

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar Hails China's Support at Regional, Global Forums

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye attended the reception to mark the 77th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China at Wyndham Grand Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, yesterday evening.

The Vice-President was welcomed by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ms Ma Jia, the Military Attaché and officials and the Vice-President visited the Myanmar-China friendship commemorative booths.

The ceremony was opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China, and the Chinese Ambassador extended greetings.

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Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye and Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia cut the ceremonial cake at the reception of the 77th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

Yangon, Wuhan Formalize Sister-City Ties

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon and Wuhan signed a Letter of Intent to establish sister-city relations during the 2026 Wuhan International Friendship Cities Cooperation Conference and the 2026 Global Mayors Dialogue, held in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

At a ceremony marking the establishment of sister-city relations between Yangon and Wuhan, Yangon Mayor U Myo Myint Aung and Wuhan Mayor Mr Xiong Zheng Yu signed the Letter of Intent to establish sister-city

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This photo features the signing ceremony for a Letter of Intent to establish sister-city relations between Yangon and Wuhan during the 2026 Wuhan International Friendship Cities Cooperation Conference and Global Mayors Dialogue in China.

Tachilek Opens to Third-Country Tourists on Package Trips

THIRD-COUNTRY tourists meeting the prescribed requirements are now allowed to enter and leave Myanmar through the Tachilek-Mae Sai border checkpoint in eastern Shan State under package tour arrangements and travel along the Tachilek-Kengtung route, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Ye Tun



This photo shows the border checkpoint on the Tachilek-Mae Sai Friendship Bridge I.

Oo said.

He made the remarks at the third Pyithu Hluttaw session on 21 September in response to a question about the resumption of foreign tourist visits to eastern Shan State.

The Tachilek border checkpoint, which was temporarily closed in 2020 due to COVID-19, reopened in 2023. However, entry and exit through the Tachilek Friendship Bridge I for third-country nationals were restricted from June 2023 as part of measures to prevent online scams in eastern and northern Shan State.

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Youth Orators Set to Compete

A Myanmar public speaking competition for the youth will be held during the "Night of Ideas 2026" event, aiming to enable young people to express their perspectives within the cultural and creative sector, according to the Institut français de Birmanie (IFB).

The competition will take place from 4 to 7 pm on Saturday, 10 October, at Lann Sone Art Space, IFB. Anyone aged between 18 and 30 who can speak Myanmar is eligible to apply. The initiative aims to create an opportunity for youth to courageously express their ideas, inspire others, and participate in



This image depicts a poster for the public speaking competition for youth.

cultural and creative discussions.

Applicants must complete the online application form via the provided QR code. Once contacted by the

IFB Media Library, they will need to submit two self-recorded, two-minute short speaking videos filmed at home. The 10 selected contestants will then compete on stage during the "Exchange of Ideas Panel Discussion" programme.

A panel of four invited local and international judges will select the top three speakers, who will be awarded gift vouchers. The first-prize winner will receive K300,000 and advance to the final round in December, while the second and third-prize winners will receive K150,000 and K100,000, respectively. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

- (a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people
- (b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation
- (c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts
- (d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 22 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE:According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Eastcentral the Bay of Bengal has moved westwards. It is centred at about 460 nautical miles west-southwest of Kyaukpyu (Myanmar), 130 nautical miles east of Visakhapatnam and 90 Nautical miles south-southeast of Gopalpur, India. Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 23 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah, (northern and eastern) Shan States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing Regions and Kachin, southern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine 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: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase in rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Chin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2026: One or two instances rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Best service award winners list released

THE list of hotels and tour operators, which are selected for best service awards that are to be presented by the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism during the ceremony of World Tourism Day 2026, which falls on 27 September, was released.

In the category of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), first place goes to Melia Yangon Hotel, second place goes to Chatrium Hotel Yangon and third place goes to Wyndham Grand Yangon

Hotel.

In the category of citizen investments, first place goes to Aureum Palace Hotel Resort- Nay Pyi Taw, second place goes to Park Royal (Nay Pyi Taw) and third place goes to Novotel Yangon Max. For best service awards for tour operators (inbound/outbound), Golden Light Myanmar Travel & Tour Co Ltd wins first place while Picturesque Myanmar Group Co Ltd wins second place and Eastern Beauty Travel & Tour Co



The commemorative ceremony of World Tourism Day 2025.

Ltd wins third place. All the award winners are urged to attend the World Tourism Day ceremony without fail. — TWA/ZS

Red Cross distributes drinking water in Laymyethna

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society is distrib-

uting drinking water to flood-affected communi-

ties in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, and will continue the relief operation, according to the society.

Staff from the society's Water and Environmental Sanitation Team under the Health Department, together with Red Cross volunteers from the Laymyethna Township Red Cross Branch, are distributing drinking water in

Wards Nos 1, 2 and 3 and Sitgon Village, where it is urgently needed.

The team has also provided drinking water to the Basic Education Primary School in Sitgon Village.

Further water distribution is underway in villages and urban wards across Laymyethna Township, where residents need access to safe drinking water. — ASH/KZL



The Myanmar Red Cross Society staff and volunteers distribute drinking water to flood-affected communities in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Deep Depression News No5, 2026

Issued at 11 pm MST on 22 September 2026

Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 10:30 pm MST today, the Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Eastcentral the Bay of Bengal has moved west-northwestwards and intensified into a Deep Depression. It is centred at about 470 nautical miles west-southwest of Kyaukpyu (Myanmar), 120 nautical miles east of Visakhapatnam and 80 nautical miles south-southeast of Gopalpur, India.

It does not intend to move towards the Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Deep Depression is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

The Depression is located at Latitude 18.0 degree North and

Longitude 85.4 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 996 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour at 10:30 am MST today.

Next 48 hours forecast

It is likely continue to move west-northwestwards and cross the North Andhra Pradesh-South Odisha Coasts between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur (India).

General caution

Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, (northern and eastern) Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakh-

ine and southern Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States from to night to 25 September 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls the may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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

NATIONAL

DIPLOMACY

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Japanese Lower House Member

PYITHU Hluttaw (House of Representatives) Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Japanese House of Representatives Member, Honourable Hiromichi Watanabe, yesterday at the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaker U Khin Yi highlighted parliamentary engagement as the starting point for revitalizing bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Japan. He noted that the Myanmar-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group has already been formed and stands ready to collaborate directly with Japan's Lower House across various sectors, including parliamentary committees, women's affairs, youth initiatives, and technology.

Addressing economic ties, U Khin Yi affirmed that the Hluttaw is reviewing legal frameworks to facilitate an inviting environment for international businesses and investors. Recognizing Japan as a global leader in agriculture and



Japanese House of Representatives Member Honourable Hiromichi Watanabe calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi.

advanced technology, he expressed keen interest in bilateral coordination in those areas, noting that Mr Watanabe's visit represents a promising initial step toward active inter-parliamentary collaboration.

In response, Honourable Hiromichi Watanabe recounted his personal engagement in Myanmar's development initiatives spanning roughly 30 years, emphasizing the enduring friendship between the two nations. He stated that his visit

aims to restart bilateral cooperation and resume Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, agreeing that inter-parliamentary dialogue serves as an effective foundation for these goals.

Mr Watanabe also expressed his desire to deepen people-to-people ties through cultural exchanges and noted ongoing collaboration in agriculture and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. He concluded by extending an invitation to Speaker U Khin Yi to visit Japan

at a mutually convenient time and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening ties between the two parliaments.

The meeting was also attended by U Yaw Aye Hla, Secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee; Dr Myo Aung, Chairman of the Myanmar-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group; Secretary U Moe Min Oo; and officials from the Office of the Pyithu Hluttaw. — MNA/TTA

UEC Chair-led delegates observe electoral processes at 9th State Duma Elections

A delegation led by U Than Soe, Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC) of Myanmar, returned to Yangon by air yesterday after visiting the Russian Federation from 16 to 22 September to observe the ninth State Duma election at the invitation of the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

During the visit, the delegation met with Mr Pavel Andreev, a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, and held discussions on election-related matters and possible areas of cooperation between the two

countries. The delegation also visited the Information Centre of the Central Election Commission and the Public Election Observation Headquarters to study their operations and procedures, and attended the international conference entitled "Elections in Times of Turbulence" held on 18 and 19 September.

From 18 to 20 September, the delegation visited Polling Station 182 in Tagansky District, Central Administrative Okrug of Moscow, 1772 and 1779 in Donskoy District, Southern Administrative Okrug, and Polling Stations 882, 883 and

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UEC Chair U Than Soe and Myanmar delegation are pictured during their observation tour.

Myanmar Hails China's Support at Regional, Global ...

