

Vice-President U Nyo Saw Arrives in Nanning for China-ASEAN Expo

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw departed Yangon by air yesterday morning to attend the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo and the 23rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

He was accompanied by Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw and relevant officials. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, the commander of the Yangon Command, regional ministers and officials from the Embassy of China in Myanmar saw them off at Yangon International Airport.

In the afternoon, Vice-President U Nyo Saw arrived in Nanning and met Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Ding Xuexiang at Liyuan



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw holds talks with Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Ding Xuexiang in Nanning, China.

State Guesthouse.

During the meeting, they discussed the continued implementation of matters negotiated and agreements signed during President U Min Aung Hlaing's goodwill visit to China, as well as projects being implemented under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

The two sides also exchanged views on bilat-

eral relations, peace and stability in border areas, the promotion of bilateral trade and investment, and cooperation in combatting transnational crimes, including online scams. They also discussed cooperation on regional and international issues.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, Bago Region Chief Minister

U Myo Swe Win, Deputy Foreign Minister U Naing Min Kyaw, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Zaw Win Myint and other officials.

In the evening, Vice-President U Nyo Saw attended a welcome dinner hosted by Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Ding Xuexiang at the Liyuan International Conference Centre. — MNA/ST

Deportation of US Citizen Adam Michael Castillo

IN alignment with its foreign policy of fostering friendly diplomatic relations with all nations, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar deported US citizen Adam Michael Castillo, passport number 565448449, from Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on the evening of 16 September 2026.

Adam Michael Castillo was found to have violated the restrictive provisions outlined in the constitution of the Amer-

ican Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar. As a result, he was charged under Section 409 of the Penal Code at Pabedan Police Station, under First Information Report (FIR) No (Pa) 69/2026 on 8 June 2026. His deportation was carried out in accordance with established rules and procedures, with the primary goal of maintaining friendly bilateral relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United States of America.

Telematics made mandatory on Yangon-Mandalay Express

CARGO trucks and express passenger buses running on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway will be permitted to travel only after installing the Telematics system, and installation or renewal will only be car-

ried out if all specified requirements are met, according to the Expressway Maintenance and Supervision Team of the Highways Department, Ministry of Construction.

SEE PAGE 5



An express passenger bus seen after striking a man on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on the night of 15 September 2026, failing to report the incident to expressway police.

Kanthaya, Moe Kaung Hospitals Earn AACI Honours

KANTHAYA International Specialist Hospital and Moe Kaung Treasure Maternity and Child Hospital have been awarded international accreditation and clinical excellence awards by the US-based American Accreditation Commission International (AACI).

Kanthaya Specialist Hospital received the Clinical Excellence award for endoscopy services, while Moe Kaung Treasure Hospital received the Healthcare Organization Accreditation V6.1 and the Clinical Excellence award for Maternity Services.

Kanthaya Hospital has received AACI International Hospital Accreditation



This photo shows international accreditation and medical excellence awards from the US-based AACI being received.

and is the first hospital in Myanmar to receive Clinical Excellence certification for endoscopy services.

American Accreditation Commission International (AACI) is a global accreditation body that provides accreditation to

hospitals, health care facilities, and other health-care services. It is an independent, highly respected organization in the United States that assesses the quality and patient safety standards of clinics and health institutions and is-

suces international accreditation.

AACI's standards are based on American and international medical standards and are an officially recognized organization of the world's highest standards. Therefore, having the verification and approval of an internationally recognized organization like AACI is a major reason for gaining strong confidence for patients and their families. In addition, not only domestic patients but also foreign patients who come for medical tourism and international insurance companies prefer to choose hospitals with AACI accreditation. — ASH/MKKS

OPINION

Shielding the ozone, safeguarding Earth's life

PAGE 8

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

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Kyauktawgyi Pagoda Festival preparations underway

PREPARATIONS are under way to hold Mandalay's renowned Thadingyut Kyauktawgyi Pagoda Festival on a grander scale than ever before this year, according to sources close to the pagoda's board of trustees.

Although the festival could not be held on a grand scale for several years because of the COVID-19 pandemic and local conditions, special preparations are being made



A general view of the bustling Kyauktawgyi Pagoda Festival held in the previous year.

this year to make it more vibrant than in previous years and to ensure that pilgrims can pay homage

and visit the festival comfortably and peacefully. The Thadingyut Kyauktawgyi Pagoda Festival

is a major traditional festival in Mandalay held jointly for three pagodas near the foot of Mandalay Hill - Mahasakyamarazein Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Mahalokamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda and Nandawya Sanda Muni Pagoda. The festival is traditionally held every year from the eighth waxing day to the third waning day of Thadingyut. — TWA/KNN

Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No77

Issued at 8 pm MST on 16 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the monsoon will be moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Magway, Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Chin, Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine States with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine States from today morning to 20 September 2026.

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

Advisory

People should be aware that the monsoon will be moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air conditions over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 16 September, 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the Northwest Bay and central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 7 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon, southern Shan States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Kachin, Rakhine States, scattered in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, northern Shan States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, 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, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States. In areas along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is

recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase in rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

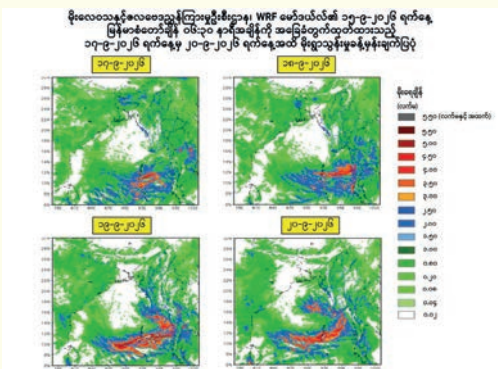
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Andaman Sea Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 16 September 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the North Andaman Sea, around 19 September 2026.



NATIONAL

MoEE Union Minister highlights push to expand domestic oil refining capacity



This photo captures Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin inspecting energy and power facilities in Yangon Region on 14 September 2026.

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin stressed the need to accelerate the establishment of oil refineries, noting that refined fuel prices, which were previously only about 30 per cent higher than crude oil feedstock prices, have now risen to nearly two and a half times that level.

The Union minister made the remarks on 14 September while inspecting the step-by-step test operations of Phase I of the Thanlyin Refinery project, accompanied by responsible officials. During the inspection, he said the current period was marked by global challenges and rising refined fuel prices, making it necessary to accelerate the establishment of oil refineries. While the country is strictly supervising fuel consumption, efforts are also being made to produce fuel domestically.

He also instructed officials to systematically and thoroughly train personnel, as the Thanlyin Refinery, which is set to begin operations, will be the first refinery of its kind in which control, monitoring and adjustments can be carried out directly from the control room. — TWA/TH

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Falam Residents to Reuse MPT SIMs



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin visits MPT mobile station in Falam Township, Chin State, yesterday.

MPT mobile services provided by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) have been restored in Falam Township, Chin State, and residents can now apply for MPT SIM cards.

Falam Township General Administration Department have resumed services, including the replacement and re-registration of lost or damaged SIM cards and the sale of new SIM cards.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, accompanied by the Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the resumption of services.

The deputy minister also inspected repairs to the 66/11 kV substation building, missing and damaged equipment, substation staff housing, the District Forest Department office and staff housing, and the Township Forest Department office and staff housing.

Telephone communication in Falam Township had previously been disrupted by violent incidents, with only MEC-CDMA services available. Following the restoration of MPT mobile services, MPT staff based at the

He instructed local companies to cooperate with the relevant departments to ensure that repair and construction works meet the prescribed standards, use quality materials and are completed within the specified time-frame. — MNA/MKKS

63rd ITEC Day commemorated in Yangon

THE 63rd anniversary of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day—India's flagship capacity-building programme—was celebrated on 15 September at the India Centre in Yangon.

The event was attended by over 150 guests, including Yangon Region Minister U Bo Htay for Social Affairs, Yangon City Mayor U Myo Myint Aung, government officials, representatives from educational institutions, ITEC alumni, and other invited guests.

Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur stated that the ITEC programme, which began in Myanmar in 1996 with just 30 trainees, has



The 63rd ITEC Day ceremony in progress.

grown more than 20-fold over the past 30 years. Currently, India annually provides up to 400 civil ITEC scholarships and 250 defense-related ITEC scholarships for Myanmar.

Additionally, scholarship opportunities for Myanmar students to pursue undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral degrees in India are being expanded, with university scholarship slots under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation framework increasing from 36 to 100.

