

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Govt allocates K30 billion plus well-wishers' support

Well-wishers donated K32.230 billion in total to take rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in flood-affected regions.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed thanks to well-wishers, saying that cash donations from well-wishers will contribute much to carrying out rehabilitation tasks.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the ceremony to accept cash donated by well-wishers for undertaking res-

cue, relief and resettlement measures in flood-affected areas triggered by Typhoon Yagi in Myanmar at the city hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General unveiled that the flash flood based on heavy rains covered 54 townships in nine regions and states, accounting for 16 per cent of 330 townships.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the cash donation ceremony for flood victims

1. A total of 148,643 people were impacted by flooding. Additionally, 164 people lost life in flooding in Nay Pyi Taw, five in Kayin State, two in Bago Region, 134 in Mandalay Region, 78 in Shan State and one in Ayeyawady, totaling 384 with 89 persons still missing.
2. Four hundred and thirty-five religious buildings were damaged, affecting 533 roads and bridges, 2,489 lamp-posts, 99 telecom towers, 144,998 animals and 735,461 acres of paddy.
3. Efforts are being made to regrow some 700,000 acres of flood-impacted cultivable lands. If these lands cannot be placed under paddy, these will be summer croplands.
4. Well-wishers donated K32.230 billion in total to take rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in flood-battered regions.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expresses thanks to well-wishers during the donation ceremony for undertaking rescue, relief and resettlement measures in Myanmar's flood-stricken areas triggered by Typhoon Yagi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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NATIONAL



Eight (8) days remain until the National Census.



THE government designated the Mount Popa National Park as a National Geopark and is working towards accession to one of the UNESCO Global Geoparks lists, developing 15 original geosites and 15 new geosites.

Mount Popa National Park was declared the country's first national geopark on 6 December 2023. The geopark has 15 geosites, and plans are underway to expand to another 15 geosites.

The geosites are Summit of

30 Mount Popa geosites pursue UNESCO global geopark status

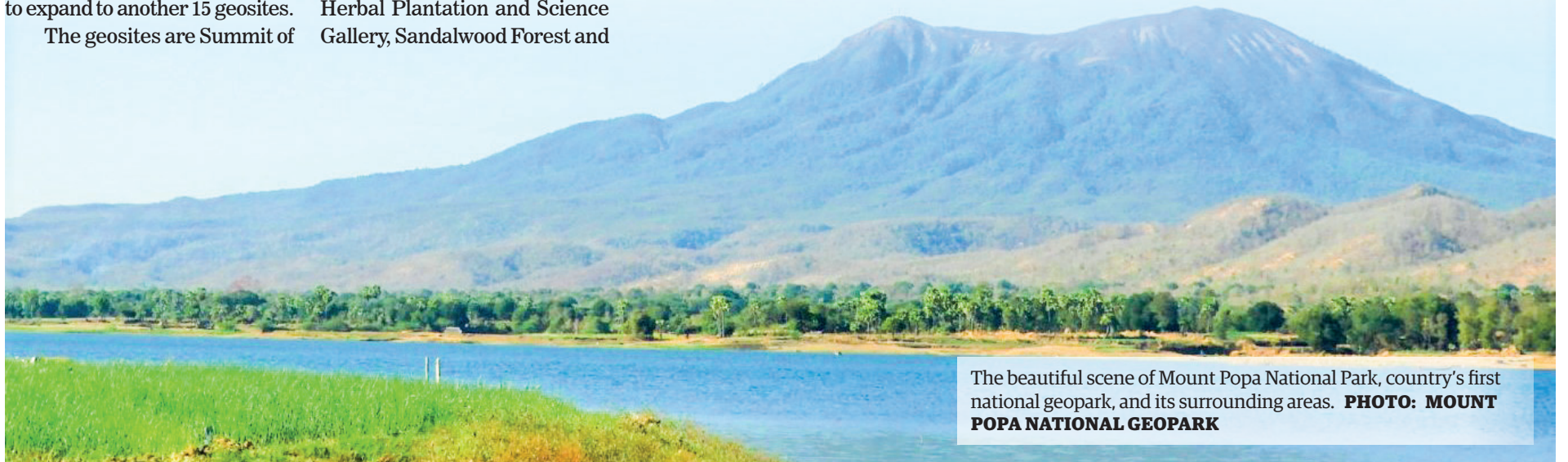
Mount Popa, Alternated Layer of Volcanic Ash and Irrawaddy Sandstone, Thonehtutkway Pyroclastic Rock, Irrawaddy Formation, Taungni Hill Chalcedony and Ahered Clay Minerals, Herbal Plantation and Science Gallery, Sandalwood Forest and

Myanmar's Golden Deer Farm, Bird Nest Cliff, Lava Plateau Viewpoint, Basaltic Lava Flow, Taungpaw Village's (Hill) Scenic View, Pupa Taungkalat Petrified, Taungna Hill Viewpoint, Cra-

ter of Mount Popa and Gaemoe Pond. Visitors can enjoy the beauty of nature there with its rich natural resources, cultural heritage and biodiversity.

The proposed geosites are

Popa Tuff, Popa Taungkalat, Kyauk Koepwint Hill, Petrified Sal, Taungnauk Hill, Kyetmauk-taung Dam, Hotel Linn Museum, Lahar, Augite Andesite Stone Forest, Sinzin Pyroclastic Bed and Waterfall, Ngwetwin Hill, Shwetwin Hill, Hillside Village (North) Toreva Block, Myauktaw Totrsa Block, Chaungphyu Ancient Iron Furnace and Royal Elephant Camp. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



The beautiful scene of Mount Popa National Park, country's first national geopark, and its surrounding areas. PHOTO: MOUNT POPA NATIONAL GEOPARK

Special Weather News

Issued at 19:00 hours MST on 21-9-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the Low Pressure Cell over the inland area of Thailand and Kayin, Mon, and Kayah states (Myanmar) is crossing to North Andaman Sea and adjoining Mon State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions (Myanmar). Afterwards, it is likely to continue to move Westwards and may intensify into a Low-Pressure Area over the Central Bay of Bengal.

Due to the low-pressure cell and remnants of clouds, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states with regionally heavyfalls and scattered to fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions and eastern Shan and Chin states with isolated heavyfalls and strong wind from today evening to 25 September 2024.

Advisory

People should be aware of the heavy rainfall with strong wind, the natural disasters such as flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 21 September 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the Low-Pressure Cell over the inland area of Thailand and Kayin, Mon, and Kayah states (Myanmar) is crossing to North Andaman Sea and adjoining Mon State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions (Myanmar). After that, it is likely to continue to move Westwards and may intensify into a Low-Pressure Area over the Central Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22 September 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine,

Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. The area 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 these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mph. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%. —DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Govt allocates K30 billion plus well-wishers' support

FROM PAGE 1

He counted yesterday's losses and damage, saying that a total of 2,149 buildings were totally destroyed, 3,455 buildings partially destroyed, and 136,023 buildings submerged, totalling 141,627 in addition to 546 schools flooded.

Moreover, he noted that a total of 148,643 people were affected by flooding. Additionally, he continued that 164 people lost life in flooding in Nay Pyi Taw, five in Kayin State, two in Bago Region, 134 in Mandalay Region, 78 in Shan State and one in Ayeyawady, totalling 384 with 89 persons still missing.

In the terrible incident, he added that 435 religious buildings were damaged, affecting 533 roads and bridges, 2,489 lamp-posts, 99 telecom towers, 144,998 animals and 735,461 acres of paddy.

The Senior General emphasized that cash donations from well-wishers will contribute much to carrying out rehabilitation tasks.

He disclosed that the government plans to spend K30 billion on rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures with cash donations from well-wishers.

With regard to flooding, the Senior General explained that silting and sands raise the bed level of rivers and creeks across Myanmar.

He highlighted that lacking timely transport of logs extracted from forests triggered much

destruction in flash floods.

He explained that efforts are being made to regrow some 700,000 acres of flood-affected cultivable lands. If these lands cannot be placed under paddy, these will be summer crop-lands.

He urged well-wishers to donate books and stationery for students as the government is repairing schools as quickly as possible.

With regard to speaking words of thanks, the Senior General said: **"We have to overcome challenges through the united strength. More than the K31 billion you donated today is a larger amount of money. I would like to express my thanks to you all. We don't have to spend money carelessly. If so, our spending will affect the allocated budget. So, today's donation partially takes responsibility for the burden of the State. I will note it down. Really, I expect to accept some K3-4 billion. Let me reiterate: I thank all individuals and organizations for your today's generous donations. I want to urge you all to contribute to the needs of the State in the future. We have pledged to go on under the Five-Point Roadmap without fail. Actually, such a roadmap could have been completed in the last two years. Due to various reasons, its implementation process lasts till today. So,**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts cash donations from ministries during the donation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

we would like to implement them to be accomplished. So, I request you all to contribute to the implementation of the Roadmap. A plan is underway to enumerate the national population and household census on 1 October. I would like to urge you all to support it for successful completion. From then on, we will compile the voter lists based on the census and hold elections, and then we will go along the route the people would have to choose. In conclusion, I would like to urge you all to join it".

At the ceremony, a video clip on overcoming the challenges of natural disasters, which was recorded on natural disasters affected by Typhoon Yagi and related flash floods, was presented.

