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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. XIII, No. 160, Full Moon of Tawthalin 1388 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Saturday, 26 September 2026

President U Min Aung Hlaing attends final rites of late Chanmyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa



President U Min Aung Hlaing pays respects at rites of Chanmyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa at yesterday's event.

The final rites of the late Chanmyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa, Presiding Patron of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery in Mayangon Township, State Ovadacariya, Shwegyin Nikaya Maha Nayaka, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Aggamaha Kammathanacariya Buddhist missionary Sayadaw, aged 99 and 79 vasa, took place at Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Shwegyin Nikaya Adhipati Ukkatha Maha Nayaka Dhammasenapati 16th Shwegyin Sangharaja Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara and Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aggamaha Pandita Shwebo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candavamsa Lankara Bhivamsa, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Yangon Command, disciples of the Chanmyay Sayadaw at home and abroad, religious associations and guests.

The President and congregation paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw and took the Five Precepts from the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw.

President U Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, the chair of the Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery Chores Group and disciples covered the remains of the Sayadaw with a diamond-studded velvet.

The President donated offertories to Sitagu Sayadaw, while Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Yangon Command and officials from the Yangon Region government offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Chanmyay Thazi Sayadaw Ashin Aggañana read out the brief biography of the late Chanmyay Sayadaw, and Presiding Patron of the Sishin Monastery from Maha Withokdayon Taikthit of Mandalay Ashin Vannita Lankara Bhivamsa presented the Maha Thera Gunapuja Gatha.

Joint Secretary of SSMNC Aggamaha Pandita Dvipitakadhara Vinaya Paliparagu Pitakattaya Paragu Bhaddanta Sirikancana Bhivamsa, the Secretary-General of the Shwegyin Nikaya, the Union minister for Religious Affairs and the chair of the Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery Chores Group read out the messages of condolence from SSMNC, Shwegyin Gana Centre, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chanmyay Yeiktha branches at home and abroad.

SEE PAGE 3

3-day Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo 2026 kicks off



This image showcases the opening ceremony of the 2nd Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo 2026.

THE 2nd Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo 2026, featuring vehicles and spare parts from seven countries, is being held for three days from 25 to 27 September at the Yangon Convention Centre, Inya Lake Hotel.

The event is organized with supporting partnerships from the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association, the Yangon Region Auto Spare Parts Entrepreneurs Association, the Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Services Association, the Union of Myanmar Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association, the Myanmar Motor Sports Organization, and the Malaysia-Myanmar Business Chamber.

At the expo, 52 companies and six associations displayed electric vehicles (EVs), gasoline and diesel vehicles, EV charging systems, auto spare parts, engine oils and lubricants, and automotive repair equipment across 61 exhibition booths.

SEE PAGE 4

MoFA and AMATA discuss Yangon AMATA Smart & Eco City project in BKK



Discussion on the Yangon AMATA Smart and Eco City (YASEC) project in Bangkok, Thailand.

MYANMAR'S Ambassador U Zaw Zaw Soe to Thailand and Mr Yasuo Tsutsui, Chief Marketing Officer of AMATA Corporation Public Company Limited and Managing Director of Yangon AMATA Smart and Eco City Ltd, discussed the implementation of the Yangon AMATA Smart and Eco City (YASEC) project in Bangkok on 24 September, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Both sides exchanged views on the progress of the YASEC project, ways to ensure its successful implementation, and opportunities to enhance future cooperation. AMATA Corporation expressed its intention to expand investments in Myanmar based on its ongoing operations in the country. — ASH/KK

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

MAI expands its network



MAI and KBZMS General Insurance officials pose for a documentary photo after signing an MoU.

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) signed MoUs with business and international trade partners at the Myanmar Trade Partners Sessions held at the Lotte Hotel Yangon yesterday.

The MoUs were signed with KBZMS General Insurance, MTG International Company, MAI Bagan Run, Korea Association of Myanmar, Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Victory Myanmar Group, aimed at strengthening engagement, cooperation and recognition under the Myanmar Trade Partners Programme.

MAI Chief Executive Officer Mr Tanes Kumar delivered a presentation highlighting the airline's continued development through digital transformation, innovation and sustainable growth. He also outlined MAI's vision of providing more connected and seamless experiences for passengers and partners.

MAI Brand Ambassadors, Asian and World Bodybuilding Champion Ye Tun Naung, Myanmar national badminton champion Phone Pyae Naing and national badminton player Thet Htar Thuzar, also attended the event and shared their perspectives on representing Myanmar at regional and international levels during a panel discussion. MAI also presented awards to travel agency partners in recognition of their continued support and contributions to the airline. — Bala/KTZH

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Navy Chief visits PLA warships

THE destroyer Tang Shan, the frigate Da Qing and the replenishment warship Tai Hu of the 48th PLA Navy Escort Task Group (ETG) of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) (Navy), which are on a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, arrived at the MITT Jetty in Thilawa Port, Yangon, while a team led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win visited the warships yesterday afternoon.



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win presents souvenir to Senior Captain Xu Fang.

First, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) arrived at the MITT Jetty in Thilawa Port, Yangon and was welcomed by Senior Captain Xu Fang, the leader of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy) and officials. Then, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) received a salute from the ship's assigned forces on board the destroyer Tang Shan.

Afterwards, the warship's leader and officials gave a briefing on the vessels, exchanged souvenirs, and took a group photo.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and his team then boarded the frigate Da Qing and the replenishment warship Tai Hu, where officials gave a briefing on the vessels. — MNA/MKKS

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm on 25 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the Central Myanmar areas. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the Northeast and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and (northern and eastern) Shan States, scattered in Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and Chin and southern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with, a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 SEPTEMBER 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 SEPTEMBER 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 SEPTEMBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and fairly widespread in Mandalay Region. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 82

Issued at 8 pm MST on 25 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea, the remnant of low pressure cell over the East part of Thailand and the strong development of the convective clouds such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and northern Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, and Mon States from today morning to 29 September 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea, the remnant of low pressure cell over the East part of Thailand and the strong development of the convective clouds such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing attends final rites of late Chanmyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa

FROM PAGE 1

Sitagu Sayadaw delivered a Dhamma Samvega Katha and shared merits gained. Disciples led by Chanmyay Yeiktha Monasteries Presiding Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita Bhivamsa, paid homage as a final apology to the late Chanmyay Sayadaw, asking for forgiveness for any faults they may have committed.

Members of the Sangha, the President, Union ministers and disciples conveyed the remains of the Sayadaw onto the Karaweik-decorated float leading to Suvanabhummi Event Park.



This image shows the remains of the Sayadaw being conveyed onto the Karaweik-decorated float leading to Suvanabhummi Event Park.

The remains of the Sayadaw were conveyed onto the cremation pyre. The Union minister for Religious Affairs and the Yangon Region chief minister paid homage to the remains. Later, the remains of the Sayadaw were cremated.

The late Chanmyay Sayadaw obtained the Pariyatti Sasanahita Dhammacariya and Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya titles. He gave lectures on Pariyatti literature to student monks and novices at monasteries in Mandalay and Taungdwingyi. He served as a Pali Patisodhaka at the 6th Buddhist Council. The Sayadaw compiled 34 books in Myanmar and 10 in English. He established branches of Yangon's Chanmyay Yeiktha monastery in Hinthada, PyinOoLwin, Hmawby, Aungban, Taunggyi, Lewe and Tamu and meditation centres in Bangkok of Thailand, Durban of South Africa and Springfield of the United States of America. The Sayadaw made 70 missionary trips to many countries and gave lectures on meditation at foreign universities such as the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, and the University of Illinois, the University of Hawaii, the University of Vancouver, and Oberlin College in the United States. The Sayadaw served as State Ovadacariya Sayadaw from 2019 until his passing.

The Government offered the Aggamaha Kammathanacariya title to the Sayadaw in 1995 and the Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja title in 2009. The Sayadaw passed away at 11.03 am on Saturday, 19 September 2026.

The ceremony to pay homage by floating the cremated ashes of the late Chanmyay Sayadaw on the water will be held at the Pansodan Health Jetty on 26 September. — MNA/TTA

Defence Services C-in-C chooses arms for female cadets at OTS (Hmawby)

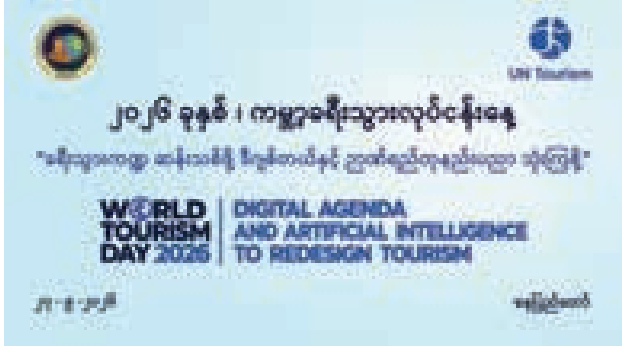
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo yesterday attended the ceremony for the choice of arms for the 13th Intake of the Graduate Female Cadet Course at the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School in Hmawby, Yangon.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo attends the choice of arms ceremony.