FROM PAGE 1

In her speech, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye said that Myanmar and China are good-neighbourly and friendly countries sharing a long common border. Throughout the years, the two countries have worked to further strengthen their close cooperation and partnership based on mutual respect, mutual understanding and genuine good-neighbourliness, in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

The two countries are also nations that have consistently provided mutual assistance, support and solidarity whenever needed, based on the fraternal "Pauk-Phaw" friendship and close ties between Myanmar and China.

Furthermore, comprehensive cooperation in various sectors has been deepened, contributing to greater mutual understanding. Strategic comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, particularly cooper-

ation under the Belt and Road Initiative, including the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, has also been further enhanced. In the coming years, she encourages further efforts to promote not only trade and investment between the two countries but also people-to-people connectivity in areas such as culture and education.

She said that Myanmar greatly value the continued support and assistance provided by the Government of China

to Myanmar's efforts for peace, stability and national development, as well as China's positive support for Myanmar at regional and international forums, particularly within ASEAN and the United Nations. On the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, she expressed that may the People's Republic of China continue to achieve development, prosperity and well-being, and may the fraternal "Pauk-Phaw" friendship and close

ties between Myanmar and China endure forever.

The Vice-President and the Chinese Ambassador cut the commemorative cake together and posed for documentary photos together with the attendees.

The Vice-President had dinner with the attendees. During the dinner, the fine arts troupe from Yunnan Province and embassy staff performed traditional dance and songs.

Also present at the reception were Amyotha

Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Phone Myat and U Than Maung, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, senior Tatmadaw officers and the commander of the Yangon Command and their wives, chairs and officials of international relations committees from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, ambassadors from the foreign embassies and military attachés in Yangon, and distinguished guests. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw holds second-day meeting

THE third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw convened its second-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi presiding. A total of 335 out of 351 eligible MPs attended, representing a 95.44 per cent attendance rate.

During the session, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Kyaw Naing Win addressed queries concerning regional energy and industrial needs. He explained that a proposed chemical fertilizer plant in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region, cannot yet be built due to current constraints in quality natural gas supply and pipeline connections, though future development remains possible as domestic gas yields rise. He also noted that



The second-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

measures are in place to supply fuel for farming and river transport in Labutta Township, while efforts are underway to review and facilitate fuel imports via the Muse border route subject to regional conditions.

Deputy Minister for

Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe answered questions regarding road and bridge infrastructure. He detailed phased maintenance and upgrading plans for rural earthen roads in Danubyu Township and

gravel-to-concrete road sections in Manaung and PutaO townships, subject to budget allocations. Regarding the proposed reinforced concrete bridge over Nanyin Creek in Mohnyin Township, he clarified that the site is currently not a

top priority, as an existing steel suspension bridge remains functional and alternative routes serve local transport needs.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Nyi Nyi addressed local sports infrastructure proposals. He stated that proposals to construct a two-storey concrete grandstand at the Mongshu Township sports ground, repair indoor flooring and build a grandstand in Mogaung, and erect a standard grandstand and futsal court in Tanai will be submitted for budget allocation in upcoming financial years. Land transfer procedures are also being finalized for a proposed Sports and Physical Education Institute in Magway.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Tun Lu clarified riverbank erosion

control and water transport projects across Letpadan, Thayetchaung, Nagmon, Seikphyu, and Ingapu townships. He noted that dredging along the Seikphyu bank of the Ayeyawady River aligns with the master plan to safeguard local transport links and the Anawrahta Bridge piers, while technical assistance will be provided to regional governments for ongoing river training and channel projects.

Later, the parliament agreed to discuss a motion tabled by U Tin Htay of Katha constituency and seconded by U Tin Tun Lwin of Kalewa constituency calling on the Union Government to manage Ayeyawady River channels as a national project to ensure year-round navigation.

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DIPLOMACY

MoE Union Minister receives Indonesian Embassy Chargé d'Affaires

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein received a delegation led by Mr Novan Ivanhoe Saleh, Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon, at the reception hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on several matters, including the provision of training courses on teaching methodology in cooperation with Indonesian educational organizations to enhance the teaching



Indonesian Embassy Charge d'Affaires Mr Novan Ivanhoe calls on Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein.

skills of teachers from 25 teacher education colleges in Myanmar, securing scholarships for Myanmar students at

universities in Indonesia, introducing Indonesian language courses at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL)

and the Mandalay University of Foreign Languages (MUFL), establishing student exchange programmes by linking tourism-specialized universities in Indonesia with hotels and tourism management courses at the National Management Degree College, and further strengthening co-operation in vocational education.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint, directors-general and other officials, according to reports. — MNA/TH

Tachilek Opens to Third-Country Tourists on Package Trips

FROM PAGE 1

They were subsequently allowed to enter and leave only through international airports and the Kawthoung international checkpoint.

Following a review by the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, eligible third-country nationals have been allowed to use the Tachilek-Mae Sai checkpoint under package tour arrangements since World Tourism Day.

Except for restricted areas designated by

the Ministry of Home Affairs, foreign tourists may travel along the Tachilek-Kengtung route. From October 2023 to date, 34 third-country nationals and 2,746 Thai nationals have entered under the arrangements.

Thai nationals may enter and leave with passports and visas, while third-country nationals may do so under package tour arrangements in accordance with the prescribed procedures. — TWA/KN

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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

Amyotha Hluttaw resumes for third regular session

THE third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw commenced on the first day at the Amyotha Hluttaw hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the outset, five Defence Services Personnel Representatives for Amyotha Hluttaw took an affirmation and signed the document of affirmation in the presence of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

The Speaker extended greetings to lawmakers, urging them to harmoniously carry out parliamentary measures based on their experiences to achieve good results for the State and the people.

In the question-and-answer session, Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing replied to questions raised by six Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

He stated that the



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

Department of Basic Education is prioritizing schools in need of teachers based on student enrolment numbers when filling teaching vacancies in basic education schools.

Arrangements are being made by the relevant township, district, and region/state education officers to fill vacancies locally with substitute teachers, ensuring that teaching

and learning proceed successfully.

To construct the required 819-foot brick wall at Myeik BEHS No 9, work will be funded under the capital budget for the 2027-2028 financial year. Paving the school's entrance road will be carried out under the regular expenditure for the 2027-2028 FY, based on budget allocation and according to the region's

priority queue.

The construction of a three-story RCC building at Myeik BEHS No 2 will be carried out under the capital budget for the 2027-2028 FY.

The Mya Nandar school building at Kin Village BEHS in Bilin Township will be demolished and rebuilt in an upcoming financial year in accordance with the budget al-

location.

Permission will be sought in accordance with standard procedures to demolish six hazardous school buildings at Kalewa BEHS and BEMS No 1 (Branch), and the construction of new school buildings will proceed according to the region's priority ranking, subject to budget availability.

Under the supervision of education officers at different levels, measures are being taken to prevent disruptions to basic education students' teaching and learning activities, improve the quality of learning, and ensure systematic adherence to school discipline. Accordingly, school heads and teachers are issuing rules strictly prohibiting students from bringing and using mobile phones during school hours and implementing plans to ensure student compliance.

Although mobile phone use during school hours can be effectively prohibited, even greater and more beneficial outcomes can be achieved if teachers, parents, and students work together to ensure that phones are used productively outside of school hours.

The Speaker stated that Ayeyawady Region Amyotha Hluttaw MPs U Yan Naing Win, U Aung Tin Myint, U Aung Kyaw Min and Daw Zin Pa Pa Oo handed over donations of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, Defence Services Personnel Representatives and staff members for flood victims of Lamyethna Township to the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister, and the Amyotha Hluttaw put it on record.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its second-day session on 24 September. — MNA/TTA

Yangon, Wuhan Formalize Sister-City Ties

FROM PAGE 1

relations between Yangon, Myanmar, and Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Similarly, relevant representatives signed Memoranda of Understanding on international friendship city cooperation between Yangon and Turkistan City in the Turkistan Region of Kazakhstan, Christchurch in New Zealand, Markham in Canada, Tijuana in Mexico, Wuhan's Dongxihu District and Mbour in the Thiès Region of Senegal, Wuhan's Wuchang District and Keszthely in Hungary, and Wuhan's Qiaokou District and Gyenesdiás in Hungary.