The Senior General accepted cash donated by ministries, families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers for rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures and returned certificates of honour.

Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior

General Soe Win, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, General Nyo Saw and U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo also accepted cash donations and presented certificates of honour.

Well-wishers donated K32.230 billion in total to take rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in flood-affected regions. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Commerce to attend 21st China-ASEAN Expo

A Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn departed Yangon for the People's Republic of China via China Southern Airlines to attend the 21st China-ASEAN Expo, which will be held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from 24 to 28 September.

The delegation was greeted at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Economic Attaché Mr Ouyang Daobing from the Chinese Embassy.

In addition to the Union minister, the delegation included Minister for Economic Affairs of the Yangon Region Government U Myo Myint Aung, Thilawa Special Economic Zone Chairman U

Yan Naing Tun, Director-General Dr Htein Lin of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, a cultural troupe from the National University of Culture and Arts (Yangon), and various businesspeople participating in the exhibition.

The exhibition aims to foster friendship, development, and trade benefits, promote the development of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0, and enhance the high-quality development of the China-ASEAN region. At the 21st China-ASEAN Expo, Myanmar will showcase 84 booths representing the rice, Arabica coffee, aquatic industry, fruit, tea, spice, woodwork, handicrafts, and gem sectors. — MNA/TKO



Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn (C) seen at Yangon International Airport yesterday before departing for Nanning, China.

MoI Deputy Minister inspects flood-hit IPRD office, consoling flood victims in Kalaw



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint encourages locals who are participating in cleaning processes in the Kalaw Township Information and Public Relations Department office yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the flood-hit Information and Public Relations Department in Kalaw Township yesterday.

He comforted Tatmadaw members, social welfare organizations, and locals who partic-

ipated in cleaning processes within the office compound and provided cash assistance. He also met with department staff and provided them with cash assistance.

The deputy minister, the local station commander, the

district administrator, and officials proceeded to the relief camp that had opened in Myoma Monastery. They consoled the flood-impacted people and provided them with food, clothes and cash assistance.

— MNA/KTZH

ME commits to expediting passport process

THE passport process will be made fast for passport applications, said the Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

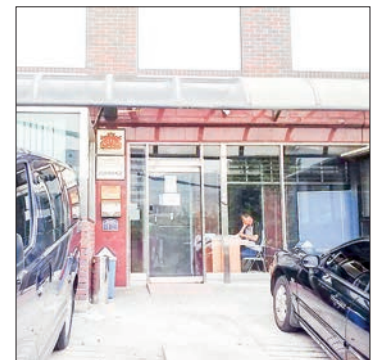
In accordance with procedures, the embassy has re-issued replacement passports for lost or damaged and expired applications for those who have been in the Republic of Korea for various reasons, and now it has made sure that the passport issuing process is quicker than prescribed appointment dates, it said.

Therefore, the embassy will issue new passports from 23 to 30 September, earlier than the former schedule- from 23 September to 15 October, it said.

Either in person or by a represented person, passports can be taken out during office hours within the prescribed schedule,

along with appointment tokens. The embassy has requested applicants to help with the facilitation of the passport process by ensuring complete documents and evidence so that unnecessary delay can be avoided.

For more information, they can visit the Myanmar Embassy's website: <https://meseoul.org>. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

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NATIONAL

Donations provided in Mon State, Mandalay for flood victims

A ceremony to offer donations to flood-impacted people who lost their property due to flooding in various states and regions was held yesterday at the Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine Township.

Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Lin Maung of the South-East Command, regional ministers, departmental officials, city elders, donors, civil society organizations, and volunteers attended the ceremony.

The Mon State chief minister, who is also the chairperson of the Mon State Disaster

Management Committee, delivered opening remarks. Following this, well-wishers donated K285,980,000 to flood-stricken individuals. The Mon State chief minister and officials accepted donations and conferred appreciation certificates to donors.

Similarly, a ceremony to provide donations for flood-battered people was held at the city hall of Mandalay yesterday. Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htike of the Central Command, Mandalay Region cabinet ministers, of-



A donation ceremony for flood-impacted people who lost their properties due to recent flooding in progress in Mandalay Region yesterday.

ficers, donors, and guests attended the event.

The Mandalay Region chief minister delivered remarks, af-

ter which well-wishers donated K719,100,000 for the flood-affected individuals. The Mandalay Region chief minister and of-

icials accepted the donations and returned appreciation certificates to donors. — MNA/TMT



Post-flood cleanup operations ongoing

THE members of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society and social welfare organizations actively participate in cleanup measures and rehabilitation processes in flood-hit wards/villages in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states.

They conducted cleaning processes in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State (South), Mandalay Region, and Bago Region. They supported the removal of materials at the monasteries, schools, hospitals, clinics and departmental offices.

Moreover, the medical teams provided healthcare services. They conducted health awareness programmes for the flood-hit victims at the re-



lief camps. Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) families, departmental staff, organizations, and well-wishers donated relief items, clothes, commodities, foodstuffs and cash. The rele-

vant officials inspected these working processes.

Officials also repaired the damaged roads and bridges to facilitate the transport. — MNA/KTZH

Volunteers, and locals are actively engaged in cleanup efforts.

2 mln oral cholera vaccines to cover 35 townships in Yangon

YANGONITES will get administered oral cholera vaccine to get longer-term protection against cholera, according to the oral cholera vaccination branch held on the afternoon of 20 September in the Mingala Hall of the Yangon Region government office.

Individuals aged one year above in areas of 35 townships of Yangon experiencing an outbreak, areas at heightened vulnerability, endemic areas, at-risk areas with inadequate hygiene and poor sanitation, places where migrant people mostly found, monastic and nunnery schools, religious buildings, philanthropic schools, orphanages, houses for elders, prisons, mental hospital, factories, schools, dorms, boarding houses, markets and civil service housing will get administered Oral Cholera Vaccine to protect them against cholera.

The vaccine can help reduce outbreaks and protect people against cholera infection.

As there is no proven medical research for Euvi-

chol-Plus, it is a contraindication to pregnant women and breastfeeding, the National-level vaccination technical task force advised.

Yangon Region's Public Health Department received over two million doses anti-cholera from the World Health Organization on 17 and 19 September, and vaccines were sent to the Central Vaccine cold storage facility in Yangon.

There was an outbreak of severe diarrhoea in some townships. The Ministry of Health has been intensifying efforts to control a severe diarrhoea outbreak. As of mid-July 2024, over 700 patients have been discharged since the outbreak.

Director Dr Tin Thitsa Lwin of the extended immunization division of the Public Health Department explained the vaccination aims of the OCV dose contributed by WHO and its administering campaigns. Officials from the department coordinated vaccination activities with township administrators. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KK

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

15 September

DMC to guide donors to appropriate relief camps

Disaster management committees, which are open around the clock, have to guide well-wishers to relevant relief camps for flood victims in order to make donations systematically, said Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw to address damage in flash flooding in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Announcement for well-wishers to donate cash and kind to flood victims

Well-wishers can donate cash through the banking system at account number OA-011834, foreign account number EDN-600018, and release the QR code and phone numbers for KPay and Wave Money if they want to make donations via the mobile payment system. Currently, arrangements have been made for other mobile payment systems, such as CBPay, OK \$, and AyaPay, and well-wishers can contribute funds by scanning the following QR codes.

16 September

Master plans needed for preservation of ancient pagodas

It is necessary to adopt master plans for long-term preservation measures of ancient pagodas, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of ancient religious edifices in Bagan ancient cultural zone.

Counteraction against fake news

Fake news and disinformation are severely undermining peace, stability, progress, and development in countries, which is why Myanmar, along with other nations, has been diligently working to counteract these issues by promoting accurate information, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said at the BRICS Media Summit held in Moscow, Russia.

17 September

Plan underway to upgrade NyaungU Airport

Giving accommodation and food supply services to travellers who wish to enjoy ancient cultural heritages and natural beauties aims to develop NyaungU District, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials of NyaungU District at Bagan Cultural Museum in Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Water inlet channels to lakes must be cleared

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that trees must be grown to maintain the lakes and reservoirs and that clearing water inlet channels needed for all lakes and along irrigated areas during his inspection tour of Mingala Lake No 3 near West Phwasaw Village in Bagan.

18 September

Senior General unveils casualties in flash flooding

The Senior General disclosed that a total of 226 people were dead, 47 injured, and 77 are still missing, with 12 persons floating in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Kayah, Mon, Shan and Kayin states, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions. He added that a total of 1,915 houses were totally damaged and 201 partially damaged. A total of 158,343 homes were flooded. A total of 163,573 people are accommodated at the relief camps, and 234,535 people are staying at relative houses.

Indian Govt. AHA centre relief supplies arrive in Myanmar



The Indian Air Force and Navy delivered 30 tonnes of emergency supplies consisting of essential items like mosquito nets, MRE, kitchen utensils, solar lanterns, personal hygiene kits, tents, medicines and bleaching power, food, clothes, medicines, tarpaulin and tents to help typhoon-hit Myanmar. The Myanmar National Airlines and Myanmar Airways International carried US\$ 337,148.95 worth of 59,360 kilogrammes of relief supplies containing household items, tents, tarps, shelter repair kits, water purifiers and other emergency kits provided by ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management-AHA Centre.

