Taif, Farasan and Yanbu. Coalition spokesperson Turki Al-Maliki said the attacks targeted "civilians and civilian objects" and vowed "appropriate measures" to deter further attacks. — AFP

World Organization for Science Literacy debuts in Beijing

As an international sci-tech organization, it currently has 32 founding members from 21 countries across Asia, Europe, South America, Africa and Oceania.



This photo taken on 27 January 2026 shows an exterior view of a 4D cinema at the Shanghai Science & Technology Museum in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

The World Organization for Science Literacy made its debut in Beijing on Sunday.

At the opening ceremony of the 2026 World Conference on Science Literacy, the organization pledged to promote exchanges and cooperation, deepen collaborative innovation and foster positive interaction between science and technology and society, so as to jointly enhance public science literacy and support the beneficial development of an intelligent society.

As an international sci-tech organization, it currently has 32 founding members from 21 countries across Asia, Europe, South America, Africa and Oceania. The organization was initiated with the support of the China Association for Science and Technology and registered in Beijing in June this year. With sci-tech issues getting increasingly globalized, cross-border dialogue and collaborative action on science popularization have become ever more urgent. In recent years, China has stepped up efforts to advance science popularization. In 2025, the proportion of Chinese citizens with scientific literacy reached 16.74 per cent, a leap from a relatively low level to a medium level.

Meanwhile, the country has actively engaged in global science popularization cooperation, helping improve scientific literacy in economically underdeveloped regions and among key demographic groups. — Xinhua

Japan elderly population makes up record 29%, highest among other nations

JAPAN'S population aged 65 or older accounted for a record 29.6 per cent of the total, the government estimated Sunday, with the proportion remaining the highest among countries with populations exceeding 40 million.

The elderly population totalled a record 36.24 million — 15.71 million men and 20.54 million women — up 20,000 from a year earlier, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said ahead of Japan's Respect for the Aged Day on Monday. The ministry said in September last year that the elderly proportion stood at 29.4 per cent, which was also the highest among other countries. The proportion hit an all-time high for the third time, following 2022 and 2024. Among 39 countries with populations of 40 million or more, Japan was followed by Italy, where 25.6 per cent of the population was aged 65 or older, Germany at 24.2 per cent and France at 22.9 per cent. Those aged 75 or older accounted for 17.7 per cent of Japan's population, the highest proportion among nine major countries, followed by Italy at 13.3 per cent. Japan's elderly population is expected to rise to 39.45 million, or 36.3 per cent of the total, in 2045 as the 1971-74 second baby boom generation ages into the category, according to the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research. — Kyodo



The elderly population totalled a record 36.24 million – 15.71 million men and 20.54 million women – up 20,000 from a year earlier. **PHOTO: INTERNET GEOGRAPHY**