Minister U Bo Htay expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its assistance through the ITEC programme. The event featured the screening of a short documentary, cultural performances by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, and the sharing of experiences by Myanmar ITEC alumni. — MT/ZN

World Ozone Day 2026 celebrated

THE ceremony for World Ozone Day 2026 was held yesterday at the Youth Centre in Yangon Region's Thakayta Township, under the theme "Global action for a cooler planet".

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu delivered an opening speech at the event and presented awards to three students who won in the high school-level essay competition in commem-

oration of World Ozone Day 2026.

A video clip of United Nations Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres' message on the day and the education video about ozone preservation were shown.

After the ceremony, the chief minister and officials visited the exhibition. Along with the chief minister, regional cabinet members, the auditor-gen-

eral, regional-level department heads, teachers and students, totalling 160 attended the event.

World Ozone Day is observed on 16 September every year around the world.

For the conservation of ozone globally, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was signed on 22 March 1985. With the agreement of 40 countries,

the Montreal Protocol was signed on 16 September 1987, designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.

As a member state of the Montreal Protocol, Myanmar has held the commemoration on this day every year since 2008, said the chief minister. — MT/ZS



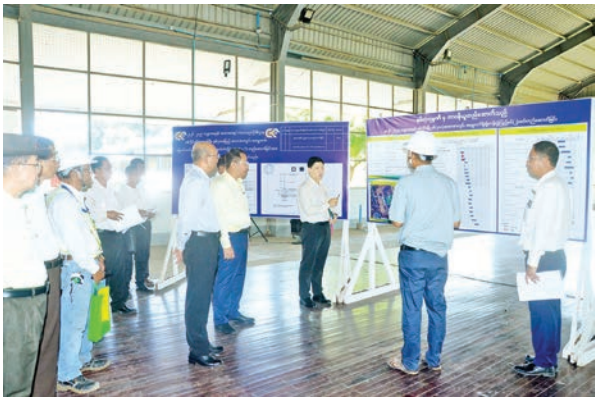
This image features the commemorative event of World Ozone Day 2026.

NATIONAL

700-year sports ground in Sagaing undergoing major upgrading works

UPGRADING works are being accelerated at the 700-Year Sports Ground in Sagaing, Sagaing Region, with the aim of developing it into an international-standard sports facility under the Union Budget for the 2026–2027 financial year.

Current works include maintaining the football pitch and repairing the irrigation system to ensure its long-term usability. Other works include the construction of a new 3,600-gallon overhead water tank, a two-



Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay and officials inspect the upgrading works.

tier open spectator stand measuring 440 feet by 35 feet, a 2,540-foot-long, seven-foot-high brick bound-

ary wall and a residence for the supervising officer.

Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun,

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay and officials inspected the upgrading works and gave necessary guidance to ensure that they meet the prescribed standards, maintain quality and achieve long-term durability.

The Union minister and party also inspected the construction of a district sports hall at Poe Tan Sports Ground in Sagaing Township, which is being implemented with funding from the Sagaing Region government. — TWA/KZL

Twantay's MSY Village Project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Kathapaung Village, Twantay Township, yesterday.

Twantay Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Yin Yin Htay explained that the revolving funds

were provided under the MSY Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds.

Officials explained project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K47.7 million in revolving



A village representative receives an Emerald Green project fund in Twantay Township.

funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Kathapaung Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K47.7 million from the MSY Village Project. Under the supervision of the township

department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 194 members from the village engaged in agricultural, livestock breeding and trading activities. — Karan (Rural)

Pinlaung transfers K30-million RBF project fund

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to transfer funds under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project for

the 2026-2027 financial year in Htilon Village, Pinlaung Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), yesterday.

State Hluttaw Representative U Khun Win

Naung delivered opening remarks, and Pinlaung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Swa explained the project objectives, fund transfer procedures and imple-

mentation plans. Afterwards, the State Hluttaw Representative handed over K30 million in RBF project funds to members of the Htilon Village project committee.

YR police conduct crime prevention and law enforcement operations



This image shows police personnel conducting vehicle checks 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, the Hmawby Township police officer and police personnel inspected vehicles passing through the checkpoint at the four Junction Road, PSMS system and seized motorcycles fitted with modified exhausts.

Similarly, the North Okkalapa Township police officer, together with per-

sonnel from Hlinethaya (East) Myoma Police Station and members of the Hlegu Township Traffic Police Unit, conducted daytime patrols raised public awareness of crime prevention, and distributed pamphlets encouraging pedestrians to use pedestrian crossings.

On the evening of 14 August, township police officers in Kyauktada, Kamayut and Mingala Taungnyunt townships also inspected household guest registration records, conducted inspections at Music Box KTV and checked vehicles. — Aung Thu/MKKs

The project is being implemented to provide capital for agricultural and livestock producers as well as small and medium-sized business operators through a group-based system. Under the supervision of the township

department, the project committee will disburse K30 million as first-round loans to five livelihood groups, three potato-chip production groups and one potato-growing group in the village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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

NATIONAL

Over 22,000 dairy cattle raised in Yangon

MORE than 22,000 dairy cattle are being raised in Yangon Region, with the largest number kept in Mingaladon Township, which also produces and distributes the highest volume of milk and dairy products, according to sources.

There are 12 businesses engaged in value-added milk and dairy product processing in the region. Large-scale livestock farms, including Ngwesin Pale, Walco, Aarman, TM, Shwepuzun, Funwa and Boss, produce milk and dairy products on a daily basis for distribution in Yangon and across the country.

A total of 22,374 dairy cattle are being raised in Yangon Region, including 11,679 cattle kept at 255 commercial dairy farms, with the remainder being raised by small-scale farm-



This photo shows dairy cattle from a commercial dairy farm in Mingaladon, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

ers.

The largest number of dairy cattle is raised in Mingaladon Township, where 4,454 cattle are kept. Of these, 3,557 cattle are raised at 57 commercial dairy farms, while 897 are kept at 118 small-scale

dairy farms.

Mingaladon Township produces about 8,000 viss of milk per day. Of this, dairy businesses including TM, Arman, Ngwe Sin Pale and Walco process around 6,100 viss of fresh cow's milk daily into value-added prod-

ucts, including 3,190 viss of pasteurized milk, 1,040 viss of yoghurt, 1,720 viss of fresh milk, 30 viss of butter, 60 viss of pudding and 60 viss of condensed milk, which are distributed to consumers.

"The Livestock Breed-

ing and Veterinary Department is providing livestock farmers with training and awareness programmes to promote the development of dairy cattle farming in the region. These include livestock management, fodder crop cultivation, silage-making and artificial insemination training to improve breeding quality and productivity. We are also continuously carrying out measures for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, biosecurity and dairy cattle health care. Since the production and consumption of clean and fresh dairy products depend on proper livestock management, we are co-operating with livestock companies to promote production in accordance with good farming practices and to expand dairy cattle farming," said Dr

Aung Myint Han, director of the department.

In feeding dairy cattle, small-scale farms mainly use locally available grass under the cut-and-carry system. Commercial farms grow fodder crops such as para grass and Napier grass themselves and use them as the main feed, supplemented with cabbage leaves. Straw is occasionally fed during the summer. Concentrated feeds, including commercially produced feed such as De Heus, brewers' grains, mung bean powder, bean paste, corn powder, soybean meal, sesame cake, rice bran, bean husks, coconut cake and sesame residue, are mixed and fed as appropriate. Some farms also provide molasses as a feed supplement. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Thazi

OFFICIALS from the Thazi Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, conducted a field inspection on 15 September 2026.

The inspection focused on activities implemented under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Chaungsaukyoe Village – an initiative aimed at creating employment opportunities, increasing family income, and reducing poverty among rural residents.



Officials from the Township Department of Rural Development inspect agricultural activities in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, on 15 September 2026.

Thazi Township Department of Rural Development officials, including Township Head Daw Mya Thet Win, Staff Officer

Daw Toe Toe Sein, and project staff, reviewed the status of agricultural activities funded by the K52.3 million MSY

project budget, as well as the completeness of the required monthly record-keeping forms. Township Officer Daw Mya Thet Win of the Thazi Township Department of Rural Development conducted an inspection and coordinated the necessary arrangements. According to Daw Mya Thet Win, loans totalling K52.3 million have been disbursed to 135 individuals engaged in agricultural activities in Chaungsaukyoe Village. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahl-aing)

Telematics made mandatory on Yangon-Mandalay Express

FROM PAGE 1

Vehicle owners seeking to install or renew Telematics devices must have their vehicles properly inspected. Tire tread, brakes, suspension system, horn, headlights, rear lights, side lights, and signal lights must all function normally. The vehicle body and frame must be structurally sound. The paintwork must be glossy and in good condition. If the specified conditions are not met, the Telematics device will not be installed, and the renewal will not be granted.