During the 2026 Global Mayors Dialogue, discus-

sions focused on three main topics: promoting urban development through technological innovation, expanding urban openness through industrial cooperation, and improving quality of life through cultural exchange. The Mayor of Wuhan, the Mayor of Yangon, Myanmar, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, England, the Chairperson of the City Council of Kemi, Finland, the City Manager of Cape Town, South Africa, the Mayor of Rzeszów, Poland, and the Mayor of Turkistan, Kazakhstan, participated in the dialogue and exchanged views on the topics, according to reports. — ASH/TH

National workshop on agricultural development concludes

THE second day of the national workshop, titled "From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth", continued with sectoral paper presentations at Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The workshop aims to develop the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, agro-based industries, financial services, investment, access to technology and export capacity in order to boost national production. During the morning sessions, panels led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin; Deputy Ministers Dr Ye Tint Tun and Dr Ye Tun Win of the Ministry of Agriculture,



The closing ceremony of the national-level workshop From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth is underway.

Livestock and Irrigation; Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya for of Industry and MSME Development; Deputy Minister U Min Min for Commerce; and UMFCCI President U Aye Win discussed current measures and proposed reforms to increase national production in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries, in-

dustry, planning, finance and investment, and export sectors. They also answered questions from participants.

In the afternoon, a panel led by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw, together with Union Ministers U Aung Kyaw Hoe, U Min Naung, U Myo Zaw Thein,

Dr Charlie Than and U Tun Ohn, reviewed the sectoral papers presented at the workshop, answered questions from the media and approved follow-up measures for implementation. Dr Kan Zaw then delivered the concluding remarks and brought the national workshop to a close. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw holds second-day ...

FROM PAGE 4

The Hluttaw also approved renaming the Committee on Hotels, Tourism, and Culture to the Committee on Cul-

ture, Hotels, and Tourism alongside membership adjustments, amended the duties of the Committee on Construction, Industry, Electricity,

and Energy, formed parliamentary friendship groups with Vietnam, Japan, China, and Laos, and passed the Seventh Bill Amending the Pyithu

Hluttaw Election Law submitted by the Union Election Commission. The session will resume for its third day on 23 September. — MNA/ST

Myanmar delegation attends China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun attended the opening of the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo and the China (Guangxi)-ASEAN Agricultural and Poverty Reduction Cooperation Conference in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

Hosted by the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region from 17 to 18 September, the conference focused on strengthening China-ASEAN cooperation in agriculture and poverty reduction and promoting regional economic and social development. Discussions covered smart agricul-



Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun and Myanmar delegation observe exhibits at the China-ASEAN Expo.

ture, the digital economy and poverty alleviation.

On 17 September, the Myanmar delegation attended the opening of the China-ASEAN Expo, where Dr Ye Tint Tun delivered remarks at the agricultural and poverty

reduction cooperation conference and witnessed the signing of cooperation agreements for related projects. He also attended a panel discussion on smart agriculture and poverty reduction.

On 18 September,

the delegation visited the expo and JJR Science and Technology Group Co, Ltd, where it studied smart agricultural technologies, including satellite-based irrigation, AI crop and pest monitoring, precision farming and online fruit trading. The delegation also visited the company's AI-based blueberry farm.

On 19 September, the delegation visited Guangxi Aquatic and Animal Husbandry School and studied aquaculture and livestock technologies, including breeding, disease control, feed and nutrition management, water quality management and agricultural product processing and preservation. — MNA/KZL

UEC Chair-led delegates observe electoral ...

FROM PAGE 3

884 in Klinsky District, Moscow Oblast. They observed both paper-ballot voting and e-voting, and the entire voting process, from voter-list verification to ballot casting, including the use of CCTV to monitor polling-station activities.

The 9th State Duma election involved more than 91,000 polling stations and over 111 million registered voters. A total of 52,026 candidates, including independent candidates and candidates from 11 political parties, contested the election.

On 21 September, the delegation attended a meeting at the Central Election Commission to exchange views and assessments among international election observation missions that observed the State Duma election.

Speaking at the meeting, U Than Soe said that, based on the observations as international election observers, the polling stations and voting arrangements were well organized, and voters were able to exercise their voting rights freely without interference or threats. He said

polling-station officials carried out voting and counting procedures accurately in accordance with the prescribed laws and procedures. The voting process was transparent, and the use of e-voting systems and portable electronic voting machines made voting more convenient for voters. He added that the home-voting system provided for elderly, ill and disabled voters was convenient and could

contribute to increased voter participation. The voters actively participated in the election, and the representatives of political parties performed their duties systematically. According to the observations, the State Duma election was conducted peacefully in accordance with the law and procedures, with transparency throughout the process.

Representatives of election observation missions from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and delegations from Myanmar, Venezuela, Mali, Bahrain, Abkhazia, Tajikistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, the Central African Republic, Ecuador, Tonga, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar, also shared their observations at the meeting. Representatives of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Union of Youth of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (UJ-CEMAC) also participated.

During the visit, the delegation also took the opportunity to learn about the cultural traditions and traditional performing arts of the Russian Federation and visit several notable landmarks.

A total of 1,126 election observers from 133 countries and 13 international organizations, along with 128 international diplomats from 53 countries, observed the 9th State Duma election. — MNA/KTZH

Police beefs up security in Yangon Region

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

As part of the operations yesterday, police personnel from Hmawby, Hlinethaya (West), Thauγγyi, Hlinethaya (East), Satsan and Thongwa townships, together with members of the Kamayut and Taikkyi traffic police units, carried out

various activities. These included inspecting container trucks and suspicious vehicles passing through checkpoints, conducting crime prevention awareness talks and door-to-door awareness campaigns, distributing pamphlets, conducting bicycle patrols, arresting pickpockets on buses, and raising public awareness about the proper use of pedestrian crossings.

Yesterday evening, police personnel in Kymyindine, Dagon Myothit (North), Insein and



Police personnel check a vehicle in Yangon Region.

Thakayta townships conducted patrols in police vehicles with light bars. They also carried

out vehicle and guest-list checks and inspected KTV businesses. — Aung Thu/MKKS

NATIONAL

Melia Yangon, Aureum Palace, and Golden Light Myanmar top honoured

THE Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has announced the winners of the best service awards for hotels and companies, to be presented at the World Tourism Day 2026 ceremony that falls on 27 September. Melia Yangon Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort in Nay Pyi Taw, and Golden Light Myanmar Travel & Tour Co Ltd secured top spots, respectively.

The awards recognize excellence across three categories: foreign direct investment (FDI) hotels, domestic investment hotels, and inbound/domestic tour companies.

The following FDI Hotels earned Best Service Awards: Melia Yangon Hotel won First Prize; Chatrium Hotel Yangon,

Second Prize; and Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel, Third Prize.

Domestic Investment Hotels: Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort (Nay Pyi Taw), Parkroyal (Nay Pyi Taw) Hotel and Novotel Yangon Max claimed the first, second and third prizes for best service. Best Travel Service Awards went to Golden Light Myanmar Travel & Tour Co Ltd, Picturesque Myanmar Group Co Ltd and Eastern Beauty Travel & Tour Co Ltd.

The aforementioned prize winners are required to attend the World Tourism Day ceremony without fail. Further invitations will be extended to the winners, the ministry stated. — NN/KK

China-Myanmar tourism development seminar, Yunnan cultural showcase in Yangon

A China-Myanmar tourism development seminar and a Yunnan Province culture and tourism introduction event took place yesterday at the China Cultural Centre in Yangon, aiming to boost bilateral cooperation in culture and tourism ahead of the traditional Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival.

The event, themed “Building a Corridor with Tea, Towards a Future of Cultural Tourism,” was co-organized by the Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, the Yangon China Cultural Centre, and the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association.

Counsellor Mr Li Qianguo of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and



The China-Myanmar tourism development seminar and Yunnan Province culture and tourism introduction event in Yangon.

Director-General U Aung Aye Han of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, and Mr Han Jiajun, head of the Yangon China Cultural Centre, delivered the opening remarks

Mr Li Qianguo noted that neighbouring Myanmar is actively working to develop its tourism sec-

tor. This year, Yangon has hosted various tourism exhibitions and exchange events, and the number of tourists from China and other countries has been increasing. However, there are still many difficulties and challenges hindering tourism development, requiring joint efforts from the government and stakeholders across all sectors.

Chinese government tourism authorities unveiled the 15th Five-Year Plan to become a Tourism Powerhouse and the 15th Five-Year Plan for Cultural and Tourism Development in July and September this year, setting out clear goals, responsibilities, and pathways for building a culturally strong and tourism developed nation. He expressed his hope that in the coming five years, China-Myanmar tourism cooperation will embrace many good opportunities and achieve mutual success, he added.

The seminar continued with music and dance performances. Attendees also viewed tourism information displays and handicraft exhibits at the venue. — TWA/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 22 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,665.20~3667.00	557.90~558.10	125.30~125.40	43.60
Trading amount in the market	8,532,192.99	4,882,662.69	100,300,375.72	-

EOI invited for upgrade of Sao San Tun Market in Taunggyi

THE Taunggyi State Development Affairs Department invited local investors to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the upgrade and redevelopment of Sao San Tun Market in Taunggyi Township with 100 per cent investment.