20 September

Norway contributes US\$500,000 for Myanmar

Norway's UNOPS has provided this sum in collaboration with donors to support the rehabilitation of regions impacted by the floods in Myanmar. The emergency relief supplies include shelter, food, clean water, and medicines, which will be distributed by the Norwegian Red Cross and its partner organizations through the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

WFP launches aid for 500,000 flood victims

The World Food Programme (WFP) will launch an emergency food aid operation this week to assist flood-hit people in Myanmar. According to Ms Sheela Matthew, the WFP resident representative in Myanmar, the programme will provide food support to around 500,000 flood victims.

21 September

Madame Daw Kyu Kyu Hla sends video speech

Spouse of the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Kyu Kyu Hla sent a video speech to the Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum, which was held under the theme of "Women for Strengthening Trust and Global Cooperation" from 18 to 20 September 2024 in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation. — GNLM/TTA

2024 Chinese Film Week promotes Myanmar-China friendship

THE Chinese Culture Centre in Yangon is hosting the 2024 Chinese Film Week from 20 to 25 September, spanning five days.

The event is jointly organized by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, China Media Group (CMG), and the Chinese Culture Centre, featuring screenings of Chinese films including 'The Wandering Earth I', 'The Wandering Earth

II', 'Chang'an in History', 'Song of the Phoenix', and 'Paths of the Soul'.

"Holding Chinese Film Week in Myanmar is an important initiative to promote people-to-people exchanges between China and Myanmar. China's film industry has developed rapidly in recent years, and we plan to launch more exchanges in the film and TV series sectors of both coun-

tries," said Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar at the event.

The festival was also attended by Deputy Director-General of the Media Development Department U Zeyar, along with over 100 representatives from the Myanmar film industry, writers, education and media sectors, and other invitees. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases the opening ceremony poster for the 2024 Chinese Film Week.

National Seed Committee registers 1,900+ seed varieties

THE National Seed Committee has granted registration for 1,925 seed varieties after inspecting new crop seeds so far after the 28th committee meeting, including 705 agricultural crop seed varieties, 892 horticultural seed varieties, 131 industrial crop seed varieties and 197 parent seeds.

The committee usually holds a meeting to inspect and analyze new crop seeds and issue a registration.

Full documents of 63 types of crop seeds and test results provided by the related task forces were analyzed During the 29th meeting of the committee held on 20

September at the Agriculture Department (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Committee's Chair Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun, officials concerned, seed experts, private businesspersons and farm owners were present at the meeting. — NN/KK



A customer checks the quality of sesame seeds in a market.

CBM sells US\$1.2M, 800,000 yuan on 20 Sept

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.2 million and 800,000 yuan on 20 September.

CBM also announced on 20 September that it would inject \$30 million into the fuel oil sector.

It sold over \$8.5 million and two million Thai baht on 19 September and over 3.2 million baht on 18 September.

According to the CBM's notification dated 17 September, it would sell 10 million baht for importers on 18 September.

It also injected \$30,000 on 17 September, \$5 million on 16 September, \$230,000, over 1.5 million yuan and over 956,000 baht on 13 September into the financial market.

CBM announced on 12 September that it would pump \$10 million into the fuel oil sector and \$7 million to the edible oil sector through the foreign exchange trading platform. It sold \$12.4 million and 80 million baht on 4 September, \$90,000 on 5 September and \$100,000 on 6 September, respectively.

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at exchange rate of K3,400 on 15 August, over \$89.975 million at exchange rate of K3,410 on



File photo shows the facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Yangon Branch.

19 August, \$31 million at exchange rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at exchange rate of K3,472 on 28 August, respectively.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan and 10 million baht into the edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors through online foreign exchange trading platforms in the coming weeks.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for the fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after authorized banks sold 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August

through a foreign exchange trading platform.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Myanmar businesses invited to HK Electronics Fair (Autumn Edition)

HONG Kong Electronic Fair – Autumn Edition 2024 – that will be held from 13 to 16 October 2024, welcomes the participation of Myanmar business people involved in the electronics industry.

The Myanmar Consulate-General in Hong Kong will be provided with one exhibition booth for free.

The World's largest consumer electronics show gathers suppliers and buyers, helping build networks with global

exhibitors. It provides one-stop sourcing for innovative electronics and solutions.

Last year's fair attracted more than 60,000 international participants. Two Myanmar companies also joined it from the Startup Zone. Those individuals and startups can register through the contact number of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via telephone at 067 408622 and email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

ME Beijing targets China's Minsheng Bank clients for Myanmar investment

MYANMAR Embassy in Beijing, China, elaborated on investment and business opportunities in Myanmar to about 50 special customers of China's Minsheng Bank on 19 September during their visit to the embassy.

The Myanmar Embassy also highlighted Myanmar-China people-to-people cultural exchange and investment opportunities in Myanmar.

Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe gave an opening remark to China, and Economic Counsellor Daw Thin Thin Aung explained Myanmar's economy and investment opportunities. Mr Liu Wei, chair of the Myanmar-China Cultural and Tourism Promotion Society in Beijing, also addressed the tourism sector in Myanmar.

China's tea culture was also featured at the event. Participants discussed matters regarding Myanmar's tourism, business environment, and investment climate. — ASH/KK

OPINION

Take valuable lessons from Typhoon Yagi: A Call for Preparedness

THE recent devastation caused by Typhoon Yagi highlights the critical importance of a systematic approach to disaster management. The 4-R process—rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction—serves as a blueprint for effectively responding to such crises. Resettlement measures, while crucial, should be integrated into these processes at appropriate stages, either between rehabilitation and reconstruction or at the end of reconstruction.

Typhoon Yagi brought unprecedented loss, affecting both people and property and underscoring the inevitability of natural disasters. However, the key takeaway is the need for proactive preparation. While disasters themselves are unavoidable, preparing for them is not. Effective disaster preparedness must be implemented before an event occurs, as efforts made post-disaster often fall short.

The recent flash flood caused by Typhoon Yagi serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of preparedness and the value of selfless service. It is essential to recognize the genuine efforts of those involved in disaster relief and to learn from both their successes and sacrifices. By reflecting on these lessons, we can better prepare for future disasters, ensuring that we are ready to protect lives and property effectively when the next crisis arises.

flash floods, some volunteers and security personnel made the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives or going missing while performing rescue and relief operations. Their bravery and commitment, despite the dangers, reflect the true spirit of disaster response.

Volunteers, driven by selfless service rather than personal gain, play a crucial role in disaster response. Their dedication, along with contributions from various individuals and organizations, demonstrates the power of collective goodwill. Even in the face of criticism from those who may not understand the value of such efforts, the genuine compassion and support from volunteers, artists, and charity groups shine through.

The recent flash flood caused by Typhoon Yagi serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of preparedness and the value of selfless service. It is essential to recognize the genuine efforts of those involved in disaster relief and to learn from both their successes and sacrifices. By reflecting on these lessons, we can better prepare for future disasters, ensuring that we are ready to protect lives and property effectively when the next crisis arises.

Background

I grew up as the daughter of a Shan father and a Mon mother who were both educated in Yangoon University and then London University during the British colonial period. Their articles and scholarly works (in English) show that despite their fluency in the English language and familiarity with English culture, my mother and father took great pride in our own culture and history.

Passages in my mother's book *"Burmese Family"* show that during her schooldays at St. John's Convent (the best school her parents could send her to in colonial British days), there were strong pressures to make her lose her culture and traditions. During the years of the Saya San rebellion, a major nationalist movement, my mother wrote about how she and her schoolfriend Grace Nee, although still in their early teens, had identified with the sense of nationalism and patriotic pride that the news of Saya San had stirred within them.¹

My father, too, in the opening sections of his book *"The Shan States and the British Annexation"* wrote about the Shan princes in the resistance against the British annexation of the Shan States after the fall of King Thibaw. My father also wrote about the three Shan princes who successfully repelled the second Mongol invasion of Myanmar, which was staged by China, then ruled by the Yuan Dynasty.² My father, being of the Kengtung royal family and schooled early in the monastic traditions of the Shans and Thais, always required us to observe all the traditional gestures of respect towards our

elders, now lost among many so-called westernized families. In the post-war period, my father declined an offer from U Nu's government to join the newly formed diplomatic service of our country. Instead, as Chief Education Officer for the Shan State and Kayah State, he expanded the basic education system and led the reform of the existing Shan script. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that it was his great-grandfather (and my great-great-grandfather), Prince Sao Maha Hkanan, ruler of Kengtung State (1781—1857), who reformed the ancient Yun script used at the time to give the Kengtung Shans the beautiful Tai-Khun script of today, which they are justly proud of.

Together with such nationalist sentiments and traditionalist characteristics, my parents were also broadminded: an English friend of my father called my father a true "Renaissance man". My mother, too, was no less a "Renaissance woman." Both my parents excelled in several educational, cultural, and philanthropic pursuits. We had British, American and Australian diplomats who came to visit my parents and see my mother's school in Taunggyi. We also had Russian doctors and surgeons from Sao San Tun Hospital whom my mother took under her wing and invited to her lavish gatherings. When I went to Cambridge University in England for my doctorate degree, my parents' British friends were like family to me. In my United Nations career, I had two mentors who were English, and others who were Turkish, Lebanese-Egyptian, Senegalese and Cameroonian. To all these friends and mentors, I owe a debt

The British, the U.S., and the name of Myanmar

Dr. Yin Yin Nwe

of gratitude.