The General met the female cadets individually and chose the appropriate military arms of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) depending on obedience to discipline, their subject-wise outstanding performance, hobbies and efforts.

He had lunch together with the female cadets and female trainees of the Infantry company commander Course female, and cordially greeted the trainees. — MNA/KTZH



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HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets WCDA, encourages youth delegations

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi held a meeting with a visiting delegation from the Nay Pyi Taw Women and Children Development Association yesterday afternoon on the sidelines of the fifth day of the third Pyithu Hluttaw's Third Regular Session.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi receives visitors from the Nay Pyi Taw Women and Children Development Association.

The meeting took place in the second-floor meeting hall of Building C at the Hluttaw complex, and was also attended by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and Hluttaw officials.

During the discussion, the Speaker briefed the delegation on Myanmar's parliamentary system, electoral processes, legislative procedures, and the five-year strategic development plan for the Hluttaw. He emphasized efforts to review existing legislation and enact new laws to safeguard and improve living standards for all citizens, particularly women and children, before answering questions raised by attendees.

Following the meeting, the Speaker observed students from Jasmine May Private Primary School conducting a mock parliament session inside the compound, praising their active participation and interest in civic processes.

In a separate engagement, the Speaker met the Myanmar Mobile Industry Association to deliver words of encouragement to four young Myanmar tech professionals selected to compete at the upcoming 2026 Circuit Global Championship (CGC) in China. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Spotlight on Flights, Farm Fuel, and Roads at Pyithu Hluttaw

THE fifth-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session was held at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and parliamentarians. During the session, deputy ministers addressed 14 starred questions covering aviation, fuel supplies, staff housing, land management, and road and bridge infrastructure.



The fifth-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Regarding flight extensions and black-market ticket speculation on the Mandalay-Myitkyina route, Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing stated that five airlines currently operate twice daily to Myitkyina, with additional weekly flights added on Wednesdays and Fridays. To curb ticket scalping, domestic carriers, including Myanmar National Airlines, Air Thanlwin, MAI, Mingala Aviation, and Mann Yadanapon, have eliminated sales through third-party agents, selling directly via airline offices and official online platforms. Ticket prices are also being adjusted in line with declining aviation fuel costs.

Addressing agricultural fuel needs in Ayeyawady Region, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Kyaw Naing Win confirmed that over 66,000 gallons of locally refined diesel and RON-68/72 petrol have been distributed for farm machinery and rivercraft across more than 500,000 cultivated acres. While there is no current plan to introduce individual fuel ration books at retail outlets, the ministry is prioritizing supplies at subsidized rates in coordination with regional authorities.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu replied to queries concerning staff quarters and municipal matters. He noted that plans are underway to budget for staff housing for the ChaungU Township General Administration Department and the Paukkhaung Township Fire Station in the 2027-2028 financial year. Regarding Yangon's urban traffic, he explained that the city has already established multiple passenger and cargo vehicle terminals, rendering build-operate-transfer (BOT) parking terminals unnecessary, while over 2,100 street vendors across several townships have been relocated into 15 designated municipal markets.

In response to infrastructure queries, Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint detailed planned road upgrades and maintenance across Rakhine State, Bago Region and Ayeyawady Region, and Kachin State slated for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years. He added that the proposed 2,600-foot Myitmakha River Bridge project connecting Okpho and Monyo townships, as well as the Nawnghkio bypass road project, are currently deferred pending budget allocations and related bridge constructions.

The Hluttaw concluded its fifth-day session and is scheduled to reconvene for its sixth day on 28 September. — MNA/ST

3-day Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo 2026 kicks off

FROM PAGE 1

Memoranda of Understanding for cooperation were signed between an Auto Spare Parts Association from Taiwan Province of China, the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association, and the Yangon Region Auto Spare Parts Entrepreneurs Association. Technical seminars were also arranged.

During the event, "The Best of Myanmar SME" stalls will sell traditional Myanmar handicrafts, apparel, and food. The 3rd Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo is scheduled to be held in May 2027. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Delegation Returns from Phnom Penh Scam Summit

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs General Ko Ko Oo attended the International Conference on Combatting Online Scams held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 23 and 24 September and returned to Yangon by air yesterday evening.

The Myanmar delegation, led by the Union minister, attended the opening ceremony of the International Conference on Combatting Online Scams on the morning of 23 September and continued to attend the conference titled "Online Money Laundering Gangs: A Global Emergency".

At the conference, the Union minister emphasized that the Myanmar government has identified online fraud as a national security threat and is taking steps to root out criminal networks. Myanmar is actively participating in international and regional cooperation in line with the Theme "Acting together towards breaking the chain and eradication of online scams". It is time to take immediate action on the ground to combat online fraud with mutual trust, cooperation and shared responsibility; by working together, we can break all the chains of crime and combat online fraud.



Union Minister General Ko Ko Oo views the exhibits on display at the International Conference on Combatting Online Scams.

In the afternoon, the Union minister received a delegation led by Mr Yang Weilin, Deputy Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, and discussed bilateral cooperation in combating online fraud.

On the morning of 24 September, the Union minister met Mr Sar Sokha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs of Cambodia, to discuss cooperation between the Ministries of Home Affairs of the two countries, including crackdown on online fraud and attended the closing ceremony of the International Conference on Combatting Online Fraud in the afternoon.

During the visit, Myanmar's efforts to combat online fraud, as well as encouraging outcomes, were highlighted. — MNA/MKKS

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

MPs debate establishment of Insurance Guarantee Fund

THE third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the third day at its building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives discussed a motion tabled by MP Daw Khin Swe from the Magway Region Constituency 12, urging the Union Government to enact laws and rules for establishing an Insurance Guarantee Fund and a policy transfer protection mechanism so that insured citizens do not lose their rights when insurance businesses suspend operations or withdraw from Myanmar.

The Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw announced that remaining Hluttaw representatives will continue discussions over the proposal, replies from the Union-level dignitary and seeking the approval of the Hluttaw will be conducted on 28 September.

Furthermore, MP U Tin Myo Zaw from the Magway Region Constituency 2, MP U Thein Zaw from the Bago Region Constituency 8 and MP U Aung Thiha from the Yangon Constituency 5 raised questions on the settlements of flood victims, the fulfilments for students of Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (Thayawady), and the enactment of a contract farming law, implementation of agricultural public-private partnership projects and setting up of the agricultural data system.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun responded that although the residents of Myaynu Village, Magway Township,



The third-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session in progress yesterday, chaired by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

have expressed their desire to relocate their village to another site from their current village land and, if permission is granted for the relocation, to regain the right to cultivate and make a living from approximately 410 acres of alluvial island farmland where they have been engaged in farming, further action regarding the cultivation and use of the alluvial island farmland must be taken in accordance with the provisions on "allocation of land-use rights for alluvial island farmland" prescribed in Chapter 12 of the 2012 Farmland Rules.

The deputy minister also replied that maintenance and repairs of the Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (Thayawady) and construction of buildings and the road in the institute will be carried out with respective funds in 2026-27 FY, and the institute will be upgraded to a degree college, with the plan to implement seven construction projects in 2027-28 FY.

He also explained that although it is not yet appropriate to enact a specific law on contract farming, the procedures currently issued are only general SOPs covering all crops. Therefore, if necessary, crop-specific procedures will be formulated and issued depending on the nature of the activities to be undertaken.

As MP U Ye Yint Soe Nyunt from the Yangon Region Constituency 7 raised questions, Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw replied that the excavation of the Khayu Creek waterway and repair of the Khayu Creek sluice gate in Okkan, Taikkyi District, was proposed for implementation, and funding has now been allocated under the 2026-2027 regional government budget (capital expenditure) with 100 per cent completion. He also clarified that a plan is underway to dredge Mwayni Creek in Paukkon Village-tract in Hmawby Township in the 2026-27 FY with the budget allocation of the region. He also responded that, to convey water from the Lagwunbyin Reservoir to the Lagwunbyin Water Treatment Plant near Thameegalay Village of Hlegu Township through a pipeline, a feasibility study will be conducted, followed by the preparation of engineering designs and estimation of project costs, with coordination among the relevant Union ministries under long-term plans to be formulated for the project.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its session on 28 September. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar delegates attend Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2026 in Beijing



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo speaks at the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2026, held in China on 22-23 September 2026.