Interested parties can purchase the EOI application form and accompanying terms and conditions, along with the required submission details, from 23 September. Completed EOI proposals must be submitted in person or by

post to the Taunggyi Township Development Affairs Department by 4:30 pm on 22 October.

Individuals can enquire for further details through the engineer in charge at 081 2121023 or 09 250133449. — NN/KK

Public awareness training for fish farmers conducted frequently

THE Bago Region Fisheries Department has repeatedly conducted training for fish farmers to deepen their understanding of freshwater fisheries laws and rules and aquatic resource conservation, with the aim of increasing foreign earnings from the aquaculture sector.

Up to May 2026, six fisheries-related subjects were taught 64 times at the Fisheries Training School in Bago, reaching 2,092 fish farmers. Of these, training on freshwater fisheries laws, regulations and aquatic resource conservation was conducted 43 times, while Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) training was conducted 11 times.

“To develop fish resources, three hatcheries in the region produce and distribute species such as rohu, catla, common carp, golden carp and java barb are distributed



while training is also provided to ensure continued production in accordance with good aquaculture practices. Up to May this year, 64 training sessions on six subjects had been conducted, benefiting 2,092 fish farmers. The training will continue,” said Dr Su Myo Thwe, head of the regional department.

The department also provides training on in-

duced breeding and culture of indigenous species, basic fish farming and induced breeding, and the Mya Sein Yaung Project (Fisheries Sector), aiming to promote sustainable freshwater fish production, foreign incomes, and strengthen farmers’ compliance with fisheries laws, rules and resource conservation measures. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Gold Market Rate as of 22 September 2026

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



Efforts underway to boost MSME businesses

The government is encouraging the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as part of efforts to boost the industrial sector. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development provides businesspersons with monetary capital, technological assistance, human resource development and market links.

Moreover, MSME product shows and market fairs are organized with the aim of enabling MSME products to penetrate into domestic and international markets, to catch the attention of customers and businesspersons, and to exchange market information and protection technology. These shows and market fairs took place in major cities of the nation.

As the government places emphasis on the development of the MSME sector, all responsible officials from factories and industries under the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development must

To promote the development of industries, product lists should be systematically compiled and classified, such as manufactured products, export products, import-substitution products and agriculture-based products. It is necessary to systematically calculate the higher-value products, as well as the value added at each stage of the production chain. Only then can MSMEs not only serve as a fundamental pillar of the national economy but also effectively contribute to domestic job creation, economic development and improved livelihoods.

better packaging. Only then can they consistently outperform their competitors in production and achieve success. To maintain such progress and ensure that their achievements are sustained and further improved, responsible officials must continuously review and assess their respective work processes.

In addition, efforts must be made to integrate their production into local production chains. They should share their technological expertise and business experience with local industrial entrepreneurs, help meet their needs, and support the development of local industries. Only then can the industrial sector develop in respective regions and contribute to the overall development of the country.

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strive to boost the production and productivity of factories through their collaborative efforts. If so, these factories will have the capabilities to stand on their own.

Officials and employees must perform their duties with full responsibility and accountability to the public for the products they produce. Officials should adopt results-based management to improve production at their respective factories. Relevant factories need to procure and stockpile raw materials and spare parts in advance to ensure that production facilities can operate at full capacity.

Factories must strive to meet or exceed their annual production targets set for each financial year. When products are similar, those manufactured by their respective factories must be of higher quality. If the quality is comparable, they must be offered at more competitive prices and with

When the rain is pouring down, an umbrella can feel like a matter of life and death. It becomes one of the most precious things we have – something we cannot do without. We hold it close, grip it tightly, and keep it above our heads. In return, it protects us from every drop of rain.

But when the rain stops, that same umbrella can suddenly become a burden. Once the sky clears, no one wants to carry it anymore. It begins to feel like something taking up unnecessary space. Eventually, it may simply be left by the roadside or pushed into a forgotten corner.

Some human relationships are like that, too.

There are people who come into our lives during difficult seasons and quietly become our umbrellas. When everything seems uncertain, they remain beside us. When we are caught in the rain of problems, they give us shelter. When we fall, they reach out a hand and help us stand again. When we are too tired to continue, they give us encouragement. When our hearts are heavy, they listen without asking for anything in

return.

During the days when we cannot get through life alone, they share our storms with their time, their love, their patience, and their understanding. At those moments, we matter. Our presence feels valuable.

Sometimes, people may even tell us that they do not know what they would do without us. They may promise that they will always remain by our side. Their words may make us believe that the relationship will last forever.

But life has a way of changing.

The rain eventually becomes lighter. The clouds begin to disappear. The difficult days slowly pass. They regain their strength, find their direction, and learn to stand on their own feet again. And this is sometimes when we discover something painful.

When life becomes easier, and people no longer need the support they once depended on, some of them begin to forget the people who stood beside them during their hardest days.

Just as an umbrella may be forgotten when the rain has stopped, the people who once protected them from the storm may also be forgotten.

Sometimes, we may meet them outside, yet they may walk past without even saying hello. The conversations become fewer. The messages become less frequent. The closeness slowly disappears. The person who once seemed essential suddenly becomes a stranger.

It can be difficult to understand.

After all, the person has not changed into someone else. The kindness, time, patience, and support they once gave were real. What has changed is sim-

When the Rain Stops, Do We Remember the Umbrella?

By Laura Htet
(UDE)

eventually no longer need the same support, advice, or protection. That is natural. People grow, situations change, and different paths sometimes take us in different directions.

But changing circumstances should not erase gratitude.

We do not have to remain dependent on someone simply because they once helped us. We do not have to stay in every relationship forever. However, we can still remember what someone once did for us. Because gratitude is not dependence. Gratitude is remembrance.

True loyalty is not about remembering someone only while we need them. It is about remembering them even after we no longer need what they once provided. Perhaps that is what gratitude truly means.

And perhaps, in the end, the greatest measure of our character is not how we treat people when we need them, but how we remember them when we no longer do. The rain will stop. The sky will clear. The umbrella may eventually be folded and put away. But the memory of who stood beside us in the rain should never be forgotten.

ply the situation.

This reveals an uncomfortable truth about some relationships: people sometimes measure loyalty according to benefits.

As long as someone is useful to them, they may value that person.

As long as someone can give them something, they may want us near them.

As long as someone can fulfil their needs, solve their problems, provide support, or make their lives easier, they may consider that person important. They may say, “I do not know what I would do without you.” They may promise, “We will always be together.”

But when the benefits disappear, when their needs have been fulfilled, and when there is nothing more to receive, that loyalty can disappear as well. The relationship becomes like an umbrella abandoned after

the rain has stopped. Suddenly, it no longer seems important.

Yet the umbrella itself has not lost its value. It did its job when it was needed. It provided shelter when the rain was falling. It protected them when they had nowhere else to hide. The fact that they no longer need it does not erase what it once did for them. The same is true of people.

There is something important we can learn from this:

Being kept close because someone needs us is not the same as being kept close because someone truly values us.

When we are useful, there may be many people who want us around. When we have something to offer, many people may want to remain close to us. When we can solve their problems, provide comfort, or fulfil their needs, our presence may sud-

denly become very important. But when we have nothing left to offer, when we cannot provide what they want, and when they no longer need our help, the number of people who remain can become very small.

Those are the relationships worth remembering.

When a relationship comes to an end, we sometimes finally understand what it was built upon. Did they love us, or did they love what we gave them? Did they value our presence, or did they value our usefulness? Did they appreciate who we were, or only what we could do for them?

Sometimes, the ending of a relationship gives us answers that we could not see while we were still inside it. Perhaps this is why difficult times can teach us so much about people.

During peaceful days, everyone can walk beside us.

Wisdom, Wisdom, Where Is Your Certificate?

By U Khin Maung Myint

alerted.

A scholar demanded references. A preacher requested doctrinal clearance. A broadcaster offered Wisdom three minutes between breaking news and the weather. An influencer asked whether the whole thing could be reduced to fifteen seconds and accompanied by a discount code.

The dictionary stepped forward and supplied a definition. Humanity immediately assumed that having defined wisdom meant possessing it.

“We have sacred books,” announced the assembly proudly.

“Excellent,” said Wisdom. “Do you practise their compassion?”

“We can quote them.”

“That was not my question.” An elderly gentleman then rose.

“Surely wisdom belongs exclusively to *Homo sapiens*?” Everyone nodded.

On the windowsill, a cat watched proceedings with interest. It had eaten enough and therefore stopped eating. Another cat appeared outside. The first cat decided that fighting was unnecessary and went to sleep.