I lay out these details so that readers do not misconstrue what I write as an attack upon the British or American people. Rather, it is a critique of colonialism and the current UK-USA policy towards Myanmar, as well as a critique of western media, especially the BBC-Myanmar language team, who promote a certain political narrative, with scant regard for truth and integrity.

Convolved logic

During the rule of military governments and up to the present day, the UK and US have persisted in swallowing an ignorant statement from the Myanmar opposition that "Myanmar" is the name given by the military junta, and that therefore, the international community should keep using the name "Burma", although the United Nations has used the name "Myanmar" since 1989. This myth has continued today, and every time we come across in western media, it is like an affront to Myanmar citizens who know their country's history and culture.

The American Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) explains the two names as follows:

"For generations, the country was called Burma, after

*the dominant Burman ethnic group. But in 1989, one year after the ruling junta brutally suppressed a pro-democracy uprising, military leaders suddenly changed its name to Myanmar. By then, Burma was an international pariah, desperate for any way to improve its image. Hoping for a sliver of international legitimacy, it said it was discarding a name handed down from its colonial past and to foster ethnic unity. The old name, officials said, excluded the country's many ethnic minorities... In the Burmese language, "Myanmar" is simply the more formal version of "Burma." The country's name was changed only in English. It was linguistic sleight-of-hand. But few people were fooled. Much of the world showed defiance of the junta by refusing to use the new name."*³

The PBS helpfully notes that President Biden and Mr. Anthony Blinken pointedly avoided the country's legal name.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), covering Hillary Clinton's visit to Myanmar in 2011, went to great lengths to justify the continued use of "Burma" by the opposition (in the process, negating several centuries of our culture and language), saying in garbled logic,

"In the Burmese language, "Myanmar" is simply the more formal version of "Burma." The country's name was changed only in English. It was linguistic sleight-of-hand. But few people were fooled. Much of the world showed defiance of the junta by refusing to use the new name... The UK's position is similar. Previous statements by the Foreign Office said: "Burma's democracy movement prefers the form 'Burma' because they do not accept the legitimacy of the unelected

*military regime to change the official name of the country. Internationally, both names are recognised."*⁴

The BBC also said,

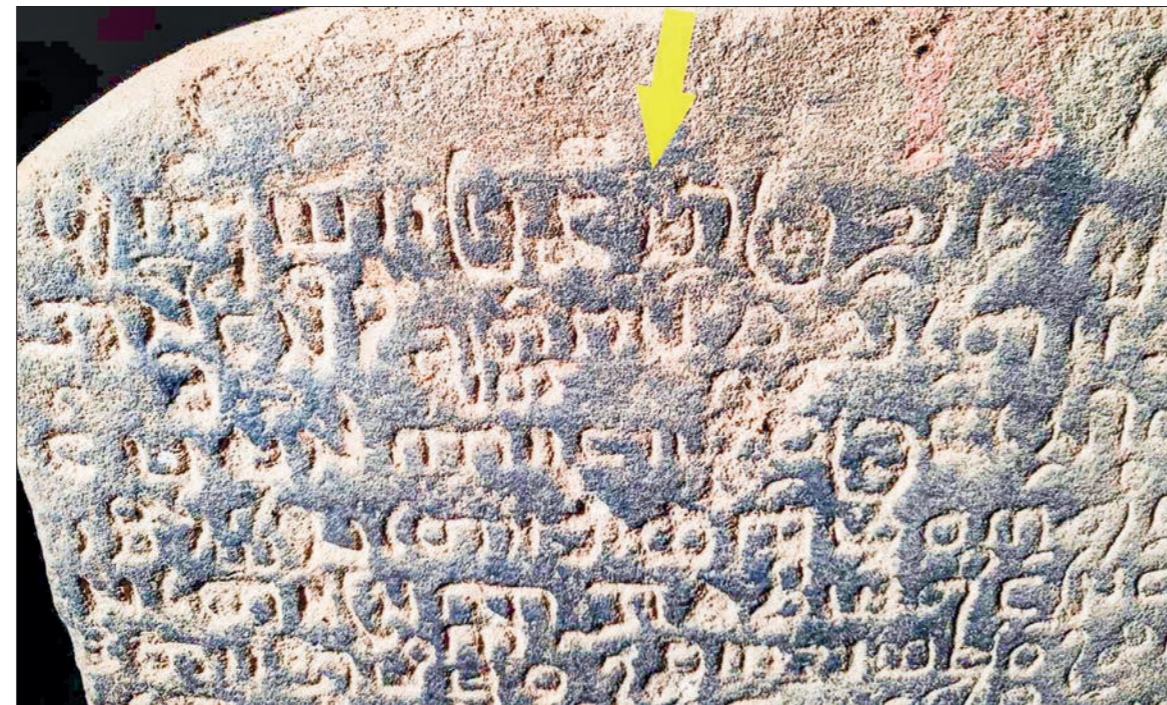
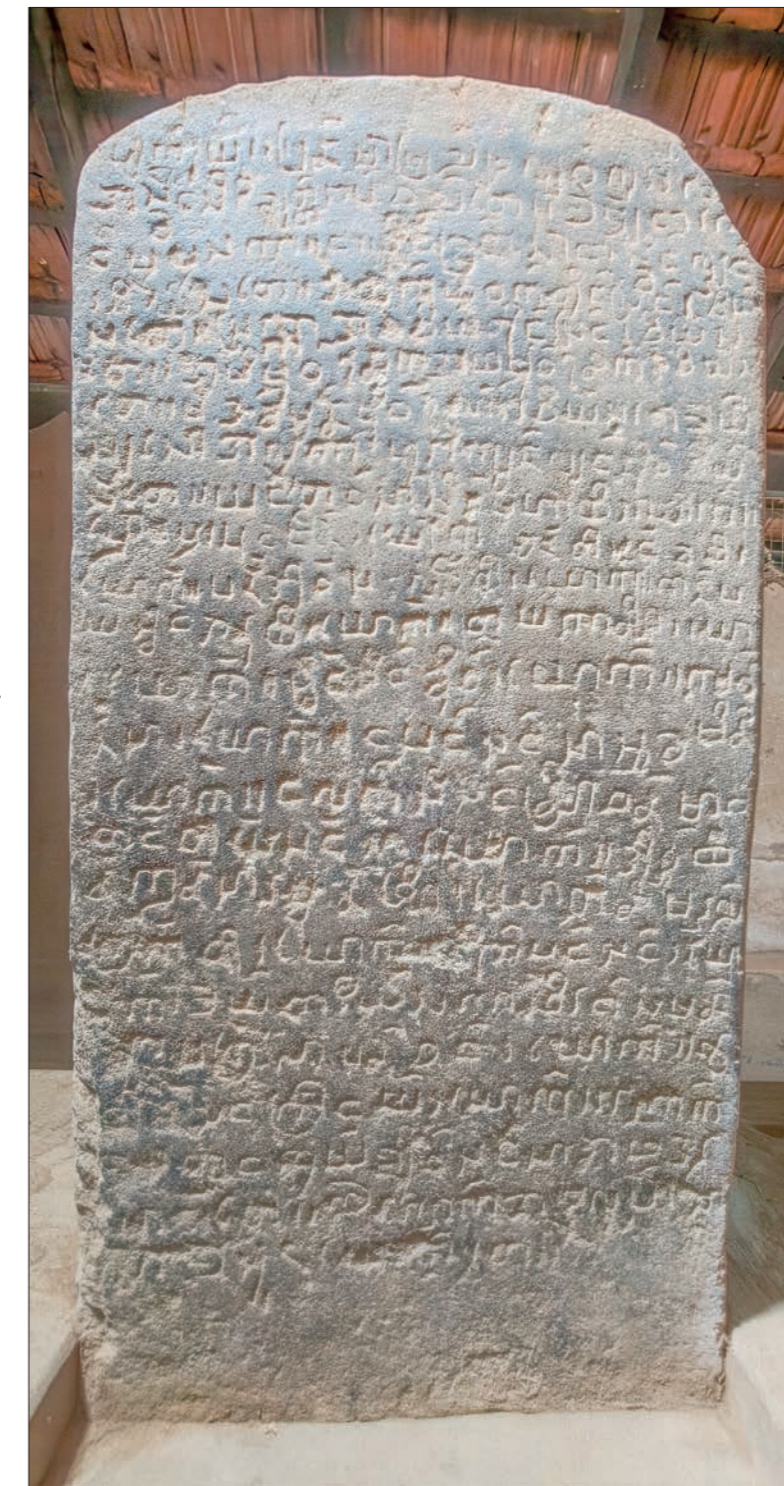
Before the trip, State Department spokesman Mark Toner told the news agency Mrs Clinton was "mindful of all the sensitivities" but that US policy believed that "any change of the name of a country should be a decision" for its people.

Unravelling Untruths

The arguments on the name of Myanmar put forth by American and British entities contain untruths that need to be exposed and explained.

