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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Universities' Teaching and Learning Infrastructure need systematic construction

It is necessary to systematically assess student enrolment by university and discipline, along with teaching staff and infrastructure requirements, and expand facilities where necessary.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspected Dagon University, University of Medicine 1 and Yangon University (Hline Campus) in Yangon Region yesterday morning.

At the railway station of Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, the Yangon Region chief minister and officials reported on the plans for selecting the sites to construct a bus terminal to establish a YBS bus stop near the university railway station, placing the pedestrian pavements on both sides of Bohmu Bahtoo Road in the compound of the university, and repaving the asphalt roads with traffic lines within the university campus.The President gave guidance that, in constructing the car parking area and turnaround, measures must be taken to ensure the strength and stability of the ground foundation; pedestrian pavements must be incorporated into the construction so that students can travel and use the facilities safely; and YBS buses must be operated in a timely manner during school opening and closing hours.





President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the construction site of the dome-shaped Multi-Purpose Assembly Hall in the University of Medicine 1 in Kamayut Township.

The President inspected the railway station yard and gave guidance that systematic measures must be continuously undertaken to maintain order, cleanliness and a pleasant appearance within the station compound. He also stressed the need to carry out continuous maintenance and necessary improvements throughout the Dagon University area so that it conforms to the standards and characteristics of a university.

At the convocation hall of the university, the President heard reports from the Union Minister for Education and Rector of the university Dr Chit Sein on the mission and vision of the university, the lecturing of relevant subjects and gave necessary guidance.

The President inspected the ongoing major renovation of the Convocation Hall of Dagon University and the university sports ground. Regarding the upgrading of the sports ground and spectator stands, the President guided that the football field must be upgraded into a standard sports ground with a 400-metre running track and that the spectator stands must be reconstructed in accordance with the prescribed standards.

SEE PAGE 3



Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and officials inspecting construction sites in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 September.

Nay Pyi Taw Speeds Up Post-Quake Staff Housing Rebuild

RECONSTRUCTION of staff housing damaged by the Mandalay earthquake in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is moving forward rapidly, with 293 buildings comprising 4,668 units currently underway.

SEE PAGE 3

YCC to host Myanmar Traditional Festival Market on 6-8 November

THE "Myanmar Traditional Festival Market", where visitors can explore Myanmar's traditional cultural heritage, foods, handicrafts and performing arts all in one place, will be held for three days from 6 to 8 November at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) on Inya Road in Yangon.

The fair is being organized by the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust with the aim of reviving traditional foods and handicrafts that are at risk of disappearing, promoting greater appreciation and understanding of Myanmar's traditional customs, and passing them on to younger generations. SEE PAGE 3



A Myanmar-themed promotional image for the "Myanmar Traditional Festival Market".

Bagan to release 30,000 hot-air balloons for Thadingyut Festival

SEE PAGE 2



Organizers prepare a hot-air ballon for a test launch in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: BL**

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



Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 83

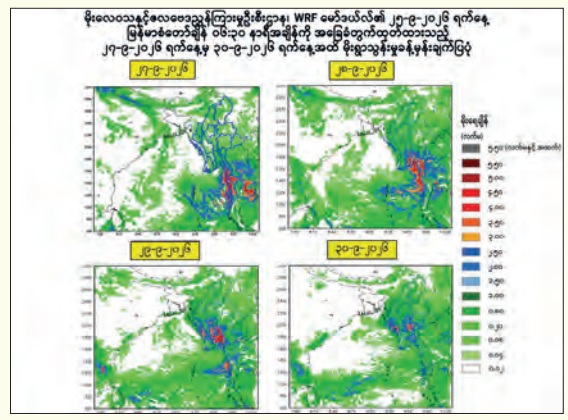
Issued at 8 am MST on 26 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the low-pressure cell over the Northern Taninthayi Region and southern Kayin and Mon states, strong monsoon over the Andaman sea and the South Bay of Bengal and strong development of the convective clouds such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and (Northern and Eastern) Shan states and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and southern Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine states from today morning to 30 September 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the low-pressure cell over the northern Taninthayi Region and southern Kayin and Mon states, strong monsoon over the Andaman sea and the South Bay of Bengal and strong development of the convective clouds such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 27 September 2026

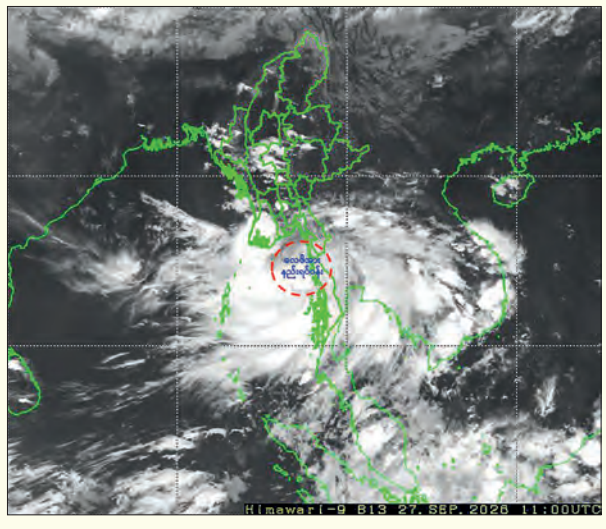
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Low-Pressure Area over the Taninthayi coastal, Myanmar and adjoining the Andaman Sea is still persists over North Andaman Sea and adjoining the Mon-Taninthayi Coast, Myanmar.

Next 24 hours forecast

It is likely to move North-Northwestwards and may reach over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining the Deltaic, Ayeyawady.

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, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and southern Shan states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls from tonight to 30 September 2026.



Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coast. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coast.

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 flight and irrigation dams. — DMH

Bagan to release 30,000 hot-air ...

FROM PAGE 1

RELEASING hot-air balloons, a traditional cultural heritage of Myanmar, is held annually in the country. Preparations and trial launches are currently under way for the first-ever release of 30,000 hot-air balloons in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone during the upcoming Thadingyut Festival.

The event will be held during the Thadingyut Festival, which marks the beginning of the tourist season, to pay homage to the Buddha by releasing 30,000 hot-air balloons for the first time and to allow local and foreign visitors to enjoy the beauty of Bagan on the full-moon night of Thadingyut.

The two-foot-long hot-air balloons, made of plastic and paper, will be released from three locations: Alodawpyae Pagoda, Dhammayangyi Temple and Sunset Mound. Photography enthusiasts, painters, landscape photographers and online media outlets from various parts of the country are also expected to attend the event.

The balloons will be released at 7 pm on the 14th waxing day (the eve of the full moon) and the full-moon day. In addition to a food fair featuring upcountry foods and snacks sold from bullock carts, the relevant departments are making arrangements to hold the Thadingyut Festival with various other programmes. — Thitsa (MNA)/KNN

NATIONAL

Universities' Teaching and Learning Infrastructure need systematic construction

FROM PAGE 1

The President also viewed around the construction site of the dome-shaped Multi-Purpose Assembly Hall in the compound of the University of Medicine 1 in Kamayut Township. The Union Minister for Construction and the Union Minister for Health and officials reported on the construction matters. The President underlined that it is necessary to systematically build the dome-shaped building with a proper sound system based on documentary photos of the past dome-shaped structure.



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the railway station of Dagon University during his inspection tour of universities in Yangon yesterday.

The dome-shaped wooden hall, formerly known as a prominent landmark and the Multi-Purpose Assembly Hall, was designed by British architect Ragian Squire and constructed at Engineering College of Yangon University between 1954 and 1956. The hall began to deteriorate around the 1980s. Due to the tropical climate, heavy rainfall and the passage of time, its wooden structures deteriorated to the extent that the building could no longer be used by the people. It was subsequently demolished because long-term repair and maintenance would have incurred substantial costs. At present, in accordance with the guidance of the President, the dome-shaped building is being reconstructed in a modern and innovative style.

At the Yangon University (Hline Campus), Director-General Dr Than Zaw Oo of the Higher Education Department reported to the President on the construction of lecture halls and buildings in addition to the locations of student dormitories, theatres, and lecture halls of relevant universities on the Hline Campus, infrastructure, and the requirement for more infrastructure. Rector of Yangon University of Education Dr Kay Thwe Hlaing presented the background history of the university, the conferring of degrees, the educational infrastructure, and the financial allocation.

In his guidance, the President said that it is necessary to systematically assess student enrolment by university and discipline, along with teaching staff and infrastructure requirements, and expand facilities where necessary. An analysis should also be conducted to arrange small numbers of students from relevant majors to pursue education at the designated locations together.

He noted that in implementing teaching and learning infrastructure development projects, important buildings that serve as key landmarks and symbols of a university, such as university convocation halls, should be constructed systematically in stages. This should include comprehensive consideration of all relevant factors, preparation of proposed locations and preliminary design concepts, and selection and prioritization based on established priorities. Such projects should be undertaken with a focus on long-term benefits.

The President outlined that regarding Yangon University of Economics, Yangon University and the University of Education, it is necessary to analyze and calculate the ratios of student enrolment to teaching staff and the requirements for infrastructure, and to seek appropriate solutions for bringing them together in an integrated manner.