The tighter regulations come in response to ongoing issues on the expressway, where weak or poorly

maintained passenger buses and heavy cargo trucks disrupt smaller passenger vehicles travelling at speeds of up to 100 km/h, leading to accidents and traffic congestion.

Furthermore, vehicles must undergo regular inspections to reduce avoidable problems and injuries. When driving on the expressway, express buses must not exceed 90 kilometres per hour, and cargo trucks and pickup vehicles must not exceed 60 kilometres per hour. The Highways Department urged all drivers and vehicle owners to strictly follow these regulations. —TWA/KK

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

11 foreign nationals, 17 Myanmar nationals involved in online gemstone sale fraud arrested in Mandalay

A total of 28 people, including 11 foreign nationals and 17 Myanmar nationals, have been arrested along with evidence for allegedly defrauding customers by selling gemstones online in Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region.

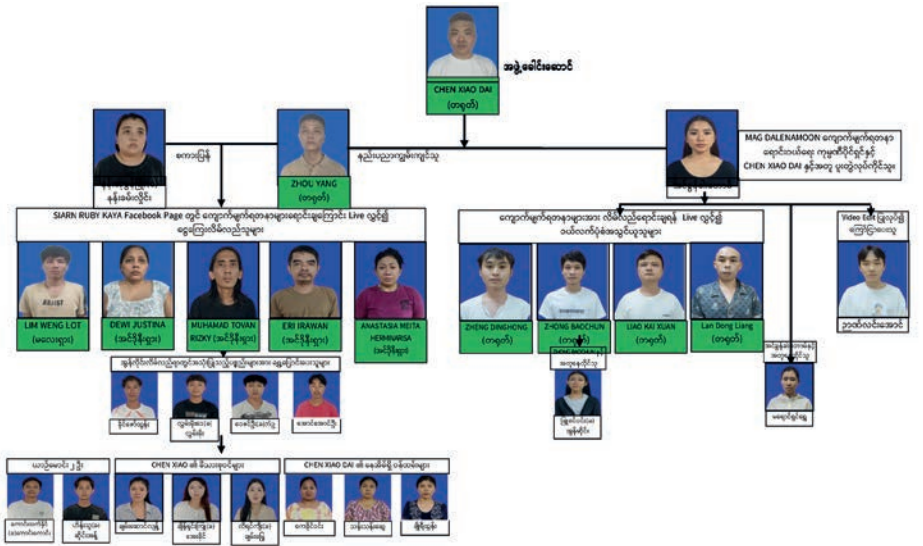
Following reports from responsible citizens that foreign nationals residing at a house on 80th Street, between 39th and 40th Streets, in Mahaaungmyay East Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township, were allegedly using online platforms to fraudulently sell gemstones, a combined team comprising security personnel conducted a search of the house on the morning of 2 September 2026.

The operation resulted in the arrest of 20 suspects, including two Chinese men led by Chinese national Chen Xiao Dai, two Indonesian men, two Indonesian women, one Malaysian man, six Myanmar men and seven Myanmar women. The authorities also seized 28 desktop computers, three laptop computers, two computer system boxes, 81 mobile phones, three tablets and related equipment allegedly used in the online scams.

On the evening of 3 September, the authorities searched the residence and the “MagDalenamoom Gemstone Trading” business operated by suspect

In Khun Khar Taom, located at the corner of 68th Street and 101st Street in Mahamyaing 1 Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township. During the search, eight additional suspects allegedly involved in the online gemstone fraud network were arrested. They comprised three Myanmar women and one Myanmar man, including In Khun Khar Taom, and four Chinese men. A total of 498 mobile phones, one tablet, one XL-type laptop, five computer system boards, one computer monitor, 15 bracelets believed to be jade, and other related items were also seized.

Chinese national Chen Xiao Dai, who was arrested



as a suspect, admitted that he was the leader of the fraud operation. He illegally transported around 500 mobile phones into Myanmar from the Lao border area for use in online fraud. They used a three-storey building in Mahaaungmyay Township to store and sell counterfeit finished jade products and low-quality finished products. At the gemstone sales premises operated by suspect In Khun Khar Taom, 10 similarly coloured stones were placed in bags, and members of the group staged

fake lucky-draw activities, which they livestreamed online to attract customers and sell the products. They deceived winners by claiming that they had won a bag of rough jade as a prize but were required to pay taxes and other charges before the prize could be delivered. After receiving the money, the suspects blocked the victims. The proceeds from the fraudulent activities were transferred directly to bank accounts in Indonesia and Malaysia. Investigations also

revealed that In Khun Khar Taom had opened a gemstone trading shop at the residence and worked together with Chinese national Chen Xiao Dai to fraudulently sell gemstones online. Legal action was taken against the 28 suspects involved in the online sale of counterfeit gemstones and low-quality finished products. The suspects comprise six Chinese nationals, one Malaysian national, four Indonesian nationals and 17 Myanmar nationals. — MNA/KTZH



Foreign nationals and Myanmar nationals together with gemstone sale fraud related materials arrested for selling gemstones online in Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region.

Systematic cattle breeding project inspected in Hpa-an

OFFICIALS led by Daw Thida Win San, Head of District Office at the Hpa-an District Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the implementation progress of the Rural Business Fund Project (RBF) in Naingkya Village, Hpa-An Township, on 15 September.

During the field visit, Head of District Office Daw Thida Win San and staff evaluated systematic cattle breeding



Officials oversee a systematic cattle breeding project in Hpa-an Township.

activities funded by the RBF programme. They reviewed accounting

records, verified compliance with project guidelines outlined in the

handbook, and discussed technical livestock management assistance for local beneficiaries.

Under the RBF project, a total of K30 million was disbursed to four livestock farming groups – Toe Tatt Aung, Pan Shwekyia, Pan Padauk, and Pan Bayda – with each receiving K7.5 million. The projects are currently operating successfully on the ground, according to Daw Thida Win San, Head of District Office. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural)

Mindon's VDP project initiated with committee formation

THE Mindon Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Thayet District, Magway Region, held an introductory briefing for the Village Development Plan (VDP) project and the formation of a committee in Minywagaing village on 15 September, where the project will be implemented for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Regional MP No 1 U Thein Zaw and Regional MP No 2 Daw Yi Yi Lwin delivered opening remarks.

U Khup Mun Lian, Head of the Mindon Township Department of Rural Development, then explained the objectives and benefits of implementing the Village Development Plan, the rules and regulations outlined in the project manual for forming committee members, and the project procedures.

Afterwards, the members of parliament and the township head selected and formed a seven-member Village Development Committee in accordance with the consensus of the attending villagers. — Set Lu

NATIONAL

MFSPEA invites member companies to import fertilizer for Q4

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) called for companies that want to import fertilizer and distribute it under a competitive pricing system for the fourth quarter (October-December 2026). MFSPEA will organize the importation of DAP-based 15-15-15 compound fertilizer of good quality by practising competitive pricing for the fourth

quarter of the next year under the guidance of the Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee. Interested companies can contact the committee by 2 pm on 22 September 2026 through email: urea-committee@gmail.com, info@mfspea.com, vicepresident-1@mfspea.com, vicepresident-2@mfspea.com, generalsecretary@mfspea.com to import the compound fertilizer.



A diligent farmer applying fertilizers on the field

Individuals can enquire MFSPEA at 09 988539360. about details through the — NN/KK

MCDC calls for open tenders to rent shops at Thumingala Advanced Market

SHOP rooms at the Thumingala Advanced Market (Nyantaw Market) in PyinOoLwin will be leased out through an open tender system, according to the PyinOoLwin Township Development Committee under the Mandalay City Development Committee. The shop rooms available for lease are located on the second floor (types Q128 and U172), at a floor price of K2,000 per square



This image displays the poster for the Thumingala Market.

foot; on the third floor (type V186) at a floor price of K2,000 per square foot; and on the fourth floor at a floor price of K2,000 per square foot.

Tender forms will be sold by 22 September between 9:30 am and 3 pm, at the PyinOoLwin Township Development Committee. The submission deadline is 3 pm on 23 September, and the tender opening will be held at 10 am on 24 September.