UNION Minister for Transport U Mya Tun Oo attended the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2026, held in Beijing, China, from 22 to 23 September, at the invitation of Mr Liu Wei, Minister of Transport of China.

The forum, hosted by China, focused on global sustainable transport development and cooperation, while promoting the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Governance Initiative (GGI), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026-2035.

The forum was attended by about 40 transport ministers and senior officials from various countries. On the first day, the Union minister delivered a speech at the Plenary Session under the theme "Sustainable Transport: Easier Movement of People and Smoother Flow of Goods".

At the Ministers' Forum, participants discussed implementing the GDI and GGI to deepen global cooperation in sustainable transport and adopted the "Framework for Global Sustainable Transport Development and Cooperation".

On the second day of the forum, the different topics were discussed in respective Thematic Sessions, and the Union minister and relevant officials joined them.

During the visit, on 23 September, the Union minister also held a separate meeting with the Chinese Minister of Transport to discuss China-supported transport projects in Myanmar and ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the transport sector.

Senior officials from Myanmar's Department of Transport Planning also met with officials from China's Ministry of Transport to discuss practical steps for implementing the Myanmar-China Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA).

The Myanmar delegation arrived in Yangon on the evening of 24 September. — MNA/KTZH

Police beefs up security in Yangon Region

POLICE personnel from township police stations across Yangon Region conducted operations in cooperation with traffic police and local administrative officials to strengthen the rule of law and prevent crime.

As part of the operations yesterday, police personnel from Thanlyin, North Okkalapa, Ahlon and Hlinethaya (West) and members of the Kamayut and Kyauktada traffic police units carried out activities including home visit crime awareness, daytime patrols, distribution of crime awareness pamphlets at bus stops, surprise checks on the street, and public awareness campaigns on the use of pedestrian crossings.

Also, on the evening of yesterday, police personnel in Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (North), Hlinethaya (West) and Hlegu townships conducted guest-list checks, vehicle checks, patrolled in police cars with light bars as well as patrolling by foots. — Aung Thu/MKKS



Police personnel are seen checking the household guest list.

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C urges Yangon Command personnel to maintain combat readiness, discipline

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo urged officers and other ranks of Yangon Command to maintain combat readiness, strict discipline and effective administration, stressing that military personnel must be prepared to fulfil assigned duties and deploy wherever required, while units must be properly trained and organized to perform combat duties effectively.

The General made the remarks while meeting with officers, other ranks and their families from garrison units of Yangon Command at Zeyathiri Hall of the Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

He said military service should not be regarded as a lifelong assignment at a single location and that personnel must always be ready to fulfil assigned duties and serve wherever they are deployed. He instructed that every unit should be trained and organized to be capable of engaging in combat like an infantry unit.

He also called for military personnel to interact with the public in accordance with codes of conduct to build trust and goodwill towards the military, noting that stable and peaceful conditions in major cities must be maintained.

General Ye Win Oo said obedience is essential to becoming a good service member and that military drills are conducted to cultivate obedience and good military discipline. He called for continuous training to strengthen discipline and ensure that personnel become proficient soldiers capable of handling assigned weapons and maintaining physical fitness, skills and courage.

He highlighted administrative capability as one of the three core capabilities of the military, warning that weak administration could undermine combat and organizational capabilities. He said administration covers food, accommodation, living conditions and military discipline and requires commanders and responsible personnel to demonstrate sound leadership, empathy and a sense of responsibility. Fair and balanced administration, he added, is essential to maintaining internal unity.



Defence Services Commander-in Chief General Ye Win Oo meets Tatmadaw officers, personnel, and their families from Yangon Command Headquarters.

The General also stressed the importance of genuine goodwill in relations with subordinates and the public. He called for female Tatmadaw personnel to be properly guided, protected and supervised while maintaining strict discipline, including measures to prevent them from being exploited through social media networks.

He instructed responsible personnel to implement welfare activities, including agriculture and livestock projects, and unit beautification measures. He said morale could be strengthened through promotions, leave, training, sports and recreational activities and the full and timely provision of soldiers' entitlements. Commanders should regularly meet and engage with their subordinates to understand their conditions and needs.

SEE PAGE 11

Myanmar hosts 2nd ADGSOM-ARTC 2026

MYANMAR hosted the Second ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM) and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council (ATRC) and related meetings from 21 to 24 September at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon, led by the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications.



The 2nd ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council and related meetings underway in Yangon on 21-24 September 2026.

The meetings included the ASEAN Data Protection and Privacy Industry Engagement dialogue and the ninth ASEAN Data Protection and Privacy Forum, which discussed data protection, privacy, cybersecurity and secure cross-border data transfers in the era of artificial intelligence (AI).

The 32nd ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council Meeting and joint meetings with China, Japan and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) focused on telecommunications infrastructure development, radio-frequency spectrum management, emergency communications and AI applications.

The second ADGSOM and ATRC discussed network security, digital data governance, submarine cable resilience and measures to prevent online scams.

The meetings aimed to strengthen practical regional cooperation in building a trusted, inclusive and AI-driven digital ecosystem and to promote greater alignment of telecommunications and digital technology policies and laws among ASEAN member states.

ASEAN digital senior officials, representatives from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat, and representatives from China, Japan and APT attended the meetings, with Myanmar serving as chair. — MNA/KTZH

Kehsi inspects spring water supply project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of an ongoing spring water supply project in Paiklein Village, Kehsi Township, Shan State (South).

Kehsi Township Department of Rural Development Staff Officer (Technology) Daw Theingi Win and engineering staff inspected the construction of the one-mile-two-furlong-long spring water supply system from the water source to Paiklein Village. She also met responsible officials, 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 spring water supply project is being executed during the 2026-2027 financial year with K59.303 million in Union funds under the supervision and technical support of the department's staff. Work commenced in the first week of August, and construction is currently 75 per cent complete. Upon full completion, the system will ensure year-round access to clean drinking water for 103 residents across 33 households in Paiklein Village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Officials review the project status in Kehsi Township.

Monghsu enjoys fruits of spring water supply

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development, yesterday inspected the progress of an ongoing spring water supply project in Konsa Village, Monghsu Township.

Monghsu Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Myint Thida Han and staff observed the installation of a two-mile-long spring water pipeline extended from the water source to Konsa Village and the construction of a 5,000-gallon water tank measuring 15 feet in length, 10 feet in width and six feet in height. She urged officials, to ensure the project's completion on schedule in compliance with prescribed standards, and coordinated necessary measures based on the requirements raised by residents.

The spring water supply system and related work are being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K74.727 million in Union budget by township department engineering staff and tender-winning companies. Work commenced in the fourth week of July, and construction is currently 70 per cent complete. Upon completion, the system will ensure year-round access to a sufficient supply of clean drinking water for residents of Konsa, Konkaw and Tamung villages. — Karan (Rural)

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN conference, forum on iron and steel

A delegation from the Myanmar Iron and Steel Association attended the Second ASEAN Policymakers Conference on Steel and the 2026 ASEAN Iron & Steel Forum: Sustainability & Construction, held in Manila, the Philippines, from 21 to 24 September, according to reports. The ASEAN Steel Forum 2026 was organized to discuss regional policies for the sustainable development of the steel industry, reducing carbon emissions and upgrading the construction sector.

During the forum, the Myanmar delegates presented and discussed Myanmar's steel consumption in comparison with global steel consumption trends and exchanged experiences with policymakers and industry leaders from the regional steel sector.

Through the forum, Myanmar gained insights and experiences related to steel sector policy formulation, industrial development and environmental conservation. Furthermore, opportunities to engage with and exchange views with policymakers and industrialists from ASEAN countries provided the Myanmar steel sector with valuable knowledge and experience, while creating opportunities to enhance cooperation within the ASEAN region.

In addition to representatives from the host country, the Philippines, representatives from Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia attended the forum. The Myanmar delegation included Dr Kathi Lwin, President of the Myanmar Iron and Steel Association, and association members, along with U Kyaw Soe Wai, General Manager of No 1 Heavy Industry Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development. — ASH/TH



This photo captures members of the Myanmar delegation on their return from the 2nd ASEAN Policymakers Conference on Steel and the 2026 ASEAN Iron & Steel Forum: Sustainability & Construction, held in Manila, the Philippines.

Benchmark price for palm oil remains stable



Vendors prepare cooking oil for sale at a retail shop.

THE palm oil wholesale reference price set for the Yangon market remained unchanged at K7,179 per viss during the week ending 1 October, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. Complaints about overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demand. — NN/KK

MRCCI partners with Nanning CCI and CCPIT Nanning to boost trade links

THE Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) signed two memoranda of understanding with the Nanning Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nanning CCI) and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT Nanning) during a business delegation visit to Nanning, China.