A "linguistic sleight of hand"? Those of us born and brought up in Myanmar know that the country's name had always been "Myanmar" since historical times in our own language, in school textbooks, and in official (which means non-English) documents since independence. This name has nothing to do with any military government. So, how can the declaration of a country's name in that country's own official language be a "linguistic sleight of hand"? This is being deliberately offensive, or it is sheer ignorance. This name has never changed since early historical times and throughout successive political regimes, as I explain below.

Is a nation not allowed to be proud of its history and culture? Even in ancient times, the inhabitants of the Bagan Empire called their country Myanmar-Pyi or Myanmar Country. The photographs of the Yadanar Kon Htan Inscription stored in the old (1904) museum near the northern entrance of the Ananda Temple are proof of this. Figure 1 is a close-up of the words "Myanmar-Pyi" carved on the back (Figure 2) of the Yadanar Kon Htan inscription during the Bagan era. It has a date in the Myanmar calendar



(597) on the front side of the stone slab, which translates to 1235 AD, according to experts at the Bagan Archaeological Museum. The writing is in the old Myanmar language, which used square letters, as in other ancient stone inscriptions. Nonetheless, educated Myanmar citizens can recognize the words "Myanmar Pyi" (or Myanmar Country) spelt out in the square letters. The museum also has other stone inscriptions that mention the name Myanmar. Clearly, the country has been called "Myanmar Pyi" since the Bagan period in our national language and this is not a name imposed by any military government.

Official language of the country. The official language of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is Myanmar (as formally written), as reflected in successive laws, the Constitution, offi-

cial documents, school textbooks, and in the poetry and literature of successive Myanmar kingdoms. The Myanmar language has two forms – the official or formal form and the vernacular (generally spoken) form. The difference between the two is quite marked for some words.⁵ The name of the country in the formal language has always been written and pronounced "Myanmar," in ancient stone inscriptions, in laws, books and the Constitution. In other words, the name "Burma" and "Burmese" as pronounced by the British do not exist in our own language and history. Rather, these are names given by the British when Myanmar became a British colony.

British mispronunciations. The word "Myanmar" is pronounced "Mia-mah," with the first syllable not stressed and pronounced as a very short sound.

The colloquial word for Myanmar is "Bamar" in the spoken form. Again, the pronunciation is very short on the first syllable, and the word comes out sounding like "B'Mah". The British colonialists interpreted this sound as "Burmah" and later, from Burmah (as in the Burmah Oil Company⁶) it became "Burma". In enunciating our country's name, English speakers (including Myanmar nationals using English) have unfortunately called it "Bur-Mer" in an English accent, with equal emphasis on both syllables. Such a word called "Bur-Mer", and the related (invented) "Burmese" do not exist in our language. So, it is highly ignorant to say that (a) Myanmar is a new name given by the military, (b) our citizens accept the old name of "Burma" more. The majority of citizens in Myanmar use their mother tongue in everyday conversation and will not call their country "Burma", nor call themselves "Burmese" as they are not speaking English. In fact, they will say, "B'mah Pyi". Thus, the main reason for Myanmar's submission to the UN on the name change⁷ was that the country's name should no longer be represented in English documents by a name given by the British colonialists, which had hitherto been non-existent.

Post-truth politics: inequitable treatment for Myanmar. Countries other than Myanmar have also changed country and place names for their own reasons. Mumbai dropped the colonial name "Bombay" while Chennai has changed from Madras. Ceylon is now Sri Lanka. Siam became Thailand in 1939 and again in 1949. In 2022, Turkey has announced that Türkiye (its real Turkish name) will be used. The list goes on: Holland to Netherlands, Southern Rhodesia to Zimbabwe, and so on. The UK and US have never raised objections to such name changes elsewhere. The unfairness of it all.

A decision for the people? The US government spokesman during Mrs. Clinton's visit remarked, *US policy believes that "any change of the name of a country should be a decision" for its people.* Since when, may I ask? Has the US asked other countries to undergo referendums to vote on their countries' names? What about the United States of America itself?

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL Entertainment

Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee
Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee donated K10 million to the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation on 13 September and K1,000,000 to Royal Heart: Dog Shelter & Animal Rescue - Mandalay for the flood-battered animals on 18 September. The actress posted about her donations to flood-stricken people and animals on her Facebook page.

Alinn Yaung
Actor Alinn Yaung said Ko Jaman of Mahogany Film Production named him Alinn Yaung and guided him to be an actor. On 19 September, the actor donated K2.2 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization for flood-hit people and K500,000 for the 47th respect-paying ceremony to aged artistes.



Director Aung Myint Myat
PATRON of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Director Sithu U Aung Myint Myat, who won multiple Academy awards for unique movies, donated K1 million to the organization for the flood-impacted people.



Aung Thu + Poe Ei Ei Khant
Myanmar football player Aung Thu and actress Poe Ei Ei Khant initiated cash donations, and currently, they have donated K10 million together with other well-wishers. The actress thanked those who participated in their donation and briefed the merits received from the donations. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Ah Boy + Myat Yadana Kyaw
SINGER Ah Boy and actress Myat Yadana Kyaw pledged to provide financial assistance for a girl called Eaint Hmue Thakin, whom her deceased father saved in the floods in Thabyaybin Village, Yamethin Township, until she completes high school education. The couple contacted her family to provide the assistance they currently need.



CELEBRITY

IBRIEN

Vocalists hold fund-raising music shows for flood-hit people

THE two fund-raising music events for rehabilitation processes in flood-battered areas were organized at Inya Lake Garden and The Heart of Rangoon (THOR) in Yangon on 19 and 20 September. The event called 'Twel Lat Kunyi' at Inya Lake Garden took place with the participation of vocalists Jack Mya Thaug, Chit Kaung, Phoe Kar, Phyo Pyae Soe, Nay Min Eain, Rebecca Win, Mi Sandi, Jewel, Yoon Myat Thu and Yathar, to the accompaniment of Daily Gita Band.

Moreover, vocalists Phyo Pyae Sone, Wai Gyi, Irene Zin Mar Myint, Jewel, Po Po Hay Thar, May La Than Zin, Su Htet Hlaing and Hline Lay sang the famous songs of composers Min Chit Thu, Satone and Saw Yan Naing, at 'Tay Ahlu Nae Phey Gu Mel' event at The Heart of Rangoon (THOR) with the Daily Gita Band. — ASH/KTZH



The British, the U.S., and the name of Myanmar

FROM PAGE 9

I do not think that the states in Latin America were ever consulted on the use of the word “America,” named after Amerigo Vespucci and used by Martin Waldseemüller in his 1507 map of the New World, which included the present-day South American states.

Language of the majority. It is true that Bamar is the language of the majority in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Due to political sensitivities, the census in 2014 and intercensal survey in 2019 were unable to publish the proportions of each of the indigenous National races (*Taingyinthá*)⁸ population. An estimate, based on previous censuses,⁹ is that well over half the total population speak the Bamar language as their mother tongue, while over two-thirds of the population can speak and understand this language as a first or second language. Common sense indicates the impossibility of reflecting ethnic composition fairly in any country’s name. A country’s name is shaped by history and tradition, as well as by politics. There are many

examples of countries that are home to several ethnic groups, but have adopted the name of the majority ethnic group, at least in English documents. For example, English speakers accept the name Thailand, where Thai speakers predominate over other ethnic groups, and similarly, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, derived from Lao speakers (Lao-Tai) who are more populous than others such as Mon-Khmer, Hmong-Mien, and Chinese-Tibetan.¹⁰ Other examples in English language documents at the United Nations are Malaysia (which most agree is derived from Malay, the dominant ethnic group), Uzbekistan (“Place of the Uzbeks”), Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and so on, each derived from words representing majority ethnic groups.

Epilogue. Whatever political system prevails in a country, that country surely has the right to move away from the trappings of colonialism and the butchered forms of its language, without being ridiculed by the West. I am an advocate for our culture, rich ethnic languages, arts and traditions. I do not see the name

change in political terms. I see it in terms of having dignity and national pride. Sensitivity to such issues, which should transcend politics, would go a long way in reversing the United States’ decline in soft power globally. I leave the reader with what Sayagyi U Hpo Kyaw Myint, our esteemed Myanmar language professor, taught us when I was a young freshman at Yangon University.¹¹

The Bamar language has so many pronouns. Tens and tens of first person pronouns and second person pronouns, each reflecting socio-economic and religious status, age, familiarity and so on. Then, we even use third person pronouns (“Thu-Myah”) as a substitute for the speaker’s first person pronoun. Such nuances are fully understood only by native Myanmar speakers.

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Ma Thanegi, writer, artist, and friend, who first called my attention to the existence of the Yadanar Kon Htan Inscription in Bagan. The photographs

and information from the Bagan Archaeological Museum are gratefully acknowledged.

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2. Sao Saimong Mangrai. 1965. *The Shan States and the British Annexation*. Ithaca: Cornell University.
3. Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). 2021. Myanmar, Burma and why the different names matter. February 3, 2021.
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5. Myanmar people are not alone in this respect: Indonesians, too, have the official form of their language, called “Bahasa resmi”, for communicating with government officials, and informal language such as “Bahasa

gaul” or Bahasa Pergaulan (slang), and “Bahasa jalaanan” (street language).