Individuals can enquire for further details by walking into the office in person or by dialling 09 444038771 or 09 2216426. — NN/KK

Applications open for online Advanced Course in Environmental Science

APPLICATIONS are now open for the Advanced Course in Environmental Science Online Learning/Certificate Programme that will be conducted from 15 October to 15 December. The programme is designed to make environmental sciences accessible to everyone, offering an online learning format that participants can study at their own convenience. Upon

completion, participants will receive a certificate. It is designed for selfpaced learning. The course fee is K22,300 (payable via any convenient payment method). It is open to all interested individuals. Applications can be submitted through <http://tiny.cc/Adv-Course-ES>. Individuals can view course topics and further details through <https://m.me/esonline.mm>. — NN/KK

GRGI International invites eTender for rice husk briquettes, rice husk

GRAND Royal Group International Co Ltd is seeking suppliers, including SMEs, manufacturers, companies, rice millers, rice husk briquette factory owners, and those interested in submitting an eTender to sell rice husk briquettes and rice husk for use in its manufacturing operations. An information briefing will take place on 17 September. The final submission deadline will be on 28 September.

Tenders must be submitted to Sweet Home Living Mall & Office Tower, 2A (1/16G) on the 8th Floor, East Horse Race Course Road, Marnaung Ward, Tamway Township,

Yangon. Those interested are required to provide a company profile, production capacity, relevant work experience, a copy of the company registration, a company update extract or a business licence of YCDC. Applicants are also required to bring two-kilogramme samples of rice husk briquettes and a two-kilogramme amount of rice husk on 17 September. Individuals can enquire for further details by contacting the Tender Committee at 09 421124840 or 09 425308385 between 8:30 am and 5 pm. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 16 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,663.80~3666.30	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	6,645,475.77	35,000,717.35	54,419,729.14	-



A press conference for the Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo 2026 in progress.

2nd Myanmar Auto & Parts Expo 2026 set for 3 days in Yangon

SILVER Sea International Company Limited will organize the 2nd Myanmar Auto and Parts Expo 2026 at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) on the campus of Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon from 25 to 27 September.

A press conference about the exhibition was held at Pan Pacific Hotel

on 15 September.

Local and foreign companies will showcase their products such as tyres, engine oil and other auto parts at the event, said Silver Sea International. In addition, auto parts launches, motor vehicle license services and brand-new cars will be exhibited. Private cars,

commercial vehicles, fuel and electric cars will be sold in instalment or lump-sum payments.

At the event, the New Taipei City Auto Parts Business Association and the Chinese Taipei Pavilion will introduce 15 companies which engage in automotive aftermarket and smart mobility.

In the 144-square-metre-wide area, 16 booths will be displayed. At booth C1, the Chinese Taipei Event Booth will be shown, which is 36 square metres.

On-site translation services, happy hour networking and promotions will be included. Interested companies are invited to book booths. — MT/ZS

Shielding the ozone, safeguarding Earth's life

The ozone layer serves as a natural atmospheric filter, absorbing and filtering out up to 95 per cent of UV-B radiation and 100 per cent of UV-C radiation — two of the three types of ultraviolet radiation emitted by the sun that can be harmful to humans and other living organisms. In this way, it provides vital protection for life on Earth.

Ozone is beneficial to human life but can be harmful when it is found within six miles of the ground. Nitrogen and oxygen compounds, which are major components of emissions from factories and industrial facilities, power plants and motor vehicles, as well as volatile organic compounds, react with sunlight and accumulate within five miles of the Earth's surface.

Developing countries, including Myanmar, will begin reducing ozone-depleting substances from 2029. Through these efforts, global cooperation will be further accelerated to control and prevent ozone layer depletion while also mitigating climate change. All people are therefore urged to use ozone-depleting substances responsibly and with greater awareness, as their continued use poses a threat to human life.

To promote concerted global efforts to address ozone layer depletion, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was signed in 1985. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted on 16 September 1987, and all countries around the world, including Myanmar, are participating in and implementing measures under the Protocol.

Had there been no global efforts to protect the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect resulting from the production of ozone-depleting substances could have reached a level equivalent to that caused by carbon dioxide emissions. People should recognize the importance of making concerted efforts to protect the ozone layer, which is vital to the health of all living organisms.

Developing countries, including Myanmar, will begin reducing ozone-depleting substances from 2029. Through these efforts, global cooperation will be further accelerated to control and prevent ozone layer depletion while also mitigating climate change. All people are therefore urged to use ozone-depleting substances responsibly and with greater awareness, as their continued use poses a threat to human life.

In the near future, the United Nations Credentials Committee will review and decide on the appointment of Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors for UN member states.

The position of Ambassador is nominated by the respective government; the credentials of the representative are examined by a nine-member Credentials Committee.

Due to the political developments in 2021, consideration of the representation of Myanmar was deferred. However, Kyaw Moe Tun, who was appointed by the NLD government in October 2020, lacks official representation rights for Myanmar under Credentials Committee Rule 29. Since he has not yet been removed from his seat, he is currently seen acting in the capacity of an interim Permanent Representative at the UN.

Due to political legitimacy disputes over the government that assumed state responsibilities from 2021 to April 2026, former Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, appointed by the NLD government, has been able to act misleadingly in UN informal meetings as if he represents Myanmar.

In the upcoming Credentials Committee meeting during the 81st United Nations General Assembly, member states must consider whether to recognize the Permanent Representative nominated by the Government of Myanmar, or alternatively, to leave the seat vacant or defer consideration of the matter, as has been the practice in previous years.

Therefore, three key points are presented for the consideration of the members of the Credentials Committee and the broader UN Community, clarifying the status of former Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, and reflecting the legitimate demands and aspirations of the people of Myanmar.

First, former Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun is a traitorous employee and a fugitive who has been charged under the existing laws of Myanmar, a UN member state. The charges against him are not political; arrest warrants were issued for committing treason and rebellion against the state under Penal Code Section 122(2), Unlawful Associations Act Section 17(1), Public Property Protection Act Section 6(1) and Penal Code Section 124(1).

The True Identity of Fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun

Furthermore, as a high-ranking diplomat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he failed to comply with State orders and directives, pledged allegiance to, and represented an organization that was declared illegal. Consequently, he was dismissed from civil service on 27 February 2021, and legal action was taken against him under the Anti-Terrorist Law and Cyber Communication Law 66(D).

It has been learned through investigation that Kyaw Moe Tun, a fugitive facing arrest warrants for criminal offences, misappropriated state funds belonging to the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the UN in New York for personal gain. Successive Myanmar governments deposited operating expenses for the permanent mission to the UN into an official embassy account at Bank of America in New York. As of February 2021, the Mission maintained the remaining balances of over 30,000 Euros and 2.8 million US Dollars. According to bank regulations, a joint account was opened under the names of the Ambassador and another individual to withdraw and utilize these funds.

The schemer Kyaw Moe Tun removed the joint signatory by exploiting the regulations of the Bank and the authority of the Ambassador so that he could gain sole control over the State funds held in the joint account for his personal use. These funds con-

By Min Khant



“News of fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun spotted on social media”

and annual auditing in accordance with financial procedures is required. However, due to the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun's misappropriation of these funds, it is learned that only a small amount of balance currently remains in the Bank of America account.

Thus, as a criminal fugitive, traitor Kyaw Moe Tun has also committed the offence of embezzling State assets. This financial

The Credentials Committee is requested not to allow such a morally corrupt individual and fugitive to stand or operate on the UN stage.

The schemer Kyaw Moe Tun committed high treason as part of a premeditated scheme to secure political asylum and residency in the United States using Mission-owned funds. In carrying out this scheme, he manipulated the

fully through illegal channels so that they could reside with him.

Furthermore, to carry out his operational activities in New York, he facilitated the unlawful entry into the United States of former foreign service personnel who joined Disloyal Civil Servants (DCS) – namely, Su Su Aung, former Second Secretary of the Embassy of Myanmar in Washington, DC, Kaung Htet, former Second Secretary of the Embassy of Myanmar in Tel Aviv, Israel, and Zun Su Mon Oo, former attaché of the Embassy of Myanmar in Phnom Penh, Cambodia – to serve as his assistants. Therefore, I would like to inform Your Excellency that his family members and assistants are individuals residing in the United States after entering through illegal channels under the pretext of refugees.

It is also learnt that certain Myanmar nationals abroad are currently organizing public rallies aimed at preventing his removal from the United Nations arena. The primary objective behind these events is merely to shield

him from his criminal offences, financial scandals, and the unlawful immigration status of his family members residing illegally in the United States. These rallies, conducted under the guise of public support gatherings in coordination with overseas NUG supporters, are nothing more than incitements promoting terrorism. The majority of his supporters are individuals who have migrated to foreign countries under various circumstances across successive Myanmar governments and have a hostile mindset toward the incumbent government.