The President inspected theatres, lecture halls, relevant academic departments, libraries and student dormitories on the Hline Campus and gave necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA

Rural development projects under way in Hopong and Hsihseng townships


Officials inspect the progress of the paving the rural roads in Hopong and Hsihseng townships.

THE Department of Rural Road Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development is implementing regional development projects in Hopong and Hsihseng townships of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State during the 2026-2027 financial year, using Union and State funds.

The projects include paving the road from the Union Highway through rural roads in Hopong and Hsihseng townships in addition to constructing the second section of a 200-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge. Engineer-in-Chief U Kyaw Kyaw Htwe of the Department of Rural Road Development in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State Department of Rural Road Development Director (Civil) U Min Swe and member of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Khun Nyo Maung inspected the projects yesterday morning.The officials reviewed the progress of the projects and inspected the implementation works at the project sites. — Township IPRD/KZL

YCC to host Myanmar Traditional Festival ...

FROM PAGE 1

Traditional foods and local products: Visitors will be able to buy and taste authentic Myanmar traditional foods, as well as distinctive traditional dishes and food products from various regions, during the fair.

In addition, practical demonstrations on how to make various traditional snacks will be held for the public, while traditional handicrafts and handmade products from different regions will also be displayed.

At discussion sessions, experienced experts will share their knowledge on topics including "Myanmar Food (A Heritage to Be Passed On)", "The Essence of the Myanmar Traditional Festival Market" and "Myanmar Food and Nutrition".

In addition, the San Yay Moe theatrical troupe will perform on 6 November, while Project K will give a performance combining modern and traditional elements on 7 November. On 8 November, lively performances featuring a variety of traditional dances by ethnic nationalities will be presented. — TWA/KZL

Nay Pyi Taw Speeds Up Post-Quake Staff ...

FROM PAGE 1

Located across Dhana Theikdhi Ward, the work includes two senior officer buildings with 12 units, 61 buildings with 976 units in Plot 8-A, 40 buildings with 640 units in Plot 8-B, 78 buildings with 1,248 units in Plot 3, and 112 buildings with 1,792 units in Plot 4. The Ministry of Construction is closely supervising the entire development to ensure quality standards and timely completion.

During a site inspection on 26 September, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant instructed teams to prioritize early-finishing units to swiftly rehouse civil servants displaced into temporary modular shelters. He stressed the importance of earthquake resilience, urging close collaboration with technical experts, structural engineers, and contractors. The Union Minister also directed that key utility infrastructure — including concrete access roads, electricity, water supply, and drainage networks — be completed concurrently with the residential blocks. — TWA/ST

NATIONAL

Myanmar Marks 2026 World Tourism Day with Focus on Digital and AI Innovation

MYANMAR held a ceremony to mark World Tourism Day 2026 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I (MICC-I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Chairperson of the National Committee for Tourism Development, attending and delivering a speech.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye observes MSME products displayed at the exhibition to mark the World Tourism Day at MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chair, deputy ministers, foreign ambassadors, senior government officials, tourism experts, representatives of private tourism organizations, academics, students and other invited guests.

In her speech, the Vice-President said this year's World Tourism Day theme is "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism." She said the theme is timely and appropriate for developing the tourism sector in line with rapidly advancing technologies.

She highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence and digital technologies to improve travel experiences and enhance business management, marketing and decision-making. At the same time, she stressed the need to pay attention to security, data protection, accountability, transparency and human-centred approaches when using new technologies.

She said Myanmar has been easing visa-related procedures to facilitate international visitors and has been participating in international tourism fairs, organizing familiarization trips and promoting tourism through digital technologies.

The Vice-President also called for local communities and small and medium-sized enterprises, including handicraft producers, accommodation providers and restaurants, to benefit from digitalization. She said locally made products should be connected to global markets through digital platforms.

She urged stakeholders to work together to adopt and develop modern technologies in line with the 2026 World Tourism Day theme and to advance Myanmar's tourism sector to a new level.

The ceremony also featured video presentations and cultural performances. Awards were presented to hotels, tour companies and winners of photography, short video, paper, article and essay competitions held to mark World Tourism Day 2026.

The event concluded with a group photo and visits to exhibition booths showcasing tourism-related activities, MSME products from regions and states, and displays by hotel and tourism associations, companies and competition winners.

World Tourism Day has been celebrated annually since 1980 under the leadership of the UN Tourism organization, with 2026 marking its 46th anniversary. — MNA/ST

Kayin State Peace and Development Forum 2026 Concludes in Hpa-an

THE two-day Kayin State Peace and Development Forum 2026 concluded yesterday at Zwekabin Hall in Hpa-an, following opening sessions held at the Kayin State Youth Centre.

Councillor of the Union Consultative Council Mahn Nyein Maung delivered the opening remarks on the second day. Discussions centred on papers addressing social welfare, education, healthcare, multicultural coexistence, and the impact of technology—including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and combating misinformation through social media networks.

Across both days, participants formed four focus groups to draft action plans addressing critical regional priorities: halting armed conflict, building a peaceful society, rehabilitating conflict-affected communities, expanding jobs and local development, and fostering inter-communal harmony. Advisory team leader U Aung Min of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC), alongside youth leaders, offered recommendations before attendees adopted the forum's final resolution statement.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo emphasized that the forum was designed not merely as a formal event, but as a practical platform to generate actionable roadmaps for socioeconomic progress, mutual understanding, and long-term stability for future generations. Senior officials, including Councillors of the Union Consultative Council and state cabinet ministers, observed the group deliberations and contributed feedback throughout the proceedings. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/ST



The second-day Kayin State Peace and Development Forum 2026 in progress at Zwekabin Hall in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday.

Nay Pyi Taw mobile medical team provides healthcare to residents

A mobile medical team comprising specialist physicians from the Nay Pyi Taw Medical Services Department provided medical treatment to local residents on 26 September at Taungnyo Station Hospital in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

The mobile medical activities were encouraged by the Patron of the Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Body, together with responsible officials and Nay Pyi Taw Council members. During the visit, the Head of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health and Medical Services Department and the medical team briefed the officials on the healthcare services being provided. The Patron of the Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Body and officials distributed nutritional refreshment to the residents receiving medical treatment and presented a basket of fruit to the medical team.

Under the supervision of the Nay Pyi Taw Medical Services Department, the mobile medical team provided healthcare services to a total of 349 local residents, comprising 126 general medicine patients, 21 surgical patients, 105 orthopaedic patients, 11 paediatric patients, nine ear, nose and throat (ENT) patients, 23 obstetrics and gynaecology patients, 46 ophthalmology patients and eight dental patients. In addition, supportive medical services were provided to 59 individuals, including seven physiotherapy and joint-care patients, 25 X-ray examinations and 27 ultrasound scans, according to reports. — Aung Myo Win (Ottara)/TH

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NATIONAL

Torrential rainfall causes flooding, landslides in Dawei

DUE to torrential rainfall that began on 26 September in Dawei Township, some roads in Dawei have been flooded and inundated Under the leadership of the regional government, relief and rescue operations, as well as the provision of drinking water, food and medicines are being carried out effectively in towns and villages affected by floods and landslides. In areas that are difficult to access, philanthropic organizations and residents are providing assistance as needed, according to reports.

Yesterday morning, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo and regional ministers inspected the flooding conditions at Pauktaing Bridge, along the hospital road in the city, on 8th Myothit Street, along Dawei Strand Road and in front of Basic Education High School No 2.

During the inspection, the chief minister instructed officials to systematically and promptly construct retaining walls to ensure proper water flow through drainage systems. He also noted that, as the period coincides with the full moon, special attention must be paid to tidal fluctuations. Furthermore, he instructed that debris carried by floodwaters be systematically cleared and that necessary assistance for natural disasters caused by heavy rainfall be provided promptly in other townships, as in Dawei, according to reports. — Regional IPRD/TH



Photo shows people cross the flooded road in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

Nyaungkhashay Checkpoint inspected

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win called for checkpoints to effectively combat illegal trade, prevent the entry of narcotics and other restricted items, and ensure security while allowing travellers and legally authorized goods to pass easily, safely and swiftly without unlawful charges.

He made the remarks during an inspection of the Nyaungkhashay (X-Ray) Permanent Checkpoint in Waw Township yesterday morning, where he met with officials and gave instructions.



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win observes the work procress at the Nyaungkhashay (X-Ray) permanent checkpoint's export and import gates.

The head of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and a representative of the Customs Department reported on seizures of narcotics and illegal goods and the legal action being taken against offenders.

Bago Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Nyi Lan Cho and Bago Region Police Force Commander Police Colonel Tin Myo Htoo also made recommendations. The chief minister gave further instructions, presented cash awards to security personnel and inspected the construction of staff housing and staff facilities.

The chief minister and officials also inspected passenger screening using the Facial Recognition System (FRS) at the Nyaungkhashay (X-Ray) permanent checkpoint's export and import gates, as well as the inspection of cargo vehicles using large X-ray scanners and smaller vehicles using personnel and mobile X-ray machines. — Region IPRD/ST

Pyinmana's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Gyonauk Village, Pyinmana Township, yesterday.

Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi Zar 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 enabling them to expand systematic small-scale agricultural and livestock businesses. Officials handed over K29.4 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Gyonauk Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K29.4 million from the MSY Village Project. The first round of revolving loans at low interest rates were disbursed 93 members from the village engaged in agricultural, livestock breeding and trading activities. — Thaw Zin Htoo (Rural)



Pyinmana's MSY village project loans disbursed event in progress.

Pwintbyu plants 68,338 acres of paddy during monsoon crop season

MORE than 68,000 acres of paddy have been planted in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, during the current monsoon crop season, with efforts under way to meet the cultivation target of 70,033 acres, according to the Township Agriculture Department.

Paddy cultivation began in July, and 68,338 acres had been planted as of 27 September.



Farmers transplant rice seedlings in a paddy field in Pwintbyu, Magway Region. **PHOTO: HLAING WIN LAY (PWINTBYU MYAY)**

"Paddy cultivation is targeted at 70,033 acres this monsoon season, and 68,338 acres have been planted so far. We are working to meet the target. Agricultural extension activities are also being carried out at field level to help farmers select quality seeds, adopt proper cultivation methods, use irrigation water systematically and prevent golden apple snail infestations," said Daw Moe Moe Wai, head of the Pwintbyu Township Agriculture Department.

The Agriculture Department, the Department of Agricultural Mechanization and the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department are coordinating support for farmers to achieve the monsoon paddy cultivation target while promoting high-yielding varieties, proper cultivation practices and pest and disease prevention.

Increasing paddy production can help meet local food needs and generate additional income from the sale of surplus produce. The township agriculture official therefore encouraged farmers to continue expanding paddy cultivation where conditions are suitable. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyu Myay)/ KZL

Mya Sein Yaung Village Project activities benefit rural area in Mahlaing Township

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday morning to review the implementation of the 'Mya Sein Yaung' (MSY) Village Project in East Kyintha Village, Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region.

The project, managed by the Department of Rural Development, aims to create employment opportunities, increase family incomes, and reduce poverty among rural residents. During the field inspection, Daw Aye Thet Thet Khaing, Head of the Mahlaing Township Department of Rural Development, inspected the agricultural activities using the K63.7 million from the MSY village project fund. She also looked into the completeness of the required monthly record-keeping forms and coordinated necessary actions. A total of K63.7 million from the MSY village project revolving fund has been disbursed as loans to 109 individuals engaged in agricultural activities in East Kyintha Village, according to the department. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaing)

NATIONAL

Rector Sayadaw offers robes to 6,538 monks



This photo features Rector Sayadaw Dr Nandamālābhivamsa offering Waso robes to monks at a ceremony held on 26 September.

WITH the objective of enabling monks to pursue the study of Pariyatti scriptures peacefully and without difficulty, Rector Sayadaw Dr Nandamālābhivamsa offered Waso robes on 26 September, out of loving-kindness, to 6,538 venerable monks observing the Buddhist Lent at 57 monasteries and Buddhism learning centres, according to reports.

As part of the offering, Waso robes were respectfully donated to Sayadaws and monks from 57 monasteries and Buddhism learning centres across Yangon, Sagaing and Mandalay regions, including 2,050 monks at New Masoyein Monastery. — TWA/TH

Pwintbyu harvests 6,775 acres of green gram

ALL 6,775 acres of green gram planted during the monsoon crop season in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, have been harvested, with an average yield of 19.45 baskets per acre, according to the Township Agriculture Department.

Harvesting began in July and was completed across all the cultivated acreage by 26 September.

"Green gram was cultivated on 6,775 acres in Pwintbyu Township during this year's monsoon crop season. Harvesting began in July and has now been completed. The average yield was 19.45 baskets per acre. Farmers were provided with guidance on timely harvesting to prevent yield losses and proper storage under shelter to maintain crop quality," said Daw Moe Moe Wai, head of the Pwintbyu Township Agriculture Department.

In coordination with relevant departments, the Township Agriculture Department provided local farmers with quality seeds and agricultural inputs, as well as guidance on timely harvesting techniques, to improve yields and crop quality.

As green gram is a marketable crop, increased production can help meet domestic food requirements while generating additional income from the sale of surplus produce and contributing to local socio-economic development. The township agriculture official encouraged farmers to expand green gram cultivation annually where conditions are suitable. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/KZL



Farmers are harvesting green gram in Puintbyu Township.

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Viksit Bharat Run-2026 held in Yangon with nearly 500 participants



This photo features participants in the Viksit Bharat Run-2026.

THE Embassy of India in Yangon, in cooperation with the Government of Myanmar and with the support of Indian community organizations, enthusiastically organized the five-kilometre "Viksit Bharat Run-2026" yesterday morning at People's Park in Yangon, with nearly 500 people participating.

The run brought together sports and physical fitness enthusiasts from Myanmar, young people, supporters of India-Myanmar friendship, members of the Indian community, students from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), local residents and officials from the Embassy of India.

Held under the motto "Run to Serve the Nation", the Viksit Bharat Run is a global mass-participation initiative conceptualized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India and organized by Indian embassies and missions abroad with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

The run is being held during India's Seva Pakhwada period from 17 September to 2 October, with the aim of fostering solidarity among Indian citizens and overseas Indian communities and promoting the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

The run commenced at People's Park, with participants following designated routes near the Shwedagon Pagoda, City Hall and Kandawgyi Lake.

To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event, the Yangon Region Government provided traffic management, medical assistance and ambulance services.

The run was jointly inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur, and Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Soe Oo. Following the event, responsible officials presented awards to the winners in the men's and women's categories, according to reports. — TWA/TH

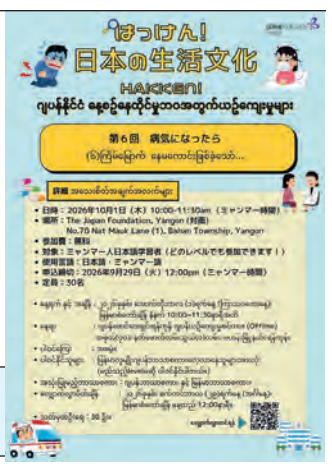
JFYG organizes 6th Hakken programme

ONE of monthly events of the Japan Foundation, Yangon (JFYG), the 6th Hakken programme, which is designed for those who are going to Japan can explore Japan's daily life and culture, has been scheduled to be held on 1 October.

Under the title "if you are sick in Japan", this time will share helpful tips on how you can do when you feel sick in Japan and how you can manage your daily life in Japan and know their culture, in both Myanmar and Japanese languages.

All Japanese language learners from beginners to advanced level are eligible to join the event which is set from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at JFYG in Bahan Township, Yangon.

It is free entry and interested participants can register to https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=oy_HkJxhhky73GK1b_fZOcWtO0v6BiJKvnO6c8nsHvxUMURVRzkzQ09MQkE4QkRQOUtLVE81VTBPUCQlQCNjPTEkJUAjdD1n&route=shorturl) Microsoft Form. — MT/ZS



Hakken programme is advertised.

NATIONAL

New Myitkyina checkpoint handles over US$2.6M in trade in first month

A newly opened cargo inspection station at the entrance to Myitkyina processed 61 import and export trucks carrying commodities valued at over US$2.667 million between 1 and 25 September. Established on 29 August to curb illegal trade, streamline border commerce, and recover state customs revenue, the checkpoint was inspected yesterday by Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and state ministers.



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan hands over K10 million for construction tasks to an official.

During the visit, the chief minister met the Kampaiti Border Trade One-Stop Service (OSS) team, urging them to expedite cargo flow and follow standard operating procedures to prevent local food shortages. He reviewed ongoing site development—including truck parking enclosures, water supply networks, driver rest facilities, access-road expansions, macadam paving, and completed box culverts—and contributed K10 million to speed up the remaining works.

Separately, the chief minister attended a ceremony yesterday afternoon to encourage the state's selected athletics and boxing squads competing in the 2026 Inter-Region and State Athletics Championship, presenting them with flags for victory and cash rewards. — State IPRD/ST

Car prices jump 10-20% on surging demand

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association, car prices have risen as demand in the domestic auto market slightly outweighs supply.

The association said the surge in demand stems from the programme allowing owners to surrender older vehicles, including those over 20 years old, prompting many drivers to hand in their old cars and buy new ones.

"In terms of demand and supply, demand is currently a bit high. With many vehicles over 20 years old and the scrap-and-replace programme now in place, people intend to surrender those cars to buy new ones. Because of this, demand is slightly higher, leading to a modest rise in car prices," said the chair of the association.

He further noted that current vehicle prices have increased by at least 10 per cent to 20 per cent, adding that this price hike applies not only to fuel-powered vehicles but also to electric vehicles.

Transaction prices in the market currently vary depending on the vehicle model, production year, and overall condition. — MT/ZN



This image displays an advert for a car sale on the social media auto buying and selling page.

Farmers allowed to purchase up to 15 litres of fuel daily for agricultural machinery



This photo depicts an agricultural machinery powered by fuel.

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is facilitating the purchase of up to 15 litres of fuel per day for farmers to operate agricultural machinery, according to the ministry.