Joint Secretary U Lin Ko Ko Aung and Auditor U Nyi Nyi Chit of MRCCI represented MRCCI and participated in the meetings and expo held in Nanning from 16 to 18 September 2026, with a view to promoting trade and economic opportunities in Mandalay Region, helping local products penetrate international markets, and strengthening cooperation between business communities in the two countries.

The delegation visited the Myanmar Economic Counsellor's Office in Nanning on 16 September and held a meeting with leading Chinese businesspeople. Discussions highlighted MRCCI's trade sectors, Mandalay Region's economic and investment potential, and

SEE PAGE 10



The MoU signing ceremony for the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Nanning Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

Tenders invited for riverbank protection work in Yekyi

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, under the Ministry of Transport, has invited domestic investors to submit tenders for riverbank protection work in Yinshay village, Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, under the fund of the National Disaster Management Committee.

Tender forms are available for purchase from 22 September at the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (Region 2), Ayeyawady Region Office in Pathein city. The submission deadline for the tender form and technical proposal is 5 October.

The bid opening date will be announced separately. Interested individuals can enquire about further details through the Ayeyawady Region Office at 09 776685245, according to the Tender Committee. — NN/KK

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

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 25 September 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,655.00~3671.00	555.30~558.70	124.90~125.70	
Trading amount in the market	14,958,595.39	56,937,454.93	44,923,207.58	

OPINION

Making online scam and gambling crackdown a national duty

As technology continues to advance and develop worldwide, it brings benefits to humanity while also enabling various forms of crime and destructive activities. Among the technology-enabled threats facing the public, online scams and online gambling have emerged as significant problems.

The Government of Myanmar is placing great emphasis on combatting online scammers and gambling offenders who illegally cross-national borders and pose a serious threat to the socioeconomic well-being of not only people in the region but also people around the world. As a national responsibility, the government is actively working to identify, prevent and combat such offenders. The government is taking effective measures to combat these criminal activities using domestic resources, while also coordinating with the governments of neighbouring countries to identify, arrest and take legal action against those involved.

In taking action against young people who engage in such criminal activities, whether knowingly or unknowingly, broad public awareness campaigns should also be conducted to educate young people about the risks and consequences of such activities. Everyone should be aware of the need to refrain from making a living through such activities and to actively participate in efforts to combat these activities.

As part of these efforts to identify and combat such activities, foreign nationals who are arrested are being handed over to the relevant countries. Continuous efforts are also being made to identify, take action against and eradicate online scam and gambling operations to prevent them from becoming established in border areas and areas beyond the reach of the administrative machinery.

In recent days, men and women involved in illegal online gambling have been arrested, and legal action has been taken against them, along with the confiscation of evidence, in townships across Yangon Region. Previously, online gambling operators had also been identified and arrested in major cities across the country. Young people continue to engage in such activities, reportedly due to a lack of awareness of the law, failure to respect and comply with legal requirements, and the financial gains they obtain from fraudulent activities.

It is not sufficient for relevant security organizations to identify and take action against criminal activities that are harmful to the public; effective efforts can only be made with the active cooperation and participation of the public. In recent days, based on information provided by responsible citizens, joint teams comprising security personnel have identified, arrested and taken legal action against perpetrators of online scams and gambling who were operating secretly in various towns and areas across Yangon Region.

In taking action against young people who engage in such criminal activities, whether knowingly or unknowingly, broad public awareness campaigns should also be conducted to educate young people about the risks and consequences of such activities. Everyone should be aware of the need to refrain from making a living through such activities and to actively participate in efforts to combat these activities.

Commemorating International Cat Day: A Few Personal and Public 'Cat Stories'

By Myint Zan

Quite belatedly, I came to learn that since 2002, the International Fund for Cat Welfare has designated and commemorated 8 August as International Cat Day.

There are a lot of articles, indeed many books, about cats. This piece only deals with a few 'cat stories', some of which are personal and some in the public domain.

The Essay question in the compulsory English paper in the 1974 Matric Exam in Burma: (about cats and dogs)

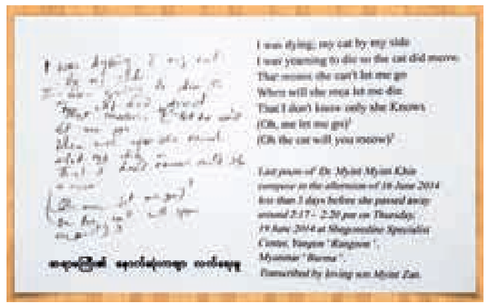
Since the 1920s in colonial Burma up till now, students who want to join the Universities and Colleges have to sit for the Matriculation exams. There are two compulsory papers: Burmese and English.

In the 1974 Matric exams, the then new format of English texts had two Parts: Part A is 'objective test' questions where students have to choose true/false and multiple-choice questions. Part B consists of a few questions from the English text. And the final part of Part B is an essay with prompts, i.e., the students had to fill in the blanks with a few phrases -not merely a word or two, but a few phrases to complete the 'prompts'. The essay question for the compulsory English paper for the year 1974 is EITHER 'Why I like Cats Better than Dogs' OR 'Why I Like Dogs Better than Cats'. The then Matric exam paper did not give the choice to candidates to state that they liked cats or they liked dogs better. They would have to follow the prompts and could not write on their own without adhering to the prompts, apparently.

My mother's poem about our cat Mee Mee

Fast forward from 1974 to 1976 through to 1988. Mee Mee was a male cat. I discovered him near our house in Mandalay sometime in 1976. He was so small I could not discern whether he was male or female. So, I gave him a female name: 'Mee Mee', which in Burmese is 'little or sweet daughter'. The name stuck. My parents and I were fond of the cat. After about 11 years in our house in Mandalay, 'Mee Mee' passed away sometime in 1987. My late mother, Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin (15 December 1923-14 June 2014), was at that time working as a World Health Organization (WHO) consultant in New Delhi, India. She came to learn about Mee Mee's passing within several days or a few weeks.

About a year later, on 9 October 1988 in New Delhi, she composed a poem about Mee Mee. I became aware of the poem only sometime in 2013 when my mother's collection of poems, *Poetry for Me*, was launched in March 2013 in Yangon. I reproduce my mother's poem below:



MEE MEE (The Waiting Game)
By Myint Myint Khin

When I sit at a window, I remember you, "mee mee",
You who wait for my return,
With warm expectant welcome,
For the goodies I bring with me
But more, I know, for my company

T'was then my turn to wait, "mee mee"
Just for a glimpse, a shadow, a promise,
A timeless moment eternal and free
To laugh, to plan and hope and be together
How long must I wait?
Time doesn't matter
You too have left me now "mee mee"
And I know I wait in vain;
Like matter that changes,
like a wave that disappears, like a flame that seems forever burn,
Life goes on and on but never returns

('Mee Mee' was my cat)
9 October 1988, New Delhi

My Mum's Last Poem

Fast forward from 9 October 1988 in New Delhi, India, to 16 June 2014 at Shwegondine Specialist Centre (hospital) in Yangon, Myanmar. My mother handwrote her last poem. It also concerns a cat. It reads:

"I was dying with my cat by my side
I was yearning to die, so the cat did meow
That means she can't let me go
When will she meow and let me die?
That I don't know; only she knows
(Oh, me, let me go)2
(Oh, the cat, will you meow)3".

My mother passed away three days later, on 19 June 2014.

'The Cat that feared the Sun will Explode': A Hilarious Encounter

Since 1999, my mother established, with the help of colleagues and former students, the Support Group for Elderly Doctors (SGED) to look after the health and well-being of elderly doctors over the age of seventy: to support them during their hospitalizations and for funeral expenses for the families of doctors who had passed away. Initially, the SGED was in Yangon. But now it has similar groups in the cities of Mandalay, Toungoo and Mawlamyine (Moulmein). About a year after my mother passed away, sometime in 2015, I was walking with a clerical staff member of SGED near the Yangon SGED when I saw a stray cat. To amuse myself once or twice in front of friends, I used to 'ask' three 'questions' **to** a cat. Once I asked three questions to a cat in an outdoor eatery in Yangon to the amusement and laughter of my friend who was with me that time. The cat at the outside eatery did not react in any way.

But a few weeks later, while walking with the clerical staff of SGED, I saw a stray cat. It may be a 'he,' though I am not sure. About four feet or so away from 'it,' I stopped and asked 'him' three questions. He apparently looked at me at the first question. As soon as I finished the second question, he looked at me in fear and surprise (though not 'trembling') and ran away. The three questions I asked the cat in Burmese in sequential order (in translation) are:

Are you an adherent of a particular (Abrahamic) religion? (The cat just looked at me.)

Do you know that the Sun will explode? (The cat looked at me in fear and ran straight away. I still can visualize how it looked.)