Inside the conference hall, meanwhile, the humans postponed lunch to debate moderation and then quarrelled over who should chair the peace committee.

“We possess extraordinary intelligence,” protested one del-

egate. “Human beings can split the atom!”

“Can you share the bread?” asked Wisdom.

The chairman consulted his advisers.

“That matter requires further discussion.”

Faith, Cognition and Action Behind the joke lies a serious distinction between **conviction and cognition**.

Conviction gives people beliefs worth holding. Cognition gives them the ability to examine those beliefs, compare them with evidence, recognize manipulation, reconsider assumptions and decide what action is proportionate.

We need both meaning and thought.

Faith may provide hope during suffering, but acceptance should not mean abandoning judgment. Devotion need not require surrendering

conscience. Equally, rationality without compassion can become cold calculation.

Wisdom therefore cannot be reduced to education, intelligence, age or religious knowledge.

Someone at the meeting suggested that age should automatically qualify a person as wise.

Wisdom looked thoughtfully at human history and requested that the proposal be withdrawn.

A university degree certifies study. A dictionary clarifies meaning. Sacred texts preserve generations of moral and spiritual insight. Journalism can inform us about events. Science helps us understand the physical world.

But none of these can make the final moral decision on our behalf.

A person may possess knowledge without judgement,

conviction without compassion, authority without insight, and intelligence without wisdom.

Perhaps that is why wisdom is so difficult to certify.

Before leaving the conference, Wisdom wrote three sentences on the board:

Question your certainty. Consider the consequences. Learn from suffering without manufacturing more.

The delegates were deeply impressed.

They photographed the message, quoted it in speeches and circulated it on social media.

The committee then unanimously agreed to establish a subcommittee to study the possibility of implementing it at some unspecified date in the future.

Wisdom quietly walked out. Perhaps that is the final irony. Humanity has accumu-

lated an extraordinary library of advice about how to live, yet our greatest difficulty is rarely finding another quotation. It is converting understanding into conduct.

Faith can give suffering meaning. Knowledge can illuminate its causes. Cognition can help us distinguish evidence from assumption and persuasion from manipulation. Compassion reminds us why any of these matters.

But wisdom must bring them together.

It requires the humility to say, “I may be wrong,” the courage to change course when evidence demands it, and the humanity to consider how our actions affect others.

Wisdom may have no certificate, no uniform and no exclusive membership card.

Perhaps it needs none. Its qualification is demonstrated not by what we profess, but by what we do.

NATIONAL

Falam weaving and vocational training school prepares to resume

THE Weaving and Vocational Training School of the Small-Scale Industries Department in Cinmual Ward, Falam Township, is preparing to resume machine weaving, hand weaving and traditional jap weaving courses. Applications are now being accepted for the hand weaving and traditional jap weaving courses.

Yesterday morning, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, together with Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Win Zaw Oo and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the school. The instructor in charge reported on the training equipment and recruitment of trainees, and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions.



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin and officials are pictured during their inspection tour in Falam.

The deputy minister and his party then inspected the hand weaving school building, male and female trainee dormitories, the instructor's house, and the renovation of the two-room staff quarters and principal's house. They also visited the Border Area Ethnic Youth Training School under the Department of

Education and Training and inspected the renovation of the office building, principal's house, storage room, trainee dormitories and dining hall, as well as the Township Education Officer's Office and staff housing. The deputy minister instructed officials to ensure that the quality of materials and workmanship met the required

standards and that the renovation work was completed on schedule. He then presented donations from well-wishers for the renovation of Yanpyay-Manpyay Aung-tawmu Pagoda, founded by missionary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga maha Saddhammajotika U Ot-tamasara. The pagoda was built on 22 March 1995. Its stupa robes are now faded, while the railings have been damaged. The two lion statues, stairs, Sayadaw's statue and entrance gate also need repainting. Donations are therefore being collected for the renovation. Those wishing to contribute to the renovation of Yanpyay-Manpyay Aungtawmu Pagoda in Falam Township may contact U Min Min Latt on 09 448197878. — MNA/MKKS

Kayan concludes basic sewing course

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday to mark the completion of a basic sewing machine vocational training course in Kamasein Village in Kayan Township to create employment opportunities and develop skilled workers during the 2026-2027 financial year. Kayan Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Htar Htar Naing delivered a closing speech, stating that coordination would be made to link outstanding and successful trainees with job opportunities and to provide loan capital for those wishing to establish self-run businesses. Departmental officials presented awards to outstanding trainees. Afterwards, the township head inspected the garments produced during the course. A total of 20 trainees from Kamasein Village attended the 45-day course, where skilled instructors provided free training on basic sewing machine techniques to help them reach business-ready skills. Outstanding trainees with genuine intentions to start businesses will receive loan assistance from Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project funds. — Karan (Rural)

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A trainee receives the training completion certificate.

Over 1,950 firms, factories seek GACC certification to export to China

A total of 1,957 Myanmar food processing companies and factories have submitted 3,989 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) until 7 September 2026, according to the Domestic Trade Division (GACC team) of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce. According to GACC Decrees 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022. GACC clarified Decree 280, "Provisions on Customs Registration of Overseas Food Manufacturers", which amends and supplements the requirements under Announcements 248 and 249. The new regulation

took effect on 1 June 2026. Myanmar's Competent Authorities to provide endorsements for GACC registration include the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Department of Fisheries, and the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Those 18 product categories require GACC registration with authority endorsement: Meat and meat products, aquatic products, including edible and farmed products, dairy products, bird's nest and related products, casings for food stuffing, Honey and bee products, eggs and egg products, edible fats and oils, Stuffed pastry products (cooked or frozen), edible grains, grain

milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, seasonings, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee beans and cocoa beans and food for special dietary purposes and functional food. Exporters of those food groups which are not listed in the aforementioned 18 groups can directly access the China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts. Although companies exporting food products complete GACC registration online via <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> with endorsement from the relevant Competent Authority, certain agricultural food categories within the 18

groups are handled through a manual registration process by China's Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine. These include unroasted coffee beans and cocoa beans, fresh vegetables, plant seasonings, edible grains, dried beans, oilseeds, and Chinese traditional medicines (animal or plant origin). For these categories, companies cannot register themselves. Only the relevant Competent Authority can submit the application to GACC's Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine, via email to dapq@customs.gov.cn, or through the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar or the Myanmar Embassy in China. Registration is valid for five years. For renewal, applications must be sub-

mitted three to six months before expiry. Under GACC Decree 280, overseas production and storage facilities with a clean record and no regulatory violations are eligible for automatic five-year renewal. However, this system does not cover meat and meat products, bird's nests and bird's nest products, meat and meat products derived from terrestrial animals and overseas cold storage facilities for frozen aquatic products. Between 1 December 2021 and 7 September 2026, 3,989 applications by 1,957 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (1,777 applications), the Fisheries Department (157), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary

Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine). As of 18 September, 2026, a total of 1,253 applications have been approved for registration. The list of approved companies is available on GACC's website at <https://ciferquery.singlewindow.cn/>. The list of manually registered facilities can be viewed at <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/>. Myanmar businesses exporting or intending to export food products to China that require assistance with GACC registration may contact 067 3408605 and 067 3408617, or email myantrade.domestic@gmail.com, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization's Domestic Trade Division and GACC office team. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Kengtung’s MSY project funds disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project for systematic livestock farming in Pintauk Model Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East).

Kengtung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Aung Kham explained the objectives of disbursing project funds to expand household income-generating activities and implement village development tasks through project earnings. Project staff briefed participants on project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules to be followed. Township Head U Sai Aung Kham handed over K30 million in revolving funds to members of the village project implementation team.

Under the supervision of the department, members of the village project implementation team disbursed the first round of K30 million in low-interest revolving loans directly to 32 beneficiaries in Pintauk Model Village to undertake systematic livestock farming activities. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



A village representative receives the fund in Kengtung Township.

CDF terrorists attack blood donation event at Haka Hospital

CDF terrorists attacked a collective blood donation event at Haka People’s Hospital in Chin State yesterday morning, according to an official report.

The event was organized by members of the Myanmar Police Force to mark the upcoming 62nd Myanmar Police Force Day on 1 October 2026.

Approximately seven attackers approached the hospital from the north and opened fire with heavy and small arms. Security personnel returned fire, forcing the attackers to retreat towards the northeast.

The report condemned the attack as an act of terrorism targeting a public hospital unrelated to military operations.