6. The Burmah Oil Company Archive. University of Warwick. <http://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb1566-bc>
7. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states/myanmar>
8. The term “Taingyinthá” in the Myanmar language is officially translated as “National races” (the different ethno-linguistic groups) in the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
9. The 1973 and 1983 censuses showed that the race “Burmese” accounted respectively for 68% and 69% of the Union’s total population.
10. Lao Statistics Bureau. 2015. Results of Population and Housing Census 2015. Vientiane: LSB.
11. Myanmar pronouns have evolved over several centuries and are not associated in any way with the gender and pronoun debate in the “Woke” culture wars on US campuses today.

Kalaw donor to build and donate low-cost bamboo homes for flood victims

A well-wisher from Kalaw is planning to make and donate low-cost bamboo houses to the flood-affected people.

The donor is Ko Shein Maung from a bamboo furniture and construction shop near Anisakhan in PyinOoLwin, and he will start making a bamboo house on 25 September.

He will build 10 houses with a cost of K1.5 million each and donate to low-income families in any place.

“I intend to help all the people who are struggling to find homes to live in now. Nowadays, it’s not easy to have a house because the prices are up. So, if it is a low-cost building, there will be donors. We have just completed one house.

I’m going to start building in Kalaw. I will build as many as we have donors. As I am not rich, I can’t help them all by myself alone. We will start building on 25 September. But we can’t build many houses yet,” he said.

He planned to contribute his knowledge and skills to helping flood victims during this difficult time with food, clothes, and shelter.

“This bamboo house is 10 feet by 15 feet. A bedroom of 10 feet by 8 feet and a resting room of 10 feet by 7 feet are included. Two benches with a central table are made beside the resting room for the family to sit. A family of four can live well in this house,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZN



This photo showcases a bamboo house being constructed by Ko Shein Maung, a bamboo artisan.

ECONOMY WORLD



Consumer spending and construction drove growth after a period of enforced hibernation during lockdown. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

New Zealand's economy slows again as recession looms

High prices, rising borrowing costs, and a housing crisis have strained consumers, while dairy exports have also declined.

New Zealand's economy shrank in the second quarter, according to official data Thursday, pushing the country close to recession.

The 0.2 per cent on-quarter contraction in April-June, revealed by StatsNZ, followed anaemic growth of 0.1 per cent in the previous three months.

High prices, elevated bor-

rowing costs and a housing crisis have weighed on consumers, while the key dairy sector saw exports fall.

A recession is usually defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction.

But observers believe New Zealand is experiencing a recession in all but name — with the economy contracting in three of

the past five quarters.

"We've recorded a triple trough in economic activity. But it's effectively a recession that's lasted two years," said Kiwibank chief economist Jarrod Kerr.

"The GDP report is already old and dated. And it told us what we already knew. New Zealand remains in a prolonged recession." — AFP

Free passports for 18-yr-olds proposed to boost travel



Photo taken on 27 April 2024 shows an international departures lobby at Tokyo's Haneda airport. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

THE Japanese government should offer free passports to 18-year-olds who have legally become adults to motivate more young people to travel abroad, the head of a travel industry group said in a recent interview with Kyodo News. Citing that just around 17 per cent of Japanese citizens had a passport as of 2023, Hiroyuki Takahashi, chairman of the Japan Association of Travel Agents, expressed concern that "opportunities for youth to travel abroad have been greatly reduced." "This is problematic when we think about the development of people with a global mindset," said Takahashi, who also serves as chairman of major travel agency JTB Corp. — Kyodo

Cambodia's payment system modernized

THE National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) has achieved remarkable development in modernizing Cambodia's payment system infrastructure, NBC Governor Chea Serey said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the CamTech Summit 2024 in Phnom Penh, Serey highlighted that the NBC has introduced several key initiatives, including the National Clearing System, Fast Payment, Online Banking, NBC-Platform, Cambodian Shared Switch, and the innovative Bakong.

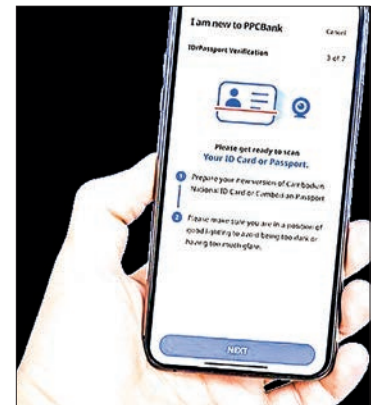
"These efforts aim to make payment services more accessible, particularly for individuals and businesses residing in rural areas, encouraging everyone to engage in digital financial transactions," she said.

"We are also witnessing a significant increase in digital payment methods, like KHQR Code payments," Serey said. "This technology has truly transformed how Cambodians pay for goods and services, bringing many benefits to both consumers and businesses alike."

The governor said that recently, the NBC also launched the first phase of the "Bakong Tour-

ists App", designed to enhance the tourism sector in Cambodia by providing a digital payment solution for international visitors.

"This initiative aims to reduce reliance on cash, allowing tourists to make payments by scanning with KHQR Codes at approximately 3.3 million merchant locations nationwide," Serey said. "In the near future, we plan to enable tourists to link their international payment cards for account top-ups and transfers." — Xinhua



KHQR Code payments are a digital payment system widely used in Cambodia, allowing users to make transactions quickly and securely using QR codes. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PPCBANK**

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Sales of US existing homes slip slightly in August

SALES of previously owned US homes fell in August, according to industry data released Thursday, but lower mortgage rates and growing supply were likely to boost the industry.

Existing home sales dropped 2.5 per cent last month from July to an annual rate of 3.86 million, seasonally adjusted, said the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

This was largely in line with the 3.90 million consensus that analysts expected.

"Home sales were disappointing again in August, but the recent development of lower mortgage rates coupled with increasing inventory is a powerful combination that will provide the environment for sales to move higher in future months," said NAR chief economist Lawrence Yun.

Homebuyers in the United States have been grappling with a sharp rise in mortgage rates after the US central bank rapidly lifted the benchmark lending rate in 2022 to tackle inflation.

But with growing expectations that the Federal Reserve was going to pivot to rate cuts after holding rates at a decades-high level for months, mortgage rates have also shifted lower. — AFP

2024 World Manufacturing Convention opens in E China's Anhui

The 2024 World Manufacturing Convention opened in Hefei, China, showcasing innovations under the theme "Intelligent Manufacturing for a Better Future".

THE 2024 World Manufacturing Convention opened Friday in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, highlighting the latest

products and innovations in the manufacturing sector. Themed "Intelligent Manufacturing for a Better Future", the four-day event

boasts a total exhibition area of 20,000 square metres and includes exhibitions, forums and seminars. — Xinhua



A humanoid robot hands an orange to a visitor at the 2024 World Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 20 September 2024.

PHOTO: HUANG BOHAN/XINHUA

French media sue Google for \$1.1 bln over advertising

SEVEN French media groups plan to sue Google seeking more than 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) for alleged anti-competitive practices in online advertising, a report said Friday.

The professional information service Mind Media



Seven French media groups are suing Google for over €1 billion (\$1.1 billion) for alleged anti-competitive practices in online advertising. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

said the seven groups, representing a total of 22 companies, had either begun or were about to begin legal action. The move comes after the French competition watchdog fined Google 220 million euros in June 2021 for favouring its own services in the online advertising sector.

"Google has clearly been found guilty of anti-competitive behaviour. The French competition authority has stated that Google has for years favoured its own solutions to the detriment of those of its competitors," said Figaro CEO Marc Feuillee, quoted in the report.

Feuillee said he believed that his group was "a victim of this with the technological system we were using" and was therefore seeking "compensation".

The plaintiffs are Le Figaro, SIPA/Ouest-France, Prisma Media, Les Echos-Le Parisien, Adevinta/Leboncoin, CMA Media and sports daily L'Equipe.

Initial hearings to set the trial schedule took place in early September at the Paris commercial court, and the proceedings could last two to three years. — AFP

Coca-Cola plans \$1 bln investment in Nigeria

COCA-COLA will invest \$1 billion in Nigeria over the next five years, foreseeing "significant social and economic advancements" as the West African nation tries to fix the economy.

President Bola Tinubu's media adviser Bayo Onanuga said Thursday that the beverage giant announced the plan during a meeting between Tinubu and Coca-Cola's global leadership.

Several multinationals have shuttered operations in Africa's most

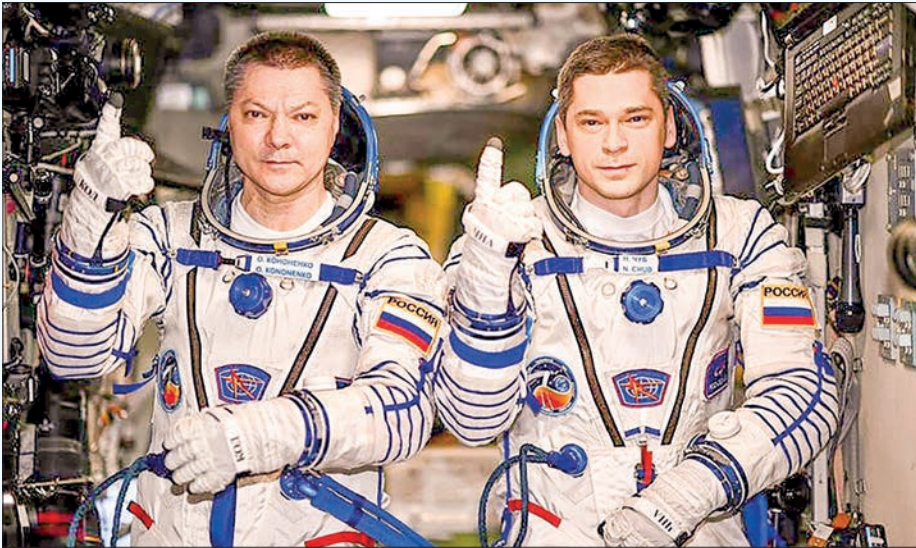
populous nation, citing a challenging business environment and lack of access to foreign currency.