Do you know about 'event horizon'? (On cosmology; when I finished asking the third question, the cat was already several feet away, running.)

Elaborating on the second and third questions: the cat that makes me chuckle

The first question is straightforward and does not need elaboration. As far as the sun 'exploding' is concerned, astronomers and cosmologists state that about roughly five billion years from now the Sun ('our Sun') will sort of explode. Though it may not 'swallow' the Earth. No living organisms (perhaps even bacteria) may survive.

The facial expressions of the cat are such that even a few moments ago I laughed lightly, as I have done quite a few times in the past ten years or so when I recall the cat's expressions. Perhaps the cat understood Burmese and feared that the Sun would explode then and there, so he ran away! Both interestingly and surprisingly, Naung Naung (the human male) staff of SGED who accompanied me said: 'How can the cat know, Saya (teacher)?' ☺ Forget cats. Many of my friends might probably **not** know the scheduled death of the Sun five billion years hence. The then 57-year-old Burmese lady physician told me that she learned about 'Sun Death' in her son's textbook. Her son went to an international school in Yangon. When I was studying at two high schools in Mandalay, I do not recall being taught about the Sun Death in our high school science classes or textbooks.

'Event horizon' is also a cosmological concept.

"It is a boundary around a black hole where gravity becomes so strong that not even light, which travels at 186, 282 miles per second, can escape (the boundary)".

The staff that accompanied me made the unsurprising comment, saying, 'How can the cat understand, Sir? I did not explain either to Naung Naung or to my physician friend what 'event horizon' is.

I occasionally think about that cat since his expressions before he ran away made me laugh. I hope he is still around and even finds a 'forever home' with 'hooman' (human).

Souta: the cat that was picky about food and disappeared

My niece Ei Phyu (daughter of my second cousin) lives with her husband and her two daughters. Their apartment is about 20 minutes' walk from my apartment in Yangon. Their neighbour had a cat. The name of the cat was 'Souta'. Souta is a Japanese name. My niece Ei Phyu's elder daughter gave the female cat the name she found online. Souta visited my niece's apartment daily. Ei Phyu fed her regularly. Souta did not eat some of the food that was fed to her. Ei Phyu had to make special preparations for her. Ei Phyu sent me a video of Souta being coaxed to get off the mattress where Ei Phyu's elder daughter sleeps. Ei Phyu said to Souta, 'This is Ma Ma (elder sister)'s mattress. You get off the mattress, *Thamee* (daughter) Souta'. After a little coaxing, Souta did get off the mattress. Ei Phu sent me the video and photos of Souta. When I phoned Ei Phyu, I used to ask about Souta. Once, when she was busy Ei Phyu said to me 'Uncle, you are going to ask lots of questions about Souta, I am busy right now'. Unfortunately, about five or so years ago Souta was lost. Not only Souta's owner but also Ei Phyu and the neighbours searched for Souta for a few days, to no avail. One of the searchers stated that they hoped Souta would find an owner who would look after her. Unlike the stray cat that ran away after I asked him the second question, Souta did not make me laugh. Occasionally, I do recall both of them.

Two domesticated cats with different personalities

In August 2023, I visited another of my cousin's home in Australia for a few days. They have two male cats, Fred and Zack (not their real names). Fred had a chair reserved for him in the living room where he used to sit and nap while his owners watched TV. I sat on 'his chair' while watching TV. Fred, from a few feet away, watched the 'hooman' 'transgressing' his space. He watched me for almost a full minute or more; I wished I had taken a video of him looking at me. I have a video of the lost Souta which Ei Phyu sent me. Fred was more territorial than Zack (they were not related.) My cousin informed me that when I left their house, it was Fred and not Zack who 'micturated' or urinated in several places around the house to mark his 'territory'. Different domesticated cats have different (cat) psychologies, one supposes.

'What is it like to be a bat' and 'Feline Philosophy: Cats and the Meaning of Life'

Talking about 'cat psychology', they have more than psychological makeup. They have 'feline philosophy' too. This is stated in *Feline Philosophy: Cats and the Meaning of Life*, written by John Gray (born 17 April 1948), which was published around 2021. I have read the book as well as the much earlier (human) philosophy article by Thomas Nagel (born 4 July 1937), 'What Is It Like to be a Bat?' first published in October 1974 in the Journal *Philosophical Review*. John Gray's *Feline Philosophy*, to me, is an easier read than Nagel's article. In the very wide sense of the word and metaphorically speaking (a human construct itself, not that of cats, far less bats), one guesses that cats are more prone to 'cat philosophy' than bats are prone to (non-existent) '**bat** philosophy'. Nagel's point is that humans can imagine and guess the empirical (consciousness studies) and philosophical question of what humans think what is it like to be a bat. Nagel argues that humans cannot think/imagine/what a bat thinks to be like a bat. Perhaps with (much?) **less uncertainty,** humans can imagine what it is like to be a cat. Still, they (humans) cannot imagine what a cat imagine to be a cat (applying inter-species what Nagel wrote about bats). Reversing the roles, academic John Bradshaw of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, a specialist on cats, has stated that cats view humans as large, clumsy and (perhaps for domesticated cats only?) harmless 'big cats'. I think how **bats** conceptualize humans (since they cannot see) does **not** even come into the margins of academic, philosophical and therefore, all the more so, serious scientific query.

So, designate me and others who have similar views for espousing 'speciesism'. Online sources indicate that since August 2004, 'International Dog Day' has also been celebrated. Perhaps there are not yet 'international days' for parrots or rabbits.

'What is it like to be a Bat?' is, in part, a thought experiment and philosophical argument by philosophers from the species *homo sapiens*. It is very unlikely that *homo sapiens* will commemorate 'International Bat Day'. ■

ARTICLE
POEM

A Cloud of Dust

By Thihathayna

As children,
Toys are of pure adoration
As youths,
Love is of great adventure
In the years of maturity,
A sense of security
Is but a wishful dream?
In old age,
Solace and comfort
Are all we want

As the years creep upon us,
All we outgrow turns to dust



NATIONAL

23 PDFs reintegrated into society

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal framework. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

A total of 23 PDFs, including 21 males and two females, entered the legal fold yesterday.

The 23 individuals from different townships of Bago Region entered the legal framework and were accepted by responsible officials.



The reception and awards ceremony for returnees is underway in Toungoo.

At the handover ceremony, PDF members were handed over to their parents and guardians at Ayechanpyo Hall of the Southern Command Headquarters yesterday.

The returnees handed over five rifles, one pistol and five grenades. The officials presented K25 million for five rifles, K3 million for one pistol, K1.5 million for five grenades, and K4.6 million for 23 returnees at K200,000 each, bringing the total reward money to K34.1 million.

There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw camps or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar drug fugitive handed over at Hanoi airport

VIETNAMESE authorities handed over a Myanmar national wanted for a drug offence to Myanmar authorities at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi on 24 September, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The fugitive, identified as Wai Htun, 48, owner of William Htun Co Ltd from Nyaungbintha Village, Hmawby Township, was wanted in connection with the seizure of 810 kilogrammes of methamphetamine worth more than K20 billion.

On 6 July, authorities seized 500 kilogrammes of methamphetamine from two suspects near Taungzinaye Village in Lewe Township. Further investigation led to the seizure of another 310 kilogrammes of methamphetamine from the vessel Maik Mettar on the Yangon River near Dala, together with 10 suspects.

The investigation revealed that the 810 kilogrammes of methamphetamine had been transported and trafficked across borders by sea.

Wai Htun was identified as the main suspect in the transnational drug trafficking. He was found to have left Myanmar for Malaysia through Yangon International Airport on 25 June. The Drug Enforcement Division of Myanmar Police Force and shared information with the Royal Malaysia Police.

While Malaysian authorities were monitoring him, they learned that he had departed from a ferry port in Malaysia on 8 July. Information was subsequently shared with drug-control authorities in Singapore and Indonesia.

Further information indicated that Wai Htun had travelled by air from Singapore to Vietnam on 9 August. Following continued information sharing with Vietnamese authorities, he was arrested in Ho Chi Minh City on 1 September.

At 10 pm Vietnam local standard time on 24 September, a Vietnamese delegation led by Police Senior Colonel Hoang Tam Hieu, Deputy Secretary-General of the Drug Enforcement Police under the Ministry of Public Security, handed over Wai Htun to officials from the Myanmar Embassy in Vietnam and a Myanmar delegation led by Police Colonel Zaw Lin, Deputy Commander of Drug Enforcement Division of MPF at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi.



This image shows the transfer of the fugitive, Wai Htun, 48, at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Government has designated drug prevention and control as a national responsibility and priority, with measures being stepped up to prevent and suppress drug offences, identify and arrest those behind such crimes, and cooperate with international partner organisations to locate and arrest fugitives linked to drug offences.