Rather than acting on genuine political conviction, most of these individuals exploit democracy and human rights in their host countries under a political cloak to secure financial grants and donations for personal comfort. Consequently, their so-called public rallies do not represent the vast majority of the Myanmar people who desire peace and stability of the nation. Instead, these are sham demonstrations organized by small gatherings to create photo opportunities for media coverage, serving solely to accord him personal protection in line with their usual pattern of activities.

The Credentials Committee is requested by the People of Myanmar, who want to live with peace and stability, not to allow such an individual whose conduct is inconsistent with the ethical standards expected of a public official and who remains a fugitive, to continue representing Myanmar or to act in its name within the United Nations.

This demand is not a personal attack, nor a request for the UN to arrest and punish him. It is a call for his immediate removal because someone who has violated national laws and committed financial fraud does not deserve the title of UN Permanent Representative for Myanmar.

Second, I would like to highlight that Kyaw Moe Tun is not eligible under Rule 27 and Rule 29 for the UN Permanent Representative position for Myanmar.

By the Rule-27 UN member states present credentials for their representatives to the Secretary-General, issued by the Head of State, Head of Government, or Minister for Foreign Affairs. Kyaw Moe Tun was nominated under this rule

by the NLD government in 2020. By 2026, the NLD government that appointed him no longer exists, and his representation is clearly for a non-governmental, terrorist organization rather than Myanmar.

Due to the decision made by the Credentials Committee five years ago, the Government of Myanmar has been unable to appoint an official Permanent Representative or Ambassador to its Mission to the United Nations. As a result, the governing administration operating under the constitution is deprived of presenting its policies at the UN, and opportunities to cooperate effectively with the UN on humanitarian aid for the people of Myanmar are being lost.

Therefore, the Credentials Committee is requested to bring to an end the continued deferral of Myanmar's representation, to cease recognizing Kyaw Moe Tun as Myanmar's representative under Rule 29, and to appoint the candidate proposed by the Head of the elected Government under Rule 27.

Third, a person supporting an illegal terrorist group should not remain as a UN Permanent Representative. In this regard, an important consideration is whether the NUG, which Kyaw Moe Tun represents, has been recognized or designated as a terrorist organization by the International Community. We are not asking the UN to designate the NUG as a terrorist organization, but are presenting evidence that former Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun should not be granted diplomatic immunity on the UN stage to openly support an organization currently monitored by international counter-terrorism bodies.

The acts of violence committed by the NUG and its affiliate PDF groups designated as illegal terrorist organizations by a member state under existing laws are documented in terrorism index reports by the Global Terrorism Trends and Analysis Centre.

Although the UN has not officially recognized the NUG or labelled it a terrorist organization, the NUG and its affiliated PDF groups continue to carry out targeted assassinations of innocent civilians under an “if you disagree, you are the enemy” mindset (labelling them Dalans (informants)). They also destroy non-military state infrastructure,

roads, and bridges, deliberately targeting education and health sectors under an “Utter Devastation Policy” aimed at internal instability. These facts have already been witnessed by the UN and Credentials Committee members.

Allowing a fugitive former ambassador, who represents neither the State nor the Government of Myanmar, to hold up a three-finger salute and openly support the NUG requires reconsideration by the Credentials Committee.

A critical concern is that enabling an unaccredited diplomat to challenge a state's authority from the UN floor sets a dangerous precedent, effectively normalizing betrayal of the sovereign Government.

The United Nations typically relies on precedent when addressing controversial matters, such as the case of fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun. If the Credentials Committee were to make a politically biased decision to retain a law-breaking, criminal, and terror-supporting individual like Kyaw Moe Tun, it could set a troubling precedent, leading to a similar case in the future and undermining the dignity, credibility and integrity of the United Nations.

The people of Myanmar believe it is inappropriate for the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun to exploit diplomatic immunity to openly support and endorse the NUG and PDF – groups that the state government has designated as terrorist organizations in accordance with existing laws.

The request of the people of Myanmar is neither a personal attack on Kyaw Moe Tun nor a demand for the UN to automatically remove him. Rather, it is an urgent call for the members of the Credentials Committee to act in accordance with UN regulations, and consider the appointment of the Permanent Representative proposed by the elected Government arising from current political developments.

Therefore, the people of Myanmar view the true identity of the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun's continued misuse of diplomatic immunity as unacceptable the true identity of him and request his removal as Myanmar's representative at the upcoming 81st Credentials Committee meeting.

SCI/TECH WORLD

In hydropowered Bhutan, solar starts to rise

Climate change is threatening the future of the glaciers that feed those rivers, adding impetus to a push for energy diversification.

ENGINEER Rinzin Galley stands on a platform overlooking a former military shooting range on the edge of Bhutan's capital Thimphu, now home to a gleaming field of solar panels.

With abundant waterways, Bhutan has long relied on hydroelectric power to meet its electricity needs and stay carbon negative — absorbing more planet-warming gases than it emits.

But demand is growing, and in winter, when rivers run low before the mountain melt arrives, Bhutan already relies on imported Indian electricity.

Climate change is also threatening the fu-



Solar panels gleam on a mountainside as Bhutan expands its renewable energy infrastructure. **PHOTO: LINKEDIN**

ture of the glaciers that feed those rivers, adding impetus to a push for energy diversification.

"Solar projects are booming," said Rinzin, senior engineer at Norion Renewable Energy.

The company's biggest project to date is the Dechencholing solar farm on former military

land, with an installed capacity of 4.45 megawatts (MW).

Bhutan is expanding into solar energy to complement its hydropower sector, which faces severe winter shortages and rising domestic demand from construction and tech projects like bitcoin mining. While

hydropower accounts for up to 15 per cent of GDP, winter capacity drops significantly, forcing costly electricity imports from India.

To diversify, Bhutan targets 25,000 megawatts by 2040, with solar comprising a fifth of that goal. However, mountainous terrain, high costs, and logistical hurdles make large-scale and rooftop solar installations challenging.

Despite these obstacles, investments in solar farms, rooftop initiatives, and local workforce training represent a crucial long-term adaptation strategy against climate change. — AFP

Music helps brain recover from stress by reshaping regulation networks

A new study suggests that music may help people bounce back from stress not just by distracting them, but by reshaping how the brain handles stress over time.

The research, led by researchers from the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was recently published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS).

Scientists have long recognized that music can be relaxing, but it remains unclear whether it offers benefits beyond other soothing sounds, when those benefits are most significant, or what changes occur in the brain to produce these effects. To explore this, the researchers conducted two experiments involving 120 healthy young adults. — Xinhua



People listen to calming music to help the brain recover from stress. **PHOTO: OPDERSCHMELZ**

Shark migrations highlight need for intl conservation: study

UNDERSTANDING the migration pathways of sharks and rays is key to conserving some of the world's most endangered marine species, new research finds.

Researchers analyzed 30 years of satellite tracking, acoustic and mark-recapture studies to map how migratory shark species connect Australian waters with neighboring countries, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia's University of Queensland (UQ). They shortlisted 29 shark and ray species found in Australian waters and identified whale sharks, blue sharks, shortfin mako sharks, school



Marine conservation efforts highlight the need to protect migratory shark species across international borders. **PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK**

sharks, and white sharks that cross international borders.

Some traveled as far as South Africa, New Zealand, Indonesia and Micronesia, as well as offshore areas beyond national

jurisdiction, according to the study published in *Conservation Biology*.

The researchers said long-distance movements expose sharks and rays to threats across multiple jurisdictions, including

overfishing and being accidentally caught as bycatch.

UQ Associate Professor Daniel Dunn, the study's senior author, said 18 of the 29 shark and ray species in Australian waters listed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species had no published movement information.

Species could not be effectively managed or policies created without sufficient data, Dunn said.

The findings highlighted the need for cross-border cooperation, with Australia supporting neighboring nations by sharing technology and information, the researchers said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solar activity can manipulate deep-sea climate: study

SOLAR activity not only affects temperatures on Earth's surface, but can also "control" climate change in the deep sea, according to a group of Chinese researchers.

Using eight decades of ocean reanalysis, they showed that the 11-year solar cycle robustly modulates the volume of a subsurface water mass in the North Pacific Ocean, the North Pacific Eastern Subtropical Mode Water (NPESTMW), said the researchers in an article published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The NPESTMW, connecting the subtropics and tropics, forms at the ocean surface in winter and sinks, transferring heat and carbon to the deep ocean and influencing climate variability on timescales of years to decades.

Researchers at the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOCAS), found that one to two years after the solar maximum, the formation of this mode of water was significantly suppressed. The mechanism of this process is not as simple as solar heat directly warming the ocean, said Wang Jianing, a researcher at the IOCAS. During periods of high solar activity, anomalous cyclonic circulation over the formation region weakens surface winds and reduces ocean heat loss, suppressing winter mixed layer deepening and mode water formation. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Artists quit Sheeran tour over Macklemore

THE artist Finneas and three other supporting acts announced they had quit British superstar Ed Sheeran's tour on Tuesday, after rapper Macklemore was dropped for making pro-Palestinian comments while performing.