"Over the next five years, with a predictable and enabling environment in place, (Coca-Cola) plans to accelerate its investments in Nigeria to reach \$1 billion," the US-based giant said in a statement.

Coca-Cola said the investment will provide support for its value chain including "suppliers, distributors, retailers, and recyclers". — AFP

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (915N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (915N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-9-2024 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.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (435W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (435W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-9-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S MAERSK A/S</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0330-779N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0330-779N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-9-2024 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.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.</p>
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WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



In this undated photo released by Roscosmos space corporation, Russians Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub are shown aboard the International Space Station on Friday, 20 September 2024. They set the record for the longest continuous presence on the ISS, more than 370 days. **PHOTO: ROSCOSMOS SPACE CORPORATION**

Russian cosmonauts set new space mission record

21 SEPTEMBER

RUSSIAN cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub have broken the record for the longest continuous mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), having spent more than a year in orbit.

Cosmonauts Andrei Kononenko and Oleg Chub set a new record for the longest cumulative time spent in space at 4:06:51 pm Moscow time on Friday, surpassing the previous record of 370

days, 21 hours, and 22 minutes held by Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and Francisco Rubio.

By their return to Earth on Monday aboard the Soyuz-MS spacecraft, they will have spent 374 days in space.

This mission marked Chub's first spaceflight, while it was Kononenko's fifth; he previously broke the record for individual time in space in February. – SPUTNIK

20 SEPTEMBER

Reform UK rallies thousands amid electoral success

THOUSANDS of activists from anti-immigration party Reform UK gathered to hear leader Nigel Farage at its annual conference on Friday, buoyed by its electoral breakthrough – and eyeing potentially bigger prizes to come.

Reform UK captured 14 per cent of the vote in the 4 July general election, gaining five MPs, including leader Nigel Farage, who aspires to be prime minister.

At their Birmingham conference, over 3,500 activists celebrated the party's rapid growth from a few thousand members to over 80,000, largely due to dissatisfaction with the Conservative Party.

Attendees criticized climate policies and immigration issues, advocating for strict immigration controls. Farage, praised for his charisma and directness, was seen as a beacon of hope for many, with activists expressing confidence in his leadership. – AFP

19 SEPTEMBER

Japanese firm investigates exploding walkie-talkies incident

A JAPANESE communication equipment maker said Thursday that walkie-talkies which simultaneously exploded in Lebanon the previous day may have been a discontinued model it formerly sold, but with modified batteries.

Osaka-based Icom Inc said it is investigating details including its overseas distribution network, after the walkie-talkies detonated in and around the Lebanese capital of Beirut on Wednesday, killing 20 and injuring over 250 people. The company sold some 160,000 units of the model domestically and overseas before terminating sales in 2014.

Images of the devices showing severe explosion damage to their battery area indicate the power packs may have been replaced with ones that were modified to explode, Enomoto said. – Kyodo

18 SEPTEMBER

Canada cuts international student permits

CANADA announced Wednesday it was slashing international student permits next year, and tightening foreign worker rules to further bring down the number of temporary residents in the country.

The move comes after several recent rounds of restrictions aimed at taming record immigration levels that pushed Canada's population past 41 million earlier this year.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has pointed to the high immigration as straining the country's housing sector, jobs market and social services.

"It is a privilege to come to Canada. It is not a right," Immigration Minister Marc Miller told a news conference. In 2025, Ottawa plans to issue 437,000 study permits to international students, down from 485,000 this year and more than 500,000 in 2023.

It is also putting new limits on work permits for spouses of some international students and foreign workers. And it will be stepping up checks before issuing travel visas to stem a spike in fraudulent or rejected asylum claims. – AFP

17 SEPTEMBER

Maximilian Krah: AfD star attracts young supporters

AT a campaign rally for Germany's far-right AfD, one of the party's most recognizable faces is mobbed by teenagers waving the national flag and looking for a selfie.

Maximilian Krah is treated like a rock star by young activists at the gathering in Oranienburg in the formerly communist region of Brandenburg, which goes to the polls on Sunday.

The AfD, a controversial far-right party in Germany, is gaining support among younger voters, particularly those aged 18 to 24, with a notable presence on platforms like TikTok.

Influential figures, like member Jorn Paul Plewka, have attracted youths disillusioned by current issues, such as safety and economic concerns.

Recent polls show the AfD surpassing Chancellor Scholz's Social Democrats, with young supporters emphasizing a "Germany first" mentality, reflecting a shift in the party's demographic appeal. – AFP

16 SEPTEMBER

Bebinca: Shanghai's strongest typhoon in 75 years

BEBINCA, the 13th typhoon of this year, made landfall in Shanghai at about 7:30 am Monday, according to the Shanghai central meteorological observatory.

The typhoon, with the maximum wind force near its center reaching 42 metres per second, churned ashore at the Lingang area of Pudong district.

Bebinca is believed to be the strongest typhoon to land in Shanghai in 75 years.

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters on Sunday activated the Level IV emergency response for east China's Anhui Province and raised the response in Shanghai and Zhejiang to Level III.

Shanghai Disneyland, Disneytown and Wishing Star Park remain closed on Monday, with the two resort hotels providing services to in-house guests, the Shanghai Disney Resort said in a statement. – Xinhua

15 SEPTEMBER

Floriade Festival blooms in Canberra's Commonwealth Park

FLORIADE, Australia's largest spring festival, has launched its 37th edition in Canberra's Commonwealth Park.

Expected to draw over 450,000 visitors, nearly half from abroad or other states, the festival showcases more than one million flower bulbs.

This year's theme, "Art in Bloom," features floral displays inspired by various art forms. Chief Minister Andrew Barr highlighted live entertainment and workshops as part of the experience. The event significantly boosts the ACT economy, contributing 51.1 million AUD. Notably, the festival will welcome home Australia's Olympians and Paralympians on 17 September. Climate change may prompt future date adjustments due to early blooming. – Xinhua

SPORTS

Jackson double fires Chelsea to victory at woeful West Ham

NICOLAS Jackson fired Chelsea to a 3-0 win against West Ham as the Senegal striker repaid his manager's faith with a decisive double at the London Stadium on Saturday.

Jackson struck twice in the first half before Cole Palmer wrapped up Chelsea's third win

in five Premier League games under new boss Enzo Maresca.

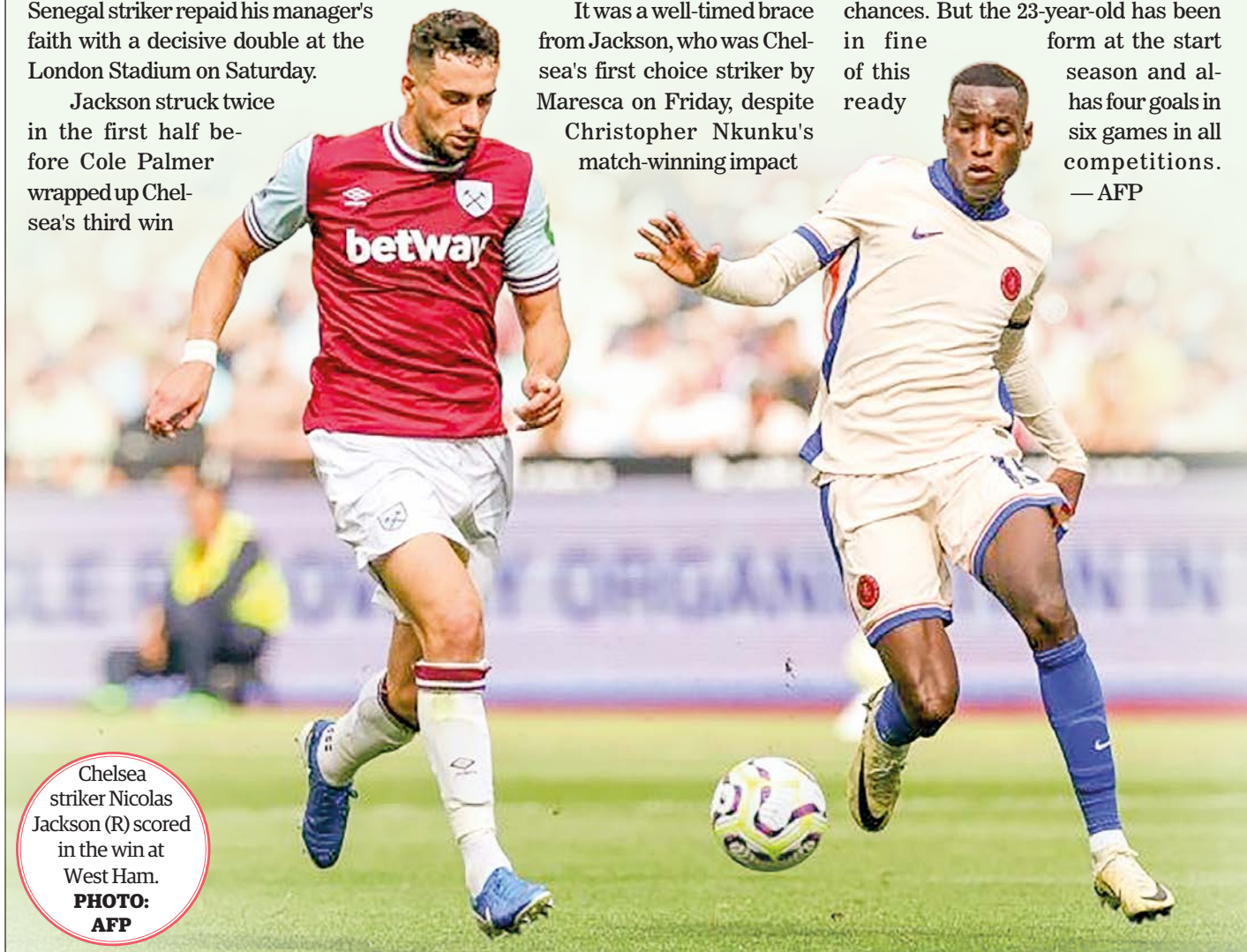
It was a well-timed brace from Jackson, who was Chelsea's first choice striker by Maresca on Friday, despite Christopher Nkunku's match-winning impact