The timely exchange of information and cooperation among ASEAN member countries contributed to the arrest and handover of Wai Htun amid intensified regional cooperation in drug control.

In 2026, Myanmar authorities have also handed over 11 fugitives wanted for drug offences to Thailand and one fugitive wanted for a drug offence to Indonesia.

Such cooperation strengthens friendship among ASEAN member countries and contributes to more effective efforts to identify, arrest and hand over fugitives involved in transnational drug crimes, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA/KZL

MRCCI partners with Nanning CCI and CCPIT Nanning to...

FROM PAGE 7

local products, resulting in successful business network connections. Delegates attended the Nanning Enterprises Going Global to ASEAN Sharing and Exchange Meeting at the Guangxi Bauhinia International Hotel (Bauhinia Hall, 24th Floor) at 9 am on 17 September, thereby signing an MOU between Nanning CCI and MRCCI to facilitate the exchange of regional trade and economic information and to ease connections between businesspeople.

Next, MRCCI also signed an MOU with the CCPIT Nanning at the 23rd ChinaASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) held on 18 September at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre (NICEC) (Hall D105), in the presence of the Bago Region Chief Minister, government officials, and business leaders from both countries.

MRCCI has opened significant opportunities for Mandalay products and its member businesses to connect directly with the Chinese market through these agreements with two major Nanning-based business organizations. — NN/KK

Airstrikes Target NUG Special Military Region Headquarters, Source Says

AUTHORITIES stated PDF terrorist groups operating under the NUG and CRPH, with support from ethnic armed organizations, had carried out attacks, forced recruitment, extortion and other acts of violence that disrupted local administration and displaced civilians.

According to the authorities, civilians and some former members of the armed groups provided information on their activities and locations to security forces. Following verification of the intelligence, security forces conducted area-clearance operations and airstrikes against the NUG's so-called Special Military Command Headquarters near the Bago Region-Mon State border.

Authorities said the strikes killed DCS deserter Nay Win Aung and critically injured or killed other NUG personnel, including DCS deserter Tin Lin Aung and regional commander Aung San Shar. They accused the two deserters of abandoning the state security forces and joining armed groups.

Authorities further said intelligence from residents had contributed to the operation and called on civilians to provide information about armed-group activities. They said security forces would continue counter-terrorism operations to prevent armed groups from establishing bases and disrupting regional stability and development. — MNA/ST



This map reveals airstrikes targeting NUG's Special Military Region Headquarters near the Bago-Mon border.

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C urges ...

FROM PAGE 6

He further stressed the importance of education and reading among Tatmadaw personnel and their families, saying that personnel should strive to ensure that their children and dependents attain at least KG+9 education and that battalions and units should assist basic education schools in their respective areas.

Regional commands were also instructed to maintain regular contact with veterans and provide support for their families. He also said veteran housing projects should include the systematic provision of necessities to ensure comfortable living.

He said fitness must be developed through continuous training and that commanders need to know the physical condition of their personnel to ensure their readiness for military duties.

General Ye Win Oo called on commanders to demonstrate comprehensive leadership and maintain positive relations with Tatmadaw families and the public. He said commanders should be prepared to make necessary decisions, take appropriate action, recognize deserving personnel and assign responsibilities properly based on an accurate understanding of their subordinates.

He stressed that treason, operational failures and drug-related offences are unforgivable crimes in the military and would be met with effective action. He called on Tatmadaw personnel to act with honesty and diligence and faithfully fulfil their duties with loyalty to the State and the military.

Following his remarks, General Ye Win Oo asked officers, other ranks and their families about their needs and coordinated with responsible officials to address them.

After the meeting, General Ye Win Oo, his wife and members of the delegation cordially greeted the attending officers, other ranks and their families, according to reports. — MNA/TH

VDP introduced; committee formed in Nagmon



An orientation and committee formation ceremony is underway in Nagmon Township.

THE Nagmon Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an event in Nampandan Village on 24 September to introduce the Village Development Project (VDP) and form a committee, aiming to implement the project during the 2026-2027 financial year.

Township Head U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin of the Nagmon Township Department of Rural Development provided an introductory explanation regarding the VDP, covering its objectives, benefits, and implementation processes.

Subsequently, project staff explained the criteria for selecting committee members as well as the specific duties and rights associated with the roles. Following this, Township Head U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, officials, and local villagers elected and formed a seven-member development committee based on public consensus. U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin stated that village development projects will be implemented in the village during the 2026-2027 financial year. These projects will be carried out by the villagers themselves, contributing both labour and funds, utilizing K15 million in Village Development Project (VDP) funding, with technical support and close supervision provided by staff from the Township Department of Rural Development. — Aung Ye Kyaw (DRD)

Workshop on practice of maritime transport shipping documents held



The workshop on the practice of maritime transport shipping documents in progress.

UNDER the guidance of the Department of Marine Administration (DMA), the Coastal Vessel Shipping Association (CVSA) organized a workshop on ensuring a systematic practice of maritime transport shipping documents on 24 September.

The workshop was organized under the theme of World Maritime to ensure the systematic application of coastal shipping documents.

During the workshop, speakers had detailed discussions about specific topics: policy to practice for coastal shipping, charter party and charter agreement, bill of lading, cargo stowage and cargo documents and cargo disputes.

The chairman and secretary of the Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association (MIFFA) also joined the event. — TWA/ZS

Gold Market Rate as of 25 September 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,130,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.





Vacationers are seen at certain destinations in Myanmar.

Visitor Arrivals Set to Rise in Dry Season

WITH loads of enquiries about tours specifically arranged for Thadingyut, local visitor arrivals are expected to rise again in this dry season, according to travel operators.

The dry season, or tourism peak season, is approaching, so the arrival of tourists is predicted to rise again, and even now many people are expressing their interest in going on vacation during the Thadingyut holidays.

"Tourist arrivals are usually at their peak in Thadingyut and Tazaungdine. Train journeys are being provided now, so there are different options for visitors. The visitor number is expected to climb in this dry season," said a tour operator.

Currently, local visitor arrivals have been large in local destinations such as Taunggyi, Kalaw, Inlay, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Kyaiktiyo, Bago, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Hpaan. According to domestic ticketing and reservation manager Le Le Mon from Unique Asia Travels and Tours, Myanmar's tourism industry has gradually recovered, and the return of foreign tourists and many outbound trips have proved it.

She said foreign tourists are interested in destinations that are based on Myanmar's culture and natural scenery, like Bagan. In the meantime, among outbound trips, Thailand is a major destination for medical, education and business purposes. — MT/ZS

ECONOMY
WORLD

Trump voiced concern about yen weakness in talks with Japan PM: Takaichi

Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi discussed economic policies during their summit.

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Friday that US President Donald Trump expressed concern at their recent summit that a weaker yen is hurting US trade.

"I told the president that an undervalued yen is generally problematic," Takaichi told reporters at her office. It is rare for Japanese and US leaders to publicly comment on currency movements.

Takaichi and Trump met Tuesday in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.



Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama speaks at a news conference in Tokyo on 25 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"Japan will pursue a strong economy while maintaining fiscal sustainability under a policy of responsible, proactive fiscal spending," Takaichi said.

Her remarks came as the yen has remained under pressure against the US dollar after strengthening earlier this month following a Bank of Japan rate check, which is often seen as a possible precursor to currency intervention.

The wide interest rate gap between the two countries remains a dominant driver of the yen's weakness against the dollar. — Kyodo

Laos pushes for modernization of national statistical system

THE National Statistics Centre under the Lao Ministry of Finance held a consultation meeting on the draft strategic plan for the sustainable development of the national statistical system for 2026-2035 and its vision to 2040.

The meeting, held in Lao capital Vientiane on Wednesday, was chaired by Phetsamone Sone, Lao deputy minister of finance, according to a report issued by the ministry on Thursday.

In her remarks, Phetsamone emphasized that the national statistical system is a key mechanism for producing reliable data and an important pillar in supporting evidence-based policymaking and national development.

She stressed that updating the strategic plan in line with sustainable, green, and modern development principles is essential to ensuring that statistical information effectively reflects current socioeconomic conditions and supports government planning and policy formulation. — Xinhua

Tunisia stresses renewable energy development

TUNISIA on Wednesday stressed the strategic importance of accelerating its energy transition and expanding renewable energy to strengthen energy security, industrial competitiveness and investment.

State Secretary for Energy Transition Wael Chouchane made the remarks while opening the second edition of the Africa Energy Forum 2026 in Tunis, held under the theme "Leadership and Cooperation for a Secure and Sustainable Future".