Security forces, working with residents, are investigating the incident and strengthening security measures to protect civilians and property. — MNA/ST



Myanmar, Belarus to boost sectoral cooperation in mutually beneficial projects

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tun Win, who was in Minsk, Belarus, on 18 September, visited the dairy farm, feed storage and feeding facilities of JSC Krutogorye-Petkovich Agricultural and Livestock Enterprise. The delegation also observed potato cultivation and production at Mira OJSC “Mashpishcheprod” Mirabel-by Group.

The delegation at-



Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tun Win looks into exhibits on display during the observation tour in Belarus.

tended the 28th International Architecture and Construction Exhibition, “BUDEXPO-2026”, held at the Minsk International Exhibition Cen-

tre (BELEXPO) from 16 to 18 September. They learned about Belarus’ private-sector agriculture and livestock industries, research and development, agro-based manufacturing, architectural structures and construction projects.

The delegation also studied agricultural and livestock facilities and met with relevant officials to discuss technical cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus and ways to promote cooperation in various sectors through mutually beneficial projects.

The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon by air on 21 September. — MNA/MKKS

Laterite Paves Thonsechauk–Chaungmagyi–Pinwa Road

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 20 September to review the completion of the laterite paving work on the Thonsechauk–Chaungmagyi–Pinwa Road, implemented by the Rural Road Development Department of Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, under the

Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

U Win Moe Htaik, Head of the Magway Region Rural Road Development Department, along with Daw Thiri Phyo Wai Wint, Township Engineer-in-Charge (Civil) of the Yenangyoung Township Rural Road Development Department, and officials inspected the completed laterite paving on the Thonsechauk–Chaungmagyi–Pinwa Road. The head then met village officials and instructed them to collectively maintain the completed work for long-term sustainability.

The paving of the

Thonsechauk–Chaungmagyi–Pinwa Road – measuring six furlongs in length, 18 feet in width, and eight inches in thickness – was initiated by the Rural Road Development Department on 1 August 2026, using Union Capital Funds of K118.5 million for the 2026-2027 financial



This image shows the completed road construction project in Yenangyoung Township.

year. The work is now 100 per cent complete. Reports further read that the completed road will contribute to the socioeconomic development of the local rural community. —Naw Lu (DRD)

ECONOMY WORLD

China's grain industry to see annual output value exceed 4.5 tln yuan during 2026-2030

THE annual industrial output value of China's grain industry is expected to exceed 4.5 trillion yuan (US\$666.8 billion) during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), an official said on Monday.

The grain sector will better meet people's demand for higher-quality, more nutritious and healthier food, said Liu Huanxin, head of the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, at a press conference.

China's grain industry has maintained steady growth in recent years, with the total industrial output value of grain enterprises rising from three trillion yuan at the end of the 13th Five-Year



A staff member works at a grain storage facility under Sinograin in Xiantao City, central China's Hubei Province, 10 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Plan period (2016-2020) to over four trillion yuan at the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).

Liu said that despite current fluctuations in the international grain market, China's grain market

has remained generally stable and the country's food security is well guaranteed.

Liu pointed to a recent forecast by the World Meteorological Organization, which showed that El Nino will continue to

strengthen and could impact global food production. Meanwhile, geopolitical conflicts are disrupting transport routes, driving up fertilizer prices and production costs, and adding to uncertainties around global food security.

He said China's food security is underpinned by stable production, ample reserves and strong processing capacity.

On the production side, China's grain output has been supported by steadily improving production capacity and the country's vast territory, which allows different regions to offset each other's harvest fluctuations, Liu said. — Xinhua

S Korea's central bank warns of growing financial imbalances amid higher housing prices, rate hikes

SOUTH Korea's central bank warned of growing financial imbalances amid higher housing prices and interest rate hikes, though the overall financial system remained stable due to resilient financial institutions and solid external payment capabilities, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK)'s financial stability report on Tuesday.

The financial vulnerability index, which gauges medium- to long-term financial imbalances, rose to 46.5 in the second quarter of 2026, continuing to go up from 37.6 tallied in the first quarter of 2024.

The climb was driven

by expanding household credit and a continuous uptick in housing prices in the capital, Seoul, and its surrounding areas.

The financial stress index, which measures short-term financial system imbalances, ticked up to 19.3 in July and 19.5 in August, staying within the "caution" threshold of 12 to 24.

The BOK noted that while robust semiconductor exports continued to propel strong economic growth, interest rate hikes could undermine the debt-servicing capabilities of vulnerable borrowers.

— Xinhua



People cross a road in Seoul on 28 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

IMF chief says world economy faces multiple risks despite resilience

THE world economy faces risks from stubborn inflation, higher debt service cost and artificial intelligence (AI) investment though it has proven to be more resilient than many feared, according to Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Speaking in a dialogue at a special edition of the Qatar Economic Forum in New York City on Sunday, Georgieva said, "Inflation is stubborn. We are not anticipating a quick resolution. And that means that many central banks have to tighten."

Georgieva noted that the fight to secure price stability also increased the cost and difficulty of debt service. There is a lot of understanding of the

necessity of fiscal consolidation, but not enough action, she added.

Moreover, Georgieva highlighted the potential risks from leverage and circular financing in AI investment, saying this is "something that we have to be mindful of".

"If AI disappoints,

because we have these high expectations, if they don't materialize, disappointment may lead to potentially a shock to the system," warned Georgieva. Risk in AI financing is "primarily concentrated in the United States" while many other players in Asia and Europe are in-

cluded in the supply chain of AI, added Georgieva.

The IMF's new projection on the world economy to be released in October will reflect the fact that the risks will remain high, according to Georgieva. "Having growth that would be hovering around three per cent is a massive achievement, given all the shocks we have been experiencing," said Georgieva.

Georgieva said she saw optimism from remarkable, fast action when it's necessary to counter the energy supply shock. "While there is a lot of talk about a fragmented world. And indeed, it is less unified. It is still a world in which we are interdependent and we co-operate," said Georgieva. — Xinhua



Kristalina Georgieva (R), managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), speaks in a dialogue at a special edition of the Qatar Economic Forum in New York City, the United States, 20 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Extreme El Nino could cost 2% of GDP in LatAm, Caribbean: report

AN extreme El Nino event could cause losses equivalent to at least two per cent of Latin America and the Caribbean's GDP and plunge an additional 4.8 million people into poverty, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) warned Monday.

In a report titled "The Effects of El Nino in Latin America and the Caribbean and Recommendations for Addressing

It", the Santiago-based agency said a high-intensity event could have wide-ranging economic, social and productive impacts, particularly on energy, agriculture, fisheries and infrastructure.

ECLAC Executive Secretary Jose Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs warned of "severe economic and social repercussions" as well as impacts on key productive sectors if El Nino reaches high intensity. — Xinhua

Lithuania signs first 10-year gas supply deal with US

LITHUANIA has secured natural gas supplies from the United States for 10 years, covering about 40 per cent of the country's household gas demand, Lithuania's Ministry of Energy announced Monday.

Ignitis, the electricity and natural gas supply subsidiary of state-owned energy group Ignitis Group, signed on Monday the agreement with US natural gas producer EQT.

According to a statement released by the Ministry of Energy, under the agreement, Ignitis will purchase 10 liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from EQT between 2027 and 2036, with one cargo, equivalent to about one terawatt-hour (TWh) of gas, to be delivered each year.

The agreement marks the first long-term gas supply contract between Ignitis and a US company and introduces US Henry Hub-linked pricing into the pricing mechanism for the first time.

The contract's pricing is linked to two in-

ternational natural gas price indices, the US Henry Hub and the European TTF.

According to Ignitis, linking gas prices to two different markets will reduce reliance on the European TTF index and help mitigate the impact of sudden price increases in the European market on household gas prices.

"This long-term agreement is an important step towards strengthening the security and flexibility of natural gas supplies for Lithuanian household customers. It will diversify supply sources, enable more effective management of price fluctuation risks and ensure more stable supply conditions over the longer term," Ignitis CEO Andrius Kavaliauskas said.

The country's Energy Minister Lukas Savickas said the agreement would help reduce Lithuania's vulnerability to gas price fluctuations in the European market and mitigate their impact on household bills. — Xinhua

Labour-scarce Japan counts on AI-powered robots in broad industries

AS Japan faces a severe labour shortage in many sectors such as healthcare and manufacturing, more companies are counting on artificial intelligence-driven robots, paving the way for them to play a greater role in the workplace.

The Japanese government has set a target of introducing 10 million AI-powered robots by 2040 to deal with the labour shortage caused by the country's ageing and shrinking population.