Farmers are also allowed to purchase up to 15 litres of fuel per day at the daily reference price for agricultural machinery and inland waterway boats.

Those requiring more than the 15-litre daily limit are also permitted to purchase additional fuel from supplies imported by fuel importers for other sectors under their own arrangements.

Meanwhile, more than 60,000 gallons of domestically produced diesel have been distributed as fuel for ploughing and other agricultural activities covering more than 500,000 acres of farmland in Ayeyawady Region, following coordination between the relevant ministry and the regional government.

The relevant ministries and the Ayeyawady Region Government are also working together to ensure farmers can conveniently purchase the fuel they need and obtain domestically produced petrol and diesel at affordable prices for agricultural activities. — ASH/ST

Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss resumption of trade and consultative meetings



This photo features Myanmar's Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe observing operations at Chittagong Port.

DISCUSSIONS were held on the resumption of bilateral maritime trade, taxation matters and consultative meetings between Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to reports.

The meeting took place at the One-Stop Building of the Chittagong Port Authority in Chittagong between Myanmar's Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe and Rear-Admiral S M Moniruzzaman, OSP, ndc, ncc, psc, Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority.

During the meeting, views were cordially exchanged on bilateral maritime trade, taxation issues concerning the transport of products between the two countries, and the resumption of suspended consultative meetings between the two countries. Afterward, commemorative gifts were exchanged between the two sides, according to reports.

Additionally, following the discussions, Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Moe visited Chittagong Port and observed its operations. — ASH/TH

Tangyan inspects water pipeline installation project

THE Department of Rural Development conducted a field inspection on 26 September to review the progress of an ongoing water pipeline installation project in Namhoolwelka Village, Tangyan Township, Shan State (North).

Tangyan District Department of Rural Development Head U Tin Aung Lwin and officials inspected the progress of construction on the two-mile-long water pipeline extending from the water source to Namhoolwelka Village. They met members of the village water supply committee and local communities, urging them to complete the project on schedule in line with prescribed standards and specifications, while providing necessary coordination for issues raised by residents.

The water pipeline installation project is being executed with K62 million in Union funds under the supervision and technical support of township department engineering staff in cooperation with residents. Work commenced in the fourth week of July, and construction is currently 45 per cent complete. Upon full completion, the system will address seasonal water shortages during the summer and ensure year-round access to clean drinking water for rural residents. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

OPINION

Intensifying drive to eradicate narcotic drugs

The government of Myanmar is carrying out the prevention and control of the dangers posed by narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as a national responsibility. In 2025, more than K4.285 billion was confiscated as public property in connection with 685 drug-related cases. Up to August 2026, more than K3.585 billion had been confiscated and seized as public property from 356 drug-related cases.

The drug problem is a global issue that countries around the world are facing. The drug problem has a significant impact on social and economic affairs, public health, peace and stability, and national development. According to statistics from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), there were approximately 316 million drug users worldwide in 2025.

Armed insurgent groups that pose major obstacles to peace, stability and development in Myanmar are taking advantage of the ongoing internal conflict to engage in the production, transportation and trafficking of narcotic drugs, as well as the procurement of weapons and ammunition and the recruitment of new members. They transport chemicals and other materials used in drug production from foreign countries and manufacture narcotic drugs in areas under their control.

Efforts to prevent, control and ultimately eliminate narcotic drugs will be more successful only with the active participation and cooperation of the people together with the government. This will also help reduce crimes arising from drug-related activities in the country. Therefore, everyone is urged to work together toward eliminating narcotic drugs and creating a drug-free society.

Based on the successes of Operation 42, a special operation to combat narcotic drugs in Myanmar, the operations must continue, while measures must also be taken to prevent the entry of not only narcotic drugs but also chemicals, related materials and chemists involved in drug production.

At maritime entry and exit points, measures are being taken in cooperation with the Tatmadaw (Navy), Marine Police Force and port authorities to block and seize narcotic drugs. In addition, inspections and monitoring are being conducted at KTVs, bars, clubs, entertainment venues, hotels, motels and guesthouses in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regions and states to prevent the use and sale of narcotic drugs, while investigations are being carried out to identify and arrest those involved.

Rewards and honorary medals are being presented to Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and partner organizations, as well as informants, who have made sacrifices and contributed to drug control and suppression efforts. When weapons and ammunition are seized together with narcotic drugs, additional rewards are also being provided in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law.

Efforts to prevent, control and ultimately eliminate narcotic drugs will be more successful only with the active participation and cooperation of the people together with the government. This will also help reduce crimes arising from drug-related activities in the country. Therefore, everyone is urged to work together toward eliminating narcotic drugs and creating a drug-free society.

ARTICLE

Driving MSME Growth Through Business Clusters

By Than Zaw (Homalin)



A micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) cluster is a network of micro, small, and medium enterprises operating within the same region or industry. By sharing a location and focusing on similar or complementary products, these businesses collaborate to boost their overall competitiveness and efficiency.

MSMEs are essential to today's economy, but standalone firms often struggle with financial limitations, tech constraints, and weak market competitiveness. By joining forces through an MSME cluster, these enterprises can pool resources to drive both their own growth and national economic progress.

A core advantage of an MSME cluster is resource sharing. Businesses can reduce costs by pooling equipment, sharing logistics, and running joint training or tech programs. In addition, purchasing raw materials in bulk and collaborating on market research helps boost their overall profitability.

MSME clusters play a key role in driving regional growth and creating jobs. Especially in rural areas, these clusters increase local incomes and lift living standards. Whether in garment, handicrafts, or food processing, an effective cluster brings together raw material suppliers, producers, distributors, and marketers into a single, collaborative network.

To successfully implement an MSME cluster, the following critical points need to be addressed:

(a) Firm Selection

The first step is to evaluate the region's natural advantages and core strengths to choose viable business sectors. For example, an agriculturally rich region presents a great opportunity to establish an agri-food production cluster.

(b) Upgrading Infrastructure

Essential utilities including transportation networks, power grids, water supply, and high-speed internet must be strengthened. Solid infrastructure creates a seamless environment for businesses to operate and grow.

(c) Cross-Sector Partnerships

Successful clusters rely on close collaboration among local industries, suppliers, research centres, and academic institutions. Building these connections can promote technology exchange and foster innovation.

(d) Building a Skilled Workforce

To support growing clusters, vocational training and technical education must be expanded. Investing in these skills ensures businesses have access to qualified talent that meets evolving market demands.

(e) Policy and Institutional Support

Pro-business government policies are essential for cluster success. Public sector support should focus on granting tax exemptions, attracting new investment, and offering robust legal assistance to MSMEs.

(f) Advancing Tech and Innovation

Encouraging Research and development is vital for long-term cluster growth. Integrating modern technologies streamlines production processes, while innovation drives a higher standard of products and unlocks new market offerings.

(g) Expanding Market Reach

To expand into domestic and overseas markets, enterprises should improve the standard of products, enhance packaging, and adopt digital advertising. Furthermore, attending international trade fairs boosts brand visibility and directly drives export growth.

(h) Fostering Collaboration and Trust

For MSME clusters to succeed, government support, financial assistance, technical training, and well-developed infrastructure are important. However, these factors alone are not sufficient. Trust among business owners and a willingness to cooperate with one another are equally essential for building strong, sustainable, and competitive MSME clusters.

Strengthening Enterprise Competitiveness

Collaborative networking within clusters makes MSMEs far more competitive. It serves as a powerful catalyst for firm development, employment generation, sustainable energy use, and broader socioeconomic growth across the region.

By implementing an MSME Cluster, production linkages among its members will become stronger. Shared raw material procurement and tech integration allow similar enterprises to standardize product quality, ultimately driving higher competitiveness in the market.

By integrating suppliers, producers, logistics providers, and distributors into a single network, clusters significantly improve supply chain efficiency. This integration eliminates delays and reduces overhead costs, directly raising overall MSME productivity.

The cluster model boosts market expansion. Participating businesses can collaborate on joint branding, feature in commercial trade expos, and integrate into digital marketplaces, opening up new pathways to capture both domestic and international market shares.

Clustering creates better pathways to financial and technical resources. By partnering with financial institutions, microfinance providers, and government bodies, member enterprises can readily acquire capital, business advice, and skill development to boost operational efficiency and spark new ideas.

Government Policy Support

As vital engines of economic development, MSMEs generate employment, elevate productivity, and contribute directly to GDP expansion. Consequently, policymakers continuously design targeted frameworks and incentives to accelerate MSME growth.

Financial backing remains the most vital form of government support. Small businesses often struggle with cash flow and strict bank loan requirements. To bridge this gap, governments offer low-interest loans, dedicated SME credit schemes, and microfinance options. Operating within a cluster makes it much easier for enterprises to access these funds quickly, allowing them to scale production.

In addition, governments frequently offer tax relief to lighten the financial load on MSMEs. This includes tax reductions, temporary tax exemptions, and duty-free import incentives for capital equipment. By cutting these overhead costs, such policies ease financial pressure and help small businesses stay competitive.