Sheeran has denied being behind the decision to remove Macklemore, saying his tour's promoter was responsible. But Finneas — a performer also famous for work with his superstar sister Billie Eilish — Irish acts Aaron Rowe and Beoga, and Lukas Graham of Denmark all posted they were quitting Sheeran's "Loop Tour".

While opening for Sheeran earlier this month at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium, Macklemore shouted "Free Palestine!" and told Palestinians they were "not forgotten". "Macklemore coming off tour was the promoter's decision, it was not mine," Sheeran wrote in a lengthy Instagram post, adding that the rapper's contract was ended by the promoter, Messina Touring Group. — AFP

Fast-pace dance takes I Coast's working-class streets by storm

ON the streets of a working-class Abidjan neighbourhood, hundreds of young people gather every week after class to dance the biam, a high-tempo combo of acrobatic twists, frenetic footwork and funny facial expressions.

The craze has gripped Ivory Coast — where nearly two thirds of the population is aged under 25 — since it evolved from the country's popular coupe-decale dance music a few years ago.

In Yopougon, the district where it all began, so-called "biamasseurs"

organize the outdoor events where one DJ after another takes to the stage, which is little more than a vacant sandy piece of ground with some plastic chairs for spectators.

Dancers take part for free, while it costs between 1,000 and 2,000 CFA francs (between \$1.70 and \$3.50, 1.50 and 3 euros) to watch.

From 5 pm, boys and girls in their teens don colourful sportswear of jogging pants and T-shirts to perform the high-energy moves of the quick-pace street dance. — AFP



A young boy gives a demonstration during a Biam festival in the popular district of Yopougon in Abidjan, on 19 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Experts gather in SW China to promote dialogue among great river civilizations

Over 500 Chinese and foreign-language documents compiled by experts.

EXPERTS from home and abroad gathered on Tuesday in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality for the 2026 Yangtze River Civilization Forum, sharing insights on enhancing exchanges and mutual learning among the world's great river civilizations.

Themed "Bridging Rivers and Seas, Sharing Wisdom of Civilizations," the forum features discussions among scholars, and the launch of a series of books that collect more than 500 Chinese and foreign-language documents written by Chinese and



Tourists visit a scenic area in Fengjie County, southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, 11 March 2024. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE

foreign experts during their travels and field investigations along the upper section of the Yang-

tze River flowing through the Sichuan Basin and the Three Gorges region. The documents cov-

er a wide range of topics including geology, hydrology, transport, economy, local customs, and environment.

Zou Fudu, vice president of Southwest University, said the compilation reflects the diverse narratives found in Chinese and foreign records about the route, and will help promote dialogue and mutual learning among civilizations.

During the forum, scholars offered in-depth perspectives on cultural heritage preservation and cultural exchange. — Xinhua

Over 600,000 Afghan refugees return home

A total of 617,244 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland from neighbouring Iran and Pakistan between 21 March and 9 September 2026, a government official con-

firmed on Wednesday. Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesperson for the Afghan government, announced that 437,854 individuals crossed back into the country from

Pakistan, while a further 179,390 were repatriated from Iran during the same period.

According to the official, all returnees received essential humani-

tarian assistance, including food rations, potable water, medical services and complimentary transportation to their respective provinces of origin. — Xinhua

AI inspires Japan's convenience stores

FEARS that advanced artificial intelligence could wipe out humanity have dominated global headlines, but in Japan the technology is being used for a sweeter purpose — developing never-before-seen convenience store desserts.

For customers tired of the usual egg sandwiches and rice balls, major chains are turning to AI to develop products, including some unexpected flavours. Lawson, one of the country's biggest convenience store operators, said on Wednesday it will

roll out three new food items, including a pickle-flavoured lemon tart and a bread roll filled with red bean paste, margarine and yoghurt cream.

These products, to be launched this month in Tokyo and neighbouring regions, were created using AI around the theme: "What on earth is this? But it's delicious."

"To generate ideas unconstrained by existing ways of thinking or market trends, we used AI during brainstorming, without relying on past sales figures or market



Rival convenience store chain FamilyMart is leveraging artificial intelligence to develop innovative products. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

data," a company press release said.

Rival convenience store chain FamilyMart is leveraging artificial in-

telligence to develop innovative products, following a successful test-launch of an AI-suggested biscuit sandwich in July. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

US Senate crypto bill collapses amid partisan deadlock

US senators face major setbacks following cryptocurrency regulatory deadlock.

A push for landmark US cryptocurrency legislation collapsed on Tuesday after Republicans and Democrats in Congress failed to bridge months-old differences over ethics, banking and how the fast-growing industry should be regulated.

The Digital Asset Market Clarity Act failed to secure the 60 votes needed to advance to a debate in the Senate, with safeguards governing President Donald Trump's extensive crypto interests among the biggest obstacles to a deal.

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, the top Democrat on the Sen-



Senate crypto bill fails due to lack of votes. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ate Banking Committee, said the bill posed "massive risks to families, our national security, and our economy." "And if that's not bad enough, while Americans across the

country suffer from an affordability crisis, this bill will turbocharge President Donald Trump's ability to rake in billions and billions of dollars from crypto," she said. The de-

feat dealt a major blow to efforts to establish the first comprehensive federal framework for digital-asset markets – and offered another illustration of Congress's struggle to keep pace with disruptive new technologies as lawmakers wrestle with a similarly fraught debate over artificial intelligence.

The more than 600-page legislation would have divided oversight largely between the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, replacing a regulatory patchwork that has shifted between administrations. — AFP

Hong Kong's plan to boost intl centres, talent hub development

JOHN Lee, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said on Wednesday that Hong Kong will strengthen its four centres and develop into a hub for high-calibre talent, consolidating and enhancing its edge in global competition.

Announcing Hong Kong's first five-year plan for economic and social development (2026-2030), Lee said that by consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, maritime and trade centres, and developing Hong Kong into an international I&T centre and a global hub for high-caliber talent, Hong Kong

will further sharpen its competitive edge.

Lee said that Hong Kong, as an international financial centre, must firmly demonstrate its international positioning by leveraging its open financial markets to attract global capital, talent, and financial enterprises.

Hong Kong must

seek growth through stability and in turn reinforce stability through growth, a principle anchoring resilient underpinning, stable structures, robust capabilities, and manageable risks, as the city moves forward with various initiatives. These include fully leveraging the core function of pro-

PELLING the real economy with finance, forging secure and highly effective financial infrastructure, and systemically developing a diverse capital market, he added.

Furthermore, Hong Kong will strive to enhance its competitive edge as an international aviation hub by continuously launching new routes, strategically attracting local and non-local airlines to develop new destinations and increase flight frequencies, and strengthening Hong Kong's long-haul network, particularly connections with the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries, he said. — Xinhua



A view of Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong Photo: **PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES**



People work at the construction site of the Colombo Port City in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 22 September 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Sri Lanka's employment rate shows improvement from previous year

SRI Lanka's total employment rate among people aged 15 and above in 2025 was 96.1 per cent, a 0.5 percentage point increase from the previous year, the Department of Census and Statistics said in its latest report released on Tuesday.

The Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 2025 showed that the country's unemployment rate stood at 3.9 per cent in the year, representing about 329,000 people who are currently looking for job opportunities.

Female unemployment was 6.1 per cent, more than twice the 2.8 per cent rate recorded among

men. In the meantime, more than 8.6 million Sri Lankans in that age group were outside the labour force in the year, accounting for about 50.6 per cent of the population, while the labour force participation rate stood at 49.4 per cent.

Those not in the labor force include full-time students, retirees, stay-at-home parents, and other groups that are not actively seeking employment.

Women made up the majority of those outside the labour force, with about 6.19 million women compared with 2.44 million men. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU pitches 'associate member' status for Canada

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen raised the prospect Wednesday of Canada becoming the 27-nation bloc's first "associate member", as she pitched closer cooperation on tech, defence and energy to Canadian leader Mark Carney.

Von der Leyen told the European Parliament in Strasbourg that, as democracies face a "fracture in the international rules-based system", Brussels and Ottawa needed to pull closer together.

"I would like to work with you on opening the door for Canada to be the first associate member of the EU," von der Leyen told the Canadian prime minister, who was attending her annual keynote speech – drawing a standing ovation in the chamber. — AFP

Anthropic signs deal for Australia data centre

ARTIFICIAL intelligence start-up Anthropic signed a deal Wednesday for its first Australian data centre, the premier of Queensland state announced in parliament.