In August, AI startup Zeals Co unveiled its D1 wheeled humanoid robot at a launch event in Tokyo. The 129-centimeter-tall robot for indoor use is equipped with a camera that allows it to communicate and recognize human faces and has two arms capable of carrying objects weighing up to 5



Supplied photo taken on 28 August 2026 shows a D1 wheeled humanoid robot carrying dishes on a tray during a trial at Juko Osu Hospital in Nagoya. PHOTO: KYODO

kilogrammes each. With prices for the D1 starting at five million yen (\$32,000), the startup aims to boost sales in cooperation with robotics trading and leasing companies, with a production target of 100 robots by March 2027 and a goal of achieving a cumulative

operating time of 10,000 hours.

Zeals develops its own operating software and AI technology but purchases parts from companies in the United States and China, leading countries in AI robot development. The company eventually aims

to build robots using only Japan-made components.

In late August, the Tokyo-based company conducted a trial of the D1 robot at Juko Osu Hospital in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, involving tasks such as guiding visitors and clearing dining tables. — Kyodo

UK borrowing surges ahead of budget presentation

UK government borrowing climbed higher than expected in August, official data showed Tuesday, adding pressure on Prime Minister Andy Burnham as his government prepares to unveil a closely

watched annual budget update.

The gap between public spending and tax revenue was £18.3 billion (\$24.5 billion) last month, almost 20 per cent higher than a year earlier, the Office for

National Statistics said.

Burnham, who has made easing the cost of living a key focus for his Labour government, has set the stage for difficult decisions to be made in the 28 October budget pres-

entation. With inflation rising and government bond yields reaching multi-decade highs this month, Finance Minister John Healey has pledged to maintain strict fiscal discipline. — AFP

Stocks climb as oil slides, AI buzz returns

STOCK markets rose on Tuesday as oil prices extended losses and the success of Meta's new AI agent alongside hopes for US-China talks fanned a tech rally.

Oil prices were sharply lower as markets bet that US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian could meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York this week.

International benchmark crude contract Brent

was back below \$100 per barrel on hopes that diplo-

matic progress to restore supplies could be made.



This photograph shows fuel prices displayed at an Avia petrol station in Paris on 18 September 2026. PHOTO: AFP

That added to the positive mood from a renewed burst of confidence in artificial intelligence, which pushed technology stocks higher in Asia.

In Europe, the less tech-heavy London, Paris and Frankfurt stock markets all advanced.

Enthusiasm poured back into the technology sector after Facebook owner Meta's free AI agent Muse topped the download charts following its release this month. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC KANTO VOY.NO. (2622S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC KANTO VOY.NO. (2622S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-9-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Respiratory problems
climb past 170,000 cases in
haze-hit Indonesia



A boat driver prepares to transport passengers amid thick haze caused by forest and land fire at Musi river banks in Palembang, South Sumatra on 22 September 2026.
PHOTO: AFP

MORE than 170,000 respiratory cases were recorded in regions affected by haze in Indonesia, a health ministry official said Tuesday, as the country battles for weeks to control fires that caused

the toxic smog. Blazes in Borneo, Sumatra and Papua have blanketed parts of the vast archipelago of more than 280 million people, as well as neighbouring Malaysia and Singapore, sending air

quality indices plummeting. The toxic smog contains pollutants including PM 2.5, a fine particulate matter smaller than a human hair that could carry health risk such as respiratory infections,

health ministry official Then Suyanti told a news conference.

“There were 174,694 cases of acute respiratory infections between August and 21 September in areas affected by forest and land fires,” she said.

More than 40,000 of the recorded respiratory cases affected toddlers, she said. The overall figure, reported in seven haze-affected provinces across Indonesia, was up from over 113,000 cases reported as of 9 September.

The health ministry had mobilized aid including oxygen concentrators, face masks and oxygen canisters to the affected regions, Then said.

“We advise (the public) to reduce outdoor activities when air quality worsen, use mask and maintain hydration,” she said. — AFP

Denmark, Greenland,
US to sign Arctic
security agreement

DENMARK, its autonomous territory of Greenland and the United States will sign an agreement in New York on Tuesday to strengthen security in the Arctic and North Atlantic region, the Danish Prime Minister’s Office said on Monday.

The agreement will be signed by Greenland’s Prime Minister Jens-Fredrik Nielsen, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and US President Donald Trump, according to the office’s statement.

The signing ceremony is expected to take place at United Nations headquarters at 10:30 am local time (1430 GMT), on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the statement said, but did not disclose the agreement’s specific terms.

Trump announced on social media on Friday that the three sides had reached a deal, saying it would give the United States “permanent control” over Greenland’s security. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 8 February 2026 shows the scenery near Nuuk, Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. PHOTO: XINHUA

DPRK tests “new combat
weapon system” in latest missile
launch: report

THE Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) tested what it called “a new combat



This picture taken on 20 September 2026 and released by North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 22 September 2026 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter Kim Ju Ae attending new weapon tests conducted by the Missile Administration and the Academy of Defence Sciences at an undisclosed location in North Korea.
PHOTO: KCNA / KCNA VIA KNS / AFP

weapon system” in its latest missile launch on Sunday in the presence of its top leader, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Tuesday.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, called the test “a striking demonstration of ultra-modern defence technology and clear progress in the modernization of the armed forces,” said the report. — Xinhua

Thailand injects additional stimulus
to shield economy amid ongoing
energy crisis

THAILAND’S cabinet approved a new round of economic relief measures on Tuesday, utilizing up to 42.69 billion baht (about US\$1.28 billion) from the emergency loan decree to navigate a prolonged global energy crisis.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Ekniti Nitithanprapas said the ongoing Middle East conflict has driven up global oil prices, causing domestic inflation to reach 2.5 per cent and the producer price index to rise by nearly 10 per cent.

Speaking at a press conference, Ekniti noted that the three waves of eco-

nomie headwinds, following spikes in energy prices and living costs alongside sluggish household spending, have necessitated government intervention to further protect the public.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the relief package is divided into two primary initiatives designed to sustain purchasing power and cover approximately 47 million eligible Thais.

Low-income holders of state welfare cards will receive a 1,000-baht allocation for October, up from the usual 300 baht a month.

The co-payment scheme will be extended

through November, with the government subsidizing 60 per cent of eligible purchases for food, beverages, and services, capped at 200 baht per day and 1,000 baht per person, to assist the broader public and maintain cash flow for small businesses.

Ekniti said the necessary funding is drawn from the existing emergency loan allocation, assuring that the spending strictly adheres to the nation’s fiscal discipline framework and preserves the financial stability required to maintain the confidence of international credit rating agencies. — Xinhua

SPORTS

MRF President joins AFC Dream Asia Foundation meeting



Chairman U Zaw Zaw of the FIFA Social Responsibility Committee seen with officials of the AFC Dream Asia Foundation meeting.

FIFA and AFC Social Responsibility Committee Chairman U Zaw Zaw attended the fifth meeting of the AFC Dream Asia Foundation's Board of Trustees at the Conrad Nagoya Hotel in Nagoya, Japan, on the morning of 20 September.

During the meeting, U Zaw Zaw presented updates on recovery and reconstruction efforts following Super Typhoon Sinlaku in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Blue Dream Programme of Japan's Kawasaki Frontale and the Football for Hope

Programme of the UAE's Sharjah FC, both of which will use five per cent of prize money from AFC club competitions for social development, as well as efforts to rebuild the Mandalay Football Academy following damage caused by the 2025 earthquake.

The meeting also discussed the AFC Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy (2026 Edition), which was revised and issued in August, and progress on the AFC Social Responsibility Toolkit 2026.

The Board reviewed strategic partnerships with Indonesia's ASA Foundation under the Goals for Good programme and Malaysia's The Lost Food Project (TLFP) under the Foot-

ball for Food programme. It also discussed cooperation with the United Nations through the Football for the Goals (FFTG) initiative, which has been joined by 38 Asian football associations, and the appointment of four special ambassadors from Asia: Park Ji-sung, Moya Dodd, Khalida Popal and Alex Chidiac.

The meeting further reviewed the appointment of Dedicated Child Safeguarding Officers (CSGOs) across all 46 AFC member associations and four regional associations.

The AFC Dream Asia Foundation focuses on child safeguarding, education and social development initiatives across Asian football. — TWA/KZL

Sugihara 1st Japanese winner in women's individual all-around

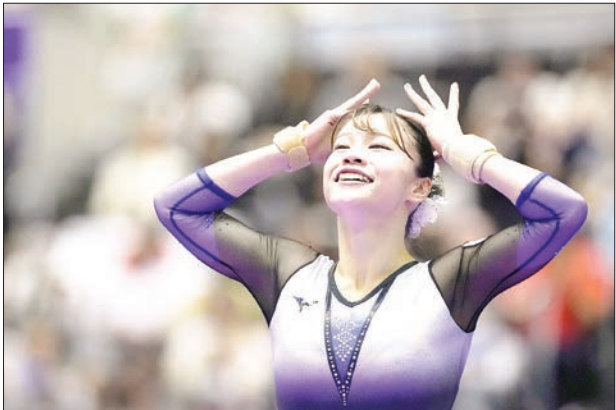
VETERAN Aiko Sugihara became the first Japanese winner in the Asian Games women's artistic gymnastics individual all-around on Tuesday as the host also won gold in swimming and fencing.