Technical and skills training are equally vital. Governments and industry bodies frequently run workshops for MSME owners covering business management, accounting, digital marketing, e-commerce, and advanced manufacturing. Hands-on training like this helps small businesses adopt modern technologies and streamline their daily operations.

Governments also back small businesses through trade fairs and export promotion programs. Participating in these events gives MSMEs direct exposure to domestic and overseas buyers, helping them break into new markets and generate higher revenue.

Governments also provide essential legal and business registration support—assisting MSMEs with business licensing, formal registration, and trademark protection. This help enables small enterprises to operate legally, safeguard their brand identity, and build consumer trust.

Should be Encouraged

Despite strong policy support from the government, MSMEs operating in isolation still face major hurdles. Working individually often leads to small production volumes, inconsistent product quality, and weak market competitiveness.

Cluster-based cooperation gives MSMEs a solid foundation for growth and opens doors for small businesses to eventually scale into large-scale enterprises. By joining a cluster, businesses decrease costs, increase output, reach wider markets, and sharpen their competitive edge, creating a path towards long-term, sustainable development. For these reasons, governments and industry bodies should actively encourage MSMEs to operate within a cluster model.

Different Backgrounds, Shared Goals, Empowered Youth

By Yin Nwe Ko

Today's young people will become the leaders of tomorrow. They will shoulder responsibilities for their families, their communities, and their countries. Young people are the new generation that will carry the responsibility of building the future of their nations. At present, young people account for nearly half of the world's population, and it is expected that their proportion will rise to 57 per cent of the global population by 2030.

International Youth Day is observed annually on 12 August. The occasion is held to draw the attention of countries around the world to young people, who will shape, create, and build the future of the world. The theme for International Youth Day 2026 is **"Different Backgrounds, Shared Goals, Empowered Youth."**

The Strength of Youth

In Myanmar, International Youth Day is observed annually with the aim of encouraging greater participation by young people in community-based activities and national development programmes, increasing young people's awareness of and participation in International Youth Day activities, and fulfilling the needs and aspirations of young people.

Internationally, people between the ages of 15 and 24 are generally defined as youth, while in Myanmar, people between the ages of 15 and 35 are regarded as young people.

According to global population statistics for 2025, young people account for 16 per cent of the world's population. According to the 2024 Myanmar Census, Myanmar has approximately 17 million young people, representing 32.69 per cent of the total population. Compared with many other countries, Myanmar has a relatively large proportion of young people.

If these young people are properly educated, trained, and nurtured, they can become valuable human resources for national development. They can make a significant contribution to building a sustainable and continuously developing nation.

Promoting the Youth Sector

In Myanmar, efforts are being made to implement a comprehensive education system that is accessible to everyone, with the aim of improving knowledge and skills throughout the country and producing skilled professionals who can contribute to productivity and development.

Young people will be responsible for the country in the future. Therefore, nurturing them to become people with sound thinking, critical-thinking skills, and the ability to make good decisions will help build a brighter future for the nation.

In fact, educating and nurturing young people so that they possess not only academic excellence, intelligence, knowledge, and professional skills but also good health, determination, good character, morality, discipline, courtesy, and love for their country means laying a strong foundation for the future of the nation.

Young people need to be nurtured systematically so that they become confident, thoughtful, honest, upright, and capable individuals. Only by properly educating and training the younger generation can a country build a prosperous and developed future. The fundamental foundation of national development is an abundance of educated and skilled human resources.

Therefore, the government has placed special emphasis on young people and is making efforts to create better opportunities for their future. In order to systematically and effectively implement youth-related affairs and enable young people to become healthy, well-rounded citizens while pursuing education and participating in sports, the Ministry responsible for youth affairs has been established and is carrying out relevant programmes.

SEE PAGE 11



DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Traditional Myanmar Delicacy







Shwekyi Mote (Sanwin Makin)

Featuring a subtle aroma of butter, the rich nuttiness of coconut milk, and topped with crunchy poppy seeds, Shwekyi Mote (Sanwin Makin) is an iconic traditional dessert that is an essential part of Myanmar weddings, donation ceremonies, and tea tables.

The primary charm of Shwekyi Mote lies in the harmonious blend of three distinct flavours: sweet, rich, and aromatic. The richness of butter and coconut milk is balanced by sweetness, while the outer layer turns golden-yellow and slightly crispy from the heat. The inside remains tender and soft, offering the simultaneous texture of semolina grains and the crunch of aromatic poppy seeds with every bite.

Ingredients Required

1. Semolina (Shwekyi powder): 250 grammes (or 1.5 condensed milk cans)
2. Coconut milk: 400 millilitres (or thick juice squeezed from one coconut)
3. Sugar: 150 grammes (adjust to taste if you prefer it sweeter)
4. Butter (or oil): 3 tablespoons
5. Eggs: 2 (for a softer, more tender texture inside)
6. Water: 1.5 condensed milk cans
7. Salt: ½ teaspoon (to enhance the flavours)
8. Poppy seeds: 1.5 tablespoons (for sprinkling on top)
9. Cashew nuts & raisins: Optional (add as desired)

Step-by-Step Instructions
Mixing the Batter

In a large bowl, combine the semolina, coconut milk, water, sugar, salt, and eggs. Stir well with a spoon until the sugar dissolves. (It is best to let it rest for about 15 minutes so the semolina grains can absorb the liquid.)

Cooking the Batter

Pour the mixture into a thick, non-stick pan and stir continuously over medium heat. Once the mixture starts to thicken and pull away from the sides of the pan, add two tablespoons of butter and continue cooking until the oil separates.

Transferring to the Pan

Grease a baking tray with a little butter. Spread the cooked batter evenly into the tray and smooth out the top surface with a spoon. Sprinkle poppy seeds and, if desired, cashew nuts and raisins on top.

Baking Methods
Method 1: Oven Baking

This method ensures even heat distribution and delivers a golden-yellow top crust.

1. Preheat the Oven: Turn on both upper and lower heating elements and preheat the oven to 180°C for about 10 minutes.
2. Prepare the Tray: Grease the bottom and sides of the baking tray with a little butter. Pour in the cooked semolina batter and smooth out the surface evenly using a spoon or flat knife.
3. Garnish: Sprinkle poppy seeds evenly across the surface. (If desired, add cashew nuts and raisins closely together).
4. Baking Time: Place the tray on the middle rack and bake at 180°C for 35 to 45 minutes.
5. Browning the Top: If the top has not turned golden-yellow by around the 40-minute mark, turn off the lower heat and use the upper heat (Broil) for two to three minutes, watching closely until browned.
6. Cooling: Once the top is set and golden-yellow, remove it from the oven. Let it cool completely at room temperature for about one hour before cutting into diamond-shaped pieces.

Method 2: Stovetop Method (Using a Pan)

An easy method for those without an oven that creates a wonderfully crisp bottom layer. 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

ARTICLE/DELICACY/NATIONAL

Different Backgrounds, Shared Goals, ...

FROM PAGE 9

In particular, efforts are being made to promote the youth sector so that young people can become a major force in national development and become well-rounded citizens who possess the five strengths of physical, intellectual, moral, social, and economic development.

Development of the Five Strengths

In reality, the youth sector is one of the fundamental foundations of national development. Youth policies are being implemented to promote the development of the five strengths—physical, intellectual, moral, social, and economic—and to guide young people towards the right path so that they can become responsible citizens who contribute to the country.

To implement youth policies and carry out programmes for the comprehensive development of young people more effectively, the Myanmar National Youth Affairs Committee, the Myanmar Youth Affairs Working Committee, and youth affairs committees in Nay Pyi Taw, regions, and states have been established.

Young people are the owners of the future society and the resources that will create and build that future. In other words, they are the future leaders of the nation. Only through proper education, training, and nurturing of young people can a better future for the country be built.

A nation can be successfully developed only with young people who possess high morale, sound thinking, honesty, integrity, and comprehensive abilities. Therefore, young people need to be nurtured so that they develop the five strengths of physical, intellectual, moral, social, and economic well-being.

Furthermore, young people are invaluable human resources for the nation and constitute an important force in the national development process. The government has established policies, objectives, and programmes for the comprehensive development of young people. It is also making efforts to promote their physical fitness, mental strength, discipline, social responsibility, human values, and sense of national unity, while encouraging the development of the five strengths.

Systematic Nurturing of Youth

Young people possess qualities such as a love of truth, alertness, awareness, energy, curiosity, creativity, openness, courage, and a willingness to take risks. Therefore, these young people, who value truth, need to be systematically educated and nurtured so that their love and affection for their country and people can grow stronger, particularly their spirit of patriotism.

Young people also possess goals, hopes, aspirations, and the motivation necessary to pursue and achieve the destinations they desire in life.

Therefore, the government has been implementing various programmes to encourage young people to value themselves and to develop a spirit of love for and willingness to protect and safeguard their communities and nation. Every year during the summer school holidays, youth development programmes and youth camps are organized. Special attention is also given to youth development training programmes, including maritime and aviation youth training courses.

In fact, young people will become future national leaders, technological innovators, peacebuilders, entrepreneurs, workers contributing to development, and valuable human resources. Therefore, it is necessary to systematically educate and nurture young people so that they can become well-rounded and responsible citizens capable of shouldering the responsibilities of the country in the future.