Chouchane said that hydrocarbons continue to play an important role in maintaining energy balance, while renewable energy offers significant opportunities to diversify supply, enhance energy independence and improve the competitiveness of electricity generation over the medium and long term.

Tunisia is pursuing a gradual transformation of its energy system in response to its energy deficit, focusing on renewable energy development, improved energy efficiency and demand management, he said. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka begins recruitment of over 120,000 public sector workers in 2026



Vacancies across essential education and health departments are being filled. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE**

SRI Lanka has begun a programme to recruit more than 120,000 people to the public service in 2026, Minister of Public Administration Chandana Abeyratne said Friday.

The recruitment will fill existing vacancies across several areas of the public sector, including education, health and agriculture, Abeyratne told reporters.

Around 30,000 teachers are expected to be recruited under the programme. Separately, the recruitment of more than 1,500 Grama Niladhari, or village-level officials, has reached its final stage.

Abeyratne said further recruitment would be carried out to address vacancies in the health and agriculture sectors. The latest recruitment drive follows the intake of nearly 35,000 people into the public service in 2025, including graduates and other eligible youth. — Xinhua

Date palm climbers embrace harvest, carry on family tradition in war-torn Sudan

AS dawn broke over Al-Baja village in northern Sudan's Al-Dabba locality, 50-year-old Salim Bilal gripped the trunk of a towering palm and began to climb — his agility the product of more than three decades in the trade.

Below, workers waited to gather the bunches as they fell.

Known locally as "Hash al-Balh", the date harvest season is more than the end of an agricultural cycle for people in northern Sudan. It marks the beginning of an entire economic and social cycle, setting villages, markets, families, and workers in motion.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Sudan produced about 443,000 tonnes of dates in 2024 from roughly 37,100 hectares, or about 88,000 feddans, ranking seventh globally. The date palm provides food, income and employment for thousands of farmers and families along the Nile.

From high above the ground, Bilal moved carefully among the bunches of dates. He said he can harvest more than 50 palms a day, though the work has grown harder with age. Climbers are now generally paid through a share of the harvest — about one-seventh of the crop — rather than a fixed wage. Farm owner Awad Saleh, whose land holds more than 400 palm trees, expects 500 to 600 sacks this season, each weighing about 100 kilogrammes. — Xinhua



Sudanese farmers harvest date palms despite ongoing severe wartime challenges.

Slovakia issues 10-year govt bond

SLOVAKIA has issued a 10-year government bond worth 2.5 billion euros (US$2.84 billion), with a coupon rate of 4.25 per cent, the country's Debt and Liquidity Management Agency (ARDAL) said on Thursday. According to ARDAL, the final yield of the new bond stood at 4.309 per cent. It was the second and final syndicated bond issuance by Slovakia this year. The bond was priced at a spread of 77 basis points above the interest rate swap rate, equivalent to 81.3 basis points above the yield on a German government bond maturing in August 2036. — Xinhua

Thailand unveils national chip strategy

THAILAND unveiled its first national semiconductor strategy on Thursday, aiming to attract about US$80 billion in cumulative investment by 2050 as it seeks to move beyond chip assembly into design and front-end manufacturing. The plan, approved by the National Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy Board, targets annual industry revenue of about $150 billion and more than 230,000 new jobs over 25 years under the "Made in Thailand" chip initiative.

Through a three-phase roadmap, Thailand will strengthen and upgrade its assembly and testing base by 2030, draw major investors in chip design and wafer fabrication by 2040, and build a fully integrated supply chain with homegrown "local champions" by 2050. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (368W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (368W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2026** 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 SHIPPING

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by **Jiangsu Hoso Import & Export Co.,Ltd** are transferring from **360 Agro Co.,Ltd.** to **AGRISYNC POWER CONPAMY LIMITED**. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following Pesticide within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Nay Mar Lambda	Emamectin benzoate 5% + Lambda-cyhalothrin 10% EC	P2026-7026
2	Hmo Htate Thee	Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenoconazole 12.5% SC	P2026-7116

AGRISYNC POWER COMPANY LIMITED
No.476, Yazadirit street, No(7) quarter,
South Okkalapa Township , Yangon.

Advertise with us/ Hotline: 09255597511

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2620E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2620E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2026** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (255N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (255N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (294N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (294N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2026** 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 ACE II VOY.NO. (SB637A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB637A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2026** 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 AS SIMONE VOY.NO. (635W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SIMONE VOY.NO. (635W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HSL MEXICO VOY.NO. (26TA4)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HSL MEXICO VOY.NO. (26TA4)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

US, Iran discussing phased end to war with Hormuz reopening and blockade lifting

Negotiations cover reopening trade straits and lifting strict economic embargoes.



Ships navigating through the strategic waters of the Strait of Hormuz. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SHUTTERSTOCK**

THE United States and Iran are discussing a potential phased end to the ongoing war, which would include the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and lifting of the economic blockade of the Islamic Republic, Reuters reported on Thursday, citing multiple sources.

The discussions are happening on the sidelines of the 81st General Assembly in New York City, the report said. In addition to the reopening of Hormuz and the lifting of the blockade, the United States would possibly unlock Iran's frozen assets, it added, citing a senior Iranian official.

The report, however, noted that among the challenges of a phased-out agreement is mutual trust, notably in the wake of a failed memorandum of understanding on the cessation of hostilities in July, which collapsed and led to the resumption of war.

On 28 February, the United States and Israel began striking targets in Iran, prompting retaliatory attacks. In mid-June, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding to cease hostilities, though they soon resumed. The conflict remains unresolved. The escalation has brought shipping through the Strait of Hormuz to a near standstill, impacting the supply of oil, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas and driving up fuel prices globally. — SPUTNIK

Brazil candidates mount digital armies for fierce online campaign

IN a knife-edge election race, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and main rival Flavio Bolsonaro have deployed volunteer digital armies online to spread their messages and battle for voters.

These online campaigns, unprecedented in scale in Brazil, have highlighted the growing role of social media in the country's politics, while also raising questions about compliance with election rules.

"The cavalry has arrived. Come join this army that will change our country's history," urged Gustavo Gayer, a congressman and Bolsonaro ally. He was promoting "Direta Ja" (Right Wing Now), a platform launched in July which consists of a website and WhatsApp group where supporters receive daily "visual ammunition" to share on their own social media feeds to boost Bolsonaro's campaign. — AFP



Brazilians attend a campaign rally in Rio de Janeiro. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

Japan law banning under-18s from election campaigning unconstitutional

A Japanese court on Friday ruled that a law banning those aged under 18 from taking part in election campaigning is unconstitutional, marking the first judicial ruling on the ban since it was introduced in 1952.

While the Tokyo District Court called the ban under the Public Offices Election Act a "serious restriction on freedom of expression", it dismissed a claim for damages from the state by four plaintiffs, including high school students.

Japan has promoted "sovereign education" to encourage young people to participate independently in society following the lowering of the voting age to 18.



Plaintiffs head to the Tokyo District Court on 25 September 2026 for a ruling on a lawsuit over those under 18 taking part in election campaigning. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"It is difficult to find any substantive basis in law for prohibiting minors from participating in election campaigns based on their own value judgments," Presiding Judge Mizuho Ebi said.

Japanese law prohibits people under 18 from engaging in election campaigning and also bans others from using minors in such activities. Violators face imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to 300,000 yen ($1,900), as well as suspension of civil rights.

The plaintiffs argued that the legislative purpose of the ban and penalties was unclear and that there was no rational basis for imposing a blanket ban and criminal penalties for campaigning. They had sought 100,000 yen each for emotional distress over being deprived of the opportunity to exercise their right to freedom of political expression in elections. — Kyodo

Australians face rising financial stress as education levels climb: report

AUSTRALIANS are becoming better educated but facing greater financial and housing stress, while food insecurity and fatigue have also increased, an annual report said Thursday.

The 2026 Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Annual Statistical Report, based on data collected from 2001 to 2024, provides a snapshot of the social and economic trends shaping Australia.

The report found that more than half of Australian women aged 25-44 now hold a university degree, while one in two workers believe they are overeducated for their jobs, adding that this dynamic is often associated with lower job and life satisfaction, as well as an increased likelihood of quitting.

Employment reached record levels in 2024, with 84.4 per cent of men and 76 per cent of women aged 18-64 employed. But stagnant wages and rising living costs increased financial and housing stress, said the report funded by the Australian government and managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Equestrian events planned for XXXIV SEA Games

THE Myanmar Equestrian Sports Federation will continue to organize equestrian competitions and training programmes during the 2026-2027 financial year to prepare athletes for international competitions, including the XXXIV SEA Games to be held in Malaysia in September 2027.

The programmes aim to systematically develop outstanding equestrian athletes and sport horses capable of competing at international-level events.