David Crisafulli said the company behind the Claude large-language model would set up in a new digital park expected to open next year.

The data centre would deliver more jobs and electricity to the northern state, he added, seeking to ease community concern over a boom in AI data-centre construction.

“Earlier today Anthropic signed an historic agreement for their first Australian data centre,” he said in Queensland’s parliament.

Anthropic could not immediately be reached for comment.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said last month his national government will seek to pass laws mandating national minimum standards for water and energy use by data centres, as well as rules to minimise their impact on communities by locating them away from homes, schools, prime farmland and potential housing sites.

Plans for the Western Downs Digital Park, where Anthropic will lease a data centre, show four buildings, each with 36,000 square metres (390,000 square feet) of data-centre floor space. — AFP

New Zealand parliament passes bill for free trade deal with India

NEW Zealand’s parliament passed legislation giving effect to the country’s free trade agreement (FTA) with India by a 93-29 vote on Wednesday.

Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay said in a statement that the vote demonstrated strong parliamentary support for the agreement and its expected economic benefits.

From the first day of implementation, 57 per cent of New Zealand’s exports to India will become duty-free, while tariffs on 95 per cent of exports will be eliminated or significantly reduced once the agreement is fully implemented, McClay said.

The kiwifruit industry alone expects to save about 125 million NZ dollars (about US\$72 million) in tariffs over five years, he said. The agreement will also provide faster border clearance and preferential access to India’s growing middle class for New Zealand exporters of food, fiber, technology, education, tourism and professional services, said the minister. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 23 March 2022 shows a view of the ports of Auckland, New Zealand. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Airbus delivers first aircraft from its new assembly line in China

AIRBUS on Wednesday delivered the first aircraft assembled at its new Final Assembly Line (FAL) for A320 family aircraft in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin, the second of its kind in both China and Asia.

The delivery represents a major milestone in Airbus’ industrial footprint expansion in China and across its global industrial system, the company said.

China Eastern Airlines took delivery of the A320neo aircraft. Currently operating the largest Airbus fleet in the Chinese mainland, the airline in 1985 took delivery of an A310, China’s first Airbus aircraft.

“The delivery underscores Airbus’ long-term commitment to our Chinese partners and our confidence in the continuous growth of China’s civil aviation market,” said Philippe Mhun, Executive Vice President Programmes and Services of the Commercial Aircraft business at Airbus.

He Xiaoqun, vice president of China Eastern Airlines, said the two companies have worked together for more than four decades, with their cooperation expanding from aircraft acquisition to areas including operational support, maintenance engineering and technical services. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 16 September 2026 shows the first A320 family aircraft assembled at the Airbus new Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Tianjin, north China. PHOTO: XINHUA

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-Science Co.,Ltd have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “Myanmar Sunger Road Bio-Science Co.,Ltd”, to new distributor name “Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd. Ph- 09401573814

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M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML044)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML044)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-9-2026** 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Saudi says Houthis target Mecca, warns of ‘red line’

Houthis declare Red Sea maritime blockade on Saudi ships.



This frame grab taken from AFPTV video footage shows fighters affiliated with the Saudi-backed Yemeni government engaging in clashes with Houthi authorities in Al-Jawf province on 15 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen’s Houthis accused them on Wednesday of targeting Islam’s holy city Mecca, sparking outrage across the Muslim world.

The Houthis swiftly rejected as a “lie” Ri-

yadh’s statement that it had shot down a drone heading towards Mecca, which attracts millions of pilgrims each year.

Fresh fighting between the Iran-backed Houthis and Yemen’s Saudi-backed govern-

ment has dragged in the kingdom, with the Houthis declaring a maritime blockade on its ships in the Red Sea.

Last week, the Houthis seized control of the entirety of Yemen’s Red Sea coast and the Bab

al-Mandab Strait, a vital artery for Saudi oil exports as the wider Middle East war chokes off the Strait of Hormuz shipping route.

“The claims about targeting Mecca are a worn-out lie that has been used before and no longer fools anyone,” Hazem al-Assad from the Houthi politburo wrote on X.

“I saw a few people panicking, running to the window to see what happened,” a Mecca resident who asked for anonymity told AFP.

“I think the alarm system creates panic... Life is normal in Mecca, and there have been previous incidents in Mecca so this isn’t the first one.”

Saudi Arabia accused the Houthis of launching attacks towards Mecca in an earlier conflict. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Finance cuts hit battle against AIDS, TB and malaria

THE slashing of international aid finance has already hit the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the head of a major health fund said Wednesday, warning of a long-term impact unless the cuts were reversed.

Peter Sands, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said that the immediate fallout from the cuts had been eased by countries switching resources but that “health outcomes” would suffer in coming years. The Global Fund invested around \$5.3 billion in the 2024-26 period, according to Sands, who said the institution was waiting for World Health Organization statistics for 2025 to see the impact of the cuts on lives. The United States, Britain and other key donors have all cut aid funding. — AFP

Fire breaks out at S Korea’s waste recycling facility

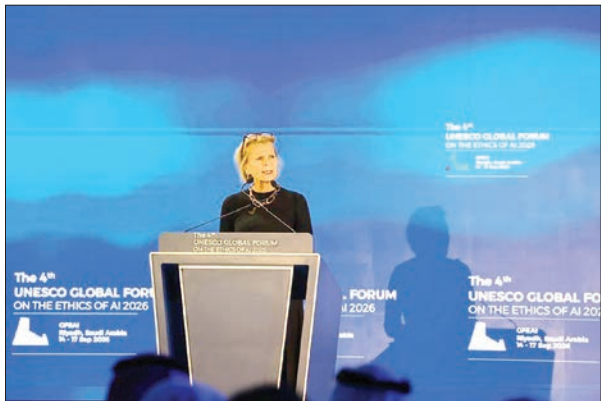
A large-scale fire broke out at a waste recycling facility in South Korea on Wednesday, prompting the fire authorities to raise their emergency response to level 2, according to Yonhap news agency.

The blaze began at around 1:58 pm local time (0458 GMT) at the recycling plant in Hwaseong, about 45 kilometres southwest of Seoul.

The initial report was made by a facility official who stated that combustible waste materials had caught fire.

The fire authorities initially issued a response level 1 at 2:15 pm but upgraded it four minutes later to response level 2, which can mobilize personnel and equipment from neighbouring fire stations, due to flammable waste inside the facility that could spread the fire rapidly. — Xinhua

UNESCO’s AI ethics forum opens in Riyadh



Asa Regner, deputy director-general of UNESCO speaks at the opening ceremony of the 4th Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 15 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE 4th Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) opened in Riyadh on Tuesday, where delegates discussed aligning AI development with

safety and responsibility requirements.

Co-hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) and Saudi Arabia, the forum runs until Thursday, bringing together government officials, representatives of technology firms as well as experts and researchers. “AI is advancing at unprecedented speed, while governance struggles to keep pace,” Asa Regner, deputy director-general of UNESCO, said at the opening ceremony.

Regner stressed the need for stronger global cooperation and equitable participation in AI governance, adding that the forum will explore how to turn AI ethical principles into practical implementation. — Xinhua

China’s Chang’e-6 lunar sample finds home at UN in Vienna

CHINA on Monday formally presented a lunar sample collected from the far side of the Moon by its Chang’e-6 mission to the United Nations (UN) in Vienna, where the sample will be permanently exhibited.

The ceremony, themed “From lunar ground to common ground: a shared future for all,” brought together diplomats, UN officials, scientists and representatives of international organizations.

Carried more than 380,000 kilometres from the Moon to Earth and then to the heart of international diplomacy, the

sample is more than a fragment of lunar soil and rock. It has become a symbol of scientific achievement, international cooperation and humanity’s shared future in space.

At the venue, the lunar sample attracted con-

siderable attention, with diplomats, delegates and officials from international organizations stopping for a close look. Some visitors even lined up to take photographs with material retrieved from the Moon’s far side. — Xinhua



People look at a lunar sample collected from the far side of the Moon by China’s Chang’e-6 mission, in Vienna, Austria, 14 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Inter-State and Region U19 Women's Football Tournament begins

THE 2026 Inter-State and Region U19 Women's Football Tournament began with round-robin matches at four venues in Pathein, Bago, Taunggyi and Hpa-an yesterday afternoon.

Organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports in cooperation with state and region governments and the Myanmar Football Federation, the tournament aims to raise the standard of Myanmar women's football, develop young players and promote sport across the states and regions.