Different Backgrounds, Shared Goals, Empowered Youth

Although young people may come from different regions and countries and have different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and cultures, the common goal of young people everywhere is to build a stable, peaceful, and prosperous society and a developed world.

Therefore, today's youth already have an important role to play in shaping and building the future of the world.

In fact, although the new generation of young people may have different backgrounds, they can contribute to building a better world by cooperating with one another, showing compassion and mutual support, maintaining friendship and understanding, behaving with courtesy and kindness, and respecting one another.

If young people continue to develop their critical-thinking abilities, knowledge, wisdom, and determination, they can not only improve their own lives but also contribute to building a stable, peaceful, and prosperous world.

References: Yadanabon Daily, 12 September 2026

Traditional Myanmar Delicacy

FROM PAGE 10

1. Choose a Pan: Use a thick-bottomed non-stick pan or a heavy iron skillet. Grease the bottom and sides of the pan with a little butter.
2. Add Batter: Spread the cooked batter evenly into the pan, smooth out the top surface, and sprinkle with poppy seeds.
3. Heat Control (Crucial Step): Reduce the heat to the lowest setting. To prevent the bottom from burning, place a flat iron plate (such as a tawa pan) on the gas stove before placing the baking pan on top. This helps distribute heat evenly.
4. Cover and Bake: Cover the pan tightly with a lid and cook on low heat for 25 to 35 minutes. If condensation accumulates inside the lid, wipe it with a clean cloth or tissue to prevent water droplets from falling onto the cake.
5. Flip to Cook Top: Once the cake is set and the bottom turns golden-yellow, place a large plate over the pan and flip the cake onto it. Slide the unbaked top surface back into the pan and heat uncovered over low heat for another 5 to 7 minutes.
6. Cooling: Once both sides are golden-yellow, transfer it to a plate. Allow it to cool completely before slicing cleanly with a knife greased with a little oil.

Nutritional Benefits

- Semolina (Shwe Kyi): Made from coarse durum wheat, semolina is rich in complex carbohydrates, providing the body with sustained energy.
- Vitamins & Minerals: Contains iron, which helps maintain healthy blood cells, and B-complex vitamins that support a healthy metabolism.
- Coconut Milk & Poppy Seeds: The fatty acids (MCTs) in coconut milk are beneficial and easily converted into energy by the body. Poppy seeds sprinkled on top provide calcium and minerals essential for strong bones and teeth.

Health Precaution: Because Shwe Kyi Mote contains high amounts of sugar and butter, it is high in calories. Individuals with diabetes, those managing blood lipid levels, or those aiming for weight loss should consume it in moderation. — MOON

People welcome frontline Tatmadaw members

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw personnel who served security operations for State stability and local peace were warmly welcomed back at a ceremony held at a local battalion in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday afternoon. The event was attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw, South-West Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Khaing, along with officials, Tatmadaw members and family members, departmental personnel and local ethnic residents. The chief minister, the commander and party welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia. The event included traditional dance and music performances. The commander also presented cash prizes and commodities to the returnees. — MNA/KZL

25 flood relief camps in Laymyethna Township closed as Ngawun River recedes



Firefighters carry out clean-up operations at a flood relief camp.

AS the Ngawun River has begun to recede in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, 25 of the 35 flood relief camps have been closed as of 25 September, and residents have returned to their homes.

A total of 35 flood relief camps had been opened in Laymyethna Township. At present, 10 flood relief camps remain open, housing 646 households, comprising 844 men and 955 women, for a total of 1,799 people. — ASH/KNN

ECONOMY
WORLD

India's forex reserves fall by $14.88B to $765.90B in week ended 18 Sept

Foreign currency assets fell significantly while gold reserves increased slightly.



The building in the picture is the Reserve Bank of India headquarters located in Mumbai, India. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

INDIA'S foreign exchange reserves declined by $14.88 billion to $765.90 billion in the week ended 18 September, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

The country's forex reserves stood at $780.78 billion in the previous week ended 11 September.

According to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement, the decline was mainly driven by a fall in foreign currency assets, the largest component of India's foreign exchange reserves.

Foreign currency assets fell by $14.82 billion to $630.98 billion during the week.

The value of gold reserves, however, increased by $68 million to $111.29 billion, providing a marginal offset to the overall decline in reserves.

Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) declined by $106 million to $18.74 billion, while India's reserve position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased by $27 million to $4.89 billion.

Despite the sharp weekly decline, India's foreign exchange reserves remained $74.79 billion higher than their level at the end of March 2026, according to the RBI data.

The country's forex reserves were also $63.33 billion higher compared with the corresponding period a year earlier. — ANI

Skills on display, employment changes in motion at WorldSkills Shanghai

A drone assembled from scores of parts navigated its way around obstacles. A mobile robot, after programming and fine-tuning by a competitor, identified and grasped objects. In a mock store, meanwhile, another competitor arranged merchandise, served customers, and switched between in-store sales and livestreaming.

Over four days at the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, scenes involving 64 skills told a broader story of economic transformation: new technologies and shifting market needs are creating fresh demand, job roles are being reshaped, and the skills economies need are evolving with them.

With all competition events completed, the global skills gathering is set to conclude with a closing ceremony on Sunday. This year's edition brought together 1,385 competitors from 68 countries and regions, while seven skills made their debuts, including unmanned aerial systems, software testing and retail.

Francis Hourant, president of WorldSkills International, said trades today are not exactly the same as they were in the 1960s, adding that the competition adjusts its portfolio to stay connected with "the reality of the industry". The seven newcomers in Shanghai offer some of the clearest clues to where economic demand is moving. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 25 September 2026 shows the venue of the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Slovakia records fastest growth in commercial flights

THE number of commercial flights in Slovakia rose 37 per cent year-on-year in August, the fastest growth among European Union member states, the News Agency of the Slovak Republic reported Saturday.

According to data released by Eurostat, Slovakia's increase far outpaced the EU average of 2.3 per cent, followed by Malta at 12.4 per cent and Estonia at 8.3 per cent. Meanwhile, the number of flights fell in eight EU countries, with Austria down 4.7 per cent and Germany 2.4 per cent, for example.

The Slovak Transport Ministry attributed the growth mainly to the resumption of a domestic air route linking Bratislava and Kosice. The Bratislava-Kosice route was restored last year after a seven-year suspension and is currently operated daily by airline Wizz Air. The route has drawn increased passenger traffic, new air services and additional destinations at both airports. M R Stefanik Airport in Bratislava ended last year in profit and continues to break all-time records in 2026, while Kosice Airport is reporting record growth and the best global connectivity in its history. — Xinhua

Salmon, birch sap give Hokkaido cosmetics a local flavor

COSMETICS made with ingredients ranging from salmon and sugar beet to birch sap are attracting growing interest, with manufacturers tapping Hokkaido's natural resources while forging closer ties with local communities.

The products, many of which make use of natural or food-derived ingredients, are also providing a boost to regional economies through factory tourism, local employment and efforts to support areas producing the raw materials.

At a cosmetics exhibition and sales event held at the Hokkaido government offices in May, seven local companies showcased products featuring ingredients from across the island.

Sapporo-based Abyssal Japan displayed a body scrub containing sugar beet granules designed to gently remove impurities from the skin. The product is said to be mild enough for babies with sensitive skin and people with atopic dermatitis.



Photo taken on 21 July 2026, shows cosmetics maker Shiro Co's factory in Sunagawa, Hokkaido. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Other products on display included serums containing moisturizing ingredients derived from salmon nasal cartilage and sunscreen made with Japanese peppermint.

"They are particular about the ingredients they use, which gives me peace of mind and keeps me coming back," said a 55-year-old female investor from Sapporo as she listened closely to exhibitors explaining their products.

While cosmetics made with Hokkaido ingredients can be found at airports and souvenir stores, some consumers are travelling directly to factories in more remote parts of the island. — Kyodo

Slovakia sees rapid expansion in electric vehicles

THE number of battery electric vehicles (EVs) of all categories in Slovakia has increased to 33,379 by the end of June, up 65 per cent year-on-year, according to data from the Slovak Electric Vehicle Association (SEVA) on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Slovakia's public charging infrastructure has also expanded significantly. As of the end of June, 3,707 public charging points were available at 1,375 locations, with a total installed capacity of 343 megawatts (MW).

"In a year-on-year comparison, Slovakia has a substantially larger fleet of electric vehicles, a more powerful network, and nearly a thousand public charging points with an output of at least 150 kilowatts (kW)," said SEVA Director Patrik Krizansky.

Slovakia had 969 public charging points, each with a power output of at least 150 kW, as of the end of June, nearly twice the number recorded a year earlier. The charging network has also undergone a major technological upgrade. Its total installed capacity more than doubled from just under 162 MW at the end of June 2025 to more than 343 MW a year later.

As of June 30, there were approximately 8.4 passenger EVs per public charging point. SEVA said the expansion of charging infrastructure has outpaced the growth of the electric vehicle fleet. — Xinhua



PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY

Libya energy infrastructure attacks trigger punitive measures

ATTACKS targeting Libya's oil and energy infrastructure, or any actions that may lead to its undermining, could constitute grounds for the imposition of punitive measures under relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the UN mission in Libya said Saturday.