against Bournemouth last weekend.

Although Jackson signed a contract extension earlier in September that will keep the Senegal star at Stamford Bridge until 2033, there were calls for Nkunku to start after the French forward came off the bench to net in the 1-0 win at Bournemouth.

Jackson scored 17 goals in an inconsistent debut season with the Blues and was guilty of missing a number of big chances. But the 23-year-old has been in fine form at the start of this season and already has four goals in six games in all competitions.

— AFP



Chelsea striker Nicolas Jackson (R) scored in the win at West Ham.
PHOTO:
AFP



Myanmar Lethwei icon Tun Tun Min (L) versus Lethwei star Kyaw Swa Win.

Tun Tun Min to face Kyaw Swa Win in Lethwei Championship today

IN the 9th edition of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei World Championship (MLWC) organized by the Myanmar Martial Arts Group, renowned Lethwei fighters Tun Tun Min and Kyaw Swa Win will go head-to-head today at the Theinbyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar Martial Arts Group's Managing Director, U Wunna, stated, "Since 2016, the international community has grown aware of Myanmar Lethwei. Last year, we had international fighters competing with local athletes. This year, due to a one-month postponement, we had to schedule only local fighters because the foreign athletes are still competing elsewhere. That isn't a Myanmar national championship; it's the MLWC title fight. The recognition as Myanmar champions is based on fan support. The 7-bout event was approved by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and sanctioned by the Myanmar Olympic Committee".

President Dr Tin Aung Lwin of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, along with officials, trainers, and fighters, joined the press conference. Other notable matches include the 80-kilogramme division fight between Ya Mhan and Aung Khaing, the 65kg division clash between Sein Lone Chaw and Super Yaychan, the 64-kilogramme division fight between Saw Bahein and Mya Lone Chaw, and the 60-kilogramme division bout between Salai Thang Kwee Shein and Maung Zaw. Tickets for the event are priced at K10,000, K30,000, K50,000, and K100,000. The event will be broadcast live on Sky-Net. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Dagon Star United seals victory in MNL tourney

IN the 2024-2025 Myanmar National League (MNL) season, Dagon Star United celebrated over Myawady FC with a 2-0 win during the second day of Fixture 11, held yesterday at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. Dagon Star United secured their win with second-half goals, maintaining pressure on the top three teams in the standings. Both teams were reduced to 10 players in the first half, with a player from each side sent off. Despite the setback, Dagon Star managed to score both goals later in the match. This loss leaves Myawady FC struggling to climb out of the relegation zone as they prepare for the second half of the season.

The game saw some intense moments, with Dagon Star United's Nyein Chan receiving a direct red card in 18

minutes, putting them under early pressure. However, in 41 minutes, Myawady's Myat Thu Aung was also sent off after a second yellow card, equalizing the player count to 10 each. With a renewed sense of momentum, Dagon Star capitalized, with Suan Lamang scoring the first goal in 56 minutes with a header, followed by Aung Thiha's powerful strike from inside the penalty area in 66 minutes. Aung Thiha earned the Man of the Match title for his outstanding performance.

Following this win, Dagon Star United now has 23 points from 11 matches, while Myawady FC sits with just four points from the same number of games. On the third day of Fixture 11, Dagon Port FC will face ISPE FC at the Thuwunna YTC today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Arsenal's mean defence faces acid test to shut out Man City again

ARSENAL'S Premier League title ambitions face the ultimate test on Sunday when a relentless Erling Haaland aims to fire Manchester City five points clear of the Gunners at the top of the table. Mikel Arteta's men managed to stop City scoring twice last season, but still could not deny the English champions a record fourth consecutive Premier League title. For the past two seasons Arsenal have finished second to Pep Guardiola's winning machine.

Many believe this is their season to end a 21-year wait to win the title since Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles" romped to glory without losing a game. — AFP



People dressed in traditional Chinese costumes attend a parade in Xuan'en County, central China's Hubei Province, 16 September 2024. **PHOTO: SONG WEN/XINHUA**

Mid-Autumn "reunion economy" unleashes consumption potential

During this year's Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, 31-year-old Li Runlin, an employee at a high-tech firm in north China's Tianjin Municipality, opted to travel back to his hometown of Tangshan in the neighbouring Hebei Province to embrace the warmth of a family reunion.

Li's high-speed rail journey from Tianjin to Tangshan took under 40 minutes, highlighting modern China's transport convenience. He chose local delicacies, including the famous Guifaxiang 18th Street Mahua and steamed buns from Go Believe, spending over 500 yuan (about \$70). In return, his family prepared a selection of local treats for him to bring back, showcasing the importance of culinary exchanges during his visit. For countless Chinese, the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, which fell on Tuesday this year, symbolizes a time when families come together under one roof. Consequently, the "reunion economy" associated with this holiday has unleashed a surge in nationwide consumption.

During this period, short-distance travel emerged as a popular choice. Data from Qunar, a leading online travel agency in China, indicated a significant increase in family visits, highlighting the trend of returning to one's roots or opting for short, local excursions. — Xinhua

The Mid-Autumn Festival holds great significance for many Chinese, representing a time for families to reunite and share moments together.

Norway imposes new salmon fishing restrictions

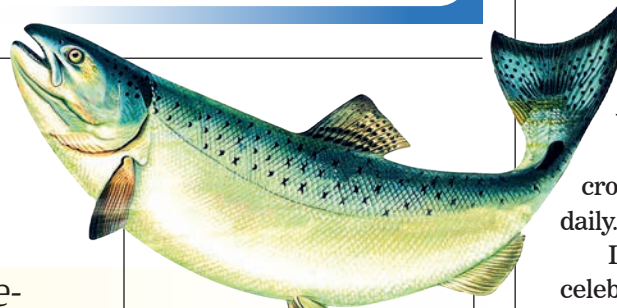
Norwegian authorities have imposed new restrictions on wild salmon fishing for 2025 due to record low stocks.

NORWEGIAN authorities on Friday rolled out fresh restrictions on wild salmon fishing for 2025 after stocks hit record lows in recent years, with scientists blaming fish farms. Norwegian Environment Agency head Ellen Hambro announced new pre-

cautions to address declining salmon populations, including restricted fishing at the season's start, with potential adjustments based on salmon returns. Wild salmon, after several years in freshwater and one to three years at sea, typically return to their

rivers to spawn, where they are often caught by recreational fishermen.

However, the number of returning salmon has dropped to record lows in recent years, prompting the agency to close 33 rivers and coastal areas to fishing. — AFP



Salmon, with its rich, buttery flavour, is a favourite in dishes from sushi to smoky grilled fillets. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Sultry screen legend Sophia Loren turns 90

Italian cinema icon Sophia Loren celebrates her 90th birthday in Rome with a private party, surrounded by family and friends, just days before fellow legend Brigitte Bardot's birthday.



Loren is one of the last surviving actresses from Hollywood's Golden Age. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Italian star Sophia Loren, a cinema icon with two Oscars to her name in Hollywood, celebrates her 90th birthday in Rome Friday, just a few days before French actress Brigitte Bardot.

The two divas helped define film in the 20th century, becoming international cultural icons and revered by millions around the world.

"Sophia Loren, the myth is 90 years old", crooned the headline on *Il Corriere della Sera* daily.

Loren, born in Rome on 20 September, 1934, will celebrate her 90th birthday with a private party at a luxury hotel, following a tribute at a Cinecittà-organized event. Surrounded by 150 friends and family, she'll dine on a terrace overlooking the Baths of Diocletian and inaugurate a suite named after her.

Dressed by Giorgio Armani, Loren's milestone coincides with a retrospective at New York's Lincoln Centre and film reruns in Italy, including a restored version of "Marriage Italian Style".

Celebrated for her extraordinary career, she is one of the last icons from Hollywood's Golden Age. — AFP