The federation has organized competitions and training programmes annually and continuously. It announced the programmes for the current financial year in advance to allow athletes to make the necessary preparations and training. — TWA/KZL



An equestrian competition organized by the Myanmar Equestrian Sports Federation.

Myanmar wins silver on dragon boat debut

THE Myanmar team won a silver medal on the opening day of the World Cup Dragon Boat Race and World Championship Dragon Boat Race, being held from 25 September to 3 October 2026 in Yuanlin and Hangzhou, China, under the International Canoe Federation.

In the Men's Open 8-paddle 2,000-metre event, the host China team claimed gold, followed by Myanmar in second place and Indonesia in third.

In the Mixed 8-paddle 2,000-metre event, Indonesia finished first, Russia second, China third and Myanmar fourth.



The Myanmar Dragon Boat Team secures silver in Men's 200-metre 8-paddle event.

The Myanmar team also advanced through the heats in the Men's Open 10-paddle 500-metre, Men's Open 8-paddle 500-metre and Mixed 8-paddle 500-metre events, securing places in the finals on 26 September.

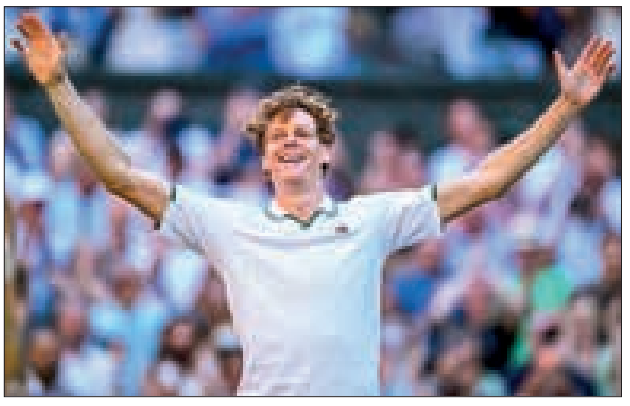
The team also advanced through the heats in the Men's Open and Mixed 200-metre events and will continue competing in the semifinals and finals.

Myanmar competed in 10 events on opening day, advancing to the semifinals in eight and reaching the finals in two, where it secured a silver medal and a fourth-place finish. — Bala/KZL

World No 1 Sinner delays return with China Open withdrawal

WORLD No 1 Jannik Sinner delayed his return to the courts when he withdrew from next week's China Open in Beijing on Friday having been out of action since his Wimbledon title in July due to a right knee injury.

"I won't be able to play in Beijing this year. My knee is not there where I would like it to be and I'm not ready to compete yet but I will do everything possible to be there as soon as I can," the Italian defending champion said on X. The five-time Grand Slam winner has not played since winning Wimbledon on 12 July, pulling out of the US Open last month. Sinner, 25, had been dominating the 2026 season with an impressive record of 44 wins against three losses and six titles won, including Wimbledon. — AFP



Jannik Sinner has not played since beating Alexander Zverev in the Wimbledon final on 12 July. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Asian Games: Japan's Sugihara wins 2nd gymnastics gold in women's floor

JAPANESE gymnast Aiko Sugihara added the women's individual floor exercise title to her all-around gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Friday.

Sugihara became Japan's first Asian Games champion on the apparatus, three days after becoming the country's first women's all-around gold medallist.

The 27-year-old, who won the floor exercise at last October's world championships, is also the first Japanese woman to win two Asian Games gymnastics gold medals.

"I was able to stay calm and get into a state of mind where I felt like I could do it," said Sugihara, who retired from top-level competition in 2022 but returned the following year.

"Working as a reporter at the previous Asian Games made me want to return to the Japanese national team. I'm glad I decided to come back."

Sugihara scored 14.033, while Misa Nishiyama made it a 1-2 finish for Japan, earning 13.900 for silver. — Kyodo



Japanese gymnast Aiko Sugihara performs her winning floor exercise routine at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Nagoya on 25 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Argentina coach says Messi deserves to go out on own terms



Lionel Messi will make his final Argentina appearance in a friendly at home to Benin next month. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ARGENTINA coach Lionel Scaloni said on Thursday that next month's friendly against Benin in Buenos Aires will give Lionel Messi the chance "to say goodbye the way he wants to".

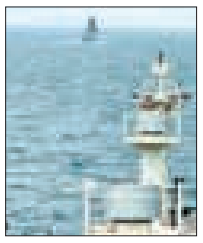
"It will be hard not to cry that day, it's a privilege to be there," said Scaloni, whose side finished runners-up to Spain at the 2026 World Cup. Messi, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, announced his international retirement at the end of August at the age of 39, but has been included in the squad for the farewell match by Scaloni.

The coach, who led Argentina to a third World Cup title in 2022, said he had played his part in ensuring the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward would have one final appearance in front of Argentina's fans.

"I did my bit because I want to be there for his farewell and, since I don't know if I'll still be here in the future, we did everything possible so he could take part in this match," Scaloni said. Scaloni also said Messi, who scored his 100th goal for Inter Miami earlier this month, deserved to win another Ballon d'Or. — AFP

WORLD

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Cambodia unveils unearthed Angkor-Era Buddha statues

A collection of 274 Angkor-era Buddha statue fragments is now on public display at the Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum in Northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province, the APSARA National Authority (ANA) said in a news release on Friday.

The sandstone fragments, which date back to approximately the late 13th century, were unearthed during archaeological excavations at the Banteay Kdei Temple within the UNESCO-listed Angkor Archaeological Park.

The exhibition highlights three distinct artistic styles of the Angkor period: Baphuon, Angkor Wat, and Bayon.

Voeun Vibolsokhum, a technical staff member at the museum, said that conservation specialists meticulously cleaned and restored the fragments following their discovery. — Xinhua

Diplomacy is the only Gulf crisis solution

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi stressed at a UN meeting that there is no alternative to a diplomatic solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, the Russian Foreign Ministry said after the talks.

The ministry said the ministers discussed regional and international issues, focusing on developments around Iran.

"They stressed that there is no alternative to a diplomatic settlement of the crisis provoked by the unlawful actions of the US and Israel," it said.

The ministry also said Lavrov and Araghchi discussed bilateral issues and the schedule for upcoming Russian-Iranian contacts at various levels. — SPUTNIK

Singapore to train 80,000 staff in AI

SINGAPORE'S financial industry will train more than 80,000 employees in critical artificial intelligence (AI) skills by 2028, Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong said on Thursday.

The commitment involves 23 financial institutions across banking, insurance and asset management participating in the newly launched Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) AI Workforce Co-Lab, he said at the IBF Distinction Evening.

The institutions have committed to train their entire workforce in Singapore through IBF-recognized programs, with more than half of their employees already trained, said Gan, who is also the minister for trade and industry and the chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

The Co-Lab will bring employers and partners together to assess how jobs are changing and test practical approaches to training and job redesign, with findings to be shared with the wider financial sector. — Xinhua

Xi calls for translating new vision of China-US relationship into action

Both leaders discussed translating bilateral strategic stability visions into actions.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday called for translating the new vision of a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability into action and finding the right way for the two major countries to get along with each other.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House.

Xi pointed out that the exchange of visits between the heads of state of China and the United States in less than half a year is unprecedented in the history of China-US ties.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds small-group exchanges with US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office after a welcome ceremony at the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, 24 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

He and Trump have maintained communication through various channels and worked together to steer the giant ship of China-US relationship, Xi said. Noting that in May this year, he and Trump agreed to work toward building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability, Xi said that the new vision reflects the realities of China-US ties, embodies the expectations for the future, and is an important step toward finding the right way for the two countries to get along with each other.

The two sides need to work toward a relationship featuring cooperation as the mainstay, moderate competition, manageable differences, and promises of peace, Xi said. — Xinhua

First foreign trade vessel via China's Pinglu Canal arrives in Vietnam

A welcoming ceremony was held at Vietnam's Can Tho Port on Thursday for the first foreign trade vessel to sail through China's Pinglu Canal.

The container vessel departed from Nanning Port in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 16 September, sailed through the Pinglu Canal and arrived at Can Tho Port on Wednesday.



Workers unload a container from the first foreign trade vessel to sail through China's Pinglu Canal at Can Tho Port in Vietnam, 24 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

It carried 252 twenty-foot equivalent units of cargo, including wood panels, sodium sulfate and auto parts, mainly from western China.

Hu Huaping, chairman of Beibu Gulf Port Group, said the group will work with Can Tho Port and other partners to develop two-way cargo flows, improve services and enhance logistics connectivity.

The 134.2-kilometre canal, stretching from Hengzhou in Guangxi to the Beibu Gulf, opened on 16 September. It is the closest maritime outlet for much of southwest China. — Xinhua