In a statement, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) expressed concern over the continued closure of the oil pipeline linking Sharara and Zawiya, warning of negative repercussions for Libya's primary source of national income, losses in oil production and public revenues, and potential shortages of fuel and electricity, as well as disruptions to other essential services on which people across the country depend.

While recognizing the right of workers to peacefully express their legitimate social and economic demands, the mission called on all concerned parties to protect the safety of oil and energy facilities and to ensure that technical and operational personnel can access and maintain them securely. — Xinhua

Japan's NYK Line to launch hydrogen fuel cell ship for Tokyo Bay tour

MAJOR Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen KK plans to introduce its first ship powered by a hydrogen fuel cell system around May 2027, launching it for a day cruise in Tokyo Bay.

The initiative is part of the company's efforts to promote decarbonization. The new propulsion system significantly reduces noise and vibration, improving passenger comfort.

"We want to make this ship a hub for communicating our company's new initiatives and value to society," Takaya Soga, president of NYK Line, said at a news conference in Tokyo.



A concept image of Amane, NYK Line's new ship to be used for Tokyo Bay cruises. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A naming and launching ceremony was held for the Amane on 11 September in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture.

Its name expresses the hope that the new vessel and the thoughts behind it will reach people far and wide, the company said in a press release. The kanji used means "sound of the sea", evoking an image of a calm voyage and the soothing sound of the ocean.

The ship has three upscale, private rooms with butler service, including a 12-seat, glass-enclosed lounge at the bow with panoramic views and a deck with a bar counter.

The Amane, the successor to the party yacht Lady Crystal, will measure around 48 metres long by 9.5 metres wide and have a passenger capacity of around 90.

Passengers will be able to enjoy French cuisine made with seasonal ingredients from across Japan while taking in views of Rainbow Bridge and Haneda airport. The Lady Crystal is expected to retire around the end of November. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (108W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (108W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB638A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB638A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2026** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V LINN LATT VOY.NO. (LLT005)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LINN LATT VOY.NO. (LLT005)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2026** 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 KAN LINN THU TRADING & LOGISTIC COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0410W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0410W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2026** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE.,LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Israeli opposition leader Eisenkot rules out Arab party from future govt

Former Israeli military leader refuses Arab party in his future coalition.



Cars drive past an advertisement featuring Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) of the Likud party and country's former chief of the general staff and leader of the Yashar centrist political party Gadi Eisenkot, along a street in Ramat Gan on 23 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former Israeli military chief Gadi Eisenkot, whose party leads in recent Israeli election polls, said Saturday he would not include the Arab party Ra'am in a government he intends to form.

According to the latest polls, opposition parties are currently ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition before the parliament elections scheduled for 27 October.

However, Eisenkot's bloc does not currently reach the 61 seats needed to form a majority in the 120-member parliament.

Eisenkot, who heads the Yashar party, told Israel's Channel 12 News that Ra'am, led by Arab politician Mansour Abbas, would not join his government because it does not meet conditions he has set, including support for mandatory military service, recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, and recognition of Hamas as a terrorist organization that must be eliminated. — Xinhua

India will now power world's ships with Green Energy

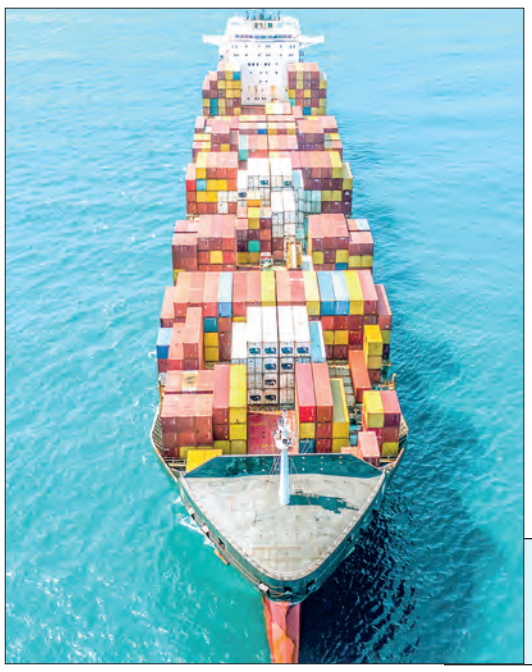


PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/Alexander Bobrov from Pixabay

UNION Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said that the green methanol and green energy produced at the upcoming e-methanol plant at Kandla will help foster a green energy ecosystem, as he highlighted the collaboration between Assam and Gujarat under the principles of cooperative federalism. Sarbananda Sonowal, who represents Dibrugarh in the Lok Sabha, noted that Assam Petro-Chemicals is based in Namrup in his constituency.

He also drew on the cultural ties between Assam and Gujarat, citing the legend of Lord Krishna of Dwarka and Rukmini of the Northeast, the story of Usha and Aniruddha of Tezpur, and the works of the 15th-century Assamese saint Srimanta Sankaradeva. The project was also described as a shining example of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, bringing together the strengths of Assam and Gujarat in service of the nation.

"PM Narendra Modi has given India the confidence to lead, not follow," Sarbananda Sonowal said. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss reject plan to toughen neutrality: projection

SWISS voters on Sunday appeared to reject a proposal to tighten their country's neutrality, dealing a blow to an initiative championed by the hard-right and dubbed "pro-Russian" by opponents, according to an initial exit poll projection. The Swiss widely embrace their neutrality, but the initiative to enshrine a strict definition into the constitution exposed deep disagreement over what that neutrality entails.

The proposal was rejected by 71 per cent of voters, according to an initial projection by polling institute gsf.bern published 30 minutes after the last polling stations closed. — AFP

Major US broadcasters to resume coverage of Trump events

MAJOR US broadcasters will resume coverage of events featuring US President Donald Trump, The New York Times reported citing sources.

After Trump decided to bar CNN and MSNBC from the White House, a number of broadcasters, including Fox News (a network generally supportive of him), as well as ABC, CBS, and NBC, accused the administration of violating the First Amendment regarding freedom of speech and announced they would refuse to cover events featuring Trump. The networks then suspended the operations of the television pool. — SPUTNIK

Part of Iranian armed forces' strategic capabilities deployed underground

IRAN'S Defence Ministry spokesman Reza Talaei-Nik said on Saturday that part of the strategic capabilities of the country's armed forces had been deployed in secure environments and underground, according to the official news agency IRNA.

He made the remarks at a meeting in the northern province of Alborz while elaborating on the measures taken by the country to protect its defence capacities.

Talaei-Nik said, "In recent years, part of the armed forces' strategic capabilities has been deployed in secure environments and underground infrastructure. This has resulted in the failure of some of the enemy's calculations about the Islamic Republic of Iran's defensive power and arms production capacity." — Xinhua

Europe's largest Chinese garden takes root in northern England

AFTER nearly eight years in the making, a Chinese garden described by authorities as the largest of its kind in Europe has opened in Salford, bringing a distinctive Chinese presence to the horticultural landscape of northern England.

At the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden Bridgewater, traditional Chinese walls, timber pavilions, rockwork and water have been brought together in the Chinese Streamside Garden, which covers more than seven acres (about 2.8 hectares).

Its centerpiece, the Yangzhou Scholars' Garden, draws on the classical gardens of Yangzhou in east China's Jiangsu province, with four pavilions representing the traditional scholarly arts of music, Go, calligraphy and painting. Chinese craftspeople used traditional techniques including mortise-and-tenon joinery, brickwork and stone carving in its construction.

Deciding what kind of Chinese garden would work in this particular corner of England took time. Tracy Snell, curator at RHS Garden Bridgewater, told Xinhua that the team visited gardens in China, including in Beijing and Yangzhou, before settling on the design. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 25 September 2026 shows a traditional Chinese lion dance performance during the opening ceremony of the Yangzhou Scholars' Garden at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden Bridgewater in Salford, Britain. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS



Myanmar wins another silver to finish Dragon Boat World Cup with five medals

MYANMAR secured another silver medal on the final day of the Dragon Boat World Cup in Yuanling, China, bringing its medal tally to three silver and two bronze medals.

In the final event, the Men's Open 10-paddler 14,000-metre Marathon Dragon Boat race, Ukraine finished first, followed by Myanmar in second and hosts China in third.

Myanmar won one silver medal on 25 September, followed by one silver and two bronze medals on 26 September, and added another silver medal on the final day.