More than 3,700 spectators, along with officials from the respective state and region governments, the Department of Sports and Physical Education



Players vying for the ball at the Inter-State and Region U19 Women's Football Tourney.

and the organizing committees, attended the matches.

In the opening matches, Kayin State defeated Kayah State 6-0 at Zwegabin Sports Ground in Hpa-an; Bago Region beat Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory 5-0 at Bago Sports Ground; Shan State defeated Sagaing Region 4-0 at State Sports Ground in

Taunggyi; and Ayeyawady Region beat Mon State 4-0 at Koethein Sports Ground in Pathein.

Further matches will be played from 3 pm on 17 September, with Mandalay Region facing Taninthayi Region at Zwegabin Sports Ground and Kachin State taking on Magway Region at State Sports Ground in Taunggyi.

The 15-day tournament runs from 16 to 30 September 2026. Group matches will be held in Hpa-an, Taunggyi, Bago and Pathein, while the knockout stages through to the final will take place at Thuwunna Stadium, Padetha Ground, Thanlyin Ground and Padonma Ground in Yangon. — MNA/KZL

Arteta salutes 'unbelievable' Dowman after Arsenal's teen star sinks Ipswich

MIKEL Arteta hailed the "unbelievable" Max Dowman after Arsenal's teenage sensation inspired their 4-2 win against Ipswich in the League Cup on Tuesday.

Arteta handed Dowman his first appearance this season and the 16-year-old seized his chance with two goals and an assist in the third round tie at Portman Road.

The Gunners boss once compared Dowman to Lionel Messi after the precocious playmaker burst onto the scene as



Arsenal midfielder Max Dowman (R) celebrates scoring against Ipswich. PHOTO: AFP

a 15-year-old last season. He played 13 times last season and became the youngest Premier

League scorer ever against Everton in March.

But Arteta has been cautious in his use of

Dowman, who has been an unused substitute several times this term.

Before the Ipswich game, Arteta said Dowman "will have his minutes and he will have to earn them like anybody else".

He has little need to hurry Dowman's development because Premier League champions Arsenal have so much experience and quality in their ranks. However, even Arteta had to admit Dowman had delivered a masterclass against Ipswich. — AFP

Pencak Silat semifinals and finals continue



Players in action at the 2026 Inter-State and Region Pencak Silat Championships.

THE 2026 Inter-State and Region Pencak Silat Championships continued with the semifinals and finals at National Indoor Stadium I in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Organised by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports in cooperation with the Yangon Region government and Myanmar Pencak Silat Federation, the championships aim to develop emerging athletes and raise the standard of the sport in Myanmar.

Yesterday's programme featured men's and women's artistic events and combat events in various weight classes.

In the men's artistic events, Khant Zaw Hein of Sagaing Region defeated Htoo Wai Yan Oo of Taninthayi Region, La Yaung Lin of Yangon Region beat Kyaw Saw Shin of Mandalay Region, and Kyaw San Lin of Kachin State defeated Maung Van of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. The Ayeyawady Region trio of Zwel Htet Aung, Zay Yar Lin and Htein Lin also defeated the Yangon Region trio of Swan Pyae Oo, Kyaw Min Khant and Phyo Min Htwe in the men's

three-person artistic event.

In the women's artistic events, Kaung Kin Cho of Mandalay Region, War War Htay of Mon State, Swe Zin Su of Ayeyawady Region, May Thet Hmue of Shan State and Win Win Khaing of Magway Region defeated their respective opponents.

In the women's combat events, Khin Hnin Phyu of Shan State, Thida Aung of Kachin State, Zowana of Shan State and Hnin Oo Hlaing of Yangon Region won their respective bouts in the 45-50-kilogramme, 55-60-kilogramme, 60-65-kilogramme and 50-55-kilogramme classes.

In the men's combat events, Hein Thura Lin of Sagaing Region, Thein Zaw Oo of Kayin State, Nay Htoo Paing of Shan State, Nay Lin Aung of Kayah State and Min Khant Htoo of Mandalay Region won their respective bouts in the 45-50-kilogramme, 60-65-kilogramme, 65-70-kilogramme, 50-55-kilogramme and 55-60-kilogramme classes.

The championship finals, featuring men's and women's artistic and combat events, will continue from 9 am on 17 September, followed by the prize presentation ceremony. Admission is free. — MNA/KZL

James Rodriguez calls time on Colombia career

JAMES Rodriguez announced his retirement from Colombia's national team on Tuesday after an international career spanning 15 years.

The 35-year-old, who captained Colombia at the 2026 FIFA World

Cup, departs as his country's most capped player with 131 international appearances and its second-highest scorer with 31 goals.

"Thank you for every match, every joy, every tear and every

dream we shared," Rodriguez said in a video posted on social media. "Defending the colors of the Colombia national team was one of the greatest honours of my life." — Xinhua

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WORLD

N Korea deploys over 100,000 workers overseas

NORTH Korea earned an estimated \$450 million to \$800 million in 2025 by deploying as many as 100,000 workers overseas, mainly in China and Russia, a multilateral monitoring group said Wednesday.

Such overseas earnings, largely generated by IT workers, have been used to fund North Korea's priorities, including nuclear and ballistic missile programs, in violation of UN resolutions, the team led by the United States, Japan and South Korea said in a report. The findings came despite the December 2019 deadline set by a UN Security Council resolution for member states to repatriate North Korean workers, a step aimed at preventing Pyongyang from pursuing nuclear and missile development by tapping the income earned by those overseas workers. — Kyodo

SCO calls for deal to prevent arms race in space

THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) advocates for a legally binding international document to prevent an arms race in space and supports the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence, SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 13th Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, Yermekbayev stated the importance of joint efforts within the framework of international treaties on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

"The SCO advocates for a legally binding international document to prevent an arms race in space, opposes the militarization of the information and communication technology sphere, and supports the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence," he said. — SPUTNIK

Singapore launches courses to boost AI

SINGAPORE has launched new initiatives, including more than 200 artificial intelligence (AI) courses, to strengthen careers, skills development and AI readiness, the Skills and Workforce Development Agency (SWDA) said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the agency said it has also rolled out a complimentary six-month subscription to selected premium AI tools, enabling individuals to build skills and gain confidence in using AI effectively.

It has also partnered with the Singapore Institute of Technology to develop the AI Ready Quiz, which allows individuals to assess their AI readiness and identify relevant courses to build their AI capabilities. Other initiatives include the opening of Connect by SWDA, a one-stop careers and skills service touchpoint bringing together careers and skills support for individuals and employers, and the launch of the OurWorkforce portal, which provides employers with access to workforce programs and training resources. — Xinhua

China opens major river-to-sea canal, creating trade shortcut to South-East Asia

The canal stretches along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

China opened the Pinglu Canal on Wednesday, giving its landlocked southwest a shortcut to the coast and overseas markets, particularly those in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the country's largest trading partner.

Built at a cost of 72.7 billion yuan (about US\$10.75 billion), the 134.2-kilometre canal runs from Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, to the Beibu Gulf, the closest maritime outlet for much of southwest China.

The canal stretches along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a strategic trade route connecting China's inland regions with ASEAN and



A cargo vessel prepares to depart for Yangpu Port in south China's Hainan Province along the Pinglu Canal at an operation area in Nanning Port, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 16 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

other global markets. It is the first river-to-sea canal project planned and coordinated at the national level since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Designed for vessels of up to 5,000 tonnes, the canal shortens the inland waterway journey for goods from southwest China to the sea by more than 560 kilometres compared with traditional routes through ports in Guangdong Province. — Xinhua

South-East Asia economies set for 4.8% growth annually through 2035: report

SOUTH-EAST Asia's six largest economies -- Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam -- are projected to grow by an average of 4.8 per cent annually between 2026 and 2035, according to a report released on Wednesday.

Growth will be supported by sustained foreign investment and capital formation, continued industrialization and infrastructure development, and productivity gains from technology adoption, said a report by Bain &



Aerial photo taken on 1 December 2021 shows the train running on the Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam. **PHOTO: XINHUA / FILE**

Company, DBS Bank and Vriens & Partners.

Resilient domestic consumption and favorable demographics in several major economies are

also expected to provide support.

However, growth paths are diverging, with institutional strength, energy security and technological readiness shaping economies' ability to withstand shocks and capture opportunities. Vietnam is expected to remain the regional growth leader, while Thailand lags its counterparts. Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand face greater exposure in a downside scenario, while Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam have greater upside under more favorable conditions.

Foreign direct investment has also surged, with shifts in the investor mix reflecting global supply chain realignment. — Xinhua