A two-time Olympian from Osaka Prefecture, the 27-year-old Sugihara retired from top-level competition in 2022 but returned the following year and won the floor exercise gold at the world championships in Jakarta last October.

She topped the floor event at Nagoya City General Gymnasium scoring 13.700, added 14.100 in the vault in her last apparatus clinching the win on 55.599, ahead of China's Ke Qinqin in second with 55.199 and Japan's 16-year-old Misa Nishimiya on 55.032.

"I'm super happy as I won while carrying the weight in many ways," said Sugihara, who became a coach, referee and reporter during her spell away and runs her own company to promote the sport.

"I had the team final tomorrow in mind rather than going for the individual gold, and that actually worked out best. I was nervous and felt tense in my first apparatus with the uneven bars, but the fans' cheers gave me power." — Kyodo



Japan's Aiko Sugihara performs in the floor exercise en route to winning the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games women's artistic gymnastics all-around final at Nagoya City General Gymnasium on 22 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Myanmar Dragon Boat Team head to China



The Myanmar Dragon Boat team is pictured before leaving for China.

A 21-member Myanmar delegation, led by Myanmar Rowing Federation President U Thaung Htike Min and comprising officials, coaches and athletes, left Yangon International Airport yesterday morning to compete in the Inter-

national Canoe Federation (ICF) World Cup Dragon Boat and World Dragon Boat Championships in China.

The competitions will be held in Yuanling and Hangzhou from 25 September to 3 October 2026. — Bala/KZL

China beats Japan to lift 10th Asian Games women's volleyball crown



Players of China celebrate victory after the final match of Women's Volleyball between China and Japan at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Komaki, Japan, 22 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

DEFENDING champion on China claimed its 10th Asian Games women's volleyball gold medal with

a 3-0 victory over Japan in the final here Tuesday.

The teams traded points early in the first set. Midway through the set, China gradually pulled ahead and sealed a 25-19 win. China maintained a narrow lead throughout the second set. Both sides ramped up their intensity, staging several long rallies before China closed out the set 25-20.

Japan cranked up its attack at the start of the third set, jumping out to a 7-1 lead, forcing China

to call a timeout. China then reset its rhythm and leveraged its serving and blocking strengths to tie the score at 19-19. After four deuces, China sealed the set 25-23 to claim the match. China edged Thailand 3-2 in Monday's semifinal, avenging their loss in last month's Asian Women's Volleyball Championship final and advancing to the gold-medal match against Japan. In the day's other semifinal, Japan beat South Korea 3-0. — Xinhua

Gurung from flood-hit Nepal misses out on karate bronze

ARIKA Gurung from flood-hit Nepal competed in the women's karate kumite at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games but fell short of a bronze medal.

The 22-year-old Gurung, a silver medallist at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, shed tears after losing in the women's 68-kilogramme division on Sunday.

Gurung is one of more than 130 athletes Nepal has sent to the games.

Hopes were high for Gurung, who was named as one of Nepal's outstanding female athletes earlier in September, according to Nepalese media reports. She is from the central district of Dhading, one of the areas severely hit by massive floods and landslides on 26 August that left more than 1,400 people dead in Nepal and neighbouring China. — Kyodo



WORLD

China ready to work with ASEAN countries to implement CAFTA 3.0: spokesperson

China is ready to work with ASEAN countries to implement the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 (CAFTA 3.0) and build an even closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future, foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Tuesday.

Guo made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a query on China-ASEAN cooperation, following the successful conclusion of the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo on 21 September and the official opening of the Pinglu Canal to navigation last week.

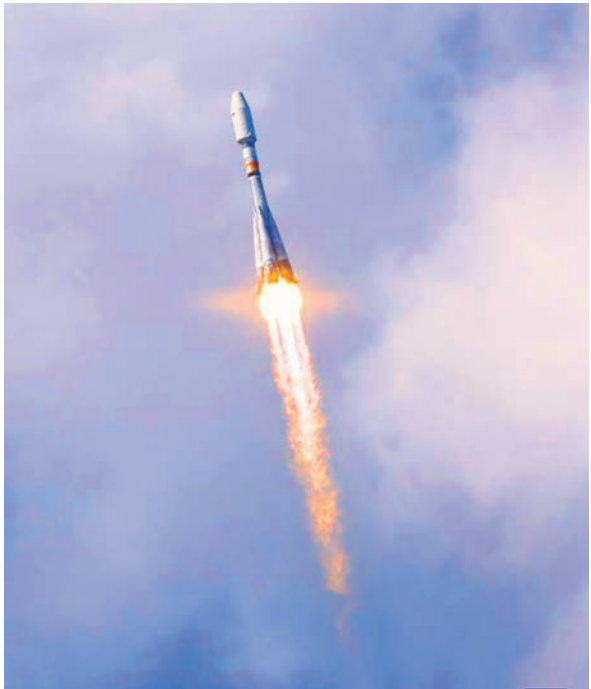
“The China-ASEAN Expo is a shining brand of China-ASEAN cooperation,” Guo said.



Visitors taste fruits during the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 17 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Over the past 23 years, the Expo witnessed China-ASEAN cooperation leaping through the “Golden Decade” to the “Diamond Decade” and the upgrade to the CAFTA 3.0, according to the spokesperson.

Guo said that this year, for the very first time, the Expo designated an area tailored to ASEAN countries’ demand and released an ASEAN countries’ demand list aimed at precision matchmaking between what ASEAN needs and what China can provide. — Xinhua



A Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket lifts off from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's Amur Oblast, 25 July 2025. PHOTO: ROSCOSMOS/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

Space industry drives development of other key sectors: Russian PM

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on Tuesday highlighted the importance of the space industry to Russia's economy.

“Crewed programmes are currently being actively updated, including the creation of a new transport spacecraft and the Russian Orbital Station, which will eventually replace the International Space Station,” Mishustin said during a meeting with Dmitry Bakanov, head of Roscosmos, Russia's space agency.

He said the space industry serves as a driver for the development of other key sectors of the

economy.

Mishustin added that satellites monitoring weather and ice conditions along the Northern Sea Route are already in operation, helping support year-round navigation. He also said Russia prioritizes cooperation with private companies in space exploration.

Bakanov said Russia has launched nearly 60 spacecraft into orbit this year, including telecommunications, navigation and Earth remote sensing satellites, with the combined constellation reaching nearly 400 spacecraft and satellites. — Xinhua

Death toll climbs to 7 after typhoon brings heavy rain to Japan

THE death toll from Typhoon Dujuan rose to seven Tuesday with five others still missing after heavy rain triggered landslides and flooding in Tokyo and nearby areas a day earlier, authorities said.

As the typhoon passed near the Pacific coast, intense rain inundated houses and temporarily cut off electricity to about 58,000 households early Tuesday

in Chiba Prefecture.

The rain, coming in the middle of the country's Silver Week holidays, was particularly problematic for Chiba, which was also hit by heavy rain in August and early September.

Five people were confirmed dead in the prefecture, including a 51-year-old man who was engaged in restoration work on a road. The others were in their 70s and 80s. — Kyodo



This photo taken on 22 September 2026 shows a flooded street in Sakura, Chiba Prefecture, after heavy rain. PHOTO: KYODO

UN warns super El Nino a ‘significant’ threat to world health

EL Nino represents a “significant” threat to global health, the United Nations warned on Tuesday, as the world braces for a cycle of the climate phenomenon predicted to be the most intense on record.

Tied to warming sur-

face temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, the natural weather pattern is linked to higher temperatures alongside periods of both extreme drought and widespread flooding, with its influence already being felt from central America

to Indonesia.

According to the World Health Organization, periods of heavy rain could create favourable conditions for both cholera and disease-carrying insects, notably mosquitos, which would then lead to an up-

tick in illnesses such as malaria, chikungunya and dengue fever. “The most severe impacts will be experienced while climate shocks intersect with weak health systems, limited access to healthcare, food insecurity, displacement and humani-

tarian crisis,” warned Tereza Zakaria, the WHO's Unit Head for Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Operations and Climate Change.

Branding El Nino “a significant public health threat” and a “risk multiplier”, Zakaria urged coun-

tries to act immediately to “mitigate these impacts and therefore avoid loss of lives and suffering”.

“We have a window of opportunity to act now, before these risks become a crisis,” the doctor told reporters in Geneva. — AFP