The Myanmar team will next travel from Yuanling to Hangzhou to compete in the qualifying event for the World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, scheduled to be held from 30 September to 3 October. — MNA/KZL

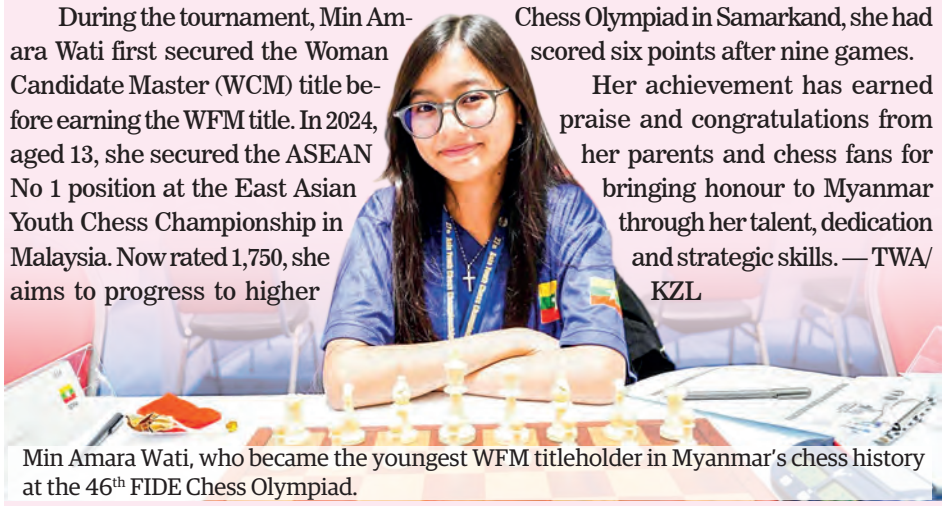
15-year-old Min Amara Wati becomes Myanmar's youngest WFM chess player

Myanmar chess player Min Amara Wati, 15, has become the youngest player in Myanmar's chess history to earn the Woman FIDE Master (WFM) title at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the WFM title is one of four official women's titles and is held for life.

During the tournament, Min Amara Wati first secured the Woman Candidate Master (WCM) title before earning the WFM title. In 2024, aged 13, she secured the ASEAN No 1 position at the East Asian Youth Chess Championship in Malaysia. Now rated 1,750, she aims to progress to higher titles, including Woman International Master (WIM) and Woman Grandmaster (WGM).

Her achievements are the result of years of dedication to chess. While enjoying time with her schoolmates and taking part in activities typical of children her age, she spent many nights studying and practising chess at home. At the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, she had scored six points after nine games.

Her achievement has earned praise and congratulations from her parents and chess fans for bringing honour to Myanmar through her talent, dedication and strategic skills. — TWA/KZL



Min Amara Wati, who became the youngest WFM titleholder in Myanmar's chess history at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad.

Asian Games: Katsuki wins marathon race walk, Nakamura BMX freestyle park

JAPAN'S Hayato Katsuki won the men's marathon race walk and Rimu Nakamura triumphed in the men's cycling BMX freestyle park for the host at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Sunday.

The 35-year-old Katsuki clocked 3 hours, 3 minutes, 36 seconds at the Aichi-Nagoya Race Walking Course for his second Asian Games gold following his 50-kilometre title in Jakarta in 2018, becoming the first Japanese race walker to win two Asian Games gold medals.

"I'm really happy to get the top spot," said Katsuki, who was looking to break the world record until seeing the strict walking style rule application at the half marathon race walk on Wednesday. — Kyodo



Japan's Hikaru Mori performs en route to winning the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games women's trampoline gymnastics in Nagoya on 27 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Myanmar wins two gold and two bronze medals at Asian Bodybuilding Championships

MYANMAR secured two gold and two bronze medals at the 58th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2026, being held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22 to 28 September.



An official presents the trophy to gold medallist Hein Zaw Lin in Men's Body building 65kg+ category.

Hein Zaw Lin won gold in the Men's Bodybuilding up to 65 kilogramme category, which featured eight competitors from Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, India and Myanmar.

Nay Myo Htut claimed the second gold medal in the Men's Sports Physique up to 170 centimetres category, competing against 12 athletes from Afghanistan, Thailand, Pakistan, Myanmar, India, Malaysia, Laos and the Maldives.

Aung Htut won bronze in the Men's Bodybuilding up to 60 kilogramme category, which featured nine competitors from India, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Hong Kong (China).

In the Women's Wellness Physique event held yesterday, Moe Thet Khaing also secured bronze among nine competitors from Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Hong Kong (China).

Hein Zaw Lin also received the Best Poser 2026 Asia award in the Men's Bodybuilding up to 65 kilogramme category.

Myanmar participated in the championships with a delegation led by Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation President U Cho Tun Aung, Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee, along with Vice-President and manager U Kyaw Than, coaches Daw Yi Yi Win and U Nay Lin, judges U Aung Naing and Daw Nang Loung Kham, and six athletes. — MNA/KZL

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10

Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

B. Best National Pavilion Award (From the Bago Region pavilion CAEXPO story on Page 1)
A. 3 per cent (From the domestic fertilizer output story on Page 7)
C. Nepal (From the Mahamuni inscription hall reopening story on Page 3)
B. Giant panda (From the Shuanghe Cave fossil discovery story on Page 11)
B. Optical lattice clock (From the optical clocks second redefinition story on Page 16)

WORLD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Israeli opposition leader Eisenkot rules out Arab party from future govt

PAGE 14



Russia expects new UN Secretary-General to represent interests of all mankind

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke at the UN General Assembly session.

Russia expects the new UN secretary-general to represent the interests of all mankind, not just the golden billion, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Saturday.

"We hope that the new secretary-general will still represent the interests of all mankind, not just the golden billion, and will meet all the criteria approved in the UN Charter, including impartiality, impartiality and performing the functions of the organization's chief administrative officer," Lavrov said at a press conference following the 81st session of the UN General Assembly.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talks to the media during a news conference on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York City, the United States. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Iran War

Commenting on the Iranian crisis, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that the Islamabad memorandum signed between the US and Iran is a fair deal. "As for Washington's rejection of the seven-day plan that Iran has proposed, this is not the first time. There was the Islamabad Memorandum which was signed at the highest level. So this is not news … We believe that the Islamabad Memorandum was a fair deal, as they say. And if we signed it at the highest level, then why not return to it?" Lavrov said. — SPUTNIK

China respects US artificial intelligence terminology

ON what term to use for artificial intelligence (AI), China attaches importance to the position of the US side and respects their choice of the term, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Saturday. The spokesperson made the remarks when answering questions regarding the use of "super intelligence" rather than "artificial intelligence" in the US readout on the outcomes of the just concluded state visit. The two presidents had in-depth discussion on AI during this visit, said the spokesperson, adding the advancement of AI is an ongoing process. — Xinhua

Saudi FM calls for Strait of Hormuz to return to pre-28 Feb status

SAUDI Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Saturday stressed the importance of restoring the situation in the Strait of Hormuz to its pre-28 February status without the imposition of any fees or restrictions.

Speaking during the general debate of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Faisal called for freedom of navigation in international waterways, highlighting the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and rejected their use by any party as an instrument of pressure or threat.

He said the security of the Gulf region is part and parcel of the security of the region and the world at large, adding that stability in the Gulf is directly connected to global energy security, international trade and supply chains.

He noted that Saudi Arabia supports efforts and initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions in the region and stressed the importance of ensuring that the entire region remains free of weapons of mass destruction. — Xinhua



Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud emphasized freedom of international navigation. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

India's tourism sector contributes 5.22% to GDP

INDIA'S tourism sector is expected to play a growing role in economic activity and employment as the country expands its digital tourism ecosystem, with the sector contributing 5.22 per cent to GDP and supporting 8.46 crore jobs in 2023-24, the government said ahead of World Tourism Day 2026.

The government highlighted the growing use of digital platforms and artificial intelligence (AI) to make travel more personalized, accessible and seamless. World Tourism Day will be observed on 27 September under the theme "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism", placing technology at the centre of discussions around the future of the sector.

Tourism activity has also expanded sharply in recent years. Domestic tourist visits reached 428.55 crore in 2025, compared with 67.7 crore in 2021, while foreign tourist visits increased to 2.53 crore from 0.1 crore during the same period. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism rose to 2,76,831 crore in 2025, from 63,978 crore in 2021.

The government said digital tools are increasingly changing how travellers discover, plan and experience destinations. India's e-Visa facility, which was available to nationals of 43 countries when introduced in 2014, has now expanded to 172 countries, with entry permitted through 88 international ports. Around 78 per cent of visas are now issued electronically, while about 95 per cent of e-Visa applications are processed within 72 hours. — ANI

Nepal avalanche leaves base camp missing

SEVERAL Nepali expedition guides and support staff are missing following an avalanche at the base camp of Mount Himlung in Nepal's Manang district on Sunday morning, according to expedition companies operating in the area.

The avalanche swept through the base camp of the 7,126-metre-high mountain and buried several tents where expedition guides and support staff from an advance team were staying for necessary observation and preparations ahead of the autumn climbing season.

"One of our staff informed us about the avalanche early Sunday morning after it struck the base camp," Barun Bhandari, general manager of Himalayan Holidays, an expedition company, told Xinhua. "Following notifying us, he has not been in our contact. We are getting information that more than half a dozen of our staff out of 21 are unaccounted for, but we are not sure about the exact number."

Bhandari said the company had made the necessary preparations for rescue efforts.

Imagine Nepal Private Limited, another expedition company, also confirmed to Xinhua that an avalanche had hit the area and said it was preparing for a rescue operation. — Xinhua